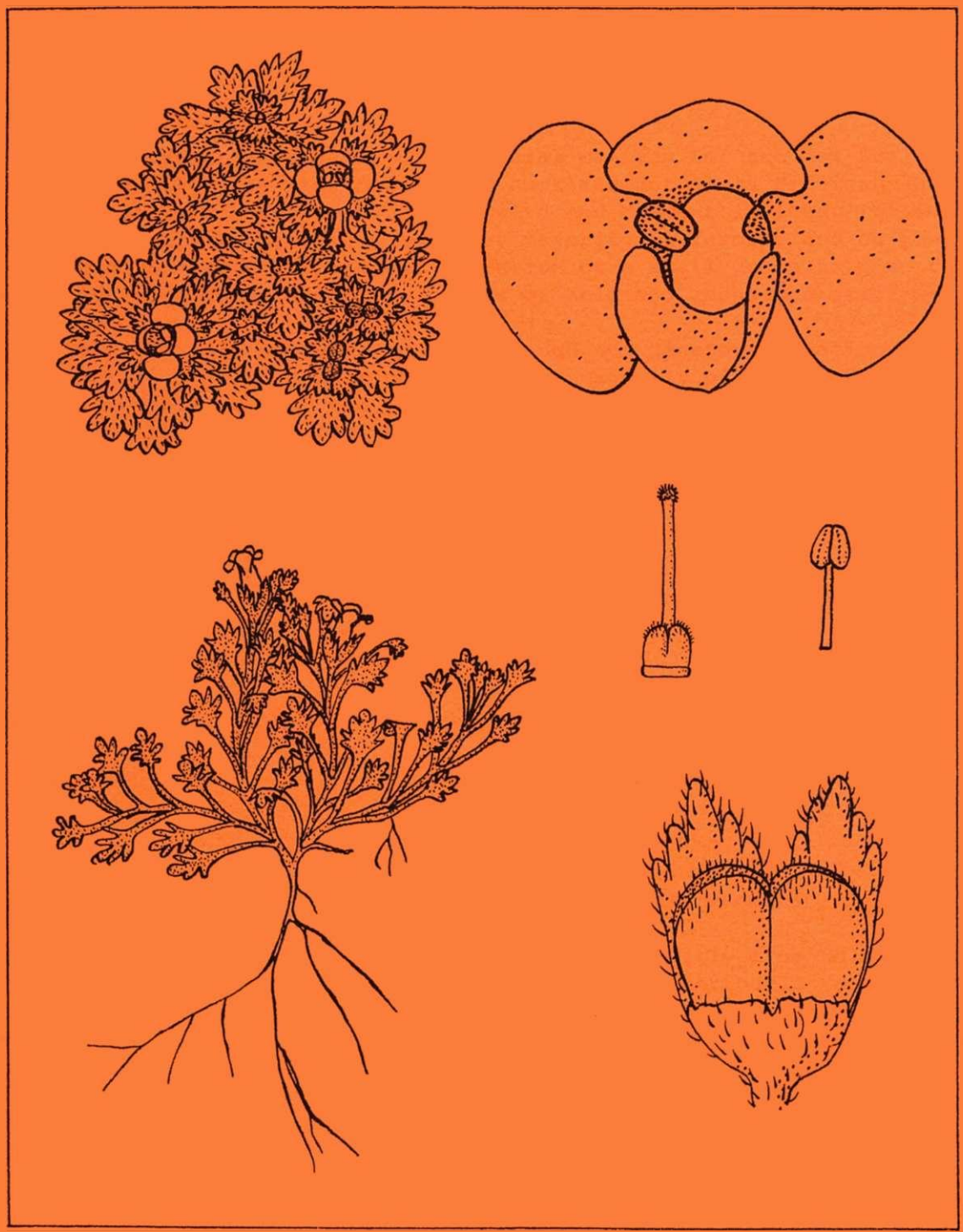
NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 3 MARCH 1986



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From the Editor

In the last issue the idea of an inaugural meeting for the New Zealand Botanical Society, to tie in with the Auckland Bot Soc's Fiftieth Jubilee celebrations in May 1987, was put forward and comment invited. The four responses received provide an absolute majority in favour, and on that democratic base we will proceed! Formation of a small group to plan for this event will occur shortly; offers of help and ideas are still welcome.

