

This enjoyable and interesting trip, led by Dr. Rattenbury and Mr. Quinn was to Kelly's Road, Oratia, where the University have a bush reserve of several acres which includes a variety of podocarps. Mr. Quinn who was our morning guide, gave us a short talk on these podocarps, and during a pleasant ramble through the reserve we saw many fine Dacrydium kirkii and also the rarer D. colensoi. There were miro, rimu, totara and several stands of kauri, with the tiny fern Schizaea dichotoma growing in profusion on the forest floor. One especially large kahikatea was noted, and two good specimens of Eugenia maire were growing in a swampy part of the valley. There was an abundant growth of young seedlings everywhere, and many ferns, including Lindsaea trichomanoides and Blechnum fraseri. We lunched in lovely sunshine at the top of the road, and while waiting for our bus to return enjoyed ( by the courtesy of a local resident ) a pleasant stroll through an adjoining property.

Dr. Rattenbury took charge after lunch and we went up Forest Hill Road to Cascade Avenue, where we saw a beautiful specimen of Senecio kirkii in full flower. Mr. T. White kindly invited us up a very steep hill to his home perched on a peak. As well as a magnificent view he had quite a collection of kowhai, and some Helicope simplex which here grow to be fairly large trees.

Our trip ended with a quick visit to the lovely Kauri Knoll just off the Scenic Drive. Our thanks are due to Dr. Rattenbury and Mr. Quinn for making our outing both happy and instructive.

#### MEETING 1 July 1964

The usual lecture gave way this month to a most interesting quiz forum chaired by Mr. Lediard and panelled by Mr. Butler, Miss Crookes, Mr. Quinn and Dr. Rattenbury. Question and answer covered a wide field and proved both entertaining and instructive. Several of the points raised were worthy of much fuller treatment, and one in particular is still revolving in my mind. This is the validity of early records of solitary plants in unlikely or unusual places. Plants do occur as solitary outriders and many often disappear subsequently. I have experienced several such myself. For example there used to be a colony of Prasophyllum nudum and another of Ophioglossum pedunculatum, near Mackies Rest on the old Exhibition Drive overlooking Parau. These flourished for 5 or 6 years after 1945 when steadily encroaching gorse choked them out and there are no more to be seen. There was also, prewar, a quite large ( some eighteen inches diameter ) Dacrydium kirkii, still bearing some juvenile foliage on its lower branches, on a roadside overlooking the Titirangi foreshore, but this fell before a road construction gang. Similarly, and not that long ago, the only Eugenia maire I have ever found in Laingholm was pushed over by a bulldozer intent on filling a corner of the Victory Road swamp. And so ad infinitum! And yet I suppose that in fifty years time another generation of amateur botanists will query these records of mine. E. D. H.