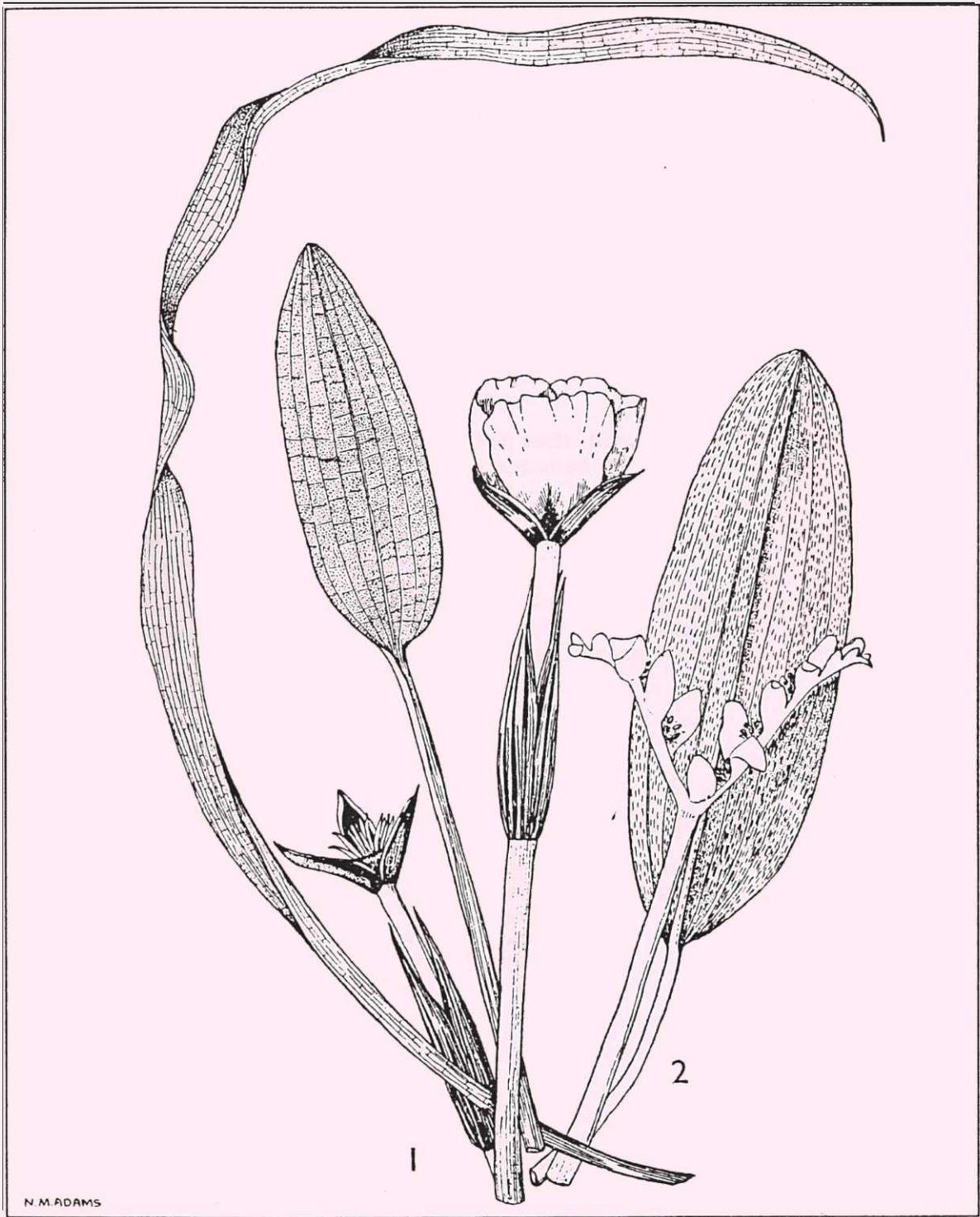


NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 20 JUNE 1990



N. M. ADAMS

NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY
N E W S L E T T E R
NUMBER 20 JUNE 1990

New Zealand Botanical Society

President:	Dr Eric Godley
Secretary/Treasurer:	Anthony Wright
Committee:	Sarah Beadel, Colin Webb, Carol West
Address:	New Zealand Botanical Society c/- Auckland Institute & Museum Private Bag Auckland 1

Subscriptions

The 1990 ordinary and institution subs are \$12. The 1990 student sub, available to full-time students, is \$6.

Back issues of the *Newsletter* are available at \$2.50 each - from Number 1 (August 1985) to Number 19 (March 1990). 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 28 February of each year for that calendar year. Existing subscribers are sent an invoice with the December *Newsletter* for the previous year, which offers a reduction in subscription 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 September 1990 issue (Number 21) is 24 August 1990.

Please forward contributions to:	Dr Wendy Nelson, Editor NZ Botanical Society Newsletter C/- National Museum PO Box 467 WELLINGTON
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Cover Illustration

Ottelia ovalifolia (1) and *Aponogeton distachyus* (2), two introduced aquatic plants from "Water Plants" by Ruth Mason (Post Primary School Bulletin 4(12): 225-256, illustrated by Nancy Adams) - to commemorate the life and work of Ruth Mason who died suddenly in May as the result of an accident (Obituary page 3).

