

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.

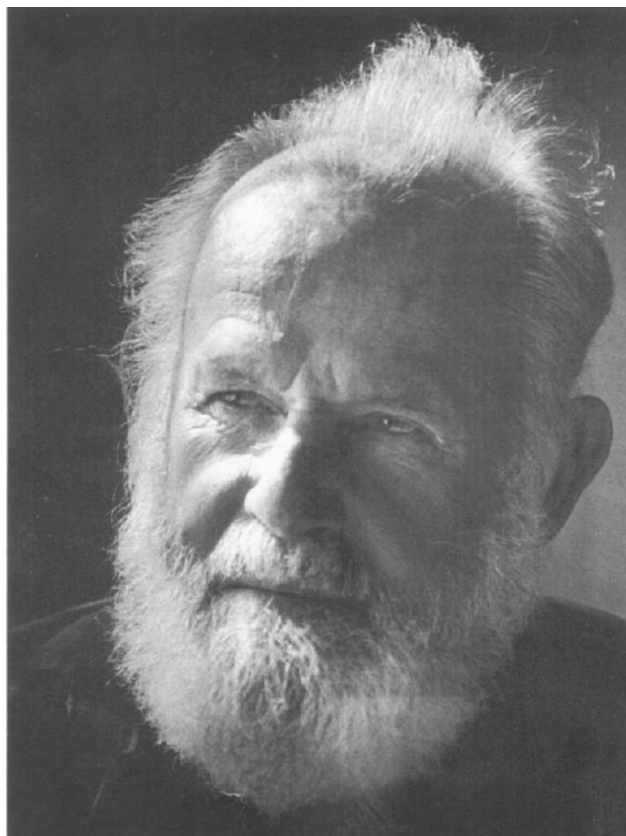


Figure: Frank Philip Hudson, ca. 1996

**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

enjoyed these marvellous trips to the Poor Knights and Mokohinau Islands in the comfort of this lecture room, thanks to Ewen's wonderful talks and pictures.



Bot Soc Honorary Life Members. From left: Dan Hatch, Jack Rattenbury, Sandra Jones, and Ewen Cameron. 7 May 2003.

His leadership of field trips has been a model of how it should be done: first pick a good place with plenty of interesting plants and beautiful scenery, and prepare in advance by a thorough reconnaissance; secondly, choose a fine day; and thirdly, add a bit of excitement, such as cliff hanging or swamp wading. I always greatly enjoy Ewen's trips, and two that immediately spring to mind are the ones to Moturekareka Island near Kawau, and to Whatipu. It was at Whatipu that I first saw Ewen's technique for plant collecting, which involves placing the specimen in the pages of a thick, furry-paged story book. As to longer camps, those who were fortunate enough to go on the Great Barrier trip two years ago will recall the privilege of having Ewen guide us to all the best botanical spots.

Turning now to the Journal, Ewen has not only been a regular contributor, but has taken a leading role in supporting the editor, supervising the production, and encouraging other contributors. Before printing he goes over every article checking that plant names are correct and pertinent cross-reference has been made to earlier records and articles. In this way, the journal has been built up into a remarkable and valuable record of the plants in our area.

In his position as Curator of Botany at the Museum, Ewen is custodian of the official Auckland herbarium. He and his staff are always most helpful to Bot Soc members with their requests for plant identifications

and plant records. On several occasions I have enthusiastically phone in or emailed that I have found something which may be noteworthy or special. The reply was always immediate and standard ... "Have you got a specimen?" The way these big computerised databases work means that if there is no specimen, there is no record in the system, and it does not count!

But it is Ewen's presidency for ten years that we specially admire and treasure, and what this has meant to Bot Soc. There are the mechanics of the role -- fronting up to meetings, writing and presenting submissions, making sure journals and newsletters get out on time, and generally keeping the programme going. He has done all these things with great skill and dedication, and I should add has been marvellous at involving all the committee.

Also important of course, has been Ewen's botanical leadership as an authority on plants and on his advocacy for conservation and protection of native bush against new weeds.

But most important of all, Ewen has ensured that Bot Soc is a happy second home for us all, a marae on which our lives are enriched through our sharing a love of plants and the outdoors, and in enjoying the company of one another. He continued his leadership duties when at times his health was not the best, but he battled on courageously, and selflessly. I am happy to say Ewen is still going to be very much involved in Bot Soc and we look forward to enjoying his continuing botanical leadership and to his guiding hand in our future activities.

I have great pleasure in thanking you, Ewen, for your many contributions to the botany of Auckland and for your service to our society, and it is my privilege to nominate you an Honorary Life Member.

The nomination was seconded by Hon. Life Member Sandra Jones, who especially paid tribute to Ewen's great support and encouragement during her many years as Secretary.

Ewen was duly elected by rousing applause from the large audience of members, and was presented with an oil painting of Whatipu - drawn by Titirangi artist Ivar Treskon - joined by Honorary Life Members Dan Hatch, Sandra Jones and Jack Rattenbury.

Corrigendum

Cameron, E.K. 2002: Betty E.G. Molesworth, OBE, 1913-2002. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 57(2): 142-143.

4th line insert 'committee': "...the last living founding **committee** member ..."