

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.

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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.

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#### 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 & Hooker).

The leaves of this tree may be about twice as wide (just over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches across) as those of the normal tawa. Allan states that this form "may be of varietal rank". Our leader was able to show us the normal and the broad-leaved forms growing side by side. Matai seemed to be reasonably common, and members were able to study both mature and juvenile forms. Pterostylis trullifolia Hook was quite common at least two forms being noted including the one lacking a sinus lobe, which Mr. Hatch named var. alobula. Some interesting ferns were noted on the Waiwera Hill. Doodia caudata R.Br. was seen growing along with the common Rasp Fern, Doodia media R.Br. The stiff little Rosy Maidenhair (Adiantum hispidulum Swartz) also delighted us in places, while the somewhat rare Pteris comans Forst. was also observed. We all enjoyed our ramble through these remnants of coastal bush and the afternoon concluded with a vote of thanks to our leader, Mr. Kitchen.

On July 21st we visited further North Shore bush remnants. Such a one privately owned, known as Battersby's Bush, in the vicinity of Albany yielded several points of interest. It contained a few stands of beech (Nothofagus truncata (Col.) Ckn.), a fair amount of matai and in particular a very odd form of Asplenium bulbiferum Forst.f. about which the editor does not care to dogmatise. This small pocket of forest has been carefully fenced off by the owner and is in a very good state of preservation. There is so little bush left in this district now that one can only hope it will continue to be protected.

Of particular interest to all of us was a visit to Smith's Bush, because the Botanical Society in association with Lucy Cranwell and the Auckland Museum played a not unimportant part in securing its reservation. Alas since those days a great swathe has been cut across it by the Northern Motorway. We found the approaches where we entered disfigured by very flourishing weeds. There are however, gleams of brightness as will be seen from the following article.

We wandered through the western part of the bush under the guidance of our leader Mr. Butler. Species list showed a number of cases \*showing signs of hybridity. In places the ground was carpeted with great masses of Asplenium lamprophyllum Carse while that quaint little climbing fern Arthropteris tenella J. Smith was also encountered.

Smith's Bush - what remains of it - is still a pleasant place in which to wander, but those of us who remembered it in the old days could not help thinking sadly how small a deviation of the Motorway would have added so much to the extent and beauty of this lovely little domain.

M. Crookes.

\* of Coprosma