

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

Vol. 9 No. 5.

December, 1952.

A U C K L A N D B O T A N I C A L S O C I E T Y

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The Botanical Society has just completed a very successful year, and will, we hope, have a very successful vacation. We extend our best wishes to all taking part in the Egmont Camp and to others we wish happy holidays in their chosen haunts.

"AN EXCURSION HAS BEEN ARRANGED - "

This year some members of the Botanical Society are seeking fresh fields and pastures new on the slopes of Mt. Egmont, camping in the Robson hut at Dawson's Falls. The Society has chartered its own bus which will leave Auckland sharp at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Jan 25th, returning on Saturday, Jan. 31st. The organisation of this trip has not been easy for our long-suffering Secretary, particularly in the matter of buses, which when reliable seem somewhat elusive. At last, however, Mrs. Hynes has secured a very comfortable bus, which can also be used for additional excursions during the trip at an extra charge of 2/6 per mile. Mrs. Hynes has also taken the trouble to make a weekend trip to the mountain to make the best possible arrangements. The proprietor has kindly agreed to bring up perishable goods daily, otherwise food will be purchased in bulk. The hut provides its own hot and cold water, electric light and fuel. So far a number of members have booked in for the trip, but there are still vacancies. The total cost of the excursion is £8, £4 payable on Dec. 1st. and the balance on Jan. 12th. We hope that anyone making a last minute decision to join the party will communicate with the Secretary and make financial arrangements at the earliest possible moment.

It is hoped that all able to do so will avail themselves of the opportunity to visit this particularly beautiful part of Egmont. Dawson's Falls is remarkable for the number of delightful trips available within easy walking distance of the hut along well made and well labelled tracks. The place abounds with lovely creeks, there are beautiful waterfalls, the Bubbling Springs, the fascinating Wilkie's Pools, to say nothing of trips farther afield and visits up the Mountain to the Alpine meadow,

where the flowering season should be in full swing.

The following two articles in the News Letter may be of interest to members:

Egmont - by Dr. and Mrs. L.H. Millener -
Vol. 3, No. 3 - June 1946.

(This serves as an excellent general introduction to the vegetation in the vicinity of Dawson's Falls).

Some Ferns of Mt. Egmont - by Marguerite W. Crookes.

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DISPLAY

Members will have noticed that the Auckland Botanical Society received a Certificate of Merit at the Auckland A. & P. Show for its exhibition of native plants.

Our thanks to Mrs. Sheates and Mr. Farnell who provided specimens and to Mrs. John Barr and Mrs. Prickett who arranged them so attractively.

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Our hearty thanks to Mr. Given for this most interesting and well illustrated account of the Pokeno Excursion:

ON INSIGHT INTO FOREST FARMING - VISIT TO

MR. R. HOHNECK'S BUSH

The Botanical Society's sojourn at Mr. Hohneck's Forest Farm at Pokeno was enjoyable, refreshing, and an interesting light was thrown upon the economic disposal of the bush.

Here, we witnessed an honest and, in fact, most successful endeavour to utilise native timber and at the same time conserve the forest.

In explaining his method of forest farming, Mr. Hohneck pointed out how older trees, serviceable to his purpose, yet an encumbrance to the development of the younger growth were removed with the minimum of disturbance. He did not replant of his own accord but relied upon nature to replace the trees which he removed. There were, however, occasions when a little