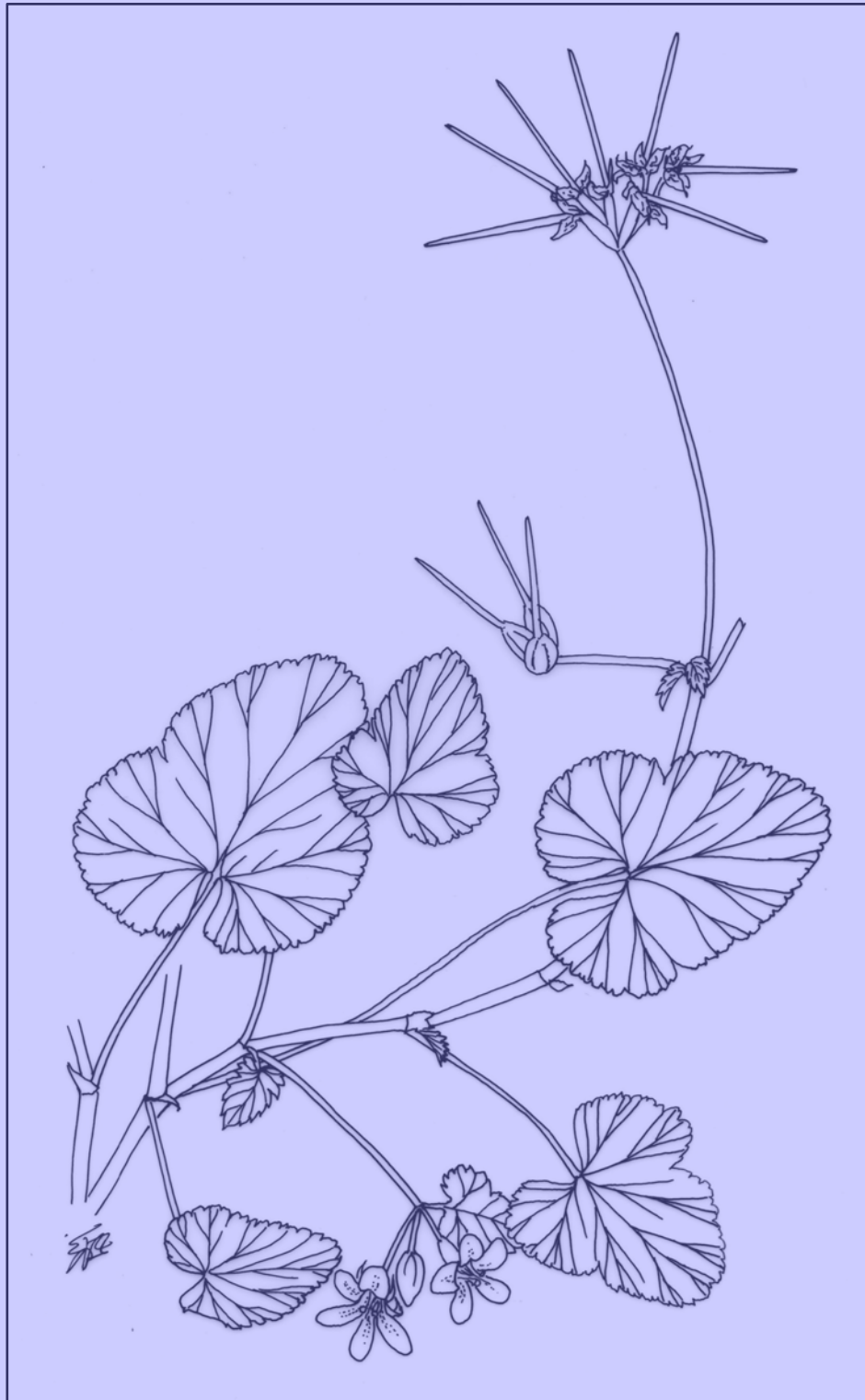


NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 131

March 2018



## New Zealand Botanical Society

President: Anthony Wright  
Secretary/Treasurer: Ewen Cameron  
Committee: Bruce Clarkson, Colin Webb, Carol West

Address: c/- Canterbury Museum  
Rolleston Avenue  
CHRISTCHURCH 8013  
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### Subscriptions

The 2018 ordinary and institutional subscriptions are \$25 (reduced to \$18 if paid by the due date on the subscription invoice). The 2018 student subscription, available to full-time students, is \$12 (reduced to \$9 if paid by the due date on the subscription invoice).

Back issues of the *Newsletter* are available at \$7.00 each. Since 1986 the Newsletter has appeared quarterly in March, June, September and December.

New subscriptions are always welcome and these, together with back issue orders, should be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer (address above).

Subscriptions are due by 28 February each year for that calendar year. Existing subscribers are sent an invoice with the December *Newsletter* for the next years subscription which offers a reduction if this is paid by the due date. If you are in arrears with your subscription a reminder notice comes attached to each issue of the *Newsletter*.

### Deadline for next issue

The deadline for the June 2018 issue is 25 May 2018.

Please post contributions to:  
Lara Shepherd  
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa  
169 Tory St Wellington 6021

Send email contributions to [editor@nzbotanicalsociety.org.nz](mailto:editor@nzbotanicalsociety.org.nz). Files are preferably in MS Word, as an open text document (Open Office document with suffix ".odt") or saved as RTF or ASCII. Macintosh files can also be accepted. Graphics can be sent as TIF JPG, or BMP files; please do not embed images into documents. Alternatively photos or line drawings can be posted and will be returned if required. Drawings and photos make an article more readable so please include them if possible.

### Cover Illustration

*Pelargonium inodorum* by Eleanor Burton.

NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY  
**NEWSLETTER**  
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## NEWS

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### **New Zealand Botanical Society News**

#### ▪ **Call for Nominations for Allan Mere Award 2018**

Nominations meeting the following conditions are invited for the award of the Allan Mere for the year 2018.

##### *Conditions of the Allan Mere Award*

The Award shall be made annually to a person or persons who have made outstanding contributions to botany in New Zealand, either in a professional or amateur capacity.

The Award shall be administered by the New Zealand Botanical Society.

Nominations for the Award may be made by regional Botanical Societies, or by individuals, to the Secretary of the New Zealand Botanical Society. Nominations shall be signed by nominator and seconder, and accompanied by supporting information that must not exceed one A4 page.

Selection of the successful nominee/nominees shall be made by the Committee of the New Zealand Botanical Society, normally within three months of the closing date for nominations.

If, in the opinion of the Committee, no suitable nomination is received in any particular year, the Committee may refrain from making an award.

The Mere shall be formally presented to the recipient on an appropriate occasion by the President of the New Zealand Botanical Society or his/her nominee, but otherwise shall remain in the custody of, and be displayed by, the Herbarium Keeper of the Allan Herbarium (CHR) at Landcare Research, Lincoln, together with the book recording awards.

The recipient shall receive an appropriately inscribed certificate.

Nominations should be forwarded by 30 June 2018 to:

**Ewen Cameron**, Secretary, New Zealand Botanical Society, c/- Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch 8013.

#### ▪ **Call for suggestions for Loder Cup nomination 2018**

The NZBS is one of the named groups able to nominate people for the Loder Cup – New Zealand's premier conservation award. The Loder Cup is entrusted to the Minister of Conservation who appoints the Loder Cup committee and awards the Cup. The Department of Conservation handles the administration of the award and any other matters. The Cup is awarded annually to the person, group of people, or organisation, which has exceeded all other nominees in furthering the aims and objects of the donor of the Cup.

