

KAREKARE 15 August 1964 - - - E.M.Davis

We visited Karekare under the leadership of Miss Crookes and followed Taraire Track on the south side of the valley. The track's name is indicative of the numerous taraire found along it. Tawapou (Planchonella novo-zelandica) is common in the area. Pseudopanax lessonii, Ps. crassifolium and possible hybrids between them occur among the characteristic west coast plant associations. Mairehau (Phebalium nudum) is common, and Pimelea longifolia and several patches of Libertia ixioides and Arthropodium cirrhatum were found. Among the many ferns identified were Pteris tremula, comans and macilenta, macilenta var saxatilis and Asplenium hookerianum. Ground orchids included Pterostylis trullifolia var alobula.

A short climb up La Trobe track at its junction with Taraire track rewarded us with a wide view of the area from the lookout. Our thanks are due to Miss Crookes for a very interesting day made all the more pleasant by its being unexpectedly fine and sunny in the midst of wet weather.

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MEETING 2 September 1964

An evening devoted to the showing of member's slides, with Mr. Lediard as organiser and projectionist. All proved most interesting and three items in particular -

Mr. Mead had been experimenting with photographs of fern fronds to show variation in venation. He pointed out that each species appeared to have its own vein pattern (a thing which had never occurred to me), and that this could often be used as an aid to identification in the larger genera such as Blechnum and Hymenophyllum.

Dr. Rattenbury brought along some twigs of Metrosideros from Rangitoto, and a nice Japanese dissecting microscope which filled me with envy. He set this up and invited the troops to study the manner in which the seed had germinated and developed to the cotyledon stage while still within the capsule. Surely an unusual and most interesting state of affairs.

Mrs. Satchell showed some excellent and most colourful pictures of fungi which served to accentuate my own abysmal ignorance of the group. I feel that Bot. Soc. Bulletin, with perhaps a few pertinent line drawings, would turn out to be a best seller. I can tell the difference between a bracket fungus and a mushroom, but there I fear my knowledge stops. It occurs to me also that the mosses and liverworts, being common and easily obtainable, could be perhaps earmarked for future treatment along the same lines. E.D.H.