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NEWS

Obituary

The sudden death of Ruth Mason has shocked and saddened her many friends throughout the country. Ruth died on Monday 14 May without regaining consciousness after she had been struck by a vehicle outside her Prebbleton home on the previous Saturday. Her crowded funeral took place at All Saints' Anglican Church, Prebbleton, on Thursday 17 May.

Ruth was born in Auckland on 7 November, 1913, the elder daughter of the Hon. H.G.R. and Mrs Mason. She was educated in Auckland at St Cuthberts' College and Auckland University College, graduating B.A. and M.Sc. Ruth was appointed to Botany Division, D.S.I.R. in 1938 and experienced the several moves from the old house in Sydney St., Wellington via 8 The Terrace to Latimer Square, Christchurch and finally to the Lincoln campus. Despite her academic qualifications, Ruth undertook her share of chores in the herbarium, library, laboratory and office in those early days when technical assistance was minimal. Her wartime research project was directed towards the establishment of a linen flax industry near Timaru entailing lengthy periods away from Wellington. It is likely that the proximity of the Washdyke Lagoon aroused Ruth's interest in aquatic and swamp vegetation, an interest that she pursued throughout her botanical career- a cleaner and less malodorous study than her expertise in identifying plant material in the stomach contents of dead animals!

From her school days Ruth enjoyed tramping in the bush and mountains, an enjoyment that expanded through University field club days to membership of several tramping, mountaineering and botanical clubs and societies. From her many trips, some of them tough exploratory ones, Ruth made plant collections for the Botany Division herbarium. As one of the Division's longest serving botanists, Ruth's knowledge of the native flora and her contribution to its study was considerable, but in many respects she was, throughout her professional career, overshadowed by her immediate senior, Dr Lucy Moore. In her patient and courteous way, Ruth accepted a lesser role even to the point of relinquishing research interests, equipment and assistance. She will nevertheless be remembered for her scholarship, particularly in the English language, and her quiet good humour.

N.M. Adams, 39 Standen St, Karori, Wellington

Regional Bot Soc News

■ Auckland Botanical Society

Programme to mid-September:

Evening meetings:

Wednesday 4 July: The vegetation of Hawaii (Dr Bruce Clarkson).

Wednesday 1 August: Rare plant symposium (Anthony Wright, Convenor).

Wednesday 5 September: Botanising in Western Samoa (Ewen Cameron); Botanising on Norfolk Island (Dr Rhys Gardner).

Field trips:

Saturday 16 June: Okura Scenic Reserve (Okura Estuary, south of Whangaparaoa Peninsula) Focus on fungi.

Saturday 21 July: Mangawhai - private bush on seaward slopes of the Brynderwyns.

Saturday 25 - Friday 31 August: Moturoa Island, Bay of Islands. Bookings essential. Non-members: contact the Secretary in the first instance.

Sandra Jones, Secretary, Auckland Botanical Society, 14 Park Road, Titirangi, Auckland 7 (Ph. 817-6102 home)

■ Rotorua Botanical Society

The Society's major project for 1990, a book on the botany of the Rotorua Lakes Ecological District is progressing well and the end does appear to be in sight!

Recent field trips have been well attended and there have been a few interesting finds. On the recent Te Kopia field trip (to the south of Rotorua) the undescribed spotted *Drymoanthus* sp. was collected for the first time from the North Island.

Our AGM and pot luck dinner is to be held on Saturday 9 June at Corry Regnier's and Paul Barton's house. John Smith-Dodsworth is to give the "after dinner" address on rare ferns. Contact Corry Regnier (073) 403-879.

The field trip programme for 1990 is published in newsletter No.18 and forthcoming trips and workshops are:

Sunday 10 June: Mokoia Island. Leader Sarah Beadel (073 24804).

Saturday 14 July: Volume IV Workshop - followed by a pot luck dinner. Organiser Chris Ecroyd (073 479067).

Saturday 11 August: Exotic Tree Workshop. Organiser Chris Ecroyd (073 479067).

Sunday 16 September: Ohinekoao Scenic Reserve. Leader Ann Graeme (075 65593).

For further information contact:

Sarah Beadel, Okere Road, R.D.4, Rotorua (Ph. (073) 24804)

■ Wanganui Museum Botanical Group

During the quarter March to May we visited Dawson Falls (Egmont), the Whangaehu River Mouth dune area, and Gordon's Park Scenic Reserve, close to Wanganui. At the evening meetings we had talks on the Bason Botanical Reserve, the Chathams (Historical and Botanical), the Macroflora of the USA and the Water Resources of the Wanganui Region.

For the quarter June to September, visits are planned to the Scientific Reserve at Baines near Himitangi (with the Manawatu Group), Mount Curl near Marton and Te Mere, Carver's property North of Bushy Park and talks on Perils of Pollen (Dr Cornford), Turkey and the Greek Isles (Arthur Bates) and Botany in the Far North of NZ (Colin Ogle).

For further information contact:

Alf King, 180 No 2 Line, 2 RD, Wanganui (Ph. (064) 27751), or **Joan Liddell**, 15 Moore Ave, Wanganui (Ph. (064) 57160)

■ Manawatu Botanical Society

The Manawatu Botanical Society celebrates its first birthday this month and continues to thrive. The next newsletter is currently in production with some of the programme still to be finalised. Meetings and trips for June and July are:

Thursday June 7th: Meeting: talk by Mr. Bob Creswell "On and around Mt Hikurangi".

