

promoting understanding and protection of the native flora. In 1943 she prepared the main part of Food is where you find it, a pocket manual requested by the U.S. Second Marine Air Wing, and soon widely adopted by the allied forces in the Western Pacific. Later in the year she married Major Watson Smith, a south-western archaeologist, and moved to the United States in 1944. A son, Benjamin, was born in 1947.

In 1959 the University of Auckland granted her a D.Sc. degree, and in 1961 she became a Research Associate in palynology at the University of Arizona, in Tucson, where she has lived since 1954. Dr. Cranwell is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, and the Royal Society of New Zealand; she is a member of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists; the Palaeontological Society of the U.S.A.; the Palaeontological Association of London; the International Association for Plant Taxonomy; the Torrey Botanical Club; Arizona Academy of Science Sigma XI; the Auckland Botanical Society (which she founded in 1937, E.D.H.); the Hawaiian Botanical Society; the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy, U.S.A.

Several living Pacific species have been named in her honour, as also one macro fossil (the pentaxylean India-linked Carnoconites cranwelli T.M. Harris, found by her south of Auckland (Waikato Heads, E.D.H.) in 1931), and four microfossil taxa (Nothofagus cranwellae Cupper; a species of the winteraceous Gephyrapollenites Stover; and two genera, Cranwellia S.K. Srivastava and Cranwellipollis A.R.H. Martin.).

Her Tucson homes, the present Casa Idria and the earlier Casa Gondwana, have welcomed many colleagues to Arizona.

"THE BOTANY OF AUCKLAND" by Lucy M. Cranwell.

Auckland Institute and Museum. 1981 156pp. \$6.25

Reviewed by R.O. Gardner

Many older Bot. Soc. members will know the previous "Wall and Cranwell" editions of this book and will remember with affection the junior author, then Botanist at the Auckland Museum, for her warm personality, love of the outdoors and readiness to share her knowledge. Time - forty years - has not diminished these qualities and Lucy Cranwell has now produced a fully revised book, as informative, attractive to the eye and engaging in style as ever. With characteristic generosity the author has paid much of the printing cost herself and has also given the new copyright to the Museum for the benefit of all Aucklanders. Floreat et floreat!

The text has been enlarged to include published work and notes contributed by the author's friends (no easy matter to write about Auckland from Arizona), broadly though the contents are unchanged. Visitors to Auckland and those beginning to botanize for themselves will be immediately interested by the introductory chapters that describe the historic landscape and some "wild places" still to be found near the city. Only native plants touch the author's heart so weedy adventives get occasional and disapproving mention and cultivated plants do little better (except for the splendid suggestion for a subtropical Botanical Gardens on Kawau Island).

Most of the book, then, describes in an informal way the flora and other characteristic features of Auckland's native plant communities; personal anecdote, local history and Maori lore intermingle naturally to remind us how social a science botany can be.

The author's particular interest shows in the many remarks on plant distributions and affinities and several problems are touched on, e.g. the ecological status of hard beech, and the difference between our several relict upland floras. We might wish for a revival of northern palynology - another Lucy Cranwell - to solve some of these!

Much praise should be given to the typography and printing of this stylish little book. The art work, much of it new, is of good quality - plant illustration is plentiful and there are several fine black-and-white landscape photographs, especially notable being those by Olaf Petersen. Two colour plates are outstanding; one a photograph of sandhills on the west coast, perfect in texture and mood; the other a watercolour vividly picturing the singular and primitive volcanic landscape of historic Auckland.

A criticism of the design: the relief map and transparent overlay at the front of the book shows only place names but would have been better used to portray the geology and physiography of the Auckland region.

The species lists (native vascular plants, seaweeds) have had the scrutiny of Dr. Lucy Moore and are stated to be "fairly complete"; names are updated as are some of the locality-and-habitat listings. Approximately 650 native vascular plants are given for the region (this includes the Barrier Islands and the Coromandel Peninsula) and errors seem to be few and inconsequential (see postscript).

Since the first edition of this book there have been many changes to Auckland's natural environment but few to give any pleasure to botanists. Interest in our flora is probably stronger today than ever before but our urban way of life and extensive interference with Nature make it very difficult to observe the detail of the subject and so pass from being "plant gatherers" to true naturalists. We cultivate native plants for reason of fashion or sentiment and they become mere objets d'art; in the field we acquire patchwork reserves at inflated prices, document rare plants until they vanish and continually compromise what is left of our scenic beauty.

Lucy Cranwell's book, in substance and style, reaches us from more buoyant days, when our flora could literally be learnt on the way to school; when native orchids flourished in the teatree of the suburbs and the forests of Grafton Gully and Mount Wellington could remind us of our short tenantry of this lovely country. We are very glad to see this unique and charming book again and we wish its author many more years of health to enjoy the compliments of a new generation.

POSTSCRIPT

In the text and in the lists on pp. 141-155 the following species are recorded for the Waitakere Range: Carex comans, Coprosma rigida, C. rotundifolia, Galium tenuicaule, Gratiola sexdentata, Hoheria sexstylosa, Lepidosperma filiforme, Neomyrtus pedunculata, Rubus schmidelioides, Tetragonia tetragoioides, Tupeia antarctica, Zostera muelleri. I cannot find supporting specimens and suggest that in the meantime these records be regarded as erroneous. But none of these plants seem entirely unlikely to occur in the Waitakeres - collectors take note!