Once again, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the generous donations and prompt return of 1986 subscriptions by the majority of those on the mailing list. As we have neither the labour nor the finance to send out reminders, this is the last chance for those who have not returned their invoice (enclosed in Number 2) and sub - **you will be removed from the mailing list before the June issue (Number 4) is published.** The state of finances is outlined on p.2.

Please note that the offer for reduced subscriptions to the **New Zealand Journal of Botany** for 1986 closed on 15 January. Eleven members availed themselves of this offer.

Anthony Wright

Cover illustration: *Parahebe cheesemanii* (Scrophulariaceae)

Parahebe cheesemanii is an alpine cushion plant mostly from Nelson and Western Marlborough, but with three populations in Arthur's Pass National Park. It grows in shattered greywacke, usually in screes, between 900 and 1800 m above sea level. The figure shows the habit of the plant (x2), the corolla (from above, x10), two naughty bits (x10), and a capsule (x10) from which two of the distinctive calyx lobes have been removed (Phil Garnock-Jones).

FINANCES

Summary of Income and Expenditure to 10 March 1986

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Donations (Number 1)	797.22	Printing Number 1	585.00
Donations (Number 2)	741.00	Printing Number 2	1150.00
Interest	1.79	Postage Number 2	71.00
N.Z.J. Botany subs	269.50	Cheque duty	.50
Subscriptions	1590.00	Registration P.O.	20.00
Student subscriptions	40.00	Stationery	18.25
		Unpaid cheque	8.00
		N.Z.J. Botany subs	269.50
	$3439.51		$2122.25

Excess income over expenditure (in bank) $1317.26.

It is a little disturbing that donations towards costs of Numbers 1 and 2 ($1538.22) have not met the direct costs of these issues ($1806.00). The shortfall has been met from 1986 subscriptions, which have still not reached the level on which the 1986 budget was based. Generous donations towards the costs of these first two issues have been received from many people; this is a final plea to those who have not yet made a contribution to help meet these costs so that the 1986 issues have a sound financial base.

CIRCULATION

From March 1986 this Newsletter will be sent only to those who have paid their annual subscription to the publication. Additions to the mailing list are welcome, and should be sent (together with subscription money) to the Editor. Additional copies of Number 1 are available at $1 each, and Number 2 at $2 each.

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the June 1986 issue (Number 4) is 25 May 1986. Please forward contributions to the Editor:

Anthony Wright
Auckland Institute & Museum
Private Bag
AUCKLAND 1

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NEWS

Regional Bot Socs

■ Auckland Botanical Society

Officers elected at the Annual General Meeting on 5 March 1986 were:

President:	Dr R.E. Beever
Vice-Presidents:	Dr J.A. Rattenbury, Mr B.J. Mackinder, Prof. F.J. Newhook
Secretary:	Sandra Jones
Treasurer:	Mrs V. Paterson
Committee:	Mr A.E. Wright, Miss E.A. Brown, Mrs H. Cogle, Mr M. Paterson, Dr B.P. Segedin, Mrs S. Bollard.

Subscriptions remain unchanged at $6.00 for ordinary members and $4.00 for country members. However, three new categories of membership were introduced: family/couple membership (1½ times ordinary sub); full-time student (country sub. with the benefits of ordinary membership); and overseas (ordinary sub. instead of country sub. as previously). The AGM further resolved that full-time students be encouraged to apply for rebates on travel costs for one day field trips from the Committee.

The evening meeting on 2 April 1986 will be addressed by Mr David Hunt, Environmental Forester with the NZFS on the topic "Nelson beech forests". Biology Common Room, University of Auckland, 7.30 p.m.

The April field trip is a joint excursion with the Northland Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society to Pukekaroro Scenic Reserve on Saturday 12 April. Anyone even slightly botanically inclined can hardly have failed to note the prolific kauri regeneration on this mountain at the side of State Highway 1 between Kaiwaka and the Maunga-turoto turnoff in lower Northland. Further details from:

The Secretary, Auckland Botanical Society, 14 Park Road, Titirangi, Auckland 7.

■ Rotorua Botanical Society

Members of other botanical societies are welcome to join the Rotorua Bot Soc on any of their forthcoming field trips.

