

two months later during their very brief landing on Niue's rocky west coast, where it is still abundant,

but perhaps were unwilling to risk being speared just for the sake of a plant they already had got.

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Becoming intimate with the Index

Maureen Young

The Auckland Botanical Society Newsletter was first published in December 1943, and in February 1988 the title was changed from Newsletter to Journal. An Index to all the Newsletters was published in August 1991. In June 2000 the Index was updated in Volume 55, covering 1988 – June 2000. By the end of 2007 those members of the Society who find the Journal a useful resource were becoming frustrated by the fact that the 14 issues since 2000 had not been indexed. I offered to take on the job – a simple enough undertaking, I thought. However, as in many of life's endeavours, the simple things have a habit of becoming complicated, and on the suggestion that a comprehensive Index that included all of the Newsletters and Journals be produced, I found that I had a large amount of work on my hands.

Thanks to modern technology, the first step was to scan the two existing indices – so wonderfully quick and easy compared to the drudgery of retyping the

whole lot. I understand that there are intelligent modern scanners that can reproduce what is actually written, but the scanner I used obviously had a lower IQ than this ideal, and it had a particular horror of correctly reading italics. For example, the word "*humifusum*" came out as "JIIIIJlflflsllm", and even interpreting regular font was a struggle. Poor Betty Allen invariably came out as Belly Alien! So the first task was to go through the whole document and change gobbledegook into English (or Latin or Greek).

The second tiresome task was to tackle the numbering. The first index went from 001 to 989. The second index started at no, not 990, that would make things too easy. It also started at 001. Drat! I now had to add 989 to every number in the second index so that the two flowed seamlessly together. But that is easy, I can hear you say – computers have an automatic numbering feature. Well so they do, and I made use of it for the

Sequential Index. But in the Author Index and the Subject Index the numbers are not in order. I must admit to resorting to a calculator to add 989 to every single number in those, a particularly tedious job.

At last the numbering was completed, and I started reading my way through every one of the 160 Newsletters and Journals up to June 2000, checking the content and the numbers. Although it was fun becoming familiar with the Society's cast and narrative, I had not progressed very far before I came to two short notes that had not been included in the original index (the early Newsletters did not contain articles as we know them, but were rather a series of short notes and reports). This was a dilemma. My first impulse was to turn a blind eye, but my conscience got the better of me, and I decided that if I were to do a thorough job I must include them too. With heavy heart I set about adding "2" to every subsequent number – automatically for the Sequential, and tediously by hand for the Author and Subject.

I had borrowed the early Newsletters from the Auckland Museum Herbarium (there is another full set in the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens Library), and it took months for me to read through the whole set. Once that was done I had to work on adding the details from the most recent Journals. This was quite a task, as they were by now huge compared to the earlier slim volumes – the largest is Vol. 60(2) with 115 pages. All that then remained was to plan the cover and introductory pages, and the job was done.

The Auckland Botanical Society was founded in 1937 by the Auckland Museum botanist of the day, Lucy M Cranwell. The Society's first secretary, Betty Molesworth (later Betty Allen), recalled (Vol.42(2)) how Lucy and Mr (later Sir) Alexander Johnstone sat in Lucy's office one evening after the Museum had closed, to discuss the possibility of forming a botanical society for Auckland. Betty was there with pencil and paper in hand to take notes. Fifty years later she wrote: "It sounded a wonderful idea then and has proved to be so. Not surprising as Lucy was at the helm to start it off".

Late in 1943 founding committee member Marguerite Crookes decided that a Newsletter was a necessity, especially as country members had no other contact with the Society that they had joined. Thus she became editor and began what turned out to be a twenty year labour of love, and the Newsletter became "a liane binding the society together" (Jim Beever Vol. 42(2)). For most of those twenty years the Newsletter was a small typewritten and cyclostyled? volume without a cover, produced four times a year.

A cover first appeared in 1960 (Vol. 17(4)) adorned with the design of kauri and fan fern that has stood the test of time and is still the much loved logo. It was designed by the then secretary, artist Ruth Coyle,

who drew four drafts before she was satisfied. Her satisfaction was well deserved, as in the intervening 48 years there has never been a suggestion that it should be replaced, and it would be difficult to more appropriately represent our northern forests. This volume was printed on the Society's own Gestetner duplicator (cyclostyler?), purchased with money donated by Lucy Cranwell Smith. Ruth ordered a block for the design and donated a good supply of covers.

