

## THE CLIFFS AT KARE KARE

Everyone enjoyed the Kare Kare trip (July 4th) both scenically and botanically. Considering the time of the year, the weather was kind and we were able to make the most of the cliff area north of the Bay. We found in many places along the cliff the tawapou (Sideroxylon costatum) its bright lightish-green foliage making it readily identifiable among the other coastal trees. Members also collected the ripe berries which have sometimes been described as the most beautiful in New Zealand. They are about an inch long, gold and brown and contain (usually) 2-3 narrow long, hard, black seeds, used by the Maoris for necklaces but eagerly collected by members for horticultural purposes. Tawapou is essentially a North Island plant, reaching its southern limit in Tolaga Bay, where one used to grow (and perhaps still does) in solitary state near a spring where, so it is said, Cook's sailors refreshed themselves in 1769.

Along with tawapou were the common coastal trees, karaka, kohekohe, taraire, ngaio, pohutukawa etc. In addition we noted specimens of Corokia cotoneaster still bearing its translucent red berries. We also noted a single example of the divaricating Myrtus obcordata. The somewhat depressed looking Helichrysum glomeratum - diseased as usual - was seen. Pseudopanax lessonii and the wharangi (Melicope ternata) were not infrequent.

The fern population provided a surprising number of treasures. Growing all about the cliff, in sandy soil or among rocks, was a peculiar form of Asplenium flaccidum, which the late David Knowlton who studied the plant in detail used to call the "West Coast variety". It is not a typical Hanging Spleenwort as it grows on the ground, forming rather stiff tufts, and indeed differs so much from the ordinary forest form that several knowledgeable members asked me what it was. Another "shore form" was the coastal type of Polystichum richardi with its large rounded tufts of bright green leathery fronds.

The species of Pteris caused considerable excitement, as we found in addition to P. macilenta and P. saxatilis the much rarer P. comans a wide-spread tropical species, but rare about Auckland. For good measure we found forms that looked uncommonly like P. comans X P. saxatilis since they had the general frond shape of the latter, combined with the copiously netted veins of the former. Near the cliff top, after plunging into a patch of rather rocky bush, we found to our delight species of the delicate little Asplenium hookerianum. This fern has a fancy for rocky or sandy places, and not far from it a couple of patches of A. lamprophyllum were also found, while Arthropteris tenella not quite mature, was to be seen scrambling over rock and tree. The odd plant of Ctenitis velutina was found hereabouts, while farther down specimens of Asplenium bulbiferum var. laxum were met. The usual common ferns were also seen, but those mentioned were the most interesting. The single specimen of Cheilanthes sieberi that we discovered on our way out, was not to be found on the return journey. Perhaps it had "gone with the wind". As regards smaller fry we encountered the ubiquitous

Centella asiatica and its close relative Hydrocotyle novae-zealandiae both members of the Parsley family and like the Schizeilemas mentioned by Mrs. Hynes, small herbs. Altogether it was a very well-satisfied party that made for home. The excursion was led by the editor.

M. Crookes

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NEWS OF MEMBERS

Our news of members is more than good. First our Society will rejoice to know that one of our foundation members, and one who played a very prominent part in the founding of the Society, has been notified that she has had a D. Sc. conferred on her by the University of New Zealand.

Lucy Cranwell became botanist to the Auckland Museum in 1929, where she remained until 1944 when she married Major S. Watson Smith of the United States Forces and left for America where she has lived ever since.

While in New Zealand she published a number of papers on scientific subjects, and in 1935, under the guidance of Professor L. von Post, she began her study of New Zealand pollens and her first paper (in collaboration with von Post) was published in Sweden in 1936. In 1939 and 1940 she issued further papers on New Zealand pollens. In 1952 was published her first volume of New Zealand Pollen Studies dealing with the monocotyledons. This beautifully produced and illustrated volume was issued by the Harvard University Press for the Auckland Institute and Museum. Her pollen work on the New Zealand dicotyledons, which will form Volume 2 of New Zealand Pollen Studies is now well advanced.

While in New Zealand she did fine work in regard to scenery preservation. She also did a great deal to stimulate interest in New Zealand botany, not least in her work on the children's page of the "New Zealand Herald" while many of our members will have derived help from "The Botany of Auckland" published in collaboration with Professor Arnold Wall (also a member of our Society), now unfortunately out of print. In 1944 she was made a fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand while in 1954 she received the Hector Medal, the highest award that can be conferred by the Royal Society of New Zealand. She was the first woman to receive the honour.

We take this opportunity of congratulating Lucy Cranwell-Smith on her doctorate and wish her every success in the completion of her very valuable work, New Zealand Pollen Studies.