Sunday 20 April HOROHORO BLUFF (Maori Reserve), south of Rotorua. Relatively undisturbed montane forest (includes matai, miro, tawiri, kamahi). High point at 840 m a.s.l. Meet at Rotorua Civic Theatre at 9.00 a.m. Leader - Beverley Clarkson (ROT 24 622).

Friday 16 - Sunday 18 May PORT WAIKATO. Plant fossils including ferns, kauri-like plants and other plants now extinct. In outcrops of late Jurassic (130 m years B.P.) rocks. Also scattered remnants of coastal forest, scrub and shrubland. Meet at Rotorua Civic Theatre 5.00 pm Friday or at Port Waikato Camping Ground Friday night. Camping probably at Port Waikato Camping Ground. Leader - Paula Broekhuizen (ROT 86 327).

Saturday 31 May WAIMANA VALLEY, UREWERA NATIONAL PARK. Semi-coastal and lowland forest. Meet at Rotorua Civic Theatre at 8.00 am or Taneatua Post Office at 9.15 am. Leader - Willie Shaw (ROT 87 208).

Sunday 15 June MAUNGATAUTARI SCENIC RESERVE, near Karapiro. A Waikato volcanic dome. Tawa and tawari forest with some interesting rocky outcrops. Meet at Rotorua Civic Theatre at 8.15 am or at the junction of SH1 and Hydro Rd at Karapiro at 9.15 am. Leaders - Bruce Clarkson (ROT 24 622) and Murray Boase (Hamilton 67 798).

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

■ Wellington Botanical Society

Evening meeting, Monday 21 April: "Scottish heather (Calluna vulgaris) -its place in the ecosystems of Tongariro National Park" - Hazel Chapman, Botany Department, Otago University. Room K303 on the third floor of the New Kirk Building, Victoria University of Wellington at 7.30 pm.

Saturday 3 May: Ferry Road Stream (Days Bay) to Fern Gully (Wainui-omata). Meet 9.10 am Eastbourne bus terminus on Lambton Quay (opposite WCC bus terminal). Catch 9.20 bus to Days Bay; alight at Ferry Road bus stop (No.15). Please check schedules with Chris Horne (757-025 home). Fares approx. $3.20.

The Secretary, 116 Korokoro Rd, Petone.

University Departments

■ Botany news from the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury

Although not often realised, the School of Forestry has a strong botanical emphasis with four of the nine academic staff having backgrounds in biology. Professor Sweet has worked widely in tree physiology and genetics; nutrient cycling has been the centre of Don Mead's research in recent years, David Norton's interests are in ecology and palaeo-ecology and John Allen's in microbiology.

Current botanical research in the School of Forestry is mainly concerned with nutrient cycling and aspects of the ecology of indigenous tree species. Don Mead is primarily interested in the biomass, nutrient cycling and nitrogen uptake of radiata pine and has several projects underway in this area. Some of this work is in collaboration with scientists at the Forest Research Institute, Rotorua. Nitrogen uptake and cycling within radiata pine and the fate of the residual nitrogen within a young pine ecosystem is being investigated using N15 labelled urea fertiliser by Roger Thomas, for his Ph.D.

Three ecological projects are being undertaken in south Westland. Changes in the vegetation and soils across a topographical gradient in terrace rimu forest are being investigated by David Norton, John Adams (Soil Science Department, Lincoln) and Julie Collins and Penny Merton (undergraduate students). David Norton and Don Mead are having a close look at the ecotone between rimu forest and natural pakihi, while Norton with Collins and Merton is also surveying the pakihi vegetation in the Saltwater Ecological Area. The final project in south Westland is concerned with good production and dispersal in rimu and is keeping David Norton fairly busy. A detailed review of the literature on rimu ecology has also been produced.

The other major ecological research project is concerned with the recent mortality of kaikawaka on Banks Peninsula. David Norton, with Brian Molloy (Botany Division, DSIR) and Hugh Wilson, is trying to explain why the kaikawaka died and, based on this, to formulate a management strategy for the remaining areas of kaikawaka regeneration.

David Norton, School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, Private Bag, Christchurch

Other Botanical Research Establishments

■ **Soil Conservation Centre, Aokautere**

The Ministry of Works and Development maintains live plant collections for study at its Soil Conservation Centre at Aokautere.

