

herbaria, and in his 'History of Collecting' section he has been able to sort out, or at least point out, several tangles of attribution, etc. [Young collectors: collect in duplicate, start your numbering from "1", date your specimens and don't leave gaps even if you plan on being resurrected].

Presumably to keep the size of the work within bounds, descriptions of the families and genera have been omitted. Similarly, the keys to the genera and species are non-technical ones and usually involve just flowers, or fruit, or other features easily appreciated in the field. (Stipules are hardly mentioned, many will be pleased to learn). The species descriptions are ample and the keys get reinforcement from a "Distinguishable By" paragraph.

Art visited and collected from every island in the Samoan archipelago. He made numerous first records of its naturalized plants, and this work contains several, little-known, recent ones (like the African forestry tree menace *Maesopsis eminii*, Rhamnaceae), which can be expected to turn up elsewhere in the Pacific, sooner or later. His knowledge of Samoa's native vegetation and its living plants was unrivalled and allowed him to write definitive revisions of two major groups (*Psychotria* and *Syzygium*), and, in several places in the present work, to recognize where the herbarium-based treatments of others might have gone astray. His familiarity with the Samoan language, too, has allowed him to clear

up nomenclatural and ethnobotanical confusions in the older literature. He has been honoured with "*whistler*" in the names of seven Samoan species and has named more than 30 such himself, including the eleven published in the present work (listed in its untitled "Appendix 1", along with seven more which might also require recognition).

For nearly fifty years as a self-employed botanist, keeping afloat through grant-wangling, self-publishing, and carrying out conservation activities, Art had worked towards this Flora. In the latter part of his life, he and his specimens had found a safe haven with Hawaii's National Tropical Botanical Garden, and by 2020 a manuscript had been completed. But he died in Honolulu that year, of coronavirus, one of Hawaii's earliest victims. We owe a debt of gratitude to his colleagues at NTBG and the Smithsonian Institution, who have put much effort into seeing the work through the press: editing it, refining the illustrations, and (a great boon to the general reader) updating its nomenclature and taxonomy. It is a worthy memorial to Art and the cooperation he engendered.

Footnote: Flora of Samoa, published by the National Tropical Botanical Garden, Kauai, 2022. 930 pp., HB 27.5 x 17.5 cm. ISBN 978-0-915809-04-2. US \$100 plus tax and postage.

Mei Nee Lee and Joshua Salter, new Honorary Life Members

Ewen K. Cameron

At a Special General Meeting of the Botanical Society (ABS) on 7 June 2023 with 28 members in attendance, two new honorary life members were proposed, Mei Nee Lee and Joshua Salter, for their contribution as joint Editors of the ABS journal for eleven-and-a-half years, taking over from Dan Blanchon. Ewen spoke in favour of the motion outlining the contributions made by the two members over the years.

Moved: Ewen Cameron

Seconded: Maureen Young

Those in favour: carried unanimously.

Mei Nee Lee (Figs. 1–3)

Member since c.1999, Committee member since 2002 and co-editor of the ABS journal since June 2011 (see Table).

Because of increasing work commitments Mei Nee stood down from the committee and co-editor at the AGM this year. It wasn't until talking with Josh and Helen Preston Jones (the new co-editor) that I more fully understood the complexities of what Mei Nee was actually doing as co-editor – apart from some general editing, receiving and saving all the journal article versions in a system that she



Fig. 1. Mei Nee, Jessica Beever, Ewen Cameron on Mangatangi trig, Hunua Ranges, during the Hunua Bryophyte Workshop. Photo: probably John Braggins, 13 Feb 2003.



Fig. 2. Mei Nee and Duncan, with Josh on the right, aboard the DoC boat, *Hauturu*, about to disembark onto Motuora Island beach during an ABS field trip. Photo: EKC, 16 Oct 2010.



Fig. 3. Mei Nee in Wales, Great Britain. Photo: Duncan Benzie, Aug 2017.

Table: ABS journal statistics during Mei Nee Lee's and Joshua Salter's editorship, 2011–2022.

