NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY **NEWSLETTER** NUMBER 8 JUNE 1987



SUBSCRIPTIONS

The 1987 subscription has been held at \$10.00 for four issues of the Newsletter (March, June, September, December). A reduced subscription of \$5.00 is available for full-time students. Back issues of the Newsletter are available at \$2.50 each - November 1 (August 1985) to Number 6 (December 1986) inclusive.

New subscriptions are always welcome, and should be sent to the N.Z. Botanical Society, c/- Auckland Institute & Museum, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand.

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

Contributions from all sources are most welcome. A list of possible column headings can be found on p.2 of Number 1. Feel free to suggest new headings and provide content for them.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the September 1987 issue (Number 9) is 22 August 1987. Please forward contributions to:

The Editor N.Z. Botanical Society Newsletter Auckland Institute and Museum Private Bag AUCKLAND 1

Because Anthony Wright is currently overseas this Newsletter was edited by Ewen Cameron.

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Cover illustration: Pterostylis (Orchidaceae)

<u>Pterostylis</u> is a large Australasian genus represented in New Zealand by about 20 species. The status of some forms is still in doubt. Shown are several forms found on Stewart Island. At top right is the distinctive <u>P. venosa</u>. <u>P. montana</u> (bottom right) was originally described from Stewart Island. The large plant on the left belongs to the <u>P. australis-banksii</u> complex, while the slender plant (centre) may be an undescribed species similar to P. graminea (Hugh Wilson).

_____ NEWS _____

■ Lucy Beatrice Moore 1907 - 1987

It is with sadness we record the death of Lucy Moore, one of New Zealand's foremost botanists. She was educated at Warkworth School where she won scholarships to Epsom Girls' Grammar School and Auckland University, where she graduated master of science with first-class honours in botany. After a period of teaching at the university in 1938 she joined the botany division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

During the Second World War she was engaged in finding seaweeds for the extraction of agar needed to replace supplies previously drawn from Japan.

She became a fellow of the Linnaean Society in 1945 and two years later became a fellow the the Royal Society of New Zealand.

In 1953 she was actively associated with Dr H.H. Allan in his work and after his death the responsibility for bringing to press his reference book <u>Flora of New Zealand Vol. I fell to her</u>.

In 1959 she was made an MBE for her work in botany. She continued as senior botanist at Lincoln, Canterbury and on investigations of New Zealand plants. She also became involved with the problem of denuded tussock grasslands and developed a major research interest in the Molesworth Station. She was awarded a science doctorate by Canterbury University in 1963 and two years later became the first Leonard Cockayne Memorial lecturer.

In 1970 Vol. II of the Flora of New Zealand was published, of which she was the principle author.

In 1976 she published the <u>Changing Vegetation of the Molesworth Station</u>, <u>New Zealand</u>. Two years later the Oxford University Press produced the Oxford Book of New Zealand Plants which she wrote.

In 1982 she was made an honorary research associate in botany at the National Museum.

Regional Bot Socs

Auckland Botanical Society

At the AGM in March 1987 the following officers were elected: President R. Beever; Vice-Presidents: J. Mackinder, J. Rattenbury, B. Segedin; Secretary: S. Jones; Treasurer: V. Paterson; Committee: S. Bolland, E. Brown, E. Cameron, H. Cogle, F. Newhook, A. Wright. Subscriptions were set at \$8 ordinary, \$5 country/full-time student, \$12 family/couple.

The Secretary, 14 Park Rd., Titirangi, Auckland 7

Rotorua Botanical Society

Visitors are welcome to take part in the Society's forthcoming field trips:

Sunday 25 July Karioi or Te Toto Gorge Low volcanic cone south of Raglan Harbour. Sequence from coastal cliff vegetation to submontane cloud forest and scrub. Climb to summit (756 m) if fine or botanise lower slopes if weather is poor. Meet at Rotorua Civic Theatre at 7.30 am or Hamilton Post Office 9.00 am. Leader - Peter de Lange (Hamilton 65-734) or Bruce Clarkson (Rotorua 24-622)

