

glands in stipular position, on ridges decurrent from petiole base, on stem (2.5 cm diam.) immediately above cotyledons.

Reference

Gardner, R. O. 1997: Notes on the tawari, *Ixerba brexioides* (Escalloniaceae). Auckland Botanical Society Journal 52: 45-47.

Hair, J. B. & Beuzenberg, E. J. 1966: Contributions to a chromosome atlas of the New Zealand flora. New Zealand Journal of Botany 4: 255-266.

Maureen E. Young, Honorary Life Member

Nominated by Barbara Parris

Maureen Young was a mainstay of the Auckland Botanical Society when I joined in 1989 and has continued to provide sterling service on the committee for many years since then. Maureen has organised a large number of field trips for the society over the years to a variety of interesting sites. She wears her great knowledge of the flora lightly and is very good and helpful company in the field for amateur and professional botanist alike. I should like to nominate her for life membership of the society in view of her long and outstanding service to it.

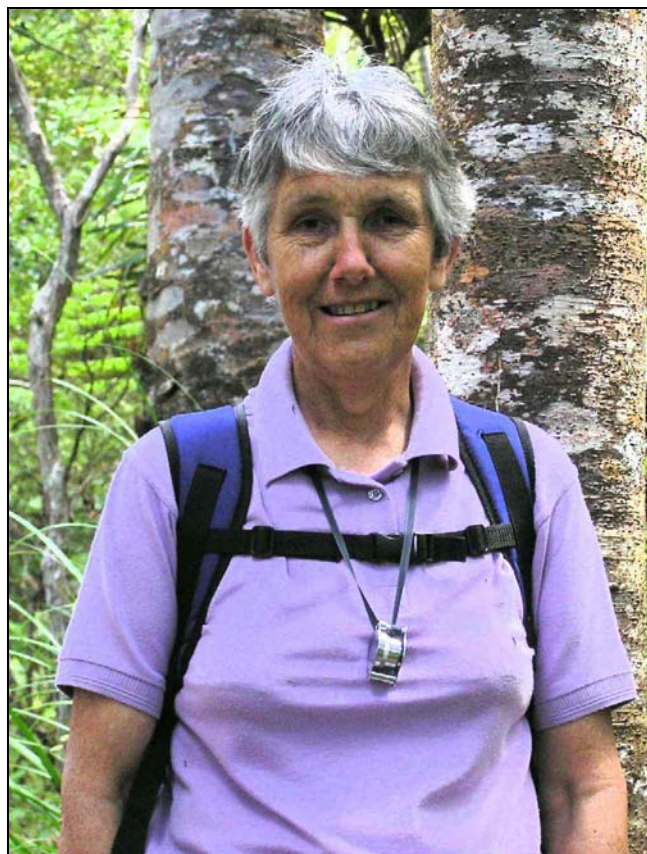
Seconded by Mike Wilcox

I am pleased and honoured to second the nomination of Maureen Young of Warkworth as Bot Soc's latest Honorary Life Member – and about time, many would say. Maureen's contribution to Bot Soc and her knowledge and enthusiasm for the native flora is legendary. She has often mentioned that she only took up botany comparatively lately. In actual fact her interest in botany was first aroused when she was in the sixth form. Warkworth District High School was so small that they had to do Biology by correspondence. The projects they had to do got Maureen interested in plants, especially ferns. Her mother sent away to the Reference Library and borrowed a copy of Dobbie and Crookes "Ferns of New Zealand". This became her preferred reading for the year, and she made a fern collection. She picked up this interest again when she came back to Warkworth to live.

At this point we should bring Frank Hudson into the story, for he and Maureen formed a great partnership through their love of the bush, and knowledge of plants in the Warkworth district. Maureen joined Bot Soc in 1984, on a trip led by Lucy Moore, one of our foremost botanists, and from that time she became Maureen's mentor.

The Warkworth and District Museum herbarium was founded by Maureen in 1980, with the object of acquiring and maintaining a collection of the indigenous plants found growing in the area bounded by the Waiwera River in the south, and the Brynderwyn Hills to the north, and stretching from coast to coast. In 1993 it held 650 specimens of native vascular plants. The Honorary Curator is Maureen Young.

One of Maureen's most endearing and visible contributions to Bot Soc has been in organising and leading field trips and camps. Her field trips are always highlights of the annual programmes, and she delights in exploring new patches of bush she has found, and taking us to them, and showing us the special plants that are found there. Her knowledge of the flora is profound, and she is very observant, accurate and reliable. Stay close to Maureen if you want to learn your species, particularly if they are orchids or ferns, and you want to know how to tell black maire from white maire.



