Our thanks to the leader Mr. Warren assisted by Mr. Mead for a pleasant and interesting day.

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UNIVERSITY RESERVE. KELLY'S ROAD ORATIA. --------L.W.Butler

20th April, 1968. This was not a very pleasant day, showery with reasonably fine periods. We arrived at the area about 10 a.m. and walked down the road to enter the bush from the roadside. The undergrowth was rather damp but the bush opened out about a chain from the road. The first find was Mida salicifolia at various stages of growth, with an odd Olea lanceolata here and there, which enabled us to examine some of the distinguishing points between the two.

On the slope down to the gully below we found Dacrydium kirkii with its adult and juvenile foliage and Dacrydium colensoi was also noticed. Rimu, totara, kauri and kahikatea were seen here. Down at the bottom of the gully in the damp area were two large specimens of Eugenia maire. We went up the other side of the valley and on to a ridge where, amongst a large area of kauri, we found an extraordinary profusion of the fan fern, Schizaea dichotoma. I have never before seen sucha number in a small area like this.

We found two types of Pterostylis - P.trullifolia var.rubella and P.trullifolia var.alobula also several patches of Bulbophyllum pygmaeum on trees at the side of the track. We were a bit early in the year for other ground orchids which we know are to be found there.

At a small area free enough of plants we stopped and squatted down to have a damp lunch, after which we returned to the road and back to the bus. We then walked along the West Coast Road for a short distance and some of the members went down to a gully on one of the local residents' land.

After a wet but quite enjoyable and instructive day we returned to town, arriving about 4.30 p.m.

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SCENIC RESERVE, WARKWORTH. --- 18th May,1968--- A.D.Palmer

Just after 9 a.m. we were settled in the bus ready to go, when we were told that there was a leak in the oil pipe and another bus would have to be sent for! This finally arrived and we set out at 9.45 a.m., across the Harbour Bridge, and along the No.1 Highway to our destination, a scenic reserve just outside Warkworth.

On arrival we walked along a narrow road leading up to an old, temporarily empty house, the terrace of which provided us witha dry place for lunch and somewhere to leave our packs. After lunch we slipped and slithered across a small ditch and intered the scenic reserve. The first thing that caught my attention by sticking its prickles into my hand was a specimen of bush lawyer, Rubus cissoides.

We started to wind our way up to the ridge, supplejack making the going quite difficult in places, and saw many nikau palms at first with Coprosma rhamnoides the predominant undershrub. On the steeper banks there were several areas of Rhabdothamnus solandri but none were in flower.

Higher up, growing amongst the fallen needles of a rimu, were several plants of the tiny orchid Acianthus fornicatus var. sinclairii and also Nertera dichondraefolia. Quite a number of sizeable specimens of native broom (Carmichaelia) were present as well as a small one with juvenile foliage. Coprosma australis was found in flower. Schefflera digitata, Podocarpus totara, Beilschmiedia tawa, Myrsine australis. Olearia rani, Coprosma arborea C. lucida, pukatea, kohekohe, kahikatea and a young clematis plant were all noted.

At the top of the ridge, where gorse and cattle are invading, there was a solitary specimen of beech, Nothofagus truncata. We walked along the top of the ridge for some way, seeing Metrosideros fulgens in flower. Metrosideros diffusa and M. perforata were also present but had finished flowering. Some Bulbophyllum pygmaeum, in flower, was found growing on a kauri and nearby there was a specimen of Pittosporum tenuifolium.

We dropped down the steepish slope towards the stream again, some unintentionally going down in somewhat undignified positions! A large Vitex lucens growing on the slope was shedding many of its flowers which seem to remain in good condition on the ground for some time. The filmy fern, Mecodium demissum, was growing in several places on these dryish slopes, a habitat favoured also by the fern Lindsaea trichomanoides.

Also seen during the visit were Knightia excelsa, Weinmannia racemosa, Pteris macilenta (1 plant) and a few kidney ferns.

We returned to the bus and went on for a quick look at the Simpson kauris at Warkworth. A new road has been put through leading to quite near the two largest kauris. Behind these are many younger kauris, some of which appeared to be forked, presumably a result of two seedlings growing alongside each other and subsequently fusing together at the base. Much rejuvenation of other species was also in evidence.

The few showers during the day failed to dampen our spirits and I think most of us were well satisfied with our day's botanising. We had an uneventful journey home, (Idid anyway, I was asleep most of the way) arriving in the city about 5 p.m.