

Brian Patrick (1954 –)

Brian Patrick was born in Invercargill on 4 April 1954, the third child and elder son of lawyer Alan Patrick and his wife Elaine, née Templeton. His parents were both from Riverton where his grandfather was once mayor, while Elaine's family were flax-millers at nearby Otaitai Bush. Growing up in Invercargill, Brian explored nearby Thomsons Bush and observed and later collected insects there. He started rearing caterpillars and collecting moths at an early age and still has his notes and drawings from 1966 onwards. After capturing "two gorgeous moths" at an outside light on 15 November 1969 he resolved to study moths for the rest of his life! His note taking never ceased and by mid-2017 his trips had reached number 3,742.

After progressing through North School, Rosedale Intermediate and James Hargest High School in Invercargill, Brian completed half a degree at Otago University, leaving in 1975 to take a management-training course for Woolworths in Dunedin and later Christchurch. He became their youngest ever retail manager in 1977 at Oamaru and then Enfield. In 1977 he married Christine Lumsden from Brydone in Southland and in 1980 he transferred to the larger Invercargill store. A career change in 1982 to become a management accountant for Dunedin-based Freightways Road Transport Ltd brought with it a company car (nicknamed "the moth-mobile"), which enabled Brian to explore more of southern New Zealand, set up light traps and add to his data. Two children were born in Dunedin: Holly (1985) and Hamish (1988).

Successful applications in 1988 for the Department of Conservation's position of conservancy advisory scientist, and in 1996 collections and research manager for the Otago Museum, became dream jobs relating to his lifelong interests in the natural world.

When he left he donated to the museum his dry collection of moths and other insects – at least 180,000 pinned specimens. Working there with Neville Peat led to several joint natural history publications in the 1990s followed by *Rivers Rare* in 2016. He also teamed up with Brian Parkinson for *Butterflies and moths of New Zealand* (2000), and after contract butterfly conservation work in Tonga, Fiji and Samoa, published *Butterflies of the South Pacific* (2012) with his son Hamish. These were in addition to numerous other published articles, assisting with butterfly stamp issues for New Zealand and Niue and promoting the South Island lichen moth on our \$100 note. A five-year contract as director of the new Central Stories Museum in Alexandra in 2006 was an opportunity to explore the entomology of our driest region and also allowed him to do private consultancy under his own company, New Zealand Butterfly Enterprises Ltd. One of his clients, Wildland Consultants, Christchurch, became his employer in 2011, and he still works for them throughout New Zealand and the Pacific as an ecological consultant.

While in Alexandra Brian met Aiko from Japan, and they married in Hawaii in 2010. Four children in quick succession keep him young and active in his many ongoing projects and interests – mainly Lepidoptera taxonomy, distribution and insect-plant relationships. He loves music, collects maps and maintains a huge library and dry collection of moths and butterflies, some of which are named after him. He is also honoured in a New Zealand plant name. When Michael J Heads included *Nertera* species in the genus *Coprosma* (1996), two new name combinations were required. *Coprosma patrickii* (= *Nertera ciliata*) honours Brian Patrick, New Zealand entomologist.

Nertera ciliata

Nertera (Greek *nerteros* 'low down') in the family Rubiaceae is a genus of about 15 species of flowering plants from Malaysia, Central and South America and Australasia. Six species are native to New Zealand. Prostrate, creeping mat-forming herbaceous perennials growing to 20-40 cm across but only a few centimetres high, they are closely related to and sometimes included with *Coprosma*. The small, rather thick, pointed leaves of *Nertera ciliata* (Latin *cilium* 'eyelash', fringed with hairs) are usually finely hairy around the margins, and are non-foetid. The berry-like fruit are orange-red. *Nertera ciliata* (syn. *Coprosma patrickii*) grows in a variety of damp open sites (mostly at high altitude in the North Island) from Mt Pirongia southwards to Stewart Island.

