

## BotSoccers live long and active lives

Sandra Jones

1998 has been a vintage year in reverse. Three of our members (Dan Hatch, Frank Hudson and Jack Rattenbury, Fig.1) had their 80th birthdays, and another (Marjorie Seddon, Fig.2) turned 90 in October. We celebrated these milestones at our evening meetings in July and October.

Dan Hatch is an Honorary Life Member of the ABS. He joined the Society in the early 1940s and has served terms as President, Vice-President, Newsletter Editor and Committee member. He is, of course, the "orchid man", known to us all either personally or by repute. He is still very active but failing eyesight restricts his involvement in ABS activities. However Dan continues to publish regularly in the ABS Journal and in the New Zealand Native Orchid Group Journal, and we do see him occasionally at evening meetings and field trips.

Jack Rattenbury joined Bot Soc in 1952. He is a Canadian by birth, who came to New Zealand to take up a lectureship at the University of Auckland's Botany Department. He has been a very active member of Bot Soc, and served as a committee member almost continuously until the 1990s. He was elected to Honorary Life Membership in the Society's 50th Jubilee year (1987). Jack is what we would call these days "a valuable resource person". His knowledge of the native flora, of the Auckland area and the alpine region of the central North Island in particular, is extensive.

Frank Hudson is a relative newcomer to the Society. He has been a member for only 13 years, but a trawl through the News-sheets from that date will turn up his name at least once, sometimes twice, a year as joint field trip leader. He has been a regular at evening meetings and field trips and almost every "away" field trip over the last decade. Frank is a farmer from the Kaipara and knows the bush well. He can tell you the name of any forest tree by simply looking at its trunk - for some reason, a skill that eludes many of us in Bot Soc.

Marjorie Seddon has been, and continues to be, a regular attendee at evening meetings since she joined in 1976. At her 90th birthday celebration, Marjorie reminisced that her last field trip with Bot Soc was to Lake Kereta, northern Woodhill, in February 1993. After this experience, which involved, among other excitements, some fence climbing, she flagged field trips away. Marjorie is also a member of the elite group of "Bot Soc wounded". Not for her the routine broken ankle, though in the olden days when we held our evening meetings in the University Botany Department's common room, on her way home after the meeting Marjorie was knocked over by a car while crossing Symonds Street, and carried off to hospital by ambulance. Fortunately she suffered no broken bones, though she was obliged to rely on a walking stick for some time.



Fig. 2: Marjorie Seddon, October 1988

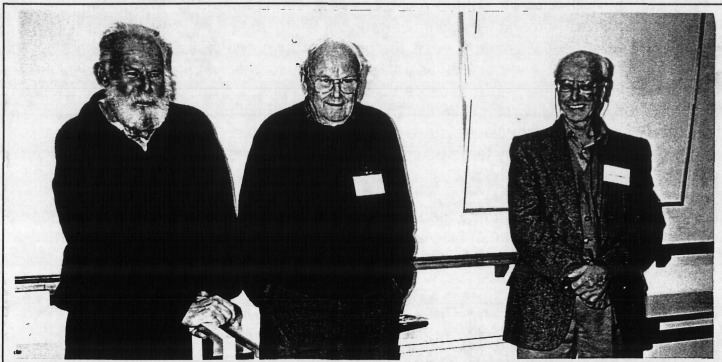


Fig. 1: Frank Hudson, Jack Rattenbury, and Dan Hatch, July 1988.