

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:	Neil O'Brien
Hon. Vice President:	Roger Key
Hon. Secretary:	Margaret Geerkens
Hon. Treasurer:	Trevor Blogg
Committee:	Colin Burrows, Di Carter, Bryony Macmillan Peter Wardle (immediate past President), Susan Wisner
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
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MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

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

Contact addresses and phone numbers:

Mr Neil O'Brien	(03) 384 6090 e-mail: obrien.nj@xtra.co.nz
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Mrs Margaret Geerkens	PO Box 8212, Riccarton, Christchurch (The Society's box number) (03) 352 7922 e-mail: bert.marg@xtra.co.nz
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Mr Trevor Blogg	(03) 339 4697
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Ordinary meetings of the Society are held on the evening (7 30 pm) of the first Friday of each month, in lecture room A5, University of Canterbury, Ilam (just south of the Law School carpark). Invited speakers cover a very wide range of botanical subjects. 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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As well as the general call for contributions to the Journal from members of the Society the specific call for this issue was "Threats to Native Plants in Canterbury". With a degree of arm-twisting and coercion an interesting series of articles on this topic has been assembled. These contributions have been arranged in an order from more general views of the topic to those dealing with specific threats and on threats to specific species.

I have been moved by the passion shown in the articles by the experienced plant conservationists who are contributors. Their views should be taken very seriously as they write from hard experience of the successes, trials and tribulations of removing or moderating threats to native plants. Indeed, with my inclination to assemble foreign plants in my home garden, points made in several of the articles left me with a feeling of guilt!

In case you might think my choice of plants for the covers of the Journal is pushing my interest in introduced plants too far, I suggest you read the articles before you make that judgement. Once again the Society has to be very grateful to Hugh Wilson for providing illustrations that enhance the Journal and which are appropriate to its contents.

To add variety to the Journal we have articles on geographically orientated topics of botany contributed by two of Canterbury's most experienced botanists. The last group of articles look to the past in order to help us to understand what we see in the great variety of plants that exist at present.

Looking to the past and considering the present brings me to what is likely to determine the theme of next year's Journal. This is the 50th Anniversary of the Canterbury Botanical Society. This Anniversary will be marked by a symposium titled 'Conserving Native Plants for the 22nd Century' to be held on 7 June 2003. It is a possibility that the proceedings of the symposium will provide the content of the next Journal.

As usual, the Journal ends with the Annual Report of the Society. My suggestion is that the 2003 Journal should include a review of the previous 49 Annual Reports. Ideally, if this is possible, a member whose involvement with the Society covers that entire period should undertake this review.

Warwick Harris
December 2002