

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

QVM 6, HERBARIUM RECORDS

MARY CAMERON, HONORARY BOTANIST (1972-2000)

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by a grant from the Plomley Foundation**

INTRODUCTION

Mary Patricia Cameron AM, BSc., ALAA was born on 31 July 1925 at Launceston, the elder daughter of Oscar Ralph and Ivy Helen Hart. Educated at East Launceston Primary School and Methodist Ladies College, she gained her BSc. with a major in Botany from the University of Tasmania in 1947. She was a demonstrator in Botany at the University in 1947 and 1948. Later she obtained a Secondary Teachers Certificate and became an Associate of the Library Association of Australia.

Mary married Rae Cameron in 1949 in Launceston. She subsequently worked as a secondary school science teacher for several years and was a part time reference librarian in the Northern Regional Library for some years while raising their family of six children.

After commencing work at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery as Honorary Museum Botanist in 1972, Mary was appointed Honorary Associate in Botany c1976, then Honorary Research Associate in Botany in 1986, the highest level of recognition given by the Museum to those who have made a substantial contribution to the Museum's activities.

She was a life member of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club and the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, chairman of the Royal Society of Tasmania (Northern Branch), member of the Australian Heritage Commission Tasmanian evaluation panel and of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service Flora Advisory Committee.

Mary was editor of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club's most successful *A guide to flowers & plants of Tasmania*, first published in 1981 and now in its eighth printing and third edition. She was also co-author of R H Green (ed) 'The vegetation, fauna and archaeology of Ordance Point, north-western Tasmania' in *Records of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery* no. 84, 1984, co-author of 'Plant foods of the Tasmanian Aborigines' in *Records of the Queen and Victoria Museum and Art Gallery* no. 101, 1993, had a paper included in 'Biogeography of northeast Tasmania' in *Records of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery* no. 103, 1996 and author of 'Cataract Gorge flora' in Launceston General Hospital Historical Committee 1998 *Papers and proceedings*.

She supervised and participated in a number of Museum research projects undertaken with funding from the Plomley Foundation between 1988 and 1998. These included natural history surveys and vegetation reports, a number of which are unpublished and held in the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Library.

In 1993 Mary was made a member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to botanical and environmental conservation. Another major award followed in 1999 when she was honoured by receipt of the Australian Natural History Medallion for her contributions in furthering knowledge and understanding of Australian flora.

Mary continued working in a voluntary capacity maintaining and curating the Museum's important Herbarium collection until shortly before her death. She passed away after a short illness on 3 January 2001 at Launceston.

The records were previously stored in the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Botany Department. They were arranged and described by Barbara Valentine in August 2002.

THE RECORDS

<i>Item No</i>	<i>Contents</i>	<i>Date Range</i>
<i>1. Correspondence</i>		
1/1	Mary Cameron's correspondence concerning plant identification	1979-2000, nd
1/2	Correspondence to Mary Cameron concerning botany from various organisations (includes 7/8/1980 continuation of appointment as Honorary Associate in Botany letter)	1979-99
1/3	Correspondence to Mary Cameron concerning botany from individuals	1983-99
1/4	Correspondence from Mary Cameron concerning botany to various organisations	1980-99
1/5	Correspondence from Mary Cameron concerning botany to individuals	1984-99
1/6	Undated correspondence from Mary Cameron concerning botany to various organisations (arranged alphabetically)	
1/7	Undated correspondence from Mary Cameron concerning botany to individuals (arranged alphabetically)	
1/8	Mary Cameron's personal correspondence (includes postcards)	1977-2000
1/9	Correspondence with Parks and Wildlife Service re Mary Cameron's permit to collect plants from reserved land	1983-98
<i>2. Papers</i>		
2/1	Alum Cliffs State Reserve (typed list of plants by J Nelson and T Alliano; handwritten list by Mary Cameron)	1997
2/2	Atkinson Collection (handwritten lists by Mary Cameron)	
2/3	Australian Heritage Commission. Tasmanian State Evaluation Panel (Natural Environment) (correspondence; lists; reports; Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 map of Tasmania)	1992, 1995-96
2/4	Bellingham (handwritten paper by Mary Cameron)	nd
2/5	Ben Lomond (handwritten notes by and correspondence with Mary Cameron)	1989-92

