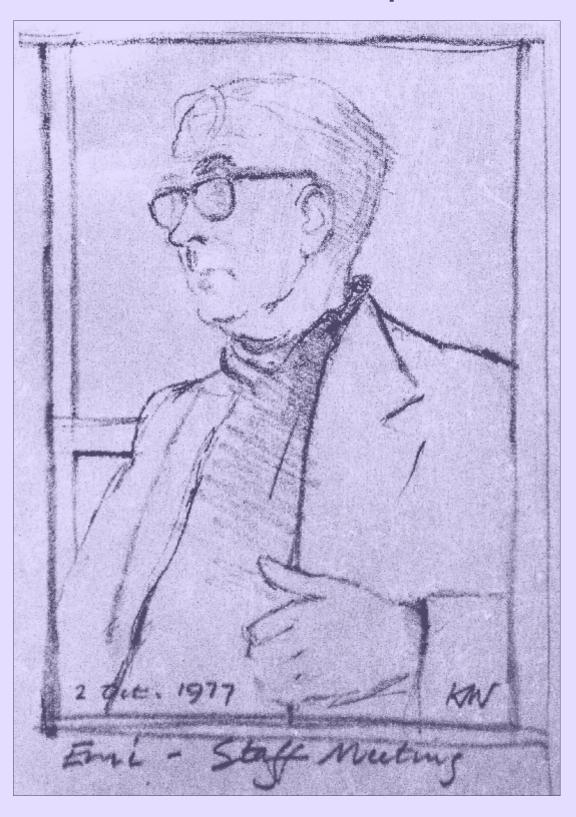
# **NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY**

# NEWSLETTER

**NUMBER 101** 

September 2010



# **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** 

# **Subscriptions**

The 2010 ordinary and institutional subscriptions are \$25 (reduced to \$18 if paid by the due date on the subscription invoice). The 2010 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 December 2010 issue is 25 November 2010.

Please post contributions to: Melanie Newfield 17 Homebush Rd Khandallah Wellington

Send email contributions to <a href="mailto:atropa@actrix.co.nz">atropa@actrix.co.nz</a>. Files are preferably in MS Word (with the suffix ".doc" but not ".docx"), as an open text document (Open Office document with suffix ".odt") or saved as RTF or ASCII. Graphics can be sent as TIF JPG, or BMP files. 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. Macintosh files cannot be accepted so text should simply be embedded in the email message.

# **Editor's note**

My apologies for the delay in this issue of the Newsletter.

A reminder that the deadline for the December issue (25 November) cannot be extended, as the *Newsletter* needs to be sent to the printer earlier than usual in order to be printed before Christmas. Also, when submitting items for the *Newsletter*, you can help by:

- avoiding formatting, such as bold headings, double spacing or indents. Do use italics for scientific names though. The *Newsletter* is printed in Arial 10 point font.
- submitting photos as JPEGs and not embedded into Word documents
- avoiding submissions in .docx format (from Word 2007), as my computer cannot open them

# **Cover Illustration**

Dr. Eric Godley drawn by Keith West at a staff meeting at Botany Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1977.

# **NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY**

# NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 101 September 2010

# CONTENTS

News		
	Zealand Botanical Society News	
	Allan Mere Award 2010	2
	Call for Nominations	3
Regio	nal Botanical Society News	
	Auckland Botanical Society	3
	Waikato Botanical Society	5
	Rotorua Botanical Society	6
	Wanganui Museum Botanical Group	7
	Wellington Botanical Society	8
	Other Botanical Societies	8
Announceme		
	Lecturer Vacancy, University of Waikato	8
Notes and Re	ports	
	First Record of Menegazzia pulchra (Parmeliaceae) on the Chatham Islands	. 9
	New record for Northland – Coprosma pedicellata	11
	Gleichenia in New Zealand	13
Obituary		
-	Eric Godley, a visionary botanist	14
	Eric Godley – recollections	
Publications		
	Publications Received	24

# **NEWS**

# **New Zealand Botanical Society News**

# ■ Allan Mere Award 2010

The NZBS Committee is pleased to announce that Ross Beever, Landcare Research, Auckland, has been awarded the Allan Mere for 2010 posthumously. The nomination was well underway when Ross died suddenly. When asked if he would be willing to be nominated for the Award, he replied "It would be a great honour". Ross had held Lucy Moore in great respect ever since he was a lad. The Mere was, of course, donated by Lucy.

Wellington Botanical Society nominated Ross and the proposal was seconded by Auckland Botanical Society (Ross's home BotSoc). Four other botanical societies contributed letters of support: Waikato, Manawatu, Nelson and Otago.

A selection of comments below from the proposer and supporters indicates the breadth of Ross's contribution to botany and the high regard in which he was held.

Ross Beever was a botanist for most of his life. Finding an undescribed, poorly known, cryptic orchid (*Danhatchia australis*) at the age of 16 indicates the degree of knowledge he had of our native flora as a youth. He had a particular interest in the northern flora: he had expert knowledge of the genus *Cordyline*; painstakingly recovered *Pennantia baylisiana* from the brink of extinction by coaxing production of viable seed from a female plant that was a cutting from the sole surviving wild tree; visited many islands to investigate their floras as a member of the Offshore Islands Research Group; was actively involved in restoration with Kaipara branch of Forest and Bird who are establishing Atuanui (the bush that Ross grew up next to) as a predator-free mainland island.

Ross's major contribution to botany in his professional career was as a mycologist. He led research teams to understand the causal agents and nature of cabbage tree sudden decline and kauri dieback. His research on native truffle-like fungi led to him developing the hypothesis that these fungi have evolved to mimic the fruit of some native forest species in order to be ingested and dispersed by ground-feeding birds. Ross also conducted seminal research on fungal genetics and physiology

Dr Beever is a skilled field observer with an extensive knowledge of native plants and fungi, and an inspiring leader of his younger colleagues.

Ross is a much respected Past-President of the Auckland Botanical Society and has continued to be very active with all aspects of our programme. We elected him an Honorary Life Member in 2007 in recognition of his contribution to New Zealand botany and Bot Soc. [The tribute to Ross prepared for that occasion may be read in *Auckland Botanical Society Journal 62*: 3-5, 2007]

Ross is a modest and unassuming botanist always willing to share his knowledge with professional and amateur alike.

Ross is probably most recognised by New Zealand botanists for his excellent work on the sudden decline of cabbage tree but he has ranged broadly across the field of botany with research published ranging from studies of plant macrofossils to the anatomy and systematics of native plants.

We have great respect for the work that Ross has done on plants, fungi and other organisms over his long working life. This came particularly to the fore over Cabbage Tree Decline which had and still has a very high public profile because of its effects on a species very dear to the hearts of most New Zealanders, not just botanists.

Ross has already had a long and distinguished career as a scientist, and an even longer career as a roving field botanist. His achievements are many, and widely respected, particularly his work on

orchids, on cabbage and kauri trees and causes of their ill-thrift, as well as on the changes wrought by the invasion of weeds which accompany humans.

Our great pleasure in providing a letter of support for the nomination of Dr Ross Beever for the award of the Allan Mere was tempered somewhat by the terribly sad news of his passing this week, and we hope that this letter will assist in your nomination of him for the award.

Those of us who collected in the field with him were always impressed by how willing he was to share his knowledge about fungi, and indeed to talk on any subject with the same enthusiastic, yet calm and considered manner. Ross was a great photographer, and he also frequently provided advice and encouragement to our members who collected with him on the John Child Bryophyte Workshop.

Ross is the twelfth recipient of the Allan Mere since the NZBS was asked to administer the award in 1999. Indeed, Jessica Beever – President at the time – crafted the rules for the award and never considered then that the award might be given posthumously.

Jessica will receive the Allan Mere on Ross's behalf at the monthly Auckland Botanical Society meeting on 3 November. Anthony Wright will make the presentation.

Carol West, New Zealand Botanical Society committee member

#### Call for Nominations

Nominations are called for the following positions of Officers and Committee of the New Zealand Botanical Society for 2011:

- President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- 3 Committee Members

Nominations for all positions opened 1 September 2010 and close on 19 November 2010. Nominations shall be made in writing to the Secretary, c/o Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch 8013, and shall be signed by the Proposer, the Seconder, and by the Nominee to indicate their acceptance of nomination. If necessary, ballot papers for a postal election will be circulated with your December *Newsletter*.

# **Regional Botanical Society News**

# Auckland Botanical Society

# June Meeting

Alison Wesley chose the coastal mahoe, *Melicytus novae-zelandiae*, for her "Plant of the month" talk. As she had found it growing on Tiritiri Matangi while checking the predator tracking tunnels there, her talk led nicely into that of the evening's speaker. Ewen Cameron's subject, the wild vascular flora of Tiritiri Matangi, ignored the 280,000 shrubs and trees that have been planted by volunteer labour, and concentrated on the natural vegetation. With Neil Davies, who took time away from teaching thanks to a scholarship, Ewen undertook a year long study of the island. Together with the work done by earlier botanists, this study gave a comprehensive overview of a surprisingly varied flora, despite the island having been almost completely cleared for farming.

# June Field Trip

An untracked area (c. 40 ha.) of regenerating kauri bush situated between Silverdale and Dairy Flat had caught Mike Wilcox's eye as he drove past, so with the willing consent of the owners, Bot Soc spent a pleasant few hours in exploration. The typical northern forest with young kauri and tanekaha on the ridges, and broadleaf trees on the slopes and gullies, held several intriguing secrets. The first to reveal itself was a large number of the tiny greenhood orchid, *Diplodium brumalum*, at the peak of flowering, and showing that it was indeed "hooked on kauri". The strap fern, *Grammitis rawlingsii*, was the next cause of excitement, growing as ever on mossy mounds under kauri, but in this case

with no hard beech nearby, as often happens. Perhaps the most unexpected find was a few shrubs of *Pimelea longifolia*.

# July Meeting

For the "Plant of the Month" Mike Wilcox took us on a tour of the Proteaceae in New Zealand. Mark Bellingham then spoke about the development of the Te Henga dune restoration project. Mark has been involved with this project since 1995, and has a good knowledge of dune restoration ecology from other projects with which he has been involved.

