

NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 146

December 2021



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Secretary/Treasurer:	Ewen Cameron
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Subscriptions

The 2022 ordinary and institutional subscriptions are \$25 (reduced to \$18 if paid by the due date on the subscription invoice). The 2022 student subscription, available to full-time students, is \$12 (reduced to \$9 if paid by the due date on the subscription invoice).

Back issues of the *Newsletter* are available at \$7.00 each. Since 1986 the Newsletter has appeared quarterly in March, June, September and December.

New subscriptions are always welcome and these, together with back issue orders, should be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer (address above).

Subscriptions are due by 30 April each year for that calendar year. Existing subscribers are sent an invoice with the March *Newsletter* for the next years subscription which offers a reduction if this is paid by the due date. If you are in arrears with your subscription a reminder notice comes attached to each issue of the *Newsletter*.

Deadline for next issue

The deadline for the March 2022 issue is 25 February 2022.

Please post contributions to:

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Send email contributions to lara.shepherd@tepapa.govt.nz Files are preferably in MS Word, as a Microsoft Word document. Graphics can be sent as TIF JPG, or BMP files; please do not embed images into documents. Alternatively photos or line drawings can be posted and will be returned if required. Drawings and photos make an article more readable so please include them if possible.

Cover Illustration

Craspedia lanata by Eleanor Burton.

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NEWS

New Zealand Botanical Society News

■ Committee for 2022

Nominations for positions of President, Secretary/Treasurer and three committee members for the New Zealand Botanical Society closed on 20 November 2021.

The following nominations, equalling the number of positions available, were received and are declared elected: President Anthony Wright, Secretary/Treasurer Ewen Cameron, Committee members Bruce Clarkson, Colin Webb and Carol West.

We are pleased to announce that Lara Shepherd has agreed to continue as editor for 2022.

■ New Zealand Botanical Society group launches on Facebook

The 'New Zealand Botanical Society' Facebook page has just been launched to promote the Society, as well as botany in general in New Zealand. The page is also a place for sharing information from regional botanical societies more widely, such as details of talks (especially Zoom talks – see below), trips, botanical research grants and awards.

If you are a social media user, then please join the group and post botanical items of interest to the page but note that posts require admin approval before becoming visible (this is to prevent spam).

Lara Shepherd, NZBS Newsletter Editor and Facebook page administrator

■ Zoom talks – facilitating sharing of botanical knowledge.

Zoom is now being used by many regional botanical societies for broadcasting talks and I would encourage them to continue to provide this option, even when in-person meetings are possible. Not only do Zoom talks reach an audience beyond the local area but they are a handy alternative for botanical society members that are less able to travel. For Wellington Botanical Society talks attendance has been much higher when a Zoom option has been made available. Kate Jordan of the Wellington Botanical Society has kindly offered to help with setting up and running Zoom. Please contact her at wellingtonbotsocsecretary@gmail.com if you would like assistance.

Lara Shepherd, NZBS Newsletter Editor and Facebook page administrator

■ Allan Mere Award

No nominations were received in 2021 for the Allan Mere Award. Nominations for the 2022 Allan Mere Award will open in March and we encourage everyone to start thinking about who they might like to nominate.

Regional Botanical Society News

■ Auckland Botanical Society

September Functions
Cancelled

October Meeting

This was held as a Zoom meeting, and Bruce Burns, from the Auckland University's School of Biological Sciences, spoke on "Uncovering the secret lives of New Zealand ferns".

October Field Trip
Cancelled

November Meeting

Another Zoom meeting featured Yumiko Baba giving a short "Plant of the month" talk about a very beautiful tree seldom seen in New Zealand, *Calodendrum capense*, or cape chestnut. Over the summer months one of these South African trees can be seen in the Auckland Domain, sporting masses of pretty pink flowers. No doubt many of us would like to get there to have a look, if we're ever free to travel.

Ewen Cameron, like many of us, sporting a Boris Johnson hair style, spoke of the nine day visit that he and Cheryl undertook to Iceland before lockdown stopped all travel. He gave a very detailed rundown of the history, geology, zoology and botany of this island that lies just south of the Arctic Circle, but is warmed enough by the North Atlantic current to support life. Because all plant life would have been decimated by the last ice age, it is difficult to know which plants self-established afterwards, and which have been transported by humans.

November Field Trip

It was with a sigh of relief that we felt safe to meet again, carefully following the precautions laid down by the-powers-that-be. It is some time since Bot Soc visited the Otuataua lavafields on the Ihuamatao Peninsula, Mangere. The Watercare Coastal Walk features boardwalks over the wetter ground, large areas of which are covered with swathes of the introduced *Carex divisa*. The attractive, but exotic, water speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*) lined the track, and a very pretty water plant had even the experts scratching their heads. With arum-like leaves and spikes of bright blue flowers, it was eventually concluded that it must have been planted, as there is no record of pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*) having naturalised in New Zealand. The *Sicyos australis* that used to be found around the edge of a patch of lava forest could no longer be seen, probably overgrown by the rampant kikuyu grass.

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President: Ewen Cameron

Secretary: Stephanie Angove-Emerly

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■ **Rotorua Botanical Society**

October Trip - Matawai CA

There are few places to access the Matawai CA by track and recent rain meant we chose the track to the Search and Rescue lodge. This is a 4WD track that meanders across a flat terrace, then finally following a small creek to the end of the terrace at a gully in the slope and a hut.

The fringes of the forest near the road are quite rich with plants such as wineberry, *Coprosma robusta*, *C. autumnalis*, *Alseuosmia pusilla*, mingimingi, tree ferns, especially *Dicksonia fibrosa*, and hen and chicken fern. But further in, where logging for podocarps had occurred, it was open red and silver beech with a dense cover of crown fern in the frequent, large openings. Here the subcanopy was sparse kamahi, kaikamako, broadleaf, pepperwood and an odd quintinia. The target of the trip was to relocate mistletoe recorded over a decade ago. Progress was slow as the canopy was scanned but we were soon rewarded by a large *Peraxilla colensoi*, then a *P. tetrapetala* not much further along, but that was all. Along the creek, tawari became more common and more open areas were covered with waterfern. At the hut the vegetation began to change again with divaricating shrubs such as *Raukawa anomalus* (and hybrids with *R. simplex*) and *Neomyrtus pedunculata* becoming more common. On the return there was some debate about whether hard beech was present (we decided it wasn't) and a successful search for *Microsorium novaeseelandiae* with its fat scaly rhizome, amongst the similar and more abundant patches of *M. pustulatum*.

November Trip - Coromandel weekend

Saturday: Preeces Point QEII (Golden Ridge)

The hills were clouded in and it looked like rain so we headed to Preeces Point. At first we took the left track, which was a long loop out to the eastern boundary through mostly tall kanuka or mahoe

forest with scattered emergent rewarewa and ricker kauri. Scattered patches were dominated by adults as well as regeneration of *Coprosma arborea*, kohekohe, pigeonwood and lancewood. Initially many herbaceous weeds were present along the path. Near the reserve boundary we encountered a large elaeagnus patch with many seedlings nearby. Later many more seedlings were seen along the shore track. Many rimu, miro and totara along the track edge had been recently planted. Along the shoreline track we made several forays out to the shore including one long grassy one along a stream meander that led to a long shell bank (one of several we could see) and to mangrove swamp. Here a good representation of wetland plants included *Bolboschoenus medianus* and salt marsh plants such as *Cotula coronopifolia*, *Samolus repens*, *Juncus kraussii* and *Plagianthus divaricatus*. After lunch under a large pukatea were rewarded with a grand swamp maire amongst kiekie and *Carex geminata*. Near where the coast track turned to lawn we saw three *Pomaderris* species, *P. kumarahoe*, *P. amoena* and the local endemic *P. rugosa*. *Sophora chathamica* and, of course, pohutukawa were also common with *Olearia furfuracea* and manuka forming a low shrubland on the slope above. On the return to the vehicles we passed through a small but magnificent piece of coastal forest of puriri and taraire forest containing tawa, kohekohe and pukatea. The area as a whole is a truly interesting example of a transition from shelly shore through mangroves, rushes or sedge wetland to coastal forest and regenerating kauri on the ridge above.