Naturally, much of the work of the Centre involves poplars and willows, though there is growing interest in Eucalyptus, Acacia and Robinia for dryland revegetation. As a consequence a wide range of exotic tree and shrub species has been established in cultivation.

We have three scientists working on introduced grasses and legumes for eroding hill country, mine-spoil revegetation, etc. Our herbarium collection is small and incomplete (since we tend to use living plant collections for identification work) and is maintained by the scientists at the Centre. It includes the following:

Bambusoidae - 12 species (we have 40 in our shelterbelts)
Gramineae - 162 cultivars or seedlines
Eucalyptus - mostly seedling foliage of 77 species
Leguminosae - 87 miscellaneous spp.
Populus - 155 clones (species and hybrids)
Salix - 132 clones (species and hybrids)
Miscellaneous genera - approx. 200.

Until a staff member has sufficient time to maintain the herbarium properly, the most useful service the Centre can offer botanists is the live plant collections for study.

Allan G. Wilkinson, Soil Conservation Centre, Aokautere, M.W.D., Private Bag, Palmerston North

NOTES AND REPORTS

Plant Records

■ Giant Ngutukaka - Clianthus puniceus (var. maximus?)

In 1885 Colenso described a larger form of Clianthus puniceus which he described as var. maximus. The description is very similar to these recently found plants. Could this in fact be C.puniceus var. maximus?

Scattered single plants of Clianthus puniceus are known to occur throughout the East Coast of Gisborne Land District, from Hicks Bay and Te Araroa to Lake Waikaremoana. These are generally shrubs reaching two or three metres in height and occur singly outside Lake Waikaremoana, and in small groups and singly at Lake Waikaremoana.

During recent ecological surveys of coastal forests, scrub and shrubland communities eight ngutukaka trees were found growing on very steep bluffs amongst surrounding secondary forest. The plants have distinct tree forms with trunks over 100 mm diameter. Two of the eight are approximately two metres high and six are five metres high, with dense foliage and a nearly spherical crown with a diameter equalling the height of the plant. When first seen all were covered in masses of crimson bloom.

Seed has been collected and distributed to DSIR Botany Division, Lincoln, and various nurseries and Botanical Gardens throughout New Zealand. It is intended that plants raised from seed will be returned to the kanuka-kowhai forest where the parent plants were first found.

Lindsay Daniel, Department of Lands & Survey, P.O. Box 1149, Gisborne

■ **The distribution of some rare and uncommon vascular plants in the Western Waikato - Part 2: Gymnosperms and monocots**

The western Waikato comprises the area where the Tainui Maori tribes first settled. This area, which starts from Port Waikato and ends at the mouth of the Mokau River, has a flora which has received little attention from botanists and field workers over the years. This series of articles is intended to make known some of the older (but unpublished) and some of the more recently discovered plant distribution patterns within the area. Voucher specimens for most of these records are held in the following herbaria: AK, CHR, WAI, WELT and the private herbarium of the Hamilton Junior Naturalists' Club at Te Kauri Lodge ('T.K.L'). Please note that not all specimens have as yet been incorporated by herbaria. One correction to Part 1 is required: Ophioglossum pedunculatum should read Ophioglossum petiolatum.

GYMNOSPERMS

Lepidothamnus intermedius — yellow-silver pine

Although there is considerable doubt as to the exact locality of this record, an old collection in WAI (865) from the 'Pirongia foothills' was collected by Clayton-Greene. If this record can be confirmed it will be an interesting extension of this generally eastern species to the Waikato west coast.

Libocedrus plumosa — kawaka

Although reported widely from the west coast, this species is very local in the western Waikato. Some records are based on single specimens. At present, it has been collected from Lake Whangape (WAI 1766), and reported from the Hakarimata Ranges and the Kimihia block of the Hapukohe Ranges. A few trees are present near Whale Bay and around Mt Karioi. It has been reported from Mt Pirongia, although I have never seen it there. A small colony is known from Te Kauri Scenic Reserve (WAI 4623) and nearby bush, and a single tree was located in bush near the Four Brothers Scenic Reserve (WAI 4628). More recently it was discovered in Te Karaka Scenic Reserve near Port Waikato (WAI).

