

knew these ladies personally such was her enthusiasm for the relationship enjoyed with them and botany. After her retirement to Warkworth Lucy Moore became a regular caller and I eventually got to know her well. Katie could at times be pedantically cantankerous. I remember an incident when someone got up her nose and she heard them rabbiting on about the marvellous view. Katie resolutely interjected to say "That is not a view, that's a vista!", baffling the person into silence with the power of her intellect. At the first opportunity I opened up the dictionary to define the difference between a view and a vista, which I very doubtfully resolved to my satisfaction by coming to the conclusion that a vista is a general panoramic landscape where as a view is more specific, such as a view of the lake through the trees.

One of Katie's proudest achievements was her successful campaign to save Coppermine Island from the predations of the multinational miners. During one of our many discussions about plants, Katie pointed out to me the most humble weed was no less interesting than a mighty forest giant and deserved equal consideration. This profound statement is only equalled in the annals of botany by Mr R. Brown's advice to Leonard Cockayne – "Trust not authority; pay no heed to the books but go to the plants

themselves". I am confident I got Brown's advice right as I never studied a botanical book during the first thirty years of my interest with plants. However I got Katie's advice terribly wrong, as weeds are only defined by our sense of outrage and plants by the magnitude of our affection. I closed my mind to only studying plants that I thought worthy of consideration. Weeds were neglected in preference to mighty trees and plants of interest. Any plant that I didn't like or perceived to be useless was overlooked and trampled on while I single-mindedly pursued my interest in the great and mighty. If I was to start out my life over again there are at least two things I would change. The first is I would treat all plants as equals. Secondly I would develop my language skills- in addition to speaking English I would speak Mandarin, French and Spanish.

Katie Reynolds was right. I would urge any person interested in plants, trees and botany is to follow Katie Reynolds' sound advice along with Mr Brown's wisdom.

#### Editor's Note

Other memories of Katie Reynolds were published in Volume 55(1) of the Journal in June 2000.

## **Frank Philip Hudson, 1918-2003**

**Maureen E. Young & Ewen K. Cameron**

### **Maureen E. Young**

Frank Hudson was born in Herne Bay, Auckland on 4 Feb 1918, and lived all his life, apart from war service and his last few years, on the family farm at Kaipara Flats. He left Kaipara Flats primary school when he was 14, to work with his father felling bush. He was in the territorials before the war, mainly as a break from farm life, then in the army when war broke out, but applied to transfer to the air force. He trained for a year in Canada, and was then sent to England, where he flew with the RAF, though he was still a member of the RNZAF. He was a rear gunner in Bomber Command, and flew in 18 operations over enemy territory. He survived a crash, and rescued another crewmember, despite the burning plane and exploding ammunition, and outlived three crews and four navigators. He brought an English war bride home, and they raised four children. He divorced later in life.

His first involvement with Auckland Bot Soc was when fellow Warkworth resident Lucy Moore (1906-1987) was asked to lead a Bot Soc trip to Logues Bush on Labour Weekend 1984. As she had no wheels she asked Frank to supply them, so Frank, Lucy, myself and Frank's friend Marcus Dill joined the trip. I remember Sandra Jones looking at me in astonishment when I found *Bulbophyllum tuberculatum* (now *Adelopetalum tuberculatum*) and knew what it was,

although I hadn't seen it before, and then Frank found two large totara side by side and proceeded to give a lecture on why one was *Podocarpus totara* and the other was *P. hallii*. We were then instantly accepted as the right sort of people and both joined Bot Soc after that trip. Frank resigned (or I resigned him) in 2002, as he was no longer able to join in field trips or read the Journal. His last trip was to Pureora, Easter 1999.

Annie Grace reminded me, in a card she sent, about Frank's habit on Bot Soc trips of dehiscing (dehissing?) his lunchtime can of beer - usually splattering the nearest female.

