

Clematis hookeriana, Pennantia corymbosa, Scophora tetraptera,  
Parsonsia capsularis, Coprosma rigida, Lophomyrtus obcordata,  
Neomyrtus pedunculata, Fuchsia perscandens, Plagianthus betulinus,  
Dicksonia fibrosa, Urtica incisa, Ctenitis velutina, Hoheria  
sexstylosa, Polystichum vestitum, Asplenium bulbiferum var  
tripinnatum, Asplenium flabellifolium, Gastrodia sesamoides,  
Teucrium parvifolium.

The Asplenium flabellifolium was found on the ground in the heart of the bush. This was a surprise, as it usually grows in the open on rocks or rocky banks. The keen botanists were of course delighted to see the Teucrium parvifolium, as it is indeed now rare. As this was our last day at Massey, Miss Campbell came to dinner with us. Later we entertained those who had made our trip so pleasurable - namely Miss Campbell, Mr. Tony Greenwood and Mr. David Wilde. Mr. Lediard showed us a beautiful set of slides of fungi and gave us a short talk on the subject. Following a festive supper Miss Campbell was presented with a copy of Mr. Mead's recent book and a box of chocolates, as a token of our appreciation of the months of work she had put into preparing for our visit. Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Wilde were also thanked for their part in planning and guiding our expeditions. It was sad to think that this wonderful trip had come to an end.

SUNDAY - On the morning of this day we commenced our return journey, both Miss Campbell and Mr. Wilde coming to wave us goodbye. We had several stops en route to Ohakune. At one near Hunterville a nice plant of Urtica ferox grew alongside a roadside rubbish bin. We lunched beside the stream in Tahape's attractive park. Ohakune was reached in time for afternoon tea, and we later explored the bush track on the other side of the river. We were surprised to find that Leptolepia novaezelandiae grew here in abundance.

MONDAY - We left early, hoping to avoid the evening traffic into Auckland. On the Desert Road we were let loose among the subalpine plants for 20 minutes or so. Another short stop at Taupo, lunch beside the Huka Falls, and off again. And we did beat the traffic home.

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FERNS AND BIRDS OF THE TAUPO PINE FOREST - W.C.Cuming

With a permit to enter the forest to collect ferns for our new 83 acre WAIPAHI BOTANICAL RESERVE, situated at the end of Shepherd Road, Taupo, a group of Society members set off with truck and trailer for the forest. The road was slushy after a 12 degree frost and ice glittered on the road sides and puddles, but the sun shone on peaceful farm land and roaring steam bores. The forest has reached maturity in this area and is being clear felled. Forestry gangs were working as we entered the forest to the sound of the saw and the crash of falling trees.

This forest is a wonderful nursery for tree ferns and we were soon busy collecting Cyathea medullaris, dealbata and smithii. Also Dicksonia fibrosa and squarrosa which grew in profusion. On pine trunks and clustered at their roots Asplenium falcatum and flaccidum flourished. Plechnum capense, discolor, fluviatile, pennamarina, Rumohra adiantiformis and Polystichum vestitum all grew among the tree ferns. Young forest trees have also made a home there - Coprosma, Pittosporum, Myrsine, Neopanax, Pseudopanax, Pseudowintera, Griselinia.

Pausing to look up at the birds feeding and chirping above our heads we saw robins, white-heads, tomtits and fantails. As the trees fall the ferns will be destroyed, but the birds will, we hope, move on to fresh feeding grounds, and farm land or more forest will eventually reclothe the area. We set off for home with a wonderful collection of ferns and next day a willing band of helpers worked to replant our treasure trove. With cooperation from everyone and a steadily increasing membership, the Waipahihi Botanical Society works voluntarily to create a new home for the birds and the ferns, and a new beauty spot for Taupo and its visitors.

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