

# CANTERBURY BOTANICAL SOCIETY (NZ) INC.

## FIFTIETH ANNUAL REPORT 2003

### Officers and Committee (2002–2003)

<b>President:</b>	Neil O'Brien
<b>Vice-president:</b>	Roger Keey
<b>Secretary:</b>	Margaret Geerkins
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Trevor Blogg
<b>Committee:</b>	Colin Burrows, Dianne Carter, Bryony Macmillan and Susan Wiser
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Peter Wardle

### Monthly Meetings (2002–2003)

June: AGM. At the conclusion of the meeting Rowan Buxton, Landcare Research, spoke and showed slides on re-vegetation at the Grasberg Mine, in Irian Jaya.

July: Habitat and Community Ecology of *Carmichaelia* spp. Ingrid Gruner.

August: Deserts and Arid Regions of the World; People, Plants and Ecology challenges. David Given.

September: Matawai Park: the Native Vegetation of Canterbury, from the Mountains to the Sea. Miles Giller and Geoff Henderson.

October: Which Native Plants of the Chatham Islands are not Really Native? Brian Molloy.

November: The Plant Communities on Montane Rocky Outcrops of Banks Peninsula. Susan Wiser.

December: Conservation Challenges and Opportunities in the High Country. Eugenie Sage.

February: Images of Ecuador; Peter Wardle followed by Members Show and Tell.

From February on, meetings of the Society started at 7.30pm .

March: Rocky Mountain Wetland Plants: Fungal Chemistry. Jeanne Kuhajek.

April: Aciphylla, Plants with Attitude. David Glenney.

May: “Walt Disney; A Seed’s Life.” Chris Berry, a PhD student

### **Field Trips and Camps (2002–2003)**

July: Lower Heathcote River. Colin Burrows.

August: Trees for Canterbury. Steve Bush.

September: Visit to Matawai Park, Rangiora. Miles Giller, Geoff Henderson, David Rossiter.

October: Spring Camp, Hinewai Reserve, Banks Peninsula. Hugh Wilson.

November: Remarkable Dykes, cancelled, adverse weather.

December: Fog Peak Ridge, cancelled, adverse weather. Some members visited Dry Creek, Porters Pass.

January: Summer camp at the Amuri Ski Field, cancelled, lack of support.

February: Visit To QE 2 Covenant, Montane habitat and Bush remnant. Mt Grey. Miles Giller, and owner Graham Horne.

March: Lichen Workshop, Quail Island. Colin Burrows.

April: The Remarkable Dykes, Banks Peninsula. Susan Wiser and Trevor Blogg.

May: Orton Bradley Park; Arboretum Plantings, Succulent gardens, and Dunmallet. Bill Sykes.

### **Programme report**

Again the Society was well served by the quality of the speakers at monthly meetings. Local and visiting contributors presented talks that were both informative and topical.

The spring camp, which was based at the Hinewai Reserve, Banks Peninsula, afforded members some insight into the remarkable restoration of native vegetation being achieved under Hugh Wilson’s management.

Summer camp at the Amuri Ski Field was cancelled for want of support.

### **Newsletter report**

The Society is indebted to John Ward for compiling and editing the newsletter, to Philippa Horn, who took on this task during John's recent absence, and to both Bryony Macmillan and Fiona Lees who, respectively, mailed out newsletters and printed the address labels.

Members are being encouraged to receive their newsletters electronically if possible. There is a worthwhile saving in postage. About 48 newsletters are now sent by e-mail.

### **The Journal**

Journal No.36 was Warwick Harris's second edition. Although having fewer pages, 68, than No.35, the quality of the articles was, as usual, of a high calibre. Members of the Society wrote all but one of the articles. Eight articles highlighted in some way threats to our native flora. Others considered the origin of the *Sophora chathamica*, divaricating shrubs and time, angiosperm foundations, and early angiosperm fossils.

Hugh Wilson again enhanced the publication with his fine drawings.

