

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

conjunction with the Cleveland Living Arts Centre, is organising a Workshop on Botanical Illustration on June 8. Don't miss this opportunity to improve your skills.

Exodus to Africa

John Steel, whose articles and book reviews have been a much appreciated feature of this newsletter, is moving to Botswana next month. We wish him well, and look forward to botanical correspondence from abroad.

Good wishes also to **Alan Mark**, as he gets on his feet again after a double hip replacement. Next stop is Durban, South Africa, where Alan and **Kath Dickinson** are presenting a poster at the International Rangeland Congress on *Contemporary issues in New Zealand rangelands* in July. Then he hopes to catch up with John Steel in Botswana, before going back to Durban to present a paper at the World Parks Congress on *The conservation status of New Zealand's indigenous grasslands* in September.

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Established –

forwarded by *Kath Dickinson*

The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network is now incorporated. The chairman is Mike Oates, Wellington City Council. The vision of the network is

"that no indigenous species of plant will become extinct nor be placed at risk of extinction as a result of human action or indifference, and that the rich, diverse and unique plant life of New Zealand will be recognised, cherished and restored".

An inaugural meeting of the Network will be held at Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington on Saturday 2nd August 2003. More details on BSO noticeboard or from: Mike Oates (Michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz), John Sawyer (jsawyer@doc.govt.nz), Tim Park (tpark@qc2natrtrust.org.nz) or New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, PO Box 16-102, Wellington South, New Zealand.

Botanical Diary

Conserving Native Plants for the 22nd Century, 7 June 2003 Canterbury Botanical Society 50th Anniversary Programme

The symposium covers native plant species, communities and habitats, with an emphasis on Canterbury and Westland. The papers are forward-looking reviews rather than accounts of research in progress, and are pitched at a level that attracts the interest of Botanical Society members, scientists, conservation managers, and others with a concern for native plants.

8.30: Registration , 9.00-9.10: Introduction by the president Neil O'Brien*

Session 1 9.10-10.00 : **Conservation in the cultural landscape**; chair Colin Burrows*
(University of Canterbury)

Re-establishing native plant communities from scratch; lessons from Matawai Park, Rangiora (Geoff Henderson*, Matawai Park Advisory Group Member, Rangiora)