

## CANTERBURY BOTANICAL SOCIETY (NZ) INC. FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT 2011

### Officers and Committee (2010–2011)

<b>President:</b>	Bryony Macmillan
<b>Vice President:</b>	Margaret Geerkens
<b>Acting Secretary:</b>	Gillian Giller
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Trevor Blogg
<b>Membership coordinator:</b>	Gillian Giller
<b>Committee:</b>	Don Bell (Minutes secretary), Dean Pendrigh (Newsletter editor), Zuni Steer, Marion Winter

### Monthly Programme

June AGM	Simon Rutherford "Harakeke, its history and uses"
July	Jo Ogier, natural history artist
August	Pieter Pelsler "The biodiversity and conservation of Philippine <i>Rafflesia</i> "
September	John Lovis "Plant megafossils of the Mid Cretaceous"
October	Tara Schoenwetter "Epiphytic lichen communities in a New Zealand forest"
November	Philip Simpson "Heartwood: the contribution of totara to New Zealand's natural and cultural history"
December	John Clemens "The place of Christchurch Botanic Gardens in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century"
February	Susan Wiser "Rare coastal plant habitats"
March	Cancelled
April	David Glenny – demonstration of the online interactive <i>Coprosma</i> key
May	Lizzie Wandrag "Do mutualists matter? The importance of mutualistic relationships for <i>Acacia</i> in New Zealand" Ellen Cieraad "Why are New Zealand treelines so low, and what's wrong with the native trees?"

### Field trips and camps

July	Seaward edge of Brooklands Lagoon, with Forest and Bird. Leader: Colin Meurk
August	Workshop on microscopic algae with Paul Broady
September	Kaituna Valley Scenic Reserve, Prices Valley covenant, and Birdlings Flat. Leaders: Alice Shanks and Rosemary Koller
October	Two QEII covenants at 658 Old West Coast Road. Leaders: Miles and Gillian Giller

November	Show weekend camp. Hanmer Springs Forest Camp. Dunblane and Lake Tennyson. Leader: Trevor Blogg
December	Mt Herbert, trig ZZ. Leader: Paul Maurice
January	Summer camp at Cobb Valley, Nelson. Leaders: Trevor Blogg and Margaret Geerkens
February	Upper Selwyn River gorge. Leaders: Graeme McArthur, Miles Giller
March	Broxton farm, Doctors Hills Range, Waikari. Leaders Miles and Gillian Giller
April	Smothering Gully rata population, Omihi. Leaders: Miles and Gillian Giller
May	Orton Bradley Park, Charteris Bay, Big Rock and Magnificent Gully. Leader: Alice Shanks

### **The Programme**

Talks this year have reflected many aspects of current botanical research drawing on speakers from six institutions, and our membership. We are indebted to the speakers and field leaders who have prepared the way for us. Outstanding in the field has been the leadership of Miles and Gillian to establishing QEII covenants which are frequently in novel landscape and geological settings. We have worked from species lists prepared by them. We thank the owners for welcoming us to their properties.

### **Newsletter**

The editor Dean Pendrigh is again thanked for his very well-put-together newsletters. We are especially thankful for the members' efforts on reports of talks and trips. Fiona Lees keeps the address labels up-to-date and always in my letter box ready for posting the newsletters.

### **Membership**

Membership is 160, including 10 life members. The deaths of Dr Eric Godley and Dr Murray Parsons are very much regretted. Both members have supported the Society for many years. This year we welcomed Pieter Pelsler as taxonomist at the School of Biological Sciences and John Clemens to the curatorship of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. We congratulate Alice Shanks for her appointment as QEII representative for Banks Peninsula. The skills and dedication of Rosemary Koller and Sally Tripp in publishing their book "Ferns of the Port Hills" are very much admired.

### **Awards**

The Bledisloe Trophy was awarded to Brian Molloy for his work with plants in many fields over about 50 years and ongoing. Early this year Brian was made a Companion of the Royal Society at a function at Lincoln University. Alwyn Williams received the junior trophy for his paper on establishment of *Podocarpus hallii* in revegetation projects with respect to mycorrhizae. Study

grants were awarded to Lizzie Wandrag and Ellen Cieraad. Ryan Young and Zuni Steer judged at the Schools' Science and Technology Fair in September. Prizes were awarded for exhibits as follows: Escher Bishop, St Joseph's School, Papanui "Conserving water in the garden", Amelia Reed, St. Margaret's College "Allelopathy", Thomas Ferguson, Lincoln High School, "A dairy algae industry in Canterbury".

### **Library**

Added this year were "An Illustrated Guide to New Zealand Hebes" by M.J.Baly and A.V.Kellow, and "Ferns of the Port Hills – Photography and Fossicking" by R.Koller and S. Tripp.

### **Journal**

Papers and illustrations are being knitted together by Joy Talbot, to appear as No.42 in 2011.

### **Activities**

In October the Society was represented at the N.Z. Plant Conservation Network conference held at Hagley Park. Trevor Blogg made a poster on the theme of conservation outside native reserves. Margaret and Bert Geerkens represented the Society on a visit by the French Botanical Society to the Hanmer Springs mountains.

### **Acknowledgements**

As acting secretary Gillian Giller has kept the affairs of the Society firmly in hand. This year the committee has recognised the need for a Society website and Gillian and Trevor

have done the preparatory work on this. With the secretary and treasurer living out of Christchurch, Don Bell has uplifted and forwarded mail. Ann McMillan hosts the tea table. I am grateful to the committee members for chairing meetings.

### **Comments**

My sympathy to those whose lives have been severely disrupted by the earthquakes. We are all being tested by the general anxiety of ongoing shocks. While the University lecture rooms are closed, the lounge at St. Ninian's has been a genial refuge. The committee members have brought to meetings their different knowledge and warm enthusiasms for Canterbury plant life and the year is brought to its close with bright expectations.

**Bryony Macmillan**