Saturday June 9th: Excursion to Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve. Depart 10am.

Thursday July 5th: Meeting: Members' slide evening celebrating one year in existence.

Sunday July 7th: Excursion to the Kahuterawa valley. Depart 10am.

Trips and meetings are open to any interested people. Trips leave from the Museum car park; meetings are held in the Department of Botany and Zoology, Massey University, starting at 7.30 pm.

Peter van Essen, Department of Botany and Zoology, Massey University, Palmerston North (Ph. 81793 home)

■ Wellington Botanical Society

The programme for the next 3 months will be:

Friday 8 - Sunday 10 June: Weekend Fern workshop, Akatarawa Valley. Leader - Patrick Brownsey.

Monday 18 June: "Biological values of Molesworth Station" - Shannel Courtney, Department of Conservation, Nelson.

Saturday 7 July: Wainuiomata Scenic Reserve. Leader - Margaret Aitken.

Monday 16 July: "Mosses" - Jessica Beever, DSIR Land Resources, Auckland.

Saturday 4 August: Mosses at Mangaone Track. Leaders - the Moss Mob.

Monday 20 August: "Propagation and cultivation of native plants" - Tony Silbury, Curator, Percy's Reserve, Petone.

Saturday 1 September: Percy's Reserve, Petone. Leader - Tony Silbury.

For further information contact:

Carol West, Secretary, Wellington Botanical Society, c/- 4 Highbury Crescent, Wellington 5

■ Nelson Botanical Society

March saw a special meeting to formally elect a Chairman (Graeme Jane) Secretary/Treasurer (Jocelyn Tilley) and a Committee consisting of Shannel Courtney and Julie McLintock to edit the newsletter and assist organising camps and trips respectively.

The meeting was followed by a slide show by Shannel Courtney describing the vegetation and landforms of the East Cape Area. Highlights of the show were spectacular coastal scenes, the Otopotehetehe bubbling cold lake and its salt marsh plants, and "moonscapes" of White Island. Interesting sites were a natural locality for kaka beak (*Clianthus puniceus*) on a cliff, the crinkley-leaved tutu (*Coriaria pottsiana*) growing near the summit of the Pukeamaru massif and the beautiful calceolaria (*Jovellana sinclairii*).

The February field trip to Tennyson Inlet was attended by 27 people on a brilliant day. The track to Nydia Bay was followed as far as the saddle and on the return journey a brief break was made at Pipi Beach for a swim. Most people extended the trip into the evening with an informal barbeque.

Special finds of the morning were a splendid specimen of the hanging orchid (*Dendrobium cunninghamii*) and drought struck specimens of the fern (*Anarthropteris lanceolata*) growing on rocks. Interesting plants of the afternoon were perching *Pittosporum patulum*, an unusual fern *Hypolepis lactea*, the dainty mat plant *Hydrocotyle dissecta* and near the saddle early flowering specimens of climbing rata (*Metrosideros fulgens*).

Even the evening discussions at the barbeque were not free from a botanical slant. At one point debate evolved round the identity of nearby ferns one of which, after considerable exertion, proved to be the 10 m tall specimen of the gully fern (*Cyathea cunninghamii*).

The March field trip drew 25 people for a climb on a brilliant day up to the summit of Ben Nevis. The area is very clearly different from the western mountains visited in December, being relatively dry and comprising acidic or ultramafic rocks. Above treeline common shrubs were *Hebe canterburiensis*, *H. carnosula* and *Coprosma "paludosa"*. Above the shrub zone midribbed snowgrass (*Chionochloa pallens*) and carpet grass (*C. australis*) grasslands contained carpet daisies (*Raoulia australis* and *R. subsericea*) and rock outcrops held abundant edelweiss (*Leucogenes leontopodium*). Near the summit were scree and rock plants of Marlborough rather than Nelson, such as the harsh vegetable sheep (*Raoulia bryoides*), penwiper (*Nothothlaspi rosulatum*), *Haastia sinclairii* and small cushions of *Parahebe cheesemanii*.

Next field trips:

June 17: Motueka Valley covenants.

July 15: Bishops Peninsula, Delaware Inlet.

August 19: Rai Valley (Carluke Scenic Reserve).

September 16: Moncrieff Scenic Reserve.

Graeme Jane, 136 Cleveland Terrace, Nelson

Other Institution News

■ Botany Institute of DSIR Land Resources

Most readers of the Newsletter will know that as part of the restructuring, DSIR Botany Division has been amalgamated with Ecology Division and Division of Land and Soil Science to form a new Division, DSIR Land Resources. The new Division is headquartered at Taita. Botanists in the new Division will be carrying on with their research much as before.

Because of the special character and particular requirements of the work carried out by the former Botany Division, the name Botany Institute is now being used to identify The Herbarium (CHR), all associated systematic work, and any other associated botanical work. Retention of the word "Botany" and the totara logo of the old Division provides continuity for all our contacts, both nationally and internationally. This is particularly important for herbarium exchange and loans, the publication of the Flora of New Zealand Series, other systematic work published as papers, checklists, or reports, the Nomina Nova Series, the plant identification service, and our identification as a unit with voting rights at International Botanical Congresses and listing in Index Herbariorum.