Suggestions for consideration by the Committee for the Society's nomination should be forwarded to the undersigned by 5 May 2018.

**Ewen Cameron**, Secretary, New Zealand Botanical Society, c/o Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch 8013

#### ▪ **Financial Statement 31.12.2017**

## Financial Statement for year ended: 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations	\$218.75	\$487.00
Interest	\$13.38	\$20.97
Sale of Back issues	\$42.00	\$37.40
2016 Subscriptions	\$190.00	\$3,039.00
2017 Subscriptions	\$1,744.00	\$1,432.00
2018 Subscriptions	\$547.00	\$0.00
Accounts receivable (subscriptions due for the 2018 year, invoiced in December 2017)	\$2,646.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,401.13</b>	<b>\$5,016.37</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Postage costs	\$2,439.29	\$2,017.91
Printing costs	\$1,587.92	\$1,475.22
Calligraphy costs (Allan Mere)	\$80.50	\$69.00
Bank fees	-	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,107.71</b>	<b>\$3,562.13</b>
Total income	\$5,401.13	\$5,016.37
Less total expenses	(\$4,107.71)	(\$3,562.13)
<b>Net surplus</b>	<b>\$1,293.42</b>	<b>\$1,454.24</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash in bank - current account	\$8,772.68	\$9,727.86
Cash in bank - Achiever Savings	\$2,072.94	\$2,072.26
Accounts Receivable	\$2,646.00	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$13,491.62</b>	<b>\$11,800.12</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Printing costs	\$413.08	-
Postage costs	-	\$15.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$413.08</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
Total Assets	\$13,491.62	\$11,800.12
Less Total Liabilities	(\$413.08)	(\$15.00)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$13,078.54</b>	<b>\$11,785.12</b>
Represented by		
Retained earnings c/fwd from previous year	\$11,785.12	\$10,330.88
Profit for year	\$1,293.42	\$1,454.24
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 31 DECEMBER</b>	<b>\$13,078.54</b>	<b>\$11,785.12</b>

I certify that this financial statement has been approved by the Committee and will be published in Newsletter March 2018 pursuant to Rule 8b of the Rules of the New Zealand Botanical Society.

Signed

Anthony Wright, President

## Regional Botanical Society News

### ■ Auckland Botanical Society

#### December outing & pot-luck lunch

This end-of-year outing took place at the Kaipatiki Environment Centre, Birkdale, on the North Shore. A couple of hours botanising in a forested valley, wetland and gumland preceded the sharing of lunch at the Kaipatiki Project base. After lunch our hosts guided us around the nursery, the garden and the pa harakeke, and shared with us some of the environmental and botanical work they undertake.

#### South Island Trip to Westport, 2018

With weather much better than that forecast, in fact rather hotter and more humid than expected, this very enjoyable camp was based at the University of Canterbury Field Centre in Westport. With tourism now a mainstay of the West Coast economy there are many fine walking/cycling tracks to choose from. A highlight for most was to explore the Denniston Plateau, made famous by the Jenny Patrick novel, *The Denniston Rose*. Here we were taken by 4WD up Mt Rochfort and the wondrous views vied for attention with the botany. Fern lovers enjoyed the plethora of filmy ferns, known and unknown, that grow in abundance up various river valleys, and a wildly windy day seemed an appropriate time to experience the aptly named Cape Foulwind.

#### February Field Trip

On one of the hot, humid days that this summer has thrown up in the north, our first outing of the year took place at Waharau Regional Park, Hunua Ranges, on the west coast of the Firth of Thames. Well-formed and well-marked tracks gave three options for the walkers, for which those who found the steepness or the humidity too much were grateful. On the nutrient-poor lower reaches the umbrella ferns, *Gleichenia dicarpa* and *G. microphylla* formed a solid understorey, with plentiful towai, tanekaha and rewarewa above. *Schizaea bifida* was an interesting find on the trackside. Higher up the hill we came across occasional hard beech, then more mature forest gradually took over. Some observant people were lucky enough to see king fern on the road edge.

#### Forthcoming Activities

7 March	AGM. Lucy Cranwell Grant recipient
17 March	Port Waikato dunes
4 April	Tim Curran: Plant & garden flammability study
21 April	Awhitu Regional Park

Auckland Botanical Society, PO Box 26391, Epsom, Auckland 1344

**President:** Ewen Cameron

**Secretary:** Stephanie Angove-Emery  
[aucklandbotanicalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:aucklandbotanicalsociety@gmail.com)

### ■ Whanganui Museum Botanical Group

For monthly meetings the Whanganui Botanical Group has merged with Birding Whanganui (local branch of OSNZ) and the Whanganui branch of Forest and Bird, under an umbrella name of 'Nature Talks'. Each group will arrange a speaker for about 4 meetings per year. Meetings will normally be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. It is intended to continue with monthly botanical field trips to which members of the other two groups are invited.

#### FUTURE EVENTS

13 March     A speaker and topic for our March meeting are yet to be finalised. Watch this space ...

- 17 April Leon Perrie of the herbarium at Te Papa and a very active researcher of ferns, will speak to Nature Talks on 17 April. His topic is 'Discovering Ferns - what separates ferns from other plants, the place of ferns in NZ culture, recent research on ferns including the role of DNA analyses, ferns in the broader context of conservation in NZ, and practical tips for identifying ferns.'
- 15 May Karen Pratt, project leader of Project Reef Life (<https://www.projectreeflife.org/>) and her colleague Joshua Richardson, manager of the Participatory Science Platform at Venture Taranaki, will give a presentation about the project at *Nature Talks*."

**President:** Clive Higgie (06) 342 7857 [clive.nicki@xtra.co.nz](mailto:clive.nicki@xtra.co.nz)

**Secretary:** Robyn Ogle (06) 347 8547 [robcol.ogle@xtra.co.nz](mailto:robcol.ogle@xtra.co.nz)

#### ■ Wellington Botanical Society

##### November fieldtrip – Moa Point seaweeds

We explored both the seaweeds that had washed up on the beach and those on the peninsula and found several species we hadn't seen on our March trip. Our testing of the artificial intelligence feature of the *iNaturalist* app showed that it was capable of identifying some of the common, distinctive species, such as *Ecklonia radiata*. We finished of the trip by examining the land-plant community of Moa Point.

##### November workbee – Te Mārua Bush workbee

Sixteen members met to weed and cut light-wells for planted shrubs of tōtara, mataī, kahikatea and maire. Many of the plantings have had good growth over the last year and there are good numbers of self-seeded native plants in some areas. We finished by removing rubbish from around the edge of the reserve.

**President:** Lara Shepherd, [lara.shepherd@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:lara.shepherd@tepapa.govt.nz)

**Secretary:** Barbara Clark, 04 233 8202 [bj\\_clark@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bj_clark@xtra.co.nz) <http://wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz/>

#### ■ Nelson Botanical Society

##### August Field Trip: Grampians Kahikatea Track

Fifteen of us assembled at the southern end of the Grampians and at the gate we were immediately enclosed by the recovering podocarp forest. Many ferns accompanied us: *Lastreopsis glabella*, *Pneumatopteris pennigera*, *Asplenium oblongifolium*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Pteris tremula* and *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia*. There were also many tītoki, kaikōmako, māhoe, *Brachyglottis repanda*, kawakawa, nīkau, even tawa, karaka, ngaio and a planted houhere. Masses of entangled and large woody vines, reaching up to the canopy: *Griselinia lucida*, *Passiflora tetrandra*, *Parsonsia heterophylla*, *Freycinetia banksii* and *Ripogonum scandens*. A short distance from each other were the two enormous kahikatea and then two ancient mataī.

