

LYCOPODIUM POWDER

The Plant Research Bureau's appeal for Lycopodium spores met with a ready response and some fourteen pounds (several gallons) were contributed by helpers from the Far North to Foveaux Strait. A point of botanical interest is that winter is the season of spore dispersal.

No. 3, Feb. 1942

XERONEMA FLOWERS AGAIN

Last year several members visited Seatoun to see Dr Oliver's Xeronema plant which then for the first time produced a spike of flowers. This year the same plant had three bright red inflorescences as large and showy as they are on the Poor Knights and Hen Islands to which the species is endemic.

No. 8, Jan. 1944

FUND FOR THE COCKAYNE MEMORIAL STONE

It was mentioned in the February 'Bulletin' that the Society had decided to contribute to a fund opened by the Forest and Bird Society to erect a memorial stone on Dr Cockayne's grave at Otari.

Receipt of the following amounts is acknowledged: Mr A. D. Beddie, £5; Dr I. V. Newman, £2; Miss M. Peebles, 2s 6d; Mr H. Harris, 10/-; Mr F. E. Wilkin 6/-; Miss M. M. Johnston, 11/6; Dr Greta Cone, £1.1.0; Mr S. Duncan, £1; Dr Isabel Morice, 10/-; Mrs I. D. Parson, £1.1.0; Mr I. D. Parsons, £1.1.0; Anonymous donations brought the total up to £16.3.0, for forwarding to the Forest and Bird Society. Many of our members contributed directly to the main fund, and their names may be seen in the published list.

Following an announcement in the Forest and Bird Magazine, which was quoted in the daily press, that it was proposed to expend some or all of the fund on the erection of a bird bath at Otari, our Annual General Meeting decided to send a protest and to offer an alternative suggestion for the use of any surplus funds after the main objective had been achieved. A copy of the letter to the Forest and Bird Society follows:

''At the Annual General Meeting of our Society a resolution was passed that this Society should inform the Executive of the Forest and Bird Protection Society that we are not in favour of the erection of a bird bath as a memorial to the late Dr L. Cockayne. We believed when we subscribed to the fund that the money would be used firstly for marking the grave by erecting a simple inscribed stone.

We suggest that any surplus funds might be used for establishing a one-roomed museum-library at the Otari Open Air Plant Museum. It was the opinion of the meeting that exhibits and books about native plants displayed in this manner at Otari would add considerably to the educational value of the park, which had been established through the efforts of the late Dr Cockayne mainly for the purpose of interesting and educating the public in the New Zealand vegetation.''

Those of our members who have contributed directly to the Forest and Bird fund may like to write individually to that Society indicating which suggestion they prefer. Anyone who has visited Otari will know how useful it would be to see there at least Dr Cockayne's scheme for the development of the Reserve.

No. 14, Aug. 1946

MEMBERS' EVENING 16.12.46

Many members contributed exhibits to the December meeting. The President and Mrs Newman had

brought along a series of Australian plants, and some New Zealand relatives for comparison.

A comparative set of Pittosporum twigs had been prepared and mounted by Mr R. Green, a country member. They were displayed on his behalf by Dr Cone, who had herself brought some fine pen and ink drawings as a sample of what she has done towards a popular fern book to be published shortly.

Mr Morris Jones, Mr Beddie and Mr Duncan contributed from their gardens a wealth of fresh specimens including Scutellaria novae-zealandiae, the hybrid Senecio Alfred Atkinson, Edwardsia longicarinata, hybrids between Aristotelia fruticosa and A. racemosa, and a particularly fine series of flowering manukas.

Mrs Samson had made three posies; a patriotic one of red manuka, white renga lily and purple-blue Hebe speciosa; a Hebe one of H. matthewsii, H. diosmaefolia, and red H. speciosa; and perhaps the most attractive, a third of Acaena novae-zealandiae var. pallida with large heads and bright red spines, and the fluffy grass Deyeuxia billardieri.

Miss Moore showed some excellent herbarium specimens made by children of eleven and fourteen years, pupils of the Warkworth District High School; also specimens, sent by Mr Michie from Kaitaia, of a 'giant' Pomaderris phyllicaeifolia, of which he has found a patch of several thousand plants - a novelty awaiting formal record.

Miss Hodgson had brought from Wallaceville hill a series of orchids of the genus Thelymitra, including not only the common and well-known T. longifolia var. alba and the less familiar T. pauciflora but also T. caesia, known hitherto only from near Auckland and T. decora previously recorded from nowhere south of the Volcanic Plateau. Miss Hodgson is to be congratulated on these extensions of records and also to be thanked for her observation that Pterostylis barbata was

abundant on Wallaceville hill this spring.

No. 15, March 1947

MIRAMAR GULLY

The August excursion, attended by about twenty people was an afternoon trip to the gully beyond the Miramar tram terminus. The vegetation has changed much since Buchanan wrote of it in (Trans. NZI vol. 5, 1872) but the remnant of native scrub has escaped burning over a considerable number of years and now shows a fair range of species, about sixty being noted.