MONOCOTS

Sparganium subglobosum — maru

This species is abundant throughout lowland swamps, wet ground and lakes in the western Waikato. Over 49 localities were discovered during the summer of 1984-85, and many are vouchered in AK. It has recently been discovered growing in a wet seepage area near the Cobham Drive area of Hamilton.

Sporadanthus traversii — greater wire rush

I have been unable to locate the Rangiriri colony of this plant reported by J.K. Bartlett (N.Z.J.Bot. 22: 303-306, 1984). However, locals in the Lake Whangape area claim that Sporadanthus was once locally abundant in recently drained sections of the swamp. I have been shown material in private collections from the southern side of Lake Whangape.

Bulbophyllum tuberculatum

A small colony was recently located after finding a windfall in kahikatea forest near Lake Whangape (WAI 1496, duplicate in AK). A further specimen (WAI) was collected from a large rimu branch felled by high winds on Ruapane Track, Mt Pirongia.

Chionochloa conspicua subsp. cunninghamii — snow tussock

Hamilton Junior Naturalist Club records have shown that an early record of this species from Mt Pirongia was from Hihikiwi Peak. It has since been found on Tirohanga, Ruapane, O'Shea Plateau, and near the summit (WAI 1613, 1614, 1615). It is only abundant on the exposed slopes of Tirohanga Peak.

(Part 3: Dicots in next issue - editor).

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

■ Tawaroa on the East Coast

In 1982 A.E. Wright proposed a new species of Beilschmiedia which he described as B. tawaroa. During the Motu Ecological District Protected Natural Areas study in 1983-84, there was some confusion amongst the survey team about whether the lowland and coastal forms of 'tawa' were tawa or tawaroa, but there was no doubt they were a broad-leaved form of tawa.

Survey work carried out recently in the lowland, coastal and lower montane bioclimate zones in Mahia, Tiniroto and Waiapu Ecological Districts has revealed tawaroa appearing throughout. At Waipare however, north of Tolaga Bay, both forms of tawa appear to be present, with an overlap occurring at about 250 metres above sea level. Above 250 m a.s.l. tawa is easily recognisable; below, tawaroa.

In order to shed more light on the taxonomy and distribution of tawaroa, data is being gathered during current field work.

Lindsay Daniel, Department of Lands & Survey, P.O. Box 1149, Gisborne

Fieldwork

■ The Chatham Islands Polystichum

During a recent visit to the Chatham Islands I was particularly interested to see this unnamed species which is endemic to the Islands. A closely related form on the Snares Islands may possibly be the same species. This plant has in the past been called P. vestitum but differs considerably in appearance to the true P. vestitum which does not grow on the Chathams. When I first saw it growing in a wild bush garden at Kaiwhata Station near Kaingaroa, the difference was obvious. It has the stipe scales of P. vestitum but the fronds look more like pale green P. richardii, although the local form of this fern is much smaller and darker green. Wild plants of the Chathams Polystichum have wider and softer fronds than the other two species, spreading out in a sparse crown of about 6-10 fronds about 60 cm long, (although I saw a cultivated plant with fronds 2 m long), light to yellowish green, with round, black sori, and indusia similar to P. vestitum. It is not common, being found as scattered plants under open sheep-grazed bush in the central and southern parts of the island, and also on Pitt Island. I saw it most commonly in the Tuku a Tamatea Valley, in the south-west of the Chatham Islands, growing on rocky outcrops away from trampling by stock, under bush up on the valley sides.

John Smith Dodsworth, P.O. Box 26, Coromandel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ What Legume Is That?

By P.E. Horn & G.D. Hill, Plant Science Department, Lincoln College. Published by Centre for Resource Management, Lincoln College. Price: $8.30 (postage paid).

This Key aims to provide identification of the common papilionate legumes in New Zealand. It does not require a specialised knowledge of botany and therefore can be used by anyone with an interest in identifying these plants

The Key has been tested for more than 8 years by large classes of students at Lincoln College and is now in its fourth edition.

As well as enabling identification it includes brief descriptions of some of the more common legumes. It is available from: **Director's Assistant (Extension)**, Centre for Resource Management, Lincoln College, Canterbury.

■ **ECO-PLAN: Spreading the word about ecological planning**

A new publication called Eco-Plan has just been released. It is intended to help people working in planning, conservation and ecology keep in touch, and to pass information on to the wider public. The publication is sponsored by the Town and Country Planning Directorate of the Ministry of Works and Development.

