



The trip continued with a walk to the salt marsh, sea cliffs and fossil sea-caves of isolated Kai Kai Beach and up the ridge to an abandoned stone farmhouse with a million dollar view to the east and a delightful grove of specimen forest trees in a small clump of remnant bush to the west.

Many thanks to Robyn Bridges whose thoughtful organization made this a very enjoyable trip.

Fig.
Spectacular view frames wind sculptured shrub as Robyn points the way on the Heyward Point trip.

Photo by Gudrun Wells.

Inaugural Geoff Baylis Lecture, 30 October, 2002

The overwhelming success of BSO's Inaugural Geoff Baylis Lecture is a good indication of the widespread esteem and affection held for Geoff, the first New Zealand born Professor of Botany in this country, and head of the Department at Otago for 33 years. Members of the botanical community, colleagues, students past and present, friends and family, from Auckland to Invercargill streamed in to honour Geoff and take part in this special occasion. Even the weather smiled for the day. The three afternoon tours were popular, and Geoff took part in them all. Starting with the plants, Tom Myers, Alice Lloyd Flitt and Shirley Stuart enthusiastically showed off the special plants, some discovered by Geoff, in the native section of the Botanic Garden. They also put together a wonderful display of fresh specimens to decorate the atrium for the gathering at the Museum. Next Prof. Peter Bannister guided guests around his Botany Dept, past Mary Anne Miller's display of Geoff's past and recent (Bot. Soc.) publications, and finishing by the Otago Museum, where Brian Patrick unveiled the mysteries of the basement and showed what had become of the site of Geoff's Botany Dept. Upstairs in the atrium the Otago Museum put on a display which included two original paintings lent by Audrey Eagle and wonderful photos from the archives of the Botany Dept and private collections. David Holdsworth added another dimension with 3 posters detailing Geoff's distinguished naval career, including the ramming of a

German submarine! There wasn't time to take it all in over drinks and nibbles and in no time the Barclay theatre was full to capacity.

David Orlovich, BSO chairman, was pleased to announce our new Patron, Prof Peter Bannister, before introducing the speakers. Geoff Baylis spoke first, reliving the heady days of discovery on the Three Kings Islands. Ann Wylie followed, painting a vivid word picture of life in the Botany Department in the Holloway days, and the impact of the arrival of the dashing young naval officer. Alan Mark made up for lost time with a colourful and rapid display of slides and lively commentary illustrating life in the field with Geoff, his staff and students. My favourites were the classic shots of the elegantly dressed founder of the Hellaby trust being shown the tussock grasslands. Ian Hall, Invermay, took us on a pictorial tour of the Botany Department and university of the past. Some of his shots were so far in the past that they prompted a lively interjection from Geoff!

On another tack, Jim Crush, Ruakura, transported us to the Waikato for a glimpse of the fascinating work they are doing there using using plants to recycle the water and nutrients from human waste. Peter Johnson, Landcare, firmly implanted Baylis into Botany with his mimicry and botanical props to appeal to all our senses, including a fragrant *Olearia fragrantissima* to touch and smell, and a *Griselinia littoralis* upside down in a pot, to illustrate the root structure and mycorrhizal connection. Melanie Stephen, a current Botany honours student, raced us back up to the present, with her explanation of the DNA sampling, sequencing and phylogenetic techniques she has been using to study the mycorrhizal associations in *Nothofagus* forest.

Then Geoff had the last word with a description of his ground-breaking mycorrhizal discoveries.

Fig. Geoff Baylis and Ann Wylie lead the way at the Inaugural Geoff Baylis lecture.

Photo by Adrienne Markey.



A good crowd of 55 went on to the convivial dinner at the University Union, where the wine flowed, thanks to Geoff. After dinner, two more of Geoff's ex-doctoral students

spoke. Conway Powell recalled the filthy business of breaking up rocks to create soil for his research. Karen Cooper proposed a toast to Geoff and Peter Bannister had a succinct last word.

For those who missed the museum display Mignon Pickwell redisplayed much of the material in the Science Library, and added a collect of theses with a mycorrhizal theme. David Holdsworth has donated his posters to the Department of Botany archives.

Such a grand occasion doesn't happen without the support of many people. BSO is particularly grateful to generous support from the Department of Botany, the Otago Museum and the University Union. Also to the enthusiastic tour and display organisers, the speakers, and the student helpers, many of whom are or were recipients of Hellaby Trust help with their botanical research. Most of all we are grateful to Geoff, for inspiring such a wonderful response, and for letting us use his name in perpetuity.

The lecture was videotaped by Graeme Parmenter, Invermay, and by Zhanlin Li for Alan Mark. David Holdsworth is now in the process of writing a biography of Geoff, and if anyone has any material to add he'd love to hear from them at: dholdsworth@business.otago.ac.nz. David is also processing Geoff's extensive slide collection to donate to the Hocken Library.

Trip to Donaldsons' Garden, 24 Nov. -ed

The first fine Sunday in a long time must have drawn all the keen gardeners out to tend their own vigorously growing gardens and lawns. Without any Robyn's splendid gentle botanical reminders (she was away overseas) to entice us away no-one turned up to see the treats that Cliff and Linda had in store. Luckily they are forgiving people and will give us another chance to see their garden at its spring peak next October.

Bryophyte Workshop, Albert Town, Nov 28 – Dec 3 – David Orlovich

The Otago Lakes district turned on the most beautiful weather for the 18th John Child Bryophyte Workshop 2002. The workshop attracted 35 people to Albert Town, on the outskirts of Wanaka, for four days of hunting for mosses, liverworts and hornworts. On the first day, we explored Haast Pass, with most people walking the track back to Davis' Flat. On the way back to Wanaka, we visited a number of the tracks along the Makarora Valley, as well as Kidd's Bush, at the head of Lake Hawea. A planned trip to Treble Cone Ski Field the next day was aborted when we couldn't get past the locked gate. Instead we explored some beech forest in the upper Matukituki Valley and some of us went a short way along the Rob Roy Track, where the snow-capped peaks were a stark contrast to the warm weather we had at ground level! The third day we started at the Snow Farm, collecting in and around Sphagnum bogs, and spent the afternoon at Cardrona Ski Field, where I collected some slime moulds growing around the edge of a melting snowbank. The fourth day we climbed Mt Iron, and most people spent the afternoon walking from the Clutha outlet back to Albert Town, but I spent the afternoon cooling off in the Clutha River! The Bryophyte Workshop was attended by local and