

impossible to sort out their cross-bred seedlings (the gametics) from the nucellars, except by growing all the plants through to the fruiting stage, a process that may take 20 years.

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FIELD WORK

Mrs. A.T. Wood, of Highland Road, Mt. Albert, has been the first of our members to send in a completed list of species accompanied by a collection of carefully preserved and named specimens, accompanied, for good measure, by a neat card index.

We have great pleasure in printing below a general account of Mrs. Wood's collecting activities, because in the first place we feel it will be both of use and interest to fellow collectors, and further, that it will provide valuable information for any of our members visiting the Huia region during the forthcoming summer months.

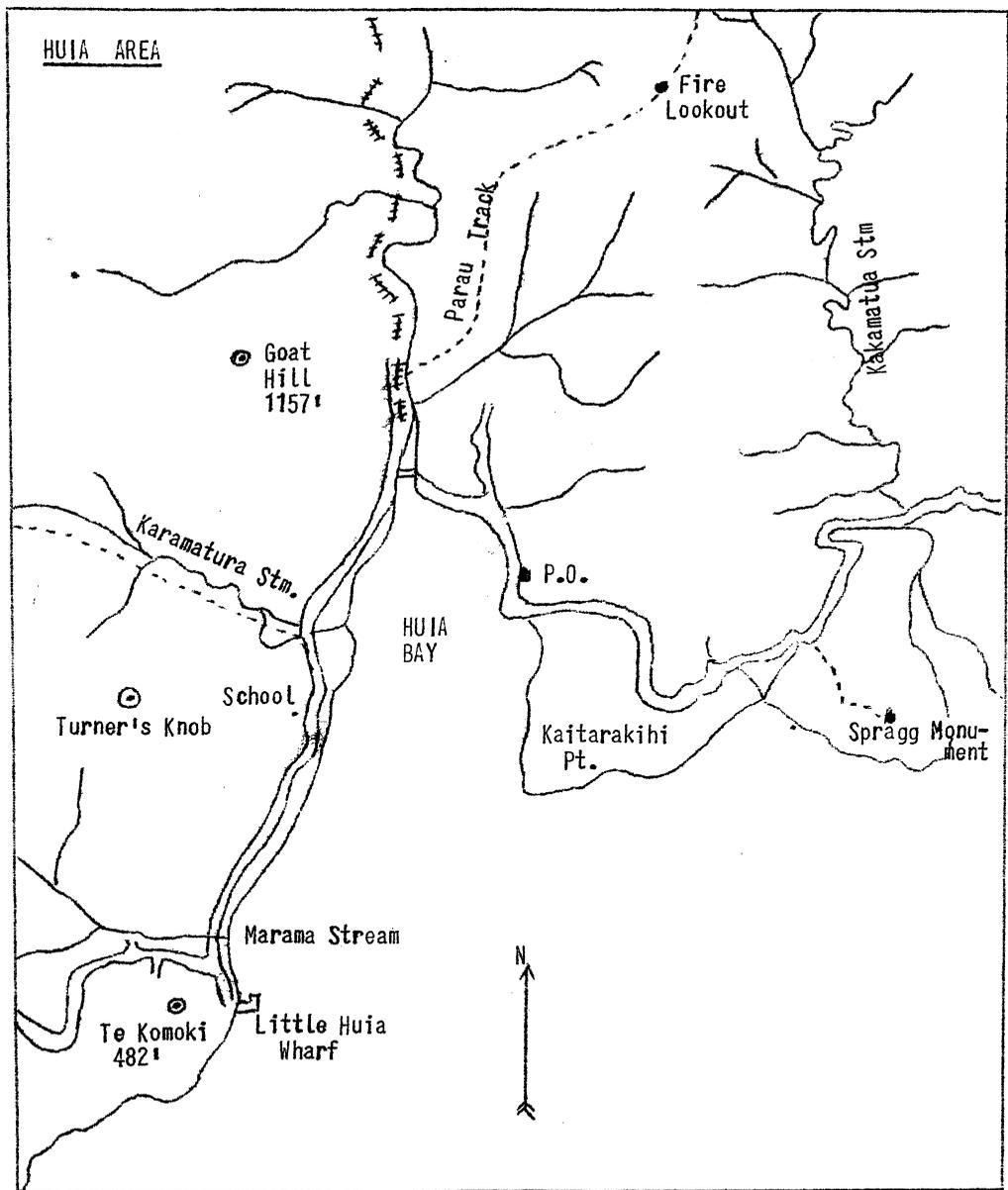
The thanks of the Society are due to Mrs. Wood for her enthusiasm as a collector and the painstaking care with which she has set her collection in order.

