

# Editorial

Five years have passed since the 50th Jubilee Issue of the *Bulletin* (Number 45) was published. This issue was well received as it contained much early history of the Society. Many of our current members could be seen in the photographs or read about in excerpts from the early days of the Society. The Jubilee celebrations themselves were a great affair with people travelling from far and wide to attend the one day seminar and dinner at Victoria University and the field trip to Kaitoke the next day. The reminiscences flowed and flowed and flowed.....

However, looking back over the Jubilee Issue and remembering those who were at the Jubilee, it is sad to note the number of staunch members who have died. Many regularly led or came on field trips and contributed articles to the *Bulletin*. They all made a tremendous contribution to the Society. Two people, in particular, were closely associated with the *Bulletin*: Margot Forde who was *Bulletin* Editor from 1965-1980; and Frances Duguid who contributed more than 25 articles to the *Bulletin*.

Last year saw the launch of the Botanical Society's book "Wellington's Living Cloak", written by Isobel Gabites and co-published with Victoria University Press. The book was a project that the Society had been working on for many years. Originally it was intended as a series of chapters contributed by members. However, the writing styles were so different, that Isobel was employed to write the book using the chapters as a major resource. Because each of the original authors had provided a wealth of information, we are printing these papers in the *Bulletin* over the next two issues. This *Bulletin* begins with the first five of the original chapters for the "Botany of Wellington" and ends with contributed papers. Thanks to Jan Heine, Wendy Nelson and Colin Ogle who helped with some of the papers.

Scientific publishing in New Zealand has changed over the last five years. The DSIR journals are now published by The Royal Society of New Zealand, and one major university-based journal has ceased: the last issue of *Tuatara* (journal of the School of Biological Sciences of Victoria University) was published in 1993. *Tane* (journal of the Auckland University Field Club) has had an uncertain future in recent years, although it looks likely to continue. There is mounting pressure on peer-reviewed journals, such as *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, to reject papers which are not experimental or theoretical. Thus, the *Bulletin* increases in importance as a place for documentation of botanical observations.

The Society regrets the long delay in publishing this issue, but we now hope to publish one issue each year. There are articles already scheduled for the next issue (from the "Botany of Wellington") but more are needed. Please send any material you have written for consideration. Size is not important and neither is style. All botanical observations are relevant.

Carol West