

**Canterbury Botanical Society (NZ) Inc.
Forty-fourth Annual Report 1997**

Officers and Committee (1996-1997)

President: Bryony Macmillan

Vice-president: Colin Burrows

Secretary: Roger Keey

Treasurer: Ron Close

Committee: Officers and Gillian and Miles Giller, Fiona Lees, Philippa Horn, Eleanor Bissell.

Newsletter Editor: John Ward

Auditor: Bob Abbott

Monthly Meeting Programme (1996-1997)

June: AGM and lunch

"Jenny Beneke's mountain flower trek", Anne Acton Adams

July: "Subantarctic and Antarctic Tourism", David Given

August: "Conservation Management of Threatened Plants", David Norton

September: "Wilding Pines" Nick Ledgard

October: "Plant Photography", Peter Harper

November: Student presentations: Sandy Hammond, Anna Campbell, Jane Marshall

November: Raoul Sesquicentenary Symposium

February: "Agenda 21: Native Plants for the Christchurch Area", Martin Lukes

March: Members' evening

April: "Recent Discoveries in Pollination of Native Mistletoes", Dave Kelly

May: "A Scheme for the Ecological Restoration of Quail Island", Ray Genet

Field Trips and Camps

July: Brooklands Lagoon, Colin Burrows

August: Postponed because of heavy rain

September: Some sites of pre-European vegetation of Otautahi: Riccarton Bush to Wigram Retention Basin (with Forest and Bird), Colin Meurk

October: Orton Bradley Park, Max Visch and Neil O'Brien

October: Pulling out *Hoheria sexstylosa* at Riccarton Bush

November: Tawhai Bush, View Hill, Anthony Holcroft and Miles Giller

December: Mt Vernon Lodge, Akaroa (camp), Roger Keey and Hugh Wilson

January: Borland Lodge near Lake Monowai (camp), Ron and Julie Close

February: Acheron River between Mt Barker and Big Ben, Miles Giller and Colin Burrows

March: Cancelled because of bad weather in the mountains

April: Boundary Creek Reserve, Glendhu Road, Bryony Macmillan and Peter McKallow

May: Quail Island, Lyttelton Harbour, Ray Genet

One of the outstanding events of the year's programme was holding a one-day symposium at the University of Canterbury, to mark the sesquicentenary of the publication of *Choix de Plantes de la Nouvelle Zelande* by Etienne Raoul in 1846. This was the first published work to describe the flora of Canterbury. We presented a programme of talks, and a display of illustrations, maps, specimens and plants, which has subsequently been shown at the Canterbury Museum and Akaroa Museum. The talks are being edited for publication by Colin Burrows who also led the organising committee which included Warwick Harris, Roger Keey and Bryony Macmillan, assisted by Philippa Horn and Jorge Santos.

We regret to record the death in September of Ross Elder, past president, journal editor, and mentor, who has influenced so much the direction taken by the Society.

Meetings and Newsletter: Monthly meetings have continued to cover a wide range of botanical and ecological topics. We thank Daphne and Miles Banks for providing supper so consistently, and Julie Close and Ann McMillan for supervising the sales table. The monthly newsletter continues to keep members informed of coming events within and outside the Society. We thank John Ward and the members of the production team, Ron and Julie Close, Fiona Lees and Max Visch.

Field trips and camps: Our early December and New Year camps have again given much interest and good companionship to the participants. Attendances were about 18 and 40 respectively. We thank Roger and Daphne Keey and Hugh Wilson for planning and leadership at Akaroa, and Ron and Julie Close for planning and catering at Borland Lodge. Suggestions for the monthly field trips are always welcome. Philippa Horn has been appointed as curator of the species lists which result from our trips. Our members are making a valuable contribution to the knowledge of plant distributions and these need to be carefully recorded.

Student support: The 1997 recipients of the Society's student grants are Sarah Hurst and Matthew Easterbrook from Plant and Microbial Sciences Department, and Stephen Urlich from Lincoln University. They were chosen from 7 applicants. Those who received grants last year gave excellent presentations at the November meeting. The Society again awarded prizes to students exhibiting at the ECNZ Science Fair in 1996. Christine Kokay and Neil O'Brien were our judges.

Journal: Two numbers of the Journal were published this year. No.30 is a comprehensive index to Numbers 1-29: 1968-1995, compiled by Colin Webb and Paul Pearson, with preliminary work by Ross Elder and Neil O'Brien. It was edited by Ron Close. No.31, edited by Colin Burrows, contains a wide variety of articles of botanical interest. Our journal is sent to about 250 subscribers.

Conservation and submissions: Submissions were made to the Waimakariri District Council on its draft District Plan for which we commented on indigenous vegetation and habitats. We also commented on the Canterbury Regional Council's draft Coastal Plan and a hearing was attended. A letter of support was written to the Wellington Botanical Society in its delegation to the Minister of Conservation on the management of the Kaimanawa wild horses. Non-governmental Organisations' meetings with the Department of Conservation were attended by Ron Close on the Society's behalf.

Christchurch Blossoms Festival: The Society sponsored two events on 28 September. Max Visch led a visit to the Ilam Gardens, and John Moore led a tour of Riccarton Bush.

The Bledisloe Award: The trophy was presented to Ross Elder and to Yvonne Elder jointly. Ross was unable to attend the AGM, but Yvonne came and received it on their behalf.