From there we headed to the magnificent Waiau kauri, stopping briefly at the short Falls Walk by mistake, 1 km short of our intended destination. The waterfall track was swamped by *Selaginella kraussiana* and the forest was dominated by tree ferns and mahoe, the waterfall clothed in wandering jew. The kauri walk was a marked contrast. Although *S. kraussiana* was common at the start of the track and tree ferns were common, by time we reached the lookout the forest although modified was pretty weed free. The lookout is an overview of spectacular piece of unlogged mature forest, rescued from the loggers in the 1940's. The large mature kauri stand out from the surrounding forest with a few pale green round-crowned *Nestegis montana* also standing out with them in the sub canopy. Beneath the kauri plants of particular interest included *Mida salicifolia*, *Quintinia serrata*, *Brachyglottis kirkii* and terrestrial *Pittosporum cornifolium*. A few significant additions to a previous list included the orchids - *Acianthus sinclairii* and *Corybas acuminatus* in fruit and *Pterostylis agathicola* still in flower. Near the creek a good list of ferns of ferns was noted including kidney fern and the bronze *Hymenophyllum frankliniae*.

Sunday: Kaipawa Trig

Enroute to the Whangapoua saddle much of road was in fog, but at the summit the sky soon cleared and the day turned calm, clear and sunny. For about two thirds of the way the route follows a recently cleared, old mining road through low secondary forest dominated by tawa, mahoe, pigeonwood, towai, red matipo, with occasionally kanuka or black matipo. Scattered patches of more mature forest occurred with emergent northern rata or pukatea standing out above kohekohe and tawa with nikau. At the first track junction, the track followed an old miner's track across the slope through mature forest with abundant quintinia in full flower, past several mine entrances to open out to grassland and very low scrub at the second intersection. By that time the party was reduced to two! From there the track ascended steeply to the Kaipawa summit through patches of gorse, grass and a low scrub of *Coprosma autumnalis*, pepperwood, *Metrosideros perforata*, pigeonwood and tree ferns. Since one member of the party already arrived and was waiting at the bottom of the Success Track we made a rapid descent to the old hospital. The early part of yet another old mining track and road was through secondary forest of mahoe, hinau, and pigeonwood and later through very old pine plantation containing a sub canopy of native species such as kohekohe, taraire and puriri at about 6 m tall. Finally we emerged briefly through *Ligustrum lucidum* forest at the road end one hour later than our driver.

FUTURE EVENTS

January 27 – 31	Auckland Anniversary Weekend Trip, Kauaeranga Valley (Combined with Waikato Botanical Society)
February 12-13	Makatiti Dome Scenic Reserve
February 27	Raparapahoe Falls and Mangatoui Rd, Otanewainuku
March 12	Mt Tarawera (Combined with Forest and Bird and Waikato Botanical Society)

President: Sarah Beadel 021 924476; Sarah.Beadel@wildlands.co.nz

Secretary: Elizabeth Miller (07) 343 5613 rotorua-botanical-society@gmail.com

Web Page: www.wildland.co.nz/botanical.htm

■ Whanganui Museum Botanical Group

Our meetings are held every two months on the second Tuesday, alternating with 'Nature Talks' (where the Whanganui Botanical Group has merged with Birding Whanganui and the Whanganui branch of Forest and Bird), which are held on the third Tuesday in even-numbered months. It is intended to continue with monthly botanical field trips to which members of the other two groups are invited.

President: Clive Higgin (06) 342 7857 clive.nicki@xtra.co.nz

Secretary: Margi Keys 0274 481 581 wbotgp@gmail.com

■ Wellington Botanical Society

April 2021 trip: Ralph Green's Longacre Bush, Kāpiti Coast

Ralph's 3 ha property is a regenerating *Rhopalostylis sapida* forest with some large *Laurelia novae-zealandiae*, *Dysoxylum spectabile* and *Prumnopitys taxifolia*. There was not a lot of plant diversity on the lower nīkau slopes but this improved further up the slope. Rabbits, *Asparagus scandens*, *Selaginella kraussiana* and *Tradescantia fluminensis* were noticeable. Highlights were a *Metrosideros fulgens* in flower and several *Streblis banksii*. Two of the latter were on an adjacent property on to which we had inadvertently wandered. It was here, on a platform built by the neighbour, that we had lunch. Many thanks to our host Ralph, who was very helpful and went out of his way to show us around.

May 2021 trip: Ōpau Stream and valley, Makara

Eighteen of us braved the chilly southerly to visit Ōpau Bay. Three 4WDs ferried passengers south down the steep road to the stream, while others chose to walk. From there we explored the coastal turf along the edges of the stream, finding *Samolus repens* var. *repens*, *Selliera radicans*, *Lilaeopsis novae-zealandiae* and *Leptinella squalida* subsp. *squalida*. One highlight was finding several patches of the Nationally Vulnerable sea holly (*Eryngium vesiculosum*) in seed, and several of us noted the prickliness of the seed heads. The stream itself contained several species including *Potamogeton cheesemanii*, *Lemna dispersa*, *Azolla rubra* and *Callitriche stagnalis*. *Blechnum banksii* (also known as *B. blechnoides*) was growing on the stream bank.

From the stream we headed to the coast, where some chose to walk along the beach, some chose to examine the seaweeds and others opted for morning tea. A large horned poppy / *Glaucum flavum* was removed from the back of the beach and we marvelled at the number of seeds within each seedpod. Next, we headed south up the valley past a karaka grove and a large, but not very diverse, wetland of raupō and *Carex geminata*, and then made our way along a track up a side stream. Of note was an extraordinarily large broom (*Carmichaelia australis*) that had fallen across the stream but was still alive. There were larger trees here but the understorey was depauperate with many of the palatable species typical of such a habitat absent. We saw evidence of goats—dead and alive—and cattle.

Overall, we were able to make several additions to the 1998 Mitcalfe and Horne list, including *Senecio lautus*, *Cotula coronopifolia*, *Eryngium vesiculosum*, *Peperomia urvilleana*, *Chenopodium triandrum* and many exotics. We were also able to add 407 observations of 189 species to iNaturalist for this year's City Nature Challenge, with *Leptinella squalida*, *Olearia solandri* and *Muehlenbeckia complexa* our most observed species on the trip.

June 2021 trip: Field Reserve and Kaitawa Reserve, Kāpiti Coast

Field Reserve is 600 metres south of Otaihangā Roundabout on the former SH1. This 3.76 ha reserve has broadleaf forest on a gentle slope up to a low ridge which adjoins DOC's Paraparaumu Scenic Reserve reserve, separated by a three-wire fence. The Kāpiti-Manā Branch of Forest and Bird have owned and cared for the reserve since 1973. Two local members of the branch met us on site.

