

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

overseas enthusiasts ranging from professional bryologists to interested amateurs. Evening slide shows by Jessica Beever, Bill Malcolm, Kelvin Lloyd and John Braggins made for entertaining evenings. Those with the skills to identify bryophytes were so generous in their help that it was impossible to not catch the "bug" and get hooked on mosses! The intricate, miniature beauty of mosses was revealed under the microscopes set up to aid identification, and the organisers David Glenny and Geoff Spearpoint made sure this was an excellent and memorable workshop. I haven't been able to stop myself peering at neighbour's front fences and staring into cracks in footpaths searching for new species to identify ever since! The John Child Bryophyte Workshop opened up a new and beautiful world to me, and anyone with an interest in discovering the extraordinary in the ordinary should not miss this annual event. Next year's workshop is planned for the Hunua Ranges Regional Parkland, near Auckland.

Botanical and other delights of China, 4 Dec – Allison Knight

Our last meeting of the year was a mushroom gourmet's delight. David Orlovich tantalised a good crowd with 2 carousels of slides from his 2 week mycological tour of China, where there are over 150 different kinds of edible fungi available from the markets and probably hundreds of non-edible fungi yet to be fully described. Dr Wang Yun, Crop & Food, Invermay, added his local and mycological knowledge from the audience. We were all ready to sample a Chinese banquet by the last mouth-watering slide and afterwards a dozen of us enjoyed sampling a dozen tasty courses at the Asian Restaurant, washed down by local and Asian beers. A tasty end to the year's activities.

Reviews

Books

New Zealand's Leaf-dwelling Lichens

Bill and Nancy Malcolm, Micro-Optics Press. 73pp, A5, Spiral bound.

This is another of the Malcolms' informative, entertainingly explained and beautifully illustrated books that will help make the fascinating world of lichens accessible to anyone who is keen to explore it.

The first 33 pages set the scene, with a chatty, broad-ranging discussion covering everything from the best (mycorrhizas and brewers yeast) to the worst (moulds and athletes foot) of fungi; from the fungi that associate with algae or bacteria to form lichens to the very specialized lichenicolous fungi that only infect lichens. Any technical terms are clearly explained and can also be looked up in the well-illustrated glossary. A wealth of interesting detail on the leaf-dwelling (foliicolous) lichens includes such gems as: their chemical defenses against invertebrate grazing and plant defenses against them; the effect of their place in the canopy on the form of their thallus and spores; and exquisite explanations of the mechanism and evolution of asexual, sexual and vegetative reproduction in the canopy.