#### July Field Trip

Te Henga/Bethells Beach featured once again this month, as we visited two lakes that are in private ownership there. From the car park we got a good view of the dune forest restoration, and then a very large group walked to the property of descendants of the Bethells family and on to Lake Kawaupaku. The relatively short walk to the lake took quite some time, as we "untangled" the divaricating plants that grow on the consolidated sand. *Coprosma crassifolia,* which is found only in restricted areas in the north, was by far the commonest, with *Myrsine divaricata* sprinkled throughout and large trees of *Streblus heterophylla.* Mangeao (*Litsea calicaris*) was common, with many seedlings seen, and one plant of *Asplenium hookerianum* caused some excitement. After lunch at the lake's edge we retraced our steps and visited a corner of Lake Wainamu. The doubtfully native *Sigesbeckia orientalis* grew along the trackside.

# <u>August Meeting – the Lucy Cranwell Lecture</u>

Art Whistler from the Botany Department, University of Hawai'i, was the 26<sup>th</sup> Lucy Cranwell lecturer. With 35 years experience in the islands of the Pacific, Art is well qualified to speak on the plants of the canoe people, his topic for the evening. The seafaring islanders settled virtually every inhabitable island in the huge triangle formed by Hawai'i, Easter Island and New Zealand. These islands were largely devoid of useful plants, so the ancient Polynesians had to transport their essential plants in order to successfully establish in the new territories. About 60 of these non-native useful plants were carried to tropical Tonga and Samoa, but few of them survived in temperate New Zealand. All of the canoe plants, with the exception of kumara and the bottle gourd, originated in the Old World tropics.

# **August Field Trip**

Two adjoining reserves, Kauri Glen Park and Cecil Eady Bush, together comprise one of the many interesting remnants of bush on the North Shore. The higher areas are covered with young kauri forest, having been logged in the past. The two components were present to help with the perennial question of how to tell *Mida salicifolia* from *Nestegis lanceolata*. Dwarf cabbage tree (*Cordyline pumilio*) was common, and two greenhood orchids, *Pterostylis agathicola* and *Diplodium brumalum* were seen. In the lower reaches the vegetation changed to broadleaf/podocarp forest with much supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*) and kiekie (*Freycinetia banksii*). There was the usual range of weeds that are found in suburban reserves, but apart from a fringe of black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), were not in numbers that could not be dealt with.

# **FUTURE EVENTS**

1 September Allison Knight – "Lichen 101" 4 – 11 September Spring trip to Norfolk Island 18 September Pukekaroro Reserve, Kaiwaka

6 October Robin Atherton & Lara Shepherd – "Karaka & kowhai"

16 October Motuora Island

23 – 25 October Labour Weekend camp – Waipoua Forest 3 November Peter de Lange – "The Kermadecs"

20 November Maranui, Mangawhai Heads

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

President: Mike Wilcox Secretary: Kristy Hall

aucklandbotanicalsociety@gmail.com

# ■ Waikato Botanical Society

# Waikawau Bay, Coromandel Peninsula Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010

A small number of us enjoyed our weekend based at the DOC house which has fabulous views out to the Bay and Islands beyond. Sand dunes run along the beach from a small estuary to the far end. From the roadside edge there is a strip of mainly kikuyu-covered paddock in which the muelenbeckia on the dune side is appearing to win the battle of supremacy. The property was purchased from the Auckland University which had the land gifted to them by a wealthy American who wished them to sell the property to give the Business Management School much needed capital. The purchase by DOC was to save the land from development.

# Saturday 13th March

Our walk took us to the headland covered in coastal forest. Wayne wished us to help him do another transect. It was dismaying to see a few plants of *Ageratina adenophora* (Mexican devil) in this bush which is relatively pest plant free. *Pennisetum clandestinum* (kikuyu) was the dominant grass we saw while walking in. A number of seed heads of *Othoceras novae-zelandiae* were spotted on the trackside.



The start was marked by a "bashing" of a shrub of *Corokia cotoneaster* so Peter could inspect what insects were in it. The lack of rain had made the undergrowth very dry but we were able to add to the fern list with *Lastreopsis glabella*, *L. microsora* and *L. velutina*, and also some nice specimens of *Pteris comans*. A number of coastal *Coprosma macrocarpa* were present along with good sized trees of *Elaeocarpus dentatus* (hinau), *Vitex lucens* (puriri), *Dysoxylum spectabile* (kohekohe) and *Corynocarpus laevigatus* (karaka). A few *Sophora chathamica* (kowhai) and a good number of lianes – *Parsonsia* sp. and *Clematis* sp.

As we dropped down the gully, we passed by more *Rhopalostylis* sapida (nikau) and *Entelea arborescens* (whau). We ended up at the sand dunes, with good numbers of *Desmoschoeus spiralis* (pingao), *Spinifex hirstus* and *Carex pumila*, with a few plants of the exotic

Cakile edentula (sea rocket) for extra interest. We walked along the beach edge north to a rocky outcrop where a good number of *Pimelea arenaria* along with a few specimens of *Disphyma australe* and *Coprosma repens* (taupata). Of much interest here was a specimen on a *Coprosma acerosa* 

hybrid (possibly acerosa x repens). After lunch we walked up the bank and under some old Metersideros excelsa (pohutukawa). One of the pohutukawa trees yielded a good number of interesting species - Ichthyostomon pygmaeum (previously Bulbophyllum), Huperzia australiana and Peperomia urvilleana. There was also a good glade of nikau present. We then went back down to the sand dunes and had a pleasant walk back to the estuary with good sightings of brown teal.

# Sunday 14th March

We cut across the paddocks to the Estuary observing a patch of *Lilaeopsis novae-zelandiae* ("tape measure" plant on account of the distinctive horizontal banding on the leaf parts) in one of the dry ditches. We then had a very interesting time. Wayne and Kathi showed us the trials that they are doing on the *Paspalum vaginatum* (saltwater paspalum) to discover what will be the best way to control this as it is spreading across the flats. Where the two channels meet, a very low bank has built up from wind action on the sand and with the cover of the paspalum, has altered the flow of the main channel showing what can happen in a relatively short space of time. Two weeks prior to our visit, the spartina had been sprayed again. This has



Coprosma acerosa hybrid (possibly acerosa x repens)

been an ongoing programme for about seven years from Environment Waikato to control this pest weed. One plant we pulled up still had good signs of life but possibly too early yet for the plant to have had full exposure to the spray. There were also a number of plants in amongst the *Juncus krausii* var. australiensis that was in the upper reaches of the estuary. A low number of mature mangroves were present, though a good supply of youngsters were appearing threatening the habitat for the waders and associated species. After lunch we walked along to edge of the estuary. On our way to check the gecko boxes (alas, there were none) that they placed in a couple of the trees, we observed the bund that had been put in place c50 years ago when the estuary had been filled in and was farmed. One of the original concrete flood control pipes is still in remarkable good condition. This bund has become an opportunist place for pest weeds to develop into an otherwise good native vegetation. A few natives such as *Cordyline australis*, *Leptospermum scoparium*, *Olearia solandri* and a *Pseudopanax arboreus* have taken advantage too.

Our thanks must go to Wayne and Kathi for all the local information and our guides for the weekend. They are putting many hours into the pest control, both weeds and animals, to help this nearly pristine environment. — Jan Butcher

President: Liz Grove eq3@waikato.ac.nz General contact: bot soc@waikato.ac.nz

Secretary: Andrea Brandon abrandon@doc.govt.nz

Our newsletters are available on http://cber.bio.waikato.ac.nz/Waibotsoc/WaikatoBotSoc.html

# Rotorua Botanical Society

# June Field Trip: Carmichael Reserve

During the last 10 years or so the Carmichael Reserve has developed from grazed paddocks to ponds surrounded by progressively revegetated areas with new plantings appearing just before the field trip. Ponds have been put in to trap sediment from the adjacent new subdivisions and a stream channel put in to replace a straight drain. The objective of the visit was to follow the transition from freshwater wetlands to coastal marsh and view the development of the new "forest" as well as some of the remnants of the original vegetation.

At the upper part of the Stirling Gate area, a small remnant wetland contained *Carex geminata*, *Baumea rubiginosa, Isachne globosa, Eleocharis acuta, E. gracilis, C. maorica, C. fascicularis* and *Lepidosperma australe*. All the truly aquatic plants had been recently dug out, but the most serious weeds, *Myriophyllum aquaticum* and *Egeria densa* were formerly almost absent here. The pond was fringed by *Glyceria maxima* and surrounded by a well developed forest of cabbage trees, flax, manuka and a wide range of species planted about 8 years ago, many of which failed. Remnant slope forest was dominated by mamaku and mahoe but with a good range of understorey plants including kawakawa, whau, silver fern, rangiora, and seedlings from plantings of puriri, kohekohe and manuka. The lower pond provided more wetland plants of interest including *Bolboschoenus fluitans*, raupo, *Carex secta*, and *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*. A lone healthy swamp maire attracted much interest as they rarely do well.

After lunch, we ventured to the lowermost pond and an old weir at the saltwater interface where plants included *Glossostigma elatinoides*, bachelors button, arrow grass, and tape measure plant (*Lilaeopsis novaezelandiae*). At the saltwater outlet to the ponds, *Olearia solandri, Baumea juncea, Juncus kraussii* and *Apodasmia similis* were common. The last two extended for some distance around patches of mangroves. The return to the cars continued across the weir of the lowermost pond, which is deep, tidal and largely weed-free, and round to its inlet where horse's mane (*Ruppia polycarpa*) was noted in the brackish water. Above this point, the artificial stream channel became choked with *Egeria densa* and *Myriophyllum aquaticum*.

# July Field Trip: Mangapouri SR

On a fine but frosty morning seven members from afar afield as Taranaki and Katikati gathered at the Mangapouri Scenic Reserve on the Tauranga Direct Road (SH36). The reserve (39 ha) is split in two by the road. We explored the eastern half in the morning starting at the north-western corner and proceeded in a south-easterly direction towards the Mangapouri Stream. The forest was tawa / kamahi canopy on the higher areas with tree ferns and gulley fern dominating the understorey. Towards the Mangapouri Stream we encountered tanekaha and rimu. Some time was spent exploring

the stream bed and banks and a few photos were taken of members trying to hold thin sheets of ice from slower flowing water. *Blechnum nigrum* and *Lygodium articulatum* were noted nearby. We made our way up to the ridge along the northern boundary as the stream had become too confined for safe exploring. We had lunch at the eastern end of the ridge in an area which for some reason was not in the reserve but had a spectacular drop-off down to the stream. While exploring this area we found two orchids, *Drymoanthus adversus* and *Acianthus sinclairii*. Heading back towards the road we noted some spectacularly straight 10m high stems of putaputaweta.