Once inside the bush, everyone scattered to the four winds. There are no formed tracks in the

reserve, although a trapping route can be discerned at times. The groundcover and understorey varied from sparse to abundant. There were masses of nīkau / *Rhopalostylis sapida* and kohekohe / *Dysoxylum spectabile*, with the ground carpeted with nīkau seedlings in many places. There were also a lone tōtara—ca. 50 cm d.b.h. and tōtara seedlings and a few plants of tūrepo / large-leaved milk tree / *Streblus banksii* (Conservation Status: Relict). There were delightfully few exotic plants—a few scattered *Tradescantia fluminensis*, some seedlings of *Asparagus scandens*, plus a few Chinese gooseberries and an *Aucuba japonica*—probably escaped from a nearby garden.

There was evidence of vegetation-monitoring, with some trees and pegs bearing numbered aluminium tags. There was a variety of pest-animal traps, with evidence of success in the many nīkau and kohekohe seedlings.

After Field Reserve, many trip attendees headed to Kaitawa Reserve for lunch. The Reserve is another Kāpiti-Mana Branch project. With support of the district council, they planted 30,000 plants in 1995, implementing the dream of Ngāi Tahu kaumātua John McLachlan's dream of revegetating the former weed-covered wasteland. Some of the plantings are a little unusual for the locale. An interesting find was *Adiantum diaphanum*, a maidenhair fern.

June workbee: Te Mārua Bush

A small group assembled in overcast weather at the gate to Te Marua Bush. Our main work was to replace twelve dead or dying trees in the southern section south of the gate. This area was previously used as a construction site for the Kaitoke Hill deviation of SH2 in the 2000s—the initial tree planting was in 2006.

Before the first planting the site was ripped to make planting easier but the topsoil was sparse. The trees that were dead or dying were the colonisers, e.g., *Veronica stricta*, *Coprosma robusta*, *C. autumnalis* and wineberry. The tōtara, black maire, mataī and *Griselinia littoralis* seem to be surviving well. In some places the tree roots were growing along the surface in their efforts to find nutrients. Planted in the southern section were four *C. robusta*, one *C. propinqua*, two *Myrsine australis*, four *Phormium tenax* planted against the fence by Twin Lakes Road at the southern end. One *C. propinqua* was planted in the small area next to SH2 at the bottom of the hill. A fertilizer tablet was added for each tree.

Barbara Mitcalfe's kahikatea was not looking good and may need to be replanted. This planting site is on the toe of the topsoil heap which may be too fertile for this species. A search of the bush produced little rubbish apart from a bedspread which Chris pulled out—it had been there for so long that it had tarata roots growing through it. We found no tradescantia or montbretia.

July 2021 trip: Ramaroa Bush, Whareroa Farm Reserve

Whareroa Farm is a recreation reserve between Paekākāriki and Paraparaumu, to the east of State Highway 1 and flanking Akatarawa Forest. While managed by the Department of Conservation, it receives considerable care and attention from the volunteer group, Whareroa Guardians, whose representatives Ann Evans and Susan Blaikie joined our trip. Several tracks at Whareroa provide opportunities for walking, cycling and horse-riding through a sheep and beef farm. Among areas of native plantings are several forest remnants, one of which is Ramaroa Bush, which our group of 28 accessed through plantings alongside Te Ara Ramaroa Track. It was a gloriously sunny and still winter's day, albeit a little wet underfoot in places.

Ramaroa Bush has a canopy principally of tall kohekohe / *Dysoxylum spectabile*, with some tawa / *Beilschmiedia tawa* and pukatea / *Laurelia novae-zelandiae*. Near the northern margin is a large-leaved milk tree / *Streblus banksii* that is massive, albeit with its trunk damaged on one side. This species has been supplemented with several planted individuals.

Inside the forest is an enormous kōhia / native passionfruit / *Passiflora tetrandra* vine that snakes its way up into the canopy, as well as at least a couple of big epiphytic puka / *Griselinia lucida*. Also noted were *Adiantum diaphanum* and *Arthropteris tenella*, which are warmth-loving ferns uncommon in the southern North Island, several beautiful icicle fungi / *Hericium novae-zealandiae* on a fallen log, and numerous individuals of the hybrid between lancewood and coastal five-finger (*Pseudopanax*

crassifolius × *P. lessonii*), which is weedy in the southern North Island.

Pat Enright had provided us with a species list for Ramaroa Bush. Given his thoroughness, it was little surprise that we made only a few additions: a single medium-sized puriri / *Vitex lucens*, presumably planted within the forest; seedlings of small-leaved milk tree / *Streblus heterophyllus* (or are they hybrids with *S. banksii*?); a patch of native spinach / *Tetragonia implexicoma*; one terrestrial plant of what could be kāpuka / *Griselinia littoralis*; one seedling of *Elaeagnus ×reflexa*, which was removed; and a small amount of *Tradescantia fluminensis*. A possible seedling of miro / *Prumnopitys ferruginea*, which would have been an addition, was later determined as mataī / *P. taxifolia*, consistent with adult trees in the bush.

August 2021 trip: Pākuratahi Forest – Tāne's Track

On 7 August, 24 BotSocers and friends botanised Tāne's Track in Pakuratahi Forest, Upper Hutt. We met at the upper carpark and walked counter-clockwise around the upper track before lunch. After lunch, we ambled along the lower track and explored the swampy area next to the road.

The upper track travels through remnant native bush and is botanically very interesting. It begins in broadleaf forest—some of the usual species included the broad-leaved coprosmas, māhoe, putaputawētā, hīnau and tawa interspersed with kahikatea, rimu and a couple of *Pseudowintera axillaris*—before climbing slightly into hard beech forest. It's a great opportunity to see the difference in the undergrowth between the two forest types.

On the lower track, a mature *Raukawa edgerleyi* captured many people's attention so we worked through the features to identify it including a very shiny leaf, a long petiole with a joint at the base of the leaf, a remnant of the compound leaf of the juvenile plant.

For fern enthusiasts, there was a lot to see and learn—eleven species of *Hymenophyllum* and a chance to see *Blechnum minus* and *B. novae-zelandiae* growing next to each other. As Leon Perrie explained, the difference between the two is a dark spot on the centre of the scales in *B. novae zealandiae* and a uniformly tan scale in *B. minus*.

The track is blessedly free of invasive weeds, with the exception being buttercup and selfheal. Owen Spearpoint theorised they may have come in with the gravel for the tracks and thought they could be easily controlled. Other noteworthy observations were *Dawsonia superba*, the tallest self-supporting moss in the world, and the insect damage on the pukatea.

FUTURE EVENTS

11-29 January Summer Camp, Katikati, Bay of Plenty

President: Jon Terry

Secretary: Kate Jordan wellingtonbotsocsecretary@gmail.com <http://wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz/>

■ Nelson Botanical Society

July Meeting, 'The role of lizards in plant reproduction', talk by Ivan Rogers

Ivan is a Biodiversity Ranger for the Department of Conservation with a special interest in lizards. The role of lizards in plant reproduction is twofold. Some lizards enable pollination by feeding on nectar and consequently picking up and moving pollen that has collected under their chin, taking it from flower to flower. Pollen can be carried for up to 12 hours and as far as 50 m away. A more effective role, however, is in the dispersal of seed. Lizards feed off the fruit of a number of plants such as *Piper excelsum* and *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*. Lizards have been found to live within divaricating shrubs, such as *Coprosma propinqua* and *Melicytus* 'Waipapa', where they consume the fruits. The presence of faeces provides nutrients to the germinating seed so that there is a greater chance (70% in trials) of successful germination.

