

Janette West, 1915-1988

It is with sadness but with many fond memories that we record the death, after an illness, of Janette West, one of the founder members of the Otago Botanical Society, and one of its keenest participants. Dunedin was home for Janette, though as the wife of a minister and as a secondary school teacher she spent parts of her life in Europe, in the North Island, at Alexandra and at Oamaru. After so-called retirement from teaching she put much of her botanical knowledge into preparing herbaria to be lodged in specific areas of Otago. She was an enthusiast for field trips, whether with Forest and Bird Society, Dunedin Naturalists Field Club, Botanical Society, or under her own auspices, but inevitably with the aim of taking other people along, to share the delights and help hunt for plants. Janette had a keen eye for the unusual and was forever turning up interesting plant records, whether an odd looking Caltha from the Lammerlaws, a "northern" Pterostylis from the lower Taieri Gorge, or the rediscovered Myosotis albosericca from the Dunstan Range. One of her favourite stamping grounds was the Kakanui area, where the Wests had a holiday place, and no doubt Janette would be happy to know that Lepidium oleraceum survives and outlives her on headlands of exposed Kakanui coast, facing the sea and the salt and the sunrise.

P.N.J.

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