

Further accounts of North Shore Bush are contributed by Mr. and Mrs. William Fisher, to both of whom we extend our thanks.

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MERRIT'S BUSH

This beautiful piece of bush of approximately 5 acres was recently taken over by the North Shore Scenic Board and I would like to thank those people and organisations who helped to bring this about.

As this area adjoins Kauri Park it seemed very important to me that it should be preserved, for if it had fallen into private hands no doubt the fine Kauris would have been cut out and the tea tree also - thus exposing Kauri Park to the wind. Even worse still the fire risk would be very great with all the dead 'tops' lying about.

About twelve years ago, somebody on the western boundary was burning off and the fire got out of control and the whole area was endangered. Fortunately the alarm was given early enough and the brigade did a wonderful job saving it.

The part that was burnt was mostly tea tree and some of it four to five inches thick, can still be seen rotting on the ground. Already the new growth of Leptospermum ericoides is 5 - 7 ft. high.

Included in this latest acquisition are some fine specimens of Nothofagus truncata, Phyllocladus glaucus is common and there is a beautiful glade of Cardiomanes reniforme. Phebalum nudum is plentiful as also is Corokia buddleoides. Gymnelaea lanceolata and Mida salicifolia are to be found there too. All through the tea tree there are beautiful patches of Lindsaea trichomanoides, Nertera dichondrifolia and N. cunninghamii. On the south western boundary there is a great deal of Phyllocladus trichomanoides.

An interesting feature of the area is the creek which runs through the lower reaches of it. There is a small waterfall and just above it in the hard rock are large holes, five to six feet deep and about two feet across.

Recently the North Shore Scenic Board has made a track down the centre and round the creek side, linking up with the tracks of the Kauri Park Reserve.

W. Fisher.

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(It is indeed a matter for congratulation that Merritt's Bush has been acquired for the public, particularly as it was so nearly lost to us. It is also a matter for congratulation that the authorities have seen fit to appoint as ranger for the property a most enthusiastic plant lover - in fact, Mr. W. Fisher.)