

# Lucy Beatrice Moore

MBE, MSc, DSc (Canterbury), FLS, FRS (NZ) 1906 – 1987

Dr Lucy, as she came to be known in the Botany Division of DSIR, or one of the two Lucies, an epithet bestowed on her and Lucy Cranwell (now Watson-Smith) by Leonard Cockayne, was a foundation member of The Wellington Botanical Society, became its President (1955) and edited the Society's Bulletin (1941-48). During a lifetime almost entirely devoted to botany, she achieved the highest eminence in New Zealand science and contributed a unique range of the best quality work to botany itself. She was not just a botanical scientist, but enjoyed especially consorting with all manner of botanists, amateur or otherwise, children or adults, in the field. No other botanist, apart from Leonard Cockayne, has been so widely known throughout the country. She was always prepared to help anywhere and at any time with botanical problems.

During her career Dr Lucy contributed in a major way to New Zealand botany by assisting H H Allan with his revision of Vol. 1 of the Flora, and on his death, completing it and seeing to its editing, and by producing Vol. II in association with Dr Elizabeth Edgar also of the Botany Division. The preparation of this second volume involved the revision of several genera including *Libertia* and *Bulbinella*. Vol. II has been referred to as a 'model of its kind'.

Apart from the monumental work on the Floras, Dr Lucy was involved from time to time with fungi, mosses, and, more especially, seaweeds. She had followed the last from her student days, but during the war, by which time she was with the Botany Division, she was asked to investigate the possibility of producing agar from New Zealand's red seaweeds. This project involved examining the shoreline extensively and arranging for local people to collect. Production of agar was achieved successfully.

The interest in botany all started during Lucy's childhood days at home near Warkworth. Her father, a keen naturalist, used to take the children for walks during which the party made observations on natural things. Then, at Epsom Grammar School in Auckland, Lucy got some lessons in theoretical botany, followed later by the study of botany at Auckland University College. It was there that she teamed up with the other Lucy and between them they did a great deal of vigorous, rucksack field botany around Auckland and much further afield. They studied the vegetation of Moehau on the Coromandel, Maungapohatu in the Urewera, and islands off the North Auckland coast.

At this early stage of their careers they produced several joint papers based on these explorations. During this period they got to know Cockayne and many amateur botanists all over the country.

In 1938 Lucy joined the DSIR Botany Division under Dr H H Allan in Wellington. She had already gained a substantial botanical background. From then on she became thoroughly immersed in botany and influenced many things that went on in the botanical world. She moved to Lincoln in 1960 (where the Botany Division had been established since 1954), preferring to live close to the Division rather than in Christchurch.

Dr Lucy retired in 1971 but remained in Lincoln. In 1980 she moved to the family home near Warkworth to look after a brother.

Dr Eric Godley, who was Director of the Botany Division most of the time Dr Lucy was at Lincoln, has given a very full account of her life and career and a list of her publications in *Proceedings of Royal Society of New Zealand* Vol. 116, 1988.