

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 ..."