On the western side of the road we made fairly rapid progress southwards through more tawa/ kamahi forest trying to dodge the supplejack. Eventually we dropped down into the Mangapouri Stream where after considerable searching we found some *Hymenophyllum atrovirens* tucked away under some boulders in the stream bed. Further eastwards we came across some towering rimu which would rival any anywhere in the country for clear bole, height and straightness – truly spectacular. Back down in the stream we found a stream-side terrace that was covered by a mass of *Lindsaea viridis*. Climbing back up through the forest to a ridge we moved into an area of tawari forest with a couple of emergent rewarewa. By this time it was decided that we should head out to the road and home.

# August Field Trip: Pataua Island and Ohiwa Domain

A large contingent headed across a narrow strip of mangroves and stinking mud to the island, which is crowned by tall kanuka and developing forest. We almost circled the island and then returned over the top. The north easterly shore was flanked by mangroves but much of the rest was open stony beach. The south-facing shores were fringed by cliffs or shallow wetlands dominated by *Coprosma tenuicaulis* and manuka. The southern gullies contained taller forest often with much kahikatea regeneration. Across the top of the island especially, and to a lesser extent elsewhere, the recent regeneration featured many species, often now common but scarcely more than a metre tall. These included tawa, miro, mangeo, tanekaha, totara, houpara, kawakawa and nikau many of which were not on the 1984 list. There were also new weedy invaders like Taiwan cherry, loquat and barberry.

The Ohiwa Domain consists of a campground backed by a large gully system that was grazed till recently with gully head forest remnants of coastal forest dominated by large, old pohutukawa and puriri. The colder faces were dominated by mamaku and warmer areas grass or kanuka with much of the grass being replanted in local species.

# **FUTURE EVENTS**

2 October East Cape revisited #4 6 November Whakapiko Bay, Taupo

14 December Dave McNeil's QEII Covenant, Te Aroha

President: Paul Cashmore (07) 348 4421 pcashmore@doc.govt.nz

Secretary: Sara Crump

# Wanganui Museum Botanical Group

Please note the following changes and additions to what's left of the 2010 programme, as in our newsletter:

5 Oct. Clive and Nicki Higgie: 'Queensland'. Clive & Nicki explored suburban Brisbane trees and a few national parks north of Brisbane, e.g. Mary Cairncross Reserve, Fig Tree Reserve, Noosa National Park

Saturday 9 Oct. Tennet's Bush, Campbell Road, Brunswick. Meet at Police Station 11.30 am, so as to arrive at noon to eat our lunches on the deck with Liz before exploring the other half of her forest

2 Nov. Laurel Stowell and Richard Thompson: 'Three weeks in Central Australia'. Their trip included walking in the West McDonnells and visiting the tourist spots and an Aboriginal outstation.

Saturday 6 Nov: 'Paloma', Fordell: Clive and Nicki have offered to host us for a tour of their gardens, from 1 pm (option of going about noon with your lunch and using the bbq and table facilities). Meet at 'Paloma' Denlair Rd, Fordell.

Sun 5 Dec: sea cliff tops from Kakaramea to Patea. Meet 9.15 am outside Police Station, Bell St Wanganui. We meet Mike Parsons of Patea and Wellington, outside the Patea Museum at 10 am and he will guide us to several places with turf plants. These include the old Kakaramea power station on the cliff tops where NZ's rarest *Limosella* – an unnamed species – should still be growing. Bring lunch, drink and suitable clothing for exposed summer conditions.

President: Clive Higgie (06) 342 7857 <a href="mailto:clive.nicki@xtra.co.nz">clive.nicki@xtra.co.nz</a>

Secretary: Robyn Ogle (06) 3478547 22 Forres St, Wanganui. robcol.ogle@xtra.co.nz

# Wellington Botanical Society

# **FUTURE EVENTS**

20 September: Evening meeting. NZ *Myosotis* - how many species do we have out there? Carlos Lehnebach.Te Papa.

2 October: Te Marua Bush. Leader: Glennis Sheppard 18 October: Evening meeting. Orchids. Jeremy Rolfe

6 November: Wainuiomata wetland. Leader, Chris Hopkins 04 564 3980

15 November: Evening meeting. VUW post graduates present updates of work.

20 November: Dench garden workbee. Leader: Eleanor Burton 479 0497 3-5 December: Waihoke Valley, Wairarapa. Sunita Singh 387 9955

29 Dec – 7 Jan 2011: Northern Fiordland. Joint trip with Bot Soc of Otago. Contact Mick Parsons 04 972 1148.

**President**: Chris Moore, (04) 479 3924 <a href="moore.c@xtra.co.nz">moore.c@xtra.co.nz</a> **Secretary**: Barbara Clark, (04 233 8202 <a href="moore.c@xtra.co.nz">bj\_clark@xtra.co.nz</a> <a href="moore.c@xtra.co.nz">http://wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz/</a>.

# ■ Other Botanical Society Contacts

# Manawatu Botanical Society

**Jill Rapson:** Ecology Group, Institute of Natural Resources, Massey University, Palmerston North. Ph (06) 350 5799 Ext 7963; Email: <u>G.Rapson@massey.ac.nz</u>

# Nelson Botanical Society

President: Cathy Jones (03) 546 9499. Flat 1 47A Washington Rd. Email: cjones@doc.govt.nz

Treasurer: Trevor Lewis (03) 547 2812. 22 Coster St. Email: <a href="mailto:tandjlewis@actrix.co.nz">tandjlewis@actrix.co.nz</a>

# **Botanical Society of Otago**

Chairman: David Lyttle djlyttle@ihug.co.nz

**Secretary:** Allison Knight, P O Box 6214, Dunedin North.

More information available on website: <a href="http://www.botany.otago.ac.nz/bso/">http://www.botany.otago.ac.nz/bso/</a>

# Wakatipu Botanical Group

Chairman: Neill Simpson (03) 442 2035 Secretary: Lyn Clendon (03) 442 3153

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Vacancy, University of Waikato, Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Plant Ecology/ Plant Biology

The Department of Biological Sciences is seeking a Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Plant Ecology or related areas of Plant Biology. The closing date is 1 November 2010 (NZ time).

For more information and to apply, visit www.jobs.waikato.ac.nz Vacancy number: 300269

# **NOTES AND REPORTS**

# First Record of Menegazzia pulchra (Parmeliaceae) on the Chatham Islands

P. J. de Lange, Ecosystems & Species Unit, Department of Conservation, Private Bag 68908, Newton, Auckland, D.J. Galloway, Landcare Research, Private Bag 1930, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand, G.M. Crowcroft, Natural Resource Assessors, 16 Jesmond Terrace, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025.

While our knowledge of New Zealand lichens is rapidly growing we are still unclear of what is present over large parts of the New Zealand Botanical Region. One key area of lichen ignorance is the Chatham Islands. The current Lichen Flora (Galloway 2007) records just 48 species for the islands. Yet despite that low figure, the Chathams are the type locality for three species, and one of these, Caloplaca maculata, is endemic to the islands (see Galloway 2007; Johnson 2008; de Lange 2009). It seems therefore a reasonable statement to make that while the lichen mycobiota of the Chatham Islands is virtually unknown it has the potential to be an interesting place for lichenologists to study.

In 1996 two of us (PdL & GMC) visited the islands and collected a few lichens from the southern part of Rekohu (Chatham Island). Since then, but most especially in 2007 and 2008, PdL (mostly aided by Peter Heenan), has made a special effort to collect lichens to improve our knowledge of their diversity on the island. As a result of these gatherings, two of us (PdL and DJG) are working with the other key Chatham Islands lichen collectors Peter Johnson and Allison Knight, and with lichenologist Dan Blanchon to prepare a checklist of the lichen mycobiota for that island group (Galloway et al. in prep.). As part of that study we are systematically working through all known collections from the Chathams held in New Zealand herbaria. In the process some rather interesting and at times unexpected finds are being made.

Here we report on the recognition of Menegazzia pulchra (Parmeliaceae) from Rekohu (Chatham Hitherto this uncommon species was known only from a rather restricted area of beech (Nothofagus) forest in the Waimakariri River and nearby catchments apparently centered on the Craigieburn Range, Canterbury (Galloway 1983, 1985, Galloway 2007). As its specific epithet implies, Menegazzia pulchra is an attractive species easily distinguished from the 19 other named species accepted in the New Zealand lichen mycobiota (Galloway 2007) by the apothecia which have distinctive bright orangered margins. To date it has only ever been found in association with mountain beech (Nothofagus cliffortioides) forest and has perhaps come to be viewed as an obligate Fig. 1. Menegazzia pulchra specimen (P. J. de Lange CH2364 &



beech forest endemic (see Galloway Fig. 1. Meneguzau putchau speciments), Southern G.M. Crowcroft, CHR), Rekohu (Chatham Island), Southern Tablelands, Rangaika Scenic Reserve.

The Chatham Islands gathering (Fig. 1.) was made in February 1996 from the Rangaika Scenic Reserve, Southern Tablelands, Rekohu (Chatham Island). At that time it was not identified and remained in a box of PdL's undetermined Chatham Islands lichens, mosses and vascular plant gatherings held at the Auckland War Memorial Museum Herbarium (AK). In June 2010 while sorting out undetermined Chatham Islands lichen gatherings for DJG to examine, a number of Menegazzia specimens were located, and one of these was immediately recognised by PdL as M. pulchra on

account of the distinctive colouration of the apothecia. His identification was subsequently confirmed by DJG.

