

with the Maoris. Firearms, trinkets etc. were traded for timber and flax.

Surrounding the Cove are grassy flats with a small stream flowing through. Mariscus ustulatus and Juncus sp. cover the fertile ground. By this stream a few Sophora tetraptera grow with leaves 45 mm. long. The stream reaches the sea through a natural arch worn through a sandstone ridge and having a diameter of 25 ft. Hedycarya arborea, Macropiper excelsum, Coprosma robusta and Brachyglottis rangiora grow on the sides of this ridge with Asplenium lucida fringing the arch.

At the south end of the southern prong of the Cove a low sand spit which is awash at spring tides connects a steep sandstone ridge with the mainland. This is Sporing's Island, and being unstocked is luxuriantly clothed with such plants as Coriaria ruscifolia, Macropiper excelsum, Leptospermum scoparium, Hebe macoura, Coprosma robusta, Cassinia leptophylla, Olearia solandri, Cladium sinclairii and Poa anceps.

The rocky islets at the entrance to the Cove are similarly clothed and have two holes through which the surf rushes. Most picturesque! Sheltered gullies, mostly cleared inland, contain Vitex lucens, Myoporum laetum, Hoheria sexstylosa, Alectryon excelsum, Dysoxylum spectabile, Corynocarpus lavigata and Melicytus ramiflorus. The only ferns to be found being Cyathea medullaris and Blechnum lanceolatum.

The dry climate with a rainfall of only 35" would account for the absence of ferns although a few Nikau palms are in evidence.

A truly charming Cove with its clear, calm water, manuka covered ridges, its cliffs and fertile flats, and situated only three miles from the Gisborne - Opotiki via Te Araroa highway.

by R.D. Creswell, Te Pora, Tokomaru Bay.

18th CHEESEMAN MEMORIAL SHOW
OF NATIVE FLOWERS.

On Saturday afternoon, 24th September, the Mayoress, Mrs. J.H. Luxford, opened the 18th Cheeseman Memorial Show and it continued until Tuesday the 27th. Mrs. Hynes made all the preliminary arrangements and I must record my sincere thanks for her capable and efficient organization. Nancy Bamford also did excellent work with the children's section of the Show and thanks to her and her team of helpers the large number of entries were displayed without any hitches.

The decorative section was most attractive this year and it was a delight to see the work of Ruth De Berg, Shirley Baker and Joan Hastings, as well as the first-class displays by Mrs. Eyre, Mrs. Blewdon, Mrs. Collis, Mrs. Hudson, and Mr. and Mrs. Holt (representing the Y.W.C.A. Gardening Club, St. Mark's Daffodil-at home Committee and the Titirangi Beautifying Society).

The special displays by the Auckland Natural History Club, the Tree Society, the Forest and Bird Protection Society, Auckland, and members of the Botanical Society were of very high standard, and it was

most disappointing that the reduced bus and tram services on the weekend kept our attendance to only 4,500.

To all those who helped in other ways - with the loan of equipment, with the collection of material from the railway, with material for display, with funds for prizes, with gifts of vases, with serving of refreshments and with cleaning up after the Show, I must also express my sincere thanks.

Robert Cooper.

BOTANICAL AT HOME.

On Wednesday, June 1st., instead of the usual lecture we had four short papers by members each containing original observations and records.

Miss Dingley gave an account of some of the commoner fungi to be found locally, while Dr. Hastings described the ferns she had collected in the immediate vicinity of Orewa. Though of use and value to our members, these papers do not lend themselves to reproduction in the News Letter.

Mr. Farnell gave us an account of some of his hybridization work with native plants and we hope to publish an account of this later.

Mrs. Hynes' account of Australina pusilla is given below. It will be seen that Mrs. Hynes' records increase the plants' altitudinal range by 1500 feet. An observant eye and methodical recording can add much to our understanding of a plant. As the vegetation of our country is changing rapidly we hope that members will, like Mrs. Hynes, keep a sharp look out for anything, however small, that adds to our knowledge of our plant covering.

AUSTRALINA PUSILLA Gaud.

Part of my journeyings in the Urewera Country at Christmas, 1954 took me down the Whakatane River to the junction of the Kakawahine, and this stream, which has its source in the Huiarau Range, was followed up to meet the Maungapohatu Track, a few miles from Rua's Stronghold.

For those who like stream wading this can be a delightful trip at that time of year. High mountains close in the lower end of the stream to form a gorge and it was in this part that I saw for the first time a low, lax creeping plant with small dark crenate leaves. It was most abundant and usually growing in association with Hydrocotyle dissecta. It appeared to belong to the Urticaceae (nettle) family and when the first halt was called I was able to use the lens to find the small, insignificant flowers in the axils of the leaves, a feature so typical of this group.

This plant proved to be Australina pusilla. Later on I was to see it just as abundant in other deep, dark valleys on the northern side of the Huiarau Range but I did not find it around Waikaremoana. It evidently