

The weather was all that could be desired on Sat. Oct. 9th, when the Society held its excursion to Kauri Park, Birkenhead. Under the able leadership of Mr. & Mrs. J. Prickett more than thirty members were able to explore this beautiful reserve. The bush was fragrant with the scent from the long pink bells of the true native honeysuckle, or toropapa (Alseuosmia macrophylla). The chief botanical interest of Kauri Park, however, lies in the presence there of two trees very rare near Auckland, the beautiful clinker beech (Nothofagus truncata) and the toa toa or "large leaved" celery pine (Phyllocladus glauca.)

The excursion to the University Reserve, Swanson (Oct. 23rd), was, unfortunately marred by bad weather. The leaders, Mr. & Mrs. L.H. Millener, who had gone out the day before to make preparations for comprehensive investigations, were met at the University Hut by only 3 heroic souls, who had journeyed out through the pouring rain. A fourth appeared in the afternoon and the party did such botanizing as the weather permitted. Perhaps another opportunity may arise to visit this delightful reserve !

A goodly company of members assembled at the entrance to Grafton Gully on Sat. Nov. 13th. As, however, it was somewhat damp underfoot in the Gully, it was decided to repair to the University Grounds. On arrival, Prof. Lancaster led the members round and was able to give them interesting, and in some cases surprising information about the various unusual trees and shrubs, native and foreign, that he had established there.

As regards weather, the Excursion to Narrow Neck vied with the Swanson trip, gradually changing from gloom, through drizzle to steady rain. Under these conditions most of the time was spent investigating the drift weed, which fortunately contained a fair number of species. The foreshore yielded a few more. Altogether about a dozen enthusiasts enjoyed a diverting if somewhat damp afternoon. The excursion, which was held on Feb. 12th to ensure good weather, was led by Miss Crookes.

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GENERAL

We have much pleasure in printing the following communication, forwarded to us by New Zealand's leading authority on mosses, Mr. G.O. Sainsbury: