

Dried Plant Specimens of Marlborough Plants,

(Row 2, left to right)

1. *Senecio monroi* – Monro's Ragwort

A small evergreen rounded shrub with yellow flowers.

2. *Celmisia monroi* – Monro's Mountain Daisy

Found in the north-eastern part of the South Island, from coast to alpine areas.

3. *Pachystegia insignis* - Marlborough Rock-Daisy, famous along the Kaikoura Coast

4. *Pachystegia rufa* – a smaller Rock Daisy with brown colouration on the reverse of the leaves.

5. *Dodonia viscosa 'Purpurea'* – Ake Ake, Hopbush

The bitter fruits have been used as a substitute for hops and yeast to make beer. **This purple leaved form was first discovered in Marlborough.**

WATCH OUT FOR THE BIRDS!

Can you find?

- (a) A yellow-eyed penguin, hoiho, is thought to now be the world's rarest penguin.
- (b) A Far-Eastern Curlew, its long, curved beak for probing for invertebrates in the mud of river estuaries.
- (c) The tall Australasian Bittern, Matuku hurepo, a shy wading bird found in marshlands, probably quite common locally in Monro's time.

In the case above the birds, you will see the delicate shell of a **Paper Nautilus**, a member of the octopus family, sometimes called Argonauts, but the shell is rarely found intact.

The case below has several specimens of crystals (including a geode in the corner of the case). These are all from Mt Lookout in the Awatere. There are also fossils on display mainly from Awatere Valley. Do you notice the odd specimen in here? The dried Tuatara was found in the Marlborough Sounds, now an important area for NZ's Tuatara population.

Suspended from the ceiling is a Puffer Fish, one of the largest examples ever found in Marlborough. Below that, are the jaws of a shark. Can you find the skull of a small dolphin?

The very large cabinet is filled with many birds. How many birds are there? Some unfortunately are now endangered or very rare.

The Bar-tailed Godwit is a record breaker, as in their migration they fly 11,000 kms from Alaska, non-stop across the Pacific to breed in New Zealand.

Did you discover the display of sea creatures found washed up on the shore, including sponges and starfish. Notice the Pipe Fish, a close relative of the seahorses. Watch out for the spike on the dried Leather Jacket fish.

Did you find the pair of Huia birds in the Victorian Sitting Room?

A VISITOR GUIDE TO WILD THINGS!



SIR DAVID MONRO

EXPLORE OUR COLONIAL GENTLEMAN'S STUDY

INSPIRED BY SIR DAVID MONRO

1813 – 1877

The Victorian Period of discovery and exploration (1837 – 1901) pushed the boundaries of knowledge which was shared on a global scale for the first time.

Sir David Monro (1813-1877)

David Munro was born in Edinburgh on 27th March 1813. He was educated in Edinburgh, where his father was Professor of Anatomy, and studied general studies at the University. This included chemistry, geology, and later Latin, Greek, Algebra and the Logic of Aristotle.

In 1832, he enrolled in the Edinburgh Medical School. Unfortunately he missed the botanical lectures due to being struck down by typhoid fever as a consequence of a puncture received during an autopsy.

In 1841, Monro bought four allotments of land in Nelson. On 12th May he set sail, as surgeon, on board the *Tasmania*, bound for Victoria, Australia.

He settled in Waimea West (Nelson) and was soon a leader in the settlement, becoming a J.P. in 1842 and two years later accompanying Frederick Tucker, the N.Z. Company's surveyor in a search for a suitable site for 'New Edinburgh' on the South Island. In the end Otago Harbour was chosen, soon to be called Dunedin.

Sir David Monro's property in Marlborough was 'Bankhouse', now part of Ara Wines property.

He was Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives from 1861 – 1870. In 1866, he was knighted for his services to the country as Speaker of the House.

Sir Charles Clifford, his predecessor in office, congratulated Monro on the knighthood, and noted that he himself (Clifford) was now no longer New Zealand's only Knight. Clifford himself was later created 1st Baronet Clifford of Flaxbourne, NZ, in 1867.

Botany, Discoveries and Rugby

During this time John Bidwell, a Sydney business man, explorer and botanist visited Monro as part of his plant collecting in New Zealand. He must have told Sir William Hooker, the Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, about Monro, as Hooker wrote to him regarding specimens from New Zealand.

Monro began seeking out plant species that he had not seen before on his general excursions and specific explorations of the Wairau area. He found, and dispatched, dried specimens and seeds to Kew, where they were described and named, eight were named after Monro.

Monro's son, Charles, introduced the game of rugby to New Zealand in 1870, at Nelson.

CHECK OUT THE DRAWERS FOR NATIVE MARLBOROUGH SNAILS PLUS LOCAL FOSSILS & CRYSTALS

Where are most of the fossils on display from?

Awatere Valley

Where are the crystals on display from?

Mt Lookout, Awatere Valley

What do the native land snails eat? Worms, which they suck up like a piece of spaghetti, slugs and little snails.

Where can I find out more about Marlborough fossils and crystals? The Rock and Mineral Club, next to the Museum, contact: 578 1661 or 577 5218.

The first Marlborough Plants sent back to England were collected by botanists who arrived with Captain James Cook in 1769.

The naturalists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, who sailed with Cook, gathered a great deal of information about the country's plants and animals. Their records formed the foundation for the modern study of New Zealand botany.

SCURVY GRASS *Lepidium oleraceum* (Row 1, left)

Captain Cook was known for his ability to keep his crew relatively healthy by feeding them "greens" to prevent scurvy. He sailed around the world without losing a single man to scurvy (for which he won the Copley Medal in 1776). When the Endeavour arrived in New Zealand, Cook found our native brassica, *Lepidium oleraceum*, which he found particularly effective. It was once widespread around the coast. The scurvy grass was mixed in 'portable soup' along with dried meat, to provide a daily meal full of healthy goodies. It was not at all delicious but the men were forced to eat it.

NATIVE CELERY *Apium prostratum* (Row 1, right)

Native celery has thick grooved stems and a thick, deep taproot with a creeping habit. It is found throughout New Zealand along the coast. Select the larger outside stalks leaving the rest of the plant to grow and eat raw, or cooked, the seeds can provide flavouring. This was another of the plants Cook used to prevent scurvy among his crew.

