around everything, the picturesque Cordyline indivisa. Forstera bidwillii was another old friend I hadn't seen for years. Hebe odora and stricta var egmontiana were somehow bigger and brighter than their lowland counterparts. By and large a most interesting evening. E.D.H.

HUIA 24 April 1965 - - - F.M.Warren

The highlight of this trip was to have been the examination of a fine stand of monoao (Dacrydium kirkii) but the weather decreed otherwise. After 3 weeks of glorious sunshine and blue skies, the rain set in and took charge in no uncertain manner. It was most unfortunate, as we were a party of over 30. However we took off in high spirits, and plodded steadily through the rain until the middle camp was reached. Here Mr. Tom Wood led us to the shelter of an old tramping club hut where we had lunch, some sitting on the floor, some on a heap of dry teatree, and some just standing. Everyone seemed cheerful and happy, although somewhat damp. After lunch a council of war was held. The trip to the Dacrydiums was abandoned, as it meant crossing the stream and wading probably more than knee deep. The majority elected to tramp a further 2 miles with Mr. Wood to see the dam, while the remainder worked their way quietly back towards Huia and the bus.

The rain eased a little, then descended more heavily than ever. It was a very wet party that returned from the dam, but there were no complaints. It seems they found the sight most rewarding, making their unpleasant walk well worthwhile. Botanically the trip was far from perfect, but through rain-bleared eyes I did notice Pratia angulata and Hoheria populnea, both in flower; Quintinia serrata and a fine stand of kauri and other trees on a ridge not far distant. It is unfortunate that this interesting area will shortly be closed to us. However we have had the opportunity of seeing the site of the new dam and that part of the valley which is to be cleared of bush. Our thanks are tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Wood for leading the trip under such atrocious conditions. F.M.W.

CHARACTERES GENERUM PLANTARUM J.R. & G. Forster 1776.

Johannes Reinold Forster LL.D.,F.R.S., was a German of eventual Scottish ancestry. In no book I have read has a single good word been said of him. An improvident lawyer-cum-parson, he was middle-aged, rheumatic and stony-broke; learned in his way but knowing little out of his way; cursed with a petulant nature and a bitterly critical tongue; the world disliking - by the world disliked. Yet he must have been possessed of considerable technical skill and knowledge to have obtained the gowernment - sponsored post of Naturalist to Cook's second voyage, not to mention an F.R.S. And in a period of patronage, an ability to impress and persuade.