

marred by rain which had started just as we were breaking camp. Only a few hardy souls splashed through the wet for a quick inspection.

All stores with the exception of two deliveries of meat and bread were taken with us, and credit for the success of the trip must go to our driver and camp organiser, Mr. George Barr. We wish to record our appreciation of his splendid services. We also say 'thank-you' to the Officer-in-Charge, Mr. R. Collins, and his wife for their help, and to Mr. Cox, Assistant Officer, for the Forest Quiz Session around the camp-fire.

---

PONUUI ISLAND

18th to 20th February.

Keyed up with expectations of pastures new the Ponui party left by the late afternoon bus for Kawakawa Bay. Skies had been threatening all day but fortunately a very heavy local downpour ceased in time for us to enjoy the novelty of being transported by barge to the launch which took us over to Mr. Fred Chamberlin's property on the south end of Ponui Island.

Once ashore, we were soon indulging in a light meal and the inevitable cup of tea at our headquarters - an outsized building, just a few yards from the beach. The number of Lilos in use was evidence that many members had prepared for extra comfort or for extreme discomfort.

The botanical rambles led by Dr. Rattenbury on both of the following days were very profitable. The Island is very hilly and there is a surprising amount of undamaged bush on the slopes and in the valleys. One large gully we explored on the northeast side was typical coastal vegetation with a good number of fern species, Pteris comans and Blechnum norfolkianum being particularly interesting. Kauri and its associates were plentiful on the ridges, groves of Tarairi were common lower down and some very fine specimens of Pukatea were seen. Particularly abundant was a hybrid Pseudopanax, probably P. crassifolium X P. lessonii, with an amazing variety of juvenile leaf forms. A feature of the vegetation of the outlying Islands is the much larger leaves and these were noted on Ponui Island, especially so on Olea cunninghamii. No serious attempt was made at listing plants although 47 species of ferns were counted. There is, however, ample scope for an ecological survey.

Other events of a non-botanical nature added to the pleasure of this enjoyable week-end, - although some may question if the portion of fried eel they sampled for breakfast should be included as pleasurable - and so we returned to the mainland full of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlin for their many kindnesses and unanimous that a return visit would be most welcome.

P. Hynes.

---

Mrs. Wood, usually "gets round" during the summer and this year she and her husband took a trip to the far North - I am sure all members will enjoy the short account of her journey given below.

BOTANICAL NOTES FROM NORTHLAND.

Our Editress has once more asked me to submit an article on our trip at Christmas which this year, my husband and I spent in the far North.