

which at their best are comparable with Olema and although we were a little early for the best displays we saw a number of trees in flower, especially at the start of the Kauri Grove Track.

Among less common plants noted were a Pittosporum kirkii growing terrestrially, Mida salicifolia, Carmichaelia aligera and among the ferns, Cyathea smithii and the climbing fern Lygodium articulatum with its unusual fertile fronds.

At lunch time Miss Crookes revived a custom that is falling into disuse in our society by using specimens collected during the morning as the basis for identification of notable plants and for some discussion of their ecological place in the bush. Our thanks to Miss Crookes for this exposition and for the time and trouble she had gone to to make our trip worthwhile.

It was a happy day for us all and when we heard the following week that Mrs Wills had died suddenly, our sadness was lightened by the thought that this pleasant spring walk had been shared with her and that she had enjoyed it so much.

TAUMARANUI TRIP JANUARY 1976

V. RAMSAY

On Saturday 24th. January, 19 of us set off for Taumaranui. We stopped at the lake in Hamilton to enjoy our lunch, and were amused by the ducks and swans competing for lunch scraps. Our bus arrived at Taumaranui in good time and after settling into our comfortable Motel rooms, complete with colour T.V. sets, we had time for a stroll around the shopping centre before dinner at the Hotel. The new railway station is well on the way to completion and we all admired the beautiful flower beds and well kept lawns bordering the railway. Further along past the shops tall roses were in full bloom.

Sunday, 25th. January We set off for Chateau Tongariro and on arrival spent a short time looking around the Information Centre before setting out along the Taranaki Falls Track. On both sides of the track there was much of interest. Among Olearia nummularifolia were plants of Euphrasia cuneata, Celmisia gracilentia and the dainty Wahlenbergia pygmaea. Dracophyllum longifolium was flowering freely and on the banks we found D. recurvum. Hebe venustula was well established and many Coprosma were in berry. We saw Dacrydium bidwillii and the manuka, Leptospermum scoparium, was flowering profusely. We noted Astelia nervosa, Gaultheria depressa, G. antipoda, Cassinia vauvilliersii and Parahebe catarractae. Among the trees were mountain beech, Nothofagus solandri var. cliffortioides, Phyllocladus alpinus and Coprosmas including C. cheesemanii, C. foetidissima, C. tenuifolia, C. pseudocuneata, C. parviflora and C. microcarpa, Olearia arborescens, Pseudopanax colensoi, Griselinia littoralis, Libocedrus bidwillii, Podocarpus hallii and Aristotelia fruticosa. We found both tutu, Coriaria arborea and C. pteridioides and

the little heath Pentachondra pumila. The ferns included Blechnum capense, B. mirus, B. penna-marina, Gleichenia dicarpa var. alpina, Polystichum vestitum, P. sylvaticum. We saw a Thelymitra orchid with a mauve flower with spots, the small daisy Lagenophora cuneata, Celmisia incana, C. spectabilis, C. gracilentia, Helichrysum bellidioides, Gnaphalium kerienne and Drosera spatulata.

Reluctantly we returned to the bus for lunch, after which we followed the track leading to Silica Springs. We spent a little time looking at specimens planted in the Alpine Garden and then crossed the footbridge over the Whakapapanui stream. As well as many trees we had seen during our morning walk, we found Pseudopanax edgerleyi, P. simplex, Melicytus, Coprosma tenuifolium, a Rubus with red prickles, Cordyline indivisa, Hebe stricta and many plants of the violet; Viola cunninghamii. Although we searched the tops of the beech trees, we failed to find the mistletoe, Elytranthe tetrapetala, reported to be growing in the area. The orchid Pterostylis australis was flowering and there were many mosses and filmy ferns.

Monday, 26th. January found us at Mt. Hauhangataka with the mist well down to the upper bush line. As we entered the track, we found Pimelia prostrata and Aciphylla as well as flowering flax bushes. The trees and shrubs included kamahi, miro, rangiora, Coprosma australis, C. lucida, Myrsine salicina, lancewood, putaputaweta, Nestegis cunninghamii, Pseudowintera colorata, P. axillaris, Melicytus micranthus, M. ramiflorus, Pseudopanax ancmalus, P. edgerleyi, matai, rimu, Metrosideros diffusa, Melicope simplex, Pennantia corymbosa, Aristotelia serrata, Elaeocarpus dentatus.

