

Editorial: lan St George

Gael Donaghy, Honorary Secretary of the Group, recounts her last conversation with the late Bruce Irwin on page 3 of this issue. She refers therein to Bruce's last letter to the Editor (p.4), which she had typed for him. He died before he could send it.

Both the Secretary and the Editor had some qualms about publishing the letter, as it is critical of "the Column's" statements. Nonetheless, it reiterates the strongly held views, expressed in previous letters and conversations, of a discerning and highly respected orchidologist. For that reason we decided to publish, with some commentary.

This is the NZ Native Orchid Group's journal. It could be many things in the world of publishing—a club gossip rag, full of births and marriages of members and group photos from field trips—or it could be a proper scientific journal, with referees scrutinising every article for objective and evidence based truth—or it could try to find some middle ground, serving both those functions—as we do.

It is open to anyone to write for the journal, and some of those who do so express quite idiosyncratic opinions. If we were to sieve these scientifically we would have to find acceptable reviewers (not easy), endure long delays while we awaited their reports (tiresome), and upset the writers with their comments (offputting). Furthermore peer review is a subjective process, only spuriously authentic even in accepted scientific journals.

If we were to be sent a formal new orchid description we would of course go to referees before publishing. But that is not necessary for opinion pieces, reports and other content.

"THE EDITOR, EDITORIAL BOARD AND GROUP MAY NOT SHARE AUTHORS' OPINIONS" covers it adequately in our view.

The New Zealand Native Orchid Journal

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Chair: David McConachie, 42 Titiro Moana Rd, Korokoro, Lower Hutt, pleione@orcon.net.nz.

Secretary: Gael Donaghy, 52 Anne Rd, Tauranga 3110. gdonaghy@clear.net.nz.

Treasurer: Judith Tyler, 4 Byrd St, Levin, bandj.tyler@xtra.co.nz: subscription NZ\$42 + post overseas.

Books and publications: Brian Tyler, 4 Byrd St, Levin, bandj.tyler@xtra.co.nz.

Webmaster: Michael Pratt, www.nativeorchids.co.nz, Michael@nativeorchids.co.nz.

Editor: Ian St George, 32 Hawkestone St, Thorndon, Wellington 6011 istge@yahoo.co.nz.

THE EDITOR, EDITORIAL BOARD AND GROUP MAY NOT SHARE AUTHORS' OPINIONS.

Guest editorial: Gael Donaghy

My last conversation with Bruce Irwin (23 December 2011)

I called in to see how Bruce was and, as usual our conversation turned to orchids Bruce was concerned that he had written a letter to Ian about *The Column* article on Pterostylis that appeared in Journal 122, and couldn't read what he had written. I read it to him, and offered to type up what he had done in large print and bring it round for him to proof. As I read his letter back to him, it sparked real debate about what a "species" is. And as we talked. Bruce became keen for me to write something up for the journal.

The main points we discussed were:

- A species is a man-made concept plants don't follow man-made rules
- There is variation always present in species. In fact the more variation a species has the greater the likelihood of survival in changing conditions / habitat. And we know orchids compete well in disturbed habitats. When one variation makes an orchid different from its neighbours it may be no more than the equivalent of a human redhead, left hander or someone suffering from a genetic abnormality like dwarfism.
- Reproductive structures are the main determinants in the delineation of species.
- Orchids that are found in swards (eg some Corybas species) create the impression that all in the species look the same. In fact all the plants in one sward are

genetically identical (because they are produced asexually by systems of underground droppers and runners.) This makes us think that all plants of the taxon in similar swards should look like this, whereas in reality they display differences from sward to sward.

Bruce then used the article on *Pterosylis* in Journal 122 to make some important points. He described how many of us had seen small Dipterans (fungus gnats?) trapped in Pterosylis flowers. He thought this pointed to a degree of insect pollination, and considered adaptations inside the flower likely to be important features in the pollination and thus in the reproduction of *Pterostylis*. He argued that when vegetative features, rather than the shape of the stigma, are used to distinguish Pterostylis humilis, P. venosa and P. confertifolia, the case for the three taxa is not soundly based.

By continually tag naming slight variations, Bruce believed we were not being taxonomically responsible and risked losing credibility and members as this process was making it increasingly difficult to identify anything. Both of us had been told by different people that they wouldn't buy the recent colour guide because of all the new tag names.

See also editorial p. 2 in this issue, and Bruce Irwin's letter on p.4—Ed.

Three alpine greenhoods?

