

CANTERBURY BOTANICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

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The Journal this year is devoted to papers that were presented at a Symposium celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Canterbury Botanical Society. This was held at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch on Saturday 7 June 2003. Generous assistance in running the Symposium was provided by Landcare Research. The Symposium was well attended, filling to capacity the lecture hall booked for the occasion.

The speakers, whose papers are published in this Journal, were invited to contribute to the theme "Conserving Native Plants for the 22nd Century". Following the Introduction to the Symposium, presented by Society President Neil O'Brien, there were four sessions chaired in turn by Colin Burrows, Brian Molloy, David Given and Margaret Austin. They controlled their sessions in different ways that reflected their personalities and experience, and they were effective in keeping speakers to time allowing discussion from the floor. A record was not kept of the discussion, but elements of it are contained in the excellent Overview and Summing Up of the Symposium presented by Bill Lee.

Further, the three chairmen and the chairlady were offered the option of writing a synopsis of their sessions. Colin Burrows took this up, and as a result, the Journal includes an interesting account of his involvements with restoration plantings on the Port Hills and Otamahua/Quail Island. Margaret Austin recorded the approach she took in running her session and references she made to the international context of the Symposium especially by referring to her involvements with UNESCO.

The papers are presented in the order that they were given at the Symposium. Two of the speakers did not provide written papers from their presentations but the summaries they supplied for the Symposium programme are reproduced in the Journal to provide a record of their participation as speakers. Otherwise I have not included the abstracts or summaries that were presented by a few of the authors when they sent their papers.

Di Carter was not able to present her paper on the day of the Symposium. In her place Christine Heremaia from the Christchurch City Council outlined progress towards establishing native plants and restoring habitats along the Styx River.

As usual, the Journal ends with the Annual Report of the Society.

Once again the Journal is greatly enhanced by illustrations, together with their captions, provided by Hugh Wilson. Some of these were specially drawn for the Journal at my request.

This is the largest Journal to date, well exceeding the number of pages that can be bound by stapling. The size is in part due to a larger print size in response to the demand from readers of the Journal for this. However, the greater part of the increase arises from the ample copy provided by the speakers at the Symposium. This saved me the effort of having to encourage and coerce people to make contributions to the Journal. Rather, encouragement and coercion had to be applied to get authors to meet a deadline for submission of papers that was extended several times. Colin Burrows generously offered to read the final text, found a good number of errors that I had missed, and made suggestions for further improvement of the Journal.

The result is an interesting collection of papers that botanists of the future should find useful when they view the plant flora and vegetation of New Zealand, and Canterbury in particular, especially so in the 22nd Century.

This brings me to the end of a three-year stint as editor of the Journal. I found it an interesting and challenging job, vastly increasing my admiration of those editors who have helped me bring papers to publication. I respect their attention to detail and their knowledge of the conventions of publication, and hope my deficiencies in these areas have not been too apparent. As Neil O'Brien emphasises in his introduction to the Symposium, the Journal is an important part of the activities of the Society. At present the Society's committee is considering how to produce future Journals with perhaps a separation of roles for botanical editing and for production.

Warwick Harris
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