The gathering was made from the upper canopy branches of matipo (*Myrsine chathamica*) in a tarahinau (*Dracophyllum arboretum*) / matipo forest that forms the main vegetation cover along the southern portion of the Rangaika Scenic Reserve. The discovery of *M. pulchra* now adds a fifth species of *Menegazzia* to the island's lichen mycobiota, the others being *M. inflata*, *M. neozelandica*, *M. nothofagi* and *M. pertransita* (Galloway et al. *in prep.*). *Menegazzia neozelandica* and *M. nothofagi* were the only species to have been recorded previously (see Galloway 2007) and of the two only *M. neozelandica* is common, occurring in most forested and shrubland habitats on Rekohu (Chatham Island) and Rangiauria (Pitt Island) though it is apparently absent from the other smaller islands of the group.

The recognition of *Menegazzia pulchra* from the Chatham Islands parallels that of *Calycidium cuneatum*, which is another species characteristically associated with the beech forests of New Zealand and Tasmania (Galloway 2007). The type of *Calycidium cuneatum* is a Henry Travers collection from the Chathams Islands, and until recently (2008) that species had not been recorded from there again. It is now known very locally from the Tuku-a-Tamatea Nature Reserve, Southern Tablelands, Rekohu (Chatham Islands) where it grows on the lower moss- covered trunks and root plates of tarahinau and matipo. Aside from these Chatham occurrences *Calycidium cuneatum* is also known from southern Stewart Island where beech forest is also absent (Cockayne 1909; Wilson 1982, 1987).

What both the *Calycidium* and *Menegazzia pulchra* finds suggest is that, amongst other things, diligent searching for these species in other New Zealand non-beech forest habitats could be very worthwhile. Certainly neither is truly tied to beech forest and in the case of *M. pulchra* this perhaps has been the limiting factor in understanding the actual distribution of this species. *Menegazzia pulchra* is regarded by some people as highly threatened and by others as simply uncommon or poorly understood. This find supports the latter view and highlights that, as with many apparently uncommon and/or threatened vascular plants, we simply haven't been looking harder and more widely in potential habitats. It is also clear that we still have plenty to learn about our lichen mycobiota especially with respect to habitat preferences and distribution.

# **Acknowledgements**

PdL would like to thank the Chatham Islands Area Office Staff, Te One, especially Amanda Baird, Bridget Gibb, Denny Prendeville, Ken Hunt and Maria Pasco for assistance with accommodation, transport and access on the Chatham Islands. We also thank Peter Heenan, Gary Houliston and Rob Smissen for help with collecting lichens and showing an interest on the Chatham Islands in this often neglected part of our flora. We thank Peter Johnson, Dan Blanchon and Allison Knight for their collections and/or ongoing interest in the development of a Chatham Islands lichen checklist. Peter Heenan and Dan Blanchon kindly commented on a draft of this short note, and Matt McGlone commented on and confirmed the prehistoric absence of *Nothofagus* from the Chatham Islands.

# References

Cockayne, L. 1909: Report on a botanical survey of Stewart Island. Wellington, Government Printer. de Lange, P.J. 2009: Chatham Island Lichens. <a href="http://www.chathams.co.nz/content/view/198/116/">http://www.chathams.co.nz/content/view/198/116/</a> (accessed 14 June 2010).

Galloway, D.J. 1985: Flora of New Zealand - Lichens. Government Printer, Wellington.

Galloway, D. J. 2007: Flora of New Zealand – Lichens (revised second edition). Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln, New Zealand.

Galloway, D.J.; de Lange, P.J.; Johnson, P.N.; Blanchon, D.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Knight, A. *in prep.* Checklist of the Lichens of the Chatham Islands. Unpublished Draft Checklist held by P. J. de Lange, Department of Conservation, Auckland.

Johnson, P.N. 2008: Lichens. Pp. 111–112. In, Miskelly C, ed. *Chatham Islands: heritage and conservation*, 2nd edition. Christchurch, Canterbury University Press.

Wilson, H.D. 1982: Stewart Island plants. Christchurch. Field Guide Publications.

Wilson, H.D. 1987: Vascular plants of Stewart Island (New Zealand). Pp. 81–131. *In*: Vegetation of Stewart Island (New Zealand). *New Zealand Journal of Botany. Supplement, 1987.* 

# New record for Northland - Coprosma pedicellata

Andrew Townsend, Department of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, PO Box 824, Whangarei; Lisa Forester, Northland Regional Council, Whangarei; Matthew Calder, Department of Conservation, Kauri Coast Area; Dargaville

During a survey of a kahikatea remnant in the Kaihu Valley, 10 km north of Dargaville, four adult plants (and several saplings) of Coprosma pedicellata were discovered on 13 July 2010. Coprosma pedicellata is ranked as At Risk - Declining CD PD RR (de Lange et al. 2009), and had a previous northern limit at Pehiri, west of Gisborne (Molloy et al. 1999). This extension in range represents approximately 455 km as the crow flies and 320 km in a north-south direction. A voucher specimen was collected and lodged at the Auckland War Memorial Museum (AK 315599) and a duplicate sent to CHR.

The habitat is typical of this species in other parts of its range; Twig and fruit of Coprosma namely tall, wet kahikatea-dominated forest on a periodicallyflooded river margin/floodplain. Although cattle currently Northland.



pedicellata from the Kaihu Valley,

access the block, the understorey is still relatively densely populated with small-leaved shrubs, including Melicytus micranthus, Coprosma propingua, Coprosma rigida, Coprosma rotundifolia and less commonly Coprosma parviflora. More open areas also contain Phormium tenax and even more modified areas are dominated by pasture grasses.

This site is interesting as it is currently the only known one where C. pedicellata and C. parviflora occur sympatrically. These two species are superficially similar but are distinguished in detail by Molloy et al. (1999). Notably C. parviflora has thick, yellow-green to dark green leaves; a stout, planar branching architecture; sessile pink-purple fruit (although not fruiting at Dargaville when visited); orange inner bark on stems > 2 cm diameter (Molloy et al. 1999); and it occurs on forest margins, and along swamp margins but not in standing water (Molloy et al. 1999; Jane 2005). Conversely C. pedicellata at Dargaville had relatively thin, shiny, dark green leaves (Photo 1); an upright, virgate branching habit; dark purple fruit on 4 mm-long pedicels (Photo 2); yellow inner bark; and was in the understorey in standing water, rather than on the forest margin.



Foliage of Coprosma pedicellata with an Auckland tree weta, Kaihu Valley, Northland

Of the 28 species mentioned by Molloy et al (1999) as consistently occurring with *C. pedicellata*, 16 were also seen at this location and several of these are unusual for Northland, but are indicative of lowland, inland riverine habitats (for example, *Pennantia corymbosa*, *C. rotundifolia*, *Lobelia angulata* and *Viola lyallii*); this represents a habitat type that was once much more extensive in the past. Being Northland, there is also a more northern component present in this remnant too, which includes, for example, the presence of *Rhopalostylis sapida* as a relatively common canopy component. The following species list notes species seen on the floodplain, but is not the result of a comprehensive search so there will undoubtedly be further additions if a more comprehensive survey were to be undertaken. Other noteworthy taxa mentioned by Molloy et al (1999) as occurring with *C. pedicellata* were not found at this site, but of them it is possible that *Pittosporum obcordatum*, *Teucridium parvifolium*, *Mazus novaezeelandiae* subsp. *novaezeelandiae* and/or *Urtica linearifolia* could be found in this (or other similar) sites on the Kaihu floodplain, or elsewhere in the Kaipara catchment.

# **Acknowledgements**

The authors would like to thank Brian Jackson, the landowner for allowing access to this site, and to Peter de Lange for providing comments on the text.

#### References

de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A.; Courtney, S.P.; Heenan, P.B.; Barkla, J.W.; Cameron, E.K.; Hitchmough, R.; Townsend, A.J. 2009: Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand (2008 revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany 47*: 61-96

Jane, G.T. 2005: An examination of *Coprosma ciliata* and *C. parviflora* complex. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 43*: 735-752.

Molloy B.P.J.; de Lange, P.J.; Clarkson, B.D. 1999: *Coprosma pedicellata* (Rubiaceae), a new species from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37: 383-397

# **Species list**

#### Lycophytes

Selaginella kraussiana

# **Gymnosperm trees**

Adiantum diaphanum

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides Podocarpus totara var. totara Prumnopitys ferruginea

#### **Ferns**

Arthropteris tenella
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum membranaceum
Blechnum minus
Blechnum novaezelandiae
Deparia petersenii subsp. congrua
Dicksonia squarrosa
Diplazium australe
Doodia australis
Doodia mollis
Histiopteris incisa
Lastreopsis glabella
Microsorum pustulatum

# Dicot. trees & shrubs

Pyrrosia eleagnifolia

Carpodetus serratus Coprosma areolata Coprosma parviflora Coprosma pedicellata Coprosma propingua var. propingua Coprosma rhamnoides Coprosma rigida Coprosma rotundifolia Coprosma tenuicaulis Corynocarpus laevigatus Geniostoma ligustrifolium var. ligustrifolium Hedycarya arborea Laurelia novae-zelandiae Melicope simplex Melicytus micranthus Myrsine australis Pennantia corymbosa Pittosporum tenuifolium Solanum mauritianum Solanum pseudocapsicum Sophora microphylla Streblus heterophyllus

# Dicot. lianes

Metrosideros perforata Muehlenbeckia australis Parsonsia sp. Passiflora tetrandra Rubus australis

#### Dicot. herbs

Alternanthera philoxeroides Callitriche stagnalis Centella uniflora Conyza sumatrensis Galium palustre subsp. palustre Gamochaeta coarctata Haloragis erecta subsp. erecta Hydrocotyle novaezeelandiae var. novaezeelandiae Lobelia angulata Lotus pedunculatus Ludwigia palustris Mvosotis laxa subsp. caespitosa Oenanthe pimpinelloides Persicaria decipiens Phytolacca octandra Plantago lanceolata Ranunculus ?amphitrichus Ranunculus repens Rumex conglomeratus Senecio bipinnatisectus Senecio esleri Silybum marianum Sonchus asper Verbena bonariensis Verbena brasiliensis Viola Iyallii

# Monocot. trees & shrubs

Cordyline australis
Phormium tenax
Rhopalostylis sapida

# **Monocot. lianes** *Ripogonum scandens*

#### Rushes

Juncus acuminatus Juncus edgariae Juncus effusus Juncus sarophorus

# Sedges

Baumea articulata
Baumea tenax
Carex virgata
Cyperus eragrostis
Cyperus sanguinolentus
Cyperus ustulatus
Isolepis inundata
Schoenus maschalinus
Schoenus tendo

#### Grasses

Agrostis stolonifera Cortaderia selloana Dactylis glomerata Glyceria maxima Isachne globosa Oplismenus hirtellus subsp. imbecillis

#### Other Monocot, herbs

Collospermum hastatum Crocosmia ×crocosmiiflora Gladiolus carneus Lemna minor Tradescantia fluminensis Typha orientalis

#### Mosses

Hypopterygium filiculaeforme

# ■ Gleichenia in New Zealand

**Leon Perrie**, Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa, PO Box 467, Wellington, leonp@tepapa.govt.nz

Recent treatments have recognised two species of *Gleichenia* tangle-fern in New Zealand: *G. dicarpa* and *G. microphylla* (e.g., Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth 2000). Distribution maps for these two species based on databased (but unverified) specimens in New Zealand's herbaria are shown in Figure 1.