Sunday 23 August Maungawhakamana Sharp peak (728 m) overlooking Tarawera River valley. No known species list for the area. Typed by Nicholls (1967) as rimu-rata/tawa-kamahi and rewarewa-kamahi forest. Meet at Rotorua Civic Theatre at 8.30 am. Leader - Bruce Clarkson (Rotorua 24-622)

Saturday 19 September Mt Te Aroha, Kaimai Forest Park From foot of mountain (20 m asl) to summit (950 m) via good track. A notable forest complex, first "botanised" by Adams just over 100 years ago. Meet at Rotorua Civic Threatre at 8.30 am or Te Aroha Domain gates 10.20 am. Leader -Murray Boase (Hamilton 67-798)

Volume 10 of the Society's Newsletter was published in May 1987. The contents are as follows:

The Hikurangi Field Trip - Willie Shaw

Mt Moehau and Castle Rock Field Trip - Bruce Clarkson and Mark Smale

Lake Rotopounamu; and a note on the distribution of <u>Baumea huttonii</u> in the Central North Island - Bruce and Beverley Clarkson

Oruatewehi Field Trip - John Nicholls

Auckland University Field Trip to Whirinaki Forest - Ewen Cameron

The Secretary, Rotorua Botanical Society, c/- Mourea Post Office, Rotorua

Wellington Botanical Society

In connection with the Wellington Botanical Society, Iris Caulter is compiling a list of common and Maori names for New Zealand native plants. This will include names no longer in use and state regional differences where known. The list already covers over 240 species; additions are welcomed. Anyone interested in the project should contact Iris at the following address:

Mrs I.E. Caulter, 7 Findlay St., Linden, Wellington

Canterbury Botanical Society

The Canterbury Botanical Society is producing a field guide to the smallleaved shrubs of Canterbury and Westland. The project is well underway. Recently Tim Galloway completed all the drawings for the guide, having spent the summer in Christchurch with a stream of plant material descending on him for attention from all over both provinces. Work is proceeding on the test.

H. Wilson, 160 Salisbury St., Christchurch 1

_____ NOTES AND REPORTS ______

New Plant Records

New Plant Records from the General Waikato

<u>Sporadanthus traversii</u> Although the sole plant noted by Bartlett from the Opuatia wetlands near Rangiriri is thought to have perished from a fire in 1980 (de Lange 1985, N.Z.Bot.Soc.Newsl. No.3), further examination of this wetland in late November 1986 located scattered plants in an unburned arm of the swamp (WAI 6568) near the Rangiriri - Naike Road, Lake Whangape.

The plants had escaped previous detection because they are smaller than is usual for Sporadanthus in the North Island. The seven plants noted were scattered over a wide area, growing amongst dense Empodisma/Epacris rushland (in places up to 1.5 m thick). Sporadanthus was only noticed by accident when the distinctive "tasselled" flower heads were observed poking through this dense tangle of vegetation. The largest of these plants is 85 cm and their nature suggests they are relatively young plants only some 10-15 years old (Keith Thompson pers.comm.). This suggests that Sporadanthus must either still be present elsewhere in the swamp (unlikely - as it has now been searched very thoroughly) or the seed has arrived recently from elsewhere or germinated from an older seed source. Sporadanthus was still present on the southern side of Lake Whangape as recently as the 1960's (Furniss pers.comm.) where it grew in a similar site to the present one until it was drained. Currently no one is exactly sure how long Sporadanthus seed remains viable, this is currently being studied at the University of Waikato along with other aspects of the plants autecology.

Beside <u>Sporadanthus</u>, the Opuatia has a fascinating flora containing a number of other threatened or nationally uncommon species. <u>Utricularia</u> <u>australis</u>, <u>U. delicatula</u> and <u>U. novaezelandiae</u> are abundant; the small <u>Lycopodium serpentinum</u> is still present although it is less abundant than it formerly was. A number of interesting <u>Pterostylis</u> have been found of which I have been unable to name, these are currently being examined at the herbarium of the New Zealand Forest Research Institute. One resembles a small grass and has nodding, small flowers comparable to the <u>P.graminea</u> agg., the other closely resembles <u>P. foliata</u> and may be of that species. Both were collected under willow (<u>Salix fragilis</u>) forest. Vouchers of all these species have been lodged in the University of Waikato Herbarium with some duplicates in WELT.

<u>Ophioglossum petiolatum</u> A small patch containing 26 plants was recently located in a popular reserve of the western King Country. This is currently the second reserved colony known in New Zealand. The plants were discovered under a rimu/kahikatea forest, growing in damp leaf mould with <u>Uncinia distans</u>, <u>Nertera dichondrifolia</u> and <u>Nertera</u> sp. aff. <u>dichondrifolia</u>. This contrasts from the more open, wetter habitat more usual for this species.

Ophioglossum coriaceum A further five localities have been located in the western Waikato. The species seems locally abundant along grazed, wet flushes of the Awaroa Valley, south-eastern Kawhia and in short grass and herbs on limestone ledges. The following is a list of new localities:

- A Awaroa Scenic Reserve, Hauturu (WAI 5131) Common on the edge of the Mangakoutukutuku Stream and less commonly noted on burned ground adjoining the property of Meredith Farms Ltd.
- B Matauratahi Stream, Awaroa Valley, Kawhia (WAI 7373) Very large plants noted in grazed wetlands bordering the stream.
- C Limestone outcrop, upper Awaroa Valley, Te Koraha (WAI 7138) Commonly noted amongst Oreomyrrhis turf on limestone ledges.
- D Te Kauri Scenic Reserve, Kawhia (WAI 5432) Scattered specimens noted in wet turf near the look-out clearing.
- E Awakino River Mouth, Awakino (WAI 5197) Common in open grassed patches of the saltmarsh near the main road.

Bulbophyllum tuberculatum Further specimens of this orchid have been retrieved from recent windfalls in the Awaroa Scenic Reserve, Hauturu, Kawhia and under matai/kahikatea forest at the Awaroa Wildlife Management Reserve, Lake Whangape. This orchid seems locally common in rimu/tawa forest and matai/kahikatea forests of the region.

<u>Peraxilla tetrapetala</u> A single flowering specimen was located at 400m, on <u>Quintinia serrata</u>, Awaroa Scenic Reserve, Hauturu, Kawhia. This is the first time <u>Peraxilla</u> has been confirmed from the valley. Red flowered mistletoe being reported from the area from time to time by the locals and mentioned to me by Reg Bell. It was assumed that the plant was <u>Trilepedia adamsii</u>, but in lieu of the discovery of <u>Peraxilla</u> it seems the <u>Trilepedia</u> story was based on the localised occurrences of this plant instead. No collections were made.

<u>Utricularia monanthos</u> A small patch (WAI 6179) of this species was located amongst <u>Glossostigma elatinoides</u> at Lake Koraha, upper Matauratahi Valley, Awaroa Valley, Kawhia. This lake occupies a large limestone sinkhole and contains many other interesting plant species and associations.

Hymenophyllum minimum During January 1987 an unnamed outcrop at the headwaters of the Awaroa Valley was examined by the author. This outcrop has an intriguing flora containing many colder climate species uncommon in the district and also contains the southern-most colony of the allopatric North Island form of Hebe rigidula. The narrow ledges of the southern side of the outcrop contain an interesting plant assemblage including: Trisetum antarcticum agg., Nertera setulosa, Helichrysum filicaule, Oreomyrrhis ramosa, Ophioglossum coriaceum, Asplenium lyallii, Hebe rigidula, Wahlenbergia gracilis agg. and Euphrasia cuneata (vouchers of most of these records are lodged in WAI). Amongst a small patch of Hymenophyllum rarum, H. revolutum and Gymnostomium calcareum was found Hymenophyllum minimum, the indusium being covered in small spines (specimen sent to WELT for confirmation). This is the first time this small fern has been located on the western side of the North Island, although it is also present at the Waipapa Scenic Reserve at the hydro-electric dam of Lake Waipapa near Mangakino. Its discovery at this remote outcrop came as something of a surprise especially since it has been unsuccessfully searched for on the upper slopes of Mt Pirongia, a more suitable site.

<u>Cyclosorus interruptus</u> A specimen in the University of Waikato Herbarium (WAI 4436) collected by Irving from the willow forest of Kopuatai Peat Dome, Hauraki, and labelled as <u>Pneumatopteris pennigera</u> (det. P.D. Champion), has been redetermined as <u>Cyclosorus interruptus</u>. The specimen, although infertile and larger than is usual for New Zealand specimens has a creeping rhizome and frond morphology identical to <u>Cyclosorus</u>. The specimen resembling closely the Australian collections (WAI 1106, 1109) made by Allan Edmonds. Sadly, no detailed locality was given for the collections, so as yet no fertile specimens have been collected.

P.J. de Lange, 19 Cranwell Place, Hillcrest, Hamilton

Fieldwork

The fascination of Banks Peninsula Botany - are there any limits?

The fourth summer's fieldwork on this survey has been a fascinating and productive one. Of the 1340 planned sample sites gridded across Banks Peninsula and Kaitorete Spit, 1133 are now recorded, leaving 207 sites still to visit. I also hope to investigate in more detail some specific localities marked on my field maps during the systematic sampling. These include bushed gullies, further cliffs with the help of the Canterbury Face Rescue team, islets, and sites of particular bryological and lichenological wealth. So I am planning on one more summer to complete this fieldwork.

New and interesting finds continue even after four summers. Among native species, particularly fascinating discoveries recently include: <u>Acaena</u> <u>buchananii</u>, <u>Coprosma cheesemanii</u>, <u>Cladia retipora</u>, <u>Schoenus maschalinus</u>, <u>Hymenophyllum dilatatum</u>, <u>Oryzopsis lessoniana</u>, <u>Uncinia banksii</u>, <u>Pseudo-</u> <u>panax</u> edgerleyi and Anarthropteris lanceolata.

Banks Peninsula is well-known as the southern limit for several northern taxa. As far as I know the following do not occur any further south: <u>Macropiper excelsum</u> (abundant on Banks Peninsula), <u>Asplenium oblongifolium</u> (common), <u>Alectryon excelsus</u> (common, rather local), <u>Passiflora tetrandra</u> (common, rather local), <u>Solanum aviculare</u> (common, rather local), <u>Dodonaea</u> viscosa (common, local), <u>Asplenium terrestre</u> subsp. maritimum (common, local), <u>Pteris tremula</u> (uncommon, local), <u>Schoenoplectus validus</u> (uncommon, local), <u>Anarthropteris lanceolata</u> (rare, local), <u>Muehlenbeckia astonii</u> (rare, local) and <u>Cyperus ustulatus</u> (uncommon, local). This last species is also recorded from the Rakaia rivermouth at about the same latitude as the southernmost Peninsula populations. Nikau palm (<u>Rhopalostylis</u> <u>sapida</u> - uncommon, local), is often claimed as reaching its southern limit here at 43° 52' south, but it grows on Pitt Island in the Chathams at 44° 18' south. Some botanists have suggested that Maoris introduced them to both places centuries ago. I think there is more evidence that karaka (<u>Corynocarpus laevigatus</u> - rare, local) is naturalised rather than indigenous on the Peninsula; it occurs only at known Maori settlement sites.

<u>Hedycarya arborea</u> (common) goes no further south on the eastern side of the South Island, but extends into Fiordland on the west. <u>Griselinia</u> <u>lucida</u> (uncommon, rather local) would appear to have a similar distribution unless someone can tell me it occurs in the east south of Banks Peninsula? <u>Elaeocarpus dentatus</u> occurs in Riccarton bush where it is probably genuinely native, but I have been unable to confirm old records for the Peninsula.

