

Riteakawarau and our ridge track for incorporation in a revived NZ Walkways System.

Doing as geologists must do at high places, Alan explained regional structure to us; we then regained the shelter of the taraire groves for lunch. Botanists then did as they must do and we bush-crashed down to Pebblebrook Creek on what was sufficiently wet and steep and slippery enough not to be a leading ridge, though in fact it was. The forest is a mixture of young podocarps, taraire, puriri and tawa; a pleasing feature was the thigh-high 'river' of parataniwha along the overgrown road lower down on the slope.

The long walk back along Pebblebrook Road to the

cars in watery afternoon sunshine had some fine naturalistic touches: the old ditch-and-bank hawthorn roadsides now overtaken by totara trees, the Waitoki Stream bridge with its single large kauri tree burnt-out at the base supposedly by some Maori woman long ago, Nature's rustic artwork in the shape of a huge, bleached and rotted-out macrocarpa stump adorned by karamu and a cabbage tree sapling, the ancient oak and karaka trees of the King family homestead site, and the current efforts of Winstones to restore scrub to land close to the quarry yard.

Our thanks to Winstones for giving us access to this fine and extensive area. We certainly hope we can say that we have not seen the last of it.

An *Alseuosmia* in the afterlife

M.W. (Wendy) Patterson

The parent bush of *Alseuosmia macrophylla*, presumably of Waitakere stock from the Oratia area (G. Davidson pers. comm.), was sold by Oratia Native Plant Nursery to someone unknown, who gave it to the Forest and Bird trading table, where it was bought by Frances Kelly, who planted it at Te Kaha Road, One Tree Hill, in a sheltered corner. It was quite a few years before it flowered, and when it did it chose the time when Frances was away in China, while I baby-sat the plant. I paid several visits and finally could report that the first flower was green with a touch of red; later flowers were a good pinky-red.

On 20 July 1994 at a farewell lunch for Frances she gave me a twig of the bush with one flower out, good colour, good fragrance – I had to carry it

about all day but in the evening put it into an earthenware vase 10 cm tall filled with tap water. I kept up the water supply and was rewarded with 3 more flowers. Shortly after this I lifted it up and was amazed to find that it had lots of good roots, so I left it in its vase, and gave it nothing but tap-water.

In 1995 it had 3 flowers in August. In 1996 it produced 4 flowers, and the remains of one flower, and one miniature berry (that failed to expand, seedless ?) are still on it. In 1997 and 1998 it didn't flower but grew a new shoot in three bursts, 25.6 cm long. I was looking forward to flowers on the new shoot when on 19 April 1999 after a short illness the cutting died – aged 4 years 9 months. Voucher specimen: AK 237917.

Motutapu: Healing hill sides

Alistair MacArthur

An account of the Auckland Botanical Society field trip to Motutapu Island, and a little of Rangitoto Island, on Sunday 22 August 1999.

As it happens I start to write this up with echoes in

my ears of some disquieting accounts about forest destruction. While trying to get over the latest flu.....some call it Australian, and it certainly bounces up and down like a kangaroo and whizzes back like a boomerang.....I have heard the B.B.C.