At the end of Miss Crooke's reign as editor the versatile ED (Dan) Hatch took over, and three volumes per year were produced. In 1966, under the editorship of John Horsman, much to an indexer's relief, a table of contents appeared at last. The year 1968 saw the beginning of a ten year editorial effort by Tony Palmer. He had the difficult job of trying to keep the Newsletter going at a time when Bot Soc was in the doldrums. In 1976 and 1977 only two volumes were produced per year, and there was no material at all for Newsletters in 1978 and 1979.

The exuberantly moustachioed Jack Mackinder was president from 1979–1982, and began a 14 year stint as editor in 1980. Tony and Jack not only edited, but also printed and bound each copy. During this time, and also under President Ross Beever's stewardship, the society began slowly to blossom again. One issue was published in each of 1980 and 1981, and from January 1982 the current practice of producing two volumes annually was set in place. A glance at the Author Index will show that the rising of our society from the ashes in the early 1980s coincided with the membership of a new young cohort – Ross and Jessica Beever, Anthony Wright, Ewen Cameron, Rhys Gardner, and a little later, Peter de Lange. The seventeen year stint as secretary by the competent Sandra Jones was another stabilising influence.

Although in the early days there were distinguished gentlemen - professors, doctors and knights of the realm - at the helm of the society, one could be forgiven when reading the Newsletter for thinking that it was run by women. Probably during the war years women by necessity had to take on many tasks that men would otherwise have undertaken, but with Miss Crookes as editor, Phyllis Hynes as secretary, regular contributors Katie Wood and Joan Dingley, and with letters from Lucy Cranwell Smith and Betty Molesworth Allen, there certainly was a feminist flavour.

Marguerite Crookes, always referred to in those more formal days as Miss Crookes, was indefatigable in her efforts for Bot Soc. As well as her twenty year stint as editor, she also served for two turns as president – the only woman president in the 71 year history of the society. For forty years she led expeditions, gave lectures, wrote bulletins and articles, and was in the habit of educating members with lunchtime talks on outings. Ferns were her specialty, and she was well known to the general public through her revisions of

"Ferns of New Zealand" originally written by by HB Dobbie ('Dobbie and Crookes 1951' 'Dobbie and Crookes 1952' Crookes and Dobbie 1963' . Before the advent of Brownsey and Smith-Dodsworth's fern book the last edition was still in great demand despite being long out of print, and as pointed out by Jim Beaver (Vol. 42(2)) "second-hand booksellers just smile benignly when asked about it". On her being awarded the Loder Cup in 1952 Laurie Millener wrote a note about it in Vol. 10(2). Miss Crookes prefaced the note with a comment "published with many blushes – while admiring the balance of the sentences and the precision of the English the praises were so high that the editor had the uneasy feeling she must be reading her obituary notice". At times she had so little material provided for the Newsletter by members that she had to write almost the whole thing herself. In Vol. 15(3), under a heading "Calling all Members" she wrote "The editor draws attention to the fact that the whole of this Newsletter, apart from a contribution by the ever faithful Mrs Wood, has been editorially produced. She submits that even the most willing editorial horse needs at least some literary fodder. Failing that it is likely to die of some horrible equine disease, or alternatively, rising on its hind legs, paw the air with outraged hooves". In December 1962 (Vol. 20(1)) she wrote "The editor packs her bags – The editor will have served uninterruptedly for a term of 20 years. She now feels that she will be entitled to a remission of further sentence for good conduct". Vol. 20(4) November 1963 was her last. She was made an Honorary Life Member for her Herculean efforts.

Article titles were short and sharp in the early days, but became much longer with time. While there were many one word titles, an exclamation mark adds a certain abruptness to such headings as – "Goodbye!" (Vol. 3(3)). One of the longest titles must be Tim Martin's "Current cruising coconuts: a new record of viable *Cocos nucifera* reaching New Zealand shores, and a brief review of New Zealand drift disseminule literature" (Vol. 58(1)). While not quite so impressively long, a favourite of mine is Geoff Davidson's "Oases in the desert. Not a tour of "Pubs in the outback", but waterhole vegetation in Australia" (Vol. 45(1)).