Our new address at Lincoln is: Botany Institute, DSIR Land Resources, Private Bag, Christchurch.

Colin J. Webb, Programme Manager, Plant Biosystematics

■ Department of Conservation, Head Office, Wellington

Two recent botanical appointments have been made at Department of Conservation:

Peter de Lange - "Rare plants botanist". Peter comes from Waikato where he has been doing consulting work and acting as an assistant curator of the herbarium at Waikato University.

Cameron Hay - "Marine ecologist". Cameron has been at the NZ Oceanographic Institute, DSIR and is primarily a marine botanist. He will be assisting DoC staff in the areas of Coastal Resource Inventory preparation and Marine Protected Areas.

NOTES AND REPORTS

Herbarium Reports

■ Plant Diseases Division DSIR (PDD)

Approximately 1,600 specimens were added to the collection during 1988-89, to give a total of about 56,000. There were 20 outgoing loans, involving 275 specimens. Rearrangement of specimens (alphabetical by subdivision and/or class) is almost completed. Computerisation of records continued, with details of 29,000 specimens now on VISOR database. Compilation of a list of type specimens is well advanced, with details entered on the computer of all 830 type specimens held from New Zealand.

All myxomycete holdings, studied in England by Mr D.W. Mitchell, have been returned. Of 127 species now known from New Zealand, 88 are represented by specimens in PDD.

Heterobasidium araucariae, previously considered to be a form of the northern hemisphere fungus *H. annosum*, was described. It has a restricted host range and a reduced level of pathogenicity. Several new species of ascomycetes on native plants were described.

Over 100 species of microfungi were collected on Raoul Island including some new species. A book entitled "The fungi, bacteria, and pathogenic algae of Vanuatu" was published.

Eric McKenzie, DSIR Plant Protection, Private Bag, Auckland

■ Botany Department, Otago University (OTA)

During 1990 a small number of outgoing loans were processed and a number of incoming loans were received. Good progress has been made on a backlog of mounting and filing of specimens and work has begun on the curation of the bryophyte herbarium, where it is planned to repacket the specimens, and to re-organise them systematically. During this curation material from the herbarium of William Martin will also be incorporated, as will a number of foreign bryophyte exsiccatae which OTA continues to receive occasionally.

The herbarium has been used by ecologists visiting the Department of Botany for identification reference and in relation to taxonomic research being undertaken in the Department. There is also student use of the herbarium associated with class projects.

Ray Tangney, Herbarium Curator, Botany Department, Otago University, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin

■ Auckland Institute & Museum Herbarium (AK) - Progress with curation of the John Bartlett collection

Shortly after the death of John K. Bartlett on 1 May 1986, his entire private herbarium of bryophytes and lichens, botanical library, reprint collection and herbarium-related correspondence was bequeathed to the Auckland Institute and Museum Herbarium (AK). Since then all the material has been sorted, and curation of the specimens and their amalgamation with the main AK collection is progressing well.

All of the separated, smaller, better-labelled specimens have been placed in AK packets with AK labels. These number approximately 4000 bryophytes and 10 000 lichens, effectively adding half as many specimens again to AK's existing bryophyte collection, and trebling the size of the lichen collection. All of the Bartlett bryophytes and 1000 of the lichens have now been entered onto AKILLES, the computer accessions system in use at AK. Accessioning of the remainder of the lichen specimens is continuing, and when complete, the entire collection will be able to be cross-referenced according to any item of label information. Much of this work has been completed by Marcel Smits, and funded by grants from the New Zealand Lottery Board.

A complete locality list for John Bartlett's collections ordered from north to south within New Zealand has been compiled from the labelled specimens, and is being updated as specimens are entered onto AKILLES.

Specimens required for a loan or research purposes have been given priority to enable their immediate use by those requesting them.

A few hundred large newspaper packages of bulk, unsorted collections from particular localities remain uncurated. These have been ordered from north to south according to locality, ready for sorting and identification by a bryologist/lichenologist.

We recently wrote to all the individuals represented in our files of John's correspondence seeking further parts of his herbarium which may be out on loan, and any information or copies of his correspondence which might help with the labelling of specimens. We are currently holding many specimens labelled only with John's herbarium number; presumably these are duplicates of collections sent elsewhere with fuller details of locality etc. Unless further label details can be found, these collections are of no value to us.

If you know of any specimens that John Bartlett may have sent out, either on loan or as a gift, I would be grateful for information. It would assist us greatly if material held on loan from John could be returned to AK for curation and registration as soon as possible. Any such material needed for further study could be returned on formal loan from AK very speedily.

Anthony Wright, Curator of Botany, Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland 1

Plant Records

■ A New Rush

A *Juncus* I collected in August 1980 at Whatipu, west Auckland (AKU 13013) would not key out. On forwarding it to Elizabeth Edgar for identification her answer in 1984 was "*J. ? caespiticus* but flowers too long". I collected the same taxon in January 1984 at Lake Otatua, Woodhill Forest (AKU 15227) and again in April 1989 at Te Henga (AKU 21555). At all these west Auckland sites it grows on wet (fresh water) sand flats and at Whatipu it is abundant over large areas (between Whatipu and Pararaha Streams).