The first edition contains papers from a course on Ecology for Planners held in 1985. It starts with a basic introduction to ecological concepts and conservation principles. Other papers deal with the problems involved in recording and measuring intangibles such as preservation of wildlife and "scenic qualities", so they can be taken into account by decision-makers. Planners and ecologists from Auckland, Canterbury and Wellington discuss experiences from their regions. There is a case study on the black stilt which illustrates the complexity of preserving an endangered species.

Future editions of Eco-Plan will be short newsletters including contributed articles and items of information. They will be circulated to a range of people involved in planning in its widest sense.

Mr E.D. Fraser, Director of Town and Country Planning in the Ministry of Works and Development, said "More and more New Zealanders are becoming aware that we cannot afford to base our planning on economic or social factors alone. An understanding of the way in which ecological processes underpin our activities is vital for effective planning.

It has always been part of our role to promote new approaches and to share information that will lead to improved planning. Through Eco-Plan we will keep those working in ecological planning in touch and spread information on techniques to a wider audience."

People wanting to receive copies of Eco-Plan should write to: The Editors, Eco-Plan, Town and Country Planning Directorate, Ministry of Works and Development, P.O. Box 12.041, Wellington

CONFERENCE REVIEW

■ International Conference on Botanic Gardens and the World Conservation Strategy

The aim of this conference, held at Las Palmas, Canary Islands from 26-30 November 1985, was to "review the involvement of Botanic Gardens in implementing the World Conservation Strategy; in particular by considering their function as centres of information and education, and their capacity to carry out both ex situ and in situ conservation; by discussing how to make existing gardens more effective in plant conservation; and by agreeing on methods of international cooperation". Approximately 200 participants met for the week of the conference with good representation from tropical and Mediterranean countries. Not only botanic gardens were represented but also scientists and administrators from scientific institutions, several private individuals and even a representative of a large bank with clients interested in commercial aspects of conservation.

The meeting was arranged in themes, each addressing sections of a draft conservation strategy for botanic gardens. This was commissioned by IUCN and allied agencies, and over the coming months will be revised in the light of conference discussion and subsequent submissions. The themes covered were: Botanic gardens - a world network, Botanic gardens for sustainable development, Research and rescue (where I gave a paper on "What the conservationist expects of ex situ collections"), Botanic gardens and the community, and Botanic gardens and the world conservation strategy. A short evening session on maintenance of records was held and Vernon Heywood and Peter Raven led a graphic account of the plight of threatened species today and the possible scenarios for the future. The conference concluded with a plenary session on the draft strategy and discussions of 12 resolutions relating to the functions, needs and role of botanic gardens in conservation.

This sort of meeting can readily degenerate into a series of interminable presentations on what we already knew ten years ago, being read to those who knew it all anyway. By selecting the participants and briefing them to present options for the future (and to ask questions about the present) this was largely avoided. The basing of the conference around the draft strategy meant that we all had something to grasp - to bite into - and this was of considerable help in discussing the contributions in each session. Much will depend now on the drafting of the final document and how well its ideals can be translated into the cold, hard realities of the real world. The conference brought out the very important role of botanic gardens, yet the fact that they do not substitute for nature reserves; the necessity for closer interaction between botanic gardens and other botanical institutions; the need for effective networks to avoid duplication and place resources where they are needed; and the requirement to think globally yet "work small" so that large-scale and ambitious schemes do not founder for lack of resource.

A point which also emerged is that we do not really have botanic gardens in New Zealand - at least as understood by most other countries. There is need for a greater vision of what gardens can do for conservation and of their important role in providing a window into the natural world for the person in the street.

One could not fail to be impressed by the Canary Island government support of conservation. After centuries of devastation Gran Canaria and other islands are now being restored in part. Field trips included visits to sites where laurel forest restoration is in progress. I also had the opportunity to visit Teneriffe for one day and see higher altitude

vegetation. The central part of this island reaches just over 3500 m with a timberline at about 2000 m. Two visits to the Botanic Gardens in the hills behind Las Palmas gave a good indication of the value of a well run botanic garden with clear objectives. The director of the gardens, David Bramwell is a major force behind conservation of the flora of the Canary Islands and this is reflected in the magnificent and extensive collections of endemic species in cultivation.

