

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am very grateful to Dr J.P. Roux of the National Botanic Gardens, Kirstenbosch, who examined living material of Greyia species for me and noted especially details of the staminodia.

Ponui Islet now rat free

E.K. Cameron

In a recent account of the flora and vegetation of an unnamed islet between Ponui and Rotoroa Islands, Cameron & Taylor (1992) recorded the presence of rats, presumably Norway rats. In January 1992 the successful eradication of Norway rats by the Salvation Army, with the help from the Department of Conservation and Forest & Bird, from Rotoroa Island (90 ha) was announced. On hearing this good news I asked Mike Lee of Waiheke Island if he could organise the Salvation Army to eradicate the rats from the Unnamed Islet. On 27 March Mike informed me that the Salvation Army were successful after 8 days poisoning on the islet in March. Not only should the islet's fauna now expand, the vegetation should as well because rats eat various parts of plants including seed and bark. This is more pronounced on islands without free water, such as this islet.

This successful team of rat hunters are now discussing the possibility of eradicating rats from Pakatoa (29 ha) and Rakino (147 ha) Islands. I wish them every success.

REFERENCE

Cammeron, E.K. & Taylor, G.A. 1992. Flora and vegetation of an islet off Ponui Island, Hauraki Gulf, Auckland. Auck.Bot.Soc. Journal 47(1): 23-29.

Great Barrier Island: an addition

E.K. Cameron

A single native grass is added to the Flora of Great Barrier by Bartlett & Gardner (1983). Deyeuxia avenoides var. brachyantha (Cameron, AKU 22887) from Te Ahumata (White Cliffs), collected 25 April 1991. This grass was also collected on the adjacent Rakitu (Arid) Island in January 1981 (Cameron A196b, AKU 10897 and Wright 3678, AK 153295).

REFERENCE

Bartlett, J.K & Gardner, R.O. 1983. Flora of Great Barrier Island. Auck.Bot.Soc. Bulletin No. 14.