192 Bellevue Rd, Tauranga 3110 Fri 23 December 2011

Dear Ian

This must be a very hurried note. I have read The Column in J122 and was appalled by Eric's attempt to define 3 alpine greenhoods.

Firstly I am totally convinced that Eric has never seen *Pterostylis venosa* in situ. You may ask "why?" Well the slide printed on J66, p22 appears to be actually *P. humilis* and I wrote to Eric to that effect. He, of course, said it was *P. venosa* quoting the shape of the leaves. Dr Lucy Moore took very little notice of leaf shapes because so many factors can induce great differences between adjacent or distant colonies, and even within one colony. Mind you I am very loathe to identify either species even in situ and certainly from photographs until I have seen the stigma.

I asked Eric why he decided the plant was *P. venosa*. "Because Ernie Corbett told me it was" was Eric's reply. "Then what was the shape of the stigma?" I asked. 'Oh, we didn't want to damage the plant" said Eric. In other words that series of 3D photos, which included a fragment of lichen, was NOT definitely identified. Since that first publication, one or other of the 3D photos has been used several times, unfortunately including in your *Colour Guide to the New Zealand Native Orchids*. It seems that Eric has never seen undoubted *P. venosa*. Surely he would use such a slide if he had one.

As for *P. trifolia* and *P. confertifolia*, I doubt their validity. How would Eric be qualified to tackle such a subject?

Within the article he mentions a colour slide I sent to him to demonstrate (A) that the 2 species *P. venosa* and *P. humilis* do flower more or less at the same time on Egmont, at similar elevations, and (B) to demonstrate that if stigma shape is discounted, both species are very alike.

Back to point (A) for a moment, *P. humilis* probably reached 500ft above the most elevated *P. venosa* so no doubt will finish flowering a little later. That colour slide I sent Eric showed two rows of flowers – one row was *P. venosa* and the other was *P. humilis*, all flowers sectioned vertically to show the stigmas. One row had short, stout stigmas and the other had longer, narrow stigmas. Apart from stigma shape, all flowers appeared identical to Eric. At least in this Eric did get it right – they do appear to be identical, apart from the stigma shape.

In my letter to Eric (with the slide) I feel sure I would have made it clear that those with long narrow stigmas were *P. venosa*, while those with short, stout stigmas were *P. humilis*. I would expect that Eric would have recorded all relevant data on his computer, but if so why does he not review it, rather than relying on memory, which is clearly more shaky than mine is.

Now, having stated that all sectioned flowers were *P. humilis*, Eric seems to have suddenly decided that hybridisation occurs between these two species. Is Eric on drugs? Certainly this latest column does achieve Eric's stated aim: it further confuses.

I shall try again to find this infamous slide then rewrite this criticism more carefully. OR SHOULD I SHUT UP?

Did you ask Eric to provide the Column? Or did it like Topsy "just growed"? Does Eric feel he must provide the Column in each journal issue? Has anyone else questioned this outrageous nonsense by the Column? What can be done about it? Is it any of my business?

Bruce Irwin

The type locality: Ian St George

Cape Palliser and Pterostylis foliata

With a letter to Sir WJ Hooker completed on 20 October 1848, William Colenso sent a number of plant specimens, including this:

1906. <u>Pterostylis latifolia</u>, W.C., hill sides, Cape Palliser. A truly elegant species when fresh. Flowers not unlike those of <u>P. concinna</u>. Journal. Bot. Tab CXXXVI., leaves thickish, succulent when fresh. Unforty. my sps. are all damaged.

Thus he thought the new *Pterostylis* should be called "P. latifolia" and he compared its flower to one he had identified with Brown's *P. concinna*. Sir William did not describe either, but kept the specimens until the return of his son JD Hooker from India. JD Hooker proceeded to describe the putative *P. concinna* as *P. trullifolia* and "P. latifolia" as *P. foliata*.

Colenso's collection

Colenso's last letter had been in September 1847, so he probably collected the plant between September 1847 and October 1848. The only time in that interval when he was near Cape Palliser is described in his journal account of his biennial tramp from Hawke's Bay to Wellington and back:

October 1847

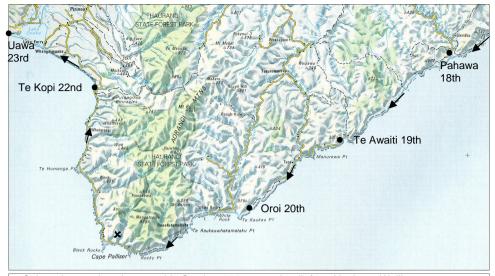
16 [proceeded and] gained Waraurangi village by 11 a. m... At 1 p.m. we left and at 5 gained Pahawa;

17-18 [at Pahawa].

