

little article I have named the plants I remember seeing and I am indebted to Mr. Warren for the names of the ferns. There is however, one plant I have not mentioned.

To quote Laing and Blackwell, "This particular plant is one of the most curious plants of the lily tribe. This strangling creeper forms one of the chief obstacles in getting through the bush and occasionally renders progress impossible. The brown and black ropes hang and twist everywhere, binding one tree to another and forming loops and nooses above and below."

Those who went will know what I mean.

Good-bye.

Muriel Fisher.

The summer camp held on Ruapehu from Saturday, 21st January to 27th January appears to have been a distinctly rewarding one and it is obvious that members made the most of their time. Our thanks to Ruth Coyle for a description of what must have been a delightful and in some instances a diverting trip.

SUMMER CAMP - RUAPEHU

The summer camp this year was spent at Ruapehu. We were very lucky to have the Rangatira Ski Club Hut, which has the reputation of being the best hut on the mountain. This is not hard to believe with its hot showers, central heating, modern electric stoves, radiogram and even carpets on the floor!

We arrived by bus on Saturday, 21st January in a torrent of rain and thunderstorms all around. By the time we had managed to unpack the necessary foodstuffs for our tea and struggled up the slope in the teeth of the gale, the rain suddenly stopped and allowed us to get our bedding and packs up dry.

The next day was showery but this did not prevent us from taking our lunch and visiting the 'Silica' springs. This being our first day out among the alps, each plant was a thrill to find. Euphrasia cuneata var. tricolor, Hebe hookeriana, H. catarractae, H. tetragona were all in flower. Dacrydium bidwillii, D. laxifolium, Pentachondra pumila, Epacris alpina, Cyathodes empetrifolia, Coprosma repens, Olearia nummularifolia and Myrsine nummularia with its blue berries were also found on the slopes. The small orchid Prasophyllum colensoi was flowering and Anisotome aromatica appeared

everywhere among the rocks. A few Gentian flowers were found but in most cases they were still in bud.

As we got nearer to the springs the scrub became more dense. Here was Leptospermum scoparium in a peculiar stunted form, Pimelea buxifolia the umbrella fern, Gleichenia circinata var. alpina, and where before we had observed Dracophyllum recurvum it now gave place to D. subulatum. On the return journey we found the small insignificant fern Grammitis ciliata in a rock crevice by the side of the road.

Monday morning was wet so we stayed indoors and were favoured with a talk by our leader Dr. Rattenbury on the interesting features and vegetation of the Park. After lunch the sun shone and a trip was made up the mountain to the top of the chair lift, some members going even further to the snow line. Among the flowering plants were found Wahlenbergia albomarginata, Ranunculus nivicola, Hebe spathulata, Claytonia australasica, Helichrysum bellidioides, Gaultheria rupestris, Drapetes dieffenbachii and Celmisia spectabilis, C. incana and two varieties C. gracilentia.

On Tuesday the outing was to Mangatepopo Hut and Soda Springs - a very enjoyable walk across the tussock. Here Coprosma cheesemanii, covered in orange berries was a sight to behold, Viola filicaulis was found in seed and Muehlenbeckia axillaris showing flowers and seed in large patches. A clump of Ourisia colensoi bloomed by the track and Potamogeton natans and Montia fontana in and near the stream. Red patches amongst the tussock turned out to be Acaena microphylla and Haloragis micrantha. Geranium microphyllum was also prolific and Aciphylla squarrosa flowered here and there. Near the Soda Springs various Epilobiums were found along with Pratia angulata and Ranunculus nivicola which had passed the flowering stage.

Tuesday's trip was the highlight of the week with a walk across the moors and through the bush to the Taranaki Falls, then on to the Tama Lakes for the more energetic ones. The views here were more than worth the effort. A few members continued on down to the lake bed and explored the shore.

In the bush on the way to the Falls Nothofagus cliffortioides predominated and Coprosma foetidissima made its presence known with its unpleasant odour. Podocarpus hallii was also here and Pterostylis banksii bloomed merrily.

Around the Falls the Snow Totara, Podocarpus nivalis looked very gay with its red succulent arils and male catkins. Forstera bidwillii was abundant along the tracks to the Tama Lakes and Craspedia uniflora and Celmisia glandulosa were also collected. Two species of Raoulia were noted in large patches on the lower lake bed and Claytonia australasica on the ridge between the lakes. Two Droseras were found namely, D. spathulata and D. arcturi.

Our last trip was taken on Thursday afternoon to National Park Station where there is an interesting area of bush in which flourish the Prince of Wales fern, Leptopteris superba. Many shrubs and trees familiar in the Auckland district were observed such as Wineberry fuchsia and broadleaf. Also present were Pseudowintera colorata

Librocedrus bidwillii, Elaeocarpus hookerianus, Meliccytus lanceolatus and Viola cunninghamii. Enargia parviflora was flowering and the small Iris, Libertia pulchella was found in seed.

Among the ferns we found Apteropteris malingii, usually found on decaying trunks of cedar trees, Microsorium novae-zelandiae and Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum. On the swampy ground on the outskirts of the bush Gunnera dentata was a glorious sight with its delightful fruiting spikes of red berries. Many patches of these we found but we searched in vain for the small pink orchid Spiranthes australis which had previously been noted in this spot. Many other plants were found but it would be impossible to mention them all.

On Friday morning we were on the road at 8.30 and returned via Taupo lunching at the Huka Falls.

On the whole the camp was a great success, thanks to Dr. Rattenbury and our bus driver, Bill Shears, who was always willing to co-operate not only in driving the bus but in other more humble duties as well. Everyone felt very grateful for the fine weather which we had after the first two days with clear views of the mountain tops and a breeze to keep us cool on our long trips. We will look forward to more botanising on Ruapehu in the near future.

That the recollections of those attending the January trip are not wholly concerned with the deep things of Botany is revealed by the following illustrated poem by Ruth Coyle. Doubtless the picture will invoke nostalgic memories in the minds of some of the members. Others will appreciate the drawing for its balance, its rhythmic line and what the art critics are wont to call "plastic form". Not the least of the merits of Ruth Coyle's portrait is that she has avoided all possible complications such as libel actions etc., by tactfully refraining from bestowing a name upon her subject.

BOTANISTS ON RUAPEHU

On Ruapehu's rocky slopes,
You see strange sights these days,
For Botanists are crazy things,
And have the queerest ways!

They come by bus in thunderstorm,
And no one does complain.
Ten yards of sausages come out
Into the pouring rain!