

NEWS LETTER

AUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Vol.20 No.3

November 1963

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Having now concluded twenty years editorship of the News Letter, the editor would like to take the opportunity of thanking all those members who have helped and supported her with their contributions and express the wish that they will be equally forthcoming with the next editor.

If only twelve members would undertake to provide one article a year, that would give four articles for each number of a four-monthly News Letter. The present editor will be only too happy to do her share in this matter.

Remember that if you are unable to provide a complete article, a new record, or an observation about an unusual flowering season or indeed any matter of botanical interest will be welcome. Only the co-operation of members is required to guarantee a worthy and interesting future for our little publication.

It only remains to wish the incoming editor a happy term of office and say "Welcome" on behalf of the members.

The Society has now resolved to undertake a new project. After considerable thought and discussion, it has been decided to study the vegetation along the cliffs of the Auckland West Coast between the northern end of Erangi Bay and the mouth of the Pararaha Stream, excluding any sand dune and salt marsh vegetation.

It was felt that the idea of a roving commission lasting over a number of years might appeal to members. Each member has their own particular interest and in this project members could

choose either a special plant or group of plants or else a special subject such as hybridism or damage done by opossums or other pests for study. Members could publish any results of interest from time to time in the News Letter and also we could have an occasional evening in which workers could show relevant slides or photographs and discuss their findings.

A number of members have already chosen subjects which interest them, but there are other subjects to be considered and we hope for further volunteers. Subjects so far selected for study are:

Mosses - Mrs. Barr (Henderson) and Mrs. Wormald
Ferns - Marguerite Crookes
Herbs - Mrs. Hynes
Shrubs - Mr. Warren
Kowhai (Sophora microphylla) - Miss Barr.
Tawapou (Planchonella novo-zelandica) Mr. Mead.

It will be noted that there are still a number of subjects awaiting volunteers. The following are a few suggestions:

Orchids
Coastal trees (or any particular tree that is of special interest to a member)
Coprosmas
Naturalised plants.

Good maps of the region are readily available and members could obtain these and mark down their records showing rarity or otherwise of their special plants.

Speaking for herself, the editor has already encountered much of interest and some surprises, and feels certain that others will find their studies equally rewarding.

A definite aim is always of interest and adds point to one's wandering. It is felt that the results of such a survey may add at least a little to our knowledge of our West Coast vegetation. Additional information is required about such matters as flowerings and fruiting season of some of our trees and shrubs, the extent to which they are producing seedlings etc. In this project members will be botanising in an area of singular beauty. We hope as many as possible will participate in the scheme. Those desiring to take part could perhaps notify the editor, at the same time advising her as to their particular choice of subject.