2/6	Biogeography of North-east Tasmania symposium (programme; 'The flora of the wetlands of north east Tasmania' by Mary Cameron; notes by Mary Cameron)	1995
2/7	Bridport Flora Reserve (handwritten list of plants by Mary Cameron, typed list, correspondence)	1969, 1970, 1979
2/8	Brooks Creek (handwritten survey of area around Brooks Creek – Ordnance Point by Mary Cameron)	1981
2/9	Cataract Gorge ('Flora of the Cataract Gorge' by Mary Cameron; 'Outcomes of the Cataract Gorge-First Basin landscape master plan workshop'; 'National Heritage Trust grant application vegetation management in the Cataract Gorge'; notes by Mary Cameron; correspondence)	nd, 1997, 1998
2/10	Census of Australian plants (Mary Cameron's correspondence re Australian Biological Resources Study)	1987
2/11	'The conservation of plant species in Tasmania' by Mary Cameron	nd
2/12	Dip Range (handwritten list of plants by Mary Cameron)	1989
2/13	'Dorset, Break O'Day, Spring Bay/Glamorgan Coastal and Marine Management Strategy', summary of background material by TASQUE; correspondence	1995
2/14	Ferns (Mary Cameron's correspondence with Michael Garrett, includes list 'Some ferns of Notley Fern Gorge')	1990-96
2/15	Finger Post Hill (handwritten survey notes by Mary Cameron; maps)	1990
2/16	Flora Advisory Committee (printed material, some annotated by Mary Cameron; correspondence)	1996-97
2/17	Flora lists (Flinders Island, Waterhouse Point, Bird Island, George Island, North-east Island; Blue Tier; various parts of Tasmania)	
2/18	Gog Range (reports; correspondence; maps; lists)	1988, 1991-92
2/19	<i>Guide to flowers & plants of Tasmania</i> , edited by Mary Cameron (handwritten notes by Mary Cameron re third printing)	
2/20	Heathland spider study by Tracey Churchill (information on the study; handwritten lists of plants at Waterhouse Protected Area and Eddystone Point by Mary Cameron)	1986-88
2/21	Henderson Lagoon Heathland (papers; lists; correspondence; maps, etc)	1992, 1994-95

2/22	John Skemp Field Centre (National Heritage Trust submission)	1999
2/23	Launceston Field Naturalists Club (club programme cards 1964-1999 (incomplete); membership list, 1992; historical notes; notes re John Skemp and Skemps, with list of plants; Mary Cameron's manuscript Field Naturalists excursion notebook 1966-79, 1991; Paul Barnett <i>Check list of ferns of Holwell Gorge</i> (1975); correspondence (9 letters))	
2/24	Lagoon of Islands (correspondence to Mary Cameron)	1984-86
2/25	Launceston Municipality ('Areas of outstanding botanical interest within the Launceston Municipality', handwritten paper by Mary Cameron)	nd
2/26	Macquarie Island mosses and lichens (photocopies of letters etc concerning Norman Laird's collection)	1949-52
2/27	Maggs Mountain ('Forest Ecology Study, Botany' report by R H Green; pencil drawing of vegetation)	1974
2/28	Merthyr Park, Lilydale (handwritten list of plants by Mary Cameron, printed lists of plants)	1991, 1997
2/29	Mt Arthur ('Plant communities of Mt Arthur, Northeast Tasmania', handwritten notes, lists etc by Mary Cameron; Andrew Hingston's field notes)	c1995
2/30	National Parks and Wildlife Service forestry survey (handwritten and typed lists of plants by Mary Cameron)	1978
2/31	Northwest Beaches (handwritten and typed list of plants by Mary Cameron)	1998
2/32	Orchids (correspondence; lists re orchid atlas of Australia)	1992-93
2/33	Plomley Foundation (papers concerning projects and proposed projects)	1990-97
2/34	Port Arthur (computer printout of items from Port Arthur in the QVM Herbarium)	nd
2/35	Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Herbarium Collection (history of the collection; annual reports 1985/86-1997/98; Mary Cameron's handwritten lists of orchids etc; 28/1/1972 letter from T E Burns explaining his numbering system for specimens)	
2/36	Regional Forests Agreement (correspondence etc; species list annotated by Mary Cameron)	1996

2/37	St Helens Landcare Group (Rae Glazik, 'Botanical survey for crown land parcel UPI 0581376')	1999
2/38	St Pauls River Bridge on Royal George Road (correspondence; plan of bridge; list of plants; list of plants found at Avoca Causeway, St Pauls River, 1975, 1979 by Mary Cameron)	1982
2/39	Seltrust Mining Corporation Pty Ltd (Fingal-Avoca area) (copy of report on botanical features by J B Kirkpatrick and A Moscal)	1982
2/40	Stoney Head Training Area (correspondence and report by Mary Cameron)	1984,1986
2/41	Tail Race, Riverside (typed list of suggested plants)	1997
2/42	Tamar Regional Master Planning Authority (ecological clunes forms filled in by Mary Cameron)	1990
2/43	Tamar River Improvement Study (report on environmental aspects; correspondence; handwritten plant list by Mary Cameron)	1986
2/44	[Tasmanian endemic plants] handwritten paper by Mary Cameron	nd
2/45	Threatened Species (handwritten list of threatened plants by Mary Cameron; lists of rare and threatened flora annotated by Mary Cameron; Flora Advisory Committee, <i>Native higher plant taxa which are rare or threatened in Tasmania</i> , (Hobart, 1994); correspondence)	1990-96
2/46	Tom Gibson Nature Reserve (draft management plan; correspondence etc)	1994-95
2/47	"Truelands", Campbell Town (typed list of vegetation of gully and part of hillside)	1979
2/48	Tunbridge (typed list of plants in Tunbridge crown land block; correspondence between Mary Cameron and Louise Gilfedder)	c1987
2/49	Vegetation lists (Henry Somerset Herbarium; Elizabeth Richardson, Three Hummock Island; Steane & Cameron, Tamar River; Tamar region (handwritten and typed))	1988-89
2/50	Wetlands of north-east Tasmania (handwritten papers by Mary Cameron, plot lists; corrected printouts, 2 notebooks, 7 b&w photographs)	1988-92, 1992-93 1993-94
2/51	Whole Farm Planning (handwritten notes on native flora on farms by Mary Cameron; 'Vegetation of the Tamar region' by Mary Cameron)	nd

