

other Botanical Societies. Well worth a look. The big disappointment was not managing to coincide with the Wakatipu Botanical Group. Hopefully, with improved communication, we can look forward to joining them on future trips to some of the many fascinating places in that area.

Many thanks to Alan Mark for leading the trip so well at such short notice, and to David Galloway for expanding our knowledge of the lichens so dramatically.

**Book review: McPhee, J. 2000.** *Oranges*. 149 pp. p/back. Penguin Books. \$22.95.

I first met this book many years ago, in fact, so long ago I had almost forgotten it. It was by chance I came upon this re-release which immediately brought back the delightful memories of the pleasure the first edition had given me. Time has not in any way diminished this pleasure on re-reading it.

Nothing comes close to matching the flavour or texture of a juicy orange - except, possibly, this book. The text is packed with all kinds of information on the not-so-humble orange, exploring its history, from its origins in Malaysia to the development of the vast and multi-faceted orange industry of today. Did you know that in the fourteen hundreds in Breslau there was an annual orange shoot whereby the Breslovians passed their time shooting oranges from one another's heads - possibly the origin of the William Tell folk tale? Maybe that's why we don't hear of too many Breslovians today! Its place in religion and art is covered as are the modern day horticultural and marketing practices required to put it on your shelves.

McPhee's enthusiasm for his subject is obvious on every page. This is a delicious read with a wealth of delightfully presented information to suit anyone's tastes.

By John Steel