NORTH SHORE RESERVES

I feel that we, on the North Shore, particularly in the Birkenhead Borough are most fortunate in having so many reserves. Altogether now, with Merritt's Bush included with Kauri Park there is a total of 20 acres. Another nine acres has been bought by the North Shore Scenic Board by the lagoon at Birkdale. This is known as Button's Bush, after the first Mayor of Birkenhead who once owned it. It has been cut over, but there is a tremendous lot of small stuff coming on.

Then of course, there is le Roy's Bush - roughly 15 acres which contains particularly fine specimens of Totara, Puriri and Mamaku. When Mr. le Roy was alive, he planted Todea barbara and Dicksonia fibrosa which are still to be seen there today.

In the Northcote Borough there is another fine reserve known as Kauri Glen. Here the tracks have all been well maintained and a car can even be taken some distance in.

Most members are familiar with Kauri Park with all its lovely big Kauris and Beech growing side by side. Members will be interested to know that plans are in hand for a new attractive frontage to this park and we remember with pride that it was largely due to the efforts of one of our late members, Mr. J. Prickett, that this fine stand of bush has been preserved.

The only reserve on the North Shore which as yet has not had any attention is Smith's Bush. This comes under the jurisdiction of the Takapuna City Council and many of our members who made the excursion there earlier this year were dismayed to see so many weeds establishing themselves within this area. I understand the Council have great plans in hand for developing the area which is now known as the Onewa Domain. Eventually there will be sports grounds and round the perimeter between the playing fields and the actual bush, many native shrubs will be planted. I only hope in the meantime the council will not overlook their responsibility to keep Smith's Bush as it should be kept - that is - free of gorse, flannel plant, hawthorn, to mention but a few of the demons of the vegetable kingdom which are creeping in more and more. We also look forward to the time when a bridge will connect the two patches of bush which were severed to make way for the motorway.

Muriel Fisher
