

**Canterbury Botanical Society (NZ) Inc.
Forty-sixth Annual Report 1999**

Officers and Committee (1998-1999)

President: Bryony Macmillan

Vice-president: Colin Burrows

Secretary: Roger Keey

Treasurer: Ron Close

Committee: Officers and Mary Korver, Fiona Lees, Philippa Horn, Peter Wardle.

Newsletter Editor: John Ward

Auditor: Bob Abbott

Monthly Meeting Programme (1998-1999)

June: AGM and lunch

"Investigations into *Carex* in the mountains of north west Nelson" Kerry Ford

July: Members' Show and Tell evening

August: "The Christchurch City Council plant nursery" Joe Cartman

September: "What is a weed" Philippa Horn

October: "The family Proteaceae" John Lovis

November: Student presentations from Louise Cullen, "Climate and disturbance influences on *Nothofagus menziesii* treelines", and Nancy Willems, "Podocarp regeneration in forest fragments on Banks Peninsula".

November: "Biological control of plant pests" Trevor Partridge

February: Members' slides, featuring Nydia Bay; "Palm, cypress, and monkey puzzle-- the three giants of the Chilean forest" Peter Wardle; "Plants of some North American National Parks" David Holyoake.

March: "New Zealand plants in France" Warwick Harris

April: "Kaitorete Spit, its formation, flora and vegetation" Trevor Partridge

May: "Current taxonomic work in native dicotyledons" Peter Heenan

Field Trips and Camps

July: A beginners' workshop in botany. Philippa Horn

August: Visit to the Christchurch City Council plant nursery at Linwood. Joe Cartman

September: Castle Rock Reserve, Heathcote. Colin Burrows

October: Robert Johnson's tussock covenant at Ashley Gorge, and Lees Valley gorge road. Allen and Matthew Cookson

October: Weeding at Riccarton Bush. John Moore, Colin Burrows

November: Workshop on grasses, sedges, and rushes at South Brighton Park. Colin Burrows

December: Camp based at "Tree Tops", Hanmer Springs. Derek Cook, Roger Keey

January: Camp based at Nydia Bay Lodge, Pelorus Sound, with a visit to predator-free Maud Island. Roger Keey, Colin Burrows, Bryony Macmillan

February: Glentui River gorge. Allen and Matthew Cookson, Miles Giller

March: Omahu Bush Reserve, southern Port Hills. Colin Burrows

April: Cancelled because of strong southerly wind over Kaitorete Spit.

May: Visit to the herbarium, Landcare Research, Lincoln. Murray Parsons, Mary Korver

The Programme: This year there has been an emphasis on providing learning opportunities, and on recording the floras of recent reserves and covenants. We are grateful to all the speakers and field leaders listed above for their enthusiastic participation. At the summer camp in Nydia Bay the opportunities exceeded our expectation with the Department of Conservation Lodge sited in the forested reserve and with the resident caretaker able to advise on local tracks. We thank Colin Burrows for his botanical leadership, the results of which will be published in the Journal for 1999.

Acknowledgments: To John Ward, Ron and Julie Close, and Fiona Lees we owe the safe delivery of the monthly newsletter, and the maintenance of the membership list. Daphne and Miles Banks have provided supper, and Ann McMillan has managed the sales table at evening meetings for which we are grateful. This year Fiona Lees has designed individual name-tags which Mary Korver has organised into holders and racks for easy use.

A special tribute is paid to Ron Close who retires from the committee this year. Ron has been on the committee since 1989, as President 1990-1993, and as Treasurer since 1992. We thank Ron for his dedicated, efficient and sympathetic work for everyone's enjoyment of botany throughout those years, and Julie for her unflinching support. Philippa Horn is retiring from the committee this year. She has been minute secretary, and has set up our species-list data base, for which we thank her and wish her well as she embarks on a new career.

Membership: The membership remains stable with 259 individual members and 18 institutional ones. Seven new members have joined this year.

Publications: The society's special publication "Etienne Raoul and Canterbury Botany 1840-1996" was published in conjunction with Manuka Press in July 1998. Colin Burrows was the editor and Richard Broadhead editor and sales manager for Manuka Press. Jeanette Allen prepared the text and Anne McCaw the cover illustration. It is a 130 page A4 publication including the papers presented at our symposium held on 23 November 1996. Journal No.32 was published at the end of 1998, edited by Colin Burrows. It contains 16 articles and 10 of the authors are society members. In 1999 the society published a 51-page booklet by Hugh Wilson entitled "Naturalised Vascular Plants on Banks Peninsula" which includes 8 maps and line drawings.

Submissions: Review of the management plans of Mount Cook and Westland National Parks (Department of Conservation): Peter Wardle. New Zealand Biodiversity Draft Strategy (Ministry for the Environment and D.O.C.): Bryony Macmillan and Roger Keey attended a workshop and responded to a questionnaire. Draft recovery plan for *Muehlenbeckia astonii* (D.O.C.): Miles Giller. Clear-felling on Maori tribal land: a letter was sent to the Ministers of Conservation and Maori Affairs in support of sustainable logging of these forests as an alternative. The Bush Society: Peter Wardle commented on a draft "Plant Fact Sheet".

Awards: The Senior Bledisloe Trophy was presented to the Giller family at the A.G.M. 1998, in recognition of their energetic organisation of recent camps and their arrangement and leadership of the field programme. The Bledisloe Trophy will be presented to any person aged under thirty who is deemed to have presented the best talk or demonstration at a monthly meeting during the preceding calendar year.

Student support: The 1999 recipient of a student grant is Andrew McCall, Department of Plant and Microbial Sciences, University of Canterbury. The Society awarded book prizes to 3 students exhibiting at the Canterbury-Westland Science and Technology Fair in 1998. Val Richards and Neil O'Brien were our judges..

As outgoing President this year I thank all the officers and committee and members I have worked with who have made this such an enjoyable and interesting term.

Bryony Macmillan
May 1999