

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 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:

A recent outstanding bryological rediscovery is that of the moss Aulacopilum glaucum Wils. by Mr. G.M. O'Malley of Wairoa near the mouth of the Raukokore River, which runs into the Bay off Plenty ten miles or so east of Cape Runaway. This little corticolous moss was discovered by Colenso at Bay of Islands about one hundred years ago, the publication of the species being dated 1848. About a mile on the Cape Runaway side of the river a few trees of the Taraire were noticed, and this appears to be its southern limit. Moss collecting in the Auckland district has been anything but perfunctory in recent years, and it is not too much to hope that intermediate stations will be recorded for the Aulacopilum. It has a close resemblance to some tiny hepatic, and also to the moss Fabronia australis Hook. with which Colenso found it associated, but the glaucous tint serves to distinguish it from that. If any reader would care to receive a small quantity to give assistance in looking for it, Mr. G.O.K. Sainsbury, Wairoa, will be pleased to supply it.

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Mr. L.H. Millener has kindly handed in a list of common plants to be found in fruit at this time.

In fruit. Dianella intermedia (blue berries), Tawa (berries dark purple) kahikatea (fruit red and black), Eugenia maire (large crimson berries), nikau (red berries), Coprosma lucida & C. robusta (bright orange berries), puriri (large crimson berries), karaka (large orange berries) supple jack (red berries), tarairi (large dark purple berries) wine berry, Aristotelia racemosa (very dark red berries), hinau (purplish gray berries), putaputaweta, Carpodetus serratus (berries black), pigeonwood (bright red berries), Pittosporum crassifolium and tenuifolium (fruit splits showing sticky black seeds) miro (crimson berries), totara (fruit red) rimu (fruit red) Schefflera digitata (berries purplish black), five finger (berries purplish black) lancewood (berries purplish black) poroporo (yellow berries), Carmichaelia australis (pods with bright scarlet seeds) Lacebark (also in flower) Cordyline australis and C. Banksii (berries whitish), native passion vine (fruit bright orange), Cyathodes acerosa (berries white or red) (The term berry is used in its popular not its Botanical sense. Ed.)

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NEWS OF MEMBERS.

Mrs L.H. Millener has retired from the Botanical Department of the Auckland University College.