19 At 1, p.m. we left [Pahawa].... At 5 o'Clock we reached Te Awaiti, a little village....



The whaling station at Te Kopi, Palliser Bay, about 1844: SC Brees, watercolour and gum Arabic: Alexander Turnbull Library.



 Colenso's camping places on his October 1847 coastal walk from Napier to Wellington to report to the Church Missionary Society. Pat Enright found Pterostylis foliata at Mangatoetoe stream (*), which must be close to Colenso's 21 October camp "on the shores of Palliser Bay", somewhere between Oroi and Te Kopi.

- 20 we left [Te Awaiti] at 11 o'Clock for Oroi, at which place we arrived by 4 p.m....
- 21 started [from Oroi].... Two hours travelling brought us to Kurawawanui, the Sheep Station of Mr. Barton.... Continuing our journey until Sunset, we halted for the night on the shores of Palliser Bay.
- 22 Recommencing our journey we gained Te Kopi by 11, a. m....
- 23-25 [at Te Kopi].
- 26 left [Te Kopi].... Arriving at the lagoon (Wairarapa), we found the crossing to be dangerous, there being only a very small Canoe... ferried over... proceeding on... we arrived at Uawa, a small village....

Thus it seems likely he collected the plant from his 21 October camp somewhere in Palliser Bay, perhaps half way between Oroi and Te Kopi (see map).

Hooker's description

When JD Hooker got around to it, he wrote,

Pterostvlis foliata. Hook, fil.: foliis radicalibus petiolatis elliptico-oblongis obtusis v. subacutis reticulatis, scapo 1-2-foliato, perianthio basi erecto supra medium curvo horizontali, sepalis petalisque acutis, sepalis lateralibus apice subulatis, labello lineari-oblongo, appendice breviuscula apice penicillata.

Hab. Northern Island. Marshy places, East coast, and Ruahine Mountains, Colenso. This is a very handsome species, but, like its congeners, very variable in size: alpine specimens are almost stemless, with three to four sessile radical leaves, a short scape, and a flower hardly exserted beyond them; more generally it is an erect plant, a span high, very like the P. micromega, but with larger, more reticulated radical leaves and flowers, whose perianth (1-11/2 inch long) is erect at the base, and then curved horizontally, with the tips of the petals and upper sepal bent downwards.

(We know Colenso sent Hooker P. venosa [specimen no. 4154], but it was never described. Were the "almost stemless alpine



Photograph: Jeremy Rolfe



Cape Palliser, towards the Wairarapa: about 1844: SC Brees, watercolour and gum Arabic: Alexander Turnbull Library.

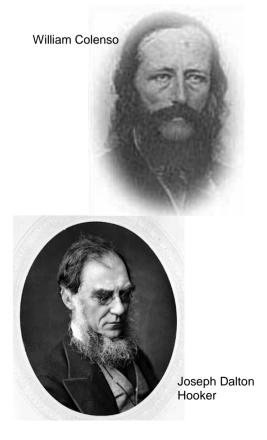
specimens [of *P. foliata*] with three to four sessile radical leaves" from the Ruahine actually *P. venosa*? Perhaps so: one sheet at Kew is labelled "P. foliata" by Hooker, yet has a mixed collection including five specimens of the then unnamed *P. venosa* with a Colenso label, "1584 Pterostylis montana [summit Ruahine]" [Brian Molloy, *pers. comm.*]. Colenso certainly never sent Hooker specimens of *P. foliata* from the Ruahine, and, frustrated by Hooker's lumping, described *P. venosa* himself in 1895.

What's in Palliser Bay now?

I have seen several colonies of *P. foliata* just north, in the Aorangi SFP. German tourist Wolfgang Rysy photographed it near Cape Palliser.

Pat Enright found it at Mangatoetoe stream near Cape Palliser: "There were a lot of *P. foliata* rosettes, a few flowers and some seed heads in parts of the Mangatoetoe Stream on Saturday 27 November (2010). It was growing with *T. longifolia*, *N. macranthum* and *G. cunninghamii* (just coming into flower) all in the same small area. It is locally common in parts of the valley, and in places is the dominant *Pterostylis*.

Jeremy Rolfe's stunning photographs show the plant in its habitat, up the Mangatoetoe, close to its type locality.



