

satisfying visit, we were collected by a group of hospitable Howick residents, consisting of Mr. C.N. Nicholls, Mr. La Roche, The Rev. Conolly, Mr. Gray, Mr. Gandy and Mr. Woodward, and having been taken a pleasant run round Howick visiting spots of historic interest en route, we were finally deposited in the spacious grounds of Mr. La Roche. We wandered through the "native" gully and were interested to learn that the many tall king ferns beautifying it all came from the different "horse-shoes" of one original plant. After exploring the various by-ways of the garden, we were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. La Roche with a very comprehensive afternoon tea. The meeting ended with a hearty vote of thanks of Mr. and Mrs. La Roche and to the other Howick residents who in various ways had contributed to our pleasure.

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On October 21st the Society went further afield than usual to visit the property of Mr. F.S.E. Jollie, at Black Lily Falls, Hunua River. After a pleasant journey through the Hunua Gorge we eventually reached Mr. Jollie's property and picnicked in the pleasant shade of pine trees. After a scramble (and the word is used in its most literal sense) down to the river, we wandered through the bush along the steep river banks.

One thing many were interested to see was a spur covered with an almost pure stand of kawaka (Librocedrus doniana) with the whole ground carpeted with doniana seedlings. We also noted several specimens of matai (Podocarpus spicatus) in both juvenile and mature states. One member found a bush of Melicope simplex flowering freely. We would have liked longer to explore this interesting bush more thoroughly. We would also have liked to linger in Mr. Jollie's own garden - where such things as larches, Cryptomerias and copper beeches were growing along with Grevillias and other tropical introductions. Our afternoon ended with our hearty thanks to Mr. Jollie for his leadership through this interesting property.

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The excursion planned for Saturday, the 11th of November to Mr. Goodfellow's bush had to be abandoned as transport arrangements broke down owing to the local bus company having gone into liquidation. Consequently, by courtesy of the

manager of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co., we visited the Sugar Works Reserve, Chelsea.

Entering the reserve we passed along and across the second storage lake, noting on the way some pure stands of the giant Club Rush or kutakuta (Elaeocharis spacelata) and soon reached the third dam where we had lunch. We then proceeded to explore the gully and were fortunate in all seeing the treasures of the place. We first sought Loxsonia cunninghamii, this being the only place where it is to be found locally. Eventually one clump was found growing on a steep hillside. It seems likely however that other clumps may eventually be discovered, as there was certainly more of this rare fern there in the old days. Up the valley we found numerous beautiful specimens of the Clinker Beech (Nothofagus truncata) growing along the steep slopes with kauri and tanekaha. The delightful little mairehau (Plebalium nudum) was discovered in full flower, while the native honeysuckle (Alseuosmia macrophylla) was also in bloom. One member discovered plants of Chiloglottis cornuta but it was still in bud. We also found abundance of the tawhero (Weinmannia sylvicola). One member asked if its cousin the kamahi (Weinmannia racemosa) was to be found in the reserve? I replied it was not. Cheeseman states that the kamahi (for which he also gives the name towai) is "plentiful in forests from the Thames Goldfields and the Middle Waikato southwards". On consulting Wall and Cranwell's Botany of Auckland, however, I see that they record kamahi from Bayswater. Do any of our members know where the tree grows there, or has any member found spp. of Weinmannia racemosa in the immediate vicinity of Auckland? The Editor would be glad of any information on this head.

After leaving the Reserve about three, one or two members caught the boat, the rest repairing to the garden of Mr. J. Prickett, where Mr. and Mrs. Prickett dispensed hospitality with characteristic enthusiasm, afterwards guiding us round their garden, a description of which will be published in the next number of the News Letter.

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