##### August Talk: "Botanical highlights of New Zealand's subantarctic islands" - Dr Alex Fergus

Alex covered The Snares, Auckland Islands, Campbell Island and Macquarie Island, and explained how plant diversity across the islands is the result of degree of isolation, surface area, time out of the water, geology, latitude/climate and degree of sea-bird disturbance. The first megaherbs we were shown were *Azorella robusta* and *Anisotome acutifolia*. Alex showed us slides of Enderby Island with *Leptinella potentillina* growing on the beach and mats of *Ranunculus acaulis*. Just inland the vegetation changes to scrubby *Myrsine divaricata*, *Ozothamnus vauvilliersii* and *Dracophyllum longifolium* var. *cockayneanum*, with cushions of the *Astelia subulata*. *Gentianella concinna* and *G. cerinna* occur across the island. Our fourth megaherb, *Azorella polaris*, grows under a forest of *Metrosideros umbellata*, together with *Asplenium scleroprium*. Campbell Island is renowned for its megaherbs: *Bulbinella rossii* has done very well as it was not palatable to the sheep and cattle. Higher up in the herb fields *Pleurophyllum criniferum* is spectacular, *P. speciosum* has bright flowers of violet, purple and white and *Anisotome antipoda* has pink flowers. *Dracophyllum longifolium* var. *cockayneanum* and *D. scoparium* are thriving and spreading. Alex showed us blue-flowered *Hebe benthamii*, white *Gentianella antarctica* then *Myosotis antarctica* and *M. capitata*.

#### September Field Trip: Inches' bush, Wairoa valley, weed busting and botanising

Our annual weed-busting went according to plan. Eleven eco-warriors managed to get four hours weeding done. We concentrated on the northern edge of the bush where most of the weeds were resprouting. The forest itself now appears quite resilient to weed invasion, with no vines detected in its heart. It is only around the edges, especially along the river and roadside, that weeds are still a threat. One weed, *Stachys sylvaticus*, has expanded dramatically since our last visit. All of the threatened plants that occur in the forest are still surviving, although *Scutellaria* is not abundant now. In contrast, the *Teucrium* are doing very well along the northern edge and it was encouraging to see a few seedlings of *Pseudopanax ferox*.

#### September Talk: 'Some plant projects in the Motueka DOC district' - Roger Gaskell

Roger Gaskell, from DOC, Motueka, gave a talk about the challenges of trying to preserve rare and endangered plants in the Nelson region. One of the plants he is trying to save from extinction is *Lepidium banksii*, which occupies rocky crevices between the high tide and the forest. It has many threats to its survival, including fungal disease, chewing by insect larvae, being sat on by seals and rooted up by pigs, competition from weeds and, in recent years, an increasing frequency of severe weather events. A small success story has been a project hand-sowing sticky *Tupeia antarctica* mistletoe seed on five-finger hosts on Adele and Fisherman islands. On Mt Owen *Botrychium lunaria*, is threatened by the invasion of *Hieracium*. DOC staff have spent hours on a spray operation trying to minimise damage to the habitat of the moonwort. In the Sherry River valley protected sites of *Olearia polita* are threatened by *Clematis vitalba* and other weeds. At Lake Henderson *Carex ovalis* threatens the lakeshore habitat of four nationally important threatened herbs: *Lobelia fugax*, *Ranunculus* 'Burgoo', *Craspedia* 'Henderson' and *Gratiola concinna*. An example of the scale and challenge of weed control facing DOC is wilding conifer spread threatening mineral belt vegetation in the Red Hills.

#### October Field Trip: Wainui headwaters

After gathering in the Canaan Downs carpark we drove to the DOC house, then walked to the Wainui Saddle. As we descended and followed the river to the hut, the vegetation became more forest-like, with *Fuscospora fusca*, *F. cliffortioides* and *Lophozonia menziesii*; occasional examples of *Phyllocladus* 'forest', *Podocarpus laetus*, *Prumnopitys ferruginea*, *Weinmannia racemosa* and *Quintinia serrata*; *Griselinia littoralis* including a single specimen of *Cordyline indivisa*; *Myrsine divaricata*, *Raukaua anomalus* and *Dracophyllum elegantissimum*. Other plants of interest in the understorey were *Astelia nervosa* "broad". Recently renamed *Blechnums* included: *Cranfillia fluviatilis*, *C. vulcanica*, *Parablechnum novae-zelandiae*, *P. procerum*, *Lomaria discolor*, *Austroblechnum penna-marina* and *A. colensoi*. There were occasional *Leptopteris superba*; *Paesia scaberula*; *Cyathea colensoi*; and *Hymenophyllum multifidum* and *H. malingii*. Beside the hut we saw *Melicytus* "Canaan" and across the river *Ourisia modesta*.

#### November Field Trip: Upson conservation block, Clarke River Valley

Twenty-two 'Bot Soccers' were keen to visit this block owned by the Upson family near the Clarke River. Crossing a small stream there were a number of *Corybas macranthus* in-flower on the bank. The green-hoods were the next orchids in the extravaganza: *Pterostylis graminea*, *P. banksii* and *P. "peninsula"*. Care was needed to cross a fast-running stream with slippery rocks but on the opposite bank were two more orchid species: *Corybas oblongus* and *C. acuminatus*. The property is home to four species of beech: *Fuscospora fusca*, *F. solandri*, *F. truncata* and *Lophozonia menziesii* but also contains a good mix of other trees and shrubs: *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, *Podocarpus laetus*, *Elaeocarpus hookerianus*, *Neomyrtus pedunculata*, and *Raukaua anomalus*. A spur on the ridge was home to *Adenochilus gracilis* and *T. nervosa*. This location also provided *Caladenia lyallii* and the smaller *C. nothofagei*. The find of the day was *C. "Bacon Creek"*. The species has two rows of calli extending down the labellum mid-lobe.

#### December Camp: Wanaka/Borland

##### Day 1: Wanaka DOC Reserves

Our first visit was to Mahaka Katia/Pisa Flats Scientific Reserve, which is on drought-prone, alluvial gravel with outwash terraces near Lake Dunstan. It's home to several uncommon plants: *Leptinella conjuncta*, *Lepidium solandri* and *Colobanthus brevisepalus*. We were puzzled by dark-green cushions of *Myosotis uniflora*. A lower terrace with high salinity had *Atriplex buchananii*. Other special plants were *Craspedia* "Clutha" and *Raoulia beauverdii*. There were a few large plants of *Carmichaelia petriei*. The second location that day was the Bendigo Goldfields Reserve where we saw *Coprosma propinqua*, *Corokia cotoneaster*, *Discaria toumatou*, *Kunzea serotina*, *Melicytus*



*alpinus*, *Raoulia parkii* and shrivelled specimens of *Cheilanthes humilis*. At Welshtown we found multi-stemmed *Olearia odorata*, patches of *Wahlenbergia rupestris*, *Brachyglottis haastii* in flower and *Prasophyllum colensoi* on a low bank. At a small DOC reserve at Lindis Crossing we got close to the ground to see *Luzula celata*, *Epilobium hectorii*, *Chaerophyllum novae-zelandiae* and *Raoulia monroi*.

