Mt. Arthur is limestone and has many special plants - it was full of sink holes in which were delightful gardens, sometimes Ranunculus insignis 2" high in flower and Celmisias and Epilobiums. In an open area near the top was Epilobium margaretae, a tiny flat plant with many long red seed pods. Another intriguing plant was a flat cushion one yard across of Anisotome imbricata, mainly found much further south. I was also very fortunate to see Poranthera alpina, a neat cushion in full flower.

A very wonderful area, thankfully unlikely to become over popular because of the considerable effort required in getting there.

A DAY IN THE WAITAKERES WITH MISS CROOKES

On a greyish but fine morning a busload of 28 members headed for a day in the Waitakeres with Sharp's Bush and Walker's Track as their objective, but when the bus drew up in Mountain Road we were told we were invited to have morning tea with Miss Crookes at her bush-surrounded home looking out over folds of the ranges and across the upper harbour, and afar to the harbour and Rangitoto. What an unexpected treat for everyone and certainly we not only enjoyed the views but did more than justice to the tea and excellent home-made pikelets.

We then found that Miss Crookes was to be the leader for the day and we all set out to follow in her footsteps along Sharp's Bush Track. After a very wet winter the track was in surprisingly good order and before long we were all busy observing a fine assortment of plants and ferns, and exclaiming over large patches of the orchid Pterostylis alobula in flower and marvelling at the tiny Bulbophyllum pygmaeum which grows on the eastern sides of kauri trunks. Other orchids seen were Acianthus fornicatus var. sinclairii and Acianthus reniformis, as well as the epiphytic bunches of Earina autumnalis and E. mucronata. The red drupes of Nertera dichondraefolia made attractive ground mats and Lycopodium volubile twisted gracefully through the undergrowth.

After our picnic lunch we set out on the Walker's Bush Track where there are two large specimen kauri trees of noble proportions, one of them shading the resting place of the ashes of the late W.R. Walker after whom the track was named. Two plants along this track were of special interest - a Kirk's daisy, Senecio kirkii, growing as an epiphyte and also in flower, and Pittosporum cornifolium which, contrary to its usual epiphytic habit, was growing as a bush and looking very handsome with its shining black seeds ringed by the reddish-orange capsule valves.

This track proved to be quite a treasure house of ferns, the following species being seen:- Anarthropteris lanceolata, Asplenium lucidum, A. flaccidum and A. falcatum, Blechnum capense,

B. fraseri and B. filiforme, Cyathea dealbata and C. medullaris, Hymenophyllum revolutum, H. flabellatum, H. ferrugineum, H. demissum, H. rarum, H. sanguinolentum, H. multifidum, H. dilatatum and H. lyallii, Trichomanes venosum, Lindsaea trichomanoides, Rumohra adiantiformis, Cardiomanes reniforme, Gleichenia cunninghamii and Dicksonia squarrosa.

Trees and shrubs noted during the day were: Agathis australis, Aristotelia serrata, Alseuosmia macrophylla, Beilschmiedia tawa, Brachyglottis repanda, Cyathodes fasciculata, Corynocarpus laevigatus, Coprosma arborea, C. robusta and C. australis, Corokia buddleioides, Carpodetus serratus, Dacrydium cupressinum, Dracophyllum latifolium, Elaeocarpus dentatus, Freycinetia banksii, Griselinia lucida, Hedycarya arborea, Hoheria populnea, Libocedrus plumosa, Macropiper excelsum, Melicytus macrophyllus and M. micranthus, Myrsine salicina and M. australis, Melicope simplex, Metrosideros robusta, M. fulgens and M. perforata, Pseudopanax arboreus, Nestegis montana and N. cunninghamii, Olearia rani and O. furfuracea, Pittosporum tenuifolium, Phyllocladus trichomanoides, Pseudopanax crassifolius, Podocarpus ferrugineus and Rhipogonum scandens.

At the end of our trek Miss Crookes, having led and informed us all day, then took us up to her home once again for more cups of tea and a little dissertation on the characteristics of some of the flora we had encountered during the day - invaluable for those in the throes of learning new varieties.

In every way this was a memorable day and so much of it was due to the generosity and dedication of Miss Crookes, and the members are most grateful to her.

A NEW RECORD

Mrs K. Wood

On Sunday 30th May I chanced to make an interesting discovery at Huia. Not far from the Lower Huia Dam I noticed a fern tucked away in a hole in a small cliff, and a second look gave me quite a surprise for there sharing the hole with a young gorse plant was the fern Blechnum vulcanicum. Just below, growing on the cliff, was a smaller plant of the same species. This fern is usually to be found on the volcanic plateau and further south. It is not on the Auckland Botanical Society's list of Waitakere species, but I understand that since its publication some Blechnum vulcanicum plants were found near the waterfall at Karekare. Now it seems Huia can be added to this record. On a second look four plants were found, including one large clump.

The elusive fern Blechnum capense (Green Bay form) has a habit of appearing in strange places. For a number of years a self sown specimen grew beneath my tank stand at Huia, then it