

Table 1. Voucher specimens from Rodney District in Auckland Museum herbarium (AK)

Voucher No.	Notes
AK 297731	A big population, clay road cutting, Waiwhiu, Conical Peak Road; <i>ME Young s.n.</i> , 28 Oct 2006
AK 329742	Many plants, roadside bank, Matakana, Valley Road; <i>CD Kilgour 1269</i> , 8 Dec 2011
AK 329769	Locally common in roadside drain, Port Albert Limeworks, Underwood Road; <i>CD Kilgour 1479 & JR Robertson</i> , 14 Dec 2011
AK 336909	Locally common, roadside, edge of road shingle; Pohuehue, forestry road; <i>J Salter s.n.</i> , 12 Jan 2013
AK 375908	Abundant, edge of gravel road; Whangateau, Birdsall Road; <i>ME Young s.n.</i> , 14 Dec 2015
AK 380959	Common along roadside for c.1 km (limestone gravel common), Warkworth, Wilson Road leading to old cement works; <i>ME Young s.n.</i> , 30 Nov 2019

from Warkworth. When I noted the yellow wort growing abundantly on the road sides it was a very pretty sight with the yellow, many-petalled flowers at their peak. Since then, some roadside tidying has reduced the population, but there are still some plants to be found (Figs. 1, 2). This road also has a layer of greywacke gravel,

but limestone from previous days is still visible scattered among the grey stones.

Acknowledgement

My thanks to Vivienne Paterson who acts as my photographic slave with such good grace.

Reference

Cameron, E.K. 2005: Yellow wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*) (Gentianaceae) hitchhikes south? *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 60(1): 42-45.

Book Launch: "*Nature in the city*" at The Bistro, Cornwall Park, Auckland, 3 March 2023

Mike Wilcox



Fig. 1. Bec Stanley, Auckland Bot Soc President, and MC for the occasion. All photos (except Fig. 2) by Joshua Salter, 3 Mar 2023.

A convivial group of 50 or so Bot Soc members and invited guests gathered at 4 pm at the Bistro in Cornwall Park to celebrate the arrival of *Nature in the City*. It was a memorable occasion. Refreshments were provided by Andrew Bell and staff of Cornwall Park Eateries Ltd.

Bec Stanley, MC and Auckland Bot Soc President

Bec welcomed everyone, outlined the history and activities of the Auckland Botanical Society, and introduced the speakers (Fig. 1).

Anthony Wright, Auckland Bot Soc Life Member and a former Auckland Bot Soc President, Director of the Canterbury Museum

*Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa
Piki mai, kake mai, tauti mai, ki ngā maunga o tēnei
hui, Maungakiekie*

*Ngā mihi nui ki ngā tangata
whenua no tēnei maunga
Ngā tīpuna no tēnei maunga,
ngā mihi ki a koutou. Moe mai,
moe mai, moe mai. Ngā mihi
nui ki a koutou
Ko ahau te Tumuaki o Te
Whare Taonga o ngā Pākihi*

*Whakatekata o Waitaha, ki
Otautahi
Ko Anthony Wright ahau
No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā
koutou, tēnērā tatou katoa.*

Greetings, thrice greetings to you all and welcome to this great ancestral maunga. We greet the people of this place. We acknowledge all those who have gone before; may they rest in peace.

My name is Anthony Wright and while I'm presently the Tumuaki / Director of the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, as you'll hear, my roots are in this place.

It's an especial pleasure to be here today to celebrate the publication by the Auckland Botanical Society of another wonderful book, *Nature in the City* (Fig. 2).

It's special for me personally because this maunga, Maungakiekie, has been my maunga since early childhood. With my brothers and friends, or sometimes alone, I explored the wildlands of the combined domain and park – to us children, a vast uncharted territory.

We staged karaka berry wars between the upper, middle and lower forts amongst the jumbled lava blocks on the maunga's flanks just along from where we gather today. It was here that my love of our native ferns, and hence botany, began.

Of course, in those days it was pretty universally known as One Tree Hill, surmounting Cornwall Park. But even then, some of the mystery of the Māori name, Maungakiekie – mountain of the kiekie vine – seeped through. And the great Mauri stone, the Talisman of Rongo, now relocated to the edge of the barbeque area, due east of us, had a commanding and irresistible majesty.