August Field Trip:

Day 1: Shannel Courtney's property, Te Hapua QEII Covenant, Pōhara



Asplenium lepidotum, an uncommon and recently described fern of basicolous rocks. Photo taken by Chris Ecroyd.

Shannel has owned this 6 ha property for 30 years. The property is predominantly Nile limestone with its characteristic clint and grike pavement which provides a unique habitat for plants. The limestone areas are notable for a lack of beech trees and their associated habitats. Other plant groups that are poorly represented are filmy ferns, tree ferns, orchids and nīkau. There are many species of ferns, grasses and also perching plants. There is an area on the hill at the back of the property that is not limestone,

and beeches are present there. The dominant treescape was originally mataī, tōtara and northern rātā, but the podocarps have been almost entirely logged and northern rātā now prevail. Shannel led us up tracks, scrambling through the limestone clefts onto the hill behind the house. A notable species, salvaged from the now-cleared weed cover in this section, was the threatened *Teucrium parvifolium*. The group ventured into the northern part of the property and interesting discoveries in this area included the uncommon *Anemanthele lessoniana* and *Microlaena polynoda*. Uncommon or threatened plants included: *Pimelea longifolia*; *Melicope simplex* x *M. ternata*, *Melicytus obovatus* and *Streblus banksii*. Another plant seen nearby was *Coprosma crassifolia*, at its western limit in this area.

Day 2: Mount Burnett

Mt Burnett (641m) is a peak in Kahurangi National Park near Collingwood. It is the site of New Zealand's only dolomite mine, which has been quarried since 1947. Dolomite is a hardened limestone with a high magnesium content which is used mainly for fertiliser. The unique geology – along with the exposed situation and consequent lack of soil has resulted in an interesting flora, including a number of endemic species. *Anaphalioides trinervis* was in flower along the quarry road, as was *Corybas hatchii*, which was a new record for the location. The Mt Burnett endemic, *Gingidia haematitica* was plentiful here and we also saw *Brachyglottis laxifolia* and a local variant of *Veronica albicans*. We took a route to the summit of Mt Burnett, passing through a forested area that included *Metrosideros parkinsonii*, the uncommon *Senecio glaucophyllus*, *Dracophyllum townsonii*, *Rubus cissoides* and *R. schmidelioides*. North peak had good specimens of *Veronica townsonii*, easily recognised by the rows of marginal domatia on the leaves. There is also a project for the trip on iNaturalist where you can see many more images.

August Evening Meeting: 'Mackenzie Basin threatened flora' a talk by Mike Harding



Corybas hatchii, an addition to the list for Mt Burnett. Photo taken by Chris Ecroyd.

The Mackenzie Basin is the largest intermontane basin in New Zealand and includes the three big lakes: Ōhau, Pūkaki and Tekapo. Repeated glaciation over last 5 million years, the steep rain-shadow gradient, droughty late summers, thin moisture deficient soils and very cold winters appear to have set off a burst of biological diversification leading to the evolution of many dry rain-shadow species that are endemic and found nowhere else in New Zealand. The trees and shrubs grow slowly and are very tough but once erased, grow back very slowly. Mackenzie Basin has 91 vascular plant species listed as Data Deficient, Threatened or At Risk. This number has doubled in the last 10 years. Mike divided the basin into the lower mountain slopes, moraine, outwash terraces, stony terraces and riverbeds, and showed some of the rare plants surviving in each zone. Lower mountain slopes: *Carmichaelia crassicaulis* ssp. *crassicaulis*, *Veronica cupressoides*, *Coprosma intertexta*, *Acaena buchananii*, *Sonchus novae-zelandiae*. Outwash terraces: *Pimelea sericeovillosa* ssp. *pulvinaris*, *Carmichaelia nana*, *Carmichaelia vexillata*, *Colobanthus brevisepalus*, *Convolvulus verecundus*, *Raoulia parkii*, *Lepidium solandri*. Stony terrace: *Raoulia australis* *Raoulia monroi*, *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides*. Riverbed: *Luzula celata*, *Coprosma brunnea*.

These special plants and animals that have endured 150 years of burning, extensive pastoralism, rabbits, application of herbicides and hawkweed have rapidly declined in recent years. Many of these problems continue today together with over sowing, topdressing, cultivation, direct drilling, irrigation, tourism and the increased spread and naturalisation of exotic species like wallabies, lupins, wilding pines and briar rose. The challenge is to protect the remainder dryland ecosystems at a sustainable scale.

September Field Trip to Ives Property, Ōkiwi Bay

The Ives property is covered in mostly regenerating bush following a fire about 90 years ago. Trees and shrubs seen included: *Pterophylla racemosa*, *Metrosideros umbellata* and *Leptecophylla juniperina* ssp. *juniperina* just coming into flower. We soon spotted the first of 11 species of orchid: *Pterostylis alobula* and *Acianthus sinclairii*. *Pterostylis banksii* was just beginning to flower. Both *Earina mucronata* and *E. autumnalis* were common. We identified eight species of *Hymenophyllum*, including *H. bivalve* and *H. multifidum*. We compared *Tmesipteris elongata* and *T. tannensis* and passed through an area of regenerating *Dacrydium cupressinum*. On a rocky outcrop we found clusters of *Drymoanthus adversus*. Small plants of *Clematis paniculata* had been seen throughout the morning and a group of flowering *Cyrtostylis rotundifolia* was the last orchid of the day. The track made its way down into a lovely deep gully of very tall *Rhopalostylis sapida* and *Elaeocarpus dentatus* var. *dentatus*.

FUTURE EVENTS

December 11-12: Camp in the Cobb Valley
December 19: Fieldtrip to Mt Robert

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Contacts: Barbara Hammonds 06 7597077; Email: barbara_ha@outlook.com

Janica Amore 06 7520830. Email: waiongona@clear.co.nz

Hawke's Bay Botanical Group

<https://www.facebook.com/Hawkes-Bay-Botanical-Group-590670161140095/>

Manawatu Botanical Society

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Canterbury Botanical Society

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Wakatipu Botanical Group

Chair: Neill Simpson (03) 442 2035

Secretary: Rebecca Teele 027 314 2610

Botanical Society of Otago

Chair: Gretchen Brownstein, BrownsteinG@landcareresearch.co.nz www.bso.org.nz

Secretary: Angela Brandt, P O Box 6214, Dunedin North. bsa@otago.ac.nz

NOTES AND REPORTS

- **Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) – the first recorded wild seedling in New Zealand?**

Ewen K. Cameron, Auckland Museum, Private Bag 92018, Auckland
ecameron@aucklandmuseum.com

Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*, Vitaceae) is a commonly cultivated, deciduous woody vine in New Zealand often covering walls, buildings (Figs. 1, 2) and fences. It was given the reduced zeta (ζ) entry (= Casual) in the naturalised Flora of New Zealand by Bill Sykes (1988: 1286) based on a single apparent wild roadside plant on rocks, Tryphena Hill, Great Barrier Island (AK 119783, *RC Cooper s.n.*, 29 Nov 1964). The plant was still present when I collected material from this isolated vine in 2000 (AK 246381-82, *EK Cameron*

10169, 17 Apr 2000) and still present in 2002 (AK 287520, *PJ de Lange* 5497 & *DA Norton*, 15 Apr 2002).