#### Day 2: Pisa Range

We went over the Pisa Range in 4WD vehicles from Cardrona towards Meadow Hut and stopped beside a cushion bog. What we first thought was a cushion daisy was identified as *Dracophyllum muscoides*. On the fellfields were *Hectorella caespitosa*, *Anisotome flexuosa* and *A. imbricata* var. *imbricata*. *Ourisia caespitosa* and *Pimelea sericeovillosa* subsp. *sericeovillosa* were flowering and



*Dracophyllum muscoides*. Photo by Beryce Vincenzi.

outside the hut a lovely patch of *Viola cunninghamii* with *Geum leiospermum*. The challenging route continued via the summit of Mt Pisa. The mat daisy *Raoulia apicinigra* was growing across a large boulder. At Lake Mackay we sighted *Craspedia lanata* var. *lanata* and, *Aciphylla hectorii*. We also saw *Hebejeebie densifolia* and *Gentianella divisa* received attention from the photographers. The stop at Locharburn Scientific Reserve showed us a remnant of wooded vegetation: *Podocarpus laetus*, *Podocarpus nivalis*, *Kunzea serotina*, *Leptospermum scoparium* var. *scoparium*, *Discaria toumatou*, *Phyllocladus alpinus* and *Halocarpus bidwillii*. After stopping to admire some *Carmichaelia crassicaulis* subsp. *crassicaulis*, we came out onto the Luggate-to-Cromwell Road.

#### Day 3: West Wanaka Bluffs Conservation Area

The first stop along the Matukituki River was to a remnant forest of *Prumnopitys taxifolia*, *Fuchsia*

*excorticata* and *Olearia fragrantissima*. *Parsonsia capsularis* var. *capsularis* and *Clematis forsteri* were climbing through the trees and *Epilobium pubens* on dry banks. At Diamond Lake we encountered six different *Olearia* species: *O. fragrantissima*, *O. bullata*, *O. odorata*, *O. avicenniifolia*, *O. arborescens* and *O. hectorii*, *Asplenium richardii* growing on shaded rocks beside the track. By our lunch stop beside a cliff we saw *Acaena dumicola*, *Parahebe lyallii* and *Myosotis macrantha*.

#### Day 4: Cardrona Skifield

Most of us took the gondola to the top and climbing a ridge we encountered a bank covered in *Myosotis pulvinaris*, *Raoulia youngii* and *Pachycladon novae-zelandiae*. Close together were: *Hebejeebie densifolia*, *Hebe buchananii* and *Chionohebe thomsonii* var. *glabra*. White flowers of *Caltha obtusa* were seen in the fell field and close by were patches of *Anisotome imbricata* var. *imbricata*, *Hectorella caespitosa* and mats of *Abrotanella inconspicua* were flowering. Spiny leaved *Celmisia lyallii* was present along with clumps of *Aciphylla montana*, *A. lecomtei*, *A. simplex* and *A. kirkii*.

#### FUTURE EVENTS

March 18 Field Trip: Otuwhero

April 15           Field Trip: North from  
Delaware Bay  
May 20            Field Trip: Wairoa Gorge  
QE II covenants

**President:** David Grinsted (03) 5424384,  
[davidgrinsted@gmail.com](mailto:davidgrinsted@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Don Pittham (03) 5451985,  
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**Treasurer:** Uta Purcell (03) 5450280,  
[mupurcell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mupurcell@xtra.co.nz)

Right: *Myosotis pulvenaris*. Photo by  
Beryce Vincenzi.



■ **Other Botanical Society Contacts**

Waikato Botanical Society

**President:** Paula Reeves

**Secretary:** Kerry Jones

**General contact:** [secretary@waikatobotsoc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@waikatobotsoc.org.nz)

**Website:** <http://waikatobotsoc.org.nz>

Rotorua Botanical Society

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Web Page: [www.wildlands.co.nz/company/rotorua-botanical-society/](http://www.wildlands.co.nz/company/rotorua-botanical-society/)

Taranaki Botanical Society

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Janica Amooore 06 7520830. Email: [waiongona@clear.co.nz](mailto:waiongona@clear.co.nz)

Hawke's Bay Botanical Group

<https://www.facebook.com/Hawkes-Bay-Botanical-Group-590670161140095/>

Manawatu Botanical Society

**Jill Rapson:** Massey University. Ph (06) 350 5799 Ext 7963; [G. Rapson@massey.ac.nz](mailto:G.Rapson@massey.ac.nz)

Canterbury Botanical Society

**President:** Gillian Giller (03) 313 5315

**Secretary:** Alice Shanks   **Website:** [www.canterburybotanicalsociety.org.nz](http://www.canterburybotanicalsociety.org.nz)

Botanical Society of Otago

**Chairman:** David Lyttle [djlyttle@ihug.co.nz](mailto:djlyttle@ihug.co.nz)   [www.otago.ac.nz/botany/bsol/](http://www.otago.ac.nz/botany/bsol/)

**Secretary:** Allison Knight, P O Box 6214, Dunedin North. [bsol@otago.ac.nz](mailto:bsol@otago.ac.nz)

Wakatipu Botanical Group

**Chairman:** Neill Simpson (03) 442 2035

**Secretary:** Rebecca Teele 027 314 2610

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## NOTES AND REPORTS

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- *Pteris parkeri* hort. ex J.J.Parker, a new naturalised fern

**Barbara S Parris**, Fern Research Foundation, 21 James Kemp Place, Kerikeri, Bay of Islands 0230

In 2012 Doug Shaw found a fern at Matakohe, North Auckland and sent it to AK for identification. Details are: "New Zealand, North Island, Matakohe, south side of SH12, 12 Horniblow Road Q08 168629, 36°7'51"S 174°10'50"E alt. c. 60 m, 28 March 2012, D J Shaw, AK 330571. Notes Spontaneously appeared in grassy ditch where the edge of a small bridge was covering it. Fronds are yellowish-green near the central veins (a cultivar?). Not seen elsewhere in the district."

It was identified by me as *Pteris nipponica* W.C.Shieh (Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 79: 285 (1966)), following Hoshizaki & Moran (2001). However, Fraser-Jenkins (2008) pointed out that *P. parkeri* hort. ex J.J.Parker (Gard. Chron. 51: 160 (1912). Type: probably from Japan, ex cult. J.J.Parker (K *n.v.* – not on line)) is the correct name for this species, not *P. nipponica*. *Pteris parkeri* differs from *P. cretica* in having pinnae that are never decurrent to the rachis, while in *P. cretica* most pinnae except the basal pair are decurrent to the rachis.

Hooker described a strongly variegated form of *Pteris parkeri* as *P. cretica* var. *albolineata* and this matches Doug Shaw's fern. The variety needs to be transferred from *P. cretica* to *P. parkeri* as follows: *Pteris parkeri* var. *albolineata* (Hook.) Parris **comb. nov.**, based on *Pteris cretica* var. *albolineata* Hook., Curtis' Bot. Mag. 86: t. 5194 (1860). Type: cult. ex Buitenzorg Botanical Garden, Java, collected by Binnendyk (K, herb. Hooker, *n.v.* – not on line).



