

Jim Schultz

Fern Collection

1942 – 1965



Remounted and revised 2007
Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this project.

Where there have been inconsistencies between information sources, a higher authority of opinion has been sought.

References linking to websites have been added for additional information, but responsibility for the information on those sites remains with their creators.

Information from this project may be used for personal, non-profit or educational purposes provided due acknowledgement is made.

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Acknowledgement

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TSB Community Trust 

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1. Introduction

1.1. History

On 3rd June 2005, local residents Mr and Mrs Barnes presented WITT Library with a collection of New Zealand fern specimens in an old, large A4 lever arch file. The majority of the specimens were collected from Ongarue in the Taumarunui district. They had been collected and preserved, by their late friend Jim W Schultz (1922 - 2005), using a home-made drying process and press. His surviving family were very pleased to offer the collection to become a library resource.



Jim Schultz
The Daily News (16 January 1981),
Courtesy of Puke Ariki Archives

1.2. Original introduction

Original Size 236 by 332 this image reduced 25%

J. Schultz.

20th May '05.

This collection was compiled by my Brother Jim Schultz when a young man employed in the Native Bush at Duganue - where he worked for E. B. Spawill etc. - to the age of 40+. He was passionate about all living flora - being a lover of trees from a young age, but had a very special interest in ferns. My sister & I are very happy that this collection will be preserved & enjoyed by others in the future. He - Jim - would be pleased & happy to know it's in safe keeping - with special thanks from his sisters, Betty Moffatt, Gloria Gibson & Pamela Watson.

1.3 The Project

The Schultz collection contains more than 120 specimens, a few consisting of multiple specimens of a single plant. They were originally mounted individually on A4, 120gsm paper using Sellotape. Most of the specimens were in good condition and most had captions written in pencil giving the names of the ferns. The collection was too physically delicate, to be made openly accessible. A decision was made to archive the collection at WITT library, and make a digital copy readily available.

This is a worthwhile project for the leading tertiary institute to be involved with, from a science education point of view. The Jim Schultz Fern Collection is an important historical document, and the digital version will allow greater appreciation of ferns as it will be accessible online. The final product of this project can be used by schools, conservation and science research organisations nation-wide. As a learning Institute, WITT should be proud of what it can achieve and offer to the knowledge society. The people involved with the Schultz Collection agree that it is a significant and comprehensive collection, with historical importance. Liaison with local authorities indicated that the Taranaki Regional Council would like to use the digitalised Schultz Collection to help complete their online database of local flora.

Library Manager Louis Lum contacted Andrew Pettengell from New Zealand Micrographic Services to provide consultation as well as digitisation of the samples. Sponsorship from the TSB Community Trust has allowed this project to proceed. Elise Smith (science tutor) researched curatorial methods. Science student Penny Conroy researched the current status and classifications of the specimens and remounted them. Debra Hitchcock (Collection Management Librarian) collated and edited the material. Further advice and assistance was generously given by Barry Hartley (local naturalist); Ron Lambert (Puke Ariki museum researcher); Simon Whittaker (Collection Manager Botany, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa); Dr. Leon Perrie (Curator of Botany, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa); Dr Huirangi Waikerepuru (WITT's Ahorangi); the library staff, and the science department administrators.

The images reproduced in this publication have been reduced by 30% from the original scans to fit an A4 page format. Species are identified by a reference number in the top right hand corner and are sorted by Family Name with sub species sorted in alphabetical order.

1.4 Future possibilities

With developing technology, a number of enhanced features are being considered for a later version of this resource. They include verbal pronunciation of the Maori and botanical names; a virtual visitors book to allow individuals to record other observations of the plant; and an interactive page showing plant growth.