

(On 25 May 1965 Mr. Lediard was invited to Hamilton to talk on things botanical to Forest & Bird. This effort evoked a newspaper article in - I think - the Waikato Times, and the following account from Mrs. Eagle, for which I am truly thankful. E.D.H.)

The members of the Waikato Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society were very grateful to Mr. Lediard for giving his time to come to Hamilton and address them on the subject of fungi - and the Botanical Society's trip to Mount Egmont earlier in the year. As there is no one with a knowledge of fungi amongst us, our eyes were opened to the beauty of form and colour which the group possess. As a result of Mr. Lediard's talk 5 Forest & Bird members have so far applied for membership with the Botanical Society, making a total of 10 Waikato members,

On 12 June a visit was made to an area which has been known for nearly half a century as the Mile Bush, situated on the road between Ngaruawahia and Glen Massey. Several interesting plants were noticed, one was the fern Trichomanes elongatum which was fairly plentiful growing on a dark and steep valley side. In an area mostly comprised of heketara (Olearia rani), the orchids Pterostylis trullifolia and Acianthus fornicatus var sinclairii were in flower. Pt. trullifolia was particularly abundant; in some places the rosette leaves formed a complete ground cover several feet square with the flowering plants scattered amongst them. Another abundant orchid was Bulbophyllum pygmaeum and also several plants of Sarcochilus adversus. A pigeon was seen eating the leaves of a lacebark tree, tuis were heard, and of course the fantails were with us most of the day. In the Waikato members have rarely seen the kawaka (Libocedrus plumosa), only a few odd trees are known to them but in this area we have seen 3, and several others have been reported by an adjoining farmer. Although the main Hakarimata Range is only a few miles away it is not known if any of these trees have been found there. Everyone was amazed at the abundance of fungi on this trip. Having Mr. Lediard's slides fresh in their memories increased their interest in them and indeed there was an enormous variety of size shape and colour, every hue of the rainbow being present and well as those of more sombre shade. 125 plants were listed on this trip.

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Dr. McNab spoke on the Boletes of New Zealand. These toadstool-sort-of fungi become most interesting in the hands of an expert. From what I can gather (and I am not too sure of my ground here) the Boletes bear their spores in tubes or pores and not on gills like the common mushroom. This should make them recognisable. The bulk of them are mycorrhizal and maintain a more or less symbiotic relationship with forest trees, mainly conifers, beeches (Nothofagus), birches (Betula) and the