### **Acknowledgements**

Miles and Daphne Banks continued for yet another year, to provide supper following the monthly meetings. Ann McMillan ran the sales table. Bob Abbot was again the auditor of the financial reports. The Society gratefully acknowledges the efforts of these people.

As President and new to the recent workings of the Society, I wish to thank all the officers and committee for their contribution in time and effort, over the past twelve months. With those committee member retiring this year go our thanks and best wishes. They are Peter Wardle, Susan Wiser and Colin Burrows.

This current year, 2002–2003 has imposed additional demands on the committee, and, especially the subcommittee responsible for organizing the forthcoming Symposium to celebrate the Society's Fiftieth Year. Peter Wardle has played a major role in setting up the programme, assisted by the Secretary, Treasurer and Mary Korver, Landcare Research. The Symposium will be held in conjunction with the AGM on June 7 2003.

Non-members, who made significant contributions with talks and leading field trips, were Rowan Buxton, Eugenie Sage and Jeanne Kuhajek, David Rossiter and Graham Horne.

## Membership

Current membership stands at 207. There are 40 joint memberships, 113 individual and 14 Life Members who are; Miles and Daphne Banks; Ron and Julie Close; Brooke Dawson; Alice Dumbleton; Philippa and Huntley Horn; Ross and Kath Lake; Neil O'Brien; Basil O'Connor, Edith Shaw and Colin Burrows. Recruitment and resignations are more or less equally balanced. A significant number of members have yet to pay outstanding subscriptions. This is a perennial problem.

## Projects

The Society is to support an application for funds to fence and to preserve two populations of a new species of *Olearia*, in the Waimakariri River flood plains.

Colin Burrows represents the Society regarding public comment on Pastoral Land Reviews, while Miles Giller, who now holds a position with the Queen Elizabeth II Trust, provides a useful link between our Society and that organization.

Through Brian Molloy, the Riccarton Bush Trust sought the Society's backing on the proposed predator exclusion fence to encompass the Bush. This backing was readily given.

## Awards

Derek Cook was the well-deserved recipient of the Senior Bledisloe Trophy. He is well known for his wide knowledge of the alpine flora and for compiling a remarkable collection of exceptional photographs of his favourite plants. At his home, Derek has established a living collection of native plants gleaned from several parts of the country. For some years he has kept a guiding hand on the Society's financial affairs.

Terry Thomsen was awarded the Junior Bledisloe Trophy for the best student talk of the year. Terry also received a monetary grant for his research into the genetic variation of *Nothofagus fusca*.

Pat Morris and Neil O'Brien judged botanical exhibits at the Canterbury and Westland Science Fair. Maryam Iskander and Jody Hu of Riccarton High

School received the Senior Prize for their entry, "Solutions for Plants." Louise Smits, Breens Intermediate, took the Junior Prize for her entry entitled "What Conditions are Best for *Pinus radiata* Growth". Books to the value of \$50 were awarded to winners.

Colin Webb received the Allan Mere at a short ceremony at the Society's February monthly meeting. Anthony Wright, President of the New Zealand Botanical Society made the presentation.

During the year, Margaret Austin was made a Companion of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Our Society congratulates all these achievers.

### **Student Support**

Robin Mitchell received a grant of \$500 for a project on ecosystems restoration. Don Morta was awarded \$400 for his work on the ecology of a new species of *Olearia*.

### **President's comments**

We have again, this year, enjoyed and benefited from the talks, field trips and camps. However, it was disappointing that no Summer Camp was held, probably for the first time in fifty years. It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract new members. Society, these days, places so many demands on our time. We should continue to work more closely with kindred organizations, which can be a source of new recruits. These matters need to be addressed and pursued more vigorously again next year. However, I believe the Society is in good heart

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to all of you, committee and those members, who have worked so hard in so many ways to further the aims of the Society. I also wish the incoming committee every success in the coming year, 2003–2004.

Neil O'Brien