First cover in colour

First all-colour issue

Year	Issue	Pages	Article no.s
2011	66(2)	94	19
2012	67(1)	107	15
2012	67(2)	82	18
2013	68(1)	111	30
2013	68(2)	58	13
2014	69(1)	98	22
2014	69(2)	86	20
2015	70(1)	66	13
2015	70(2)	126	19
2016	71(1)	63	14
2016	71(2)	54	12
2017	72(1)	87	16
2017	72(2) #	53	11
2018	73(1)	85	13
2018	73(2)	38	8
2019	74(1)	55	9
2019	74(2) ##	69	10
2020	75(1)	135	13
2020	75(2)	59	14
2021	76(1)	90	13
2021	76(2)	58	11
2022	77(1)	78	14
2022	77(2)	60	7
11.5 yrs	23 issues	1813 pp.	334 articles
		Av.= 79 pp. /issue	Av.= 14.5 articles /issue

set up: the original submission, all the various edited stages, then back to the authors with suggestions/ corrections, corrected/accepted version returned to authors, resolving any differences between editors and authors, and then forwarding the final version back to Josh for layout and printing. With an average of 14.5 articles per journal issue, and 3-4 emails per article (see Table), it averages some 50 different versions generated, plus many more emails per journal issue.

While on the committee she was our publications officer for many years (until Mike Wilcox took it over), and jointly one of the two carpooling contacts for a few years. Also, she has given a couple of excellent 'Plant of the Month' talks, on lemon grass (*Cymbopogon*) and *Muehlenbeckia complexa* var.

grandifolia, later published in the Journal. Tragically in 2006, Mei Nee's husband Duncan was knocked off his motorbike, which left him in a wheelchair, and this has limited the field trips that they could attend. But it's amazing where Duncan can get to in that chair (Fig. 2). Mei Nee was on holiday with Duncan in Great Britain (Fig. 3) at the time of the June Special General Meeting.

In summary, Mei Nee has been a long-serving, hard-working committee member who has recently stepped down after 20 years of service.

Joshua Salter (Figs. 4–6)

Member since 1992, and co-editor of the ABS Journal since June 2011.

The master at finalising the journal for printing, including: the laying out, creating/modifying our maps (Fig. 4), improving our images (cropping and colour balancing), inserting scale bars, improving our grammar and our English – Josh is a perfectionist. So far producing 23 issues, covering 1813 pages (average 93 pp./issue) totalling 334 articles (see Table). The number of pages per issue has ranged from 38 to 135, the number of articles from seven to 30, and overall totalling 95 different authors. A colour cover was introduced for the first time in December 2012 and the Journal went full colour in December 2019. All journals produced on time, or there abouts, at a very high standard and virtually free of any editorial errors – a reflection of the high standard.

Josh diligently attends most monthly ABS meetings, most field trips where she frequently exasperates the tail-end-Charlie, by dawdling and taking photos. However, her bright coloured hair (Figs. 5, 6) often assists the leader to tell how far back the tail is. Her enthusiasm to see and photograph all the interesting plants seen during these trips makes her a natural to bring up the rear. Occasionally she has also given us some memorable talks, including one recently on *Eucalyptus* flower bud morphology in a certain group of these gum trees – a unique detailed microscopic and photographic study (recently published in an Australian journal)! Josh was presented a card and a Museum gift voucher at the June meeting.

In summary Josh is a long-serving, irreplaceable journal editor, who thankfully continues her task of producing high class journals, as long as we keep printing hard copies.



Fig. 4. Josh at her home in Northcote, preparing drawings for a paper on an intriguing liverwort genus, *Herzogianthus* (co-authored with Matt Renner). Photo: Margot Nash, 16 Jan 2016.



Fig. 5. Josh and Rhys Gardner on the ABS field trip to south Piha. Photo: EK Cameron, 20 Sep 2016.

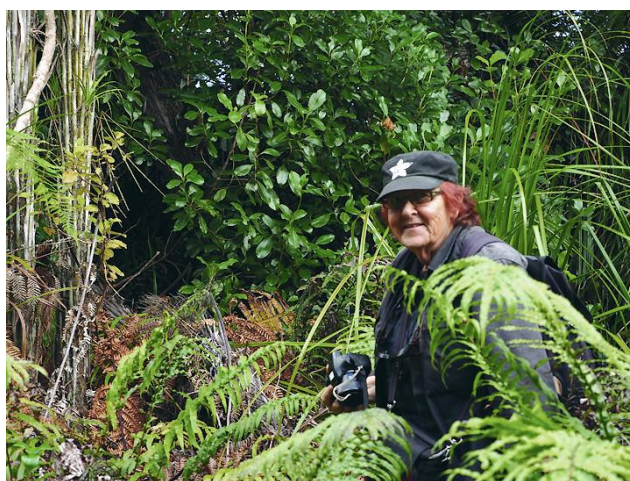


Fig. 6. Josh getting in close to photograph a plant during an ABS field trip to Cutty Grass Track, Waitakere Ranges. Photo: Bev Davidson, 16 Apr 2022.