



**Lucy Beatrice Moore, MBE, D.Sc.,
F.L.S., F.R.S.N.Z. 1906-1987**

'Dr LUCY'

As a society member - by Ross Elder

Dr Lucy Beatrice Moore died on the 9 June 1987. She joined the Society in its early years, served as a committee member 1969-70, and for most of the 70's was the Society's Patron, but decided, when she left Lincoln to live in Warkworth; patrons should be local not absentee members. The epithet 'Dr Lucy' by which she was called, was particularly appropriate. She held our respect and admiration by her botanical knowledge and by her willingness and ability to impart it so freely, as signified by the Doctor; and our love and affection by the Lucy.

It was on outings or summer camps that Lucy's strength and value to the Society became obvious. Within minutes, sometimes right at the door of the bus, there was generally an interested group examining some botanical find; admiring, asking and being asked questions, with Lucy at the centre. She was particular good with children and always a very close and worthwhile relationship was established. I can remember on one trip being led by a six year old to an orchid, *Pterostylis*, and shown how the labellum trips when touched with a grass stem. On enquiring where she had found out this fascinating piece of knowledge, came the answer, 'From my friend, Dr Lucy.' For those interested there is an account of this mechanism in Moore and Irwin, 'The Oxford Book of New Zealand Plants' p194. The following quotation is from this account. 'The tripping mechanism for cross-pollination interested Charles Darwin and invariable fascinates children.'

With change of president in 1969 she allowed herself to be elected to the committee. In retrospect this seems as though it was just another step in a well thought out plan. Your editor was the president and immediately realised that certain steps had already taken place. At Easter 1967, my wife and I were, at the invitation of Lucy, allowed the privilege of attending the Wellington Botanical Society's field trip to the Black Birch Range, Marlborough. It was at the second or third committee meeting, in those times monthly, that a question came from Lucy, 'Where will the summer camp be Mr Chairman.' Some of the committee members had perplexed looks on their faces, and looked even more perplexed, when back came immediately, 'Black Birch Range, of course.'

It was during that year that the present set-up of the Society, mainly suggested by Lucy, was established, the monthly newsletter, monthly outings, and summer camps. As well there was a drive to increase the membership, necessary for financial stability. The Society owes a lot to Lucy.

The following two talks were given at Lucy's funeral and we felt both were worthy of being recorded

As a member of the Moore family -by Brian Moore (Lucy's nephew)

We are gathered here today to remember a very special lady, Lucy Beatrice Moore. Some have travelled from far away, others not so far, to pay their respects to one, who, in one way or another has meant so much to us.

Lucy was born into a family with a rich pioneer heritage. Early forebears included the Morrison family who arrived in 1842, the Melville family in 1858, the Blomfield family in 1863, and young William Moore who emigrated at the age of 1864 - two families each from Scotland and England.

Lucy often paid tribute to her parents Harry and Janet Moore and the way in which they brought her up. Principles established in her in those early years stood her in good stead throughout the rest of her life.

Primary school for Lucy was at Warkworth along with her three older brothers and sister. She did so well at school that it was thought prudent that she attend High School. At that time it was necessary to attend one of the Auckland schools to complete one's High School education. Thus she attended Epsom Girls Grammar School as a day student and boarded with her aunt in Epsom. It was while at Epsom that she met a wider range of cousins and also established a friendship with Kath Cruikshank, known to us as Kath Lyons, who is leading our service today. Trips back and forth to see her family were by steamer up the East Coast then up the Mahurangi river to Warkworth.

When Lucy left Grammar her two best subjects were French and Latin and she had ideas of furthering her French studies. Accordingly she enrolled at Auckland University. On the advice of someone else she took up Botany and stayed with it for the rest of her life. She attended University from the mid to the late 20's. 1929 was the year she did her thesis and as this did not require her to be at varsity full time, she earned some pocket money working for her Aunt Margaret and Uncle Tom at Hobsonville. She lived in with the Clarke family and travelled by boat down to the university only when she needed to.

The 1930's saw her established in her career and take her first big overseas trip. She stayed first, in London to take in the usual tourists sights. When I was in London not two years ago, quite by coincidence, my sixth floor window looked down on the adjacent street where Lucy had stayed fifty years previously. So much had changed in the fifty years because of the post war building programme, but with London's history going back two thousand years, fifty seemed like only yesterday. When ever I looked out of the window I had a reminder of home and family. Likewise, while walking in Kew Gardens and across Plymouth I thought of Lucy being there, completing assignments.