This taxon (*J. cf. caespiticus*) was illustrated on the cover of N.Z. Bot. Soc. Newsletter No. 11 (March 1988) by J. Mackinder and was accompanied by an article by A. Wright. Both were wrongly headed *Juncus dregeanus*. *J. cf. caespiticus* is close to both *J. caespiticus* and *J. dregeanus* but differs in tepal length and from *J. dregeanus* in stamen number:

	<i>J. caespiticus</i>	<i>J. dregeanus</i>	<i>J. cf. caespiticus</i>
stamens	6	3	6
tepal length (mm)	+/-3	2-3	3.5-4

Appearing to be a recent arrival to New Zealand (the earliest collection appears to be mine in 1980) and being confined to Auckland's west coast suggested it might be an Australian species. Karen L. Wilson kindly agreed to compare it with Australian material and both she and Lawrie Johnson recently concluded that nothing matches it in Australia and that it is most likely to be an African species. Its identification is proceeding.

E.K. Cameron, Botany Department, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland

■ Unusual substrate for *Favolaschia calocera*

The spectacular little orange pore fungus, *Favolaschia calocera*, has spread rapidly through northern New Zealand since its presumed introduction from Madagascar (first New Zealand collection in Herbarium PDD dated 1969). The combination of its bright colour, stalked fruiting body, and large pores on its underside make it easy to spot and identify, and it is frequently found in forests and forest remnants throughout the northern North Island, usually on dead twigs on the forest floor.

While clearing an overgrown garden in Greenlane, Auckland, in early February I was surprised to find a dozen or so fruiting bodies of *Favolaschia calocera* growing in fissures on the woody, still living base of a large, old wallflower plant (*Cheiranthus cheiri*). A voucher specimen has been lodged with the DSIR Plant Protection Herbarium (PDD 56893).

Anthony Wright, Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland 1

PUBLICATIONS

■ "Time, change and the vegetation of New Zealand"

In November, 1987, over 100 people took part in a three day symposium on various aspects of the vegetation history of New Zealand. The symposium honoured the long and varied career of Dr Neville Moar, Botany Division, DSIR.

A selection of nine papers presented at the symposium with an introductory overview of Neville Moar's career have been subsequently published in the Journal of the Royal Society, as a bound symposium volume. The papers cover a wide selection of topics and range from the Eocene to the present day. They form an excellent introduction to the diverse research presently underway in this field in New Zealand.

This volume is available for \$16.85 (including GST, P&P) from:

Information Officer, Botany Institute, DSIR Land Resources, Private Bag, Christchurch

■ Natural History Publications

The Autumn catalogue of Natural History Publications "Mailshop" is carrying a number of titles of botanical interest as well as books covering other areas of natural history, including children's books, at considerable discounts (10-50% off normal list prices). The stocks of many of these books are limited. For further information:

Natural History Publications, P.O. Box 56-386, Auckland 3

PUBLICATION REVIEW

■ Nga Mahi Maori o te Wao Nui a Tane

Contributions to an International Workshop on Ethnobotany edited by Warwick Harris and Promila Kapoor. ISBN 0-477-02579-X. Published by Botany Division, DSIR, Private Bag, Christchurch.

This publication will be required reading for anyone with an interest in New Zealand Ethnobotany, the study that deals with the relationship between human societies and plants. It should also be read by anyone with a strong interest in the way the Maori and other Pacific indigenous people have reacted to the scientific approach of Pakeha and Palagi to their traditional uses of plants.

As the title indicates the book arose from a workshop (the Hui for short) held on Te Rehua Marae at Christchurch and it records the activities from the opening speeches by two cabinet ministers, through the contributed papers presented by twenty-five scientists and other scholars, and the transcript records of oral presentations by other members of the Hui including a number of Maoris, an Australian Aborigine, a Cook Islander, a Tongan, a Fijian, a Solomon Islander, a Swedish International Aid agent and three presentations by Indians.

I found the contributed papers very interesting, especially those dealing with Maori use of cabbage trees for food, the tracing of Maori plant names through Polynesian and neighbouring islands, the chemistry of Kava and details of Kava drinking ceremonies in a Fijian village, the origin of the karaka, and the paper by Douglas Yen on the achievements of the Maori agriculturalists particularly in their invention of food storage, a technique unnecessary in the tropics. We learn that the storage of kumara both as a food and as a "seed stock" was a Maori invention in Aotearoa.

Thanks were extended to DSIR for initiating the Workshop and placing issues before the delegates. Grave concern was expressed about the continuing and accelerating loss of plant species and genetic diversity often following neglect of older crops for the new successful crops.

Among the recommendations made during the Hui were the following (somewhat paraphrased) which tell much about the discussions that took place:

That the 1990 celebrations incorporate a national botanical garden.

That future workshops should use local people and resources.

That we have a workshop near a National Park to enable people to see and discuss the plants in their natural habitat.

That local people and elders take a prominent part in planning and discussions and use a "hands on" experience with plants and plant materials.

That all the information from the workshops be made available to the Maori community so that they have something concrete on which to base discussion and then perhaps make further submissions or recommendations.

That there be no further registration of native plants under the Plant Varieties Rights Act until after DSIR has completed a thorough consultation with the tangata whenua concerning their wishes about the use of native plants.

