

to think that people such as my uncle, John Attwood and many other enthusiastic amateurs will always be remembered as that small but solid rock upon which the Auckland Botanical Society was founded.

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#### FROM BETTY ALLEN

In a recent letter, Betty Allen (nee Molesworth) recalled the conception of the Auckland Botanical Society. "It does not seem 50 years since Lucy Cranwell and Sir Alexander Johnstone sat in Lucy's office in the Museum one evening after it closed, to discuss the possibility of forming a botanical society for Auckland. I was there with pencil and paper to take notes. It sounded a wonderful idea then and has proved to be so. Not surprising as Lucy was at the helm to start it off. - - - long may the society prosper in the years to come." Mrs Allen was the Society's first secretary. She was botanist at the Auckland Museum from 1944 to 1947. Subsequently she has worked extensively in Malaysia and has published on the ferns and on the useful plants of that region. She now lives in Spain where she is continuing her wildflower studies.