A count of the number of articles written by our most prolific authors reveals that the prize goes to Rhys Gardner, with 140 contributions. There are few of Rhys's articles that don't raise a smile: a couple of examples are ".....charismatic member of the Australian mega fauna, Premier of NSW Bob Carr....." (Vol. 60(2)) or ".....there are too many gardening millionaire-recluses there now to make eradication (of the fern, that is) a practical option." (Vol. 61(2)). Ewen Cameron is not far behind with 133. Vol. 47(2) July 1992 was completely written by Rhys and Ewen, except for one article that was co-authored by Barbara Parris. Dan Hatch produced 101 articles. I always

think of Dan as "the orchid man", but he wrote on a wide range of topics, as well as undertaking his editorial duties. Relative newcomer, Mike Wilcox, is catching up fast with 88 articles under his belt. On the female side, one Maureen Young has notched up 64, but this does not compare with Marguerite Crookes, who, besides writing 40 articles, as already mentioned wrote bulletins, editorial notes for 20 years, and the book that first interested me in botany, "Ferns of New Zealand" ('Crookes and Dobbie 1963').

The combined effort of three members of the Beaver family has produced 101 articles. I have a soft spot for many of the patriarch's (Jim's) efforts. For some years he was a more or less invisible member as far as the Newsletter was concerned, with the occasional JB attached to reports of long trips, but in 1973 he wrote "Have plant, will travel", announcing the relatively new and exciting concept of plate tectonics and continental drift (Vol. 30(3)). His "Kanuka – the Maori names for *Leptospermum ericoides* and *L. scoparium*" (Vol. 34(2)) makes interesting reading, especially for those bemused by the Maori names used in the latest native orchid book, "Wild orchids of the lower North Island". His interest in the names used for our plants resulted in "Why Spaniard?" (Vol. 37(1)), "The supplejack" (Vol. 37(2)), "Kauri rickers" (Vol. 38(2)) "Pohuehue" (Vol. 39(1)), "Pitfalls in common names" (Vol. 40(1)) and "A puzzle solved" (Vol. 41(1)). I like his explanation of why the pronunciation "souplejack" was used by old bushmen, and feel it justifies my pronouncing it the way I learned as a child. His article for the fiftieth anniversary of the society, "Fifty years on" (Vol. 42(2)), established him as the society's historian, an unofficial role now held by his son, Ross. Jim also produced Bulletin No. 20, "A dictionary of Maori plant names".

The transcripts of the Lucy Cranwell Lectures showcase some of the country's best botanists, but top of my list for interest is the first one, by Lucy B Moore, "Auckland botany in the Cranwell era" (Vol. 41(2)). Combine this with the reminiscences of Katie Reynolds in "Reminiscences" (Vol. 42(2)), "Adventures with the two Lucys - Part 1" (Vol. 43(1)) and "My adventures with the two Lucys – Part 2" (Vol. 43(2)), and one has a good picture of the excitement of botanical discovery in Auckland in the 1920s and 30s. I have dedicated the Index to the memory of Lucy M Cranwell and Lucy B Moore - the two Lucys. Founding the Auckland Botanical Society was part of their efforts to educate people to the joys of the natural world. John Morton wrote, in introducing his Lucy Cranwell Lecture in 1994 (Vol. 50(1)), "In a day when the University had scarcely thought to make natural history available to ordinary people, or those of us still in school, Lucy had – with the rest of the small handful of Museum staff – succeeded in this ahead of her time. Lucy Cranwell it was that brought botanical study out of the dry herbaria into bush, wetlands, dunes and on to the shore."

Times have changed since 1943, and so have attitudes. The following are some extracts that I thought worthy of listing.

Wartime obviously affected Bot Soc, just as it did the rest of the world. The marriage of our founder, Lucy Cranwell, to Major Watson Smith of the American Armed Forces was noted in Vol. 1(1). The next issue (Vol. 1(2)) recorded that "Lieutenant Frank Newhook, now on active service, has published his investigations into the vagaries of *Senecio kirkii*". Vol. 1(3): "Congratulations to Miss Betty Molesworth on her appointment to the position of Museum botanist – recently she has been based at the Hobsonville Air Base". Vol. 1(4): "Corporal Hatch of Waiouru, a country member, has taken up the study of New Zealand orchids enthusiastically". Transport was not easy in the early days. On one trip to Woodhill Forest, army trucks were used to ferry people around; in Vol. 7(1) it was reported that from the Waitakere Station a cream lorry bore the party to Goldies Bush, and the following year a trip was abandoned because the bus company went into liquidation.