That as there are some 30,000 Nuieans resident in New Zealand, of the total population of 32,000 Nuiean people, that *Pandanus* be cultivated here for weaving and medicinal purposes.

One of the more formal activities was the ceremonial planting of twelve varieties of harakeke (flax) selected from the collection of Mrs Rene Orchiston of Gisborne. Members of the Aotearoa Moananui a Kiwa Weavers led by Emily Schuster, assisted by Hui volunteers, planted the flax and also a hardy Chinese variety of *Broussonetia papyrifera* (or aute), used in the Pacific Islands to make tapa cloth. It is anticipated

that the plants will be added to, so that there is a source of material that can be accessible to users (weavers, plaiters and other craft people) as a resource base.

This report gives much food for thought. Scientists who work on Maori ethnobotany use in part the traditional information to make further advances in science, while the Maori voice says that traditional knowledge of plants valued by indigenous peoples could be recorded and exploited by pakeha scientists for commercial gain. Some took the extreme position that their traditional knowledge should be retained for the iwi and should not be put on paper.

Another aspect of this difference of opinion appears in the Maori attitude to the Plant Varieties Rights legislation mentioned in the above recommendations of the Hui.

If you wish to go more deeply into the issues raised you can obtain this publication and even get copies of tapes which cover much of the whole programme, from the Botany Institute, DSIR Land Resources, Lincoln, Private Bag, Christchurch.

James Beaver, 11a Vagus Place, Royal Oak, Auckland 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award Fund

To commemorate its 50th Jubilee in 1989, the Wellington Botanical Society has established a Fund to support two annual Awards.

The main purpose of these Awards is to assist and encourage persons who have demonstrated their commitment to, and achievement in, work on the New Zealand indigenous flora and vegetation and who intend to persevere in that area.

Two annual Awards will be made:

1. An annual Award of \$100 will be made to an exhibitor at the Wellington Science Fair for a New Zealand botanical exhibit of merit; and
2. Up to \$1,000 in any one year will be given to assist applicants to further their New Zealand botanical study involving either field work, art work, research, publication, or propagation and cultivation of plants for educational purposes.

The first Awards will be made later this year.

The project represents a new role for the Wellington Botanical Society. Its members are proud to be associated with the scheme and have already contributed generously to the Fund. In the short term, the Society will continue to provide money from its own Funds to ensure that the Awards can be maintained at their present level.

However, the Society is now seeking contributions from the wider botanical community, as well as from bequests and trusts. We need your support to build up the Fund in order to guarantee the continuation of these Awards in future years.

Much botanical research work is now under threat because of redirection of government funding, and amateur groups have an important role to ensure that the New Zealand indigenous flora continues to receive the scientific attention it deserves.

You are invited to contribute to this worthwhile endeavour by pledging or donating a sum of money or contributing on a regular basis. Should you know of anyone who may not receive this notice but may wish to contribute or to make an application for the Award, please draw it to their attention.

Any other suggestions for raising money for this Fund would be gratefully received by the Committee of the Wellington Botanical Society.

I would like to pledge/donate the sum of \$ _____ per year/this year only (delete as appropriate) to the Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award Fund.

Name:

Address:

Telephone No.

Signature:

Date:

Please make cheques payable to Wellington Botanical Society, crossed "Acct Payee Only", and send to The Treasurer, Wellington Botanical Society, 4 Highbury Cres., Highbury, Wellington All contributions will be accepted.

■ Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award

Following the successful establishment of an Award Fund during its 50th Anniversary year, Wellington Botanical Society now invites applications for an Award of up to \$1,000 to encourage and assist appropriate people to further the knowledge of the New Zealand indigenous flora and to commemorate the Jubilee of the Society.

Purpose of the Award

The Award is open to anyone working in New Zealand and will be granted for:

field work; artistic endeavour; publication; research; the propagation or cultivation of New Zealand native plants for educational purposes; or other projects which promote the better understanding of the New Zealand indigenous flora and vegetation.

The interpretation of these conditions will be flexible except that the main criterion shall be the furtherance of knowledge or promotion of the intrinsic value of the New Zealand indigenous flora and vegetation.

The Award may be used to defray costs such as travel, accommodation, materials, or publication.

Applications for Award

Applications for the Award should be made in typescript to the Secretary of the Wellington Botanical Society, 4 Highbury Crescent, Highbury, Wellington by 10 October 1990.

There is no prescribed application form but the following information should be provided:

The applicant's name, mailing address, telephone number and any relevant position held.

A summary statement of the applicant's accomplishments in the field of botany (no more than one page).

The name, address, telephone number and designation of a referee who is familiar with these accomplishments.

An outline and timetable of the proposed project for which the Award is sought.

A proposed budget for the project.

Selection

The Award will be made to one or more applicants selected by a sub-committee nominated by the general committee of the Wellington Botanical Society. An Award will not be made if the suitable applications are not received. The decision of the sub-committee will be final, and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into. Current members of the sub-committee are not eligible to apply.

The Award will be made, and applicants informed of the results in writing, by 10 November 1990.

Successful applicants will be required to provide, at an agreed time, a short report on what they have achieved and an account of their expenditure of Award Funds.

