

Introduction to the Lucy Cranwell Lecture - 12 November 1997

Ewen K. Cameron

As President of the Auckland Botanical Society it is my pleasure to welcome you here tonight and to introduce tonight's speaker. This is the thirteenth ABS Lucy Cranwell Lecture, which is our society's special meeting for the year, and is held in honour of our patron Lucy Cranwell. Lucy resides in Tucson, Arizona, but earlier this year she visited Auckland for a month. She was very busy with her research on the Anawhata Hut* and its environs; it was wonderful to have the opportunity to get to know her better - a truly remarkable woman. Via her niece, Eleanor Percy, Lucy sends her best wishes to everyone; she expressed that she would love to be here with us tonight and that she is very excited about tonight's lecture, which is so relevant to her own interests.

I have been fortunate to know Professor Barry Tomlinson over a number of years, through his almost annual trips to New Zealand. Barry grew up in Yorkshire, England, and gained his PhD on the anatomy of the ginger family (Zingiberaceae), at Leeds University in Yorkshire. Barry's main supervisor was C.R. Metcalfe, and they have since jointly published books on the anatomy of the monocots. Barry was the first, or one of the first, students to be based at Kew during his studies.

After his PhD, Barry moved to Singapore, to the University of Malaya, based in the Singapore Botanical Gardens. Here he began working seriously on palms and tropical plants. Then onto the Gold Coast, West Africa - now called Ghana - where he studied African tropical rain forest, and taught at the university there for three years.

He then moved to the Fairchild Gardens in Miami, U.S.A.; this was a pure research position in a private institution. He remained for eleven years working on such topics as marine angiosperms including mangroves and tree architecture. During this period he married Elizabeth (Libby, a kiwi), and while on his honeymoon looked at the New Zealand flora. He became hooked on the New Zealand plants, especially the podocarps. Barry has also produced a kiwi - one of his sons was born here.

In 1971 Barry moved to Harvard University where he returned to teaching as the E.C. Jeffrey Professor of Biology, where he still is today. From this post he continues to travel to the tropics and to New Zealand.

We are truly honoured to have tonight a speaker of such truly international standard. Barry's topic is **"What is pollen for? The rise and fall of the male gametophyte of the conifers"** A very warm welcome to you Barry

* Sadly burned to the ground at Easter (April 1998) – apparently arson(Dick Bellamy pers. comm.).