A few more species appear to have their southern limit at about the latitude of Banks Peninsula (that is, about 43° 33' to 43° 55' south). I would be interested to hear of any localities considerably south of this for Cheilanthes distans (common, rather local) or Leucopogan fasciculatus (rare, local). There are beech trees resembling Nothogagus solandri var. solandri on Banks Peninsula (uncommon, local), but they merge imperceptibly into var. cliffortioides-like trees at higher altitudes (uncommon, local). There seems to be confusion as to how far south var. solandri goes, but I think the forms are more sensibly regarded as ecotypes rather than varieties. Similarly I am still unable to believe that Hymenanthera alpina and H. crassifolia represent two species. The Banks Peninsula population has had both names liberally bestowed on it, but I call it all H. crassifolia and regard H. alpina as part of this rather polymorphic species. On Banks Peninsula H. crassifolia sensu lato is abundant from coast to summits. If someone does succeed in convincing me that two species are involved, then the question arises as to where H. crassifolia sensu stricto extends southward. Certainly there are <u>H</u>. <u>crassifolia</u> s.l. plants at sea level on Ruapuke Island in Foveaux Strait and in the uplands of Stewart Island.

Some other Banks Peninsula claims for southern limit status are also dubious. <u>Hypolepis lactea</u> (rare, local) was recorded earlier from Flagstaff Hill, Dunedin. <u>Hoheria populnea</u> var. <u>lanceolata</u> (rare, local) was similarly recorded from "near Gore". I would be very interested in later records or comments from the south. My survey has been unable to confirm earlier reports of <u>Pteris macilenta</u>, <u>Arthropteris tenella</u>, <u>Adiantum fulvum</u> or <u>Arthropodium cirratum</u> on Banks Peninsula. I have found <u>Gnaphalium keriense</u> and <u>Blechnum</u> "Green Bay" on the nearest coastal hills northwards (south of Mt Cass, Waipara) but there is no sign of these plants on the Peninsula, only 40 km to the south. <u>Brachyglottis repanda</u> is sparingly naturalised on Banks Peninsula, but its natural southern limit is apparently somewhere between the Clarence rivermouth and Kaikoura.

Far fewer taxa find their <u>northern</u> limit on Banks Peninsula. The only clear-cut contender is <u>Olearia fragrantissima</u> (uncommon, local). <u>Poa astoniii</u> (rare, local) is almost certainly in this category, but earlier records from further north are dubious; the specimens are Buchanans, said to be

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from Nelson but with no further details of locality or date. Two other grasses, <u>Chionochloa</u> <u>rigida</u> (common, rather local), and <u>Rytidosperma</u> <u>corinum</u> (common, rather local) find their northern limits about the latitude of Banks Peninsula though they extend a bit further northwards to the west.

The endemic species, of course, have both northern and southern limits on their Peninsula. Only a handful of species qualify: <u>Celmisia mackaui</u> (uncommon, local), <u>Hebe lavaudiana</u> (common, threatened by goats), <u>H. strictissima</u> (abundant) and <u>Cotula minor</u> (abundant; there are also records from the adjacent plains). A distinctive tussock, <u>Festuca</u> "Banks Peninsula blue tussock" (common) is almost certainly endemic. Similarly, <u>Myosotis</u> <u>australia</u> var. <u>lytteltonensis</u> (rare, local) is known only from Banks Peninsula and is probably of species rank (Alastair Robertson is working on New Zealand <u>Myosotis</u> and has the Peninsula plant in cultivation). A distinctive harebell I am nicknaming <u>Wahlenbergia</u> "Akaroa Heads" (uncommon, local) may also be a good species but I want to clarify its relationship with the complex <u>W</u>. <u>gracilis</u> group, of which several forms are abundant on the Peninsula.

It is not too hard to suggest why Banks Peninsula is something of a cutoff point for plant distributions. An island until the growing Canterbury Plains joined it to the rest of the South Island some 20,000 years ago, it must have been buffered against the worst climatic effects of the glacial ages by the surrounding ocean. Today there are large areas where frost is light or non-existent. It is thus climatically almost unique in Canterbury. There is a long gap southwards to the Otago Peninsula which is the only landform on the east coast remotely comparable. The presence and distribution of <u>Nothofagus</u> on Banks Peninsula, though, is not so easily explained away in simple climatic terms.