Following Mrs. Wood's general account of her field study, we publish a brief account by Miss Dingley of a comprehensive list of plants in the Silverdale area, collected by Mr. Bartlett and others, that has been kindly forwarded to us by Mr. E.D. Hatch.

THE HUIA AREA

"In 1949 it was decided by the Auckland Botanical Society that a 'Botany of Auckland' list should be compiled backed by specimens collected by individuals from certain specified areas. In undertaking a collection from the Huia area, I at first intended to collect only from the bay itself and the surrounding hills. However, on observing that the low scrub-covered promontory known as Wesley Spragg reserve contained several plants that are local, namely Dracophyllum squarrosum, Leucopogon Fraseri, Pomaderris phyllicae-folia, Pterostylis barbata, Pimelia prostrata, Hakea*acicularis, and H. pubescens,* I decided to include this area and so add more variety to my collection. The whole section covered is fairly large, commencing from the Kakamatua Stream, extending along the seaward side of the road including Wesley Spragg reserve, Kaitarakihi Point, Huia Bay as far as Te Komoki or Jackie's Peak, and to the summit of the surrounding hills, the highest point arising to 1000 ft. above sea level.

* Introduced species.



I do not claim to have covered every inch of this territory, no doubt some specimens have been overlooked, but I hope to carry on with the collection and add to it at a later date. However I have endeavoured in the time available to me on week end

visits, to cover the ground as thoroughly as possible and in twenty months have obtained a total of 422 specimens of both Native and naturalised plants.

No attempt can be made in a brief paper to describe the plant communities from an ecological viewpoint but the following are the most obvious, coastal, salt marsh, *Leptospermum* scrub, Young *Agathia* community and mixed *Podocarpus-dicotyledonous* community.

The average rainfall at Huia is 60", slightly lower than at the Huia dam which is situated four miles up the valley and has an average of 75". The latter region would yield many specimens not available nearer the coast, but I regret that it is too distant and difficult of access for me to include and would perhaps be worthy of a separate collection. My area extends up the Huia Dam tram line only as far as the swing bridge which crosses the Huia stream at the commencement of the Huia-Parau track. Collections have been made along this track as far as the fire lookout.

Goat Hill, which rises directly above the Huia stream road bridge, has been visited on several occasions. A number of visits have also been paid to the Karamatura Gorge area and this has proved a happy hunting ground. More varieties of ferns are to be found there than in any other given area and botanical collections have been made up to the highest point of Fletcher's track which follows the left bank of the stream. A few trips have also been made to the summit of Turner's Knob. Collections have been made along the roadside cliffs to the wharf at Little Huia and up to the summit of Te Komoki.

Naturally the areas most thoroughly combed are those nearest to our cottage and therefore easy of access. This includes Hall's bush, Rickard's bush and Page's farm. Rickard's bush covers quite a large area on the Eastern side of the bay extending up to the ridge behind the store, and consists mainly of second growth and boasts a fine stand of young Kauris. Hall's bush is a small but attractive bush section near our property. Page's farm adjoins Rickard's bush and, high up in a sheltered hollow there is a fine stand of native bush which appears older than the surrounding second growth. The rocky hillside is a natural fernery and many varieties abound. There also can be found a splendid example of regeneration, a fallen Puriri, *Vitex lucens*, with a massive trunk has sent up large branches themselves like trunks and so it appears that several trees grow from the one. Since I began the collection,

part of Page's farm has been roaded, sections have been sold to private owners, and there is some doubt whether this lovely stand of bush will remain for long intact.