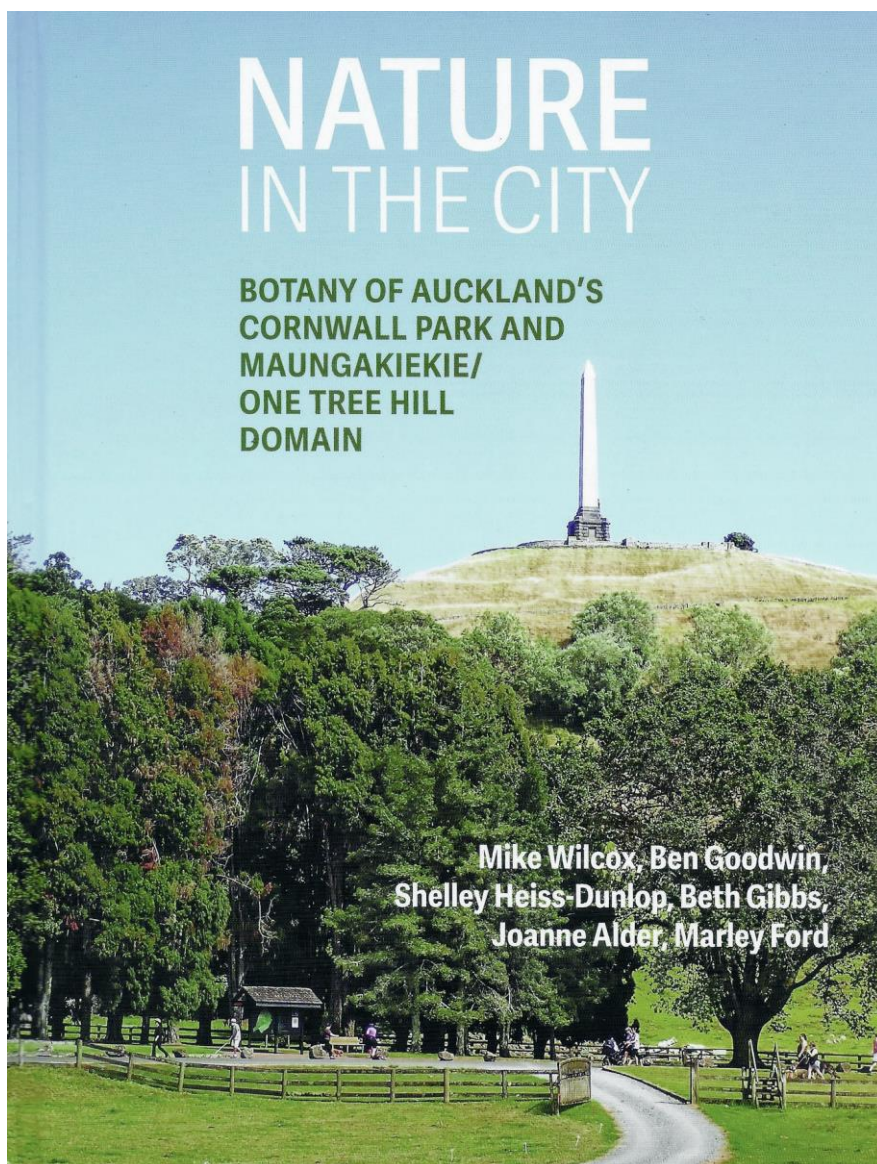


Fig. 2. Front cover of "Nature in the city" – showing Maungakiekie / One Tree Hill seen from the farm entrance road off Twin Oaks Drive, Cornwall Park. Photo: Mike Wilcox, 4 Mar 2022.

The terraced fortifications of the giant pā remain one of the wonders of the world.

Sir John Logan Campbell, too, was a childhood hero. His magnanimous generosity in gifting such a huge tract of land to Aucklanders is scarcely comprehensible when placed against the modesty of his first home, Acacia Cottage, just over the road from us.

And the words from John Ruskin's the Seven Lamps of Architecture, so cleverly adapted to be in praise of trees, and graven in stone on obelisks by his Trustees, instilled in me both thankfulness for what our forebears have done for us, and a keen sense of the need to conserve and protect the magnificent asset that is our mature urban treescape. I quote from the obelisks below us adjacent to the Circus:

The Trees

When we plant here, let us think that we plant forever. Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for and let us think that a time is to come when these trees will be held sacred because our hands have planted them and that men will say as they look upon the wonder and substance of them:

"See! This our Fathers did for us".

This book that we gather here to launch this afternoon is a similarly noble venture. When I wrote about 50 years of fern hunting on Maungakiekie in the Bot Soc Journal a few years ago, I noted how surprising it was that only seven articles over the previous 70 years had mentioned Cornwall Park or Maungakiekie.

