

BSO Prizes

Plant names prize to Graeme Jane

Congratulations to Graeme Jane, of Tauranga, who was the only person who managed to fully update the Botanical names for the *Metrosidreos* paintings by Robert Donn, which were featured in the article by Mary Anne Miller in the last newsletter. It was a tricky challenge, because *Metrosideros scandens* has been used in the past for two different climbing ratas. None of those who came in to the herbarium to consult conventional sources found all the answers.

Graeme, of course, had all the information at his fingertips, and found it amazingly rapidly using his updated electronic botanical names program (or HTML version of the Flora). What a shame we can no longer use it in the Herbarium. However the New Zealand Plant Names Database <http://nzflora.LandcareResearch.co.nz/>, is providing an increasingly useful service as a single, quotable reference source for New Zealand plant names. Graeme wins a year's subscription to our newsletter.

Donn's 1921 names

Pohutukawa

Metrosideros tomentosa

Three species of Rata

Metrosideros hypericifolia

Cunningham 1839

M lucida

(Forst.) A. Rich 1832

M scandens

(JR & G Forster) Druce 1917

M scandens

Solander ex Gaertn. 1788

Current names

Metrosideros excelsa Sol. ex Gaertn,
New Zealand Christmas tree.

Metrosideros diffusa (G. Forst.) Smith 1797
white rata

M. umbellata Cav,
Southern rata

M. fulgens Sol. ex Gaertn.
vine rata, scarlet rata

M perforata (J.R. Forst. & G. Forst.) A. Rich. 1832
clinging rata, small white rata

Audrey Eagle Prize for Botanical Drawing

The Botanical Society of Otago is pleased to announce that Audrey Eagle has agreed in principle to our institution of a prize for the best botanical drawing submitted for publication in the BSO Newsletter. As most of you will know, Audrey is illustrator and author of the two much prized volumes of *Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand*.

At present she is revising her first two books. These will then be incorporated with her recent work of 190 new illustrations into two new volumes, organised by genus. We are delighted to be able to acknowledge Audrey's contribution to botany in a way that will encourage others to share their talent in botanical drawing. At the moment this is just a broad concept. Audrey suggests that the prize be awarded annually at our AGM. We would welcome feedback and suggestions as to the form the award should take, and of course we would welcome lots of entries. To help you on your way, Monica Peters, in