solandri all making our progress rather difficult.

After our return to the ski chalet a sub group went out with Jack Rattenbury in search of the North Island edelweiss Leucogenes leontopodium. We followed the Whakapapaiti track and eventually found our quarry as the mist descended. The plant seen was quite healthy but seemed not to have flowered this season.

THURSDAY 23 JAN.

Jessica and John drove round towards Rotoaira and then took the track to Ketetahi Springs on the northern slopes of Mt Tongariro. Passing first through podocarp forest dominated by Hall's totara, and then into a tussock-shrubland which gave way to a more or less pure tussockland at higher altitude, they were able to add some 25 moss records to the list Jessica was preparing (see separate article). The roaring steam vents and boiling mud half hidden in swirling steam proved ample reward for the effort of the climb, not to mention a soak (of the feet in Jessica's case, to the neck in John's) in the thermal waters.

A second pair, Ross and Jim went back up the Ohakune-Turoa road mainly to seek truffles under the Nothofagus fusca and the N. menziesii leaf litter which occurs part way up the road. Truffles and their allies were elusive in the morning, but later they found the bright red truffle Paurocotylis pila, in the rimu forest later along with another bright red patch supplied by Tropaeolum speciosum. They also confirmed the identification of mistletoes seen on Tuesday. They spent a while on the lower track to Blythe Hut where a feature was the common occurrence of Astelia grandis with its strong upright leaves and sometimes nearby A. fragrans whose narrower leaves tend to droop in the upper half.

Another group, loyal to the leader to the last, followed Jack Rattenbury along the Mangatepopo Track to the Silica Springs. Their loyalty was rewarded by a number of finds: Gentiana bellidifolia, the first seen with fully expanded flowers, Myrsine nummularia covered with fruit as if to prove a point made earlier by Jack R., that purple berries implies Myrsine, and several other plants worth photographing (the photos were shown to a curiously small audience at the Bot.Soc. meeting 7 May) Parahebe hookeriana, Raoulia hookeri var. albo-sericea, Muehlenbeckia axillaris, Cyathodes fraseri, Montia fontana, Neopaxia (Claytonia) australasica.

Woodcocks Reserve — R. Afford

In reply to Maureen Young's conjecture about the planting of ferns in Woodcocks Reserve, (ABS NL 41: 4) Rich Afford reports:

On 20 Sept 1970, Mr Warren led a Natural History Club field trip to Woodcocks Reserve. Mr Woodcock, who was very elderly, took them through the Reserve and told them **he** had planted the ferns.