

**CANTERBURY BOTANICAL SOCIETY (NZ) INC.  
FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT 2001**

**Officers and Committee (2000-2001)**

<b>President:</b>	Peter Wardle
<b>Vice-president:</b>	vacant
<b>Secretary:</b>	Roger Keey
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mary Korver
<b>Committee:</b>	Colin Burrows, Bryony Macmillan, Claire Newell, Chris Shaw.
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	John Ward
<b>Auditor:</b>	Bob Abbott

**Monthly Meeting Programme (2000-2001)**

June: AGM and lunch

"Probing a peaty paradise on New Zealand subantarctic Islands - Part II". Janet Wilmshurst and Matt McGlone.

July: "Our Grass Flora: value for money, or value for weight". Henry Connor.

August: "Cell engineering: what happened to cells long before genetic modification technology". Jack Heinemann.

September: "Threatened plants of Canterbury". Nick Head.

October: "The Craigieburn exotic plantings, and the implications of wilding establishment".

Nick Ledgard. Student talk: "Tree photosynthesis in Okarito Forest". Jessie Wells.

November: No meeting.

December: "Wetlands among the sand dunes, Ashworth Ponds". Trevor Partridge.  
Student talk: "Snow algae at Arthurs Pass". Phil Novis.

March: "Indigenous forest on SILNA (South Island Landless Native Act) lands".  
Norma Devoe.

April: "Forest on shaky islands: how New Zealand's forests contend with disturbance". Peter Bellingham.

May: "General overview of the genus *Dracophyllum*, with special reference to New Zealand". Fanie Venter.

**Field Trips and Camps**

July: Botany of central Christchurch. Colin Burrows.

August: Landcare Research gardens, Lincoln. Peter Wardle.

September: Plains grassland at West Melton Army Range. Nick Head.

October: The Craigieburn exotic plantings. Nick Ledgard.

November: Three-day camp at Edward Percival Field Station, Kaikoura. Roger Keey,  
Chris Shaw (20 participants).

December: Ashworth dunes and ponds. Trevor Partridge.

February: Seven-day camp at Unwin Hut, Mt Cook. Colin Burrows (24 participants).

March: Mount Cass, North Canterbury. Chris Shaw and Miles Giller.

April: Otamahua/Quail Island. Colin Burrows.

May: Weekend camp at Hanmer - forest walks and heritage area. Roger Keey.

### **The Programme**

Many aspects of botany were covered during evening meetings. Topics ranged from descriptions of vegetation in Canterbury and further afield in New Zealand, through life history, management, and physiological studies in native forest, to taxonomic treatment of an important shrub genus and native and introduced grasses. Conservation aspects were covered by talks on rare native species and wilding pines. A discussion of gene transfer linked the plant world with that of the protocaryotes. Field trips ranged from the centre of Christchurch to the mountains of Mt Cook National Park, with a corresponding range of vegetation from the adventive and cultivated to the fully indigenous. Even in localities wholly dominated by introduced plants, there was much of interest, among both the adventives and the native species that persist. In the Craigieburn Range and near Mt Cook, members were able to see the magnitude of the threat to survival of native vegetation through spontaneous spread of exotic conifers; Quail Island, in contrast, shows how vegetation dominated by introduced plants can be replaced by native species, especially with assistance from enthusiasts.

**Newsletter:** The Society is indebted to John Ward who continues to compile and edit the newsletter, and Claire Newell who arranges its printing and delivery to members. Of the two hundred newsletters sent out each month, 18 are sent by e-mail, which is a saving to the Society.

**Publications:** The 86 pages of Journal No. 34 have all been contributed by members of the Society. The nine botanical papers and notes include species lists, records of phenology and distribution, and ecological descriptions. Articles on women botanists include a brief biography of Richenda Parham, biographical notes about pioneer women graduates from Canterbury University College, and Janet Moss's reminiscences about field work with the late Margaret Bulfin. Elizabeth Edgar's and Henry Connor's 'Grass flora' is reviewed, and the third in a series listing books about New Zealand botany with brief description of their contents is presented. Once again, the journal was distributed by Fay Jackson. It is the last number to be edited by Colin Burrows. We thank him for his editorial work, and also for being a major contributor over recent years. We also thank Jeanette Allen for typing the journal. Warwick Harris has agreed to edit the next issue, and several authors have already responded to his call for contributions, especially on the theme of threatened plants.

In respect of special publications by the Society, we draw attention to that 31 copies of the Raoul Symposium volume and 15 of the Naturalised Vascular Plants of Banks Peninsula are still to be sold.

**Other Acknowledgements:** Miles and Daphne Banks have provided supper after every evening meeting, despite Daphne's interlude of illness, and Ann McMillan has managed the sales table at these meetings. Derek Cook generously contributed his skills towards preparation of the annual financial statement. Fiona Lees has continued to produce address labels for mailing the newsletter.

