

CANTERBURY BOTANICAL SOCIETY (NZ) INC.

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT 2004

Officers and Committee (2003-2004)

President:	Neil O'Brien
Vice President:	Roger Keey
Secretary:	Margaret Geerkens
Treasurer:	Trevor Blogg
Committee:	Diane Carter, Bryony Macmillan, Ann Kennedy, Ryan Young

Monthly Programme (2003-2004)

June:	AGM and Symposium. "Conserving Native Plants for the 22 nd Century".
July:	Cancelled because of weather.
August:	"The Origin, Diversification and Classification of New Zealand Stylidiaceae: A Phylogenetic Perspective". Steve Wagstaff.
September:	"Treelines and Tree-Grass Interactions in Western Canada.". Duane Peltzer.
October:	"The Botany and Conservation of Costa Rica's Dry Forests." Jon Sullivan.
November:	No speaker because of Spring Camp.
December:	Student Talks: 1: "Succession in the Godley Valley and North Fiordland." Robin Mitchell. 2: "Newly Discovered Unnamed <i>Olearia</i> Species". Dan Morta. Main speaker: "Flora of the Puget Sound and the State of Washington." Fayla Schwartz, Biology Advisor at Everett Community College of North Seattle.
January:	Members, Show and Tell. Brought forward because of Waitangi Day Camp.
February:	See above.
March:	"Native Restoration around New Zealand and ENZERN Computer Data Bases." Ryan Young.
April:	"South Africa and Australia - Is this what New Zealand was like in the Tertiary?" Colin Meurk.

May: "New Zealand Forest Limits and the Vegetation above Them, Compared with South America and other Regions." Peter Wardle.

Field Trips and Camps.

July: Trip to Botanic Gardens. Leader, Max Visch; cancelled because of weather.

August: A Study of a City Council Restoration Project on the Port Hills. Leader, Di Carter, Ranger.

September: Ashworths Beach and Saltwater Creek Estuary. Leader, Trevor Partridge.

October; Alford Forest; Leader, Warren Jowett, cancelled because of weather.

November: Camp based on Ryton Lodge, near Lake Coleridge . Camp Manager, Roger Keey.

December: Foggy Peak Ridge from Porters Pass; Leaders Roger Keey and Bryony Macmillan.

January: No Field Trip.

February: Camp at Punakaiki, West Coast, during Waitangi Weekend. Leader, Margaret Geerkens,

March: The Garden of Tane, Akaroa. Leader; Warwick Harris.

April: Restoration/Revegetation on the Port Hills. Leader; Di Carter.

May: Prices Valley; QEII Covenant Reserve. Leader; Max Visch

The Programme

Again we enjoyed a wide range of topics from speakers, both local and from overseas. For the first time in many years a meeting was cancelled because of poor weather.

Both camps, Ryton Lodge and Punakaiki on the West Coast, were reported to have been very successful. Punakaiki was a little different, in that members arranged their own accommodation, but were still able to meet to discuss field activities each day. The days seem to have gone when the Society ran camps over much longer periods, eight days or so.

Newsletter

The Society is again indebted to John Ward and Philippa Horn for producing our newsletter. This is not always an easy task, when there are deadlines to be met. Fiona Lees and Bryony Macmillan have respectively been responsible for printing the address labels and mailing out the newsletter. The work done by these four members is much appreciated by the Society.

We urge members who are on the internet to receive their newsletters electronically. There are real savings in postage.

Publications

Journal No.36 was Warwick Harris's final edition. As a special edition covering the Symposium, all would agree that it was a superb effort. We acknowledge with gratitude this and other Journals he has produced. Credit for the fine photographs and drawings go to Philippa Horn and Hugh Wilson.

The onerous task of producing the Journal is now the responsibility of Peter Wardle as Botanical Editor and Philippa Horn as the Technical Editor.

Acknowledgements

The Society again acknowledges those who have helped in so many ways, none more so than Daphne and Miles Banks who just get on with providing supper after the monthly meetings. We must also thank Ann McMillan for looking after the sales table and Bob Abbot for auditing the accounts. Please accept this vote of thanks

As President I am grateful for the support given me by the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator and committee, all of whom have been called upon to give a greater share of their time to a depleted committee. It was with regret that Diane Carter's resignation, for personal reasons, was received during the year. Thanks also to those who made their homes available for meetings.

Two issues to come before the committee, through sub-committees, were a Code of Care and Safety, soon to be released, and a sub-committee to review the Journal and its Editorial processes. The latter has been adopted.

In the aftermath of the 2003 symposium special thanks are due to Peter Wardle and others of the sub-committee for following up all those loose ends. Peter had the never easy task of encouraging contributors to submit their articles to the Editor. All those actively involved with the symposium have received letters of thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Society.

The Society also wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Miles Giller who remains our voice on the Queen Elizabeth II Trust.

Membership

Current membership stands at 217. The fourteen life members are Daphne and Miles Banks, Colin Burrows, Ron and Julie Close, Brooke Dawson, Alice Dumbleton, Philippa and Huntley Horn, Ross and Kath Lake, Neil O'Brien, Basil O'Connor and Edith Shaw.

It was with regret that we record the death of a long time member, Peter Mahan.

Recruitment and resignations remain fairly static. A number of members are in arrears and will not receive the latest Journal. This is an ongoing problem.

Projects

The project to erect a predator-proof fence around Riccarton Bush has now been completed. Brian Molloy represented the Society, which supported the scheme.

The Society applied for and received a grant from the Biodiversity Condition Fund for \$15 900 for fencing and replanting of the undescribed species of *Olearia* on the Waimakariri River flood plain, near Chattertons and School Roads. Fencing of the area is at an advanced stage. Replanting will follow in the next few months.

The Society and several of its members made submissions on behalf of Hinewai Reserve, objecting to the Regional Council's proposal to require the removal of gorse and broom along boundary fences, from the present 10 metres to 20 metres. Botanically there is no justification for this.

Awards

Father and daughter, Graeme and Gillian McArthur, were worthy recipients of the Senior Bledisloe Trophy for their work with the native plants in their district of Whitecliffs and the Rockwood Range. They drew the Botanical Society's attention to remarkable colonies of *Ranunculus lyallii* on the Rockwood Range and pointed out that through an oversight, Douglas fir had been planted in their general habitat and posed a potential threat. However, the Selwyn Plantation Board, having met with interested botanists in the field, is now fully aware of the situation, and have included protection of *Ranunculus lyallii* and other significant native species in their management plan. Bryony Macmillan read the citation and presented the Trophy.

Margaret Geerkens, Ryan Young and Neil O'Brien judged botanical exhibits at the Canterbury and Westland Science and Technology Fair. The Junior Prize was awarded to Cameron Ward of Cobham Intermediate School for his entry "Plants in Space." No Senior Prize was awarded this year. Cameron received the usual \$50 book prize.

The Junior Bledisloe Cup was award this year to Robin Mitchell who was also a recipient of a Student Grant last year. This award was made for his work in the Godley Valley: "Study of Natural Recovery of New Zealand Ecosystems with High Natural Disturbance Regimes."

Student Support

This year the Society made a grant of \$600 to Jenny Schneiderheinze to assist with field studies. Jenny's project is "Photoinhibition in Divaricate Shrubs Experiencing Drought Stress."

President's Comments.

Although the Society has again enjoyed a varied programme of talks, camps and field trips, more of the responsibility for attending to the Society's affairs is falling on fewer people. As mentioned in my previous report we really must address this potentially serious, though widespread, problem. As retiring president I wish to convey my special thanks to the committee and all members who have given so much.

Neil O'Brien.