Frederick Wollaston Hutton (1836 – 1905)

Born in Lincolnshire, England, probably on 16 November 1836, Frederick Wollaston Hutton was the second son of Henry Frederick Hutton, the vicar of Gate Burton, and his wife Louisa. After attending Southwell Grammar School and the Naval Academy at Gosport in Hampshire he served three years as a midshipman, and from 1854–1855 studied applied science at Kings College, London. He was commissioned as an ensign in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, served in the Crimean War and in the Indian war of 1857–1858, and following his return to England rose to the rank of captain. During his army years he took a keen interest in geology, and in 1860 was elected a fellow of the Geological Society of London. He also became a consistent and able exponent of evolutionary theory.

He married Annie Gouger Montgomerie in London on 4 February 1863, and after resigning his commission in 1866, sailed to New Zealand with his wife and two children (four more were born later). He engaged initially in flax milling in the Waikato district, but soon joined the geological survey under James Hector, carrying out fieldwork in lower Waikato, Thames and Great Barrier Island, followed by three years as assistant geologist to the general survey department based in Wellington. In 1874 he became provincial geologist for Otago. As well as his fieldwork in Otago, Southland, Stewart Island and South Westland, which included reports on the goldfields and systematic descriptions of shells, he lectured in geology and ecology at the University of Otago, and became professor of natural science in 1877. At the same time, as curator of the Otago Museum, he supervised much of the museum's natural history collection. In 1880 he was appointed professor of biology at Canterbury College, and following Haast's death in 1887 he became curator of the Canterbury Museum.

Hutton was an acute observer, and although he specialised in geology, his scientific interests covered many fields. He published catalogues of New Zealand birds, fish and marine molluscs, and articles on bats and lizards; his books included *Manual of the New Zealand Mollusca* (1880), and *Index Faunae Novae Zealandiae* (1904). He was a co-founder of the New Zealand Institute, which became the Royal Society of New Zealand, and was a corresponding member and honorary member of several prestigious overseas organisations.

In 1905 Hutton took leave to visit England. He died on the return voyage in the *Rimutaka,* on 27 October 1905, and was buried at sea. He is commemorated in the Royal Society's Hutton Memorial Medal and Research Fund, awarded for meritorious scientific work in New Zealand zoology, botany or geology. *Pittosporum huttonianum*, a small tree of restricted range, was named in his honour by botanist Thomas Kirk in 1870.

Pittosporum huttonianum

Pittorsporum is a genus of about 200 species mainly of the tropical or subtropical Southern Hemisphere. *Pittosporum huttonianum* is a sparingly branched shrub or small tree up to 10 metres tall, with black bark. Leaves, arranged alternately to sub-whorled, are large, leathery, and slightly wavy, up to 12 cm long and 5 cm wide, with a prominent midrib. The young branches and leaves are clad in soft woolly hairs. The dark red flowers arise in the axils of the leaves, singly or in clusters; the calyx, ovary and peduncles are densely hairy. Capsules, glabrous with age, usually have three valves, occasionally two. The species is found from near sea level to hill country on Great and Little Barrier Islands, Coromandel Range and western Waikato ranges from Raglan to Marokopa.