



M. D. King

WELLINGTON BOTANICAL SOCIETY TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY, HELD AT THE HOME OF
DR. I. M. MORICE, 40 WADESTOWN ROAD, WELLINGTON, OCTOBER, 1960.

Standing (left to right): Mrs. J. W. Dawson, I. A. E. Atkinson, Mrs. H. M. Druce, Dr. J. W. Dawson, — (obscured), P. Rider, Mrs. G. M. Taylor, Dr. I. M. Morice, — (at back, obscured), Mrs. M. Sutch (partly obscured), Mrs. M. P. Lonska, Miss J. Perry (partly obscured), Miss L. Ballinger, Miss G. M. Barrett (at back), Miss M. A. Ward (in front), Miss M. Ladvenszky, Miss M. McBride (F.M.), Miss B. Kelly, Miss E. Matheson, Mrs. V. M. Crombie (F.M.), W. B. Brockie, F. A. Bodley, Miss A. Hutson, Mrs. I. Coulter, J. D. Coulter, N. Kelly, Prof. H. D. Gordon, A. P. Druce, A. D. Beddie (F.M.).

Sitting: Miss C. Little, Mrs. M. M. Davidson (F.M.), Miss N. M. Adams, Mrs. S. Natusch, Mrs. G. R. Bennie, Miss D. M. Norris, Miss T. I. Dodge, Miss L. B. Moore (F.M.), Mrs. H. C. Oliver, Miss B. H. Macmillan, Mrs. A. S. Barker (F.M.).

Present at the party, but either obscured or not in the photograph: J. A. Bartle, Miss E. Johnston, Miss M. M. Johnson, M. D. King, I. D. Parsons (representing Levin Native Flora Club), I. Robins, Mrs. D. I. Simpson, Mrs. D. Stone (F.M.).

Greetings and apologies for absence were received from the following: W. R. Boyce, Mrs. M. E. Fisher (F.M.), Mrs. H. D. Gordon, Mrs. H. Langer, Miss A. E. Lorimer (F.M.), Mrs. P. Macfarlane (F.M.), Mrs. M. M. Martin (F.M.), Miss M. Neumann (F.M.), A. L. Poole (F.M.), M. E. Roberts (F.M.), Mrs. M. P. Sampson (F.M.), Mrs. M. Sinclair, J. G. Stirling (F.M.), Mrs. A. Williamson, V. D. Zotov (F.M.).
(F.M.—Foundation Member)

FAREWELL TO MISS L. B. MOORE

The twenty-first birthday party was also the occasion of a farewell to Miss L. B. Moore, who had been closely associated with the Society since its inception in 1939 and was shortly to move to Lincoln, Canterbury. Miss Moore edited the first nineteen numbers of the Bulletin (from 1941 to 1948), served as President and helped the Society, and its members individually, in numerous ways throughout the period she was in Wellington. The Society is grateful to her for contributing the informal history, "Looking back over twenty-one years", printed on the following pages, and wishes her all the best in her new home at Lincoln.

with blood, sweat and tears! Articles had to be assembled and someone had to cut the stencils; then the cyclostyling was done at the Museum, more or less expertly. I remember one very inky tussle with the duplicator there, when much precious paper was spoiled. After this, according to the Minutes of 8 July, 1943, Dr. Oliver assured a Council meeting that the Museum's machine was "reliable if used properly" and it was decided to try again. Stapling parties were held at the Museum, at Botany Division or at someone's home, and invariably there were too many sheets of one page and too few of another. Then, as now, addressing and dispatching occupied the time of good-natured members. Later, and partly because of the Bulletin Fund, we graduated to having cyclostyling done, until costs began to approach what would cover proper printing.

The Garden Circle: Our keenest Bulletin enthusiast was Mrs. W. W. Samson. She it was who instituted the Bulletin Fund, building it up at first by selling seeds and rooted cuttings of native plants. At each meeting she set up a little table where she displayed her wares, provided by herself or donated by others. Her dual purpose of helping the Fund and fostering the growing of "natives" is seen also in her Garden Circle articles in early Bulletins.

Flower Shows: The Society hoped to assist with exhibitions of native flowers at the Museum, and our first big trip was to Mt. Holdsworth to collect for the 1940 show. Mr. Beddie took some of us in his "waggon" (a small truck), and the memory still lingers of a fast ride back over the Rimutakas with an unidentified part of the undercarriage trailing noisily along the ground—it proved to be not unconnected with the braking system! War interrupted the series of shows, and few have since been held at the Museum, though the Society has often sent specimens to the Cheeseman Memorial Show at the Auckland Museum, and more recently we have staged exhibits at horticultural shows in Wellington.

Meeting Places: After world events evicted us from the Dominion Museum we met in turn at the rooms of the Tararua Tramping Club in Waring Taylor Street, at the University Women's Club in Lambton Quay, at the National Club in Featherston Street, and then in the Botany Department of the University. Most of the down-town rooms had no projectors for slides and many were the last minute panics in case the borrowed lantern should not arrive; also some unfortunate council member, often without a car, had to return the cumbersome thing next morning. The National Club rooms saw our most ambitious social effort when we entertained (quite sumptuously) delegates to the Royal Society's Sixth Science Congress in 1947.

Outings and Weekends: Field trips—half-days, full days, weekends and Easter holidays—are probably what members recall most vividly and appreciatively. Dr. Morice has a list of localities visited, favourite ones many times. The coast, reserves large and small,

members' property, the Manawatu and the Wairarapa—all these we have explored with pleasure and profit, learning to know our district, our plants, and our fellow naturalists. We have been joined quite often by the Levin Native Flora Club, occasionally by school groups, and on longer trips by the University Biological Society. Everyone will remember amusing incidents, and I recollect only two rather serious mishaps: Mr. Bond, an elderly member, became ill in the Tauherenikau and had to be helped out: Mrs. Young broke an ankle bone in the bush on the steep slope above Waikanae, and a stretcher was made with poles through coat sleeves to carry her down.

Achievements: Looking back and remembering brings the natural question—what has the Society achieved in its first twenty-one years? Our object is “to encourage the study of botany in all its branches and particularly of plants native to New Zealand”. Our members have surely been encouraged to think and learn more about plants, and we have exchanged information that has led to records that might otherwise have been missed. Botany Division, for instance, has many herbarium specimens collected on the Society's excursions, or presented by members, and it has occasionally been able to recruit staff through the Society. Our membership, though never very large, must total some hundreds since 1939, including keen country members. The Bulletin, in its present form, is undoubtedly our most lasting success, a valuable permanent addition to botanical literature. The standard has been set and maintained by the editor, but the means to publish have been provided quite largely by individual members whose gifts are channelled through the Society.

The Future: Our first excursion was to Otari—the Open-Air Native Plant Museum established by Dr. Cockayne at Wilton's Bush. We have visited it repeatedly as a group, and have watched the great developments there under Mr. Brockie's expert hand. Botanically this is a priceless asset to Wellington and to New Zealand as a whole. It should always be a prime responsibility of the Wellington Botanical Society to promote interest in Otari, and to ensure that this wonderful reserve is used for the scientific purposes to which it has been dedicated, and for the instruction as well as for the delight of residents and visitors to Wellington. In this task and in all its undertakings, may the Society succeed and grow stronger, guided by officers as enthusiastic as those to whom it owes so much in the past.

Floreat Societas!

L. B. MOORE.



EDITOR'S NOTE

MEMBERS and others are invited to send in articles or notes, preferably illustrated with photographs or drawings, for publication in the next issue of the Bulletin. These should be in the hands of the Editor before August, 1962.