

Norman S. Sutherland

When Norman became a member of the Society it was not long before his enthusiasm and keenness to learn about plants earned him the respect of other members. That it was not just a passing interest showed when, in 1978, he enrolled, together with three other members, for the School Certificate Biology Course at Hagley High School and then continued with University Entrance Biology the following year. His desire for knowledge was an encouragement to other members, even leaders of monthly outings, to make greater efforts to learn and expound their knowledge of things botanical.

As an engineer, the highlight of his career was perhaps, the three months he spent with the World Bank in the Phillipines. To us, however, he displayed his conviction as a conservationist by; a narrowing of a footpath which gave a tree in Memorial Avenue 15 years of extra life; the preservation of the swimming hole, with its associated geological and botanical interest, at Marble Point on the way to Hanmer; and that slight bend in Reserve Road, Amberley, so that we still enjoy that magnificent bluegum.

In recent years the history and geology of the Mt Somers area became of real interest to him, one result of which is the only researched, authoritative, published account of the 'Staveley Diamonds'

Contributions he made to the Society include the survey of Tottys Bush, when it was decided at a Summer Camp at Staveley to make a checklist and to add Tottys Bush to the list of projects. He also contributed articles to the Journal on a variety of subjects: More Plants in Shakespeare, 14:17, New Zealand Plants in Inverewe Garden, Scotland, 15:44, and Hygrophoropsis umbriceps, a rarely collected, handsome toadstool 16:51.

By the terms of his will the Society was bequeathed \$2000 to be used for some suitable project. Many members enjoyed his company and it was noticeable that he was always the centre of an interested and interesting group. The handsome bequest makes us sure that Norman had a special place for the Society in his scheme of things and enjoyed the company of the members.

Ross Elder