

Lunch was partaken on a pleasant open rise. Here the green sedgey plant, Kyllinga brevifolia, now considered not truly indigenous, was competing with the grass. Earlier we had seen it as one of the dominant plants growing prolifically in seepage, giving evidence that it is tolerant of diverse conditions.

In the valley below nestled Lake Okaihu. The water table of the boggy land surrounding the lake was rather high so a large community of fresh water plants was not fully investigated. Most abundant in the swamp was the tall sedge, Scirpus lacustris and the introduced Barnyard grass, Echinochloa crusgalli. Some of the other plants noticed were Ottelia ovalifolia, Ludwigia palustris, (water purslane), Ranunculus rivularis, Polygala hydropiper (water pepper), Potamogeton, Myriophyllum and Callitriche.

On return to the bus a quick run was made to Muriwai beach and here our leader collected a little member of the Cress family, Lepidium virginicum, which has the common name of pepper grass (alien).

A vote of thanks was passed to our leader for a most interesting field trip.

P. Hynes.

KAKAMATUA RIDGE - 18th June 1966

The ridge line between the Kakamatua and Huia valleys looks at first sight unpromising, but the bus load of members who visited it on 18th June, favoured by fine weather, found it most rewarding, particularly on account of the variety of associations traversed. The track, leaving the Huia Road opposite the turn-off to the Spragg monument, at first enters what is almost typical gum-land scrub. Here the Manukau brécias of the Waitakere Ranges are grading into the Waitemata claystones on their eastern flanks; also, this area has suffered repeated burning in the past before being brought under the protection of the Park. So we get the general cover of stunted tea-tree association with various twiggy coprosmas, the heath pa-totara, akepiro, umbrella ferns, the two common lycopodiums, and Lindsaea linearis among the ground cover of rushes, mosses and lichens. Promise of regeneration to forest was shown by occasional kauri seedlings and toro. As the ridge is ascended, following an old eroded and slippery logging track, the tea-tree is higher, and here the area may have been burnt once only following the original milling. This enters more typical Waitakere soil, and after the climb the track follows a nearly level ridge line with pleasant walking through rapidly regenerating bush, characterised by tanekaha, mapou, lancewood, ramarama, titoki, some kauri, and surprisingly a few specimens of young nangeao, and a solitary Melicope ternata, among the more common second growth association typified by pigwood, mahoe, koromiko and coprosmas. A manuka 4' - 10" in girth at breast height excited some comment. On the ground were several orchids in flower - Pterostylis trullifolia in the two varieties alobula and gracilis, Acianthus fornicatus, and Corybas aconitiflorus. At one position alongside the track juvenile Carmichaelia

is coming up in hundreds. Lindsaea trichomanoides, somewhat local in distribution, was found among the ferns. At the summit of the ridge, where the party stopped for lunch, is a look-out platform ingeniously contrived among the branches of a half-dead totara tree, from which splendid views of the Huia bush-clad water catchment and the Manukau Harbour are obtained.

From this point the route descends following a formed track on an easy grade to the lower Huia valley, in bush which largely escaped fire following the early milling, and in which pole kauri, some of substantial size, is common. Some trees of considerable height growing out of old stumps of kauris probably milled a hundred years ago provided the curious members of the party with some guesses at identification. As the track descends to the Huia Stream it re-enters the clay country, with plentiful regenerating kauri on a moss floor, in which the rush-like fern Schizaea fistulosa was found. Crossing the suspension bridge the bus was reached well before return time, enabling some of the party to enjoy a quick glance at Mrs Wood's interesting native collection in her garden at her Huia bach. Some rare ferns, and a fine flowering bush of Hebe bishofiana (the local speciality) were seen.

A.D. Mead.

CAN YOU HELP?

LIST OF SEEDS REQUIRED by Mrs M.J. Bulfin,
Botany Division,
D.S.I.R.,
Private Bag,
CHRISTCHURCH

Requests for these seeds come from all over the world - perhaps you can assist?

Beilachmedia taraire	Libocedrus plumosa
Carpodetus serratus	Meryta sinclairii
Clematis forsteri	Metrosideros colensoi
Cordyline indivisa	M. parkinsonii
C. pumilio	Myosotidium hortensia
Cyathodes parviflora	Paratrophis banksii
Dacrydium kirkii	Persoonia toru
Fuchsia colensoi	Pittosporum cornifolium
F. perscandens	P. patulum
Gnaphalium kerliense	Pomaderris apetala
Knightia excelsa	Senecio kirkii

K. Wood.