

The three enterprises, listing plants location by location, compiling a checklist and mapping distributions are three inter-related facets of getting to know and enjoy our flora to the full.

Bryony Macmillan
President

BURNING MINE STOCKTON

an Extract

by Peter Hooper

No moonscape
holds mere loneliness

the manuka
spreads a white mat of flowers, the stunted flax

mutters by seepage holes and in the breeze
the long leaved orchid trembles purple bells.

THE LAND OF THE EPACRIDS

by L.B. Moore

The high misty plateau country northeast of Westport holds a special place in New Zealand botany. Denniston I heard of first because it was there that Dr. H.H. Allan went, about 1900, directly from his sixth form year at Nelson College, to teach at the small school. The miners' children and the peculiarities of the isolated community fascinated him but he took little note of the strange vegetation, as he regretted when, in later years, he turned from teaching to professional botany. His path probably sometimes crossed (unknown to both) that of Mr. W. Townson who had a pharmacy business in Westport about the same time, and was diligently collecting specimens for T.F. Cheeseman in Auckland. Townson published in 1906 a 53-page account of the vegetation of the Westport district, based on field work up the Buller to Mt. Owen, Mt. Murchison and Mt. Mantell, the Brunner and Lyell Ranges and the coast ranges from behind Karamea south to Mt. Bovis in the Paparoa Range. Mt. Rochfort (3417 ft) was one of his favourite hunting-grounds, and he knew Denniston on its slopes and the neighbouring peaks of Mt. Frederic (3630 ft) and Mt. William (3490 ft). Without making a careful check it is easy to find at least a dozen species described as new from his material.

North of the Waimangaroa River and approached from Granity by the Burma Road are the mines of Millerton and Stockton and the peak of Mt. Augustus (3316 ft). In early 1953 Ruth Mason and Neville Moar spent two days here at about 2500 ft near the site of open-cast mines. Their account of the vegetation and flora (1955) lists the species they