

Bledisloe Award. Junior award went to Amber Sciligo, last year's grant recipient.

Presidents Comments

I would like to thank Margaret Geerkens for her past tireless efforts as Society secretary, with her standing down as secretary; the committee for their effort in assisting the Society in its endeavours; and finally I would personally like to thank the Society during my term as President.

Ryan Young

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Officers and Committee (2008-2009)

President: Bryony Macmillan
Vice President: Margaret Geerkens
Secretary: Jodi Rees
Treasurer: Trevor Blogg
Committee: Don Bell (Minutes secretary), Judy Bugo, Gillian Giller (Membership coordinator), Dean Pendrigh (Newsletter editor), Joy Talbot, Marion Winter, Ryan Young

Monthly Programme

June, AGM: Bill Sykes – “Features of the Chatham Islands flora”
 July: Professor Philip Hulme – “When good plants go bad”
 August: David Norton – “Managing biodiversity values on high country farms”
 September: Anthony Wright – “The Three Kings Islands”
 October: Roland Dale – “Exploring Fiordland – a photographic tour”
 November: Graeme Worner, Royal Society grant recipient – “Brooklands Lagoon”; Amber Sciligo, CBS grant recipient – “The biology of *Drosera*”
 December: Philip Grove – “Mapping wetland vegetation in Canterbury”; Alwyn Williams, CBS grant recipient – “The ecology of mountain totara (*Podocarpus hallii*) in the South Island high country”
 January: Alastair Macdonald – workshop on his vegetative key to *Hebe* of the South Island
 March: Miles Giller – “The flora of northern California, western Nevada, and southern Oregon”
 April: Members’ Show and Tell
 May: Jerry Cooper – “The Kingdoms of Fungi”

Field trips and camps

- July: Insectivorous plants at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Darren Tillet
- August: Gold Coast, Queensland 27 – 2 September. Russell Moffitt
- September: Lyttelton area reserves. Di Carter and Ian Hankin
- October: Oashore, Banks Peninsula. Kate Whyte
- November: Western Valley road covenant, Port Levy Saddle. Paul and Ruth Maurice
- November 13-16: Spring camp based at Kaikoura. Trevor Blogg
- December: Mt Hutt. M. Geerkens
- January 9-16: Summer camp at Totaranui, Abel Tasman National Park
January. M. Geerkens
- February 6-8: Camp at Craigieburn Lodge with N.Z. Alpine Garden Society. Ryan Young
- March: High Peak Station shrublands covenant, Rakaia Gorge. Miles Giller
- April: Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere DOC Lakeside reserve. Alice Shanks
- May: Kowai Bush, Springfield – Fungal Foray. Jerry Cooper

The Programme

A wealth of knowledge has been presented to us at the talks and outings and we thank the speakers and leaders who have generously contributed. We have drawn on University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, Canterbury Museum, Ecan, Queen Elizabeth II Trust, Landcare Research, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Christchurch City Council, Department of Conservation, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, N.Z. Alpine Gardens Society, as well as land owners and members. While we have relied heavily on plant lists compiled by others, especially Miles and Gillian Giller, we have been able to contribute additional records in some cases.

Newsletter

The same team has this year worked on the monthly newsletter: Dean Pendrigh editor, Fiona Lees printing labels, Bryony mailing. I commend especially all those who have written reports on talks and trips. Not only do these keep the members informed, they also will provide an important archive for the future. The newsletters are held by the Canterbury Museum. Keep up the good work.

Membership

The Society has suffered a severe loss with the death of Peter Wardle in December. Ever since his retirement from ecological work at Landcare Research Peter has taken a full part in our activities, as evening speaker, camp organiser and leader, symposium mastermind, president, journal editor, and always generous companion on monthly trips.

Congratulations to Fraser Ross of Timaru who received the Queen's Service Medal in the New Year's Honours recognising his 40 years in conservation in South Canterbury.

Our membership is 171 including 12 life members. While we have had 5 resignations, 11 new members have joined.

Awards

Fraser Ross received the Bledisloe Trophy in recognition of his work in conservation of reserves in South Canterbury. Amber Sciligo received the junior trophy for her excellent presentation on breeding systems in *Drosera*. Study grants were awarded to Amber Sciligo and Alwyn Williams. Judy Bugo and Ryan Young were our judges at the Lincoln University Schools' Science Fair in August. Junior prizes were awarded to Holly Lee (Chisnallwood Intermediate) and Joseph Coughlan and Lawrence Batting (Kirkwood Intermediate).

Charitable Status

In order to be exempt from income tax (and to be able to receive tax deductible donations) it was decided to register as a charitable organisation. This required several changes to our constitution to reflect the standards of the Charities Commission. These were passed at a special general meeting on 1st August. Any member requiring a copy of the Society's constitution is urged to apply to the secretary. Gillian Giller made the investigation and carried out the necessary paperwork.

Library

The Society has a small collection of books designed to help with identifications on camps. They are also available for borrowing at other times. Many years ago the Society's considerable book collection was given to the University of Canterbury. In return, any member on showing receipt of subscription, can apply for a reader's borrowing card to this huge resource.

Journal

An editorial sub-committee was formed to ensure that a journal could be produced for the 2007 – 2009 period. Number 41 has come together over 10 months. This year we have supplied back numbers of the journal for scanning by N.Z. Plant Conservation Network, whose plan is to digitise all the botanical societies' publications.

Acknowledgements

The smooth running of the Society has been due to a very active committee. We regretfully accepted the resignation of Judy Bugo. Joy

Talbot stepped down as second vice president according to a change in our rules, and to concentrate on the work of technical editor of the journal. It was a great pleasure to welcome Jodi Rees as secretary and we wish her every joy in motherhood. Margaret Geerkens as vice president has continued to guide many of our activities, and I am very grateful to each of the committee for taking the chair. The supper team of Daphne and Miles Banks and Ann McMillan has continued to provide a convivial close to meetings. The responses to a questionnaire on the time and place of meetings are still coming in.

Comments

In his annual report of 2000 Peter Wardle pointed out that funding for botanical research has been redirected from inventory towards process-oriented studies. This means that knowing where plants are, which is essential for conservation planning, is an important role for botanical societies. Hugh Wilson and his collaborators did a superb work on mapping the small-leaved shrubs of Canterbury and Westland (C.B.S. Journal No.25, 1991). Perhaps we could modestly gather records of the herbaceous natives, with especial note of their habitats, abundance and pollination. Our member Peter Heenan is doing much work to unravel the taxonomy of herbaceous genera, as are other staff at Landcare Research. It has been good to see the progress of members with special interests, for example Sally Tripp on the ferns of the Port Hills and Alastair Macdonald with *Hebe*, and they are able to present the results at meetings.

Bryony Macmillan