

SILVERDALE 19th March 1966

At Silverdale we were met by the Bartlett family. With Mr Frank Bartlett having to take things easy now, we were shown round their farm by Mr Ken Bartlett, who, like his brother has long been a keen farm forester, creating a plantation of a variety of tree species - notable among which are the Tasmanian blackwoods and the Eucalypts. Beneath these is an interesting variety of native plants, and Mr Hatch has compiled a lengthy list of the species present in the area, along with the Bartletts. Among the more notable, but not seen recently were Phylloglossum (now ploughed in unfortunately) and Korthalsella, on the manuka.* Many ferns present reach a great size and luxuriance. Schizaea fistulosa, grass-like among the herbage, was pointed out, and an attractive bank of Adiantum aethiopicum seen.

A good group of kauri seedlings and saplings occurs by the creek, and several salt marsh species were tucked away on the banks, crowded by the mangroves. It is unfortunate that the new highway will cut the farm in half and necessitate the removal of many of the finest trees, so this is perhaps the last opportunity we had to see them.

Mr Bartlett's daughter then took us to the bush above her farm on the Riverhead turnoff, which includes old kanuka stands and nikau groves, with various trees through it, including puriri, karaka, toro and the odd kauri ricker. Ferns were numerous, and podocarp regeneration frequent, with many of the kauri associates still present. This is where Bacrydium intermedium was found at one time.

*Footnote: Korthalsella I saw there on June 25th, with Mr Farnell.

J. H.

WAITAKERE DAM 16th April 1966

A fine day, neither hot nor cold - the new road into the Waitakere Dam proved rewarding botanising. At the entrance many adult Pseudopanax crassifolium stood dark amongst the lighter Pittosporum tenuifolium. Myrsine australis was thick with crimson fruit and Coprosma lucida was spectacular with a fine display of stalked orange berries, Coprosma australis coming later and mainly still in flower, or berries immature. Mida salicifolia and two Oleas - O. lanceolata and O. montana were seen and compared. There were many large trees of Senecio kirkii, and not epiphytic. An interesting find was Neopanax anomalum with flattened fruits, purple-speckled and sparse-leaved branches at right angles.

Lophomyrtus bullata often appeared, fresh and bright green where it had been cut back. Metrosideros fulgens had scarlet flowers against its dark foliage. A patch of Hypolepis distans was growing in the open on the roadside, plenty of the kidney fern and large colonies of Blechnum fraseri. Sprays of Farina autumnalis and Dendrobium cunninghamii were very long - 2 feet and more - the latter with plentiful fruit.

After lunch the way back was thick forest; fine large kauris, huge Astelia trinerva crowding round the base; Cerokia buddleioides and Pittosporum cornifolium being associate shrubs, and some large many-leaved Dracophyllum latifolium, Quintinia serrata, and Ilex in fruit.

G. Bedford.