The Peninsula thus provides some interesting botanical combinations. Presumably nowhere else would one find <u>Olearia fragrantissima</u> growing with <u>Macropiper</u>, <u>Alectryon</u> and <u>Dodonaea</u>. At 400 m in the Peraki Valley <u>Macropiper</u> actually meets <u>Chionochloa rigida</u>! At first I though <u>Nothofagus</u> was confined to upland forests, with unsurprising bedfellows such as <u>Podocarpus hallii</u>, <u>Griselinia littoralis</u> and <u>Pseudowintera colorata</u>. However I have discovered several localities where both <u>Nothofagus solandri</u> and <u>N. fusca</u> descend to within 200 m of sea level, even as low as 130 m in the Onuka area of Akaroa Heads. Here the beeches have <u>Macropiper</u>, <u>Hedycarya</u>, <u>Myoporum</u> and <u>Passiflora tetrandra</u> in their understorey. Whether this is truly natural or a result of reshuffling after Maori burning needs more investigation.

Hugh Wilson, 160 Salisbury St., Christchurch 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From lowland forest to alpine herbfield -

Vegetation of Egmont National Park, New Zealand

A comprehensive guide for amateur botanists, students, trampers, and conservationists. by Bruce D. Clarkson, illustrated by J. Bruce Irwin

Describes in detail the species of each plant community and analyses the effect on their distribution of altitude, climate, soil, and introduced mammals. It features:

* over 200 superb line drawings of plant species

* over 20 photographs of landscape features

* glossaries of common and scientific names, and technical terms

* a map of the park with information on tracks, accommodation and other facilities (NZMS 169 1:40 000) valued at NZ\$5.00

Price: NZ\$29.50 including p & p & GST

Available from: The Publications Officer Science Information Publishing Centre DSIR, P.O. Box 9741 Wellington, New Zealand - or your local bookseller

Also available from SIPC -Vegetation Map of Tongariro National Park, North Island, New Zealand 1: 50 000 by I.A.E. Atkinson In full-colour. Price: NZ\$6.00 including p & p & GST

The Australasian Native Orchid Society (ANOS)

The Australasian Native Orchid Society is now over 23 years old, and the current Council of the Society is taking stock of its progress, achievements and failures as a body, particularly in line with the objects of the Society as quoted in the first Orchadian.

Not being content with our findings, action is being taken to both improve and update our Society so that not only will members be more satisfied, but the Australasian native orchid will be helped to be given its rightful place in the world.

To achieve this improvement an Organisation Sub-committee has been set up to place ANOS on a business footing. Briefly the organisation will comprise seven sub-committees responsible to the Council, and to whom they will make monthly reports.

The other six sub-committees are:-Finance Publications

To be responsible for all society publications; it will be in two sections (1) The Editors of the Orchadian and (2) Operations, who will be responsible for obtaining material and for general every day running matters for all our publications. This should ensure that members are kept informed on all aspects of the technical and non-technical side of our hobby.

To this end it is intended to widen the field of expertise by calling on experienced and knowledgeable persons, to assist with the operations and to participate in our native orchids future by becoming an Editorial Associate for their own area. This should ensure that the Orchadian is upgraded immensely and that our members are kept better informed. It is anticipated there will be at least one Editorial Associate for each State and in some cases more than one. Dr B. Molloy is the New Zealand Editorial Associate. Marketing Conservation Judging Panel Group Liaison To be responsible for keeping the groups informed in all matters and on a regular basis. So far we have appointed each of our councillors to look after one or two groups, and have charged them with the responsibility of keeping in touch with their particular group or groups on at least a monthly basis.

Obviously effective liaison means good communication from Council to group and vice versa. To help in achieving this, Council is requesting that each group appoint an ANOS Liaison Officer. His or her duty would be to form that vital link between group members and Council. It is proposed that this person would be identified to fellow members with a badge (provided by Council) and will communicate to Council on all matters of interest or concern, relating to native orchids or the Societies' operation.

For Council's part, it is proposed that a quarterly "ANOS News" will be compiled and sent to each group, affiliated society and Editorial Associate. The purpose of the "News" will be to inform all members of current issues and to provide a forum for their inter-group discussion.

