stream. The trees were resplendent in fruit, the black seeds in their swollen red receptacles being quite spectacular - surely one of the best seasons for fruiting. Podocarpus totara, Dacrydium cupressinum (rimu), Phyllocladus trichomanoides (tanekaha), Libocedrus plumosa (kawaka), Melicope simplex, Knightia excelsa (rewarewa), Pittosporum tenuifolium (kohuhu), Lophomyrtus bullata (ramarama), Alectryon excelsus (titoki), Dodonaea viscosa (akeake), Pseudopanax crassifolium (horocka, lancewood), Griselinia lucida, G. littoralis, Coprosma australis, C.lucida, C. robusta. The Coprosmas were fruiting very heavily. A fine specimen of Nestegis cunninghamii (black maire), Podocarpus spicatus (matai), Podocarpus ferrugineus (miro), Neopanax anomalum, Melicytus micranthus and Dicksonia fibrosa (several specimens).

There were many others both large and small but our time at this stage was limited. A feature of the valley through which the road passes is the profusion of tree ferns which appear almost like a cascade of green down the slopes, this green contrasting with the darker foliage of the rewarewas and Podocarps and the vivid scarlet of kahikatea and Coprosma fruits.

We arrived back in good time after a most enjoyable day for which we thank our leader, Mr. Braggins, who had given so much time and thought in planning it.

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PUKAPUKA. 15th. May, 1971. A.D. Mead.

This trip took us to a Rodney County scenic reserve of 360 acres in the Pukapuka area south of the Mahurangi Harbour, reached by Cowans Bay Road, which branches off the main north highway towards the coast some miles south of Warkworth. The reserve, milled for kauri many years ago, is fenced to exclude cattle and has regenerated well and offers a good typical example of the lower North Auckland bush. A mishap to the bus, which got trapped by a deceptively thin road crust over soft bottom and required the assistance of a tow wagon, combine with an afternoon thunderstorm, limited the time available for exploration of the reserve, but under the leadership of Mr.F.Warren we were able to enjoy the rich assortment of native growth on one of the higher ridges adjoining the road.

This would be described as mainly a kauri regeneration area, carrying plentiful pole kauri with larger trees up to six feet in girth. Interspersed were rimu, totara, puriri, tawa, rewarewa, kowhai, tanekaha, towai (by no means a complete list) and among the understory nikau and twiggy Coprosmas, mingimingi, lancewood, Nestegis lanceolata, Myrsine australis, Carmichaelia aligera and Olearia furfuracea. Two ground orchids in flower, Pterostylis brumalis and Acianthus fornicatus were observed. Ferns were rather scanty in the small area we traversed; if time had permitted visiting the gully on the block they would no doubt have been plentiful enough, but perhaps the dainty ground fern Lindsaea trichomanoides, somewhat rare and, as in the Waitakeres, associated with this rather open regenerating kauri on dry spurs, is worth recording.

Of special interest were two small stands of beech, Nothofagus truncata; these were not pure stands but each consisted of a few trees only, in close neighbourhood among the other trees. The mode of occurrence of these occasional beech remnants in North Auckland would merit a special study. As

in this case they seem to be found only on drier hillsides and poor soil, and more or less grouped. In the Waitakeres at Titirangi we have three almost pure small stands of beech; in the Hunuas the stands are larger and as it were islands in the surrounding sea of mixed bush, and as one proceeds further south in New Zealand the stands are much more extensive, until in the South Island whole forests are composed almost exclusively of beech. Aside from the beech, the reserve near Pukapuka, in the short time we were able to enjoy it, gave the impression that it would well merit a full botanical study.

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MT. HIKURANGI WEEK-END. 5th,6th Dec. 1970.

What an inspiration of the Poverty Bay Horticultural Society's Committee to organize a trip to see the alpine garden on Mt. Hikurangi. Peter Pole's planning left nothing to be desired and our leader, Phil McDiarmid, with his kindness and tolerance, cheered along the grandmothers.

Some 23 of us started up that long 6 hour haul, mostly with our packs on our backs, reminiscent of all those snails we've been at such pains to exterminate! A pleasant crowd, we enjoyed the brilliantly fine day with its cooling breezes.

Few plants took our attention, apart from great drifts of the delightful little white Pratia angulata and, nearing the Gisborne Tramping Club's hut at 3910 ft. above sea level, some rather dry clumps of Polystichum vestitum, which were also abundant beside the hut in a damp watercourse.

Some slept indoors, while others of us preferred the stars above us, in spite of brisk breezes, and eager photographers were out to catch the British Empire's first beams of sunshine on the stark, dead tree trunks. By 6 a.m. all were scrambling up the 500 ft. high scree behind the hut. A large proportion of the rubble is now being stabilized by the tiny green tutu, Coriaria plumosa, and by Norman Pott's tutu, Coriaria pottsiana, a small fine-leaved reddish plant peculiar to Hikurangi. A tiny introduced nettle cunningly grows with this, as several members discovered when needing a handhold and the irritation and swelling lasted some hours.

Over the top of the scree and straight into stunted bush where broadleaf, Griselinia littoralis; konini, Fuchsia excorticata; three leatherwoods, Olearia colensoi, Olearia ilicifolia, Senecio elaeagnifolius; three different beeches, Nothofagus menziesii, fusca and solandri; two grass-trees, Dracophyllum pyramidale and D. recurvum; pink pine, Dacrydium biforme; rimu, Dacrydium cupressinum; pepper tree, Pseudowintera colorata; tawari, Ixerba brexioides; Persoonia toru; Libocedrus bidwillii were all seen and no doubt many others were present.

First delight in the bush was a cool bank with masses of Ourisia macrocarpa in bloom, with the little creeping lily, Luzuriaga parviflora not yet in bloom, hanging below shaded rocks.

Still climbing for some further 200 ft. we were soon amongst rocks literally covered with alpine flowers at their best. The little white everlasting, Helichrysum bellidioides carpeted everything, setting off the bright yellow 2" blooms of the buttercup, Ranunculus insignis. Great spires