PAEROA - - - 21-23 October 1967 - - - L.W.Butler

Our bus left Auckland at 8.30am and arrived without incident at Paeroa about 11am. We then went on to Te Aroha and there had our lunch in the reserve. Some of our members started off as soon as we arrived, to try to reach the top of the mount which is a little over 3000ft. After lunch a number of us went up the track to Bald Spur about 1000ft above sea level. This very zig zag track started off amongst a most untidy jumble of exotics, but gradually came into forest. On the way up, diverting from the track for about 50 yards I found a very healthy specimen of Paratrophis microphylla. The dominant species appeared to be mangeao (Litsea calicaris), although there was a lot of young and mature kohekohe. Some tawa, and both Olearia rani and rangiora in flower. Alseuosmia was seen quite frequently. On the side of the track were several beds of Corybas macranthus macranthus and numbers of Pterostylis banksii. Also a few clumps of Thelymitra longifolia. There was a very nice bush of Rhabdothamnus solandri in flower, also Ixerba brexioides and Quintinia serrata. Mr. Warren thinks this last bears more resemblance to elliptica. After a short rest at Bald Spur enjoying a beautiful view, which brought in most of the Hauraki Plains with Maungatawhiri amongst the hills in the background, we leisurely found our way back to the bus. After waiting a little while, Mrs. Hynes and Miss Barr returned from their attempt on the summit and this is their list of plants found above 2000ft.

Acianthus, Blechnum minus, B.nigrum, B.vulcanicum, Coprosma colensoi, C.foetidissima, Corybas macranthus macranthus, C.trilobus Dracophyllum latifolium, Griselinia littoralis, Ixerba brexioides, Laurelia novae-zelandiae, Libertia pulchella, Melicytus micranthus Nothofagus menziesii, Quintinia serrata, rewarewa, Pseudowintera colorata, Pterostylis banksii.

22 October. We left Paeroa about 9.30am and journeyed through the Karangahake gorge to Waihi. The Ohinemuri river which flows westward through the gorge is, according to an article in a booklet given us by Mrs. Climie, a very unusual stream. " It is a remarkable fact the the Ohinemuri River has some of its sources within a mile of the east coast, and yet has a westerly course for about 15 miles as the crow flies, before it joins the Waihou River which flows north into the Firth of Thames. Moreover the range of hills it pierces in the lower part of its course is much higher than the coastal range that excludes its headwaters from the open sea". It appears that the land through which the river flowed gradually rose, over thousands of years, while the river kept cutting its way and forming the gorge as it is now. Hector observed coarse, water worn drift in the vicinity of Karangahake at the height of 200ft above the river. AAfter going through Waikino past the old stamping battery, we arrived at Waihi and turned north on to the Whangmata Road. This was a very enjoyable part of the trip, the road twisting through the undulating country and giving us various views. Occasionally

we caught a glimpse of the sea, and saw the Alderman Islands off the coast. We came to Wentworth valley road where we were met by Mr. Jack Stewart who took us up the valley towards the ranges. We all piled out of the bus and started across the fields to a bush covered valley, crossing two streams (some boots and all, others bare footed). Unfortunately cattle have access to this bush and naturally it is not as good as we would have liked. We rambled alongside the stream which some of our 'rock hounds' found interesting. We crossed the stream and came back on the other bank. We saw nikau, Weinmannia racemosa, pukatea, Pseudopanax crassifolium, kohekohe, Earina mucronata and autumnalis, Bulbophyllum pygmaeum, Pterostylis banksii, Ac anthus fornicatus sinclairii, Small Coprosmas seemed to be missing. We then returned to the bus and had a nice lunch of rock-hard frozen sandwiches. Unfortunately we did not know they had been frozen, or we would have thawed them out a bit while we were in the bush. After lunch we crossed the stream again and entered another valley. The bush here was similar but a bit more varied. We found Corybas trilobus (no flowers), plenty of Pterostylis banksii, and numbers of Japanese Cedars which tend to destroy the endemic species around them. Its hard to say where they came from but we saw several when we came to Whangamata. After a vote of thanks had been given Mr. Stewart, we left about 3pm for the Hikuai -Kopu road travelling through Whangamata. This new road through the Coromandel Ranges gradually climbs up to 3000ft. At the top of the saddle is a small reserve with a lookout and magnificent views. At the top we found Ixerba brexioides in bud and a Psuedopanax lessonii. Then down the long hill to Kopu and thence south again to Paeroa, a very interesting trip of some 84 miles. (On the roadside by Wentworth junction I found Pomaderris kumeraho and phylicifolia.

23 October - We left at 9.30am for a patch of private bush at the entrance of the Waihi gorge. We left the bus at the entrance to the residence of Mrs. Climie and walked through the farm, following a small stream to a reserve out of which the cattle have been kept for some time. Weinmannia, 4 Coprosmas, pukatea, rata, Asplenium lamprophyllum, Pterostylis trullifolia gracilis and Pt.banksii, Chiloglottis cornuta in flower, some young kauri, Mida salicifolia in the paddock outside the bush, and a Thelymitra which was probably longifolia. We went back to the house and had lunch in the garden. We gave Mrs. Climie a vote of thanks and left for home. Our thanks are also due to Mr. and Mrs. Carden (nee Barbara Mason) for their help. Mr. Carden opened up a track which increased out enjoyment of this delightful little patch of bush. We left the bumpy main road at Ngatea and cut across to Kaihere, passing through a Phormium plantation and saw the flax fibre hanging on the drying fences. At Kaihere we turned north again and joined the main road near Maramarua, where we stopped for afternoon tea. We arrived back in Auckland shortly after 5pm. A most enjoyable trip.