

Botanical Society of Otago

Newsletter No. 3

1987 July



I.L.E.

Botanical Society of Otago Meetings

Monday August 3: Fresh-water Aquatic Plants of Britain

A talk for a general audience by Dr Max Wade, Lecturer in Ecology at the Loughborough College of Education, U.K. Dr Wade has written several books on aquatic plants, so this should be worth hearing.

8:00 pm, in the Seminar Room, Botany Department, University (enter by the Great King St gate, opposite Allied Computer Processors).

Saturday August 22: Trip to the bush on Lower Swampy

We plan to go up Swampy from Morrison's Creek.

Meet in Union St (opposite the back gate of the University Botany Dept.), 9:30am. We'll fit those without transport into spare places in cars.

We plan to be back mid-afternoon (depending on the weather), so bring lunch.

Leader: probably Lloyd Esler.

September 5/6 (or possibly September 26/27): There will be a trip to Brighton rocks for the University Botany Advanced I class, led by Dr Murray Brown. Dr Brown says he would be happy for a few Botanical Society members to join in. If you are interested, contact Dr Brown, 771-640, ext 8895.

Sunday September 13: Tour of Dr Peter Johnson's garden
at 5, Matariki St., Broad Bay.

Meet at 5, Matariki St., 1:30pm (to about 4:30pm).
There will also be a walk up the hill to Stiles
Creek Bush.

Hints on Collecting Herbarium Specimens

What to collect:

Collect whole plants where possible, including roots (for identification we often need to know if it has a taproot, whether there are rhizomes, etc.).

Where you can't collect whole plants, collect as much as you can:

basal leaves as well as stem leaves,
always take some stem with a leaf (the attachment is important)

collect flowers and/or fruits if at all possible, they are often essential for identification. Even if it is not flowering or fruiting time, there may well be old fruit present somewhere on the plant.

Collect all the material from one plant if possible.

Make notes on:

Where it was growing:

locality,
altitude,
map reference.

Habitat (e.g. "in a bog", "on a dry slope", etc.)

Habit:

description (e.g. "sprawling over rocks",
"upright tree", etc.)

plant height.

Date of collection.

Who collected it.

Pressing and drying: Lay out the plant so that it fits on a herbarium sheet (416 mm x 252 mm). Turn leaves and flowers round so their shape is clear. It is sometimes useful to glue a strip of cardboard on the sheet to hold material on. Plants like sedges that have to be bent and are elastic can sometimes be held on by a piece of cardboard at the point of bending, the shape and size of an envelope sealed and cut in half.

Press the specimens between newspaper. Make a pile of the newspapers, with corrugated cardboard between to allow air circulation. Put pressure on the bundle. The best way is to put rigid but open frames on top and bottom, and tie the bundle very tightly. Keep the bundle in a warmish place, where there is good circulation of air.

When the material is dry, mount it on herbarium sheets with white PVA glue. Do not use sellotape. Herbarium sheets can be purchased at cost from the Botany Department, University of Otago or from Botany Division, D.S.I.R. If it is to be incorporated into either herbarium, the institution will normally give you the paper and labels.

Attach a label with the above information at the bottom right.

P.N. Johnson & J.B. Wilson.

Dunedin Naturalists Field Club meetings

- August 1: trip to Weller's Rock, Peninsula.
August 3: evening meeting, the Rev'd Graeme MacRaild will talk on seaweeds.
August 17: Evening meeting, Dr Ian Hall will talk on edible fungi.
August 29: Trip to Port Chalmers.
August 31: Mary McKellar will talk on her trip to Fiordland.
September 12: Trip to Karitane.
September 26: Trip to Saddle Hill, especially to see Les Cleveland's spring flowers.

Apology

Apologies for the lack of action recently. Several ideas for meetings did not materialise, and those involved ran out of time.

Bot. Soc. of Otago : Who to contact

Information for this newsletter to: Mr Lloyd Esler,
20, Pilkington St, Dunedin. 'Phone: 740-391.

Membership, and complaints: Dr J. Bastow Wilson,
Botany Department, Otago Univ. PO Box 56, Dunedin.
'Phone: Work 771-640, extension 8895, Home 739-300

Ideas for activities, to: Dr Peter N. Johnson, Botany
Division, DSIR, Private Bag, Dunedin. Phone: Work
774-050, Home 780-376.

Donations to cover costs, to: Mr H. Ian West, 20,
Bellvue St., Dunedin.

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