

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

As you will see in the Annual Report, your Society has been most fortunate to receive an unexpected and generous gift of \$1000 from Mrs L. Watson Smith (nee Lucy Cranwell). Mrs Smith was a very active member in the early years of the Society and as Miss Crookes states in our Silver Jubilee booklet: "The Auckland Botanical Society came into being on Thursday, October 28th 1937, at an inaugural meeting held in the Library of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. The gathering was brought together largely through the enthusiasm of the Museum Botanist, Miss Lucy Cranwell." Miss Cranwell later married an American officer and went to live in the United States and there continued her work on pollen in relation to plant geography. She has re-visited New Zealand several times, once quite recently. Well, 32 years after that inaugural meeting the Society is still going strong and I am sure that this kind gift will provide a great stimulus to its activities. A letter of thanks has been sent to Mrs Smith.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on March 5th and it was with sadness that members present learnt of the death of Mr Holt. He and his wife have been members of the Society for many years and we extend to Mrs Holt our sympathy in her loss.

It was with great regret also that we learnt of Mr Warren's intention to retire from the position of Secretary, especially as this is largely because he is not enjoying the best of health at present. Tribute was paid to Mr Warren and the countless hours of work he has put in for the Society during his years as Secretary. His knowledge and experience will be greatly missed, though we are fortunate that he is to continue as Treasurer and will no doubt be of great assistance to our new Secretary Miss Rose Thomson.

Tribute was also paid to the work of Mr Beever as President and he agreed under pressure to stand for a further year, mainly because he felt that to change both Secretary and President in the same year would be a bit too traumatic.

I was delighted to find after much searching that Yuania australis is fit and well in the Waitakeres again this year. I was prompted to look for this tiny orchid by the article in the Newsletter by Ross and Jessica Beever and went out along the Lone Kauri Road with my wife and Mr and Mrs Cozens. We had no luck (we were looking in the wrong place) and it was left to Mrs Cozens and Miss Young to re-discover it on a later visit. On a second trip with Mrs Cozens I saw it and took several photographs under almost impossible conditions. It was interesting to note that all the tarairi trees which had Yuania growing in association with them were situated at more or less the same level on the valley slope. There were numerous other seemingly identical trees in the area but no Yuania.

Metrication has now caught up with us as well with the demise of quarto size paper. We now use A4 duplicating paper and have correspondingly larger covers and envelopes. Please bear this in mind if sending in full page illustrations.