

## 62ND ANNUAL REPORT 2015

### Officers and Committee

<b>President:</b>	Jason Butt
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Don Bell
<b>Secretary:</b>	Alice Shanks
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Alice Shanks
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jean-Marie Tompkins
<b>Committee:</b>	Jane Demeter, Melissa Hutchison, Dean Pendrigh (Newsletter Editor), and Bryony Macmillan

Preparing for the AGM gives me a chance to look back through the year's newsletters and it makes for interesting reading. I particularly liked the reference to the "large flower of *Dichondra brevifolia*". At the end of this year the Canterbury Botanical Society's membership has increased by 8 to 207 members, a trend we hope will continue as members are the lifeblood of any society.

The addition of a second field trip to the programme in October made for a full year of botanising for the members of the Society that were able to attend. The past year has seen something of a focus on dryland habitats with some of the few remaining "unimproved" areas near Christchurch getting our attention. This focus is timely with ever increasing land use intensification resulting in fewer places on the Canterbury Plains where indigenous biodiversity can be observed and appreciated. Of the ten field trips this past year four have fallen into the "dryland" category. The Committee and the organisers of these field trips have made a conscious decision to highlight these plant communities and report back to land owners and land managers alike with regard to the issues we observe and some of the options that we believe will help address these issues.

This year saw the end of an era with the moving of the venue for our monthly talks from the University of Canterbury to the Riccarton Public Library. Following a few initial technical issues, that frustrated and confounded at times, it is hoped that it will be smooth sailing from here on.

While I am aware that botany is not a competitive pursuit it is still pleasing that the New Zealand Botanical Society saw fit to honour one of our great local champions Dr Brian Molloy with the Allan Mere. It was with great pleasure that the Canterbury Botanical Society hosted the presentation of this prestigious award.

The committee was pleased to award The Senior Bledisloe Trophy to Eleanor Bissel for her work on a number of projects, with one at the

forefront of my mind being Travis Wetland. The Junior Bledisloe was not awarded this year. The Society was in a position to award a student grant to Anna Henderson to assist with expenses incurred whilst researching seed dispersal by birds in small isolated North Canterbury forest fragments. We also contributed prizes and judging expertise to the Canterbury Westland Schools Science Fair and were very pleased to award the Senior Prize to Tim Logan (Year 11, Darfield High School) for his project titled "To graze or not to graze", and the Junior Prize to Maria Mendoza-Nieto (Year 8, Kirkwood Intermediate School) for her project "Microbes to rescue the world".

Many people have contributed to the running of the Society's affairs over the past year, both within and without the committee. I would like to express gratitude on behalf of the Society to Alice Shanks (Secretary), Don Bell (Vice-President and minute taker), Jean Tompkins (Treasurer), Dean Pendrigh (Newsletter Editor) and other Committee Members Bryony Macmillan, Jane Demeter and Melissa Hutchison. I would also like to extend these thanks to Ann McMillan, for ensuring that refreshments are organised for the monthly meetings, to Miles and Gillian Giller for ready assistance with trip and camp organisation, and to Trevor Blogg and Alastair Macdonald for their efforts on the Summer Camp. The 2013-2014 programme of talks, trips and camps activities follows.

### Talks

7 Jun	St Helena (South Atlantic), Napoleon, and a rare win for conservation	Simon Fowler
4 Jul	Some plants and wildflowers of Mt Diablo, California	Miles & Gillian Giller
1 Aug	Cancelled	
5 Sep	Ecology and conservation of two contrasting <i>Olearia</i> species: <i>O. lineata</i> and <i>O. bullata</i>	Michelle Lambert
3 Oct	Some plants encountered during the course of conducting fieldwork	Laura Young
7 Nov	The special plants and places of Otago (preceded by the presentation of the Allan Mere to Dr Brian Molloy).	John Barkla
5 Dec	Grasses of New Zealand and tools to help identify them	Kerry Ford
2 Feb	Reports from field botanists	Miles Giller, Gillian Giller, Jason Butt, Graeme Ure & Melissa Hutchison

2 Mar	You're never going to please everyone – conservation of meadow plants in Sweden	Lotta Wallin
13 Apr	Pollination of native potato orchid ( <i>Gastrodia</i> spp.) in New Zealand	Kristina Macdonald
4 May	Male fern ( <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> ): a new conservation weed	Graeme Ure

### Field trips

12 Jul	Plant pleasures and puzzles in the Botanic Gardens native garden	Alice Shanks
9 Aug	West Melton grasslands and water race	Jason Butt
13 Sep	Two established North Canterbury native plantings	Gillian Giller
11 Oct	Kaitorete Spit	Brian Patrick & Melissa Hutchison
18 Oct	NZ Defence Force land – West Melton	Brian Patrick
8 Nov	Eyrewell kanuka remnants	Miles Giller
13 Dec	Graeme McArthur QEII Trust covenants – Whitecliffs	Miles Giller
14 Feb	Rare and ephemeral wetlands around Lake Forsyth/Wairewa	Melissa Hutchison & Carol Jensen
7 Mar	Whitecliffs restoration project	Alice Shanks & Elizabeth Forrest
18 Apr	Mt Torlesse Station	Melissa Hutchison
9 May	Two Oxford forest remnants	Miles & Gillian Giller

### Camps

13-15 Nov	Camp based at Glenburn, Orari Gorge – South Canterbury	Alice Shanks
9-15 Jan	Camp based at Tapawera – Nelson	Trevor Blogg