However, when I was researching the history of exotic plantings on two high-tide islets on the nearby Medlands Beach on Great Barrier Island, I learnt that this Boston ivy plant on the rocky bluff near Tryphena Hill was planted by John Medland, grandfather of Lynda Macalpine (née Medland) (L. Macalpine pers. comm. to EKC, 2015). Therefore this Great Barrier specimen needs to be treated as a planting, and not as a wild plant. The only other published naturalised record of this plant I could find was a range extension of the zeta record by Heenan et al. (1999) of a specimen from Gordonton in the Waikato (see Table 1).



Fig. 1. Boston ivy covering the Northern Club building, 19 Princes St, central Auckland. Because of the adhesive disc-like tips on the short, but much-branched tendrils, the vine attaches firmly to rock or wood. Photo: 16 Nov 2021.

Are there any genuine wild New Zealand records of Boston ivy?

Checking on the Australasian Virtual Herbarium (AVH) website and directly with New Zealand herbaria staff, revealed only four possibly wild records, Table 1. However, none of these records are clearly wild and they are most likely to be originally planted. None are seedlings (pers. obs.).

Table 1. Possible wild Boston ivy records from New Zealand herbaria.

Herbarium number	Collector	Coll. date	Location	Notes indicating biostatus
CHR 169350	R Mason 10123	31 Jan 1963	outskirts of Edgecumbe, Bay of Plenty	Not recorded
WAIK 5084	PD Champion	17 Oct 1985	Gordonton, [Waikato]	Climbing [on] kahikatea at edge of remnant near house [adult foliage]*
NZFRI 18282, CHR 449807	CE Ecroyd	18 May 1989	Rotorua Government gardens, nr Motutara Golf Course	Creeping over old foundations. Well established. Could have been planted initially
CHR 536573	S O'Conner [CC Ogle] 3630	24 Nov 1999	Wanganui, Mangapurua Valley, "Bennett's Settlement"	Deserted farm house site. One plant, scrambling to 1m tall. "Not vigorous"

*= a cultivation escape (Paul Champion pers. comm. to EKC, Nov 2021)

A recent seedling

The identity of a wild seedling that appeared in a pot plant under an outside tree at the authors Mt Eden residence in Auckland was initially baffling. It was first observed in April 2019 as a small seedling, then in the autumn the leaves turned red and dropped off. Fortunately it came back to life after the winter, producing trifoliate leaves, but it wasn't until it started developing the adhesive tendril pads and a visit from my sister-in-law that it was able to be identified. It was then turned into a herbarium specimen (AK 379435, *EK Cameron 17402*, 25 Jan 2020, Fig. 3). Although the author has lived on the property for over 35 years this is the only Boston ivy seedling seen on the property. Presumably it has grown from a seed excreted by a frugivorous bird, most likely a blackbird, perching above the pot? Although Boston ivy has long been grown in Auckland and commonly occurs there, the closest known plant(s) to the seedling locality would be some 100 m away.



Fig. 2. Boston ivy adult green leaves, simple and 3-pointed, Northern Club building. These leaves turn a wonderful red in autumn before abscising. Photo: 16 Nov 2021.

This appears to be the first definite Boston ivy collection of a wild seedling in New Zealand, and possibly the only collection of a truly wild specimen – rather than a garden relic or a planting that has spread vegetatively. Although I have occasionally seen mature fruit on Boston ivy vines (including the



Fig. 3. Pressed Boston ivy seedling, with compound, trifoliate leaves, AK 379435, 25 Jan 2020. The smaller piece (above) was collected from the same plant on 19 Apr 2019.

plant on Tryphena Hill), a blue-black berry 6-8 mm across, I have never tried to germinate the seed. Hopefully the appearance of this seedling doesn't mark the beginning of a new species of woody climber about to naturalise in New Zealand.

Acknowledgements

I thank: the staff of the New Zealand herbaria, Ines Schönberger and Paula Greer (CHR), Matt Buys (NZFRI), Toni Cornes (WAIK) and Leon Perrie (WELT) for their relevant herbarium records and images; Paul Champion for comments re his 1985 collection (WAIK 5084); Lynda Macalpine for historical planting information on Great Barrier Island; and Lynnette Lochhead for assistance with the seedling identification.

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BIOGRAPHY / BIBLIOGRAPHY

■ Biographical sketch - A. C. S. Wright OBE (1915–98), soil scientist and agroecologist

Rhys Gardner, rhysogardner@hotmail.com

Charles Wright (perhaps just as often, Charlie) came to New Zealand in 1936 or '37 as a Leeds University botany graduate. Young and adventurous, he neglected the scholarship he had in favour of casual work of various degrees of hazardousness: timber-poaching at West Taupo, oyster-dredging at Bluff, and gardening with native plants at Isabel Noeline Baker's big new house on Stewart Island. After a year or so, in Whangarei, he took a labourer's job with DSIR pedologist Norman Taylor and fell into his vocation. The astute Taylor immediately promoted Charlie to Soil Surveyor (Third Class) and sent him out to reconnoitre the soils of Northland. Charlie became the intellectual confidante of Taylor, who was beginning to develop a genetic classification of New Zealand's soils, and together they probed the office's only textbook, the newly translated masterwork of Russian pedologist K.D. Glinka (1935). The ubiquity of moa crop-stones, prehistoric garden sites, and the distinctive effects that kauri and other large trees had on the soil, were all mulled over. In the field, the sociable and socialistic Charlie talked to everyone: farmers, council engineers, drainlayers, roadmen, and the last of the Depression gum-diggers. The sight of a 'Homey' so quickly becoming a Kiwi must have brightened many a lonely toiler's day.

Over the next twenty-five years Charlie mapped soils in New Zealand (including Little Barrier and Chatham I.), the Pacific (Raoul I., Niue, Samoa and Fiji), and the Americas. Even his war service in New Caledonia and the Solomons was put to scientific account (Birrell & Wright 1945; Wright n.d.). In

1962, a recognized expert in tropical pedology, he left the DSIR to work as an FAO consultant in Central and South America. In 1969 he settled in the Commonwealth country of British Honduras (now Belize), which he had extensively surveyed in 1952. He spent a good last third of his life there, actively retired in the countryside, dispensing rum and advice to governments, local scientists and conservationists, and practicing what he preached on his lifestyle property.

Charlie Wright has written so well about his time in New Zealand that rather than spoil his stories I shall give here only the references to them. Firstly, and essentially, there is the unpublished memoir written late in life, a gem of Kiwiana accessible via the online version of the *Te Ara New Zealand Encyclopedia* (Tonkin 2007). The two other main sources (Leamy 1980; Wright 1980) are given in the References below, as well as two that I have not seen but are at least relevant to the era (Childs & Leamy 1978; Adams 2002). Charlie also gets several paragraphs in an otherwise sober history of the Soil Bureau, e.g., "Wright used the bare minimum of logistics and began by getting to know the people...he was usually found in the "Fijian" bar, surrounded by a colourful launch crew of mixed race including an appealing cabin boy whose specialties were cooking eggs and stealing watches" (Simmonds et al. 1980: 16).