In 1947 the executive of Auckland Botanical Society decided that they could not support the petition that Professor McGregor of Auckland University was circulating urging the reservation of Waipoua Kauri Forest. Vol. 4(4) consists of a copy of the letter they sent to the Commissioner of State Forests stating the reasons why they could not support the removal of the whole forest from the control of the State Forest Service. One of the main reasons was that reserves were in an unhappy state throughout the country, and they had no reason to hope that Waipoua Forest would fare any better. Laurie Millener and his wife had spent a fortnight in Egmont National Park looking for seedlings and found only twelve. He pointed out that on their own doorstep they had a reserve, Rangitoto, which Cockayne described as the most remarkable piece of vegetation in the world, and they couldn't even look after that! How then should they expect Waipoua to receive better treatment?

The condition of Rangitoto was an ongoing worry for both the University Botany Department and the Botanical Society. The fight to protect the island from plant and animal pests and fire was led by Laurie. Pines were spreading at a rapid pace and although working bees were undertaken to help eliminate them, it seemed a hopeless task. Views differed on the bach owners, whether they were squatters on public land, or guardians of the island (Vol. 14(2)).

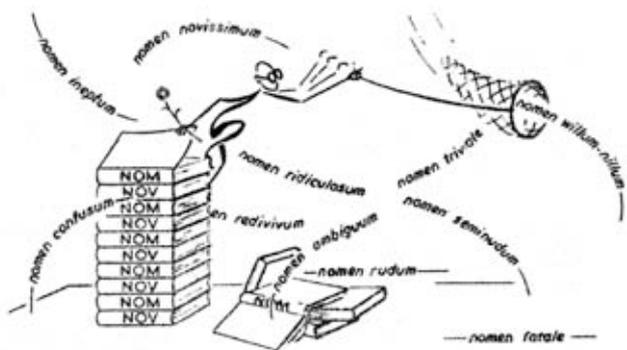
Seaweeds were much studied in those early days, with enthusiasts V.J. Chapman and Vivienne Dellow (Cassie-Cooper) to lead the way. There was then a gap of over fifty years before Mike Wilcox again began to bring seaweeds to the attention of members.

The annual Cheeseman Memorial Flower Show was first held at the Auckland Museum in 1933. Inaugurated by botanist Lucy Cranwell who gathered a group of enthusiasts to help, the show grew to be a huge undertaking for the Museum. After the Botanical Society came into being "The Cheeseman" became an important event in the programme. It was in abeyance from 1941 for a few years, but in most years in the 1950s and early 60s there was a report in the spring issue of the Newsletter. In 1963 (Vol. 20(3)) there was criticism from Professors EM Blaiklock and LH Millener of the practice of collecting plants for the flower show from the natural environment. The current Museum botanist, Robert Cooper, was not prepared to run it in the face of such criticism, and so it came to an end. In "Reminiscences" (Vol. 42 (2)) Katie Reynolds wrote a spirited defence of "The Cheeseman". She claimed that many of the plants came from gardens, and even if they hadn't, it was better that they were used to give pleasure to hundreds of people and to educate children than to be wantonly destroyed. "Over the past two decades I have seen hills and valleys denuded of their bush for the planting of Monterey pines. One area that used to be ablaze each spring with carmine rata – even then considered rare and local – and containing makamaka, *Ackama rosifolia*, and other choice plants, now sports pines and *Eupatorium [Ageratina]*. It is not an improvement".

In September 1959 (Vol. 16(4)) the editor pleaded with members to remember one of the aims of the society – "protection of our native flora. Bot Soc should set a very high standard for matters of plant protection". Two Newsletters later (Vol. 17(1)) the report of a visit to Pureora contained the following sentence – "The picture that will long remain in memory is of all the party assiduously searching for *Dactylanthus taylorii*, the so-called woodrose, and the subsequent digging up of their finds with totally inadequate tools". But in 1965 on a return visit to Pureora *D. taylorii* was again found. This time the author reported, "These are, of course, still where they were discovered" (Vol. 22(1)). In his editorial of March 1970 (Vol. 27(1)) Tony Palmer left the readers in no doubt of the society's attitude to removing plants. He wrote, "Conservation has been in the news a lot lately. Whilst being concerned over national conservation issues, our committee at its February meeting also discussed putting our own house in order in this respect". He then noted that on many outings to Scenic Reserves and National Parks, some members collected plants, sometimes uprooting quite large ones for their gardens. Most of these finished up dying. People think it is only one small plant, but what would the bush look like if everyone did this?