Original papers

Recording orchid locations: should we use a standard method? by Graeme Jane

Let's start with the conclusions:

If you are recording locations

- Use only the latest maps or a GPS
- Report as Lat Long and as decimal minutes (not seconds) but perhaps also as eastings and northings for general convenience
- If lodging specimens provide a detailed location description and where possible, site photos

There are lots of hooks and fish-hooks to coordinate systems in NZ. I do a lot of species mapping and have much fun getting all the data to one system. There is also the issue of who the information is for. Herbaria want as detailed location information as possible. That should always include specific location descriptions. Last time we visited WA were able to buy a book of what they called mud maps of orchid localities which proved exceedingly useful and reliable.

On the other hand I spent some time this last summer on re-measurement of 20 x 20 m plots in Fiordland (MFE Carbon Monitoring) and Arawhata (DOC ex NZFS). This was quite a salutory lesson in use of the GPS.

The MFE plot locations were originally recorded with high accuracy GPS units. In flat areas they reliably brought us to the plots, probably accurate within 5m. But in the narrow Fiordland valleys the closest they brought us was about 20m and in one case the distance to plot varied from 10 to 60m within 5m due to satellite acquisition issues near a bluff face. In another we were placed by chopper on a ledge 300m up a 40 degree slope from the plot (luckily it was above): actual accuracy probably 10m horizontal distance.

The DOC plots were a different story—when locating the start for a line of plots—interpretation of lines on maps (there were 3–5 plots on a line) and text descriptions of location were far more reliable than the GPS references which had been made with 8–10 year old GPS units. In one case I located the start on a forest edge on a river bank from description and interpretation on a broad flat area of river flat while the GPS gave a point 2–300 m away. Three other sites were at least 100m out using the GPS

That's the field issue. NZPCN and many herbaria will only map locations to several hundred metres in publically available information—applying a random tweek to the grid ref, especially for threatened and other species where the data are sensitive.

Then there is the issue of source reliability. I have already mentioned the GPS issue—mine is probably reliable to about plus or minus 3m under good conditions (so in effect 6m) and about 15m or worse in forest or rough country. GPS units currently used by DOC are to 1m in good conditions and my experience suggests 20m in extreme conditions.

Finally there is the map system. Again I have had many experiences using old map references. We have had 3 co-ordinate systems in use and 3 map systems—these are not necessarily the same. The old NZMS 1 series were based on one origin and grid system (projection) the NZMS 260 used a different projection and origin and the recent NZMap has used a different projection and two different origins.

New GPS units should be set up for the latest projection and origin.

The maps also have a reliability. The old NZMS1 and the NZMS 260 were mostly based on aerial mapping (photos from 1940s were best but other sets to 1970s at 1 km scale) and in the case of NZMS1 often quite a bit of plane table mapping (drawn on site from a high hill). The Plane Table mapping was based on Meridional Circuits (a series of triangulations) of which there was at least one for each of the Land Districts, often more. They also carried a date of preparation and publication. After about 1980 the reliability was omitted and now even date of preparation is omitted (this is different from publication as later editions may correct only overlay info, such as roads and powerlines, not the base map). New Zealand was only reliably placed on a World map somewhere in 1980s, probably with the system called WGS84 and hence for later published maps. This resulted in "distortions" of the shape of NZ. This was later again corrected about WGS2000 with a change in the map origin of about 100m.

What does all this mean?

If you use a modern GPS you will be able to relocate the place reasonably easily, especially with a high accuracy GPS (X models).

If you use a map, the data can be hundreds of metres out, and old maps such as the NZMS1 can be kms out. My favorite is Lake Constance in Nelson Lakes. On the NZMS1 it was shown as 1km long but when I visited it I saw it was 3km long!

It doesn't matter whether you use lat long or grid ref, the same errors apply.

Because each map until the new NZMAP series was drawn separately the edges of the maps don't always meet exactly (this was in part due to the fish-eye effect of the wide angle 1km photos used). This was hidden and minimised by the fact there was an overlap between maps.

This means that a grid ref whether lat long or grid coordinates will not be the same between different maps for the same place in an area. My recent experience has shown errors of about 100–200 m for points taken from early versions of Topomap (NZMS260 base origin based on 1949 origin) to later NZMAP series (WGS84) of MapToaster from the same company.

Finally there is the choice of units to record. Most Herbaria use Lat Long as their base record but for utility often record the original map references which may be in any one of the different systems used in NZ, including, most recently as NZMAP and GPS. For some of the off-shore islands there are maps but use a different origin and for the Kemadecs (I have lists for Macauley Is, Antipodes etc.) there is no map system. These places can only be defined with Google photos.

