

ADVANCED NOTICE: 15TH NEW ZEALAND FUNGAL FORAY 8–12 MAY 2001

The Year 2001 15th New Zealand Fungal Foray will be held over a 4-day period 8–12 May (arrive Tuesday evening, depart Saturday morning) at Tuai, adjacent to Urewera National Park, central North Island. Forests in this region are dominated by *Nothofagus*, but podocarp-broadleaf forests will also be accessible further afield. As with the Year 2000 meeting, our base will be on a lake shore, this time the tranquil Lake Whakamarino. Accommodation at Lake Whakamarino Lodge includes bunkrooms and self-contained units. The foray is open to all from New Zealand and overseas.

More detailed information and a registration form will be published in the next issue of the *Australasian Mycologist*. Meantime, if you have not attended a New Zealand foray previously and wish to be put on our mailing list please contact: Peter Buchanan, email: buchananp@landcare.cri.nz (mail address: Landcare Research, Private Bag 92170, Auckland, New Zealand; fax. +64 9 849 7093).

TE ANAU, NEW ZEALAND, 6–13 MAY 2000 Combined 14th New Zealand Fungal Foray and Australasian Mycological Society (AMS) Conference

Te Anau, in the World Heritage region of Fiordland, New Zealand, was the site for the Year 2000 AMS Conference, in combination with the annual New Zealand Fungal Foray now in its 14th year. Te Anau is a tourist town on the shores of Lake Te Anau, surrounded by mountains and virgin *Nothofagus* forest, and on the road to scenic Milford Sound.

With 45 participants (30 'kiwis', 12 from Australia, 2 from U.S.A., and 1 from Switzerland; Fig. 1), the event was the largest gathering of mycophiles in New Zealand and the first ever mycological conference to be held here! The meeting even attracted items on national radio and in the regional newspaper.

The week opened with the conference, comprising 13 oral presentations and 4 poster papers covering a diverse range of topics including floristic and phylogenetic studies of fungal groups, utilisation of fungi for food, fungal ecology, mycological history, fungi on coleoptera, and biosecurity issues. Seven papers were contributed by students, and the winner of the student prize for the best presentation was Anne-Marie Oliver (University of Otago) who introduced her MSc research on taxonomy of *Gymnopilus*.

Over the four days of collecting, most forayers focussed on *Nothofagus* forests where *Cortinarius* spp. and other ectomycorrhizal fungi were impressive in both lowland and upland regions. The abundance of collected material accounts for the current lack of a completed species list! Egon Horak (Switzerland) provided a truly memorable day's workshop on agaric identification, and was able to demonstrate all morphological characters using freshly collected specimens. We were fortunate too to have use of a dozen microscopes brought by David Orlovich from the University of Otago.

Figure 1. From left to right:

Peter Buchanan, Geoff Ridley, Pete Griffith, Lindsay Gibbons, Neville Rees, Stojan Ganev, Kitty Griffith, Peter Johnston, Jillian Smith-White, Peter Austwick, Lloyd Esler, Gwen Horne, Karen Clarke (holding flag), Joan Austwick, David Orlovich, Teresa Lebel, Fran Kell, Jan Riddick, Pam Catcheside, Brett Alexander, Alison Stringer, Katrina Syme, Ken Hobson (holding flag), Ross Beever, Bidy Pollard, David Catcheside, Annette Ah Chee, Bettye Rees, Mark Brundrett, Anne-Maree Oliver, Rodney Jones, Rich Leschen, Jeanette Wood, Nina Hesom-Williams, Alec Wood, Clive Shirley, Egon Horak, Peter Riddick, Wang Yun, Shaun Pennycook, Simon Cook, Lawre Taylor, Don Horne.



Figure 1. 14th New Zealand Fungal Foray participants (photo: Don Horne)



Figure 2. Gwen and Don Horne, at the launch of Don's new book *Mushrooms and other fungi of New Zealand* Reed Books, Auckland. (photo: Peter Buchanan)

During evenings, several participants gave informal talks and slide shows, leading to late nights for those intent on identification of the day's collections. Together, we celebrated with long-standing forayers Don and Gwen Horne the publication of Don's eye-pleasing book *Mushrooms and other fungi of New Zealand*, Reed New Zealand Nature Series (Fig. 2). During a festive final evening, a range of amusing novelty prizes, mainly mycological souvenirs donated by Kitty and Pete Griffith who were visiting from U.S.A., were awarded for the 'best' specimens within arbitrary categories (*i.e.*, smallest, largest, smelliest, ugliest, *etc.*). And throughout, we were treated to the culinary skills and famous recipes of another of our long-standing kiwi members, Lawre Taylor, who organised all purchase and preparation of food.

We were also grateful to New Zealand Department of Conservation for permission to collect in Fiordland National Park and other reserves, and to Te Anau Holiday Park for comfortable and flexible facilities for accommodation, meals, and meetings.

Each year a different region of New Zealand is chosen as the location for the New Zealand Fungal Foray, in order to document fungi from throughout the country. If you have not already participated, you are welcome to join us in May 2001 (see notice p. 71).

Peter Buchanan