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| 2/52 | ‘Whose name? What specimen?’ (handwritten report by Mary Cameron on a workshop hosted by Australian Biological Resources Study held in Canberra) | 1988 |
| 2/53 | ‘Report on some wetlands of north-east Tasmania, 1994. Mary Cameron & D Steane’ (floppy disk) | |
| 2/54 | ‘The flora of the wetlands of north eastern Tasmania. Seminar paper’ and ‘Bridport flora reserve – flora list’ by Mary Cameron (floppy disk) | |

3. Diaries and Botanical Notebooks

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|-----|--|---------------------|
| 3/1 | Mary Cameron’s appointment diaries (1984, 1985 (2 diaries - <i>Wilderness diary</i> contains list of plants at Skemps on last page) 1987-1999) | 1984-85,
1987-99 |
| 3/2 | Botanical notebook ([T E Burns]) | 1945-52 |
| 3/3 | Botanical notebooks (4 notebooks belonging to E A Gee, Trevallyn) | 1965-74 |
| 3/4 | Botanical notebooks (12 notebooks belonging to Mary Cameron) | 1966-98 |
| 3/5 | Botanical notebooks, (4 notebooks belonging to J Glennie, 4 Wattle Way, Launceston) | 1981-94 |

4. Miscellaneous Records

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| 4/1 | Curriculum vitae, Mary Patricia Cameron | |
| 4/2 | Australian Biological Resources Study, application by Mary Cameron | 1982 |
| 4/3 | List of books donated to Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery by Mary Cameron | 1991 |
| 4/4 | “Mary’s out to save State’s lost bush’, photocopy of <i>Examiner</i> cutting 28/11/1990 (includes photograph of Mary Cameron); ‘Years of work by botanist wins AM’, [<i>Examiner</i> cutting June 1993] (includes photograph of Mary Cameron) | 1990
1993 |
| 4/5 | Invitations to Government House | 1993, 1995 |
| 4/6 | Expression of interest re abandoned tin fields, N E Tasmania, by David Steane (Mary Cameron was to be involved in project) | 1997 |

5. Photographs and Slides

5/1	Album of photographs of orchids	
5/2	Sheet of 4 photographs of <i>E brookerana</i> , Tower Hill; (2) 95 by 120 mm colour photographs of eucalypts	1980
5/3	<i>Microtis rara</i> , 1982; <i>Microtis parviflora</i> , 1982; <i>Prasophyllum beagleholei</i> , 1984 (205 by 255 mm colour photographs)	1982, 1984
5/4	Mary Cameron and D Barratt with <i>Calvatia gigantea</i> (205 by 225 mm b& w photograph)	1982
5/5	Mosses and lichens ((12) 100 by 150 mm colour photographs)	
5/6	<i>Richea curtisiae</i> from Western Arthurs ((2) 150 by 100 mm colour photographs)	1997
5/7.1	Slides of Tasmanian orchids collected by Jeff Campbell	nd
5/7.2	Slides of Tasmanian orchids collected by Jeff Campbell	nd
5/7.3	Slides of Tasmanian orchids collected by Jeff Campbell	nd
5/7.4	Slides of Tasmanian orchids collected by Jeff Campbell	nd
5/7.5	Slides of Tasmanian orchids collected by Jeff Campbell	nd
5/7.6	Slides of Tasmanian orchids collected by Jeff Campbell	nd
5/7.7	Slides of Tasmanian orchids collected by Jeff Campbell	nd
5/7.8	Slides of Tasmanian orchids collected by Jeff Campbell	nd
5/7.9	Slides of Tasmanian orchids collected by Jeff Campbell	nd

6. Maps

6/1	Ben Lomond Skifields Development Plan. Site plan Recommendations (<i>Oversized item</i>)	1989
6/2	Mount Roland Protected Area. Lands Department Survey Division, P.P. 9-2 (<i>Oversized item</i>)	1979
6/3	Tamar Region ecological (<i>Oversized item</i>)	1985
6/4	Tamar Region constraints (<i>Oversized item</i>)	1985
6/5	Tasmania 1:500 000, 1973 (with handwritten heading 'Approximate locations of rare and endangered plants',	1979

includes Mary Cameron's list to accompany map, her handwritten lists and correspondence) (*Oversized item*)

6/6 Trevallyn State Recreation Area. Lands Department Survey Division, L.M. 164 (*Oversized item*)

1980

OTHER SOURCES

QVM Staff File 'Mary Cameron, Honorary Associate in Botany'

CHS 59 Oscar Ralph Hart Collection

CHS 60 John Rowland Skemp Records

CHS 61 Thomas Edgar Burns Records