Changes in plant names are a perennial bugbear for botanists. In a 1972 (Vol. 29(2)) article entitled "New plant names", Lucy Moore began, "Like the old naturalist Henry Ryecroft, we all like to be able to

greet a plant by name when it shines beside our path. But which name?" The article was accompanied by the following unacknowledged cartoon.



Many of us would have a fellow-feeling for Jack Rattenbury when he wrote, "Nomina nova, or what was wrong with the old name?" (Vol. 39(2)). One's vocabulary can be enlarged by reading the Journals – how about jordanon (Vol. 27(3)), gallimaufry (Vol. 40(1)), and ptyxis (Vol. 55(1))?

In Vol. 25(2) there appeared for the first time that feature much loved by Bot Soc – a species list – this time for the January 1968 visit to Ohakune. Although there had been an occasional photograph in earlier Journals, by 1995 reproduction of photos was becoming easier, and the first trip photo – the famous one of "Bot Soccers emulating ostriches" – appeared in Vol. 50(2). It was also used on a T-shirt. The first coloured photo, of *Ipomoea pes-caprae* subsp. *brasiliensis* growing on Twilight Beach, appeared in Vol. 53(2). It was printed separately, and glued in place. One glaring omission is, although we honour Lucy Cranwell each year with the Lucy Cranwell Lecture and by granting a Lucy Cranwell Award, no

obituary for her appeared in the Journal when she died in 2000.

When Jack Mackinder was made a Life Member in 1993 (Vol. 49(1)), he reported how he first saw a Bot Soc Newsletter in a friend's house. In answer to his question, "Can anybody join?" the apparently satisfactory reply was, "Yes, you don't have to know anything". Jack was a fine example of how someone who knew nothing became an enthusiastic and knowledgeable botanist. Anybody can do it!

This long report must finally be brought to an end. Perhaps, in view of Bot Soc's close association with the Auckland Museum Herbarium over the years, some quotes about collecting will do to finish it off. In Vol. 18(3) Lucy Moore commended an article by PH Davies called, "Hints for hard pressed collectors" (Watsonia, April 1961). "If the writer had always taken his own advice he would not have broken his finger, fractured his spine and sustained various wounds that considerably reduced his collecting power".

"Lucy Cranwell Smith wants specimens, which she suggests be slipped in some magazines with absorbent newsprint and a beginning made of pressing them by slipping them under some weight. Mrs Smith, who is nothing if not practical, suggests sitting on them in the car coming home" (Vol. 15(4)).

" "If you must choose between your lives and the safety of the specimens, remember the specimens come first." With these stirring words from the Museum botanist (RC Cooper) ringing in our ears we set off for the wilds of the Lower Hollyford Valley determined to bring back something to show for our trip." So wrote Phyllis Hynes and Katie Woods in 1950 (Vol. 8(2)).

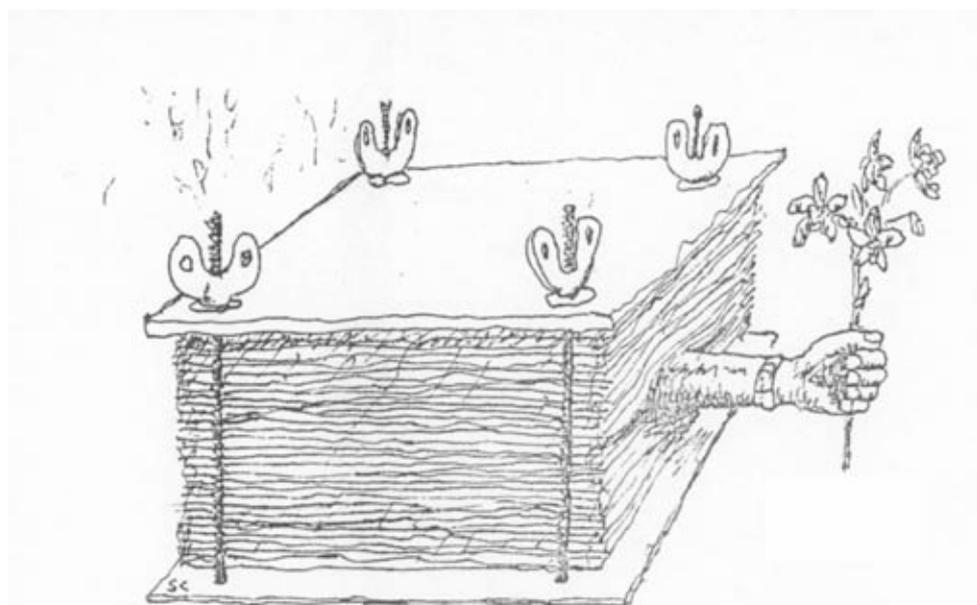


Fig. 2. Cover, Kew Newsletter, from Volume 43(1) 1988.