The names of Award recipients, the value of the Award and synopsis of the project provided by the recipients, will be published in the Annual Report of the Wellington Botanical Society.

■ Sale by Tender of a Watercolour Painting by Nancy Adams

Nancy Adams has very generously donated to the Wellington Botanical Society her original watercolour painting reproduced on the cover of the 50th Jubilee Issue of the Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin. The painting has been mounted and framed, and is being offered for sale by tender. All proceeds from the sale will go to the Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award Fund which will be announcing its first Awards in November this year.

Details of Painting

The work is a watercolour painting by Nancy Adams showing the Wellington coastline and its characteristic vegetation. The painting measures 39 x 29 cm and is mounted and framed. The work has been valued at about \$500 by an art-expert. A photocopy of the painting can be obtained from the Secretary, Wellington Botanical Society.

Calls for Tender

Tenders for the painting are now invited from anyone wishing to purchase it. They should be submitted on the form copied below and sent to the Secretary of the Wellington Botanical Society by 31 August 1990. The form should be enclosed in a sealed envelope and marked "TENDER" on the outside.

All tenders will remain sealed until the closing date, and then considered by a sub-committee of the Wellington Botanical Society Committee who have not themselves submitted a tender. The painting will be sold to the highest tenderer subject to the tender reaching the reserve figure determined by the sub-committee. In the event of identical bids being received, the painting will be sold by auction to the highest bidder from amongst the highest tenderers.

All tenders will be treated confidentially.

I hereby submit a tender of \$ _____ for the watercolour painting by Nancy Adams. I understand that this will commit me to purchasing the painting if accepted by the Wellington Botanical Society Committee.

Name:

Address:

Telephone No.

Signature:

Date:

Post in a sealed envelope marked "TENDER" to The Secretary, Wellington Botanical Society, 4 Highbury Cres., Highbury, Wellington.

DESIDERATA

■ *Leptinella featherstonii*

I am interested in hearing from anyone who has been to the Chatham Islands recently (last 5 or so years) and can confirm reliable sightings of the daisy *Leptinella featherstonii* (was *Cotula featherstonii*). Date; location, size and health of population; time of year, if flowering; associated vegetation and substrate; and association with birds and whether plants were "browsed", would all be useful information. I am especially interested in recordings from SE Chatham, Little Mangere, Star Keys, The Pyramid, Murumuru Rocks and South East Island, but anything will be useful.

Graham Ibell, BSc (Hons) Student, PAMS Department, University of Canterbury, Private Bag, Christchurch

■ Request for material

I'm working in the Norwegian forest service. In addition to my supervision work with the Crown forests, I work in my spare time with woody genera of the Violet family Violaceae. I'm most interested in their wood and leaf anatomies also reproductive biology and systematics. I have studied several woody Violaceae genera in the Tropics such as *Rinorea*, *Corynostylis*, *Anchietea*, *Leonia*, *Paypayrola* and *Isodendrion* all shrubs or trees. I have not yet got the chance to study the very interesting New Zealand Violaceae genera *Hymenanthera* (shrubs) and *Meliccytus* (tree). I'm also interested in the Carrot family Umbelliferae, I have studied countless Umbelliferae genera in Europe and the Mediterranean. I would have liked to study live materials of some of the very interesting New Zealand Carrot family genera. I would appreciate it very much and be very thankful if you could send me seeds of one or some species representing one or both of the plant groups I have mentioned. They will be grown in the greenhouse here and give me a chance to study living materials of these interesting genera. They will also be grown in botanical gardens in Turkey and Cyprus which I'm affiliated to. I'm frequently travelling to Tropical Africa and South America in connection to different developments projects, let me know if you want plant materials from these areas so I can send it to you. Thank you. My address:

Omar Hoftun, Leilighet. NR. 115, Munkerudkleva. 10, 1164 - Oslo - 11, Norway

■ Request for exchange of herbarium specimens

Murray Parsons (Botany Institute, DSIR Land Resources) has forwarded requests from two private collectors for exchange of herbarium specimens. The staff at the Botany Institute are unable to participate in these exchanges as they are fully occupied with existing demands on their time.

Both collectors are interested in representative New Zealand plants with exchanges of 100-200 specimens per year. Any interested reader may pursue these requests by writing directly to:

M. Pierre Guertin, 1411 rt. 344, St-Placide, Québec JOV 2B0, Canada;

Herr Gunter Gottschlich, Am Dorfbrunnen 26, D-7400 Tubingen-Hagelloch, Federal Republic of Germany

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

■ 7th John Child Bryophyte Workshop

The workshop this year is to be held at Borland Lodge, near Lake Monowai on the eastern boundary of Fiordland National Park from dinner time Thursday 15 November to after breakfast on Tuesday 20 November.

The total cost is expected to be about \$100. Accommodation will be in bunk rooms and domestic chores will be rostered.

The Lodge is approximately 60 km south of Te Anau. Transport will be available from Te Anau airport.

The vegetation of the area adjacent to the Lodge is lowland beech forest and trips are planned to subalpine and alpine areas. There are a diversity of rock types within walking distance of the Lodge including sandstone, limestone and gneiss.