Ongoing research (Perrie et al. 2007; Daniel Ohlsen, University of Melbourne, unpub. data) suggests the taxonomy of Australasian *Gleichenia* is more complex than previously recognised. For instance, material from Mount Somers stands apart from other New Zealand material that has been genetically investigated (Perrie et al. 2007).

In this context, I would be grateful for reports of *Gleichenia* populations from the central-eastern South Island. The only populations already documented in herbaria from this region are Mount Somers, Arthur's Pass, Mount Peel and near Lake Ohau (with the records for the latter pair lacking precision).

I would also be grateful for reports of *Gleichenia* populations from any area not already represented on the herbarium maps.

For the above areas of interest, fresh material (in a sealed plastic bag) of *Gleichenia* would also be much appreciated, if you have permission to collect. For identification purposes, when collecting *Gleichenia* it is important to gather material that retains its covering of scales, and to record the height of the frond if not collecting it in its entirety. It is also preferable to include part of the rhizome and to have at least some fertile pinnules.

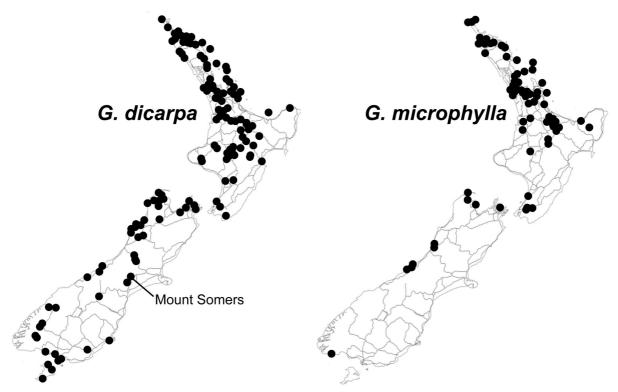


Figure 1. Distribution maps for *Gleichenia dicarpa* and *G. microphylla*, based on databased specimens in New Zealand's herbaria. Note that the identity of these specimens has not been verified. State Highways are shown.

# References

Brownsey PJ, Smith-Dodsworth JC. 2000. New Zealand ferns and allied plants. 2nd ed. David Bateman Ltd., Auckland, New Zealand.

Perrie LR, Bayly MH, Lehnebach CA, Brownsey PJ. 2007. Molecular phylogenetics and molecular dating of the New Zealand Gleicheniaceae. *Brittonia* 59: 129–141.

# **OBITUARY**

# ■ Eric Godley, a visionary botanist (1919-2010)

David Galloway, Landcare Research, Private Bag 1930, Dunedin 9054 gallowayd@xtra.co.nz

When Henry Connor rang me on Monday 28 June, neither of us then knew that Eric Godley had died peacefully in Christchurch Hospital the night previously. He was 91. Henry was with Eric on the Sunday afternoon and knew that the end was close. He told me "...David, Eric was the Father of New Zealand Botany, post-War, wasn't he". And that in a nutshell was truly what Eric was. New Zealand Botany post-War is a big family and a broad church and Eric managed the roles of paterfamilias and Pastor with friendly concern, judicious encouragement and a wide and tolerant sympathy. He was a dear and lovable man whose passing diminishes us all.

Eric Godley grew up in Devonport on Auckland's North Shore, the eldest of a family of three. His schooling was at Devonport District School and Takapuna Grammar School where Geoff Baylis was the first Dux, six years before. Eric's remembrances of his Botany teacher, Miss Olga Adams, are

touching (Godley 2004, 2008). In 1937 Eric enrolled at the Auckland Teachers' Training College graduating with a Specialist Third Year in Biology in 1940 and attending Auckland University College part-time. Eric was an enthusiastic member of the University Field Club where he made many lifelong friends. He gained a Senior Scholarship in Botany in 1941. After graduating MSc in 1942, Eric received the Duffus Lubecki Research Scholarship. Further tertiary education was interrupted by the Second World War where Eric saw active service in Italy (1943-1945) in the 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment of the New Zealand Army. In November 1945 he arrived at Trinity College Cambridge on a NZ Government Rehabilitation Bursary, to do a PhD in Genetics in R.A. Fisher's department.

After brief periods as Senior Lecturer in Genetics at Auckland University College, and Senior Geneticist with the DSIR, he was appointed Director first of Crop Research Division DSIR, and subsequently of Botany Division DSIR (1958-1981) at Lincoln (see Thomson 1984). Eric made Botany Division a centre of excellence in all aspects of research and scholarship relating to the New Zealand flora; established the *Flora of New Zealand* series; and the *New Zealand Journal of Botany* (he was Chairman of the Editorial Board from 1965 –1983); while maintaining a vigorous and diverse research agenda of his own. This set him apart from almost any other science administrator in the Government service. A sympathetic and cultivated man with deep interests in Art, Music and Literature, Eric was also a distinguished botanical historian, with a notable record of publication (both popular and scholarly) in several fields of botany. He was elected the first President of the New Zealand Botanical Society at the Inaugural General Meeting held at Lincoln on 22 November 1988 and was a conscientious and regular contributor to the Society's *Newsletter* for the rest of his life.

Eric nurtured New Zealand Botany at every level during his Directorship of Botany Division. His vision was succinct and the shortest by far in the occasional series *DSIR Research*: "...The Division describes and classifies native and introduced plants of New Zealand and studies the vegetation". In 1960, the year that Botany Division moved to its present site at Lincoln, Eric instituted a Triennial Report as a detailed record of the progress of work at the Division that would also "serve in the future as a valuable record of the past". In the first of a now collectable series beautifully designed and printed by the Caxton Press, Eric wrote "...The main function of Botany Division is to study the wild plants of New Zealand, although the classification of horticultural; and other plants is within our sphere. We seek to describe and classify both the native and adventive flora and to describe the vegetation whether old or new, past or present. To facilitate these aims, research is carried out in genetics, cytology, anatomy, morphology, physiology and ecology. The information thus obtained is made widely available both here and overseas...".

As a senior administrator Eric contributed valued advice and experience to many committees where he was also a strong advocate for Botany. He was a foundation member of the Scientific co-ordinating Committee for Beech Research, a Trustee of the Hellaby Trust, active in committees of the DSIR and of the Royal Society of New Zealand and permanent DSIR Centre Chairman at Lincoln from 1976 to 1984. Always a modest man, Eric never courted honours of any kind, but they accrued nonetheless: FRSNZ 1965; Corresponding Member of the Chilean Academy of Natural Sciences 1966; FLS 1967 (his proposers Bill Philipson, Betty Flint and Lucy Moore) and FLS *Honoris causa* (only one of 20 worldwide) 1977; Cheeseman Memorial Lecture 1969; Leonard Cockayne Memorial Lecture 1974; Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal 1977; Loder Cup 1984; AHRNZIH 1984; Hutton Medallist, Royal Society of New Zealand 1986; OBE 1990; and DSc *Honoris causa* University of Canterbury 2000

As he often said at Monday morning briefings in his office at Botany Division "Your job is to do Botany. I'll deal with the people in Wellington". Although he once wrote (1985): "...My own work goes along steadily but too slowly. It's uphill all the way. But then it always was..." – his published output, both popular and scientific was diverse, extensive and significant, encompassing the reproductive biology of the native flora, biogeography of southern temperate floras and botanical history and biography.

For Eric, sport was always a great recreation. Early on he excelled at sport, representing his school at rugby, cricket and athletics and he played country cricket for Cambridgeshire. An eager follower of provincial and national rubgy, he wrote in 1978 "...l'll be at Lancaster Park next Saturday on the bank with Brian Molloy to watch the 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. I enjoy the Rugby crowd, though it wouldn't be the place to sell subscriptions to *Landfall*."

Music and literature (listening and reading) were other pursuits and recreations dear to Eric. His letters are full of fascinating asides that illuminate what he was listening to, reading, or thinking about. In 1976 he wrote: "...Gustav Mahler cost me \$2.50 the other evening but I don't begrudge it one bit. Listening to a new recording of the 4<sup>th</sup> Symphony I put on the electric jug between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> movements and you can imagine what happened. I often think of our pilgrimage to Cookham and the walk back along the river. One of the most pleasant days I've spent... I am doing a new edition of Laing & Blackwell for Whitcoulls, Bringing names up to date, replacing some of the old photos and rewriting a couple of pages about continental drift. It still fills a gap I think. (The worst chore is converting old measurements to metric.)..."

Eric developed a great sense of "place" - in Italy during the War (he found the experience "exhilarating" as he once said), Britain, the canals of southern Chile (following Darwin), the subantarctic islands, and widely throughout New Zealand – all remembered with joyous affection. One of Eric's enduringly "special places" was Stanley Spencer's Cookham, the Thames-side town in Berkshire where the great painter lived and worked. In July 1973 Eric suggested that I join him on a day out to Cookham. We traveled to Maidenhead by train from Paddington, then walked overland to Cookham, visiting the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham Church and its churchyard and around the village, all redolent of Spencer paintings that Eric knew and loved. On the way back he suggested we return to Maidenhead along the banks of the Thames – "Wind in the Willows" country. It was a richly memorable day and Eric spoke engagingly on so many fascinating and diverse topics, two of which he often returned to in later conversations in New Zealand. One of these was a retirement plan to walk from Bluff to Picton over several months, via back roads and staying at country pubs or farmhouses en route. The other was of a local recreation of the 19th century "Reading Party" where a group of congenial friends could meet at a base camp somewhere in the Southern Alps (we spoke of Paradise I recall, but eventually Eric found Springs Junction as a venue that filled requirements) walk through fine landscape during the day, and discuss music, poetry or books over whisky in the evenings.