Species characteristic of the exposed coastal rocks here grow more luxuriantly, for example Phormium colensoi, Hymenanthera crassifolia, Olearia solandra, Macropiper excelsa, Poa anceps, Aciphylla squarrosa, and especially Coprosma propinqua, which in the broader of the two valleys forms considerable thickets of shoulder-high, twiggy bushes. Hybrids between this species and C. robusta are abundant: C. lucida is also present, and C. rhamnoides was covered with translucent ruby-red berries. Pittosporum tenuifolium that had been planted freely in the grassy floor of one valley was not seen growing naturally.

Conspicuous exotics were broom, the yellow-flowered daisy bush Osteospermum moniliferum (bush tick berry), Pinus radiata, and Berberis darwinii, the last-named a garden escape that is becoming naturalized rather freely in a number of places about Wellington.

No. 17, Oct. 1947

XERONEMA - THE ISLAND LILY

At the September meeting Dr Oliver announced that his plant of Xeronema callistemon promises this year to produce ten flower heads probably out in late October or November. Members are invited to inspect the plant at Seatoun then.

No. 17, Oct. 1947

Twenty members left Wellington on the Friday night and camped at the foot of Holdsworth. On Saturday everyone climbed up the track to Powell Hut at the bush-line, and most of the party continued on to the top of Holdsworth in spite of thick mist and drizzle. The night was spent at the hut and on Sunday morning small parties sallied forth into the mist, among the tussocks, down the steep rocky faces and into the beech forest below, in search of plants and specimens, and to photograph and take note of the vegetation.

Many of the alpine plants were in flower: edelweiss, gentians and euphrasia (E. cuneata near the hut, E. revoluta further up in the boggy ground); Olearia lacunosa, Dracophyllum uniflorum and Hebe evenosa. Down in the forest there was enargia in flower, astelia (A. solandri), bush violet (V. filicaulis) and mountain flax.

Most of the orchids were over on Pig Flat where in season countless thousands of brilliant blue thelymitras (T. uniflora) may be seen - only a few remained at this time. Dendrobium and gastrodia were seen in flower in the bush and Prasophyllum colensoi up in the tussock.

The rather uncommon Celmisia graminifolia was found in the tussock by several of the party, and the rare forget-me-not Myosotis astoni seen a short distance from the hut, for the first time apparently, since its original discovery by Mr Aston and W. Townson nearly forty years ago.

The bush immediately below the Powell Hut was seen to be seriously damaged by animals. Olearia and Nothopanax spp. were dead or dying and in general little undergrowth remained. With most of the silver beech trees fully grown and few young trees coming on, one scarcely dares visualize what the slopes will be like in a few score years.

It was interesting to observe several stages of silver beech regeneration near Pig Flat, where fires have several times spread up the northern spurs. Manuka-kamahi scrub first covers the burnt slopes. Young beech trees come up through the scrub and eventually form silver beech-kamahi forest, with the dead trunks of manuka still standing.

Quite a number of alpine plants were gathered, and those collected by Mr Brockie will eventually form a valuable addition to the rock garden he is now making at Otari.

About midday on Sunday the party returned through the bush to the truck, packed themselves in somehow or other and endured clouds of dust rolling into the back for what seemed a hundred miles, but it was worth it!

H. M. D. and A. P. D. No. 18, March 1948

COMMENTS FROM AN EARLY VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr F. S. Pope, one of the Society's first Vice-Presidents (1939-41) now lives at 4 Maleme Avenue, Belmont, Auckland. He writes to say how our Society's work and its bulletins impress him as he enters his 80th year of age. 'New Zealand must continue to be, to a rapidly increasing extent, one of the world's main sources of soil products, and also one of its principal resorts for recreational travel; therefore botany and botanists have a most important part to play in its maintenance and development. That being so, I feel that the Society can do a great work in stimulating the zeal of its members in a large variety of ways, and moreover that it has made an excellent beginning in the performance of that work. The Bulletins in particular strike me as being remarkably good. I am not competent to criticise them botanically; but I can congratulate all concerned upon the good style in which they are

written, some passages being of distinct literary, and even poetical, merit, and the consistently correct spelling of the botanical names being a pleasing feature throughout. If I may make a small suggestion, it would be that, for the sake of the occasional layman reader, more use should be made of vernacular names, not, of course, instead of the scientific names, but in addition to them. May abundant success attend the work of the Society!"

No. 19, Aug. 1948

"Orchids do not thrive on gorse-covered hillsides - neither do botanists."

A. P. Druce No. 22, March 1950

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 1949), 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.

