

# Peter Goyen (1845 – 1927)

**P**eter Goyen was born in St Austell, Cornwall, England, and migrated to Australia with his parents when he was 15. After studying at the Melbourne Training College he taught at several schools in Victoria, progressing from assistant teacher to headmaster, and during this period married Emilie Smith. In 1878, when he was about 33 years of age, he was appointed inspector of schools for the newly set up Southland Education Board, and moved to Invercargill, New Zealand. At the time, Donald Petrie, a graduate of the University of Aberdeen and a keen botanist, was the senior inspector for the Otago Education Board. The two became very good friends.

Goyen soon became involved in community affairs. In May 1880 he co-founded the Southland Institute, a society devoted to the promotion of science, philosophy, literature and art, and was elected its first secretary. In December the same year he was requested by the Southland Boys' High School board of governors to open the school – even though the building was not yet ready for its 15 pupils – and have it operating for the week prior to Christmas.

Peter Goyen also made his mark in botany. A sedge found by Petrie at the head of Lake Wakatipu was described as *Carex goyenii*, in honour of Goyen's work on the alpine flora of Southwest Otago.

Goyen's explorations on Stewart Island, and a climb of Mt Rakeahua with Southland Institute fellow member William Stewart Hamilton, resulted in the collection of a new species of vegetable sheep, *Raoulia goyenii*. They were also the first to collect an *Aciphylla* (speargrass) from the island.

Goyen's friendship with Petrie continued in Dunedin, when he joined the inspectorate of the Otago Education Board in 1882. Petrie discovered and described *Cotula goyenii* (now *Leptinella goyenii*) from the Otago mountains, and described *Myosotis goyenii*, found by Goyen at Arrowtown. He also helped with the work on spiders that had become Goyen's main interest. A pioneer student of animal behaviour in New Zealand, Goyen was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society in 1888.

In 1894, when Petrie was appointed senior inspector in Auckland, Goyen was promoted to his vacated position. Although the work entailed tiring journeys and long hours, he still found time to write and publish reports on important facets of education. His retirement in 1910 enabled him to devote his leisure to other interests: the activities of the Navy League, the Athenaeum and especially his books, which were always a source of knowledge as well as enjoyment. He died at his home in Dunedin on 10 July 1927.

## ***Raoulia goyenii***

The Asteraceae family is aptly named from the Greek *aster* 'star'. *Raoulia*, honouring the French surgeon-botanist Etienne Raoul, is a large daisy genus of mainly New Zealand perennial mat and cushion plants. Most of the 20 New Zealand species reach the alpine zone. *Raoulia goyenii*, the Stewart Island vegetable sheep, forms firm, greenish-white, rounded hummocks or mats up to a metre or more across. The reddish flower heads, appearing from December to March, barely protrude beyond the surface; the seeds, with rather stiff, whitish hairs, are wind-borne. *Raoulia goyenii* is fairly common on the higher peaks of Stewart Island on exposed rock outcrops and in wet, boggy meadows and herbfields.