Its content will consist of general information or discussion items from the groups as well as news from Council on the current business of the Society. The "News" will not duplicate or compete with material that is currently published in the Orchadian or indeed the various group newsletters or bulletins. Its sole objective is to improve communications between members and their Council.

To date only Australian groups are affiliated to ANOS, Dr Molloy feels perhaps New Zealand groups should also affiliate and is happy to respond to any queries regarding ANOS. His address is:

Dr B. Molloy, Botany Division, DSIR, Private Bag, Christchurch

FORTHCOMING MEETING

Fifth John Child Bryophyte Workshop

A reminder! 12-17 November, 1987. For details see previous Newsletter.

Australasian Pollination Ecology Society (APES)

The next annual meeting of the Australasian Pollination Ecology Society (APES) will be held at the University of Canterbury Biological Station, Cass, 18-20 January 1988. The meeting is open to anyone with interests in pollination, including both botanists and zoologists. We hope to have a good contingent of Australian colleagues at the meeting. Depending on the numbers attending, there may be accomodation available for families. Anyone volunteering as cook will have accomodation free for the family. Estimated cost of accomodation with meals is \$50 for $3\frac{1}{2}$ days. There will be a call for papers and registration form in the next Newsletter. For further information, contact David Lloyd, University of Canterbury, or Colin Webb, Botany Division, Lincoln.

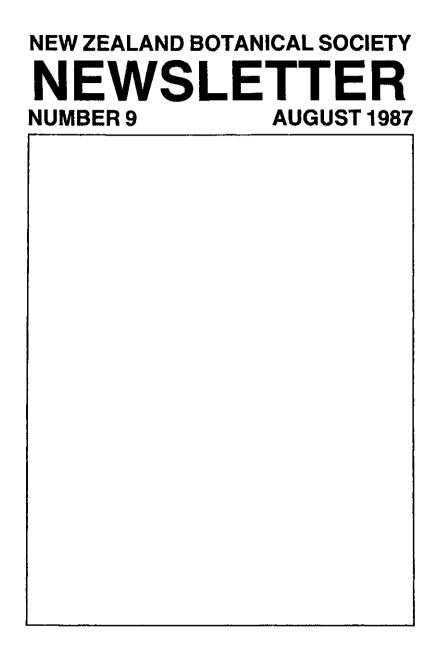
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What did Linnaeus have in mind?

Some time ago I wrote in the Botany Division Newsletter about my dislike of specific epithets named after people. Plants I believe, should be named to describe them, their habitats, or to be somehow a reflection of their features. While most appear to share my views, I have been surprised at how strongly the opposite view is held - that nomenclature is the place for the dispensation of honours. I began to have doubts; perhaps this was what Linnaeus really had in mind? Perhaps he would have named plants after those who scoured the Arctic wastes for new ones? A recent opportunity to visit the Wellington library revealed the answer, at least as Gunnar Eriksson, Chair of History of Science and Ideas at Uppsala University, saw it [in, Linnaeus. The man and his work, Editor Tore Frangsmyr]. Eriksson describes how Linnaeus believed the specific epithet should encompass the essential character of the species. "Naming a species was synonymous with describing it and was a form of description, so interwoven are description and nomenclature for the master of terminological precision. The whole rationale illustrates his unshakeable conviction that his species are those of nature and that his terms and names are faithful translation of nature's language."

I delight in the evocative beauty and plain usefulness to be found in works such as Elizabeth Edgar's recent revision of <u>Poa</u> [N.Z.J.Bot. 24: 425-503]. A great pity that it ever became fashionable to name nature's wonders as they do horticultural freaks. Linnaeus would turn in his grave.

Dr P.A. Williams, Botany Division Regional Station, DSIR, Private Bag, Nelson



WANTED

Illustrations (preferably original) of the New Zealand flora to fill this and subsequent spaces on the Newsletter cover. Post off to the Editor NOW!

Acknowledgement: This Newsletter was typed by Mrs Mary Best

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