### **Ewen K. Cameron**

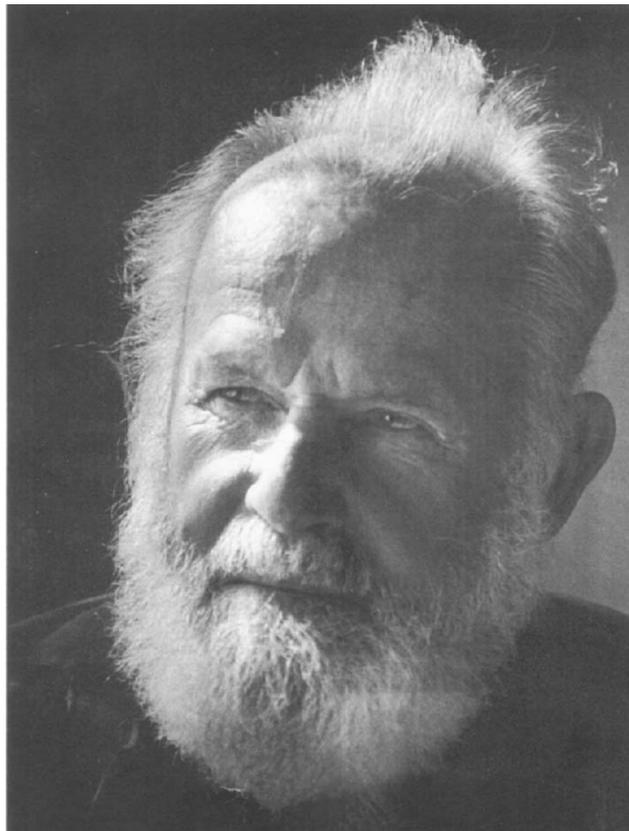
In July 1998 at the regular Bot Soc monthly meeting we marked three members 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays (Dan Hatch, Frank Hudson and Jack Rattenbury) with cake and photos. Sandra Jones recorded (*ABS Journal 53(2): 52, 1998*) that Frank was a relative newcomer to the Society being a member for only 13 years (in comparison with the other two), but every year he jointly led 1-2 field trips with his new partner and Bot Soc stalwart, Maureen Young. Also that Frank has been a regular at evening meetings, field trips and almost every "away" field trip over the last decade. I well remember his fondness for a glass of sherry

before dinner on those away field trips and his love of telling a good yarn.

Frank had a wonderful knowledge of the Kaipara area and its history, and his logging years gave him an intimate knowledge of the bush and tree species. During the Depression years he collected Jew's ear fungus in the bush earning 5½d to 1s 2d per lb (a representative sack fetched £1 12s) for export to China. An old war injury meant that he had a stiff leg ("my tin hip"), which resulted in him often walking with a stick. Frank and Maureen were on a trip to Borneo that I led in August 1992 and on the memorable climb up Mt Kinabalu (the highest mountain in SE Asia: 4101m asl), Frank aged 74, reached the accommodation at Panar Laban at 3330m asl, a wonderful forest climb of 1456m from the end of the road above the Park HQ. This altitude is just above the tree line and on the ultramafic soils. Frank was assisted by his trusty walking stick (an oyster stick from the Kaipara Harbour oyster farm), which ended up beautifully hand polished.

Frank died on 19 Mar 2003 and his funeral service was held in the Kaipara Flats Hall down the road from the Hudson family farm. Maureen decorated it attractively with native plants, the colourful sprigs of fruiting kahikatea adding an appropriate touch. The hall was packed. Frank's favourite local Puhoi Bohemian Band played, tributes flowed, and Bot Soc was well represented. Amongst the photographs it was good to see the polished oyster stick with its airline sticker still attached.

We've missed Frank on our Bot Soc activities, the twinkle of his eyes and a good yarn, our sympathy to his family and especially to Maureen who has lost her close companion and friend.



**Figure: Frank Philip Hudson, ca. 1996**

**Ewen K. Cameron  
President 1993-2003  
Honorary Life Member 7 May 2003**

**Mike Wilcox**

Many organisations have Life Members. In some instances, life membership is open to anyone willing to pay a large one-off subscription. In Bot Soc, life membership is our highest honour and reserved for only those few deemed to have made a special, sustained contribution to the Society and botany in our region.

Tonight we honour a person who stands tall in every way in Auckland botany – our erstwhile president, Ewen Cameron. Ewen stood down this year as president, after a record 10 year's of service, and this has given us the opportunity now to formally thank him and to recognise his achievements.

I first met Ewen back in the 1980's when he came to Rotorua to address the local branch of Forest & Bird. The subject was the northern wilderness of Great

Barrier Island. He was, I clearly recall, excited about the plants in this special place – and with his typical enthusiasm, shared his experiences there with us, with great pictures and tales of hazardous dinghy landings and the privations of pup-tenting with mosquitoes and heavy rain. He went on to become a great "island" man, with visits and botanical accounts of most of the northern islands.

And so to what his involvement has been with Bot Soc. Our activities are, as you are all aware, evening lectures, field trips and workshops, long-weekend camps, the Journal and Newsletter, and behind the scenes, advocacy for Auckland botany. Ewen has been deeply committed and involved in all of these to great effect. He has given numerous lectures on a wide range of subjects, but as already mentioned, has paid special attention to the offshore islands. We have all