LOOKING BACK OVER TWENTY-ONE YEARS

The Wellington Botanical Society was born at the Dominion Museum on Thursday, 18 July, 1939, and owes its origin to Dr W. R. B. Oliver, who was then Director of the Museum. He was our first President; and the Secretary, Miss V. Norman, the Treasurer, Miss P. Self, and one council member, Miss K. Pickmere, were on the Museum staff. Our Vice-Presidents were: Dr H. H. Allan, director of Botany Division, D.S.I.R.; Mr W. H. Field, MP for Otaki and a relative of H. C. Field, author of the well-known

fern book; Mrs Knox Gilmer, a member of several local bodies and of the Beautifying Society; Prof. H. B. Kirk, of the Biology Department of Victoria University College; Mr J. G. McKenzie, Director of Parks and Reserves; and Mr F. S. Pope, of the Wellington Horticultural Society.

The Museum was our first home where we held all our indoor gatherings until, in June, 1942, "owing to the Dominion Museum being taken over by the Military, the Society would be unable to meet for lectures in the Lecture Hall and Botany room for the duration". Memories of early days inevitably centre round the Museum with its director our kindly host - indeed Dr Oliver's enthusiastic support for the Society lasted right up till his death in 1957.

The pattern of activities was laid down early - field days on the first Saturday (an arrangement that has held almost ever since), and lectures in the third week of the month. Study circles also met monthly when we got together round a big table in the herbarium, examining specimens, pictures and books. Topics and leaders included: N.Z. ferns, Mrs M. M. Martin; N.Z. trees as hedges, Mr J. G. Stirling; poisonous plants of New Zealand, Mr D. Cairns; the family Leguminosae, Miss R. Mason; weeds, Mr V. D. Zotov; plants of the Tararuas, Mr M. E. Roberts; lichens, Dr H. H. Allan. Sometimes the specimens were those collected on an excursion a few days before.

The Bulletin: An ambitious idea (revived in another form in 1946) was to collaborate with the Auckland Botanical Society, and perhaps other groups, to produce a periodical, either sharing every number, or each taking responsibility for certain issues. We even chose a name, "The New Zealand Botanist", and it is perhaps to be regretted that no joint scheme emerged; in the last twenty years a popular botanical magazine could have done good work. The estimated cost of £6 for 300 copies of 8 pages being beyond our means, we set out with a modest cyclostyled pamphlet. The

first Bulletin, June, 1941, with just enough copies for members, sold at 3d each, to pay for paper. Although the only promise was that notes would be "issued as frequently as possible", it was secretly hoped that Bulletins might appear quarterly. In fact we managed at least two, and sometimes three, numbers annually, with a total of 18 in seven years - almost 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 cutting 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 tips 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 No. 32, Dec. 1961



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, Miss B. Kelly, Miss E. Matheson, Mrs V. M. Crombie (FM), 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 (FM).

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

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 (FM).



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

Photograph opposite:

Miss L. B. Moore cuts the cake at the 21st birthday celebrations of the Wellington Botanical Society.

Photo: M. D. King.

(Photograph next page)

BOTANICAL OUTING, May 3rd, 1947, E P S Bridge, Ohau R.

Combined Wellington Botanical Society and Levin NZ Native Flora Club.

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| 1. Miss M M Neumann, (W, V-P) | 23. Mrs H Harris (W) |
| 2. Mr W (Bill) Nockels (L) | 24. Miss N Dobson (W) |
| 3. Mr A D Beddie (W) | 25. Mr W J Stratford (L) |
| 4. Dr I Morice (W) | 26. Mr A S Wilkinson (L) (W) |
| 5. Mrs Bryce (L) | 27. Miss Mundt (W) |
| 6. Mr Nockels (L) | 28. |
| 7. Mr I D Parsons (L Pres) (W) | 29. Mr M Dalton (L) |
| 8. Dr Oliver (W) | 30. Mr H Harris (W) |
| 9. Mrs F C Duguid (L Sec) (W) | 31. Mr A L Poole (W) |
| 10. Mr W H Griffiths (L, V-P) | 32. Dr G B Cone (W, V-P) |
| 11. Miss L B Moore (W) | 33. Mrs M Dalton (L) |
| 12. Mrs I D Parsons (L) (W) | 34. Miss Joan Bagrie (L) |
| 13. Mrs W H Griffiths (L) | 35. Harry Stratford (L) |
| 14. Miss Hutson (W Sec) | 36. Mrs Morris (L) |
| 15. Miss Twisleton (L) | 37. Mr R W Evans (L) |
| 16. Mr R Kean (W) | 38. Mrs R W Evans (L) |
| 17. Miss Hislop (W) | 39. Miss M M Johnston (W Treas) |
| 18. Miss Stratford (L) | 40. Ian Newman (W) |
| 19. Mrs R Fenton (W) | 41. Mrs I V Newman (W) |
| 20. Mrs Stewart (L) | 42. Miss A D Crawford (W) |
| 21. Mr R Fenton (W) | 43. Dr E A Flint (W) |
| 22. Mrs W W Samson (W) | |

Photo by Dr I V Newman (W Pres)