There's no doubt that the present volume has well and truly made up for that! It contains the most exhaustive yet fascinating account of a relatively small island of green in Auckland's large urban landscape. Congratulations to all six authors: Mike, Ben, Shelley, Beth, Joanne, and Marley – you've done the mountain and park proud and provided a great baseline for future exploration and study.

Looking to the future, and using these records as the baseline, I see an opportunity to document plant

arrivals and departures over time on Auckland's maunga: these upstanding sentinels that catch spores and small seeds borne on the westerly winds from the Tasman and the Waitakere Ranges. Some germinate, flourish for a short time, then die. Others persist. So, there will always be new finds to be made and a longer term story to be told of the plant comings and goings.

Congratulations again to all the authors, and to the Auckland Botanical Society for publishing another fine Bulletin.

Kia ora tatou.

Mike Wilcox, co-author

Tēnā koutou katoa. Nau mai, haere mai.

Greetings to Mana Whenua, guardians, and managers of Maungakiekie/One Tree Hill Domain; Cornwall Park Trust – owner and managers of Cornwall Park, Bot Soc members, other nature and scientific groups in Auckland; and Auckland Council tree people. Thank you all for coming to celebrate our book.

The Auckland Botanical Society has been going for 85 years, exploring plants in our area, and more widely, and publishing our findings in our Journal, and in our Bulletins. Today we launch Bulletin No 35, *Nature in the City*.



Fig. 3. Speakers and/or co-authors (c-a) at the book launch; (L-R) Anthony Wright (keynote speaker), Shelley Heiss-Dunlop (c-a), Mike Wilcox (c-a), Ben Goodwin (c-a), Joanne Alder (c-a), Brian O'Flaherty (Punaromia Publications), Beth Gibbs (c-a). Absent: Marley Ford (c-a).

Let me introduce our authors: Ben Goodwin, Shelley Heiss-Dunlop, Beth Gibbs, Joanne Alder, and Marley Ford (Fig. 3). We have shared in all seasons the botanical exploration of this beautiful place, recording the plants in the different habitats, and compiling their story, in words and pictures. We have all experienced the joy of discovery. I would like to mention iNaturalist Cornwall Park project champion Jacqui Geux, who died in October last year, and other observers, for contributing records and photos – Citizen Science at its best. Co-authors Beth Gibbs (fungi) and Marley Ford (lichens) embraced iNaturalist, too, in recording their findings.

The chapters cover the wild native flora of the maunga, native and exotic trees of Cornwall Park and One Tree Hill Domain, trees of the sports clubs, flora of the grasslands, flora of the stone walls, and plants of the ornamental gardens. We have also paid considerable attention to fungi and lichens, and the role of birds in the botanical habitat. In this regard we are most grateful for help with the fungi from Landcare Research: Jerry Cooper, Peter Buchanan, and Adrienne Stanton. Likewise for birds, from Bird NZ: Trina Smith and Ian McLean, and the Michael Taylor Memorial bird walks groups.

Throughout the project many decisions have had to be made, particularly with plant identification and currently accepted scientific names. In my case, there have also been questions with field work: should I bring my walking stick today, or coming to a fence, especially an electric one, should I try to climb over it, crawl under it, walk around it, or squeeze through it?

Some other mentions and highlights. Firstly, the great work done by the arborists Thomas MacDougall and James Letham in looking after the trees and the soil – mulching, replanting for the future, helping us with tree records, or climbing up trees to photograph fungi. Secondly, the realisation that these adjoining parks are a great outdoor classroom for learning about trees and other plants in an urban oasis, as experienced with St Cuthbert's School children, and farm foresters visiting the Eucalyptus Arboretum. Over the years I have enjoyed guiding tree walks around Cornwall Park, organised by the team at Huia Lodge Discovery Hub (wonderful displays, brochures and booklets, and great programme of events), as have others in our Society, notably Ewen Cameron, Dan Blanchon, and more recently, Marley Ford. It is a privilege to have been involved here in this way. As well, Joanne Alder, the Horticultural Manager, leads splendid garden walks. Michael Ayrton, the former Director, took a keen interest in our activities and it was a pleasure to be associated with him and the staff over many years.

Regarding Maungakiekie/One Tree Hill Domain, we thank Neil McCormack, proprietor of Sorrento, for having us explore the plants there, and include mention of them in the book. We are also grateful for Tūpuna Maunga Authority for korero about our botanical investigations on the maunga on their side of the fence.

