

gumboots passing his pond, and a couple of half-grown Beavers, seen swimming near the wharf.

On the traditional prunes and custard night the company was treated to the sight of their normally dignified secretary, growing flustered as she vainly attempted to quell her ebullient spouse, with his puerile prune puns.

Just to round off the botanical discoveries, Jessica and Anthony dead-heated by both finding Colensoa physaloides in separate areas, on the last day before home-coming. Not seen on Moturoa since 1987, it had been feared that this herb, with its intensely blue berries, had vanished from the island.

We are grateful to Paul and Edith Asquith for inviting us to visit Moturoa, and for their hospitality and assistance.

### ***Austrofestuca* - an extinct addition to the Waitakere flora**

E.K. Cameron

I recently came across a specimen of *Austrofestuca littoralis* (also known as *Festuca littoralis* or *Poa triodioides*) in the AKU herbarium from damp, sandy flats, Waitakere River Mouth, Te Henga (AKU 6867). This Australasian grass forms dense tussocks and is widespread in New Zealand where it is frequently associated with spinifex and pingao on coastal dunes. The Waitakere specimen was collected by Prof. A. P. W. Thomas in about 1902. There are no other records in the AK and AKU herbaria of this native grass on Auckland's West Coast. Therefore it should join other suspected local extinctions of the Waitakere Ranges which would include: *Dactylanthus taylorii*, *Peraxilla tetrapetala*, *Tupeia antarctica*, *Lepidium flexicaule*, *L. obtusatum*, *L. oleraceum* and *Ranunculus urvilleanus*.

### **Flora and vegetation of Pudding Island - Mahurangi**

E.K. Cameron & G.A. Taylor

Pudding Island (map ref. 260 R10 655194) is a small (< 0.1 ha), steep stack about 10 m in height and 8 m wide, joined to the southern end of Otarawao Bay, Mahurangi by an extensive rocky, tidal platform (Fig. 1). It can be reached from the mainland by wading across a shallow channel (< knee depth), up to two hours either side of low tide. The adjacent mainland (250m away) is part of Mahurangi Regional Reserve, but the stack is Crown Land administered by the Department of Survey and Land Information (DOSLI). Te Haupa (Saddle) and Motuora Islands due east of Pudding, are in the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park.

The eroding stack is composed of Waitemata Sediments dipping to the north. It can be climbed only from the northern end, up a steep, grassy ridge. Fishing is popular from the outer margins of the tidal platform. Pudding Island contains examples of what can grow on a small, inshore, rather exposed stack on North Auckland's east coast. Brief visits to the stack on which this article is based were made by GAT and Alan