In his New Year letter of 1978 Eric wrote "...Between Christmas and New Year I took a room at a chalet at Springs Junction and had a very pleasant time looking at flowers through my binocular, taking walks, and on one day climbing Mt Haast, an attractively symmetrical peak of 5255' to the south of the Rahu Saddle..." I joined him there the following year at the same time, and with Neill Simpson we climbed both Mt Haast and Mt Mueller as well as botanising around the Rahu Saddle and the track to Lake Daniells. I took tapes of a new recording of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, with my wife Patricia singing the alto solos. Eric listened very attentively and was much moved by this late Beethoven masterpiece that he was hearing for the first time. At New Year, Eric joined in the dancing at the Springs Junction Hall, socializing with the locals and much enjoying the "atmosphere" of a country New Year celebration -kegs of beer on the back of a truck out the back for the men, and the women talking in groups in the hall, or else dancing with each other. No wonder Eric was much in demand! On the stroke of midnight the assembled throng lined up in procession and followed a 14 year old girl playing the bagpipes round the hall, before we joined hands to sing Auld Lang Syne. Springs Junction was "special" for Eric, and he returned there on five consecutive summers to make an annual ascent of Mt Haast, in both sunshine and also in sudden snow, writing engagingly about these pilgrimages in his *Botanist's Notebook*.

A letter of 1 June 1982 illuminates Eric's sense of and feelings about "place" in his busy life: "...On my trip north I first went to the A.G.M. of the Roy.Soc. N.Z. Charles Fleming gave a talk about the history of the Society and in his introduction mentioned your offer, on behalf of Averil Lysaght, of the Banks letter. The RSNZ is a fine place for it and I know the Society was thrilled to have it. I then had a week with a Committee inspecting proposed F.S. Ecological Areas. We flew out to Great Barrier and hiked over the top of Mt Hobson. Then flew on to Whangarei to look at a reserve south of the Bay of Islands. Finished on Thursday, and on Friday I had a day with Katie Reynolds looking at a *Fuchsia procumbens* population. Stayed with Geoff Baylis at his sister's place near Whangarei. Then back to Auckland where I'm having some leave at my mother's place, and then next weekend (Queen's Birthday) a 60<sup>th</sup> birthday reunion of the A.U.C. Field Club at Kawerua in Nth. Akd. Then back home. I'm becoming such a stick-in-the-mud that I don't really "go away" but only go home by a long and circuitous route. From the time I leave Ch.Ch. I'm counting the days until I get back. A kind of Cookham complex you could call it. Actually it is getting back to the South Island I mean, and Ch.Ch. – Springs in particular..."

In 1986 he was writing "...I should travel and see the world but I have these writing promises to keep and until I keep those I'd feel unhappy doing anything else..." And two years later "...My main news is that last June I bought a fairly new house with all chattels at Pigeon Bay on Banks Peninsula. Only 1½ hours from Christchurch but a different world...Wonderful views and walks...". The following winter (1989) he wrote "...Speaking of Pigeon Bay I'm setting off to walk here from Christchurch on Friday. Paul Broady, an algologist from Canterbury U. will come along with me. We'll take it easy. Friday – Ch.Ch. to Lyttelton, over and along the Port Hills; Sat.- the launch to Diamond Harbour and then to Port Levy where [we] stay in shearing quarters; Sunday – Port Levy-Pigeon Bay."

Eric was a constant and loyal friend to very many from one end of the country to another, as well as overseas. And he was a good correspondent too, though he much preferred a face-to-face conversation if at all possible. His deafness (he realized that he was going deaf when as a schoolboy he attended a concert in the Auckland Town Hall with his father and could see the violins playing but not hear them) he never allowed to be the isolating and alienating condition that it can be for many so afflicted. Rather, it appeared to increase his concern and attention to the person he was speaking to, making conversations with Eric occasions to savour.

In a letter from Pigeon Bay 15 years ago, Eric articulated his concern for others in the following telling observation "... Yes, it is disappointing to see the organization of Science deteriorate so badly. But individuals everywhere keep things going...The big difference now I suppose is that the individual has to work hard to create a reasonable climate for work whereas before the climate was there. I don't know whether you remember my story about the County Director of Education. It was a BBC talk broadcast many years ago and had a great influence on me. He likened his work to a cricket match – and I thought he would say he was the captain, or perhaps an umpire. But he said he was the groundsman, and his job to get conditions right for the game..." Henry Connor touched on this in his splendid speech at the launch of Eric's A Botanists' Notebook in 2007: "...Eric: 'The playing fields' man – the green keeper' is how you described yourself all those years ago at Botany Division where your role was leadership, leadership with kindness and thoughtfulness – compassion if you like..." (Connor 2007). For over 50 years, Eric made conditions "right for Botany" in New Zealand, and we are all beneficiaries of his selflessness in so doing.

In recent years Eric published several personal sketches of different periods of his life, from school days on the North Shore and of teachers who had influenced him. These tantalizingly slim excursions into autobiography indicate just what a wonderfully diverse "life and times" he was ready to command had time and conditions allowed. Typically (and to him importantly), he preferred to preserve the lives of lesser-known New Zealand botanists in print, rather than his own. The major botanists he rightly acknowledged, are known through their publications and influence, but just as important to Eric were the numerous unsung botanists (mostly amateur) who acted as collectors and recorders, very often without publication or even recognition of their efforts. In an unequalled collection of biographical notes in this journal (number 76 on Sir Everard Home was published posthumously), Eric has rescued these botanists and collectors for posterity, as part of his wish to have the botanical exploration of New Zealand as widely and as accurately documented as possible. It is a major tranche of botanical investigation and scholarship. Writing in a New Year letter for 1995 Eric observed: "...My adventures are not geographical any more, as are so many of yours, unless you include a prospective trip to Greymouth to seek out information about a Dr Mackay. Allan named a Forstera after him. But it's a voyage of discovery in its way. I seem to remember that Sir Thomas Browne said that we all carry our Americas within us..."

When we invited Eric to be New Zealand Patron of a Symposium celebrating the Darwin bicentenary on 3 September 2009 at Knox College, Dunedin, he agreed enthusiastically. He sent us for publication in the Symposium Proceedings an essay "Reminiscences of a Neo-Darwinian", an inscribed photographic portrait of Darwin, and three other photographs to illustrate his essay. He chose the epigraph: *Heureux qui, comme Ulysse, a fait un beau voyage* Du Bellay, 1558 [Happy is he who, like Ulysses, has made a fine journey]. In his essay Eric records memories of New Zealand, before and after Cambridge, with Darwin as the interlinking thread. Surprisingly, he was pointed to Darwin's *Origin*, not by a scientific textbook, but from a survey of English literature. In his own words: "...I look back on a long life, profoundly enriched by the life and works of Charles Robert Darwin...our VI<sup>th</sup> Form text on Eng. Litt. pushed wide open the door into this new world. In a section on Victorian

literature the author mentioned a book by Charles Darwin entitled On the Origin of Species. These seemed magical words to me. Here would be the answers to all my questions. And in no time I had been over to town and found a second-hand copy. It came from the green, hard-backed popular edition of Darwin's complete works. The book, of course, was a revelation to me, and so great was my eagerness to share my discovery that, when a friend asked for a contribution to her autograph book, I copied out the introductory sentences of the Origin of Species. I still marvel at such a modest introduction to one of the most influential books ever written...In concluding these reminiscences, I would like to refer to the first chapter of the Book of Genesis. Nowadays, although we all use the word "creatures", these views tend only to be accepted literally by those who ignore changes in ways of thinking, or advances in science; but this fundamentalist outlook should not obscure the fact that this was a remarkable attempt by wise men living thousands of years ago to explain the origin of the universe and of all living things, including a suggested sequence in which the latter appeared. It is a milestone in the history of evolutionary thought, just as is Darwin's great work of 1859" (Godley 2010). I had the designer lay out Eric's essay with its illustrations, just as it is soon to appear in the published book, and posted the mock-up to Eric's close friend Elizabeth Jensen, who took it in to his hospital bedside. He was able to see it shortly before he died, and very soon too we all will be able to see and to read his splendid essay.

When I last spoke with Eric in hospital, his eyes were shining when he said to me "David, if I could just get out of this damned bed and get seated at a desk with a pencil in my hand, then I'd be away!" The future still beckoned strongly and there was still much to do!

Eric was fond of Matthew Arnold's poetry, and especially of the elegiac pastoral *Thyrsis* (1866), a poem that speaks illuminatingly of the "poetic sense", the life of the imagination that a scholar such as Eric so richly inhabited. Eric noted in the Postscript to his book (Godley 2006: 213) that Arnold was years ahead of his time in this poem in commenting on the loss of native wild-flowers to the plough. In the Dunedin Club a few years ago, Eric astounded Alan Horsman (Emeritus Professor of English at Otago University and an Auckland acquaintance of Eric's from 1941) by quoting this passage from *Thyrsis*, whose deeper meaning had completely escaped Horsman who also knew the poem well. The concluding stanza of *Thyrsis* encompasses the questing vision that Eric carried right to the end of his long and productive life. Its message urges us all to continue on here in this place, with the good work of Botany, in all its many facets, good work that he was so concerned for and did so much to foster. It is part of his rich legacy to us.

"Why faintest thou! I wander'd till I died. Roam on! The light we sought is shining still. Dost thou ask proof? Our tree yet crowns the hill, Our Scholar travels yet the loved hill-side"

# References

Connor HE 2007. Launch of Eric Godley's "A Botanist's Notebook". New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter 87: 17-20.

Godley EJ 2004. Geoff's early days in Auckland. *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* 76: 9-10. Godley EJ 2006. *A Botanists' Notebook*. Christchurch, Manuka Press.

Godley EJ 2008. Biographical Notes (72): Kate Violet Edgerley (1887-1939) & Olga Livia Gertrude Adams (1900-1950). New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter 94: 17-20.

