

and popular names as well. In a sub-title the list is described as preliminary. Volume 2 of Allan which includes all the Monocotyledoneae has not yet been published, and new records and alterations of names continue to appear. It is hoped that anyone detecting any mistake or having further information to communicate will get in contact with Mr. Warren (as he requests) so that as time goes on the list may be suitably modified, when it is re-issued at some future date. In the meantime the list should prove of great use to members for some time to come and it is to be hoped that they will avail themselves of it without delay.

#### WHANGAREI TRIP

Our trip to the Whangarei area at Anniversary Day weekend started a few minutes after the appointed time of 8.30 a.m. in fine and mild but cloudy weather with 32 in the bus of whom 3 were members of the Woodlands Park Horticultural Society and 2 friends of members. Stopping only for a few minutes at Brierly Hills for morning tea, we reached Whangarei at 12.45 p.m. where we were met by Miss Marjorie Maddren, a number of other members of the Whangarei Forest & Bird Society and a reporter from the "Northern Advocate". A reception committee such as this is most unusual and it is indicative of the interest of the Forest & Bird Society in the native flora of the district, and of their desire to co-operate with other societies having objects somewhat similar to their own.

A short run brought us to the Coronation Reserve in the Western Hills, at the entrance to which we were very pleased to partake of lunch, as most of us had had breakfast much earlier than usual.

Led by Miss Maddren, who has an excellent knowledge of the bush areas in the district, and of the native flora, we explored the Reserve by a track which brought us back to our starting point. The commonest tree in the area appeared to be the tree coprosma (Coprosma arborea). The most unusual in appearance was the Totara (Podocarpus totara). There were many of these with very long, straight trunks, like young kauris. Alseuosmia was plentiful, but puzzling as usual where there is more than one variety growing in the district. Some appeared to be Alseuosmia banksii, some were clearly Alseuosmia quercifolia, some had the characteristics of both, while others had the leaves of both on the one plant. The New Zealand Iris (Libertia ixioides), the dwarf cabbage tree (Cordyline pumilio), and rimu (Dacrydium cupressinum) with long, straight trunks were also plentiful.

The hard beech (Nothofagus truncata) was present but not plentiful, only two trees being sighted. A small clematis, which appears to be Clematis parviflora, was met with quite frequently on the ridge. At the entrance to the Reserve, a nice patch of Athyrium japonicum was noted. This fern is local in its occurrence and is not common in the Auckland district. It is not proposed to weary

*Hypolepis rugosula* <sup>5</sup> Wintone Track

readers with a recital of other species which were present. Suffice it that we had a very enjoyable afternoon in an interesting piece of bush, which is regenerating well.

Unfortunately our pleasure was marred by the sight of damage done by vandals, two-legged and four-legged. The two-legged ones are no doubt small boys with hatchets or axes for, during our walk, we noticed every few yards along the track a tree slashed or partially ring barked. One small tree had been felled. A fairly large one had apparently been meant to bear the same fate, but had proved a bit tough for the young axeman. One or two tree ferns had all their fronds broken down. A cleared patch seemed to indicate that somebody bigger than a boy had been in search of tree fern trunks for a bush house or other adjunct to a garden. The notice at the entrance had received the attention of the hatchet, and had been used as a target for mud balls. Nobody objects to boys having a harmless game of 'Cowboys and Indians' but damage such as this should not be tolerated on any account.

The four-legged vandals are opossums. These destructive animals are capable of ruining the bush if left to their own devices.

Whangarei is fortunate indeed to be almost surrounded by beautiful green bush, and great care should be taken to preserve it for future generations. It would indeed be a tragedy if those lovely hills became bare, for then the town would lose all its attractiveness. The remedy appears to be:

- (1) In the appointment of more honorary rangers from the ranks of those who visit the bush regularly and have a definite interest in, and knowledge of, our native flora.
- (2) In the education of the young at school in the need for trees and other vegetation, and in the need for preservation of the remnants of our own forest.
- (3) In the education of parents of the same needs by regular articles in the press.
- (4) In getting the controlling authorities to take a lively interest in the reserves by pressure from the press.

On arrival at our hotel, where we were very comfortably lodged it was not long before one of our members discovered the following article in the "Northern Advocate".

"Botanists visit Whangarei. A party of 32 members of the Auckland Botanical Society led by the president (Mr. R.S. Lediard) arrived in Whangarei by bus shortly after midday today. They are an expedition to search for and study native flora of the district. Some executive members of the Whangarei Native Forest and Bird Protection Society met the party on arrival and were to guide the members round Coronation Reserve this afternoon. Tomorrow the botanists will have a full day trip to Ngaioitonga. On Monday morning it is planned to drive up Parahaki and walk down through the bush to Mair Park to rejoin the bus. The return journey to Auckland will be made via Waipu Cove and Mangawai."