Do I have a favourite tree? No, all are of interest here, but some special ones are covered in the chapter called "Showcase of trees", highlighting the importance and significance of native trees such as karaka, pōhutukawa, and pūriri, and exotic trees such as the oaks, Monterey pine, and the numerous Chinese trees, especially the ginkgo.

I thank Brian O'Flaherty and Julie McDermid of Punaromia Publications for taking our raw manuscript and copious photos and turning it into a nice book. Local stockists already are Huia Lodge Discovery Hub, Onehunga Books & Stationery, and Time Out Bookshop in Mt Eden.

Finally, let us recognise Sir John Logan Campbell for his gift of this park, to all those who have planted the trees here for us to enjoy, and to The Cornwall Park Trust for looking after them all. Long may Cornwall Park and Maungakiekie / One Tree Hill Domain continue to be a delightful nature and recreation urban haven for the people of Auckland, an extraordinary city farm, and a sacred place preserving the ancestral site of the earliest Māori inhabitants.

Thanks again, everyone, for coming, to celebrate the launch of *Nature in the City*. We hope you enjoy it. E nga mana, E nga iwi, E rau rangatira ma. Tēnā koutou katoa.

Kia ora mai.

Joanne Alder, co-author, Cornwall Park Horticultural Manager

It has been an absolute pleasure being involved in helping produce *Nature in the City*. We have all worked very hard on this beautiful book, especially Mike Wilcox. I have known Mike ever since I first started as the Horticultural assistant at Cornwall Park in 1999, and through many changes Mike has always been there to see what is going on. I enjoy it when he comes visiting in the nursery, asking what things are, because I always have a lot of questions for him too.

Cornwall Park is a second home to many of us, it is a very special place. You become very attached to this park over time and to share that with everyone makes it even better.



Fig. 4. L-R: Jon Avery, Zoe Avery (The Urbanist), and Gerald Collett (Geotrees).



Fig. 5. L-R: Wendy Johns, Ben Goodwin and Bev Davidson.



Fig. 6. L-R: Wolfgang and Shelley Heiss-Dunlop with Bec Stanley.



Fig. 7. Mels Barton (L) and Wendy Johns.

Brian O'Flaherty, Punaromia Publications Ltd

Kia ora koutou. Hello everyone.

It has been a pleasure for Julie and me to work with Mike again, producing this book. Given the recent flood, "launch" is an appropriate word for this event. The cyclone that immediately followed delayed this launch, and I'm reminded that one of the last events I attended at Sorrento in One Tree Hill Domain was the Ministerial Inquiry into the Auckland Power Failure, way back in 1998. And now I'm the one suffering from ageing infrastructure ...

It was the pestilential plague of Covid, though, that seemingly provided the opportunity and impetus for the authors to be able to visit the relative safety and fresh air of Cornwall Park to undertake this project. The resulting book is a great credit to the Bot Soc team of authors and others who contributed, and to Mike's ability to coordinate and to work through the text drafts and the many hundreds of photos. Whittling down the photos to the quantity that would help us arrive at the hoped-for number of pages was a major task.

The production went very smoothly, with just a few minor hiccups. Some species were not satisfied with the genus they were born into and assumed new names. Also, while we apparently owe our existence to fungi, and so should be grateful, they do cause some headaches, especially when new species keep popping up in paddocks halfway through production. But Mike finally wrestled the fungi chapter into submission, however.

Most Aucklanders will feel some connection to Cornwall Park and Maungakiekie. Many, though, may possibly pay scant attention to the flora around them. The ice creams next door may be the biggest attraction. But it is difficult to imagine it without its magnificent trees and other plants. *Nature in the City* is a great celebration of what makes this a truly great park for all visitors. So, congratulations Mike and team, well done.

Concluding Remarks and launch by Bot Soc President and MC, Bec Stanley

Thanks everyone for coming to our gathering (Figs. 4–7), to the Bistro staff for looking after us so well, and to the speakers. I would like also to thank Cornwall Park and the Tūpuna Maunga Authority for allowing us to explore and showcase the plants here by way of *Nature in the City*.

We hope the book will be of interest to all who enjoy this park for recreation, relaxation, work, or observing nature, and cherish it as an important place in their lives. *Nature in the City* is hereby launched. All proceeds go to our Lucy Cranwell Fund to support University student botanical research projects. Get yourself a copy! Kia ora tatou.