HIKUTAIA RESERVE - OPOTIKI

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We stayed at a motel in Opotiki and were taken to the Hikutaia Domain by Mr Heginbotham at 9 am, very kind of him as our driver had forgotten about her carless day. The Domain is about 7 Km from Opotiki and is next to a deer farm which we also visited. The entrance to the Domain has an imposing appearance, showing the memorial seat-gate combination of Hinuera stone which is dedicated to Mr Norman Potts, a local botanist who did so much in the collecting of unusual native plants and it is largely due to his knowledge, endeavour and planning that the Hikutaia Domain has today one of the most complete collections of native plants in New Zealand. The Domain is a typical warm rain forest and covers approximately 11 acres. Some of the plants seen were as follows:

FERNS

Adiantum diaphanum
A. formosum (from Manawatu)
Arthropteris tenella
Athyrium australe
Blechnum patersonii
B. penna-marina
Cheilanthes sieberi
Gleichenia flabellata
Marattia salicina (of local origin, grows freely in Domain, largest quantity we have seen growing so vigorously)
Pteris comans (from Three Kings)
Thelypteris dentata
Todea barbara

TREE FERNS

Cyathea cunninghamii (70 ft high, the largest tree fern in the Domain)

GYMNOSPERMS

Agathis australis
Podocarpus hallii
P. nivalis

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Astelia chathamica
A. nervosa
Carex 'pottsiana'
C. virgata
Cordyline australis x pumilio
C. banksii
C. pumilio (Waitakeres)
Freycinetia banksii
Phormium cookianum
Ripogonum scandens
Xeronema callistemon (Poor Knights)

DICOTYLEDONS

Aristotelia serrata
Australina pusilla
Brachyglottis repanda var. arborescens (Three Kings, large plant with huge leaves)
Carmichaelia appressa (Lake Ellesmere)
C. solandri (Ohope Beach)
Cassinia amoena
Coprosma chathamica
C. lucida
Myoporum laetum
Myrsine divaricata (Poor Knights & Chathams)
Nothofagus truncata
Olearia allomii (Gt. Barrier)
O. furfuracea var. angustata
O. ilicifolia
O. pachyphylla
O. virgata
Pachystegia insignis
Pennantia corymbosa

C. obconica (Wairoa, rare)
C. propinqua (Chatham Is.)
Coriaria arborea
C. pottsiana (Mt Hikurangi)
Corokia macrocarpa
Dracophyllum filifolium
D. sinclairii (Hicks Bay)
D. strictum (Mt Messenger)
Geranium traversii (Chatham Is)
Hebe diosmifolia (Wairoa Falls)
Hibiscus trionum (Whangarei Head)
Hymenanthera chathamica
H. crassifolia
Laurelia novae-zelandiae
Melicope ternata
Meryta sinclairii (Hen Island)
Peperomia tetraphylla
Pittosporum crassicaule (Nelson & S. Alps)
P. ralphii
Plagianthus betulinus (Chathams)
Planchonella novo-zelandica
Pomaderris oraria (North Cape)
P. phylicifolia var. ericifolia (Ohiwa Harbour)
P. phylicifolia var. polifolia (Hicks Bay)
Rhabdothamnus solandri (L. Barrier)
Senecio perdicioides (Tolaga & Hicks Bay)
Solanum aviculare
Sophora prostrata (Awatere Valley)
Tecomanthe speciosa (Three Kings)
Urtica ferox (2 varieties, large & small)

Also in the Domain is a 200 year old puriri (Vitex lucens) which is 70 ft in hight with 67 ft girth. It had been used by the Maoris of the area as a burial place for the distinguished dead. This tree separates near the base and forms a perfect cavern for the purpose. Special thanks to Mr Heginbotham for his help in locating unusual plants.

KAIMANAWA WILDERNESS WALK - Feb, 1980

Jean King

Our group left Ohakune about 9.30 am and travelled by bus about 60 miles to a farm on the Taihape-Napier Road. About a mile or so along the farm road we stopped to have lunch and wait for the helicopter. There were twelve of us so three trips were needed to ferry us into the starting point of the walk. I was in the front for the 15 minute trip and had a wonderful view of the Rangitikei River gorge and surrounding rugged country. I could also see underfoot, an odd sensation.

When all had arrived we left our packs and walked to the nearby Ngaruroro River where the more hardy folk enjoyed a swim. Along the high bank on one side grew a good patch of Coriaria sp, possibly C. pteridoides, very attractive with its shiny black berries, making a good ground cover.

Where we landed among the tussock at 3000 ft was a mixture of plants including: Dracophyllum subulatum, Gleichenia dicarpa var. alpina, Coprosma cheesemanii with many orange berries, also, much lichen which was springy to walk on and red bidi-bidi, Acaena microphylla. The guide also found a hardy specimen of parsley fern Botrychium australe among the tussock. Present too: Wahlenbergia gracilis, Pentachondra pumila, Epilobium sp, Celmisia spp, Ourisia, Gentiana and Euphrasia.

We continued about two hours up a tussock valley before entering the complete contrast of the beech forest. With only glimpses of sky through the canopy and a thick carpet of mosses, liverworts and filmy ferns, it was another world, an elfin land.