Sunday was fine, clear and hot, in fact a perfect summer day. Under the leadership of our well known and very well informed Whangarei member, Mrs. K. Reynolds, we set off for Ngaiotonga. Shortly after passing Hikurangi, the tar sealing ended and we had perforce to travel along a dry dusty road for the remainder of the journey to Ngaiotonga. It was a great pleasure to observe from the bus the deep blue waters of the Pacific and the attractive Helena and Oakura Bays. Calling a halt a few miles north of Helena Bay, Mrs. Reynolds drew our attention to a fine patch of Gleichenia flabellata growing on a hot, dry bank, certainly an unusual place to find this particular fern. The queer looking orchid, Orthoceras strictum, was also found at this spot, growing in broken rock and earth. Our journey was again broken on the climb to Ngaiotonga, to view Hebe diosmifolia in flower. We walked up the road for some distance from this spot to observe the flora on either side. By the time we reached Ngaiotonga we were all fully prepared to sit down and eat lunch.

The country at Ngaiotonga is steep and broken and contains large masses of limestone rock in which kauri and other trees grow quite happily. Our botanising here was rewarded with the sight of the large white rata (Metrosideros albiflora), Dicksonia lanata with little or no trunk, Olea montana and Mida salicifolia var. myrtifolia with leaves wider than usual.

On the return journey a short stop was made to look at several specimens of the lowland ribbonwood (Plagianthus betulinus), one of which had a trunk of at least 12 inches diameter. At Kamo we sampled the soda water, free to all. Some enjoyed it but others, from the facial expressions, appeared to find it rather unpleasant to the taste. After regretfully bidding our leader farewell, we continued to the Whangarei Falls. The volume of water falling was not very great but, with a sheer drop of 60 ft. the Falls were nevertheless well worth viewing. Upon reaching the hotel again, a rush was made to the showers to rid ourselves of the dust that we had accumulated during this day of changing scene.

Monday was again hot, fine and sunny when, accompanied by Miss Maddren and other members of the Forest & Bird Society, we proceeded to the top of Parahaki to gain wonderful views of Whangarei, the bush clad hills, the harbour, the Heads, Portland and many other Points of interest. The walk down through the bush from the summit proved again how fortunate Whangarei is in having so much native flora adjacent to the town. Alseuosmia was present, but here it was Alseuosmia linariifolia only, although only a short distance from Coronation Reserve as the crow flies. Then there was that beautiful fern, Loxoma cunninghamii, Gleichenia flabellata again, toatoa (Phyllocladus glaucus) in plenty, some fine kauris, rimu, miro, large mature lancewood, Quintinia serrata, tree ferns and many more too numerous to mention. This is a lovely piece of native bush. There was fortunately no sign of vandalism, although some nine months previously the wooden steps on the track had been badly chopped up in places with an axe. These have now been repaired.

At the base of the hill, we were met not only by our bus, but also by a representative of the "Northern Advocate" who was very interested in our visit. After a photograph of the party had been taken by a press photographer, we bade reluctant farewells to our Whangarei friends and took the road to Waipu Cove where we had lunch. Here we thoroughly enjoyed a few minutes on the beach before setting off for the bush in the gorge towards Mangawai.

Botanising here was disappointing as cattle had been in the area for some considerable time, making tracks and destroying the undergrowth. However, with the exclusion of the cattle, regeneration is taking place and it will no doubt be an area well worth visiting again in a few years time. From here we had a pleasant but uneventful journey home.

This short account of our trip cannot be closed without an expression of our sincere thanks to Mrs. Reynolds and Miss Maddren for their assistance, and to the members of the Whangarei Forest and Bird Society for their keen interest in our outings.

F. Warren.

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#### ON TO MILFORD

On January 18th a combined party of 21 members of the Auckland Botanical Society and the Auckland Natural History Club set off on an ambitious South Island tour. After a magnificent sightseeing flight around the icefields of Mt. Cook we reached Glade House at the head of Lake Te Anau that same day to start the Milford Track. To do this trip without donning a parka is almost unbelievable - how lucky we were to have such perfect weather.

Two years ago I found Gastrodia cunninghamii less than a hundred yards from the boat landing - behold it was still growing there though over 3,000 tourists and also transport had passed that way. The tourists must have been very low abiding - or perhaps blind. G. cunninghamii is a true parasite and seems to grow only on the roots of Nothofagus spp.; we have found it near the Chateau but here it was abundant - rather dingy in appearance but the stem is strikingly and beautifully striated. The forest here was predominantly Silver Beech (Nothofagus menziesii), Mountain Beech (N. cliffortioides) and also a few Red Beech (N. fusca) which we were to lose and not see again till returning to this side of the divide in the Eglinton Valley. Excepting Phyllocladus alpinus this seemed to be the limit of conifers till reaching the mouth of the Arthur River near Milford. The number of species of shrubs forming the undergrowth of the beech forest was rather meagre. Neomyrtus pedunculata, Coprosma rotundifolia, and Pseudowintera colorata were the most abundant. A few lancewoods (Pseudopanax crassifolium) seen in this area somehow seemed