Godley EJ 2010 Reminiscences of a neo-Darwinian. In: Galloway DJ & Timmins J (Eds) Aspects of Darwin: A New Zealand celebration, Dunedin, Hewitson Library Occasional Monograph 1: 10-19.

Thomson AD (Ed.) 1984 *Eric Godley Botanist. A pictorial record of his career*. Christchurch, Botany Division DSIR, Private Bag.

# ■ Eric Godley - recollections

We have had a great response to our request for recollections and reminiscences of Eric Godley. The response has been so good that we are unable to fit all of these in this issue of the newsletter. However we will continue with the recollections in our December issue, and all of them will be printed.

If anyone has not submitted a recollection but still wishes to do so, please send it by the deadline for the December newsletter, 25 November.

# Remembering Eric

Eric Godley lectured us in Botany II & III genetics at Canterbury in the mid 1950's. He dealt with much more than the bare facts of the subject—many fascinating evolutionary topics were covered. My first serious discussion with him on a botanical subject was in 1960 after he had read a draft of a paper on the breeding system of *Pimelea* (based on part of my M.Sc. Thesis). As is to be expected he gave it a very thorough going over—a valued, edifying lesson for a budding botanical scientist.

Thereafter I came to know Eric well in relation to many botanical matters and University affairs. We were both members of the Beech Research Advisory group in the 1970's, working on Southland, Westland and Buller forests. Our brief was to examine the research requirements for various aspects of forest management for timber production and amenity purposes. Among our recommendations was establishment of numerous ecological reserves. In due course most of these were gazetted—an important step for conservation of the beech forests.

I remember Eric as a very kind, wise, friendly and good humoured person. He was also, I believe, the most important New Zealand botanist and botanical administrator of his generation, who established the framework for the present rich development of our discipline. It was good to be able to help with his honorary doctorate award by the University of Canterbury.

Colin Burrows

As a teenager growing up in Hamilton I had become a member of the Hamilton Junior Naturalists Club. That club offered hope to those youth interested in natural history and geology whose interests were not catered for by the then education system or other extramural associations available at that time in Hamilton. Aside from school holiday camps we also had Friday evening meetings, where invited speakers came to enthuse us about their particular interest (be it beetles, plants, geology or something else). In that something else category during April 1981, fell an evening talk by the then Minister of Conservation Ian Shearer. I can't remember specifics about what he said but I do remember boring the socks off him at question time about plants. Finally in desperation he told me "You need to write to Dr Eric Godley, here's his address, maybe he can help you" (probably he also thought "the poor man!"). So I started to correspond with Eric Godley. Eric was I found an excellent correspondent, and all of my botanical queries were soon answered if not by Eric then by people whom he had delegated to help. In this way I got to know (at least initially by pen) Bill Sykes, Elizabeth Edgar, Colin Webb, Phil Garnock-Jones, Brian Mollov, the late David Given and the late Andy Thomson. Later in 1983 when I became interested in the reproductive biology of *Pittosporum* pimeleoides Eric furnished me with a short paper he'd written about that species. My interest and his paper helped me win first the Waikato Regional Science Fair and then the National Science Fair in Christchurch, with the result that my exhibit and I then were trotted off (all expenses paid) in May 1984 to California. There, in San Diego, my display on an obscure New Zealand plant's reproductive biology and conservation sat proudly alongside advanced pusher science school student exhibits on robotics, psychology, astrophysics and modern quantum theory!

Throughout those early years although I had never met Eric, from his letters he struck me as a very kind and generous man. He took an interest in my interests and in spite of an undoubtedly busy professional life, he gave what all young people need, mentorship. He was also instrumental in introducing me to other future mentors, many of whom have become life long friends. It was this aspect of Eric's long life that I shall remember the most.

Years later I finally met Eric at a conference in Auckland. His words on learning who I was were "how nice to meet you at long last! Keep up the good work and never, ever stop questioning". As all who know me will appreciate I have followed this advice to the letter.

Probably a decade or so later I learned of another of Eric's many talents - his love of botanical history. I grew to enjoy his and Andy Thomson's regular contributions to the New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter documenting the interesting lives and works of the more obscure New Zealand botanists. Eric and Andy's works, I am sure all will agree, have done much to clear up past confusion and bring out of obscurity such interesting people. It was these works that encouraged me to write up what I could find out about John Bishop (he of the *Hebe bishopiana*) in a short note published in the

Auckland Botanical Society Journal (de Lange 1996). Eric obviously read this because he promptly wrote to me with some more information about Bishop, and also to thank me for sorting that particular person out. Eric also wrote an excellent account of the late Jim le Comte (Godley 1997) who had run a mail order plant nursery out of Ashburton. I knew Jim because of his interest in *Aciphylla*, plants of which I had tried to grow in Hamilton. Jim had written me numerous letters, which I kept for years before finally deciding to throw them out. Not long after that I read Eric's note on Jim and I felt so ashamed that I had destroyed what was obviously rather important information that I wrote to Eric about this and also about what I could remember of Jim. Eric quite rightly chided me for my error, and that letter prompted me to carefully file all my other key correspondence and surrender up the letters I had from the late John Bartlett to the Auckland Museum (who holds most of Bartlett's correspondence).

Much later Peter Heenan and I took up an interest in kowhai, or rather I should say, Peter had one already, and mine resulted from having reviewed his paper reinstating Sophora longicarinata. In that review I had hassled him about Sophora microphylla var. fulvida, which I felt was also - rather obviously - a distinct species. So in 1997 Peter and started to investigate this particular problem with the result that our little "fulvida" issue ballooned into a full revision of the Sophora microphylla complex (Heenan et al. 2001). Now it's a curious thing but I find people are very good at muddling facts so I wish to set them out straight here. It was Peter, not I, that discovered what is now Sophora godleyi we both had been puzzled about the odd distribution of Sophora microphylla var. fulvida (now S. fulvida). On the one hand it grew on hard igneous rocks (mostly basalt and basaltic andesites) from the northern Waikato north to Maunganui Bluff and Bream Head/Mt Manaia, but south of there it also seemed to occur on the very different marine mudstones and siltstones that occur from about the upper Mokau River headwaters south to near Bulls, across to Palmerston North, and then up towards Taihape. It was Peter, not I, who realised these plants were not the same as S. microphylla var. fulvida and it was he who suggested "we" name this new plant in honour of Eric Godley. I never heard if Eric truly believed in our species (he had a very broad view of variation in the genus) but I gather he was extremely pleased to be honoured in this way.

Later in 2003 when I was newly elected as a Fellow of the Linnean Society I discovered that Eric was one of only two New Zealand Honorary Fellows of that Society (the other is Professor John Morton). Such a Fellowship is a very rare honour indeed but it was just one of many such honours that Eric received throughout his long career.

While I can't say that I knew Eric as well as many of the people who have written here, I can say that he helped define my professional life and career. He said "Just do good botany" and I have honestly tried to do so ever since. He took an interest in an unknown teenager who wrote him letters, and he helped introduce that teenager to key people who have greatly influenced his life and work ever since. So its been nice to be asked to share some of my memories of him here.

# References

de Lange, P. J. 1996: A brief background to J.J. Bishop (1865-1933), Auckland Botanical Society Journal 51: 63-65.

Godley, E.J. 1997: Biographical Notes (25): James Ronald Le Comte (1927 - 1987). New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter 47: 14-17

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J.; Wilton, A. 2001: A taxonomic revision of *Sophora* in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 39: 17-54.

Peter J. de Lange

# Dr Godley and Botanical Latin

In 1969 Eric was interested in the part Andreas Sparrman had taken in the Botanical work of the Forsters on the second voyage of Captain James Cook 1772-1775. Eric asked me to translate from Latin the long paragraph in the preface of "Characteres Generum Plantarum" by J. R. and G. Forster (1776) where J. R. Forster discusses how he allocated the various tasks of collecting, describing and illustrating all the new species of "plants, bird and animals of every kind". When I gave Eric my translation of that paragraph he suggested that I should translate the whole preface and submit that translation as a paper for publication in the New Zealand Journal of Botany. I was very pleased to do that because at the time the work on the Flora of New Zealand Volume II was in its final stages and I was happy to have something else to think about.

Years later, from 2005-2007, Eric used to come to our house on one Sunday per month for midday dinner. My sister Alison was a French horn player and she also composed songs for the English Poetry and Song Society. Over dinner Alison enjoyed talking to Eric about music and poetry and Eric often brought a phrase of Latin which seemed difficult to translate, or he would have a guery about the derivation of a botanical name. It was then that I came to appreciate Eric's good knowledge of Latin grammar and sentence structure and it was very obvious the he had been extremely well educated at Takapuna Grammar School by the headmaster Mr K. J. Dellow, MA in Latin and English. Eric would not accept a solution to a Latin problem unless the basic grammar could be satisfactorily explained. On those Sundays our dinner table became piled high with poetry books and CD's at one end and Latin reference books were scattered among the dishes - the big Latin Dictionary by Lewis and Short, the big Greek Dictionary by Liddell and Scott, Stearn's Botanical Latin, the Gardener's Dictionary of Plant Names, Res Romanae, various Latin Grammars and English Grammars. When all was solved Eric would have a rest in the big reclining chair while we washed the dishes. Then Alison would play solos on the French horn and discuss music further with Eric. He had to return to the Merivale Retirement Village by 5pm and after that I had to sort out all the reference books and put them where they could be found ready for the next month's Sunday dinner.

Elizabeth Edgar

# **Tribute to Eric Godley**

I became Eric's regional botanist based at Plant Research Centre at Mt Albert, Auckland in Jan 1970. The duties of this new position could not be defined other than to serve other DSIR divisions, all Government Departments, local bodies, and the public from Taupo northwards. It was left to me to "do whatever botanical work that you think is necessary, and what research that you can". My association with Eric went further back than that. While on the Massey staff I became a member of the Tongariro National Park Board and automatically chairman of its botanical committee of volunteers (I think) with Eric Godley, Norman Taylor (Soil Bureau), Auckland magistrate Jack Keely, Ian Atkinson and Jim Howard. Education was our brief. Eric came up with a botanical key to the shrubs around the Chateau that had to be tested. Norman took the role of the idiot visitor who needed everything explained to him. We had a hilarious time watching two DSIR directors at play. This showed something of their characters of both of them – be serious when necessary, but at other times very relaxed.

