



Clematis Paniculata – puawhananga

If you happen to be driving across the Mamaku Plateau just now you cannot help but be struck just now by the magnificent display of Clematis flowers the trees and other sub-species are supporting. The flowers are very obvious, forming large, dense patches in many places and at all elevations from the road side to near the tops of the highest trees.

If you are able to stop and look more closely you will see that the flowers, apart from yellowish stamens are otherwise about as pure white as it is possible to imagine. Because the flowers are in quite tight panicles they tend to almost “blanket” other vegetation and this is certainly the case around Mamaku and other parts of the central North Island.

Lindsay Poole, former Director General of the Forest Service and author of the widely used and referenced NZ flora had this to say about Clematis species in New Zealand....

“There are few more beautiful inflorescences than the large panicles of white flowers, 2–4 in. in diameter, of the puawhananga or *Clematis paniculata* which appear in late winter and spring in the crowns of forest trees throughout New Zealand.

“This is one of the nine or so species of *Clematis* endemic to New Zealand. Altogether, there are about 250 species in this genus, mostly in temperate regions. Apart from the native ones, at least two introduced ones have become garden escapes. The commonest is the traveller’s joy, *C. vit-alba*.

“*C. paniculata* will climb to heights of 30 or more feet and the vine can increase to a thickness of as much as 6 in. through at ground level. Leaves are three foliate, and the broadly ovate leaflets are 2–3 in. long, entire to bluntly toothed. The leaves of seedlings and juveniles are much narrower. This variation of leaf form is to be found in other New Zealand species. The variation

is so great in some species that it is difficult to separate closely related ones. Thus *C. marata* and *C. bracteolata* form a complex that is difficult to untangle. The flowers of *C. paniculata* are fragrant, but a species with much more strongly scented flowers is *C. foetida*, peculiarly named by a French botanist, for it is the opposite to foetid. This species is also found throughout the country. The flowers are yellow and are not nearly as conspicuous as those of *C. paniculata*. *C. afoliata* is a peculiar, leafless species in which the leaves appear as spirally coiled petioles only. It is found growing locally in a few places in the southern half of the North Island, and in rocky and open places in tussock grassland in the South Island.”

Te Ara, Encyclopaedia of New Zealand 1966.



Clematis paniculata make a magnificent display on the Mamaku Plateau.

AGM 2014 & Field day:

Bringing Down the Cost of Restoration Planting

Our AGM and Field day were held on Saturday 16th August 2014 at Taupo Native Plant Nursery. We had a wonderful turnout and a delicious lunch put on by Taupo Native Plant Nursery. We started off with the AGM, (note a copy of our AGM report is either included with this newsletter or has been sent to you via email).

This was followed up with a tour of the nursery, with a focus on the raising and performance of bare rooted planting stock. Discussions were held about the benefits versus other forms of planting. Some of the trials have been reported upon in previous newsletters. After the lunch, the group moved to Waipahihi Reserve to have a look around the reserve and hear from locals about the trees within the Reserve. (There is a further write up and photographs in this newsletter about the reserve).

Here is the Chairman's report, which details how the previous 12 months have gone for the trust.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - June 2014

2013-14 has been a difficult period for Tane's Tree Trust with a lower level of funding, and also fewer projects underway than has been the case in recent times. Nevertheless, we have continued to be busy – developing new project proposals, engaging with potential partners and maintaining projects initiated in earlier years. Work in a number of areas has been advanced and our databases expanded however there is no doubt that we could achieve more if our resources were greater and a large part of our focus has shifted towards both widening and increasing the funding available to us.

TRUSTEES

The trustees are Ian Barton, Ian Campbell, Peter Berg, Roger MacGibbon, David Bergin, Helmut Janssen, Robert McGowan, Mark Dean, Warwick Silvester, Wiremu Puke, Kirsten Crawford and Paul Quinlan.

Kirsten Crawford, who has a significant interest in sustaining our natural heritage, joined us in 2013 and has already been actively assisting with new project applications and is also helping as we take a hard look at our website, which is not performing as well as we would like.

Paul is a registered Landscape Architect involved with rural landscape design, planning and management and joined us in August 2013. He is particularly involved with activities and projects of The Northland Totara Working Group.

Trustees retiring by rotation were David Bergin, Warwick Silvester and Robert McGowan. No new nominations were proposed and the three retiring Trustees, being willing to continue in that capacity were re-appointed.

OFFICERS OF THE TRUST

Positions remain unchanged since last year, however we have reconstituted the Management Committee (which meets monthly) to help keep a closer watch on funding, monitor projects and more particularly ensure new project and associated funding opportunities are pursued. The management committee includes Peter Berg (Chairman), Prof Warwick Silvester (Treasurer), Dr Dave Bergin and our immediate past chairman Ian Barton, although other Trustees are also able to join in at any time. All Trustees receive the proceedings of all management committee meetings and their contributions are welcomed.

NETWORK GROUP

The number of members remains at a similar level as the previous year – some 274 people or groups. Subscription rates are \$45 annually, although many members also take the option of also providing a donation to the Trust and its various programmes. Over the last 12 months members have donated around \$3000 to our work programme and this is becoming increasingly important to our ability to maintain Trust services to members and our programmes.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mel Ruffell has been Executive Officer since April 2013 bringing a valuable range of capabilities to the role and assisting our focus to be as efficient as possible in the use of Trust funds, provision of quality service to our members and project partners and keeping Trustees up to the mark.

