

## Mackinder presentation 1 September 1993

Rhys Gardner

It was suggested that I might like to speak here [to the motion that Jack Mackinder be made a Life Member of ABS], principally perhaps because for a number of years I supplied Jack and the Newsletter with copy that resembled "works of art" as he, most tolerant of editors, has phrased it. I accepted of course, knowing that it would give me the opportunity to find out something more about the man, which I was sure would be like investigating a plant which clearly belongs to a family of its own.

Jack was born in Hamilton; not realising the intellectual hotbed that place was to become his family moved to Auckland, into the Mt Albert Grammar School zone, and at that school Jack got an all-round education (maths, Latin, chemistry and physics but not biology). MAGS was notable for having an Artillery Corps that sported four 25-pound guns - more of them in a moment. It also had a number of good if eccentric teachers, and among these was a certain maths master "Duck" Down, whose ability to animate a mathematics lesson seems to have confirmed Jack in his choice of career and teaching style.

So University here in Auckland followed, in mathematics principally, and also, I am told, in "civilised behaviour" (the personal computer hardly having been thought of). He then took his respectable talents to teaching and worked for a number of years at Henderson High School. Those of us who have been at the performances given by Jack at the Bot. Soc. plant-group evenings will realise how lucky his pupils were; I have an imaginary TV "Our World"- type series with David Bellamy doing the animals and Jack the plants (and John Morton as presenter...).

We probably have all detected something military about Jack, something perhaps reminiscent of a Warrant Officer in the Artillery, and those who have taken up the reference to the guns of Mt Albert Grammar will be thinking now that Jack might have been lost to art and civilian life while still at school. One would be quite mistaken, though - this side of him flowered only later, in University and Training College days, thanks to that long-gone institution famous for developing character while attempting to do otherwise - I am referring of course to National Service.

For 10 or so years after his block of National Service training at Waiouru Jack continued military activities by serving in the Territorials, perhaps at first because the periodic letting off of live shells provided a release from the demands of teaching, but also for another good reason - he had begun to find that in times otherwise completely wasted one could (when one was an Officer) Show Initiative by Botanising. I believe that no specimens remain from that time, but that there might be a couple of celmisias, still in their original ammunition boxes, round about his Scenic Drive property.

Obviously Jack had "somehow" got interested in botany. Two influences can be traced: he had bought his first car, a Fiat Bambina, which came with a complimentary copy of "The Fiat Book of Trees" (bless you, Nancy Adams); and he had begun to "go for long walks in the Waitakeres" with his wife-to-be Chris. It was at this time (the mid '70s) that Jack joined the Botanical Society, sighting in a friend's house the current Bot. Soc. Newsletter, and getting, in answer to his question "Can anybody join?", the apparently satisfactory reply "Yes, you don't have to know anything"!

It was Dan Hatch, himself an illustrious Waiouru botanist and past-President, who impelled Jack into the Bot. Soc. Presidency in 1979, a post he was to hold for two more years, with Editorship of what was then the Newsletter taken up in 1980. In 1982 readers were told, in characteristic

phrase, that they "could hardly have failed to notice a change in the style of printing" of the Newsletter. A small offset-printing machine was responsible, and for the next 11 years, countless hours went into producing 2 large Newsletters (subsequently Journals) per year and a number of Bulletins, including a Moss Flora for the Waitakeres by the late John Bartlett, and Jim Beever's very large and very admirable "A Dictionary of Maori Plant Names". This huge spare-time work perhaps could not have been done without help, and I refer of course to Chris Mackinder. The extent of their work is laid out in Chris's "Index to the Newsletters" (to '87), completed by her Index ('88 to '93) in the July '93 Bot. Soc. Journal, that issue also containing Jack's farewell editorial note.

Jack found time to write several articles on Waitakere adventives, and although famous for not botanising elsewhere he also has written on the Botany of St Paul's Anglican Church in Symonds St, and on a large Scenic Reserve in the Hunuas. His own artwork and calligraphy graced our Journal in '89 with two elegiacal sketches from Waikumete Cemetery, in January one of *Watsonia bulbifera*, enhanced with the hand-addition (Chris again) of 2 tones of watercolour; and in July one of *Leucojum aestivum*, this time with 3 colours.

Last year Jack produced a Bulletin of his own on the exotic plants of the Waitakeres. As well as having a cover lithograph and some delightful sketches inside this work also exemplifies his logical approach to minor irritations - I am referring particularly to his note: "Five plants, *Cotula australis*, *Deparia petersenii*, *Diplazium australe*, *Geranium homeanum*, *Geranium solanderi*; "coarse hairs" have been excluded because they are deemed to be native in Vol. 4 of the Flora, although they were also excluded from Gardner's list of the Waitakere Range as non-native." [my italics]

Jack's artistry can also be seen in the beautifully-prepared voucher specimens now in the Auckland Museum Herbarium (AK) - I can say that seeing these for the first time gave me a very beneficial shock, my own specimens of that era tending to be of the "hard pressed" variety. I hope that some of his specimens can be shown at some future plant-groups Bot. Soc. evening, perhaps one especially on collection and preparation methods.

As well as having this busy Bot. Soc. life Jack had moved into teaching computer-programming, readying people for the real world at ATI, and also in readying the real world for people, by using his talents at AK to create a near-foolproof system (the witty AKILLES), which labels and keeps track of plant specimens, a system subsequently taken up by other NZ herbaria.

I think we can be sure that even though he will no longer be serving Bot. Soc. "for the term of his natural life", Jack will continue to give pleasure to us by his elegant and original works, and also by his company, which we hold in the very highest esteem.

**Marine invaders of New Zealand Coasts  
Auckland Botanical Society Lucy Cranwell Lecture  
6 October 1993, University of Auckland**

Wendy A. Nelson

Lucy Cranwell's contributions to our knowledge of New Zealand marine algae are not as well known as her work on the botany of the Auckland area or her contributions to palynology. She made algal collections particularly through the 1930s, primarily in the Auckland and Northland regions, including collections from the Poor Knights Islands. Good collections are central to systematic studies and Lucy Cranwell's pioneering expeditions and collections constitute a significant legacy for phycologists. Her contribution to phycology has been recognised in the