

Followers of other disciplines see romance in the stars too but to us a flower in the hand is still something incomparable.

If my hands no longer touch New Zealand plants - even koromiko sickens after a few months of great heat in the desert gardens - I do keep in touch with fossils of genera still growing in New Zealand. My work now is mainly centered on Antarctica, and involves a "wild surmise" that Antarctica once lay far to the north, so that southern beeches, podocarps and so on could easily have flourished there.

Finally I wish the Society success for the future and hope that it will always combine the conservation, cultivation and academic study of native plants.

With every good wish,

Lucy M. Cranwell (Mrs. Watson Smith)

Coromandel Trip

Favoured by beautiful warm weather, the trip by a party of our members to the Coromandel Peninsula at the Labour Day weekend proved most enjoyable to all.

Leaving Auckland at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, we proceeded after a short stop for morning tea, direct to the Kauaerangi River area, which we reached in good time for lunch. Lunch was, however, delayed for some, as we came to a bridge in a bad state of repair. After vain attempts to turn the bus in mud and scrub, our driver had no option but to risk the dangerous bridge. Fortunately for us, the bridge held.

After lunch, our leader, Mr. Farnell, took us to a very nice piece of bush adjacent to the river. Here we found Senecio myrianthos, a plant peculiar to the Coromandel Peninsula, Pseudopanax discolor, Pittosperum huttonianum and Nothofagus truncata. At the river-side he introduced us to what he called "Noel's Pollard". This proved to be a kauri stump which had sealed itself on top and was still alive. Near this area Loxoma cunninghamii was discovered and from the road Meterosideros carminea was sighted in flower.

It is not proposed to detail all species seen on our trip as lists taken by our members include approximately one hundred and fifty species of our flora. On Sunday our party, increased by five, had a most enjoyable drive up the coast road to Coromandel and Whitianga, we had the pleasure of exploring a very fine reserve there, which contains a number of beautiful kauris amongst other trees and shrubs. At the entrance to the reserve, one of our

members found an orchid, which proved to be Thelymitra carnea var. imberbis. We lunched at this spot.

The road from Tapu to Coroglen is a most exciting one to those who have not been over it before, winding as it does through the hills, with many sharp corners and with little or no room for another vehicle to pass. It would no doubt be likened to the famous "Burma Road". However the views of bush and hills fully compensate for any slight discomfort. We stopped for a few minutes on this road to admire a very fine kauri with flutings on the sides, the flutings finally becoming the large branches which formed the head of the tree. About this kauri were an unusual number of Alseuosmia macrophylla, while on the bank below were quite a few Pittosporum nuttonianum.

Monday drew us back again to the Kauaerangi River to admire once more that pretty stream with its pools and ripples and the bush and hills rising up on either side. During our hunting by and above the river we found much pleasure in two large specimens of Eugenia maire, Pterostylis banksii in plenty and of extraordinary size, an abundance of Freycinetia banksii in flower (both male and female) and Clematis paniculata and C. fosteri in flower growing practically side by side.

After lunch and a little more hunting beside the river, we set off on our return journey to Auckland. Instead of crossing the Hauraki Plains again, we took the coast road through Miranda, Orere and Clevedon back to the Great South Road. A short stop on the coast enabled us to observe the pied stilts nesting in the lagoons which border the road in one place.

Before concluding this short account of yet another pleasurable and satisfying trip, let us express our thanks to Mr. Farnell for his capable leadership and his willingness at all times to give to us from his great store of knowledge of the countryside and the interesting things to be seen.

Our hearty thanks to the member (who prefers to remain anonymous) who has been kind enough to supply us with the above account of what was obviously a very delightful trip.

ON THE NORTH SHORE

This year we have had two trips to the North Shore. The first on June 9th took us first to Orewa bush and then to the Waiwera Hill. Both areas consisted of typical coastal forest. On Waiwera Hill, of particular interest, were fine specimens of the broad leaved tawa (Bellschmidia tawa (Cunn.) Benth & Hook.)