If the work of Bramwell and others on Gran Canaria is an indication of what can be achieved for the world, then it augers well for the future of biological conservation.

David R. Given, Botany Division, DSIR, Private Bag, Christchurch

THESES IN BOTANICAL SCIENCE

■ **University of Waikato, Department of Biological Sciences**

Chitty, R.H. 1984: Torehape/Pouarua peat bog: an introductory study of the vegetation and hydrology. M.Sc.

McEwen, W.M. 1984: Some aspects of the seed development and seedling growth of rimu, Dacrydium cupressinum Lamb. D.Phil.

Rogers, N.B. 1984: The vegetation and history of Kaipo and other natural peatland clearings, Urewera National Park, N.Z. M.Sc.

Tanner, C.C. 1984: Vesicular arbuscular mycorrhizas in submerged vascular aquatic plants. M.Sc.

Thom, E. 1984: Competitive interactions in a dairy pasture containing paspalum (Paspalum dilatatum Poir.) following the introduction of ryegrass (Lolium perenne L.). D.Phil.

■ **University of Canterbury, Department of Plant & Microbial Sciences**

Butterfield, B.G. 1984: The Structure of Wood. A scanning electron microscope study. D.Sc.

Woodward, D.R. 1984: Insect-plant interactions between magpie moth (Nyctemera annalata) and four species of Senecio. M.Sc.

■ **University of Canterbury, School of Forestry**

Chadderton, B.R. 1985: Proposals for the establishment and management of the Ruggedy's ecological reserve, Stewart Island. B.For.Sc.Hons.

Crosado, C.B. 1985. The effect of gibberellic and indole-3-acetic acids on the development of bare root seedlings of Pinus radiata and Cupressus macrocarpa. B.For.Sc.

Dunn, M.L. 1985: An investigation into forest pattern in mixed beech forest, Lewis Pass. B.For.Sc.

Maddren, C.L. 1985. Changing needle area, dry weight and leaf specific area in the canopy of, and in an age sequence of, even age Douglas fir stands, Ashley Forest, New Zealand. B.For.Sc.Hons.

O'Neill, T.B. 1985. Southern Ruahine landslip revegetation assessment: report on first remeasurement. B.For.Sc.

Sweetapple, P.J. 1985. The lowland distribution of beech (Nothofagus) north of the Haast River, south Westland. B.For.Sc.Hons.

Wilcox, P.L. 1985. The effect of soil condition, fertilizer and insect damage on Dacrycarpus dacrydioides seedlings in the southern Mamaku plateau. B.For.Sc.Hons.

(Dissertations and theses concerned with silviculture and other aspects of forestry are not listed.)

Quotes

■ **Latin error lets jimson off the hook**

Legislators thought they were backing a schoolyard ban on poisonous jimson week, but because of some mixed-up Latin they actually banned a harmless plant that grows only in the mountains of Europe.

The Tennessee House voted 95-0 last week to make it a misdemeanor to deliver, sell or possess on school grounds the seeds of gentiana lutea, which the legislation says is the same as jimson weed.

Not so, says Nashville botanist Milo Guthrie, who looked up the bill after reading about the vote. The Latin designation for jimson weed, he says, is actually Datura stramonium.

What the bill bans is a harmless tall plant bearing open yellow flowers that grows in the Alps and Pyrenees at elevations of 3,000 to 6,000 feet.

Guthrie said it would be difficult for Tennessee students to get their hands on gentiana lutea seeds and even more difficult for them to be prosecuted.

"Any lawyer who knew his Latin would have the whole thing thrown out of court," he said.

The Legislature is trying to outlaw jimson weed seeds because chewing them produces a hallucinogenic effect and has made several Nashville pupils ill in recent weeks.

The House sponsor of the Bill, Rep. Shelby Rhinehart, said the measure was drafted by the Legislature's legal staff and can be corrected when it reaches the Senate.

"We'll have to fix the bill if its wrong," he said. "I just told them to outlaw jimson weed. I didn't tell them to put that Latin in there."

Tucson Daily Star, February 17, 1986 (sent by Lucy M. Cranwell)

Acknowledgement: This newsletter was typed by Mrs Mary Best

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