WAIAU SPRING CAMP 13 – 15 NOVEMBER 2015

INTRODUCTION
Miles Giller

The Society based its 2015 spring camp at Waiau, North Canterbury. The local motor camp provided excellent facilities, with a good range of potential botanical venues available in all directions. The modest contingent of Trevor Blogg (on his last excursion with Bot Soc before moving overseas), Gillian & Miles Giller, Melissa Hutchison, Felix & Allegra Collins, Graeme Jane, Paul Maurice, Ann McMillan and Sarah Wright was ably led by Alice Shanks. There were few available records of previous botanical excursions in the area, thus we knew that a few surprises might be found – as proved to be the case. Our three eventual outings were chosen for their differing sites. Mount Terako had a historic reputation for its montane botany, the lower altitude Lottery Bush promised to reveal a few foothills novelties, while Ferniehurst Bush had a quiet reputation for its lowland podocarps. All three locations delivered both the expected and the unexpected.

DAY 1 FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2015
LOWER SLOPES OF MOUNT TERAKO AND CUNNINGHAM STREAM
Paul Maurice

A light covering of snow on Mount Terako following some southerlies in the previous week meant that we could not pursue our plan of looking at some of the alpines, so we spent a pleasant day botanising in the lower altitude habitats instead.

The forest was dominated by mountain and red beech, with scattered Hall's totara. In the shrub layer we found *Coprosma linariifolia*, *C. microcarpa* and *Pittosporum divaricatum*, with *Hebe traversii* and *H. leiophylla* near the forest margins. These two species of *Hebe* occur in similar habitats, but whereas *H. leiophylla* has a small sinus, which is usually rounded, *H. traversii* has no sinus. Rocks on the forest floor harboured colonies of *Notogrammitis billardierei* (hairs absent from the soral area and short-creeping rhizomes) and *N. patagonica* (abundant dark hairs among the sori and long-creeping rhizomes). Orchid flora included *Corybas trilobus*, *Chiloglottis cornuta* and *Thelymitra longifolia*.

The shingly stream bed (Fig. 1, p. 60) yielded *Epilobium melanocaulon*, *E. microphyllum* and *Coriaria sarmentosa*, with *Epilobium brunnescens* in wetter