

A damp beginning and a pessimistic forecast, but the bus was completely filled. We passed through rain and mist on the ranges, but Anawhata was clear and promising when we arrived. A magnificent panorama of ocean, cliffs and cloud. The track ran through manuka scrub which harboured many plants - silver Cassinia retorta, Olearia furfuracea, Carmichaelia aligera, Lophomyrtus obcordata, Cyathodes fraseri in flower; Drosera auriculata always a delight to see; Hebe obtusata, Helichrysum glomeratum nearly obscured; the handsome Astelia banksii; Lindsaea linearis in a few open places, a gentle, elegant little fern; large colonies of Adiantum aethiopicum were beautiful in the manuka and the larger A.cunninghamii; plenty of hardy dark Polystichum richardii; Doodia media, Pteris comans and P.macilentata occurred plentifully in the gully nearer the beach, and Arthropodium cirrhatum on the steep banks. Along the shore on the dunes, the Spinifex hirsutus was luxuriant - male and female flowers in profusion. In the dripping wet places were to be found the expected plants, none the less delightful - Samolus repens, Selleria radicans, Lobelia anceps, the little tape-measure plant Lilaeopsis orbicularis; the celery Apium australe; Senecio lautus, Tetragonia triayna, Celmisia major, and on the large rock facing the sea, Astelia banksii.

On the way back we stopped at Whites Track. At the entrance a fine plant of Gahnia lacera with many cinnamon-coloured plumes; Libertia ixioides with its pure white flowers; Thelymitra longifolia with its white, pink and blue flowers was much admired; Celmisia major, Pimelea prostrata, Lagenophora pumila and Sophora microphylla var fulvida the kowhai peculiar to the west coast. G.M.B.

ON BLECHNUM CAPENSE - - - K. Wood

In latter years members have been finding the Green Bay form of Blechnum capense in various parts of the North Island. At Christmas time while visiting Mt. Egmont, I found many specimens similar to this on the higher slopes of the mountain - in fact it was quite common. This appears to be the 'Dunedin - Cass' variety, which like the Green Bay form differs from the ordinary Blechnum capense in that the pinnae are not narrowed down at the base. Chambers states that the 'Dunedin - Cass' variety is common in mountain areas, so perhaps it is not surprising to find it on Egmont. K.W.