

Mt. Eden) growing on the bulging root of the Crookes pepper tree (Schinus molle). All areas were volcanic ones. Members are then adjured to keep a sharp eye open for it - particularly under Tecoma hedges.

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WEEK-END TRIP

November, 1961

Many miles were covered during the week-end trip to the Kaimais on 25-26 November. Mr. A. Farnell was the leader.

The route taken was through Paeroa, Karangahake Gorge, Waihi etc., to reach a delightful lunch spot at Omokoroa beach near Tauranga. With the inner man satisfied we continued to a halt by the bridge over the Wairoa River on the Kaimai Road. Here we were met by two Hamilton members, Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Gudex, and we then entered a remnant of native bush where members found much of interest.

Oxalis lactea, Gnaphalium and Epilobium spp. were found on the river bank. Ixerba brexioides was in flower, always a lovely sight, and Meliccytus lanceolatus, a rarity around Auckland, was noted.

Ferns were plentiful, the pendulous fronds of Mecodium demissum, M. scabrum and Sphaerocionium ferrugineum were much longer than average. I was particularly impressed with Leptopteris hymenophylloides, the single crepe fern. The fronds had a much thicker appearance than the species, tending towards the variety called 'intermedia'. Sometimes only the upper half of the frond or just a few pinnae would have this thicker texture which gives it such a crisped look. Blechnum nigrum and Leptolepia novae-zelandiae were also seen but time did not permit a full exploration of the area.

Our next brief stop was to visit an old logging track on the western side of the Kaimai Range. Here the blue flowers of the poroporo, Solanum laciniatum and the seed heads of the Clematis lightened the sombre bush. Carex lambertiana and Schoenus foliatus were plentiful on the track.

Then to our headquarters at Matamata and in the evening a swim at Crystal Springs to finish off the day.

On Sunday we turned southwards, branching off at Ngongotaha to visit the Mangowera Stream on the Old Tauranga Road. Gently flowing over a bed of rock and shadowed by lofty forest trees of Rimu, Totara, Beech, Ixerba, Quintinia, Kamahi and others, this shallow stream was a sheer delight. The small herbaceous plants, although not so large in number of genera, were flowering so profusely that the banks of the stream had the appearance of a garden. Most noticeable were Libertia pulchella, our small member of the Iris family, Gnaphalium kerienae, one of the 'everlasting' daisies and Oxalis lactea. The latter wee plant has large white flowers and prefers a damp, shady place generally near water where it will make quite a pretty picture.

Native violets were plentiful. Upstream Viola lyalli was abundant while below the bridge V. filicaulis was predominant. The few records of V. lyalli held in the Auckland Herbarium could indicate that either this has been overlooked or it has been mistaken for one of the other species. In V. cunninghamii the stems are short, the leaves are truncate at the base and the stipules entire. V. filicaulis is easily detected for the stipules are laciniate or as the name suggests they are threadlike. In V. lyalli the leaves are distinctly cordate and the stipules entire.

The most exciting part of the day was to see Lindsaea viridis growing in abundance. I noted that it grew only on the sunny side of the stream. On the opposite side I found that the sides of the rocky pools were covered with Mecodium flexuosum. Growing in complete shade under very wet conditions this fern presented a puzzling appearance. The plants were all short, the fronds being no more than 5 cm. long. In many cases the wing would be plane and also crisped on the same frond so that a division of opinion arose as to its identification. However, Miss Crookes has given her verdict...M. flexuosum.

Another interesting find was Corokia buddleoides var. linearis. This is a very narrow-leaved form and one could expect to locate it in that area since the type material came from the Mamaku Plateau.

And then homeward bound with a stop for a light tea, arriving in Auckland at a convenient hour.

P. Hynes.

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Our hearty thanks to Mrs. Hynes for her interesting account of an interesting trip.

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It is with deep sorrow that we note the passing of one of our foundation members, Mr. James Prickett. Mr. Prickett was always not only a great lover of nature but also a most public spirited citizen and Auckland owes much to him. He served on the Birkenhead Borough Council for twenty-six years, during which time he was Deputy Mayor for three years. He combined business ability with vision. Not surprisingly he was a foundation member of the North Shore Scenic Board. During his term of office the Borough Council acquired the beautiful Kauri Park at Birkdale, containing not only fine stands of Kauri, but also lovely groups of Solander's Beech, rare about Auckland. But Mr. Prickett was never one to do things by halves - once the Park was acquired, he set about transforming its somewhat untidy approach by planting it with beautiful and in some cases uncommon native trees. It is to his vision and enthusiasm too that we owe that charming little reserve alongside the wharf at Birkenhead, and those pleasant little cleared spaces at the foot of the slope with their Norfolk Island Pines. But any scheme for scenery preservation could count on his enthusiastic help. He was a member of the Wild Life Preservation Society and also a keen supporter of the Forest and Bird Society and the Ornithological Society and he worked hard to arouse public opinion in defence of our native plants and birds. Birds were a constant joy to him, and he spent much of his spare time watching and photographing them. Always big-hearted and generous, he delighted in bringing opportunities for bird watching to those who would otherwise lack them. His collection of bird photographs was magnificent and it is good to know that it will be preserved for students of nature. He spared no trouble to obtain his pictures and those who were delighted by his verve and enthusiasm were sometimes astonished at his patience in a hideout when he did not count the hours in awaiting the satisfying moment for an exposure. His kindness was unfailing - and active to the end.

"Whom the Gods love die young" and indeed he kept his youthful enthusiasm of mind and heart to the last. It remains only to offer our sympathies to his relatives and in particular to his widow - a much loved member of our Society.

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