

Lucy Beatrice Moore, 1906–1987
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I first met Lucy Moore when I visited Botany Division, Lincoln, as a schoolboy with the Auckland Botanical Society in 1963. I well remember the warm welcome she and her Botany Division colleagues gave to the busload of Bot. Soc'ers. At the time I had with me a living plant of the rare northern orchid *Yoania australis* for her to study. It helped to establish a botanical friendship, and I became one of Lucy's "scouts" — the name she gave to friends around the country who kept a lookout for interesting plants for her.

During her career Lucy Moore accomplished an impressive amount of research in a variety of fields. I can only touch on some of the highlights. Her career in science had three main themes:

Firstly as a marine biologist — after a botanical degree she began work as a zoologist, researching barnacles and also studying sea shore ecology with her life long friend, the second of the two botanical Lucys, i.e. Dr Lucy Cranwell. In 1938 she joined Botany Division in Wellington, and during the Second World War she was, as she described it, 'pitchforked' into research on red algae looking for species that contained the agar needed for medical research.

The second theme in Lucy Moore's career was as an ecologist — she and Lucy Cranwell pioneered study of the effect of introduced animals on native forest with their work on the higher parts of the Coromandel Ranges. In the 1940s she undertook responsibility for Botany Division's study of the revegetation of the Molesworth Station in Marlborough. The scope of this latter project can be gauged by noting that the station covers some 700 square miles, and the observations were continued for 27 years.

The third theme of her career was concerned with taxonomy — the classification and naming of plants. In her earlier years she studied widely: algae, mosses, liverworts and flowering plants all received attention. Although with time she turned more and more to the flowering plants she retained interest in the cryptogams. When my wife Jessica took up the study of mosses, she was much encouraged by Lucy Moore who was able to relocate her 50-year old field notes to answer questions of Jessica's on the mosses of the northern islands. Her name lives on in the rare northern moss *Tortella moorei*.

Her greatest scientific contribution was probably her taxonomic work on the New Zealand vascular plants, of which she described many new species. She assisted the late Dr H.H. Allan with Volume I of the definitive Flora of New Zealand series, which was published in 1961, and undertook the major responsibility for Volume II which she wrote with Dr Elizabeth Edgar.

To all her science she brought an enthusiasm and dedication, a clarity of thought, and an ability at clear concise writing. As well she showed great stamina, both for field work — as for example in re-climbing her loved Te Moehau while in her mid-60s — and also for the discipline of writing — her Molesworth bulletin for example being completed in her retirement. In her address given on receiving the Marsden Medal for service to science she selected