

E. G. (Ted) Gibbs of Wanganui

Ted Gibbs was in his 65th year when he died on 19th June, 1975. He was overseas with the Army during the last war and trained in radio work with them. On his return he worked at a plant nursery and then with a local radio shop for a number of years. He never married, and lived with his mother (who only shortly predeceased him) and several sisters. Latterly he worked spasmodically at Castlecliff wharf, and spent a great deal of time in his garden, which had always been a keen interest.

For many years Ted was a keen member of the Wanganui Camera Club, where his beautiful photographs were often exhibited. Natural history subjects photographed both in colour and monochrome were his particular strength, gaining him awards at exhibitions throughout New Zealand, and also overseas. He gradually began specialising in orchids as photographic subjects and was so enthusiastic about them that he would often go away and camp out for weekends to find and photograph a species that he had not previously recorded.

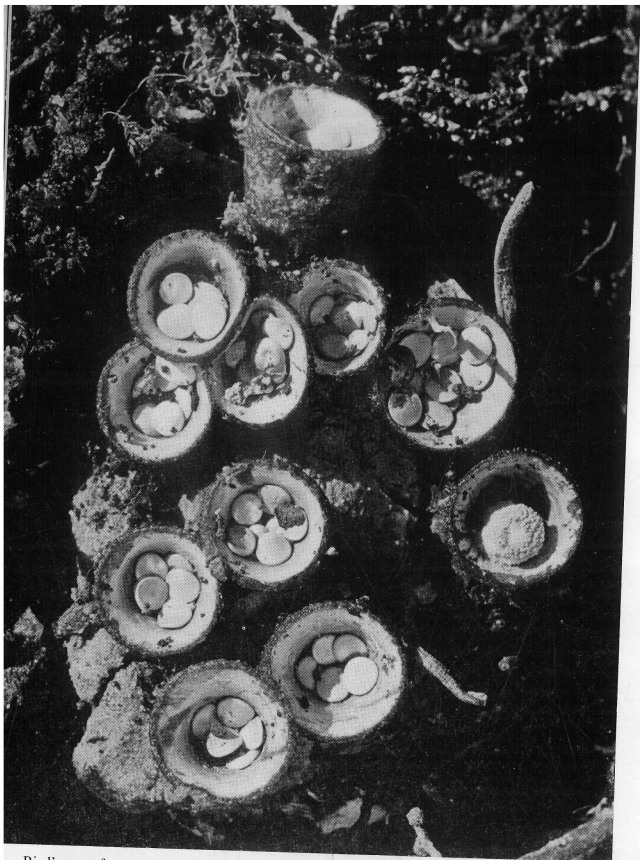
Not content just to photograph the native plants he saw, Ted started propagating them. With his "green fingers" most things grew so well that eventually his large vegetable garden disappeared under glasshouses, shadehouses and rows of potted plants. Hundreds of plants were given away. When he later became especially interested in orchids he successfully grew many of the New Zealand species before collecting and propagating exotic orchids. As his collection grew, part of his house had to be extended and glassed to hold the hundred of fine specimens, which have since been left to the Winter Garden at Virginia Lake. For a time he was president of the Wanganui Orchid Society.

From these hobbies Ted made many friends throughout New Zealand and also overseas. It was impossible not to be carried away by his enthusiasm and by the thoroughness with which he pursued his interests. His modest personality and enthusiasm will be sadly missed; fortunately his many fine prints and colour slides remain.

NEILL SIMPSON

YVONNE J. CAVE

Editor's Note: Ted Gibbs made his prints freely available for use in the *Bulletin*. From the large selection he offered were chosen the covers of Nos. 37, 38 and 39, and also the suite of photographs of alpine plants on Mt Ruapehu (*Bulletin* 77). Two close-up photographs of fungi accompany this obituary.



Bird's nest fungus (*Crucibulum vulgare*)

Photo: E. G. Gibbs