

Joshua Rutland (1836 – 1915)

Joshua Rutland, the eldest son of George and Maria Rutland, was born on 1 January 1836, at Kanturk in County Cork, Ireland. His English father had served under Arthur Wellesley, the 1st Duke of Wellington, and was inspector of constabulary in County Clare. When he died in May 1852, Maria took their five children to London and thence to New Zealand, arriving in Nelson in May 1853. She rented land at Waimea West and kept a few milking cows, while her eldest daughter Julia, aged 19, tutored the children of Sir David Monro at his nearby home, Bearcroft. She also taught her siblings Harriet, aged 11, and Henry, aged eight, at home. Fifteen-year-old George, a strong lad, went pit-sawing and working with bullocks, whereas Joshua, aged 17, with a delicate constitution and poor eyesight, was of limited help to the family but showed early interest in the local wildlife.



Celmisia rutlandii

A naturally uncommon species, *Celmisia rutlandii* is an alpine daisy found in fellfield and crevices in rock outcrops surrounded by tussock grassland on Mt Stokes, Richmond Range and Wairau mountains in the upper South Island. The plant forms a clump of 1–8 rosettes of coriaceous, rigid leaves (50–130 x 15–35 mm) with all but the oldest leaves erect. Flower heads are borne on purple flower stalks up to 250 mm tall, clad in loose white hairs, from November to February.

PHOTO: Gillian Crowcroft

In 1860 the family moved to Marlborough, walking their cows 34 miles over Mt Mangatapu and down the Pelorus Valley to partially cleared land, which included Te Patoa, an abandoned pa near present-day Canvastown. Four years later, with his share of gold discovered in the Wakamarina River, Joshua bought Te Patoa. He shared a house with his mother until her death in 1888, and remained there for the rest of his life, while George and his family lived in another house on the property. He helped his brother on the farm when he could, but his strengths were in administration and science.

In the 1870s he represented Pelorus on the Marlborough Provincial Council and was elected first chairman of the Pelorus Road Board and the Canvastown School Committee. As the first ranger employed by the Crown in Marlborough Province, Rutland advocated preservation of areas for endangered species rather than for scenic beauty. His first success, gazetted a scenic reserve in 1896, was a mainland area on Pelorus Sound where he had discovered old Māori dwelling pits. However, islands were favoured for farming because boundary fences were not needed, and it would be many years before they were protected.

It seems Rutland was well read and mainly self-taught. His first paper, "On the habits of the New Zealand grayling," was presented to the Otago Institute in 1878. Thomas Kirk visited Marlborough in 1886 and later described *Celmisia macmahonii* and *Celmisia rutlandii*, which were collected on Mt Stokes in January 1894 by Rutland's friend Joseph McMahan. Of Rutland's daisy, Kirk wrote, "I take this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to Mr Rutland, whose name is attached to this handsome plant, for his ready and continuous assistance in elaborating the botany of portions of the Nelson and Marlborough Districts."

Rutland also corresponded with Cheeseman, Cockayne and bryologist Naylor Beckett, but his poor eyesight precluded the use of the microscope and he gave up trying to identify mosses. He was especially interested in the distribution of plants and wrote a small work in which he "attempted to trace the origin of the Māori people by means of the plants found in cultivation among them by the early voyagers", prefaced by Surveyor General S Percy Smith (1897). From 1892 to 1905 Rutland reported in the *Journal of the Polynesian Society* about traces of ancient human occupation in the Pelorus. His last publication, in 1908, was on human heredity. He died in Havelock on 4 September 1915.