Ferns noted were Blechnum penna-marina, B. lanceolatum, B. fluviatile, B. discolor, B. patersonii, Histiopteris incisa, Hypolepis rugosula, Microsorium diversifolium, Todea hymenophylloides, T. superba, Asplenium bulbiferum, A. flaccidum, Polystichum sylvaticum, Leptolepis novae-zelandiae, Hymenophyllum dilatatum, H. multifidum, Ctenopteris heterophylla and the tree ferns Cyathea smithii and Dicksonia squarrosa. We found the orchid Corybas trilobus, the buttercup Ranunculus hirtus, Lycopodium billardieri, Parsonsia, Muehlenbeckia, Astelias and a large stink horn fungus.

After lunch, we explored the bog area over the railway line at Erua Station and found Utricularia, Viola lyallii, Celmisia gracilentia, Haloragis, Drosera binata, Blechnum penna-marina, Olearia virgata and Dracophyllum, possibly subulatum.

Tuesday, 27th. January We set off for National Park in the rain. We made a brief stop at a Rest Area and found much of interest in a small area in spite of the cold and dampness. A totara tree had fallen, and in the manner we associate with puriri had sprouted five trees from the fallen trunk. Growing in this bush were Pseudopanax colensoi, Aristotelia fruticosa, Luzuriaga parviflora, Melicope simplex, Pseudowintera colorata, Melicytus lanceolatus, Dacrydium intermedium, Libocedrus bidwillii, Pseudopanax crassifolius and a carpet of ferns. There were splendid specimens of Todea superba covering a bank. Arriving at National Park

we crossed to the bush and found matai, Gaultheria antipoda, G. depressa, Neomyrtus pedunculata, Pittosporum colensoi, Melicope simplex, Coprosma microcarpa, Astelia fragrans, Carmichaelia flagelliformis. Among the ferns were Blechnum penna-marina, Polystichum vestitum, Todea superba, Asplenium flaccidum. We found the orchid Microtis unifolia and several patches of Pratia angulata.

As the rain persisted, after lunch we drove down to Raurimu, now a ghost village, and while some walked along the road, others explored a small bush area adjacent to an old saw mill and found Fuchsia excorticata, Alseuosmia macrophylla, Clematis paniculata and Metrosideros perforata.

We were interested to see the Railcar coming down part of the spiral and noted an unusual leaf on a blackberry growing where our bus was parked.

Wednesday, 28th. January We went to Owango and into the Scenic Reserve. We ran into heavy rain and while most stayed in the bus as it continued down to the bridge over the river, several of us walked down the road in persistent rain squalls. The main tree as we entered was Beilschmiedia tawa, with Aristotelia fruticosa, Fuchsia excorticata, Melicotus lanceolatus, Neomyrtus pedunculata, rangiora, rewarewa, rimu, tutu, hinau, Coprosma australis, Pittosporum eugenioides, and mahoe. On the banks were numerous seed heads of Thelymitra orchids and we noticed Pterostylis, Microtis unifolia and Farina mucronata. After lunch we walked along the lower road where there were many large kahikatea and a very tall miro and on the banks Dracophyllum strictum and Gaultheria paniculata. In the bush we found many ferns including Asplenium flaccidum, Blechnum capense, B. discolor, B. fluviatile, B. patersonii, Crepidopteris endlicheriana, the kidney fern Cardiomanes reniforme, Cyclosorus penniger, Paesia scaberula, Polystichum vestitum, Polyphlebium venosum, Hymenophyllum dilatatum, H. flabellatum, Microsorium diversifolium, Todea hymenophyllioides, one frond of which measured 26½" plus 1" rachis. After climbing a stile we continued through bush where there were several fine specimens of Dicksonia fibrosa with their sturdy trunks. We noticed Lycopodium volubile and Rubus schmidelioides and a Cordyline australis with very long leaves.

Thursday, 29th. January brought to an end a most interesting holiday and we set off home in the rain. We made a short stop near Te Kuiti at Mangakewea Reserve to find a new footbridge over the stream. We spent an interesting few minutes looking at the trees and plants growing amongst the limestone rocks and though we did not find the plant there were several of the orange native passion fruit on the ground. After a stop at Te Awamutu for lunch we arrived back in Auckland before four o'clock.