

FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Our AGM was attended by many keen members on a cold wintry day. First up, the election of officers and Committee.

Officers and Committee

President: Jason Butt

Vice-President: Don Bell

Secretary: Alice Shanks

Membership Secretary: Gillian Giller

Treasurer: Trevor Blogg

Committee: Bryony Macmillan, Dean Pendrigh, Jane Demeter, Melissa Hutchison, Margaret Geerkens

Up for discussion was the raising of the subscriptions by \$5 except for students. This will be the first time we have put the subs up since the year 2000. We felt this was necessary as costs are rising and savings interest rates have gone down. So now subs are: student \$15, single \$25, family \$30. Pay your subscription early to receive a \$5 discount. Prompt payment discount applies if subs paid by 31st July.

Colin Burrows suggested printing an annual journal and he will act as roustabout for getting articles together. Trevor Blogg will prepare a budget for this possibility. It was felt that the journal was important for members to read about local botany, and many of us still enjoy reading the old journals.

The senior Bledisloe Award went to Margaret Geerkens for her years of dedication to the Society and to orchids. Margaret is a long term member, a former secretary and an enthusiastic botanist, attending most field trips and public meetings: a well-deserved recipient. The junior Bledisloe Award went to Arash Rafat for his work on Geological and Biological Studies of New Zealand Lichens in the Genus *Usnea*.

After the AGM, Marion Winter gave a talk about her trip to the Galapagos Islands, where she was wowed by the fauna as well as the flora. She stayed aboard a yacht where the guests were outnumbered by the staff, only setting foot on these fragile scraps of land, most of which are volcanic, for a few hours at a time. Meals had to be taken on board, so there was no rubbish on the islands. Highlights were giant cacti and some of the finches made famous by Charles Darwin. It is amazing to think how well the government of Ecuador looks after these islands with conservation paramount when you consider the relative economic strength of the state.

Zuni Steer