

This is our annual long day trip and this year we had a look at Wenderholm reserve, the Waiwera Hill reserve and Eve's Bush, Orewa. We left at 9am and after picking up a number of members at Barry's Point we travelled to the Wenderholm hill. The entrance to the reserve is a bulldozed track about 300 yds below the Wenderholm turnoff. A short distance up the track we met the new fence put up by the authorities to keep cattle out. It must be successful because there are now no signs of animals left. I am not going to give a list of plants found (76 species) but we found a Carmichaelia (cunninghamii ?) with 3 unmottled orange seeds; a large Metrosideros excelsa with a number of flowers, very unusual at this time of the year; and both M. fulgens and perforata in bloom on which the bees were very busy. A surprise was a lone Laurelia novae-zelandiae (pukatea) at the top of the hill, well out of its usual habitat. Also Mida salicifolia, Olca (Gymnelaca) lanceolata, Coprosma spathulata with red berries, Melicope ternata and the big leaved tawa. Only 2 orchids, Pterostylis and Earina. From the top was a wonderful view of the Puhoi valley and the Little Barrier, and on the other side Waiwera beach. We returned to the bus and turned back to Waiwera for lunch, and for some, a swim.

We left the beach just before 3pm and parked the bus just below the entrance to the Hill reserve. We climbed to the top of the ridge and in this bush we again saw some unusual things. Two totaras with several stems from near the ground; a number of large Leptospermum; several species with remarkably large leaves, Hoheria, tawa, taraire and Melicytus. Why this should be is a mystery because this bush must absorb a lot of salt spray which usually stunts growth. Down in the gully we found a patch of kauri and an unusually large Griselinia lucida with the descending roots 5 or 6 inches in diameter at about 20ft, and tapering to 1½ to 2 inches at ground level. Asplenium lamprophyllum was down at the bottom of the gully.

On the way back to Orewa we entered Eve's Bush from the top where one can see the remains of maori occupation, and we found a plant of Cordyline pumilio in flower. We wandered down the tracks which have been put in recently and felt that the authorities have opened up the bush too much. It will allow children to romp through it to the detriment of the smaller undergrowth. The benches and tables do not match the scene either. This bush contains some very nice kauri and it would be a shame for it to be spoilt. We came out of the bush by the bridge at the northern end of Orewa beach where we stopped for tea. Some of our party boiled the billy on the beach and a good day was had by all. Our President proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Warren which was carried by acclamation. We arrived back in Auckland at 7.35pm.