

John Smaille Tennant Lecture 2017

A social history of the fern in New Zealand

Dr Patrick Brownsey

Patrick Brownsey, Research Fellow, Te Papa will discuss the role of the fern in the social history of New Zealand, and outline some of the reasons why it has achieved iconic status. From his experience as both Curator of Botany and Curator of Stamps at Te Papa, he will show how knowledge and understanding of New Zealand ferns was developed by early voyages of discovery and immigrant botanists, and how social fashions and frenzies influenced scientific understanding of New Zealand ferns, especially in the second half of the 19th century. The talk will be illustrated with material held at Te Papa and from a personal collection of ephemera.

Thursday 7 September | 6pm-7pm
Archway 3 Lecture Theatre | Union Street East
All Welcome