Following her stay in London, Lucy travelled about Europe and noted at first hand in Germany how Hitler was preparing the young people of the Third Reich for what was to become the tragic second world war.

During the war years Lucy helped in Government research to make use of native resources, seeing overseas trade had all but ceased. In particular she had among other things to investigate the viability of using agar seaweed as a food additive and the extract as an emulsifier for indigenous deserts and medical uses.

In the late 1940's Lucy was living in Wellington at her flat in Kelburn in the basement of Great Aunt Mary Talyor's house. By this time some of the nephews and nieces were old enough to come and visit or even stay. I wonder how many of you remember her at Kelburn - ninety-seven steps down from street level, the very tiny kitchen, and the bathroom arrangements.

When the DSIR moved from Wellington to Lincoln, Lucy went there too and bought a little cottage in West Belt in which to live. Always there was a warm welcome for everyone, but especially for family.

Lucy stayed at Lincoln not only until she retired officially, but till she had no more work to do that required the resources available to her at the DSIR. one major publication (out of several during her life time) was the Oxford Book of New Zealand Plants, published in 1978. This was but one publication of many Oxford University commissioned to celebrate the founding of The Oxford University Press in 1478. After this followed one or two other projects and then in her mid seventies she returned to the family home, Huamara, at Wilson Road, Warkworth, However, Lucy did not know what the word 'retire' meant. Warkworth folk opened their hearts to Lucy and she became acquainted with a younger generation who had grown up while she was away. The result was that Lucy lead a very busy and social life at Warkworth becoming involved again with the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, the Beautifying Society, the Warkworth District Museum, friends of the Mahurangi, and many others. It was a pleasure to be able to travel by bus to see her sister Hilda and more lately to phone her regularly. Huamara was always open house to the growing family of nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, cousins and their families.

The family is very grateful to the people of Warkworth especially in recent years when Lucy was living at home by herself. Thank you for offering her transport to the shops, popping in and keeping an eye on her, and helping out in so many ways.

May I close with one or two personal illustrations to indicate the type of person Aunty Lucy was to me and so many of us. When I went to stay with her in her Wellington flat for part of my summer holidays, she showed me once how to get to her office on The Terrace, but after that she left it to me to find my own way. This allowed me to explore all the byways and make the journey from flat to office a real adventure for an eleven year old lad from the country. She arranged for me to meet some children my own age who lived on the side of Mt Victoria. The high light of the visit was a walk up Mt Victoria to fly box kites.

These were bought ones and far superior to my attempts at home to fly kites made from brown paper and fishing line. Then another day Lucy arranged to go to Island Bay and get some pauas which are collected from under water level. The local lads were diving for them and that night we had paua fritters for tea. Obviously the whole holiday time had been thought out and the things suitable for the guest organised. This illustrates her thoughtfulness for other people. Lucy often denied herself in order that family and friends might have a happier stay or a more pleasant trip. This consideration for others was with her all through life.

As I grew older I was able to relate to her on an adult basis and she became a friend as well as an Aunt. I was able to talk many things over with her, learning from her wisdom and experience. Whether it was writing a family history or getting established in business Lucy was always interested in the practical arrangements and was willing to help out when help was needed and I know that many of my cousins would say the same thing. During her last years at Warkworth we were able, as a family, to spend Christmas day with her. Always there would be Christmas presents for her from around the world, Switzerland, Norway, England, U.S.A., Australia. She had a wide range of friends, ex pupils, ex colleagues, who sent her warm wishes each Christmas. Lucy was loved by so many. The people she kept in contact with was amazing. This was because basically she was interested in people.

We have not mentioned her MBE, or other worthy awards she received, we have not mentioned her physical fitness and walking strength, nor her mental agility - but all these add up to the one who made us each feel special, because she herself was special.

As a professional scientist - by Ross Beever

I have been asked by the family to recall with you some aspects of Dr Lucy Moore's life as a professional scientist. I feel very humbled by this invitation, speaking as it were on behalf of the New Zealand botanical community.

