

New members

The following have been elected members of the Society.

John Abraham	Sandra Jones
John Bycroft	Tony Robinson
Steve Drakeford	Ray Weeber
Jenny Foggo	Miss Y. Weeber
Alison Holcroft	Julia Williams
Sheila Hutchings	Jenny Winter

Trip reports

↙ Mt Wainui - November 1-2, 1980.

Wellington Ecol.
District

This trip was for one or two days, depending upon members' interests. Some 25 gathered near Paekakariki on Saturday morning, 7 with gear for an overnight stay up the Wainui Stream. A further 3 were lost before we started, but 2 of these were found descending Mt Wainui in the afternoon. To date nothing is known of the third botanist's activities or whereabouts.

The weather was fine, but with a north-westerly gale which dropped by Saturday evening.

The main party visited small ponds on the terrace just above SH1, saw Cotula membranacea, Centipeda and Carex inversa, studied the protogynous flowers of Nertera setulosa (looking like the separate-sexed flowers of Coprosma, but "male" flowers were found to have withered styles of the earlier developing female organs). We then followed the Wainui Stream to see a small patch of Mazus pumilio and a few Adiantum diaphanum. Only a narrow riparian forest exists in the lower reaches of the stream, and this comprises broad-leaved coastal species dominated by Kohekohe. One Nestegis montana was found. Beyond this strip of forest the overnight gear was left on a grassed terrace and the party explored the more extensive forests to the base of Mt Wainui. Stock and goat damage is severe in places, but a variety of plants was found, including both Adiantum fulvum and A. viridescens.

The main ascent of Wainui was in calmer weather next morning, when the 7 hardy botanists were joined by one other from Waikanae. Just outside the forest are steep stony hillsides with dense patches of wind-shorn divaricating shrubs, mostly Pseudopanax anomalus. A hybrid Raoulia glabra x Helichrysum bellidioides was also found here. The ascent was made on the main ridge on the true right of the Wainui Stream. At higher altitudes, miro and kamahi are the dominant trees and clearings contain much bush tussock (Chionochloa conspicua). Near the summit there is dripping wet "mist forest", where trees are laden with mosses, liverwort* and lichens, and here a search was made for some ferns of such habitats. Grammitis magellanica, Hymenophyllum armstrongii, H. pulcherrimum - and all 3 were found. Around the summit (722m) is open shrubland with Dracophyllum longifolium var. (= D. filifolium), kamahi, Hall's totara, Coprosma colensoi, flax and among various ground cover plants Luzuriaga and Gentiana matthewsii. The party returned to Paekakariki via the ridge on the opposite side of Wainui Stream.

C.C.O.

Solway Park Reserve and other reserves in the Masterton area - 6-7 December, 1980.

Approximately 25 people assembled in Masterton on the Saturday morning and, after morning tea supplied by members of the Wairarapa Conservation Society, set off in a cavalcade of motor cars to visit a series of bush remnants in the area. These were at map references (NZMS1, N158) 107620 "Tulloch 2", 11620 "Tulloch 1", 118622 "Solway Park reserve", and an acre or so of bush at "Silwood". The following day, after overnighting at Holdsworth, we visited (NZMS1, N162) 082578 Hughes Line and 000576 Fensham reserve.