

SIR JOHN SMITH-DODSWORTH

(author, botanist, plant conservationist and photographer)

Sir John Smith-Dodsworth, Baronet, formerly of Thornton Watlass Hall, Yorkshire, was born in North Yorkshire, England, in 1935. He arrived in New Zealand in 1956. He worked in the Central North Island including Kaingaroa Forest, living in Rotorua for a period of time. He then settled in the Coromandel and lived there for many years.

John was an early member of the Rotorua Botanical Society and was a regular and valued participant and leader on many field trips, both day and weekend trips. His knowledge of ferns at this time was particularly sought after because it was before we had the definitive reference book on New Zealand ferns that he co-authored with Patrick Brownsey (Brownsey and Smith-Dodsworth 1989).

John's company and knowledge on our trips contributed to the great camaraderie that existed in the society in its early years (and that continues to this day!). John also usually made it down from the Coromandel to join us for our AGM and accompanying social events often held at a member's house and then later at the St Luke's Church Hall.

As well as having a great interest in ferns, John also developed his skills as a photographer and in 1991 he produced a very good reference book on New Zealand native shrubs and climbers (Smith-Dodsworth 1991).

From 2003, he worked with the Plant Conservation Network to provide over 3,500 images for use on the Network's website. He was awarded a Lifetime Achievement award by the Network for his services to plant conservation in 2011. Many of his images can be seen in *Threatened plants of New Zealand* (de Lange *et al.* 2010).

John also worked with Department of Conservation staff to provide images for numerous plant conservation publications, especially those advocating the protection of threatened plants.

He died peacefully in hospital on 21 September 2012, aged 77.

REFERENCES

- Brownsey, P.J. and Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 1989: *New Zealand ferns and fern allies*. Auckland, David Bateman Publishing. 168 p. (Note: a revised edition was published in 2000.)
- de Lange, P.J., Heenan, P., Norton, D., Rolfe, J. and Sawyer, J. 2010: *Threatened plants of New Zealand*. Christchurch, Canterbury University Press. 471 p.
- Smith-Dodsworth, J.C. 1991: *New Zealand native shrubs and climbers*. Auckland, David Bateman Publishing. 104 p.