

Heyward Point Field Trip, October 19 — Chuck Landis

Heyward Point is the site of a beautiful and botanically interesting DoC Scenic Reserve. Spectacular coastal scenery, an enjoyable walking track, and a rare remnant of dry coastal podocarp/broadleaf forest make this a very special place. Eight Bot Soc members participated in the trip. Most, like me, had never visited the area previously.

The reserve sits atop 30 metre high basalt cliffs immediately northwest of the entrance to Otago Harbour. Solitary trees, survivors of the original bush, as well as shrubs and herbaceous plants clinging to the sea cliffs, and even the young regenerating bush all reflect the exposed windy nature of the location. Numerous plants were in flower—*Clematis paniculata*, *Helicrysum glomeratum*, *Sophora microphylla*, the pleasantly fragrant *Pittosporum tenuifolium* and *Clematis foetida*, and the deliciously fragrant *Olearia fragrantissima* were especially notable. 2002 has been a great spring for *Clematis*, and Heyward Point was no exception.

The most striking plants were the ancient forest giants, including various podocarps (especially huge old totara), lacebark, ribbonwood and broadleaf. These are surrounded by remnant scrub and some regenerating bush, complete with abundant and diverse small-leaved divaricating shrubs (Hugh Wilson's book was very helpful), climbers, ferns and lichens. We were fascinated by the variety of architecture and leaf form of *Coprosma crassifolia*, including some very photogenic standing-alone "Dr Suess trees". Some less common plants include good specimens of *Pseudopanax ferox*, *Olearia fragrantissima*, and the scrambling climber *Scandia geniculata*.

Natural regeneration is occurring, but very slowly, being inhibited by dense stands of grass. Also, boundary fences may be leaking at places. However, natural regeneration has been supplemented by plantings of 10-12 year age. Numerous healthy shrubs and small trees of *Pittosporum tenuifolium*, lacebark (*Hoheria angustifolia*) and ngaio (*Myoporum*) flank the original bush margin. Their nursery origin is easily recognized by identical close plantings in straight rows.

We decided that many of the planted *Myoporum* are not the local ngaio (*M. laetum*) but the Australian "coastal boobialla", *M. insulare*. Following the field trip, I discussed the ngaio problem with Dean Nelson of DoC. He suggests that these trees may reflect two mistakes in tandem: Nursery seedlings were raised in the old Lands and Survey nursery at Manapouri from seed collected from the handsome stand of "ngaio" along the seaward side of Highway 1 at the south end of Katiki Beach. These seedlings were intended for planting at the Moeraki Boulders Reserve, but during transit to Dunedin became mixed with plants intended for Heyward Point. Subsequently it was realized that the Katiki Beach seed plants themselves were introduced *M. insulare*, mistakenly thought to be the very similar native, *M. laetum*. Questions now arise as to whether the introduced "boobialla" should be removed from Heyward Point, whether *M. laetum* and *M. insulare* hybridise (they are very similar in appearance, are closely intergrown, and were both flowering), and whether the provenance of many other young plants in the reserve should also be questioned. The presence of *Olearia traversii* certainly suggests so.



The trip continued with a walk to the salt marsh, sea cliffs and fossil sea-caves of isolated Kai Kai Beach and up the ridge to an abandoned stone farmhouse with a million dollar view to the east and a delightful grove of specimen forest trees in a small clump of remnant bush to the west.

Many thanks to Robyn Bridges whose thoughtful organization made this a very enjoyable trip.

Fig.
Spectacular view frames wind sculptured shrub as Robyn points the way on the Heyward Point trip.

Photo by Gudrun Wells.

Inaugural Geoff Baylis Lecture, 30 October, 2002

The overwhelming success of BSO's Inaugural Geoff Baylis Lecture is a good indication of the widespread esteem and affection held for Geoff, the first New Zealand born Professor of Botany in this country, and head of the Department at Otago for 33 years. Members of the botanical community, colleagues, students past and present, friends and family, from Auckland to Invercargill streamed in to honour Geoff and take part in this special occasion. Even the weather smiled for the day. The three afternoon tours were popular, and Geoff took part in them all. Starting with the plants, Tom Myers, Alice Lloyd Flitt and Shirley Stuart enthusiastically showed off the special plants, some discovered by Geoff, in the native section of the Botanic Garden. They also put together a wonderful display of fresh specimens to decorate the atrium for the gathering at the Museum. Next Prof. Peter Bannister guided guests around his Botany Dept, past Mary Anne Miller's display of Geoff's past and recent (Bot. Soc.) publications, and finishing by the Otago Museum, where Brian Patrick unveiled the mysteries of the basement and showed what had become of the site of Geoff's Botany Dept. Upstairs in the atrium the Otago Museum put on a display which included two original paintings lent by Audrey Eagle and wonderful photos from the archives of the Botany Dept and private collections. David Holdsworth added another dimension with 3 posters detailing Geoff's distinguished naval career, including the ramming of a