

Charles Herbert Treadwell (1862 – 1936)

Charles Herbert Treadwell was born in 1862 at Balmoral in Victoria, Australia, the eldest son of the Reverend James Treadwell of Gloucestershire, England, and Helen Mather (née Anderson) of Hamilton, Scotland. James had been educated at a boarding school in Coldstream, Berwickshire, and the University of Edinburgh, before training for the ministry at the Free Church Divinity Hall. He completed the course at the age of 23, and in September 1859 sailed for Victoria under the auspices of the Free Church Colonial Committee. Almost immediately he was called to the Balmoral and Harrow Presbyterian Charge. Six years later he returned to England with a young wife and two children, and for about ten years was minister for the Free Church Congregation at Stevenston, in North Ayrshire, Scotland. The five younger children were probably born there.

Charles Treadwell was educated at the Academy School in Ayr, and was also self-taught. He came to New Zealand with the family in 1876, when his father was appointed to succeed the Reverend Dr Elmslie at Wanganui. James Treadwell was to devote the rest of his life to the welfare of his flock; Charles went to Wellington to study law. In 1877 he was articled to George Hutchinson; he completed his articles under C H Borlase, and was admitted to the Bar in September 1883. He became managing clerk, and in May 1887 a member of the law firm established in 1842 by Robert Hart, which then became Buckley, Stafford and Treadwell.

He subsequently practised as Treadwell and Sons, and was succeeded by further generations of Treadwells. After relocating in 2006 from over 150 years in Panama Street, the firm now operates as Treadwells, with great-grandson Mical Shane Jervis Treadwell a senior partner.

On 11 April 1887 at St Paul's, Wanganui, Charles Treadwell married Ada Mary Lawrence, daughter of John Lawrence of Manchester, England. They were to have two sons, and a daughter.

Treadwell had a distinguished law career, and was president of the New Zealand Law Society (1934–35), treasurer for the New Zealand Law Reporting Council for a number of years, and also a member of the Wellington Philosophical Society. He found relaxation in bowls and horticulture, and cultivated, probably at his home, Hardwicke, in Lower Hutt, an unusual kowhai, which was known in gardening circles as *Sophora treadwellii* before being described as *Sophora longicarinata*.

Charles Herbert Treadwell died in 1936, and is commemorated in the name of a South Island high-altitude shrub, *Hebe treadwellii*, described in 1926 by botanist Leonard Cockayne as a new plant “from stony ground at almost 1200 m on Mt Oliver (Sealy Range).”

Hebe treadwellii

Hebe treadwellii is a small prostrate shrub, with two recognised forms. Sprawling, often rooting branches spread to a metre or more across and sometimes mound up to 15 cm. The rather stout, green branchlets have bifarious hairs (i.e. arranged in two opposite rows); the leaf buds have no sinus. Leaves, deeply concave and closely spaced, are shiny, medium to deep green on the upper surface, with hairs on the midrib, and a little paler beneath. The 2–3 cm racemes are few-flowered; the corolla is white with narrow lobes and short tubes. *Hebe treadwellii* occurs in subalpine and alpine shrubland and tussockland from the Victoria Range to Cascade River in Westland, and from Doubtful River to Sealy Range, Canterbury.

