

The trip to Karekare along the new bush track and later to the coast proved most satisfactory from all points of view. There is a fine stand of young kauri near the entrance to the track with thick undergrowth of kiekie and Lycopodium deuterodensum, and on the outskirts Corokia buddleioides and Senecio kirikii, interspersed with Astelia trinervia. No trace was found of the Schizaea which so often frequents the ground under kauri. It was suggested that the trees were not sufficiently mature. Several orchids were noted - Pterostylis graminea, trullifolia, and montana var rubricaulis; Corybas oblongus, and climbing on a kauri bole, the small Bulbophyllum pygmaeum. A few tanekaha, rewarewa, Olearia furfuracea and Geniostoma ligustrifolium stood above the undergrowth. On the high banks where the track descended to a stream bed, filmy ferns abounded - Hymenophyllum demissum, dilatatum and multifidum, the kidney fern Trichomanes reniforme, Todea hymenophylloides, Asplenium and Blechnum species, and a comparative rarity the bristle fern Trichomanes elongatum. The great variety of shrubs and trees was amazing and notebooks filled rapidly. To mention only a few - Coprosma spatulata, Quintinia serrata, Persoonia toru, Myrsine salicina, Pittosporum ellipticum, Corynocarpus laevigatus, Ixerba brexioides, Litsea calicaris, Beilschmiedia tawa and tarairi. One small flower was seen on Alseuosmia macrophylla, and a fallen white petal indicated a shower of Clematis aloft.

After a short run towards Karekare beach the forty members lunched " under a spreading chestnut tree " - I mean pohutukawa - seated on a carpet of Tetragonia trigyna while the billy boiled merrily nearby. A steep climb up a rock-faced cliff disclosed treasures hidden in the grass - the woolly cloak fern Cheilanthes sieberi, the new season's fronds barely fertile; Polystichum richardii in abundance and banks of Doodia media (but no D. caudata was seen). On the bare rock a single clump of Celmisia major (a stray from Piha ?) Cassinia retorta, Hebe obtusata with pale mauve flowers and the natural hybrid Hebe bishopiana (obtusata x stricta) braved the salt winds. Clumps of the flat stemmed Lepidosperma laterale, ngaio and Phormium tenax dominated the manuka scrub over the crest of the hill. In the valleys were coastal trees - tarata (Pittosporum eugenoides) with its distinctive lemon tang noticeable from crushed leaves; Melicope ternata, tawapou and noteworthy specimens of a hybrid panax with webbed leaflets and cream-blotched leaves. A wealth of ferns covered the terrain - Pteris macilenta and comans, Blechnum filiforme, Adiantum cunninghamii and fulvum. Here and there were patches of the N.Z. bamboo Microlaena polynoda. These comprise a mere fraction of the great variety of plants noticed in this typical coastal area. From the whole days outing over 100 species were noted.

Thankyou Mr. Mead for an extremely good botanising day.

AWHITU CENTRAL - 18 September 1965 - - - H. Cookson

Ever keen to visit new areas, a bus load of members, led by Mr. D.W. Hodgson, travelled via Waiuku to a recently formed reserve at Awhitu Central. There were fine specimens of kauri, matai, rimu, taraire, karaka, lancewood, Coprosma arborea, tanekaha, Corokia buddleioides and many others. Alseuosmia bearing scented flowers of pale or dark pink, Earina mucronata flowering on high, and underneath many seedlings and some orchids - Corybas, Pterostylis and Chiloglottis species. Most interesting was a patch of some hundreds of Mida salicifolia with varied leaf shapes and sizes and a tendency towards var. myrtifolia. Metrosideros fulgens had lately flowered.

Eighteen miles further on towards the Manukau heads we scrambled on the steep slopes of a gully and found seedlings of kauri, mairehau and Alseuosmia. A tall toro in flower, with rewarewa and Dracophyllum latifolium rearing above the scrub and tangle of kiekie. Poroporo grew on the edge of a clearing. Among the ferns we noticed Hymenophyllum demissum and dilatatum, and Blechnum lanceolatum. This steep area is doomed to be brought in to farm land, but when the bush is removed the road could subside, as has happened a short distance away.

Our thanks were given to Mr. Hodgson for a very interesting outing. H.C.

LEONARD COCKAYNE - BOTANIST E.D.H.

It so happens that the first house I ever slept in in New Zealand was Avalon, the home of Mr. & Mrs. Jas. Hunter in New Lynn. When the Hatch tribe arrived here from England in 1922 we were met at the New Lynn railway station by Mrs. Hunter, complete with pony and trap. My association with Mr. Hunter, begun thus early, continued without a break until his death some 25 years later, and from him I caught that enthusiasm for plants and botany which still clings to me with sometimes embarrassing tenacity. He also gave me from time to time, old Floras and books on New Zealand botany, which didn't impress me much then but which are now among my more valued possessions. Mr. Hunter was an accomplished teller of tales, and I would often as a child get him reminiscing on his botanical adventures with Leonard Cockayne and others of like fame.

Many years ago the founder of this Society, Dr. Lucy Cranwell-Smith (who was another friend of Mr. Hunter's) gave me a book. When I got it home I found between its pages a letter from Dr. Cockayne which I have treasured ever since. It is addressed to Miss Cranwell and dated Ngairo, Wellington, 13 October 1932. I would like to quote a sentence from it -

"Allan told me all about his visit and how the knowledge of the two Lucys in regard to the flora of Auckland had far exceeded his own."