

Meeting Reports

Kelvin Lloyd's "The Botanical Trampler" - Allison Knight

As guest speaker at our AGM in March, Kelvin Lloyd gave us even more than a superbly illustrated talk about the wild and wonderful places he has tramped, more even than the delightful tale of the little dog who wouldn't go home and followed for days over alpine passes. Most importantly, Kelvin showed us how any clued-up botanist who visits out-of-the-way places can, and should, usefully add to the still sketchy knowledge of plant distribution in this country, by keeping detailed records of plants seen, and by collecting herbarium specimens where appropriate. Thanks to Kelvin's efforts, the extended distributions of some of our less common native grasses such as the snow tussocks *Chionocholea acicularis* and *C. teretifolia*, now follow lines on the map suspiciously like the routes of Kelvins wanderings! A thoughtful, good humoured and provocative talk with a serious botanical message that didn't go unchallenged.

Adrienne Markey's "Walking with Western Australian Wildflowers" report by Ian Radford

As an Australian botanist-ecologist (at least in name) it has been my ambition for years to take a trip to see the western Australian wild flowers in spring. In fact the wild flowers are probably the only thing going for Western Australia from an eastern Australian standpoint! Leaving aside state rivalries, Western Australia is world renowned for its diversity of endemic wildflowers and is second only to fynbos heathland communities in South Africa in terms of species richness (in non-tropical rainforest communities). So it was with great anticipation that I approached the last Otago Botanical Society meeting to see Adrienne's talk, "Walking with Western Australian Wildflowers". And my anticipation was richly rewarded. My eyes were dazzled by the brilliant floral displays of *Grevillea* spp. and *Banksia* spp. and an assortment of other Proteaceous and Myrtaceous species and genera found only in this part of the world. It made me a bit home-sick I must admit (and not a little proud) to remember all those rich colours, and the distinct character of the Australian bush (which I hasten to add, before I get lynched, doesn't mean I don't appreciate the unique character of the New Zealand flora any the less). I was impressed with Adrienne's broad knowledge of the Western Australian flora across vast tracts of the state, from the far south right up into the Kimberley – certainly I cannot boast anything like this knowledge of the flora of NSW, my home state. Adrienne's talk so inspired many in the audience that she was asked to lead a Botanical Society tour of south western Western Australia ASAP. Although she didn't seem that keen (she said she had a thesis to write, or something) I'm sure if the price was right she might reconsider the offer! Anyway, all in all a wonderful snapshot of the harsh beauty of the West, and an impressive display from one of our young botanists.