

# A hand-printed cover for the 50th issue

*Sheelagh Leary, Fiona Christeller and John Christeller*

The story of the cover of this 50th issue of the *Bulletin* goes back 50 years to bulletin 28. Tony Druce was the editor of the bulletin in 1956. He and Helen were close friends with Gert and Flora Christeller, who lived nearby in Pinehaven and came on many Bot Soc trips with their children. Flora, being an artist, and with time to spare, produced the covers for *Bulletin* 28 (February 1956) *Carmichaelia* sp. (see *C. australis* (iii) in Eagle 2006), 29 (August 1957) *Gahnia pauciflora* and 30 (December 1958) *Coprosma petriei*.

She used lino cuts and made over printings in two or three colours for each cover. Friends and family helped and the covers were spread around the Christeller's home to dry.

When Flora died in 2004 the bulletin covers came to light amongst family papers and copies of the *Carmichaelia* and *Gahnia* covers were used for her memorial service. They were greatly admired and fondly remembered by members of the Bot Soc who were present.

When Sheelagh realised the 50th issue of the bulletin was imminent she suggested that another hand print would add status to this milestone and she asked the Christeller family if they were interested in helping prepare one. They were. John Christeller, Flora's son, who remembered the first covers being printed, talked to Helen Druce about a choice of plant. Helen suggested a *Craspedia* and showed John a 500 × 400 mm photo enlargement Tony had made of a *Craspedia*. The photograph was probably taken in north-west Nelson because the background shows blocks of marble. Peter Williams explained that Tony had found several new species of *Craspedia* including *Craspedia* 'Garibaldi'.

John consulted Ilse Bretweiser and Kerry Ford over the identification of the plant in Tony's photo (*Craspedia elongata*) and then designed and cut the wood block for this cover. We—Sheelagh, John and his sister Fiona—hand printed 350 covers at John's home over a weekend in April. Nearly all look black but look carefully, you may find that yours has a sheen of green, blue or red.

Tony Druce's photo of *Craspedia elongata*, the model for the cover of this *Bulletin*.

