

On Saturday, 19 February, a full coach of cheery members enjoined for the day's outing north.

With previous days of continuous heavy rain, flooding was evident in low lying areas, and the pasturelands wore a lush growth of rich green.

Temperatures and high humidity reigned throughout much of the drive north, and it was with great relief we sought the cool shade of the forest reserve at Ti Point. This reserve, until recently, has been the roaming grounds of sheep and cattle, and therefore remains very open, with little growth underfoot except Oplismenus and wild strawberries, and scattered bushes of Solanum aviculare, and Adiantum cunninghamii. The predominant trees in this coastal belt were graceful old pohutukawas, puriris, Olea lanceolata, taraira and tawa.

Our climb up the hillside was both hazardous and uncomfortable, with slippery leaf mould underfoot and ever persistent mosquitoes attacking at every opportunity. However, we were rewarded at the top by discovering Cheilanthes sieberi growing en masse on an exposed concave rock face and, surprising also, was to find these plants without any "foreign intruders" as neighbours.

Our lunch stop was made at nearby Matheson Bay - a delightful secluded spot which some members found excellent for swimming.

After leaving here, our coach ran into fine rain, and our view from Pakiri Hill was unfortunately completely obscured by a blanket of mist. The road then dropped rather rapidly, and we were surprised to spot a small waterfall tucked up a valley as we sped towards Pakiri Beach. However, this fine beach was not ours for relaxation, and we moved on, passing by the lee side of the Pakiri sand dunes, where pukekos and ducks were gliding around the flooded swamps of flax (Phormium tenax), raupo (Typha angustifolia) and cabbage trees (Cordyline australis). Along the roadside were flowering white hebes and the ever graceful gahnia.

Inland from the coast was Tomarata Reserve, our objective for exploratory wanderings. Although not of extensive acreage, this forest was rich in the following vegetation :-

Agathis australis; Dacrydium cupressinum (rimu); Freycinetia banksii (kiekie); Metrosideros robusta (in blossom); Metrosideros fulgens; Phyllocladus trichomanoides; Pittosporum eugenoides; Alseuosmia macrophylla; Carpodetus serrata (putaputaweta); Collospermum hastatum; Corynocarpus laevigatus (karaka); Beilschmiedia tarairi, Beilschmiedia tawa; Geniostoma ligustrifolium (hangehange); Coprosma areolata; Coprosma arborea; Rhipogonum scandens (supple jack); Rhopalostylis sapida (nikau), Blechnum fraseri; Blechnum filiforme; Asplenium flaccidum; Asplenium bulbiferum; Adiantum fulvum; Paesia scaberula; Pteris macilenta; Hymenophyllum flexuosum; Thelypteris pennigera; Hymenophyllum demissum; Pyrrosia serpens.

An interesting discovery was a kohekohe (Dysoxylum spectabile) with berry stemming direct from the lower portion of its large trunk. This cauliflory member is a direct indication that the tree has relations in Malaya.

On leaving the Reserve we turned our eyes homeward and, to round off yet another enjoyable outing, we adjourned to Wenderholm

for our evening snack. Many of us had our first glimpse of this attractive sheltered bay, the foreshore of which is girt by fine old spreading pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*).

Our thanks are due to Mr Lediard and Mr Warren for their excellent organisation, and our driver for his superb handling of the coach.