Acknowledgements

My thanks, in producing the Index, go to Leslie Haines for her careful proofreading and to Ross Beever, Ewen Cameron and Mike Wilcox for giving me the benefit of their wide experience.

Historical reprint

Kathleen (Katie) Wood (1915-2006), was a member of the Auckland Botanical Society from the late 1940s, and together with Phyllis Hynes was also an associate botanist at the Auckland Museum for some years. She was a gifted artist and wrote and illustrated a series of botanical articles that were published in the *NZ Weekly News* from 1965-1979. This piece appeared in the 13 January 1965 issue.

Elusive Ferns of the Kauri Bush By Kathleen Wood

When plant lovers visit us and ask to walk in the bush we like to take them up the Huia Valley to a place where the stream forms a loop, almost surrounding a small stand of kauris.

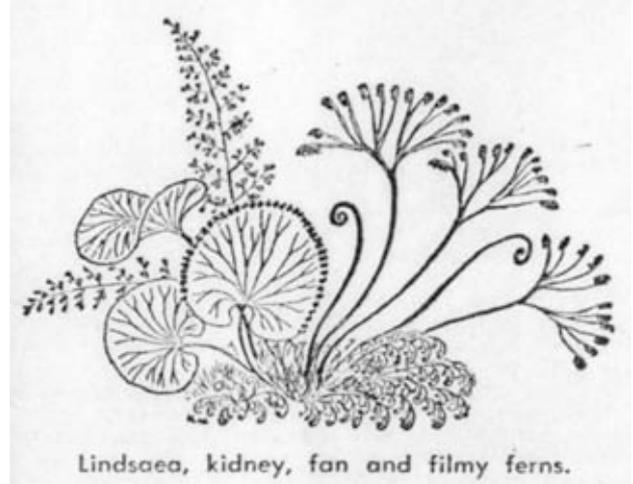
Here is a fairyland indeed, for the encircling stream seems to create a humid atmosphere that encourages phenomenal growth. Among the kauris grow a surprisingly rich variety of plants and the ground is carpeted with thick masses of moss and kidney fern.

Large clumps of kauri grass (*Astelias*) mingle with Kirk's daisies. Toropapa, the sweet-perfumed native honeysuckle, is there, too; also yellow-flowered korokias; neineis, or spiderwood; and the attractive Cunningham's umbrella fern, *Gleichenia* [*Sticherus*] *cunninghamii*.

The trunks of the tree ferns are clad with filmy ferns, and the bush orchids grow from the moss and lichens on the ground. This moss forms a nursery for many seedling trees such as kauri, tanekaha, totara, miro and the rarer tawhari and tawheowheo.

Most interesting of all, however, are the splendid examples of fan ferns, *Schizaea dichotoma*, to be found there. They prefer the

company of large kauris but are elusive. Not every kauri clump shelters them.



Lindsaea, kidney, fan and filmy ferns.

These wiry, primitive plants are very unfernlike in appearance. They spring from the bed of moss, unfurling their quaint fronds, and the upper part opens out into stiff fan-shaped segments. Each of these is tipped with a small, comb-like fertile part which secretes the spores.

Usually the fronds are about eight inches in height, but many in this patch are very tall, measuring up to 17 inches. This excites the interest among fern specialists and live plant specimens have been sent overseas for special study.

Recently we feared that this part of the valley would be drowned by the lake which will be formed when the new dam is completed, but now it is thought that it will be just out of reach. Although it will then be inaccessible to us we hope that such a rich area can remain unspoiled.

The same hope cannot be held for a patch of the rare and beautiful fern *Lindsaea viridis*, which grows beside streams further down the valley, for this will definitely be under the water. This is a tragedy, for only in one other place in the Waitakeres is this fern known to grow.

Corrigendum:

Young, M. (2007): Labour Weekend Camp: Whangarei Heads, 19-22 October 2007. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 62(2): 120-124: Pg 120 & 121 delete *Celmisia adamsii* var. *rugosula* and replace with *Celmisia adamsii* var. *rugulosa*.

Acknowledgement: The Editor gratefully acknowledges the work of the editorial team (Ewen Cameron and Ross Beever) towards the production of this Journal.