

the bay at Ostend. When we first found it in 1932 it was a small tree about 7ft high. Now it is mature and has quite a number of seedlings and young trees of various ages growing up all around it. The species seems pretty well distributed on the western portion of Weiheke, but regarding the eastern end of the island we could not be sure. In the days when we did most of our botanising down there, it was a case of tramping 8 miles each way, which did not leave much time for thorough inspection.

IS THIS THE SITE OF KIRK'S SOUTHERN LIMIT FOR KAURI ? Colin Ogle.

In Forest Flora 1889, Kirk records kauri at its furthest south and east as 'inland from Maketu'. The nearest area of kauri to this location now appears to be on the western side of the Papamoa Hills, between Te Puke and Tauranga. A local historian considers this could be Kirk's area, as Maketu was the only large township at that time which could have been used as a reference. Though not as accessible as the McLaren's Falls kauri a few miles away, Bot. Soc. members may be interested in several features of this area. It is privately owned forest, near Cropi via Tauranga, and is near the sources of the Kirikiri and Waimapu streams. Though much of the bordering forest of rimu and tawa has been milled, the kauri have survived on the top of a steep rhyolite bluff, locally known as kauri knob. (This site is a contrast to that at McLaren's Falls, where the kauri grow on rocks in the river bed.) About 2 dozen kauri occur here, 2 larger ones measured at 20" d.b.h. and 34" d.b.h. respectively. The forest containing these would be several acres in area, and is dominated by kamahi and tawari (Ixerba). As at McLaren's Falls, there are a number of species common in more northern kauri forests, including tanekaha and toatoa, Corokia buddleoides, neinei (Dracophyllum latifolium), Mida, Cordyline pumillo and Lycopodium deuterodensum. Dracophyllum strictum, Gaultheria paniculata and kamahi are 3 species which occur here but not in kauri forests north of Auckland. Also of interest is the presence of the mistletoe (Elytranthe tetrapetala) on Quintinia, and on rhyolite rocks Hymenophyllum lyallii and Trichomanes strictum. Floristically this kauri forest bears more relationship to other rhyolite ridge areas of the Bay of Plenty, than to the other local kauri forest at McLaren's Falls. Rumours persist concerning the presence of further kauri remnants in the Te Puke - Tauranga area, but the above may well be the furthest south for kauri on the east coast.