

CANTERBURY BOTANICAL SOCIETY (N.Z.) INC.

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

“To promote interest in the study of botany, especially that of New Zealand and in particular the native flora of Canterbury.”

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 2001 – 2002

Hon. President:	Peter Wardle
Hon. Vice President:	vacant
Hon. Secretary:	Roger Keey
Hon. Treasurer:	Trevor Blogg
Committee:	Colin Burrows, Bryony Macmillan, Susan Wisser
Newsletter:	John Ward

Subscriptions:	Individual membership \$20.00) reduced by \$5 if
	Family membership \$25.00) paid by 30 August
	Student membership \$15.00) each year

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Membership is open to anyone interested in any aspect of botany. We welcome enquiries.

Contact addresses and phone numbers:

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Professor R.B. Keey	PO Box 8212, Riccarton, Christchurch (The Society's box number) (03) 315-7510 (Hanmer) (03) 358-8513 (Christchurch) e-mail: r.keey@xtra.co.nz
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Trevor Blogg	(03) 338-1997
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Ordinary meetings of the Society are held on the evening (8 pm) of the first Friday of each month, in lecture room A5, University of Canterbury, Ilam (just south of the Law School carpark). A very wide range of botanical subjects is covered by invited speakers. Field excursions visit places of botanical interest on the following day. Workshops to help members become familiar with particular groups of plants, or other plant topics, are held from time to time. Highlight events are the early summer field camp (usually to a Canterbury venue) and the mid-summer field camp (often to locations in other parts of the South Island). Our society is a congenial one; lifetime friendships are formed.

The Society makes submissions to the relevant authorities on matters of concern in conservation, or the environment. A monthly newsletter keeps members informed about activities.

CANTERBURY BOTANICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

Editor: Warwick Harris,
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Members of the Society and others are invited to contribute Journal articles or notes, illustrated with photographs or drawings where appropriate. I am taking over as Editor from Colin Burrows who meritoriously undertook this role for eight years. The text for this issue has been assembled on my home computer and with the assistance of resources available to me as a Research Associate of Landcare Research. I am responsible for any deficiencies in the typing and formatting of the articles in this issue. Assembling this issue has involved a steep learning curve about the use and capabilities of electronic word-processing and has considerably increased my admiration for those who routinely undertake word-processing of botanical articles.

I reiterate Colin Burrows' statements that the Journal is an important part of the Society's activities and that it is a serious botanical publication. However, it is important that the Journal remains open to articles contributed by members who are not professional botanists. It is important to record how amateur botanists see plants and the communities they live in, especially as they do this with enthusiasm and with different perspectives from people with botanical qualifications. I am keen to assist bringing articles of this kind to publication even if this involves my slow conversion of a hand written article to an electronic word file.

The call for articles on the theme "Threatened Plants of Canterbury" had an excellent result and I thank all those who responded. The contributions received have been placed in order from an overview of plants in the province, to a particular look at Banks Peninsula, and thence a series of articles about particular threatened flowering plant species. Following these articles are accounts of efforts to enhance species diversity within a natural area and a home garden in Christchurch. Articles that follow add to the important records members of the Society have made over the years of the species of native and modified plant communities in Canterbury. A member's view of mountain plants in Norway adds to the variety of the journal. A tribute to Yvonne Elder underlines the lasting contributions made by enthusiastic members to the activities and history of Society, and after this there are accounts of the activities of the Society in 2000 – 2001.

The theme suggested for the 2002 Journal is "Threats to Native Plants in Canterbury." At first this may seem similar to the theme of the present Journal. What is meant is threats to native plants whether they be rare or common or in natural or garden environments. Any records of the influence of episodes of cold and drought on native plants in Canterbury in recent years would be most interesting. There are a host of possibilities of articles about the impact of weeds, like gorse, broom, and hawkweeds, on native plant communities. Members with long memories might like to recall native plant communities that have been replaced by city sub-divisions, agricultural developments and pine plantations. As well there are opportunities in the theme for good news stories about the protection and restoration of native plant communities. Definition of the theme is not intended to deter contributions on other topics and these will be very welcome.

Warwick Harris
December 2001