As President for the past year, I thank the officers and committee members, and all the other members of the Society who, through their help and support for the Society's activities, have made 2000-2001 botanically interesting and varied. However, I am

sorry to report that we have had three resignations from the committee; three people that will be sorely missed. In her four years as treasurer, Mary Korver has also updated the membership list. In so doing she managed to persuade a number of members to update their subscriptions, which in some cases had been outstanding for several years. Claire Newell has contributed constructively to committee meetings, in addition to her responsibilities for the newsletter. Chris Shaw has moved to Marlborough; in his short time on the committee he also made a valuable contribution, especially in planning and leading field trips. Thanks are due to Peter Bellingham, Jack Heinemann, Nick Ledger, Trevor Partridge, Fanie Venter, and Janet Wilmshurst who, although not members of the Society, have given talks and/or led field trips. We are also grateful to landowners for allowing access to or across their properties.

**Membership:** The Society receives 146 individual and 43 joint membership subscriptions; and we have 10 life members. We also sent our newsletters and journals gratis or in exchange to 18 institutions, including libraries, university departments, and other botanical societies. Although fifteen new members have joined this year, membership decreased by 29, a figure largely accounted for by people who, having allowed their subscription to fall substantially in arrears, despite reminders, were regretfully removed from the membership list. Our modest subscription of up to \$25 per annum, with a \$5 discount for prompt payment, enables the Society to carry out its basic functions, as well as publishing its journal, supporting student research, and making donations towards conservation projects.

**Submissions:** DOC management plan for *Helichrysum dimorphum*; protection of dryland vegetation on McLeans Island; Environment Canterbury regional pest management strategy.

**Awards:** At the June 2000 A.G.M. the Senior Bledisloe Trophy was presented to Max Visch in recognition of his long service to the Society and his role in bringing plants to public notice, especially in respect of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Max also became a Member of the Order of New Zealand. The Junior Bledisloe Award was presented to Olga Nikora for her talk to the Society on fractal analysis to determine leaf shape. Miles and Daphne Banks were elected Life members of the Society for their active support over many years; Miles was a foundation member of the Native Flora Society, the forerunner of the Canterbury Botanical Society.

Jorge Santos joins the list of past and present members of the Society who have been awarded the Loder Cup. This is a prestigious national award by the Minister of Conservation, in recognition of outstanding contributions towards public appreciation of the native flora. The Society also congratulates two Canterbury botanists, Henry Connor and Elizabeth Edgar, for being awarded the Hutton Medal for 2000. This is awarded biennially by the Royal Society of New Zealand for outstanding contributions in the biological sciences.

Two of our members, Brooke Dawson and Roger Keey, received Environment Heritage Awards from Hurunui District Council at the recent Amuri A&P Show for their work as Hanmer Forest Guardians towards securing the protection of the heritage areas of Hanmer Forest for future generations. Another two members received awards from the Christchurch City Council. Derek Cook's award recognised

"a notable contribution to Christchurch's natural heritage and biodiversity" in the form of his 0.8 ha garden of indigenous plants, which featured in the Press on 17 March. Eleanor Bissell received her civic award for her work with the Kiwi Kids Conservation Club.

**Student support:** The Year 2001 recipients of student grants, totalling \$1550, are Ingrid Grüner (regeneration of *Carmichaelia* species), Terry Thomsen (disjunction of *Nothofagus fusca*), and Manfred von Tippelskirsch (ecology of *Ileostylis*), all of the Department of Plant and Microbial Sciences, University of Canterbury. Prizes of books on New Zealand botany were presented to Zoe Carson of St Margaret's College and Rachel Melrose of Lincoln High School, who were the successful contestants in the Canterbury-Westland Science Fair. Neil O'Brien and Pat Morris served as judges.

**Donations:** none made.

**General:** There was significant participation by members of the Society in voluntary environmental activities conducted under the auspices of other organisations, including planting programmes in Travis Swamp and on Quail Island, and removal of wilding pines from the Waimakariri basin.

**The President's comment on the year past and the year to come:** In these times, societies and clubs generally have difficulty in maintaining attendance and membership, the main reasons being competing activities, the intrusion of what may be called 'passive entertainment' that requires no physical or intellectual effort to participate, the erosion of leisure time for those in employment and, for students, course demands that leave little time for extra-curricular pursuits. Considering this environment, the Canterbury Botanical Society is doing well in maintaining its membership and level of activity. While it is gratifying that younger people are playing a valuable part in the life of the Society, it is nevertheless worrying that the greater part of its activities are conducted or supported by those whose are at least nominally retired. Last year a view was conveyed to the committee that Friday meeting dates were a great disincentive to attendance at evening meetings for students and those in employment; yet when we circulated a questionnaire on this point, none of the few replies indicated dissatisfaction with the current arrangement! The "oldies" image is strikingly borne out than by attendance at Annual General Meetings; let's hope that at AGM 2001, the chairperson faces a wide cross-section of the Society's membership!

Nevertheless, the Society has had a successful year, in that we have enjoyed a wide range of well-attended evening talks of interest to professional and amateur botanists alike, have supported student research, and, largely thanks to Dr Colin Burrows, published another excellent number of our journal. Participation in our day excursions has generally been modest, with the exception of some excursions where members have been invited to take part in a conservation-related activity. Our two camps both had satisfactory attendance, with participants being rewarded with great weather and great botany. The decision to continue with the present format of camps seems to have been justified.

Last year I suggested that the Society could develop its role of providing botanical information, useful for research and conservation. Since then we have archived four