

EDITORIAL

During 1997 our resources were put into the preparation of the text of a book on the influence of Etienne Raoul on Canterbury botany 1840-1996. This book, a special publication of the Society (and Manuka Press), has now been printed and distributed, at a subsidised price, to those members of the Society who want it. The book represents a major milestone in our publication efforts. To fulfil various obligations copies have gone to libraries, museums, the French Embassy etc. The remainder will be sold through Manuka Press. We also printed additional copies of Josephine Ward's chapter in the book, on the genus *Raoulia*. It is very well illustrated, with colour pictures. Copies of it and of Hugh Wilson's chapter on the vegetation history of Banks Peninsula are available for sale. Enquiries should be made to the Treasurer of the Society. Many people contributed towards the successful publication of the Raoul book, not least the authors. However, I wish to express deep gratitude to Richard Broadhead and Colin Webb of Manuka Press for their fine tuning work during the editorial process. Anne McCaw deserves praise too, for her attractive cover design for the book.

As the work for the Raoul book was onerous and the project quite costly it was decided not to print an ordinary annual journal for 1997. The present volume, No. 32, continues the annual series (and contains the annual reports for the two previous years). Members may recall that, in fact, we printed two journals in 1996, No. 30, the Index for Journals No. 1-29, and the normal annual journal, No. 31. This year we are also printing a small booklet, by Hugh Wilson, on the introduced plants of Banks Peninsula, as a special publication.

The Society's Committee believes that the journal is an important means of recording and communicating our activities and interests, and the information about plants that we gather, to our own members, and a wider audience. Our journal brings prestige to the Society. The ability to produce a journal depends very much on the enthusiasm of individuals for writing appropriate material. As soon as one journal is printed it is necessary to begin to gather articles for the next one. It would be good to have more contributions from the rank and file members of the Society. They could include items other than factual botanical data. Poems, short, humorous pieces, drawings, reminiscences etc. would be very welcome. Please would members think hard about contributing something towards journal No. 33, 1999 and also journal No. 34, for the turn of the millennium - that could be an omnibus edition!

Our Society continues to be indebted to our good friend Hugh Wilson who has contributed yet another fine cover drawing for this year's Journal. We are also extremely grateful to Nancy Goh and Philippa Horn who typed the scripts.

Colin Burrows