Some biographical commentary (and reference to additional material, including his publications and plant collections) follows here as Notes 1–5. An obituary, the only one I can find, is given in Note 6—from friends in Belize, it more than suffices.

Notes

1 Alfred Charles Seymour Wright was born in Cambridge, U.K. on June 11, 1915. His father was Canadian-born geologist, glaciologist, physicist and explorer Charles Seymour "Silas" Wright (1887–1975), and his mother UK-born Edith Mary Wright, née Priestley (1891–1968); the likely date for their marriage is 1913. There were two (younger?) sisters, Patricia Francis and Joan. The long-lost uncle "Jeff Boyd" whom Charlie met in the Auckland pub on his second day in New Zealand was brother to Phyllis Mary Boyd (of Dunedin, d. 1961). She had married C.S. Wright's brother-in-law Raymond Priestley in 1915.

Charlie Wright never married. He received an OBE on 30 December 1978 for services to the development of agriculture in Belize. He died on the 6th of June 1998, in Punta Gorda, Belize.

Both his father and his uncle Raymond Priestley were scientists on Robert Falcon Scott's "ill-fated" *Terra Nova Expedition* of 1910–13 (and Wright led the team which found the tent in which Scott, Wilson and Bowers lay frozen to death). Each did wartime service in France in the Royal Engineers and were later to receive knighthoods, for contributions to science and education respectively. If there was a genetic basis to all this capability, then, it might be that Charlie had received a double dose. But a need to escape his heritage was present too: several times when writing of his first years in New Zealand he expresses a dislike of "nepotism" (and thus has family friend Ernest Marsden, head of the DSIR at the time, wondering for months just where the h... young Charlie had got to).

That Charlie Wright chose to spend the second part of his life in Belize, which has the lowest population density of any Central American country, not to mention forests and savannahs, palms, butterflies, and indigenous communities living close to nature, can be understood by any biologist. Moreover, he enjoyed working with the (Latin) scientists of those countries—see the introduction to one of his FAO reports (Wright 1963). But we might also wonder whether his father told him once too often of those dreadful and soil-less Polar wastes.

2 Charlie's degree was possibly a B.Sc. Hons. in both botany and zoology. Also, he wrote that he came here with a so-called "Commonwealth Scholarship" that entitled him to free return passage between the U.K. and New Zealand but nothing more. This scholarship's terms are unknown. Perhaps Charlie was required to collect plants and send them back to Leeds, but this university's herbarium has been passed to London's Natural History Museum and currently no *Wright* collections appear in the latter's database.

3 Something seems amiss with the published chronology around Charlie's first years in New Zealand, hence the first line of this article. He wrote that he arrived in Wellington in April 1936 on the *Awatea*,

but this ship, a new P & O liner dedicated to the Australia-New Zealand run, made her first voyage between Sydney and Wellington early in September 1936. Moreover, he is recorded by Simmonds et al. (1980, appendix 1 p. 57) as having joined the Soil Survey on 1 September 1938. This seems rather a long time after an April 1936 arrival, even considering the variety of his adventures. I wonder then if “1936” might be a slip for 1937 and note that the *Awatea* was running between Sydney and Wellington that year until May (when she was removed for a while for a funnel refit).

4 Charlie Wright’s Pacific collections, from Raoul Island and Niue, are in the Landcare Research New Zealand herbaria. They are databased mainly as “A.C.S. Wright”, but variants occur. From Raoul Island there are 43 collections: 1 alga, several fungi, and bryophytes, ferns and flowering plants, all collected March–April 1949. From Niue there are 14 collections: herbs, grasses and weeds, all collected in “1949” [fieldwork here was carried out 19 April to 25 May]. No collections from Samoa or Fiji appear to have been made.

5 Wright’s publications from fieldwork done while he was a member of the DSIR are to be found in Davin (1980). There are 32 items here. In half of them he is the sole author; in 10 as senior author, and in 6 as junior author, a near-exact balance between independence and co-operation. To those can be added: Soil Map of the Bay of Islands. 1: 100 000. NZ Soil Bureau Map 184 (Sutherland, C.F.; Cox, J.E.; Taylor, N.H.; Wright, A.C.S.).

Google Scholar (accessed 5 Oct 2021) lists some of Wright’s articles and unpublished FAO reports, including a botanical one with fine photographs: Wright, A.C.S. 1963: “Los Bofedales”—Alkaline cushion bog peats of the semi-arid Chilean altiplano. *Pacific Viewpoint* 4: 189–93. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/apv.42005>.

The unique Maya Atlas, referred to in the note below, would have been one of the last good works Charlie helped with. It was published in 1998; see <https://nawimaps.com/maps/maya-atlas>.

6 This obituary is from journalist friends at Belize TV’s Channel Five:

“In other news from the south, a man who dedicated much of his life to the improvement of the Toledo District, not to mention the rest of Belize, has died. Charles Wright passed away on Saturday in Punta Gorda only a few days short of his eighty-third birthday. Wright first came to Belize in 1952 as head of the land use survey team sent by the British government. The team’s two years of work resulted in the publication of a book, “Soils of British Honduras,” which over forty years later remains the definitive work on the subject. In 1969 Wright took up residence in Toledo, establishing a botanical park near Big Falls, where he experimented with different species of exotic plants. He also developed a program to breed the rare blue morpho butterfly. More recently he moved to Punta Gorda and became increasingly involved in environmental concerns. He worked closely with a number of conservation groups and helped promote the production of the Maya Atlas. Many of us at Channel Five enjoyed a close relationship with Charles for over twenty-five years. We knew him as a man who drank prodigious amounts of cheap rum, smoked far too many cigarettes and had a tendency to interfere in politics on all sides. In short, he was one of our favourite characters and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Charles Wright: dead at eighty-two.” <https://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/24811> (accessed 18 Sept 2021).

Acknowledgements

Paul Blaschke told me about Charlie’s inspiring Soil Society lectures. Mark Smale encouraged and provided essential information. Jock Churchman and David Lowe kindly supplied references.

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■ Biographical Sketch – Rodney John Lewington (1935-2018)

Val Smith, valdsmit@xtra.co.nz

According to his birth certificate, Rodney was born on 14 April 1935 “in the Land of Nod, in the County of Southampton”, England, where his parents were employed by the Earl of Southampton, his father Bill as the butler and his mother Alice as cook. Still a young child when they moved to a small property in Earley, near Reading in Berkshire, Rodney was brought up in the countryside during the Second World War, educated at the Reading Grammar School and then worked at an agricultural research station. His lifelong interest in botany emanated from those early years. In 1961 he married Gloria Towe and they came to New Zealand as ten-pound immigrants. Their two children Ivan and Annette were born in 1962 and 1963.

Rodney joined the Department of Statistics and with its support studied commerce and statistics at Victoria University, Wellington, gaining an honours degree in 1966. In the early 1980s he had a stint at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Gloria remained in Australia when Rodney returned to Wellington, and in 1987 he married



Darea Sherratt, who he had first met in the late 1970s on Wellington Botanical Society trips. Darea, originally from Hawkes Bay, worked at the Alexander Turnbull Library.