Organisation is being undertaken by Ray Tangney of the University of Otago. For further information please write by June 10th to:

Ray Tangney, Department of Botany, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin

■ New Zealand Ecological Society Conference 1990

"Where Land Meets Water: the structure, dynamics and management of land/water ecotones" - a UNESCO Regional Symposium is to be held at the University of Waikato 21-22 August as part of the N.Z. Ecological Society Conference 20-23 August.

Many of New Zealand's rivers and lakes are now regulated. The characteristics of most river catchments and estuaries have greatly modified. Many wetlands have gone, and remaining lowland ones are almost all modified. Intensive dune and foreshore developments and wastewater disposal have put many coastal ecosystems under extreme pressure.

Land - water interface zones, wetlands and riparian strips are usually delicate and sensitive to change. Their properties are of central importance in species and habitat conservation, water quality management, flood control, etc. And yet we so often know little about their normal structure, let alone their dynamics under stress.

This Symposium will try to establish what we know about the links between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems especially within the transition zones which separate them - the ecotones.

In addition to the symposium the conference will also include workshops, field trips, general contributed papers, student session.

For further information:

NZ Ecological Society Conference Organisation Committee, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton

CONFERENCE/MEETING REVIEWS

■ *Supremum vale divisio botanices*

On the feast of St Valentine in 1940 I was introduced to Botany Division, DSIR, then located at 58 Bowen Street, Wellington. Fifty years later, a few days after the feast of the Annunciation, I was at its disestablishment at Lincoln, Canterbury.

Antidisestablishmentarianism, a word well remembered by school children of the '30s, is the need of the 1990s. We should form a society devoted to it. We might prevent the current fate of Botany Division being inflicted on other research establishments.

But on that day in 1940 I met the Division from A to Z - Allan (H.H.) to Zotov (V.D.); also there were Lindsay Poole, David Cairns, Lucy Moore, Ruth Mason as botanists, and Patricia Travers in the office. Fifty years later at the valedictory the turn out was much larger - the staff alone must have been c.50. Lindsay Poole, second Director (and proof that botany is an invigorating subject) was leader of the visitors. Warwick Harris, fifth and last Director, protected the present staff. Ruth Mason and Arthur Healy represented the earliest staff; Nancy Mary Adams and I were the wartime representatives.

Eric Godley, fourth Director, in his panegyric after quoting from "The First 50 years 1928-1978" in his 1978 Triennial Report remarked that he had been consistently overambitious - "The only 50 years" being his corrected title. There is really never any need to indulge in self praise; but we did - four volumes of the Flora of NZ, the Lichens, Desmids, Niue and Kermadec floras. At another level, books on rare and

endangered plants, wetland plants, orchids, poisonous plants, weeds and clovers, common weeds, standard common names. Little was made of the founding of the New Zealand Journal of Botany, now in its 28th volume, and threatened with page charges. But I hazard a guess that it contained c.400 papers by Botany Division staff. Little was made of the change in the Herbarium from the centre downstairs room at 58 to its modern, colourful expanse. Little was made of the Library from its origins in H.H. Allans upstairs, bay-windowed, front room, to the centre downstairs room at 8 The Terrace, to its leading role in Southern Hemisphere botany. Of our sojourn at Latimer Square, even less was made.

No. The tenor was different. What was H.H. Allan really like? - the photo in the corridor excepted. How was work done in the '30s and during the War? Was there, in fact, real animosity between L.B.M. and V.D.Z? Did you really have to walk everywhere? Was A.J. Healy actually officer-in-charge of Bus and Tram tickets, or was that L.B.M.? Were the stories of Xmas parties apocryphal?

I doubt that for those under 40 years our explanations of H.H. Allan's work patterns, his friendships with Leonard Cockayne, Arnold Wall, the Thompsons, Geo. Simpson, were as revealing as they should have been. Just how complicated the Cunningham-Levy-Miller-Hadfield grouping was before the separation into the five Divisions of the Plant Research Bureau under F.R. Callaghan didn't quite emerge. Nor were the origins of working on long after retirement clearly elucidated.

As at any "wake", the past dominated the present, if only because the past is certain and there were enough of us present to fill in details and check one another. We paid little attention to the present for its duration is limited, and scarcely talked of the future because that lies in omens and auguries read from the behaviour of birds (what was Ecology Division doing?). Privately, discussion centred on two other topics (i) the welfare of CHR (the Herbarium), and (ii) the welfare of the Library (LiPl). Both have life expectancies of 500y. Both contain the results of 60 years' botany in New Zealand. No one envisages their dissolution, though caution abounded. The society of botanists should be more vigilant than it ever was.

There was no despondency, only disillusionment. I felt sympathy for Warwick Harris, Director, who presided over the disestablishment; none among us wished it on him; none among us was envious; none from Head Office was present.

I have a bad reputation as a forecaster, even though prediction is one of the normal outcomes of scientific endeavour. But I know about phoenixes - the birds, not the palms. Perhaps the worst fate in taxonomy has befallen the Division - it has been reduced to synonymy and at a lower rank. But its protologue is intact; and old names do have the habit of being reinstated.

For 1990:

Vale amice, mentor, mater amata, adjutor botanicorum

H.E. Connor, Christchurch, 29 May 1990

Acknowledgements: Kathleen Ryan typed the text onto disk with grace and speed and Marcel Smits produced the camera-ready copy using the Ventura desk-top publisher.