TELECONFERENCING

We now use teleconferencing facilities for all Trustee and Management Committee meetings to minimise travel and associated costs, but more importantly to ensure Trustees, especially those at some distance, are able to take full part in meetings. Nevertheless most of our Trustees are still able to travel to Hamilton for meetings.

STRATEGIC PLAN

A major review of our Strategic Plan was undertaken, commencing in 2013 and completed in 2014 – taking advantage of Wiremu Puke joining the Trust to strengthen aspects relating to our relationship with Iwi.

INFORMATION TRANSFER

Bulletins and Handbooks: Several more sections of the handbook have been completed; however there were no other publications during the year. An internal publication highlighting Ian Barton's lifetime of work with kauri is presently being edited and will shortly be delivered to all members while progress on other work, particularly the kauri thinning and totara trials will also be reported on in due course. All new material will continue to be advertised on the website and in the Newsletter and members are encouraged to obtain copies from the office of any reports of interest.

TRUST FUNDING

A number of applications to the Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF) over the past 12 months all proved to be unsuccessful; a pity as

SFF has been an important contributor to our work for several years and hopefully this is not the end of the relationship.

Our work funded by the Lake Taupo Protection Trust also ended with the re-measurement of the planting and seedling trials.

As indicated earlier we have started a drive to lift Trust funding, both to support our administrative needs but also to get more expansive project work underway. From November 2012 the Trust contracted Grant Cowie Consultancy to seek sources of funding for the Trust – firstly to fund the cost of running the organisation but with wider ambitions if that was successful. Applications to various funding sources began early in the 2013 /14 year and a number of agencies and organisations provided useful assistance – however overall this was little better than break-even and we have since determined to manage this internally.

Over the next 12 months we are hoping to get some jointly led projects underway; we have been meeting with Scion (Forest Research Institute) and some other significant project partners/funders and are still keen to work with Iwi groups and commence projects with a stronger cultural focus.

Annual accounts for the past year's activity are attached for member's advice; they have been independently audited and otherwise indicate the breadth of our effort and our present situation. Reserves have been depleted....a concern but also reflecting the recent dip in our project activity.

INDIGENOUS FOREST RESEARCH

The Trust expressed its concern to the Associate Minister of Primary Industry (and Minister responsible for forestry) that with the termination of funding for Future Forests Research/ Scion's Diverse Species programme, funding for R&D in the indigenous forestry area had effectively ceased. The Minister

noted that some funding was still forthcoming via Ministry for Primary Industry projects and some Scion core funding – however we are still very much of the view that without a more positive contribution and attitude a major opportunity will continue to lie idle and possibly diminish further. Faced with all of the issues associated with climate change, over use of natural resources and a deteriorating environment we think leaving the matter of better management of native forest drifting along is untenable and we are now seeking private sector funding to support our drive for indigenous forestry species and their management. As yet we do not know the outcome of this.

IN SUMMARY - while it has been a harder year for the Trust we remain committed to our vision of many more New Zealanders planting and growing native trees and native forests once again having a very prominent place in both our productive and natural landscapes.

Peter Berg – Chairman.



Looking towards Ruapehu from the Waipahihi Reserve.



A tour of the Taupo Native Plant Nursery was undertaken before a delicious lunch provided by our hosts.

Waipahihi Botanical Gardens:

A New Zealand native forest in the making



AS A TAIL PIECE to our AGM, we were enticed by Rob McGowan's endorsement, to add a visit to Waipahihi after our wonderful lunch at Taupo Native Plant Nursery. What an amazing garden this is!

Started in 1966 on a 35ha piece of barren land on Shepherd Rd at the south end of Taupo town and between the lake and what is now the Taupo bypass, this reserve is quite spectacular. It is maybe 100m above the lake with magnificent views across the lake to the mountains and is an amazing tribute to the effort of hundreds of volunteers. The 35ha is now almost completely planted in a wide range of trees and shrubs. It has a spectacular area of azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias with over 2000 specimens.

While the exotic plantings give colour and variety there are excellent native species plantings as well. Notable amongst these are some large red beech specimens and a significant kauri grove, growing well south of their normal range and at an altitude that one would not expect to find them. In addition there have been a wide range of native species plantings, which when documented might give some useful data on growth rates at this latitude and altitude.

I highly recommend a visit, find it by travelling south through Taupo and Shepherd Rd is two roads after the Napier turn off. Interestingly the reserve contains an old section of the original Napier coach road.

Warwick Silvester

DONATIONS and BEQUESTS

All donations and bequests are gratefully accepted, and enable Tāne's Tree Trust to do more research and information sharing.

Donations: A note from the treasurer:

All members should be aware that all donations, but not subscriptions, are eligible for a 33.33% tax rebate on your income tax. We will be able to send you a certificate of donation for you to submit to IRD with your tax return.

Please remember us in your bequests.

OFFICE

If you wish to contact the office, please contact us on office@tanestrees.org.nz and Mel will reply as soon as possible.

Or you can contact us on **027 900 7853**.