Maureen Young on a Bot Soc trip to Hubbard's Bush, 20 November 2004.

Of our Easter and Anniversary camps over the last ten years, Maureen has attended every one, and what's more, organised most of them. She knows how to find good places for us to visit, delights in having fairly basic accommodation, and organises the food wonderfully, without fuss. Maureen never misses a meeting, and enjoys coming to hear the speakers and to be with her many Bot Soc friends. We are grateful to Maureen for her contribution to the NZ Bot Soc

Newsletter. Since 1996 Maureen has been sending in accounts of all our meetings and field trips, so that Bot Soc people throughout the country are aware of our activities.

Maureen shares her experience and knowledge generously with others. Barbara Parris has mentioned to me Maureen's great help with Northland ferns, and I know she is currently giving much support to Anne Fraser in her study of the rare orchid, *Thelymitra mathewsii* in Northland.

Maureen has a favourite saying: "Aren't plants wonderful". Thank you Maureen for your contributions to Bot Soc. We are indeed grateful for all you do, and I am proud to second your nomination as an Honorary Life Member.

Endorsed by Ewen Cameron

Maureen has contributed over 200 specimens to the herbarium of the Auckland War Memorial Museum (AK), these mainly being duplicates of interesting collections that she has put into the Warkworth herbarium.

Election

Maureen was duly elected by enthusiastic applause from members present, and presented with a bouquet of flowers, a picture taken by Ross Beever of her visiting the herbarium in Noumea, New Caledonia, and a copy of "Tree Ferns" by Mark Large and John Braggins.

Book Review: Wild plants in Auckland by Alan Esler.

Ewen K Cameron

Alan Esler moved to Auckland in 1970 and was the DSIR's regional botanist for twenty years, covering Taupo to North Cape. The wealth of knowledge he learnt during those years and since retirement in 1989 is reflected in this book. Much of the technical side of this work was published earlier by the author in a series of seven papers in the *NZ Journal of Botany* in 1987-88 (the exotics) and 1991 (the natives). In many ways this present book is a popular version of these publications and people wanting full references will have to go back to the technical papers.

It is an attractive book (250 x 194mm) with a flexible cover with a photo on the front of a coastal grass (needle tussock - uncaptioned) and four of Alan's drawings on the back - though the cover would not withstand field work. The book is packed with the author's attractive line illustrations, a block of eight pages of colour photos of plant communities in the middle, and some useful tables. Common names are used sensibly "...but if there is none, or it is confusing, cumbersome or meaningless, then a botanical name is used without hesitation...." There is a full index at the back of all the common and scientific names.

The focus is on Auckland's urban vegetation ecology, which is a fascinating dynamic mixture of native and naturalised plant species competing for space on permanent and ephemeral surfaces. Some of these assemblages are unique to Auckland. The book is very readable and is pitched at its intended audience: secondary and tertiary students, teachers, managers of turf, weeds and trees, gardeners and others. The readable style of the book has profited from Alan's earlier teaching career and his four talented sons

checking drafts and proofs – an acknowledged family affair.

The book is divided into three parts. **Part 1 'The place of wild plants in nature'** is sixty percent of the book and covers in detail how today's assemblages evolved. They are divided into two sections: vegetation with origins in the past (natural habitats); and new vegetation (human induced habitats). Most of these later areas have never been categorised so fully before. Their descriptions are rich, clearly explained and the species well illustrated, and each habitat is followed by a paragraph of what they will look like in the future.

The original drawings by the author of 322 species (62 pages, 3-7 species/page) in this section are instantly recognisable and this assemblage of illustrations is unrepresented in any other book. In fact for some of the introduced species this will be the first time that they've ever been illustrated in a New Zealand book. To me accurate line drawings are far clearer than colour photographs. I especially like the higher power additions of flowers, seeds, bracts, pith, etc (though some could have benefited by having a symbol clarifying what they are). The selection of species, about one third of Auckland's wild flora, has been well thought out and grouped primarily on an ecological basis and secondarily on a taxonomic basis. In this way species that you are likely to see growing together and are difficult to tell apart should be on the same page. Numbering each illustration (1-322) and using these numbers in the text works well. Their selection was "...because of their abundance, their particular place in the life of the plant community or their special interest."