

EDITORIAL

Another year is over, for the News-Letter at any rate, and I would like to thank all those who have contributed articles during the year. If there are any members who would be willing to write up field trips or who feel they could write an article or series of articles on a particular topic, would they please contact me either by mail, phone (HSN. 64-024) or at one of our meetings. Any articles submitted for publication should reach me not later than 3 weeks before the News-Letter is sent out (the last week in October, March and June). Diagrams to accompany text should be drawn, actual size required in print, in Indian ink or sufficiently clearly to be Xerox copied.

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It looks like being a bumper year for flowering of both natives and exotics, presumably as a result of the hot, dry summer. Nobody could have overlooked the glories of the kowhai this year, in spite of the cold winds and rain. Senecio kirkii is apparently having an exceptionally good season too in many parts of the country. Any other notes of unusually abundant flowering during the season would be welcome.

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Just 10 years ago our Society attended a lecture given by Dr. R.C. Cooper, then botanist at the Auckland Museum, on Vol. 1 of the New Flora of New Zealand by H.H. Allan. Since then there have been many proposed name changes and new plants have been discovered or recognised as such. In the June issue of the N.Z. Journal of Botany, Dr. Elizabeth Edgar, Botany Division, D.S.I.R., has published a paper listing many of these changes. I do not propose to list them here; many are already familiar to us and those who are interested can refer to the Journal. One change which may be of special interest, however, is that of Podocarpus dacrydioides to Dacrycarpus dacrydioides. I hope to find out more about the reasons behind this change for inclusion in the next issue.

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Last but not least, our congratulations to two of our members, Mrs. M. Fisher and Mrs. E.S. Satchell who with their co-author Mrs. Watkins won third prize in the New Zealand Book of the Year competition with their book, "Gardening with New Zealand Plants, Shrubs and Trees." It is a delightful book, which will do much to popularize further the use of native plants in our gardens.

Mrs. E.L. Dowding: Those of you who knew Mrs. Dowding will be very sorry to hear of her death on October 4th, after a short illness. Mrs. Dowding was the Secretary of the Auckland Horticultural Council for many years. She was always willing to help the Society if problems arose and will be greatly missed.