

LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS

In spite of dreary weather, the Society spent a pleasant afternoon at Smith's Bush, Takapuna, on Saturday, Oct. 16th. This delightful little patch of coastal bush, acquired largely through the efforts of the Auckland Botanical Society and the Auckland Museum, contains particularly fine specimens of puriri and taraire and characteristic coastal plants such as the somewhat local Coprosma areolata. Among ferns Arthropteris tenella grows here in profusion, and members were able to observe both its juvenile and mature form.

It was noted with concern that introduced weeds were manifesting their usual pushing ways, and also that fences needed repair. The Society subsequently appealed to the authorities on the matter, underlining their interest by offering a Saturday afternoon working bee to make a concerted onslaught on superfluous weeds. The Society has been assured however that clearance has already been put in hand.

The excursion was under the capable leadership of Mrs. L.H. Millener.

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Weather was again unfriendly during the excursion to the University Reserve, Swanson, on Saturday, Nov. 7th. Nevertheless the time passed pleasantly. Miss De Berg, the leader of the excursion provided members with species lists and after lunch, ran through them while members produced their morning collections.

We were glad to welcome among us members of the newly formed Botany circle of the Auckland Tramping Club. During the afternoon one of them discovered in the vicinity of the Reserve specimens of that attractive insectivorous plant Drosera binata. As this plant likes moist places, it is much more local than the widely spread Drosera auriculata. Perhaps some member of the Society will "adopt" Drosera binata and make a study of its habits and localities.

It is the custom of the Society to have at least one lecture during the year with a horticultural bias. This year it took the form of a very interesting discourse by Mr. G.F. Josephs on "Some Aspects of Citrus Culture". Mr. Josephs gave us a most helpful and enlightening talk, and at the close regaled the members on some extremely juicy and pleasant products of his methods. The vote of thanks following the lecture was carried with great enthusiasm.

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