Finally

If you are recording locations

- Use only the latest maps or a GPS
- Report as Lat Long and as decimal minutes (not seconds)
- If lodging specimens provide a detailed location description and where possible site photos.

If you have old grid refs (prior to say 1990) and you want to use them, get both map series and locate the point as given on the appropriate map and read off the location for the new map series. All the map conversions may add considerable error either through drawing inaccuracies or map conversion errors. Also remember that even the new series maps may have drawing errors "corrected" when reissued because of a change in the information source from different base maps. I recently found the a familiar high point Pukepenga, had "moved" nearly 1 km to a different hill between the 260 series and the NZMap series.

As far as most older grid refs are concerned, map errors are sufficient to make relocation pretty difficult.

Tottings

ike Lusk emailed, "Here's a pic of my infamous ruler (Mk 4) associated with Nematoceras "pygmy" Form 3, taken at the Cape Kidnappers Sanctuary on 15 June 12 under a canopy of tall kanuka. That colony is now protected from stock but I came across another in an area which has been stocked for many years and remains so. Both colonies are growing in association with Acianthus sinclarii and Diplodium alobulum."





at Enright wondered if these midwinter leaves might be Nematoceras hypogeum. They are certainly typical of that species, trilobed, kidney shaped, wider than long—but then, that shape is seen in other members of the N. trilobum aggregate too—Ed.

lasdair Nicoll made a midwinter visit to Te Kauri on 1 July for an hour or two. "The following were in flower: Acianthus sinclairii, Diplodium trullifolium, Diplodium alobulum—and in bud: Nematocerus acuminatum. We walked part way along the Middle Gorge Track but the best spot was on the drive up to the lodge." Gordon Sylvester informs us that Diplodium trullifolium is a new record for the area—Ed.

P at Enright was looking through old literature and came across Tony Druce's description of the rediscovery of *Simpliglottis valida* in the Richmond ranges, shortly after its first New Zealand discovery at Hanmer.... ▼

The great discovery of the day was made on the descent, when a small patch of the orchid, Chiloglottis gunnii, was found growing beside the much-smaller-flowered C. cornuta. C. gunnii had been first found in New Zealand only a month or so earlier, in Hanmer Forest. Many photos were taken of its large, brownish flowers. The delicately balanced lip (labellum) of each flower tipped back and forwards in a fascinating way with the least breath of wind. Another striking sight, at the foot of the track, was the scarlett mistletoe (Peraxilla colensoi) in full flower on silver beech. Mistletoes are rarely seen these days, as possums have virtually eliminated them from most of the country.

Attentive and sensitive readers will by now have noted that the entire journal is printed in colour. The economics of colour reproduction have made this too expensive till now, but with falling costs it is at last an economical proposition. We hope the greater proximity of colour illustrations to associated text will improve the readability and thus your enjoyment of the journal.

ike Lusk emailed (30 July), "I read Eric's careful analysis of Chiloglottis taxa NZNOJ 125: 23 et seq, and can hardly wait to examine the Hawke's Bay locals. I have distilled Eric's wisdom into a checklist to be taken into the field. Others may find it useful. Eric has approved it but additions or amendments are of course most welcome."

Field check list for Chiloglottis taxa					
Date					
Location (GR or ED if poss)					
Cotyledon size. cf leaves of flowering plants in colony	tiny (10mm approx)		similar to leaf size	other (cf leaf)	
Flower bract size relative to leaf					
Flower bract shape, orientation wrt stem					
Calli colour	dark	green	khaki		
Calli reducing in height to- wards labellum tip	Y	N			
Scent	Y	N	Describe		
Stem length with mature capsule					
Position of flower bract on stem with mature capsule.					

A recent query from an acquaintance about photographing native orchids and the constant over exposure he was experiencing. But to think quickly about how that can be overcome?

I had seen expensive shades. Parasol, etc and the oldie but good of separating the flash from the camera and placing it away from the camera. Not so easy with an inbuilt flash.

I made the suggestion of placing a pocket handkerchief over the flash ensuring the lens was not obstructed. More as a desperation idea than anything else.

Yesterday on my annual pilgrimage to Punakaiki and the perennial problem of lowish light levels I thought of my idea recently espoused. Out with a handkerchief. After the first overexposed shot was looked at in the instant replay.





The next shot made I must say with some trepidation around heat generated from the flash unit and the close proximity of the light cloth. And Bingo a decrease in light was achieved. I next folded the extremely expensive piece of cloth into 2 and then 4 and tried the same trick again.

I was using my 100mm macro lens so had plenty of "snout" in front of the flash and the problem of the cloth covering the lens was eliminated.

The results means no more juggling the contrast on "Photoshop".

Of course if you have wireless flash and flash controls this is not a problem. But if you are manually adjusting f-stop etc, remember to allow a little for the slight underexposure not accounted for by the camera itself.

As a field experiment I was happy with the initial results but will need a little more research to find the right density of cloth to use as a handkerchief.

Here are the two shots taken one after the other to illustrate the message.

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Organising photographs....

By Peter Tait ("Sails Ashore", Stewart Island) who emailed...

I read with interest the article Organising photographs by Gordon Sylvester.

Organisation of photos is problem all photographers have to deal with, and I'm impressed by the system Gordon has developed, and as he says at no real cost using free software other than time.

However there is an alternative that kills a variety of birds with a single stone, although it does cost.

Some years ago my son gave me a copy of Adobe Lightroom, and installed it on my computer. I looked at it and thought I really don't need to learn another piece of software. However one wet day, much like it is today, I sat down and had a play. Two hours later I looked up at Iris and said.... "I can't live without this...." And it is that good.

So what does Adobe Lightroom achieve for me?

- 1. It imports into the system virtually any format including the many varieties of .RAW
- 2. It sorts my photos into catalogues which I define, much as does Picassa. Allowing me to sort and select on as many levels as I wish. i.e. genus, species, location, season,
- 3. It tags my photos with whatever copyright information I wish to add
- 4. It has a comments form which lives with the photo.
- 5. It records all relevant camera data such as Model, ISO, Aperture, Shutter, Flash, and Lens.
- 6. It will Geotag photos, either imported from the camera if so equipped, or as a post import manual function
- 7. It allows me to manipulate the photo, much as you would in a darkroom, adjusting exposure, colour, chroma, sharpening etc either at the macro or area level, and most importantly this is in a non destructive way, so the original is still there just a single click away
- 8. It allows me to crop as desired.
- 9. It allows me to preset modifications based on possible lens aberrations.
- 10. It exports photos in whatever size and format I wish.
- 11. It will also work with video, although developing functions are not nearly as extensive.

It costs around \$240, but a lot less for a Student or Teacher. I know of no professional photographer working in Windows who doesn't use it. As you can imagine many of our guests are enthusiastic photographers and a significant number use it, and of the ones who don't, once I show them probably 25/30% immediately try and then buy a copy.

You can download it from http://success.adobe.com and try for a month.

My suggestions for anyone interested would be to download a copy and then set up a directory with (say) 50 or 60 photos to "play" with so as to learn just how to set up the tags you will use... these can be added to at any time.

There is probably only one hard and fast rule. And that is that you must NEVER EVER move a photo from folder to folder other than with Lightroom, as if you do the program will lose it. And that is a serious pain.

As it happens I still "folderise" photos into broad groups, but really don't need to. All my photos could be held imported and tagged into a single mega folder, and the program would sort them as required just fine.

Like any program it demands the user spend time to learn the functions, but once the basics are mastered it repays the investment in spades.



M elanie Brigden and Gordon Sylvester represented the Group when an opportunity arose to present the Hatch medallion to the 2011 recipient Dr Brian Molloy on 11 September. They met with Brian, his wife Barbara and his son Michael at their home in Christchurch

The event ended with a short wander down memory lane reminiscing about both Dan Hatch and Bruce Irwin. The contribution both men had made, as well as the work surrounding William Colenso and the importance of all that material is now becoming apparent.

Brian said he was humbled by the award and hoped to live long to enjoy it. His only concern was having to return if after such a short time, for the medallion to be presented to the next recipient. It was quickly pointed out it was solely in his name for this year's award.

Well done Brian.

Gordon Sylvester with Barbara and Brian Molloy, recipient of the 2011 Hatch Medal

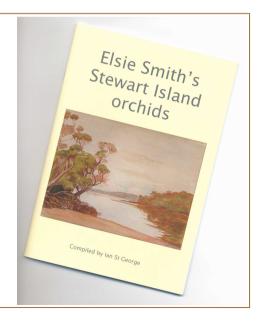
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Cover

Pterostylis foliata at Mangatoetoe stream, near its Cape Palliser type locality. Jeremy Rolfe

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