I first met Lucy Moore when I visited Botany Division, Lincoln, as a schoolboy with the Auckland Botanical Society in 1963. At the time I had with me a living plant of the rare northern orchid, *Yoania australis*, for her to study. It helped to establish a botanical friendship, and I became one of Lucy's 'scouts' - the name she gave to friends around the country who kept a lookout for interesting plants for her. Her's was one of the influences which encouraged me to pursue botanical studies through university and into a career with DSIR.

During her career Lucy Moore accomplished an impressive amount of research in a variety of fields. I can only touch on some of the highlights. Her career in science had three main themes:

First as a marine zoologist: After a botanical degree she began work as a zoologist, researching barnacles and also studying sea shore ecology with her life long friend - the second of the two botanical Lucys - Dr Lucy Cranwell. In 1938 she joined Botany Division in Wellington, and during the second world war she was, as she described it, 'pitchforked' into research on red algae looking for species that contained the agar needed for medical research.

The second theme in Lucy Moore's career was as an ecologist: She and Lucy Cranwell pioneered study of the effect of introduced animals on native forest with their work on the higher parts of the Coromandel Ranges. In the 1940's she undertook responsibility for Botany Division's study of the revegetation of the Molesworth Station in Marlborough. The scope of this latter project can be gauged by noting that the station covers some 700 square miles, and the observations were continued for 27 years.

The third theme of her career was concerned with taxonomy (the classification and naming of plants): In her earlier years she studied widely: algae, mosses, liverworts, and flowering plants all received attentions. Although with time she turned more and more to the flowering plants she retained interest in the cryptogams. When my wife Jessica took up the study of mosses, she was much encouraged by Lucy Moore who was able to relocate her fifty-year old field notes to answer questions of Jessica's on the mosses of the northern islands. Her name lives on in the rare northern moss *Tortella mooreae*.

Her greatest scientific contribution is probably her taxonomic work on the New Zealand vascular plants, of which she described many new species. She assisted the late Dr H.H. Allan with Volume I of the definitive Flora of New Zealand series, published in 1961, and undertook the major responsibility for Volume II which she wrote with Dr Elizabeth Edgar, who has come up from DSIR Lincoln to be with us today.

To all her science she brought an enthusiasm and dedication, a clarity of thought, and an ability at clear concise writing. As well she showed great stamina, both for field work - as for example in reascending her loved Te Moehau while in her mid-60's - and also for the discipline of writing - her Molesworth bulletin for example being completed in her retirement. In her address given on receiving the Marsden Medal for service to science she selected the following definition of science:

'Science is a matter of character, a matter of denial and firm compliance. It is a matter of integrity, of steadfastness, of honest conviction, and of infinite will to achieve'.

While there is much in this definition that applies to Lucy Moore's attitude to science, her life was as you know much more lively and interesting than that definition allows.

Lucy Moore had a particular ability to infect amateurs with her love of botany and she was a foundation member of both the Auckland and Wellington societies and an honorary life member of the Canterbury Botanical Society. She enjoyed teaching people in the field and would spend time with anyone who showed interest. As Alan Esler pointed out to me yesterday, she did not just tell a questioner the name of a plant. Rather she would ask 'Well what do you think it is? How many petals has it got?', thus drawing out an answer as a skilled teacher does. Since her return to her home at Warkworth she maintained a lively interest in local botany encouraging local botanists and leading field trips.

Lucy Moore's contributions to science have been recognised by the many honours bestowed upon her. I will mention only a few. She was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1947, and received the Society's Hutton Memorial Medal in 1965, 'For outstanding services to systematic and applied botany in New Zealand'. In 1959 she received an MBE, and in 1962 a Doctorate of Science from the University of Canterbury.

All of those who knew her will retain fond memories of Lucy Moore. In addition she lives on in her published works which will continue to be consulted by future generations of botanists who were not privileged to know her personally.

Lucy Moore was a humble person and she would not have approved a long eulogy. In closing I wish to quote to you a sentence that she selected in writing a guest editorial for the New Zealand Journal of Botany to celebrate the jubilee of DSIR. She quoted the late C.D. Darlington an eminent professor of Oxford botany as follows:

'There is no kind of intellectual life which is not touched, or could not be touched by the study of plants or - should we say? - botany'.

I suggest to you that there are few aspects of New Zealand botanical research that have not been touched by the researches of our friend and colleague Dr Lucy Moore.