*Pteris parkeri* 'Albolineata'.

Hooker described a strongly variegated form of *Pteris parkeri* as *P. cretica* var. *albolineata* and this matches Doug Shaw's fern. The variety needs to be transferred from *P. cretica* to *P. parkeri* as follows: *Pteris parkeri* var. *albolineata* (Hook.) Parris **comb. nov.**, based on *Pteris cretica* var. *albolineata* Hook., Curtis' Bot. Mag. 86: t. 5194 (1860). Type: cult. ex Buitenzorg Botanical Garden, Java, collected by Binnendyk (K, herb. Hooker, *n.v.* – not on line).

The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Melbourne Code, 2012) states that epithets published in conformity with the code may be used as cultivar epithets and as *P. parkeri* var. *albolineata* was described from a cultivated plant its appropriate name is *Pteris parkeri* 'Albolineata'.

*Pteris parkeri* is native to Korea, Japan and Taiwan, is naturalised in Nepal and North America and is commonly cultivated world-wide as the cultivar *P. parkeri* 'Albolineata' (Fraser-Jenkins 2008). This has been in the horticultural trade in New Zealand for at least 30 years and has proved to be a useful non-invasive shade and drought tolerant fern. Given the length of time it has been in cultivation here it is surprising that there is only one record of it self-sowing.

#### Acknowledgements

Thanks to Doug Shaw for collecting the fern, Christopher Fraser-Jenkins for information on *Pteris parkeri*, Ewen Cameron for permission to use the image of the specimen in AK and Patrick Brownsey for discussion.

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- **A tribute to William (Bill) Russell Sykes (13 Oct 1927–5 Jan 2018): Assisting Bill Sykes in the Cook Islands, 14–27 Aug 1982**

Ewen K. Cameron, Auckland Museum, Private Bag 92018, Auckland



**Fig. 1.** Bill enjoying his book launch at Landcare Research, Lincoln. Photo: Anthony Wright, 10 Jun 2016.

This tribute is based on my (expanded) illustrated talk that I gave at the launch of Bill's master publication, *Flora of the Cook Islands* (Sykes 2016), at Landcare Research, Lincoln on 10 June 2016. This was a colourful and wonderful celebration attended by his family, friends, colleagues, and a sizable delegation from the Cook Islands including their High Commissioner to New Zealand a Cook Islands chief (Marie, Pa Ariki). Although Bill wasn't well he spoke at the event and appeared to thoroughly enjoy the afternoon (Fig. 1).

#### Cook Islands

In 1982 Bill wanted a field assistant for the more remote survey work that he was planning in the Cook Islands – this was to be his “last” field trip there

before publishing the flora. He had invited Rhys Gardner to join him. But Rhys badly gashed his leg not long before the departure date, and I was fortunately able to step in at the last minute. At that stage I hardly knew Bill and my knowledge of the tropical Pacific flora was poor. I couldn't have wished for a better induction than to have Bill as a teacher, and we became close friends since that time.

We were based at Toto Koitu at the DSIR Research Orchard on the southern part of Rarotonga – so there were plenty of free vegetables and fruit. A whole bunch of bananas was placed outside our door to pick as they ripened. Rarotonga is an eroded basaltic shield volcano, roughly twice the size of Little Barrier Island (Hauturu) in the Hauraki Gulf. The interior is rugged with many volcanic peaks, the tallest at 652 m, narrow ridges, and bluffs. The 13,000 people live along the low coastal fringe - the only place with roads. Bill had hired a scooter and we both travelled around the coastal roads a little precariously on that – we only hit one semi-feral chicken.

#### Climbing Te Kou (588 m)

We set out from Toto Koitu on foot with James – a local guide with knowledge of the plant names. Where possible, Bill was keen to record local plant names, but few people held this knowledge – generally some of the older men knew the woody plant names and the women the scented flowers. There was no track and we soon came across a slope of the tropical fern *Dicranopteris linearis* to traverse (Fig. 2).

Further up the Taipara Valley on a small slip site we found the bright yellow parasitic flowering plant, *Balanophora wilderi* (Balanophoraceae), endemic to Rarotonga but evidently rarely seen. It was named after its discoverer, Gerrit Wilder, who had published a Flora of Rarotonga (Wilder 1931).



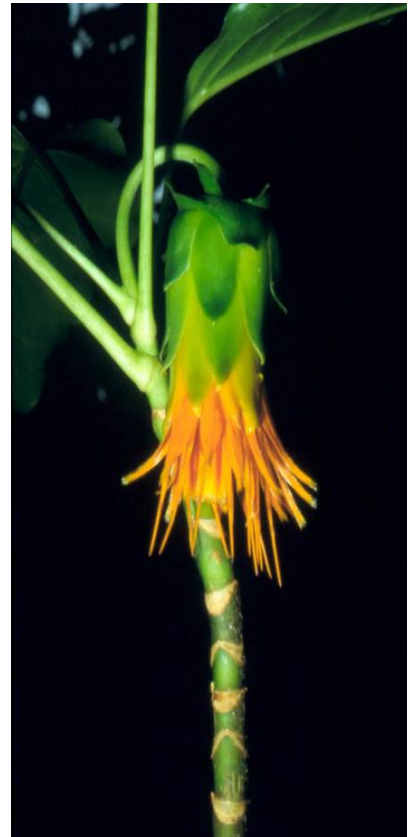
**Fig. 2.** Bill and James crossing a recently burnt slope, now a tangle of the widespread tropical fern *Dicranopteris linearis*. This species also occurs in thermal areas in New Zealand. Photos: apart from Fig. 1, all are by the author (or his camera) in Aug 1982.

**Fig. 3.** (a, right) Bill with the critically endangered, endemic Rarotongan shrub *Sclerotheca viridiflora* (Campanulaceae) on the southern slopes of Te Kou; (b, below) green flower (corolla lobes 1.5-2cm long).



Just above the *Balanophora* was the endemic Rarotongan shrub *Sclerotheca viridiflora* (Campanulaceae) (Fig. 3a). It was wonderful to see the green flowers after which it is named (Fig. 3b). This small shrub reminded me of *Lobelia physaloides* the northern NZ species in the same family. Bill pointed out that, as with many of the unusual Cook Islands plant species, their relatives are to the east, in French Polynesia. This was a nice NZ historical connection with Thomas Cheeseman<sup>1</sup> who described this species in his Rarotonga Flora (Cheeseman 1903). Further up and on Te Kou's summit ridge in the cloud forest we saw: the small Rarotongan endemic tree with prop-roots and large flowerheads, neinei (*Fitchia speciosa*) (Fig. 4), also described by Cheeseman – its relatives are also in French Polynesia; the epiphytic orchid *Oberonia equitans*; the large ground orchid *Phaius tancarvilleae* (Fig. 5), which reaches its Pacific eastern limit in the Cooks; the shrub *Melastoma denticulatum*; and the ground fern *Elaphoglossum samoense* which might be a French Polynesian-Cook Islands endemic.

**Fig. 4.** The large orange, hanging flowerheads of the Rarotongan endemic neinei *Fitchia speciosa* (Asteraceae) – their prop roots were strong and well-attached and could be trusted handholds along narrow ridges and on steep slopes.



