

Sunday September 13: Tour of Dr Peter Johnson's garden  
at 5, Matariki St., Broad Bay.

Meet at 5, Matariki St., 1:30pm (to about 4:30pm).  
There will also be a walk up the hill to Stiles  
Creek Bush.

### Hints on Collecting Herbarium Specimens

What to collect:

Collect whole plants where possible, including roots (for identification we often need to know if it has a taproot, whether there are rhizomes, etc.).

Where you can't collect whole plants, collect as much as you can:

basal leaves as well as stem leaves,  
always take some stem with a leaf (the attachment is important)

collect flowers and/or fruits if at all possible, they are often essential for identification. Even if it is not flowering or fruiting time, there may well be old fruit present somewhere on the plant.

Collect all the material from one plant if possible.

Make notes on:

Where it was growing:

locality,  
altitude,  
map reference.

Habitat (e.g. "in a bog", "on a dry slope", etc.)

Habit:

description (e.g. "sprawling over rocks",  
"upright tree", etc.)

plant height.

Date of collection.

Who collected it.

Pressing and drying: Lay out the plant so that it fits on a herbarium sheet (416 mm x 252 mm). Turn leaves and flowers round so their shape is clear. It is sometimes useful to glue a strip of cardboard on the sheet to hold material on. Plants like sedges that have to be bent and are elastic can sometimes be held on by a piece of cardboard at the point of bending, the shape and size of an envelope sealed and cut in half.

Press the specimens between newspaper. Make a pile of the newspapers, with corrugated cardboard between to allow air circulation. Put pressure on the bundle. The best way is to put rigid but open frames on top and bottom, and tie the bundle very tightly. Keep the bundle in a warmish place, where there is good circulation of air.

When the material is dry, mount it on herbarium sheets with white PVA glue. Do not use sellotape. Herbarium sheets can be purchased at cost from the Botany Department, University of Otago or from Botany Division, D.S.I.R. If it is to be incorporated into either herbarium, the institution will normally give you the paper and labels.

Attach a label with the above information at the bottom right.

P.N. Johnson & J.B. Wilson.