

having a difficult enough job trying to understand why anyone would study mosses in the first place!

Tuesday saw our tired group wend its weary way home after a very pleasant and hospitable weekend. Next year, the workshop will held in the North Island so keep in mind this time next year.

*Thanks To David Glenny, Geoff Spearpoint and Alan Fife for organising the workshop and to Professor Bannister of the Botany Department in Dunedin for the logistical support provided to enable Otago to be well represented once again.*

## **Book review: Mushrooms and other fungi of New Zealand**

Horne, D. 2000,  
129 pp. Paper back.  
Reed Books, Auckland. \$14.95.

By John Steel

This latest in the Reed New Zealand Nature Series, a new series following the format of the old Mobil New Zealand Nature Series of the 1980's, which included Marie Taylor's 'Mushrooms and Toadstools', is also pocket-sized but without the plastic jacket for outdoor use.

That is not the only difference however. After a brief introduction to the fungi, their uses and classification, there follows descriptions of eighty of the generally more common species of New Zealand fungi. With only one species to a page, the book has a spacious, uncluttered feel to it. The descriptions are clear, concise and easily comprehensible to anyone lacking prior knowledge.

Below each piece of text is a half-page, full-colour photograph and occasionally a second, full-page one for good measure. These photographs are superb and a world away from Marie Taylor's delightful coloured drawings of the earlier series.

This publication comes at a good time, with the interest in fungi aroused by our recent fungal forays and illustrated talks by David Orlovich. I have already been able to put a name to *Peziza ammophila* found among the dunes at Long Beach, and the beautiful *Conchomyces bursaeformis*, which distracted me on the fern workshop. A fine little book and an excellent introduction to a fascinating part of our flora.

## **Visitors to Botany Dept, Otago University:**

Assoc. Prof Christo Fabricius (Rhodes University, Sth Africa). Williams Evans Fellow. Interest- Natural resource management in developing nations, social ecological systems, community conservation. 7 Dec 2000 – 20 Jan 2001.

Prof William Bond (Capetown University, Sth Africa). Hellaby Trust Fellow. Interest – Fire ecology, reproductive ecology, non-forest ecosystems. Dec 2000- Jan 2001.