<sup>1</sup>There are 1000 TF Cheeseman Rarotonga herbarium specimens held in the Auckland Museum herbarium (AK) – all now accessible online: <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/discover/collections>



**Fig. 5.** Bill working along a high ridge on Rarotonga with the large ground orchid *Phaius tancarvilleae* to 1.3 m tall in full flower.

The Cook Islands indigenous vascular flora is small (<300 spp.) and many genera and even some species (particularly the ferns, which are >30% of the flora) are familiar to a NZ botanist making it

easy to learn quite quickly. For example during the ascent of Te Kou we saw many NZ genera including: *Arachniodes*, *Ascarina*, *Asplenium*, *Coprosma*, *Cyathea*, *Davallia*, *Dicranopteris*, *Elaeocarpus*, *Freycinetia*, *Geniostoma*, *Hibiscus*, *Histiopteris*, *Ipomoea*, *Isachne*, *Lycopodiella*, *Meryta*, *Metrosideros*, *Microsorium*, *Myrsine*, *Piper*, *Pittosporum*, *Pteris*, *Schizaea*, *Streblus*, *Trichomanes*, and *Weinmannia*.

From the steep upland ridges white-tailed tropic birds, which nest on the inland cliffs, could be seen and heard flying past. All day Bill would be collecting plants for herbarium specimens into a large plastic bag and taking notes. He keenly tasted various fleshy fruit as he went. When coming down hot from the hills it was a welcome relief to be near an orange orchard and be able to quench ones thirst with a wonderful 'Raro' orange.

Our evening meal was simple and usually involved steamed rice with a stir-fry tin of bully beef, various vegetables and often padded out with Bill's daily foraging, e.g. cut up fe'i bananas, or the leaves of pukatea (*Pisonia grandis*). There was no time for socialising; evenings were spent writing up notes, assigning collecting numbers and pressing specimens well into the night. Bill's specimen labels are much fuller than those of most collectors – detailed flower and fruit measurements are often included, ready to be added to the Flora treatment. Although we had a small fan heater it was a constant struggle to dry specimens at the rate of collecting, partly because of the large numbers Bill was collecting, and also his reluctance to use alcohol to pickle fleshy fruit or flowers.

#### Miti'aro (22.3 sq. km)

The low ( $\leq 12$  m asl) island of Miti'aro was c.1 hour flying NE of Rarotonga; we spent five days on the island which is mainly rough makatea (uplifted fossilised coral reef) and often scratchy vegetation. This made it challenging when off the tracks, and was in total contrast to the high island of Rarotonga. There was a small area of volcanic soil in the island's centre where the population of 220 grew their crops. At the time of our visit there were no *palangi* on the island. We were treated like royalty, assigned a house, a cook, and were even invited to a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday feast of a Member of Parliament's son, Maarametua Tetava.

Drying the plant specimens on this island with no reticulated power was even more challenging than on Rarotonga. They provided us with the only portable generator on the island, which we could run our fan heater. However, in the evenings the generator was required to run the videos (VHS) for the locals at different destinations each night. When they came to collect the generator they kindly took our heater and plant press with them, which was returned each morning after a night's drying. A wonderful service!

Although most low makatea islands have a low botanical diversity, Miti'aro is the exception supporting several endemic, or near-endemic, plant taxa. A *Geniostoma* sp. that Bill had collected in 1974 on Miti'aro was named after him in 1981: *G. sykesii* (Fig. 6). Better material of a new haloragis was



**Fig. 6 (left).** ‘ange, *Geniostoma sykesii* endemic to makatea forest and scrub of Miti’aro and Mangaia.

collected in 1982, which was used as the type for a new subspecies in 1986: *H. prostrata* subsp. *oquana* – endemic to Miti’aro. The only occurrence of sandalwood in the Cooks is on Miti’aro, which Bill had described from his 1974 collection as a new variety in 1981 (*Santalum insulare* var. *miti’aro*), but in his 2016 flora he sinks this variety saying “...is not sufficiently distinct from populations in French Polynesia” (Sykes 2016: p.836). It is to Bill’s credit that with more information he is able to re-assess and sink his own taxon. The discovery of the daisy subshrub *Tetramolopium* on Miti’aro in 1982 was new to science – it superficially reminded me of *Celmisia*. In 2005 Bill co-authored a paper describing it as an endemic new species to Miti’aro (*T. miti’aroense*) (Fig. 7) with its closest relatives in Hawai’i. Bill (Sykes 2016) suggests that it perhaps dispersed to Miti’aro on the feet of the migratory Pacific golden plover? Miti’aro’s newest endemic was described by Bill in 2014, and the type specimen collected by him in 1982 (Fig. 8). This is a small subshrub with fleshy, peppery leaves to taste: *Lepidium makateanum*. Its

specific name reflects the habitat it occurs on. Somehow we managed to miss seeing the 4–5 m tall palm in the makatea, *Pichardia miti’aroana*, known only from Miti’aro and French Polynesia.

On the morning of departure we were presented with colourful and wonderfully scented *ei* (Figs. 9, 10). From Miti’aro we flew to Mauke for three days botanising and then returned to Rarotonga.

Bill’s Cook Islands Flora work included nine visits



**Fig. 7 (above).** The daisy subshrub *Tetramolopium miti’aroense* Lowrey, Whitkus & Sykes (2005) – was a new discovery in 1982 in the open coastal makatea of Miti’aro.

**Fig. 8 (left).** The type specimen *in situ* of *Lepidium makateanum*, open makatea, Miti’aro.

there from 1974 to 2002, where he collected (Fig. 11) over 5500 specimens held in the Allan herbarium at Lincoln (Ines Schönberger pers. comm.). He had great empathy with the Cook islanders (he dedicated his Flora to one, Tony Utanga) and was always treated with respect and kindness wherever we went. Thank you Bill for everything, especially for sharing your knowledge, your patience, your political views and your friendship since 1982. **Meitaki maata nui!**



**Fig. 9.** Farewell to Miti'aro: Bill Sykes, Rohea Tangaroa (Government administrator who looked after us), Ewen Cameron. The orange colour in the 'ei (flower garland) is sliced keys of the *Pandanus* (ara) fruit – colourful and sweetly scented, along with frangipani flowers and maire leaves (*Alyxia stellata*).



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**Fig. 10.** Bill Sykes looking rather Roman with his scented headband, ready to depart Miti'aro.





**Fig. 11.** Bill collecting on the low and exposed coastal makatea of Miti'aro – note the large plastic bag, his favoured method for collecting herbarium specimens.

▪ **Obituary – William (Bill) Russell Sykes, ONZM, FMLS, 13 October 1927 – 5 January 2018**

**Anthony Wright**, Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch 8013

*The following is based on the eulogy given at the celebration of Bill's life and achievements held in Christchurch on 9 January 2018.*

Bill's botanical roots started very early. He was born in the County of Suffolk in East Anglia, England, and grew up in the village of Wyverstone. We have his mother Miriam to thank for the fact that we could understand him. She strongly disliked the East Anglian dialect, and brought him up to speak 'proper English'.