Another tree worthy of mention is a giant Kohekohe, Drysoxylum spectabile which grows on the Huia-Parau track. This tree has enormous buttress roots which snake their way across the ground, the largest I have seen.

The mouths of the Huia and Karamatura streams with their salt marsh vegetation are the home of many sand loving plants. Also of interest are the summits of Goat Hill, Karamatura Gorge, Turner's Knob and Te Komoki which are similar in that they have fairly open rock faces and the same local plants can be found on each, notably Clematis hexasepala and the natural hybrid, Hebe Bishopiana. On the summit of Turner's Knob it was interesting to find Corokia cotoneaster, C. buddlioides and the hybrid C. Cheesemanii growing in fairly close proximity to each other.

On some occasions I have found only one specimen of a plant. Cassinia retorta is not at home at Huia and the one plant I found was located on an open slip. One specimen only of Paratrophis opaca has been noted. Libocedrus doniana seedlings are plentiful near Middle Camp half way to the Huia dam, but so far I have found none within my boundaries.

Some mention must be made of the Naturalised plants. In covering such large area I have had to include roadsides, farms and other open country where introduced species abound. Many are garden escapes and the banks of the Huia stream in front of a row of houses has yielded some colourful specimens. Others, however, have found their way to the district by natural means and I have endeavoured to collect only those which have become definitely naturalised and tend to spread. Poplars, willows and other trees which have obviously been planted are not included. About two years ago when the road near the store was widened, two lupin plants, Lupinus arboreus appeared growing on the spoil from the road cutting. These are now healthy plants and will no doubt multiply.

Near the commencement of the Huia-Parau track is a small stand of Callitris cupressiformis. There are a few young trees but the older ones are becoming overshadowed by tall Leptospermums and appear to be dying out. Periwinkles, Vinca major, which are common along the roadsides were introduced to

the district by an early resident, Mrs. Hyams.

Taken as a whole most of the area in which I have made my collection would be described as second growth.

Milling of the Kauri on the Cornwallis - Huia area began in 1833 when Thomas Mitchell, a trader from Sydney, built a house for himself and his family at Cornwallis and commenced cutting the Kauri for timber for masts and spars. He was followed by the Manukau stream sawmills which commenced operations at Cornwallis in 1842. Slowly the milling spread along the shoreline until in the 1860's there were mills operating at Kakamatua and Huia. At the latter place three mills were operating and it was not until the turn of the century that milling ceased in this area, although trees were being brought out of the more inaccessible areas until 1905.

The bay must have presented a sorry spectacle after the logging operations and the succeeding Leptospermum scrub has in its turn been cut extensively for firewood. However Nature is doing her best to cover up the scars and regeneration is taking place in all undisturbed areas.

May I quote from E. Earle Vaile's "Waitakere National Park with a short history of the Ranges", published by the Waitakere Centennial Park Citizens' Assn. 1939:- 'In its primeval state Huia Bay must have presented a scene of remarkable beauty, with the high hills at the back (from which Mt. Egmont can be seen on a fine day, looking like an island rising out of the ocean), and the giant forest trees, Kauris, Puriris, Rata etc. etc. extending right down to the water's edge.'

Although now only a ghost of her former self, Huia is still rich in vegetation, and presents a quieter beauty, her high hills re-clad in second growth making a lovely contrast to the soft green of the farms nestling in her valleys."

- K. Wood.

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PLANT LISTS FOR THE FLORA OF AUCKLAND

Silverdale. (communicated by Mr. E.D. Hatch).

273 species of Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms and Angiosperms are recorded; indigenous as well as introduced plants are listed.

The majority of the plants were collected on the farm