It was a joy and inspiration to work with Eric, and we kept in touch by mail until the time of his passing.

Alan Esler

For most of its life, Botany Division, DSIR was fortunate to have Directors who put their staff, the organisation, and botany itself ahead of their own interests. Eric Godley was the archetype of this management style, but he still managed a prodigious research output in the circumstances. This always impressed me.

Instructed by the Director-General just to "do good botany", Eric made it possible for his staff to have satisfying and productive research careers, through supporting public good science, encouraging staff to take on new projects, and even providing financial support of worthy goals whenever he could. For instance, the fees he received for his monthly column in the New Zealand Gardener were reinvested into support for New Zealand botanists. In this way Eric generously enabled me to visit (from the UK) the Paris herbarium in 1982 to seek Forster types there.

Eric was a kind, fair, wise, and considerate boss. Long before mentorship was fashionably codified and managed, Eric was a mentor to a whole generation of New Zealand botanists. Even after I moved to Wellington and he was long retired, he kept in touch with the occasional kind letter, gift, or support for an award or research proposal. I visited him just a few months ago, and I'm pleased to remember him from that visit, still working hard and still with a twinkle in his eye. I'm pleased too to be able to dedicate a forthcoming paper to Eric's memory (Pufal et al., 2010).

Gesine Pufal, Ken G. Ryan, and Phil Garnock-Jones 2010. Hygrochastic capsule dehiscence in New Zealand alpine *Veronica* (Plantaginaceae). American Journal of Botany 97: 1413–1423.

PJ Garnock-Jones

As one of Eric's many close friends, I was privileged to be the only botanist at his small private funeral service in Mosgiel, near Dunedin, where Eric's two sisters, Hilda Godley and Ruth with husband Richard live. We were invited to stand around Eric's coffin, appropriately adorned with flowering kowhai, and relate some special occasion(s) shared with Eric. I was pleased to recall my contribution to the special 2-day Symposium at the Ellesmere Country Club, Lincoln, in May, 1984, honouring Eric's retirement from the Botany Division of DSIR, which reviewed botanical research on the vegetation of New Zealand to that time, with the purpose of considering priority areas for future research. I had been assigned "The botanical component of conservation in New Zealand" in which, among other issues, I could applaud the on-going success with designating the recently conceived Ecological Area protection within State Forest, with which both Eric and I were involved, as Botany Division and Royal Society representatives, respectively. We both relished this exercise, which was one of the responsibilities of the Forest Service's Scientific Co-ordinating Committee established in response to the strong criticism associated with the South Island Beech Utilisation Scheme of 1970. I could report in my presentation (and future publication: Mark 1985), the acquisition up to July 1983, of some 55 gazetted EAs embracing some 100,000 hectares, an additional 58, covering 144,000 ha., approved in principle by the Minister of Forests and awaiting gazettal, and a further 28, totaling 59,000 ha formally recommended for EA status. Ecological areas and other reserve categories continued to be designated as this exercise evolved into the Protected Natural Areas Programme.

Eric's wide interests and expertise in matters botanical and ecological, made him an obvious choice for the Board of Governors of the Miss E.L. Hellaby Indigenous Grasslands Research Trust where he had a close association with his close friend and fellow botanist, Professor Geoff Baylis of Otago University. Geoff was a Governor from the Trust's inception in 1959 until 2000 and its Chair from 1967, while Eric served as a most valuable Governor for 25 years (1962-1986). Both Eric and Geoff struck up a very close friendship with the Hellaby family which added greatly to their confidence in the Trust's mission. I was privileged to spend 51 years with the Hellaby Trust, firstly as its initial Research Fellow, then from 1965 as its Research Advisor, until I replaced Geoff Baylis as Board Chair in 2000 until retiring in 2009. Eric was a great enthusiast for the Hellaby Trust which, now in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year, has supported more than 400 fellows, mostly post-graduate students from the six universities, with a wide range of research projects.

Alan Mark

Next year it will be half a century since I first met Eric Godley, then Director of Botany Division, DSIR, on my arrival from England on the liner *Southern Cross*. Eric had come up to Wellington from Christchurch and came on board our ship to meet his new staff member. When I went up to the main foyer (after being called over the ship's intercom) a smiling man stepped towards me with his hand held out saying, "Hello I'm Eric". This seems pretty ho hum today but for someone brought up with traditional English formalities it was such a great surprise that I still remember the impact of it very clearly. Of course it wasn't long before I realised that this friendliness and lack of formality was typical of Eric. Another attribute that I soon became aware of was his tolerance and flexibility in relation to his staff and their activities. Thus although I originally had the brief of studying and collecting the cultivated plants of New Zealand I soon became involved assisting Arthur Healy in his work on adventive weeds, with Eric reminding me that many of these plants came from my part of the world.

Again it was Eric who encouraged my interest in the floras of tropical and subtropical Polynesia. When requests came to Botany Division for botanical assistance he would suggest my involvement. Thus whenever I went on expeditions to the Kermadec Islands, Niue and a little later the Cook Islands and Tonga, I never remember Eric as being anything other than understanding and supportive even though some of the trips were quite long and took me away from duties at Lincoln. He also often helped me by sharing his considerable knowledge of the literature of early European exploration in the South Pacific region.

Eric's own interest in the literature and people from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards associated with the New Zealand Region developed more and more, especially after his retirement. Right up to the time of his death he was surrounded by books and papers relating to biogeographical accounts that he was preparing for publication. Sometimes one even felt a bit sorry for the nurses who had to find a vacant place to set his meal tray down. He was meticulous in his research on these early naturalists and explorers that interested him; the librarians at Landcare Research can readily testify to this. Yet when

I went to visit, he always had time to show me some plant growing outside in the garden that he found unusual or didn't quite know the name of, or which he thought would especially interest me too. Until the end he was always interested in extending his extensive knowledge of the morphology and reproduction of plants. It goes without saying that Eric Godley's passing marks the end of an era for New Zealand botany. For me my first New Zealand boss was both a kind friend and mentor.

W.R. (Bill) Sykes. 15. 08.10

Eric was the founder of the *New Zealand Journal of Botany* and one of its strongest supporters. He was a great upholder of standards and I appreciated his close interest in the Journal when I was the editor. He became a good friend and mentor. I liked the way he would suggest worthwhile investigations, always outlining what he knew and then posing a few questions. His expectations were always clear.

Many will know that Eric loved poetry. I was privileged to have some of my poems critiqued by Eric. He was quite forthright in his opinions and always encouraging. The following poem was inspired by him but applies equally to Ross Beever.

#### To be a botanist

There is a gentleness, an attention to detail, a particularness

Is a particular trait that many of them possess.

Which characterises the botanists I know.

I am one of those so encouraged.

A love

of the natural world, a sense

I hope I can, in turn, do the same

\_\_\_\_\_

for others.

Of belonging, drives them to learn more.

The botanist has a seed and sows it.

Encouragement of those around them, young and old,

Carol West

# About Eric: memories

I knew Eric since 1959 – a very long time during which he became both friend and mentor.

One of his enthusiasms was for literature: his likes were contagious and through his suggestions I found myself enjoying an extraordinary range from the unaffected 'Seal Morning' by Rowena Farre, to Aldous Huxley's erudite travel book 'Beyond the Mexique Bay.' It was in the latter work that he came across words to the effect that it was an ability to make connections that was the mark of a cultivated mind (he was probably aware of E. M. Forster's much-quoted 'only connect' but I don't recall this being mentioned at the time). His eclecticism embraced extremes: he absorbed with relish the highly sophisticated twelve novel cycle, 'A Dance to the Music of Time' by Anthony Powell while also laughing at and remembering lines from 'Get Smart', an American television series about a blundering secret agent. He certainly revelled in the apt or pithy fragment, as when he found Hemingway's observation, 'The most essential gift for a good writer is a built-in, shock-proof, shit detector.'

Eric possessed the ability to cut through to the essential. One evening (in the late '60s or early '70s) after a few drinks at the Ravens' place in Christchurch discussion turned to the meaning of freedom and a certain amount of waffle ensued. Then Eric made his contribution and, as always when he spoke, everyone listened. He simply tapped his head and said, 'Freedom is in here, no one can take your thoughts from you.' His words were always measured, perhaps slower-paced than most, and

delivered with a pleasing kiwi accent that he retained while many edged towards the neutral.

He lacked pretensions: I recall him saying that he wasn't equipped to be anything other than a botanist, and if that occupation ever failed then he'd very much like to drive one of those machines that toured the length and breadth of the country with magnets that picked up metal bits and pieces.

He could be formidable on occasion. I happened to be present when he asked a staff member to do something for him, maybe not for the first time. The response was that it would be undertaken shortly. Eric said, 'No, xxx, I want you to do it now!' There was something about his tone and look that brooked no argument.

Eric had an engaging ploy for terminating a visit to his office. After a period he would get up from behind his desk, wander slowly past the large windows and gradually approach the door somehow carrying his visitor along as well. He would open the door and with politeness usher his guest through. I for one long appreciated the courtesy before recognizing it as a useful stratagem.

Keith West

# **PUBLICATIONS**

#### Publications Received

Rotorua Botanical Society Newsletter no. 54, June 2010, 68pp. Field trips: Tarawera Falls, Pongakawa, Pahiko – Waiorongomai Valley, Motu Road, Opotiki. Okareka Mistletoe Restoration Project. New specimens – Rotorua ED. Vascular Plant Checklist – Waiohau Conservation Area.

Wellington Botanical Society Newsletter, September 2010, ISSN 1171-9982. President's report. Student Prize Finance Report. Percy Scenic Reserve. Kermadec science symposium. Manuka Reserve, Masterton, Baring Head Farm. Druce Rockery. Trip reports

New Zealand Native Orchid Journal no. 117, August 2010, 32pp, ISSN 1177-4401. Pterostylis emarginata type locality, George Caley and Caleana minor, P. patens, Nelson notes, Aussie notes – Pterostylis update, Thelymitra "stag-horn".

Manaaki Whenua Press offers Society Members 10% discount\*

Please indicate Society Membership when ordering!

\*excludes special set prices, eg Flora of NZ set

 $\underline{www.mwpress.co.nz}$