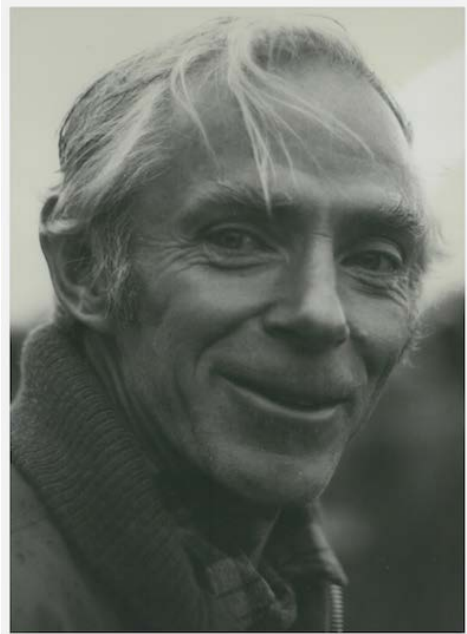
Bill's interest in botany and ecology started at the local primary school, where there was a competition every year to bring in the first record of flowering of each species of wildflower. Just before the break for summer holidays, a prize went to the pupil who had accumulated the most records. When Bill graduated to the grammar school at Stowmarket, he noticed that a particular roadside cutting he cycled past each day supported a different group of species to those seen around Wyverstone. He collected the first flowerings of the chalk flora species on that cutting and gave them to his sister Rosemary - who duly won the competition for a couple of years.

Bill came to more formal botany by way of horticulture. His first job with the well-known seed nursery of Thompson and Morgan in Ipswich gave him fundamental training in horticulture. After about two years he went on compulsory military service as a medical technician in the Royal Navy. Alas, he was posted to shore-based establishments in the British Isles, so had to wait to see the world. While he said this was probably the most boring time of his life, he remained grateful for the first aid training and a proper introduction to the microscope – both very useful in his future career.

Bill began serious horticultural training as a student at the Royal Horticultural Society's Wisley Gardens in 1949. After completing the Wisley Diploma in 1951, he went on to obtain the National Diploma in Horticulture in 1953.

Meanwhile in 1952 and again in 1954, he represented the Royal Horticultural Society on British Museum (Natural History) expeditions to biologically unknown areas of the Himalayas in western and central Nepal. Bill's main task was the collection of herbarium specimens and seeds, though he also enjoyed collecting insects and even a few birds and snakes for the Museum scientists to study.

In 1957, supported by his wife Betty, Bill went to London University's Chelsea College of Science, completing his Biology degree in 1960. By this time he'd worked out that despite his high qualifications, he was not really cut out to be a practical horticulturalist.



**Fig. 1.** Willam Russell Sykes, 1978. Photograph: Marmaduke Dixon.

So the following year, 1961, Bill (with Betty) came to New Zealand at the invitation of Eric Godley, to provide specialist expertise in both the introduced and cultivated floras for Botany Division of the DSIR.

Why New Zealand? Bill wanted to go somewhere where he could see an exotic flora growing naturally. If he'd taken the job offered at Kew to work on tropical African plants, he'd be doing that from specimens, not in the field. At that time there were no vacancies for taxonomic botanists in Australia or New Guinea; he didn't want to do a PhD in North America; and he couldn't stand the thought of working in the then land of apartheid, South Africa. Well, weren't we lucky!

Son Julian was born in 1966 and daughter Claire followed in 1970. Bill and Betty divorced in 1975. They remained good friends until her death in 2015.

Bill married Shona Good in 1978 and became stepfather to Katrinka, Justin and Louise. Shona died in 1979, and for a time Bill was disconsolate.

Meanwhile, Bill had developed a long and distinguished career in Botany Division and its successors through to Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research. Bill specialised in the cultivated flora, but also became an expert on the flora of New Zealand's subtropical outlier, the Kermadec Islands. Perhaps this led to his interest in wider Pacific Island floras, and publications on Niue and Tonga followed, together with field work in the Society and Austral Islands.

Bill took part in a number of regional botanical society field trips over the years, memorably the Auckland Botanical Society expedition to Raoul Island in the Kermadecs in November 1994. There, he collected widely for the Allan Herbarium (CHR) while Ewen Cameron and I were collecting for the Auckland War Memorial Museum Herbarium (AK). Fig. 2 shows the three of us with a not inconsiderable stack of full plant presses on the porch one of the of the Raoul Island Met Service buildings which served as our botanical HQ.

**Fig. 2.** Ewen Cameron, Anthony Wright, Bill Sykes with plant presses on porch of Met Service hut, Raoul Island, Kermadecs, November 1994. Photograph: Ewen Cameron's camera.



With Colin Webb and Phil Garnock-Jones, Bill co-authored the monumental Volume IV of the *Flora of New Zealand* series, which treated the introduced ferns, conifers and dicot flowering plants and was published in 1988. For this, his old friend Rhys Gardner tweaked him for using the word 'mauve' *almost to excess* in his plant descriptions!

With the 'extinction' of Botany Division and the DSIR in late 1992, Bill was made redundant, though this appears to have made little difference to what he did – perhaps even increasing his botanical outputs.

Between 1994 and 2000 he made six treks as botanical guide with Diane and John McKinnon's 'Footprints Tours' to Nepal, Mustang and Tibet, building on his Himalayan field work 40 years before. In 1989, Bill met Peggy Kelly, a cheerful Irish lass, and they were married in 1993. Peggy was very understanding of Bill's botanical (and other) idiosyncrasies and encouraged him to continue his botanical explorations, collecting and writing, whilst providing a loving, warm and convivial home base for their many friends and family. Together, they were instrumental in establishing Christchurch's first community park and garden, just up the road from their home in Packer Street, St Albans. Peggy's previous career as a professional nurse was pivotal in helping keep Bill comfortable through the infirmities of old age over the last few years of his life. Peggy re-christened Bill as Botany Bill, partly to differentiate from other close friend Bills, sometimes shortened to simply Botany.

From 1972 through to the first decade of the present century, Bill made numerous field trips to almost all of the far-flung Cook Island group and collected thousands of meticulously labelled specimens which are held in the Allan Herbarium at Landcare. This was the formative part of the long gestation of his magnum opus, the *Flora of the Cook Islands*, published in 2016. His family – and indeed the worldwide botanical community - are very grateful to Bill's colleagues at Landcare who patiently assisted in the long editing process, especially David Glenny, and then arranged wonderful launches of the *Flora* in both Christchurch and Rarotonga.

Back in the days of field work, his friend Gerald McCormack in Rarotonga recalls Bill appearing at his house early in the morning ready to hike in the mountains – shorts, slender legs and backpack. They climbed most of the higher mountains, including the highest Te Manga, and together found the only outlier population of Bill's favourite Raro plant, the very rare *Cyrtandra lillianae*, a portrait of which graces the cover of his *Flora*.

Ewen Cameron has given me a trio of field stories that show some of the individual traits of Botany Bill. For many years, a certain red mulberry tree in Hagley Park was climbed by Bill, wearing only an old pair of shorts, to harvest its fruit, so avoiding staining good clothes.

Many will be familiar with Bill's foraging habits. Botanising in the Cook Islands, he would collect various wild fruit, shoots and leaves throughout the day, which would culminate in an evening meal of a stir-fry of rice, a can of bully-beef, and the contents of the foraging bag. As a footnote to this, when Botany was on Raoul Island in the 1970s he decided to cook up some *Alocasia* tubers to add to the evening meal. But it wasn't the tropical species eaten widely in the islands and most of the party ended up with severe stomach cramps. That group remained rather wary of his foraging habits.

