

REPORTS FROM THE OTAGO AND WELLINGTON BOTANICAL SOCIETIES' SUMMER FIELD TRIP.

This 10 day field trip was based at Borland Lodge, on the eastern boundary of Fiordland National Park, between Lakes Manapouri and Monowai. It ran from 29 Dec – 7 Jan, and the weather was a diverse as the botany and the botanists, ranging from skiffs of snow up on the tops of Mt Burns on the first outing to a warmly welcoming 30° C in sunny Invercargill. Reports of botanical interest follow, with more to come next issue.

Pukerau Red Tussock Reserve, “Burwood” Tussock Reserve and Redcliff Wetland Reserve. (29 Dec & 7 Jan) - Allison Knight

Those who joined the convoy from and to Dunedin were treated to some interesting stops long the way. At first sight the remnant lowland plant community in Pukerau Reserve looked to be mainly red tussock (*Chionochloa rubra* ssp *cuprea*) and wire-rush (*Empodisma minus*). Closer inspection soon had Gael and Val exclaiming over the number of different orchids in flower. Bastow's revelation that the peat was over 6.5m deep here, the deepest measured in Otago, and his question as to whether the *Sphagnum* or the *Empodisma* was the main peat-forming organism in New Zealand bogs provided something to ponder over for the rest of the trip. A highlight for me was finding several lichenised *Omphalina* in fruit. They are among the few lichens from the class Basidiomycetes, or toadstool fungi.

The second reserve was just west of Mossburn, beside the road to Te Anau. This montane hillside tussock community also contained a variety of orchids. There were many clumps of *Aciphylla glaucescens*, with their striking blue-green foliage and tall yellow flower spikes.

On the return journey we made a brief stop to look down at the Redcliff Wetland Reserve, where ponding has been re-introduced as a sanctuary for wildlife. Then next stop was at Arne Cleveland's Pukerau nursery, where there were a great many native plants to admire and covet.

Green Lake Landslide, Fiordland.

By Audrey Eagle

This landslide is believed to be the largest of its type on earth. Because of the lush growth of forests in Fiordland the landslide was disguised and it was not until 1976 that a geologist, Roger McPherson, recognised it as such. In 1994 it was fully documented by G. T. Hancox and N. D. Perrin.