

People and places of the Canterbury Botanical Society 1953-1992: a photograph album record

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The Canterbury Botanical Society has a wonderful old photograph album that, so far as I have been able to find out, was compiled by Ian Tweedy. Until last year it was stored at Bryony Macmillan's home. The photos have recently been scanned and some enhanced. They date from 1953 and are captioned by the same writer in neat even-sized handwritten capitals.

The photos show a record of the members on many field trips, camps, and work parties. There are some from Hugh Wilson of the Society's work parties in the early days of Hinewai. All summer camps were in early January, although in some years there were extra weekend camps in October, November, and December.

Below are some examples of the photographs. The original captions, some of which are quite faint and can be difficult to read, have been transcribed for clarity.

In this photo from 1953 while most of the girls have shoes and socks on, many of the boys have bare feet (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Rotherham School children with Mr S.A. La Roche and Mr Maister at "Tuke Ngahere" at the confluence of Waiau & Mason Rivers 1953. The Bledisloe Trophy of C.B.S. was awarded to Mr Forbes for his work in stabilising, clearing, and planting the area he named "Tuke Ngahere". Photo - J.K. Forbes

It looks like it might have been a chilly day in 1963 for a field trip to Porters Pass. The ladies are in dresses, coats, and stockings, and some have handbags (Figure 2).



Figure 2. C.B.S. Field Trip, Porters Pass, April 1963. *Left to Right* L. Morgan, John Thompson, N. Morgan, Mel. H. Aiken, J. Martley (partly obscured), O. Lee, D. Mackie, Malcolm Carr, O. Carr, I. Mackie, Margaret Hunter, Dr J.D. Hunter, H. Brown, Myrtle O'Connor, Glory Ferguson, Miles Banks, I. Leithead, Basil O'Connor, Dr Jack Ballin, Violet Hunter, Michael O'Connor. [Photographer not recorded.]

While the dress code might have changed since 1971, some activities have not (Figure 3).



Figure 3. “Bottoms-Up” Botany. Searching for *Stackhousia minima*, Eyrewell Reserve, Nov. 1971. *Spotted frock* - Annie Strong. *Diamond frock* - ? *Centre* - Mel Aiken. *Right* - Peg Aiken. *Standing* - ? Photo - Lucy B. Moore.

Show weekend 1977 saw weekend camp members climbing Little Mt Peel (Figure 4).



Figure 4. On track to Little Mt. Peel, CBS Weekend, 12 Nov 1977. Alice Dumbleton, Ian Tweedy, John Thompson, and Les White. Photo - Bryony McMillan [sic]

The seven-day Summer Camp, 3-10 January 1994, based at the Tautuku Education Centre in the Catlins, was organised by Geraldine and John Ward along with Julie and Ron Close. It was fully catered with the attendees organised into cooking groups for evening meals. Forty-seven people are listed as attendees. The programme included the Lenz Reserve track, Purakanui Falls and Bay, Nugget Point, Waipati Forest and Cathedral Caves, and Slopedown Range (Figure 5, p.11).

If anyone has more photographs or more information they would like to share on these photos or others in the album, the Committee would be grateful. The album also has photos of the following camps:

1972 Mesopotamia

1979 Puketeraki Range camp based at Xavier College Lodge

1981 Kotuku Camp

1982 Lake Heron

1983 Lake Kaniere

1984 Bannockburn camp based at the Old Bannockburn School, with excursions up onto the Od Man Range

1985 Westport

1985 October, Hanmer

1986 Ōhau

1987 Raincliff, Show weekend camp

1988 December, Hanmer weekend camp

1989 Collingwood

1990 Glenorchy

1991 Karamea camp based at Karamea School

1991 December, based at Boyle River Lodge where they botanised the Lewis Tops

1993 Wanaka

1994 Tautuku based at Tautuku Education Centre

1996 Lake Rotoiti based at Lake Rotoiti Lodge



Figure 5. Summer Camp, 3-10 Jan 1994, Tautuku, Catlins. *Back:* Dick Acton-Adams, Peter Wardle, Neil O'Brien, Ian Tweedy, Jack Austin, Julian Sykes, Carol Banks, Tessa David, Astrid (Germany), Huntly Horn, Ann Acton-Adams, Miles Giller, Miles Banks. *Centre:* Ron Felzer (U.S.A.), Stephen Close, Peggy Kelly, Bill Sykes, Nancy Ridley, Jan Chaffey, Margaret Austin, Julie Close, Geraldine Ward, Neroli O'Brien, Phillippa Horn, David Giller, Gillian Giller, Derek Cook. *Front:* Margaret Wardle, Daphne Banks, Valerie Lovis, Ron Close, Basil O'Connor, Margaret Elphick, Roger Keey, Jennifer Giller, Peter Murray, Peggy Cadenhead, Jane McArthur, Kathleen Tweedy. Photo - Nico Stufkens