

known at the time of writing. Nearby on a bouldery slope were *Convolvulus verecundus* subsp *verecundus* and some impenetrably dense cushions of *Carmichaelia uniflora* with fat, yellow, sigma-shaped pods bursting through their *Phyllachne*-like crowns: a strange sight. After lunch eaten in our vehicles because of heavy rain, some of us went looking for more wetlands on the east side of Lake Ohau. A chance conversation with an itinerant musician on a bicycle led to our creeping past about 50 assorted caravans and tents (whose occupants were sleeping off their New Year's eve spent in Twizel), to explore another indigenous, lakeside turf. This area of about 30 x 20 metres was weed-free and so densely vegetated that no soil was visible, however there were no species additional to those which we had seen in the Tekapo turf.

📍 Temple Stream Nature Walk, 2 Jan – Neill Simpson

A blustery nor'wester with rain squalls brought in shift day, our move from Pukaki Downs to Glen Mary Ski Club Lodge at Lake Ohau. By the time we packed up, cleaned up, stocked up at Twizel and settled down at Ohau much of the day had gone. The nature walk at the Temple Stream road end, at the head of Lake Ohau proved an ideal finish to the day. The road ends at a patch of mature mountain beech where several large trees were laden with scarlet mistletoe (*Peraxilla tetrapetala*) with the flower remains carpeting the ground. Three tracks start from this picnic area, the North and South branches of Temple Stream, the latter with a "forest" of the rare and threatened, small tree, *Pittosporum patulum* at its head, and the nature walk.

The nature walk climbs through dry mountain beech forest briefly before zig zagging up in fire-induced, open grassland with patchy forest showing good regeneration. Numerous native herbs, orchids such as *Aporostylis bifolia*, and shrubs were found as we listened to the riroriro, a flock of chattering brown creepers and bellbirds and swiped the numerous sandflies. A falcon flew overhead and large dragonflies whizzed about.

At the highpoint of the loop track there is the option of climbing directly uphill through steep, *Dracophyllum* shrubland and beech forest for excellent views to the south. The many who did this found many more plant species, some in flower such as *Celmisia sinclairii*, *C. verbascifolia*, *C. densiflora*, *Forstera sedifolia* and yellow flowered *Brachyglottis haastii*. The Hebes, *H. salicifolia*, *H. subalpina* and *H. buchananii*, were present as was snow totara (*Podocarpus nivalis*) and many other shrubs. It was a warm, balmy evening now and we were reluctant to leave this pleasant place. The numerous mistletoe, some still in flower, were the most notable feature of the loop back through the forest to the vehicles.

📍 Ohau Ski Field, 4 Jan – Barbara Clark

Twenty two people departed at 9:10 am for Ohau Lodge to check whether the ski road was open to all vehicles and pick up the gate key. Lake Ohau was choppy and a southerly was blowing but the sun was shining after heavy rain the previous day. The rocky road up to the skifield was negotiable despite a few slips. Allie's car had a

puncture but the tyre was quickly changed with all the help available. Two passengers elected to walk the rest of the way to lighten the load. They reached the top of the road soon after the cars by following a stream bed up the steep slope.

At the top we donned extra clothing to counter the cool breeze, then people immediately scattered in all directions. There was so much to see! Many stayed on the lower slopes beyond the ski buildings, for most of the morning where there was a lot of marshy ground and a great variety of plant species. Others climbed to the upper ridges where there were scree slopes, rocky outcrops and a hidden tarn. Some of the upper slopes had been "groomed" for the ski operations.

Graeme Jane provided an extensive plant list. Some of the plant highlights were additions to it. Rick Jackson found *Haastia sinclairii* and *Hebe epacridea*. Also found were a beautiful clump of *Lobelia linnaeoides*, on a barren ski run slope protected by a larger rock and *Raoulia eximia*, about a metre across. Other favourites were *Leucogenes grandiceps*, *Aciphylla dobsonii*, penwipers on scree (*Notothlaspi australe* = *N. rosulatum*), *Myosotis traversii* in bud and flower and *Myosotis "drucei"*, with its paniced flower, by a group discussing its non-appearance when it was spotted near their feet adjacent to a hut. Also seen were Alpine butterflies, grasshoppers and a South Island pipit.

Otago & Wellington
Botanical Societies
'prayer meeting',
kettle hole, Ohau.
5 January, 2002.
– Joyce Wilson



Book reviews – by John Steel

Bednarek-Ochyra, H.; Váň a, J.; Ochyra, R.; Smith, R.I.L. 2000. *The liverwort flora of Antarctica*. 236 pp. P/back. Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Botany, Cracow.

Antarctica has an interesting relationship with New Zealand, both being near the bottom of the world and for their past links with the palaeo-continent of Gondwana. Its proximity to New Zealand has also encouraged a strong scientific interest here. Botanically, Antarctica has a limited flora which, apart from one dicotyledon,