After becoming a member of the Wellington Botanical Society shortly after his arrival, Rodney held all offices from president to auditor over a period of 33 years. Invaluable on the society's summer field trips, he was Tony Druce's right-hand man in the 1980s, organising, carrying and encouraging, and was renowned for his porridge-making and fire-lighting skills in all situations. He became interested in mosses in the 1980s and attended all the annual bryophyte forays except the first one. On his retirement at 70 he turned his attention to liverworts, mainly self-taught with guidance from bryologists such as David Glenny. He contributed to the nationally significant bryophyte collections of the Te Papa and Allan herbariums, and co-authored numerous publications. He was also deeply involved with the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, assisting with cruise ship tours, botanical talks and walks for visiting scientists, tourists and locals, and led bryophyte surveys during various Bioblitz events.

Rodney and Darea's home at Highbury, Wellington was (and is) indicative of their many shared interests: an extensive library and interesting art collection, a challenging garden of mainly native plant species and frequent avian visitors from nearby Zealandia. After a short illness, Rodney died at home on 27 September 2018.

On 13 November 2019 he was posthumously awarded (and Darea received on his behalf) the New Zealand Botanical Society's Allan Mere Award, which recognises the contribution of outstanding New Zealand botanists.

Then, in December 2019, the name *Cheilolejeunea rodneyi* was published for a tiny, leafy liverwort that Te Papa Research Associate Peter Beveridge had found two years earlier in Remutaka Forest Park. He named it after Rodney Lewington, who he considered a mentor. Rodney was with Peter when *Cheilolejeunea rodneyi* was collected from the Hutt Valley, and he knew about the dedication.

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Cheilolejeunea rodneyi

Cheilolejeunea (Greek *cheilos* lip; "*Lejeunea* with lips" referring to the emerging sporangium rupturing the perianth into two lips) is a pan-tropical genus of around 200 species of liverworts. It includes eleven species now recognised in New Zealand, four of which are regarded as endemic. *Cheilolejeunea rodneyi*, a new species from lowland indigenous forests in New Zealand, was described by Peter Beveridge, David Glenny and Lara Shepherd in 2019 and named after Wellington bryologist Rodney Lewington. A tiny species with pale green procumbent, often parallel shoots around 1 mm wide, it has been found only at three lowland forest reserves in the Wellington region, growing epiphytically on the trunks of hard beech, *Nothofagus truncata*.

PUBLICATIONS

■ Publications Received

Wellington Botanical Society Newsletter Sept 2021: Upcoming trips and talks, publications received, submissions made, President's report for the AGM, Ōtari update, QEII updates, Baring Head

restoration update, Old Man's Beard busting, trip reports for Longacre Bush, Ōpau Stream, Field and Kaitawa Reserves, Te Mārua Bush, Ramaroa Bush and Pākuratahi Forest.

Botanical Society of Otago Newsletter Oct 2021: Upcoming trips and talks, Okahau dune project, book review of *Banks* by Grantlee Kieze, talk reports on Mahu Whenua and End Peak alpine wetland complex, seaweed communities, Orokonui fungi, flora of Banks Peninsula and seaweeds of Otago, trip reports for a lichen foray at Orokonui, Mt Kettle and Mt Cutton and Racemans Track.

Nelson Botanical Society Newsletter Spring 2021: Talk reports on the role of lizards in plant reproduction and Mackenzie Basin threatened flora, trip reports for Te Hapua QEII Covenant Pōhara, Mount Burnett Ives property, Ōkiwi Bay, spotlight on *Gingidia haematitica*, New Zealand herbaria, *Calostoma* species, *Exocarpus bidwillii*, phylloides and phylloclades, mineral belt flowers and *Aristotelia serrata* flowers.

Auckland Botanical Society Journal: Trip report for Cutty Grass Track, Waitakere Ranges, Piropiro Flats, west of Lake Taupo, Flora of the Tapuwae Forest Blocks, Hokianga, *Euphorbia bubaline* – a new casual record for New Zealand, *Pterostylis puberula* – a new record for Great Barrier Island, *Leptinella rotundata* revisited, lichens of Arch Hill, Auckland, the kikuyu dilemma, Thomas Kirk in Auckland, Te Moehau Plaque, obituary for Dr Una Vivienne Cassie Cooper.

■ Book review – Name that flower: The identification of flowering plants

By Ian Clarke and Helen Lee

Published by Melbourne University Press, October 2019

Paperback, colour illustrations and line drawings, 374 pages, 148 × 208 mm

\$NZ48.00

ISBN 978-0-522876-04-8

(ebook: ISBN 978-0-522876-05-5)

Reviewed by Murray Dawson

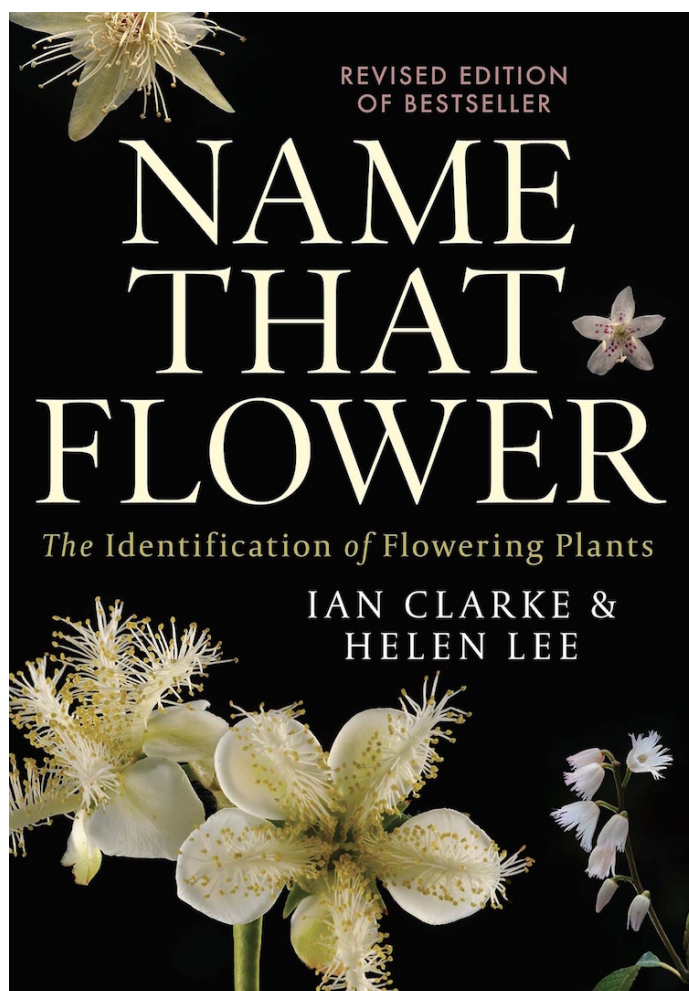
This inspirational book, and the floral botany captured within its pages, is a timeless work.

The first edition was published more than 30 years ago, in 1987, and followed by numerous reprints. The second edition was in 2001 (again with reprints), and this third edition was published in October 2019. For digital natives, the last two editions are also available as ebooks.

This book provides clear and concise information for understanding the fascinating fields of floral anatomy and morphology, and their application for identifying flowering plants from around the world, both cultivated and in the wild.

The book introduces the reader to the arrangement of flowers on plants, reproduction, plant structure and function, and how species are grouped and named.

This edition is updated to align with current plant classifications supported by molecular DNA analyses. 46 families of



flowering plants are arranged closely following the classification scheme of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group. Methods for dissecting flowers and observing their structure for identification purposes are clearly described.

