

YVONNE HILDA ELDER

Yvonne Hilda Elder (nee Riddle) died peacefully on August 3, 2001, at Woodchester Hospital Christchurch, after a long illness. The interesting life story of Ross and Yvonne Elder was written by Colin Burrows for the Society Journal in 1997. Yvonne was very actively involved in the Canterbury Botanical Society, both as a support for Ross when he was President, and also in her own right as a collector of plants and as a keeper of much botanical information. She was a fund of stories about her botanical experiences and field trips, and of her own rich, full life. The 46 Yvonne Elder collections that are on the CHR database to date are mainly from the mountains she loved and the most recent ones are voucher specimens for the Canterbury Botanical Society's project "New Zealand's small-leaved shrubs" (Wilson and Galloway 1993). Yvonne was very unassuming about her botanical skills and was always generous with her knowledge and extended her gracious hospitality to many. She was always encouraging to any of the younger people who joined the Society. She and Ross hosted several international botanists with whom they became friends. She never lost her love of travel both within New Zealand and abroad. Although her health did not allow travel in her later years, she continued to correspond with her many overseas friends. Over the years Yvonne was involved in eight published articles in the Society journal (*Canterbury Botanical Society Journal* 30: 24 (1996)) which indicate the wide ranging interests she had – from cooking with bull kelp to looking out for unusual, little, special plants in odd places. After Ross's death on 2 September 1996, Yvonne continued living at their home at 328 Centaurus Road for some time, tending the wonderful hillside garden that was special to them both and a delight for visitors, and fiercely maintaining her independence until her health declined and she needed care. Her gentle, caring presence will be sorely missed by her friends in the Canterbury Botanical Society.

Continuing the "Ross and Yvonne Elder story"

In the late 1980's Ross became very interested in small-leaved *Coprosma* species, collecting them and learning to distinguish them one from another. Many of his collections of these small-leaved species were deposited in the Herbarium CHR and formed the basis of new information that contributed to the study of the small-leaved shrubs so ably supported by the Canterbury Botanical Society members and authored by Hugh Wilson and Tim Galloway (1993). Ross' interest in the small-leaved *Coprosma pseudocuneata* led to the discovery that this botanical name had not been correctly published according to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. A few months before he died, Ross co-authored with Phil Garnock-Jones a paper that put this situation to right (Garnock-Jones and Elder 1996). At Ross' funeral, Murray Parsons, the Keeper of the Herbarium CHR at the time, announced that he had heard from the botanist-in-charge of author abbreviations at Kew Gardens, Dr Richard Brummitt, that the botanical author abbreviation for Ross Elder's name would be simply Elder, without any initials or other qualification.

REFERENCES

- Burrows, Colin 1997: The Ross and Yvonne Elder Story. *Canterbury Botanical Society Journal* 31: 25–29.
- Garnock-Jones, PJ; Elder, R. 1996: Nomenclatural validation of *Coprosma pseudocuneata* (Rubiaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 34(1): 139–140.
- Wilson, Hugh; Galloway, Tim 1993: Small-leaved Shrubs of New Zealand. Christchurch, Manuka Press. 307 p. and maps.

MURRAY PARSONS AND BRYONY MACMILLAN



Coprosma pseudocuneata. (del. Emily S. Harris based on an illustration by Audrey Eagle).