May 1997

**Canterbury Botanical Society (NZ) Inc.
Forty-fifth Annual Report 1998**

Officers and Committee (1997-1998)

President: Bryony Macmillan

Vice-president: Colin Burrows

Secretary: Roger Keey

Treasurer: Ron Close

Committee: Officers and Fiona Lees, Philippa Horn, Eleanor Bissell, Peter Wardle.

Newsletter Editor: John Ward

Auditor: Bob Abbott

Monthly Meeting Programme (1997-1998)

June: AGM and lunch

"The Rare Plants Database" Sue Gibb

July: "Some Nineteenth Century Botanists of Canterbury, Otago and Southland" Eric Godley

August: "Wild Flowers of south-western Australia" Ron Close and Peter Wardle

September: "Current and Projected Work in Plant Systematics at Landcare Research" Ilse Breitwieser, Allan Fife, Peter Heenan and Steve Wagstaff

October: "The Use of Native Plants in Garden Design" Val Kirby

November: Student presentations from Matthew Easterbrook, Sarah Hurst, and Stephen Urlich

November: "The Alpine Flora of Tasmania and its taxonomic and biogeographic relationships with that of New Zealand" John Lovis

February: "Invasions and Extinctions: using historical records to answer ecological questions" Richard Duncan

March: "Mountain Beech Forest Regeneration after fire at Mount Thomas Forest" Rob Allen

April: "The Botany of Tonga" Bill Sykes

May: "The potential for evolution within apomictic populations of Hieracium (hawkweeds) in New Zealand." Hazel Chapman

Field Trips and Camps

July: The Macmillan Brown Library at the University of Canterbury. Bronwyn Matthews

August: Otukaikino Wetland (formerly Wilsons Swamp) . Bryony Macmillan

September: Woodstock Station, Waimakariri Gorge. Ann and Roger Loffhagen

October: The garden of David Hobbs, Selwyn Road, Broadfields. Miles Giller and Robert Watson

October: Pulling out *Hoheria sexstylosa* at Riccarton Bush

November: Mt Ararat Rata Reserve, Omihū Forest. Mike Kwant

December: Camp based at Raincliff Scout Camp: Raincliff Arboretum, Pioneer Bush and Kakahu Bush Farm. Max Visch, Fraser Ross, John Talbot and Ian Morrison

January: Camp based at Hari Hari School of Forestry Field Station. David Norton and Peter Wardle

February: Snowdon Station Wetland, Upper Rakaia. Tony Tripp and David Webster

March: Cancelled because of rain over Mount Thomas. Alternative: Glentui Nature Walk.

April: Some proposed sites for bush enhancement on the Port Hills. Colin Burrows

May: "Otehere" covenants, French Farm Bay valley, Akaroa Harbour. Rodney Weir and David Webster

Meetings and Newsletter: The committee has endeavoured to arrange a varied programme to inform members about topical matters concerning plants, and current lines of research in botany. We are grateful to all the speakers who have so willingly taken part. We thank Daphne and Miles Banks, and Ann McMillan for providing tea, and running the sales table each evening.

To John Ward, Ron and Julie Close, Fiona Lees and Max Visch we owe the safe delivery of the monthly newsletter.

Field trips and camps: Although Miles and Gillian Giller resigned from the committee last year they undertook to arrange five of our outings for this period which have been varied and very interesting. At the December weekend camp attended by 25, we were joined by several members and friends from South Canterbury and appreciate their leadership in the field. The January camp was enjoyed by 36 members and we thank Miles and Gillian, Geoff and Margaret Henderson, and Ross Lake (finances) for their organisation. Graeme Jane from Nelson Botanical Society joined both our camps and assisted with compiling and computerising our species lists which are available to all who want copies.

Species lists: Phillipa Horn has mastered a computer programme which enables her to compile a list of sites from which we have plant checklists, dating back over many years, and which species were recorded at each site. Bryony Macmillan has updated the plant names.

Membership: We have been very pleased to welcome about 15 new members this year. The total membership remains stable.

Publications: Although a journal for 1997 was not published, much time has been required in editing and preparing for printing the Raoul sesquicentenary symposium papers delivered in November 1996. Also we have produced an attractive, colourful brochure for membership applications. We thank Eleanor Bissell, and Colin Burrows for their ongoing work in editing.

Submissions: Maori Customary use of Native Birds, Plants and other Traditional Materials: Roger Key has written and sent our submission on this topic to the N.Z. Conservation Authority. Issues and Options for Managing the Impacts of Deer: Peter Wardle and Roger Key have responded to the discussion document we received from the Department of Conservation. Christchurch Environment Centre: we gave our support to the activities of such a centre.

Awards: The Senior Bledisloe Trophy was presented to Daphne Banks at the A.G.M. 1997, in recognition of her dedicated participation in the activities of the Society over several decades, and of her work at Travis Wetland. The Bledisloe Trophy will be presented to any person aged under thirty who is deemed to have presented the best talk or demonstration at a monthly meeting during the preceding calendar year.

Student support: The 1998 recipients of the Society's student grants are Nancy Willems and Louise Cullen. Those who received grants last year gave excellent presentations at the November meeting. The Society again awarded prizes to students exhibiting at the ECNZ Science Fair in 1997. Christine Kokay and Neil O'Brien were our judges.

Bryony Macmillan, President
May 1998