Ewen and I organised a collecting trip for Bill to the Far North just before the text was locked down for publication of *Flora IV*. The trip was especially timed to coincide with peak flowering of the wild rambling roses that he was so fond of. My battered old Land Rover was soon draped with various roses. While staying in one of the old Lighthouse houses at Cape Reinga, we'd ply Bill with 'just a little' Brandy Dry as we pressed the day's collections. Surreptitiously ensuring the glass never emptied gave us better entertainment than you'd ever get from a good BBC sitcom! A few days later we were lined up on Opuha wharf waiting for the car ferry across to Russell. Botany disappeared at the critical time we were being directed to drive on and was spotted on the cliff a hundred metres along the road with an interesting weed. A loud shout for the old ..... - another word beginning with B - roused him and he scampered along, just making the sailing. Singing ditties and making recitations continued into very old age.

In his long life, Bill received many honours, awards and accolades. The last among them was his election as a Foreign Member of the Linnean Society of London, the world's oldest active biological

society. This is a rare award, limited to 50 members, and we believe Bill to be the first ever New Zealander so honoured.

Bill loved plants, he loved botany, and he loved words. To end, here's a ditty sent to Bill by Rhys Gardner, with whom he shared interests in some of the more abstruse fine points of plants, taxonomy and language.

It's a quote from the book "Plant names simplified" by Johnson and Smith:

*Oxford Dictionary* will give a choice of two pronunciations for the same word; and when we are given full licence by such exalted powers to pronounce chauffeur as "shofa", cinema as "sinnema", and Celtic as "seltik", one may grieve for the traditions of the classics, but give courage its due and adopt in the pronunciations of our botanical names an equally liberal attitude.

Apropos the subject of pronunciation we may quote some lines on "cyclamen" which appeared in the pages of an old-time gardening periodical:

"How shall we sound its mystic name  
Of Greek descent and Persian fame?  
Shall "y" be long and "a" short,  
Or will the "y" and "a" retort?  
Shall "y" be lightly rippled o'er, (ore)  
Or should we emphasise it more?  
Alas! The doctors disagree,  
For "y's" a doubtful quantity.  
Some people use it now and then,  
As if 'twere written "Sickly-men";  
But as it comes from *kuklos*, Greek,  
Why not "kick-laymen", so to speak?  
The gardener, with his ready wit,  
Upon another mode has hit;  
He's terse and brief – long names dislikes,  
And so he renders it as "Sykes".

Indubitably so, as the man himself would have said.

*Acknowledgements: Ewen Cameron, Rhys Gardner, Peggy Kelly and Gerald McCormack for content and photographs and Peggy Kelly for verifying numerous facts.*



**Fig. 3.** Bill Sykes at the third of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday parties, 14 October 2017. Photograph: Justin Good, edited by Claire Sykes.

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### ■ Biographical Sketch – Giovanni Antonio Battarra (1714 – 1789)

**Val Smith**, 80 Mill Road, New Plymouth 4310.

In the autumn of 2017 Te Papa scientist Lara Shepherd found an unusual mushroom when walking through Mt Victoria, Wellington, on her way home from work. Landcare Research fungi expert Jerry Cooper identified it from her photo as a sandy stiltball (*Battarrea phalloides*), not previously recorded in New Zealand. Long known in Europe, however, the species was first mentioned in scientific literature in 1784 when a new species was found in England, and the next year James Dickson named it *Lycoperdon phalloides*. The name was sanctioned in 1801 by Christiaan Hendrik Persoon, when he transferred it to *Battarrea*, a newly circumscribed genus honouring the Italian priest and

naturalist Giovanni Antonio Battarra. (Persoon is also linked to New Zealand botany by *Toronia toru*, a small endemic tree originally included in the Australian genus *Persoonia*).

Born on 9 June 1714 in the hamlet of Pedrolara near Rimini on Italy's Adriatic coast, Giovanni Battarra was the son of Domenico Battarra and Giovanna Fransesca Fabbri. After completing a humanities course at the Rimini seminary, he studied theology and in 1738 was ordained a priest. However, concern for the people's physical needs rather than their spiritual welfare, and his own thirst for new knowledge, led him to continue classes with naturalist and archaeologist Giovanni Bianchi (also known as Janus Plancus) who directed him to geometry, physics and natural history. His rapid progress earned him the chair of philosophy at the Seminary of Savignano di Romagna in 1741 and then of Rimini (1748), the commune Pedrolara di Coriano (1757) and the seminary (1760), but got more satisfaction from making his own observations rather than theoretical teaching.



*Battarrea phalloides*. Photo by Lara Shepherd.

In 1740 in the Abbey of Vallombrosa, where he had travelled on foot from Rimini, the colour plates of Father Bruno Tozzi's *Sylva Fungorum* inspired him, and in 1755 he published his own work *Fungorum Agri Ariminensis Historia*, comprising 80 pages and illustrated with 40 copper plates drawn and engraved by himself. In it he described 248 species of mushrooms, including their therapeutic qualities and cooking methods, which he believed affected their toxicity. He also challenged the prevalent belief of mushrooms arising from putrefaction or decay and tried to show that they grow, like plants, from "seeds" (spores). His later work *Agricultural Practice* (1778) is considered by some to be his greatest. Returning to Pedrolara to live on the estate inherited from his mother, he set out not only to teach the landlords profitable agricultural methods but also to record local traditions and folklore (in some cases as examples not to follow) – now known as the science of ethnography.

Abbot Giovanni Antonio Battarra died in Rimini on 8 November 1789, aged 75, with volume two of his work *Naturalis Historie Elementa* uncompleted. A man of many interests and great strength of character, his combative personality often led to clashes with fellow-citizens, colleagues and the authorities, over both

questions of science and for personal reasons. Many of his works are still appreciated today, and mid-18th century home to which he always returned in times of strife, can still be seen at Pedrolara in the countryside of Coriano.

#### *Battarrea phalloides*

*Battarrea phalloides* ('phallus-like, resembling stinkhorn') and also known by the colloquial names sandy stiltball, mallee drumstick and sandy stilt puffball) is an inedible saprophytic fungus easily recognised by its stem up to 40 cm long and spores on the upper surface of the cap - like a puffball on a tall shaggy stick! It has a wide distribution, with reports from 64 countries and all continents except Antarctica. However, it is uncommon, occurring in scattered populations sometimes of only one or two individuals, usually in dry, sandy soils under trees and shrubs.

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- Shepherd LD, Cooper JA (2018) First record of the fungus *Battarrea phalloides* (Agariacaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 56: 109-114.  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/> (accessed 8 November 2017).

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### ■ Publications Received

Wellington Botanical Society Newsletter December 2017 – upcoming meetings and trips, submissions made, award winners and awards available, trip reports for Moa Point and Te Marua Bush.

The New Zealand Native Orchid Journal 147 February 2018 – Hatch medal winner Carlos Lehnebach, Picton field days, an orchid/fern fungal association, what is *Caladenia minor?*, The type locality - *Pterostylis cardiostigma*.

Canterbury Botanical Society Newsletter March 2018 - upcoming meetings and trips, meeting report for Heritage Expeditions to the Sub Antarctic Islands, trip report for Lake Lyndon.

Botanical Society of Otago Newsletter March 2018 - upcoming meetings and trips, *Senecio glastifolius* – a new invader, trip reports for Hereweka Gardens, Flat Top Hill, Purehurehu Point, Waikaia Valley and Piano Flat, talk on cabbage trees.