

Appendix: Serenade to Sandra (or 'She'll be up the Pararaha after lunch') to the tune of 'She'll be coming round the mountain'. Words by Jessica, assisted by Ross, who advise that no copyright shall apply.

- 1 She'll be up the Pararaha after lunch  
She'll be up the Pararaha after lunch  
She'll be up the Pararaha, up the Pararaha  
She'll be up the Pararaha after lunch
- 2 She'll be in her khaki outfit / when she comes
- 3 She'll be clutching Poole and Adams / to her breast
- 4 She'll be checking *trullifolia* / for its veins
- 5 She'll be noting in her notebook / flowering times
- 6 She'll be keeping us all cheerful / through the mud
- 7 She'll be searching for *Danhatchia* / in the duff
- 8 She'll be home by helicopter / if she must
- 9 Bot Soc's skilful secretary / seventeen years
- 10 Thank-you for your loyal service / Sandra dear
- piano**  
11 She'll be up the Pararaha after lunch  
**piano**  
She'll be up the Pararaha after lunch  
**crescendo** **forte**  
She'll be up the Pararaha, up the Pararaha  
**crescendo** **fortissimo**  
She'll be up the Pararaha after lunch

## Marjorie L. Cutting, ABS editor 1994 - 1996

E.K. Cameron

Marjorie Cutting moved to Melbourne earlier this year with her husband who accepted a chair at Monash University. Marjorie herself is working for the Environment Protection Agency carrying out environmental policy work.

When Jack Mackinder resigned as Auckland Botanical Society (ABS) editor in 1993, a post he had held since 1981, a large hole was left in the Society ranks. After a gentle persuasion from Anne Grace, Marjorie agreed to give the editor position a go.

Marjorie graduated from Auckland University in 1983 with a BSc in Botany and Ecology, and a BTP. She later returned to complete a paper in Environmental Planning. After several ecological survey positions from New Plymouth to Northland she joined the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) in 1987 as Senior Planner to Programme Leader (Natural History). Those of us who sought information from the ARC on biological matters quickly learnt that Marjorie had her fingertips on all the relevant publications and reports for the Auckland region. Even when we 'lost' our own reports, Marjorie could always locate another copy.

In Jack's own words, his offset printer had become rather aged and the resulting *Journals* rather faint. In February 1994 Marjorie's first *Journal* [49(1)] as editor was published, 44 pages of crisp text (though no longer hand printed and hand bound). During her three year editorship six issues of the *Journal* were published, totalling an amazing 262 pages! *Bulletin* no. 24 was produced, an electronic index to the ABS *Journal*, and was maintained; she was also joint author of three *Journal* articles during that period.

Although Marjorie was a hard-working member of the Society many of the members never saw her. Many thanks for all your hard work and we wish you every success across the ditch. We'd welcome a botanical letter from Melbourne to grace our *Journal* pages in the not-too-distant future.

## Field trip to Maungaraho Rock and Tokatoka Peak, 19 June 1997

Bec Stanley

On the shortest day of the year thirty five botsoccers accepted the challenge to climb Maungaraho Rock, an andesite dike 10 km south of Dargaville. We met at 10 am at Ruawai and drove in convoy to the Maungaraho Rock Scenic Reserve which is a 14 ha reserve administered by the Kaipara District Council. The reserve was created in 1872 but has been reduced due to the taking of part of the block for roading purposes. The climb to the summit (220 m) is recommended for 'experienced hikers only' but with the help of some strategically placed cables fixed to the rock, we succeeded in getting to the summit and even did some botanising on the way up.

At the summit we took in marvelous cycloramic views of the surrounding Northland countryside - the Wairoa River, the Kaipara Harbour and the Tutamoe Mountain Range to name a few landmarks. Botanical highlights included the local species *Hebe* "x" (Cameron et al. 1995 as *Hebe* "Bartlett") pointed out by our leader Peter de Lange. Maungaraho Rock is the southern limit for this species which only grows in Northland. We also saw *Korthasella salicornioides* the small dwarf mistletoe parasitic upon manuka. This tiny mistletoe, a member of the family Visaceae which includes the European mistletoes, is leafless having photosynthesing stems. *Korthasella salicornioides* is probably more an overlooked plant than a rare one, and once we had our 'eye in' we saw this peculiar plant on almost every shrub. Among the five orchid species we saw was a winter greenhood in flower, *Pterostylis trullifolia* which is so named because of its trowel shaped leaves.

Our descent was made a little more challenging after brief showers (on an otherwise lovely winter day) making the rocks quite slippery, but we all managed to get to our lunch spot at the base of the rock safely. We then followed a track which encircled the base of the rock finding *Senecio scaberulus* which is ranked Vulnerable by the NZ threatened plant committee (Cameron et al. 1995), *Daucus glochidiatus* and right at the very end of the walk - *Psilotum nudum*.

We noted both at the reserve and on the journey up large infestations of pampas grass, especially in part of the reserve which used to be a quarry site. There was also at least one large pine near the top of the rock. We recorded 6 gymnosperms, 66 monocots, 99 dicots, and 33 ferns and fern allies (of which one third were exotic) at Maungaraho Rock Reserve.

With time to spare we then set off to Tokatoka Reserve 15 km south of Dargaville where we climbed Tokatoka Peak, a prominent 180 m high andesite plug (or core of a volcano). On the way up to the summit Maureen pointed out a local fern *Asplenium bulbiferum* var. *laxum*. At Tokatoka Reserve we recorded 6 gymnosperms, 42 monocots, 74 dicots and 23 ferns and fern allies.

The name of the peak describes its appearance as the Maori word for rock is 'toka' - thus 'tokatoka' implies 'rocks upon rocks' (Reed 1982). One Maori legend pertaining to these two rocks involves a story of five men from the east coast who set out for the west coast to gather toheroa - and to do this they had to cross the Wairoa River. Motuheteke managed to cross the river (a rock named after him sits near Repia on the western banks of the Wairoa river, opposite Naumai), one