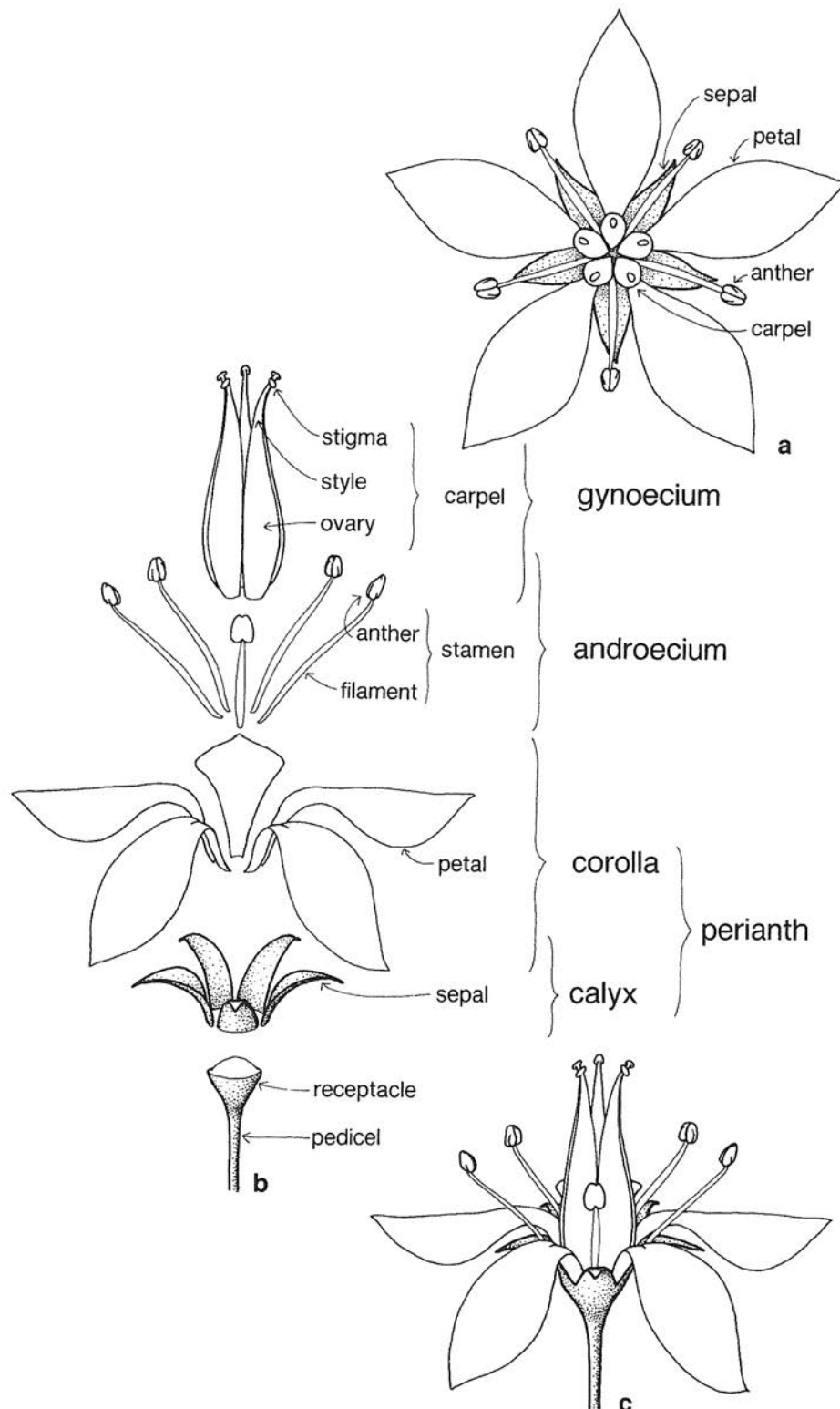
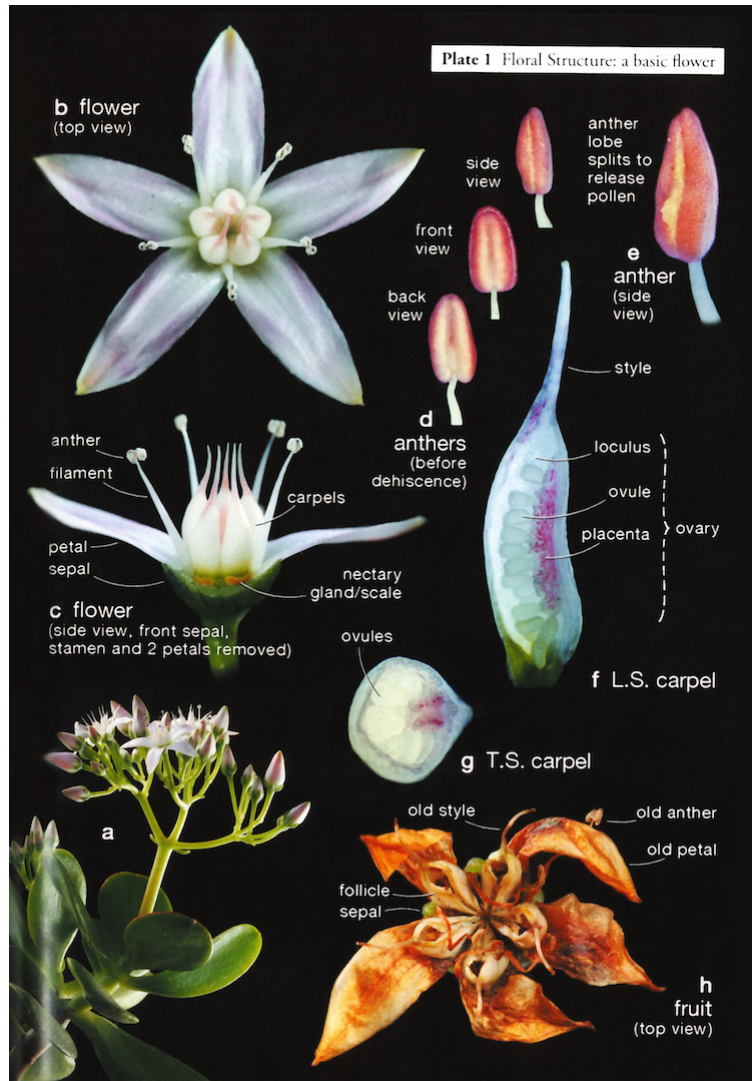


Fig. 1 of *Name that flower*, with clear line drawings to show the floral structure of a basic flower.

What really shines in this book are the illustrations. There are more than 130 detailed line drawings and 64 colour pages. The illustrations depict a selection of widely distributed garden plants and weeds, and species native in eastern and south-eastern Australia. The authors are professional botanists from Victoria: Helen Lee is an Honorary Research Fellow in the Botany Department, La Trobe University, and Ian Clarke is an Honorary Associate who for many years provided plant identification services at the National Herbarium of Victoria. However, this regional bias is not an issue because most species that they illustrate are also found in New Zealand and elsewhere.



Name that flower has been used extensively as a textbook for courses covering horticulture, botany, agriculture, environmental management, and landscape design, as well as botanical art. However, it transcends this use by students, and should also appeal to serious gardeners, horticulturists and botanists, professional and amateur.

Plate 1 of *Name that flower*, beautifully illustrating the floral structure of a basic flower.