

Editorial

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This is the first editorial I have written for the *Canterbury Botanical Society Journal* during my five years as editor. One reason for writing is to apologise for the delay in publishing the 1992 journal, which you will not receive until early 1993. Trips to Australia and a temporary residence in Hokitika seem to have slowed things down. Hopefully the 1993 will arrive on time!

It has been a good year for the Society with an active programme including interesting speakers and a good number of field trips and camps (see annual report). But this last year has also been a time of substantial change for New Zealand botany, especially with the major restructuring of government funded science. What has long been regarded by most members as the centre of New Zealand botany, DSIR Botany Division, has been through a series of rapid changes culminating in the formation of the new Crown Research Institute, Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd. (Mannaki Whenua). While some uncertainties still lie ahead, I am sure you will all join me in wishing the new Institute well, and hope that it will continue to serve New Zealand botany as well as its predecessors have.

The strong interest in conservation has continued to grow over the last year, with the signing of the Rio de Janeiro Biological Diversity Convention being a major landmark (see separate article). In New Zealand, the Department of Conservation is now undertaking strategic planning exercises (Atawhai Ruamano and Conservation Management Strategies) which incorporate many of the principles set out in this Convention. Atawhai Ruamano is the Department's vision for the year 2000, while Conservation Management Strategies (CMS) are 10-year plans for each of the Department's conservancies (there are separate CMS's being prepared for Canterbury and West Coast for example). Both of these planning exercises will provide a longer time-frame to guide conservation management, and the CMS process in particular involves considerable public input.

In this editorial I also want to emphasise the importance of our local botanical society journal. While we have a *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter*, and the professional botanical journals such as *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, I believe that the *Canterbury Botanical Society Journal* has an important role to play, both as a record of our Societies activities and to document the flora and vegetation of Canterbury. The journal is also important as it provides a means for all members, amateur and professional, to publish their botanical observations. I hope that future issues will continue our tradition of an interesting mixture of scientific articles, short comments, field trip reports and species lists. So please send your articles in now for the 1993 issue.