

Our thanks to the leader Mr. Warren assisted by Mr. Mead for a pleasant and interesting day.

.....

UNIVERSITY RESERVE, KELLY'S ROAD ORATIA. -----L.W. Butler

20th April, 1968. This was not a very pleasant day, showery with reasonably fine periods. We arrived at the area about 10 a.m. and walked down the road to enter the bush from the roadside. The undergrowth was rather damp but the bush opened out about a chain from the road. The first find was Mida salicifolia at various stages of growth, with an odd Olea lanceolata here and there, which enabled us to examine some of the distinguishing points between the two.

On the slope down to the gully below we found Dacrydium kirki with its adult and juvenile foliage and Dacrydium solensoi was also noticed. Rimu, totara, kauri and kahikatea were seen here. Down at the bottom of the gully in the damp area were two large specimens of Eugenia maire. We went up the other side of the valley and on to a ridge where, amongst a large area of kauri, we found an extraordinary profusion of the fan fern, Schizaea dichotoma. I have never before seen such a number in a small area like this.

We found two types of Pterostylis - P. trullifolia var. rubella and P. trullifolia var. alobula also several patches of Bulbophyllum pygmaeum on trees at the side of the track. We were a bit early in the year for other ground orchids which we know are to be found there.

At a small area free enough of plants we stopped and squatted down to have a damp lunch, after which we returned to the road and back to the bus. We then walked along the West Coast Road for a short distance and some of the members went down to a gully on one of the local residents' land.

After a wet but quite enjoyable and instructive day we returned to town, arriving about 4.30 p.m.

.....

SCENIC RESERVE, WARKWORTH. --- 18th May, 1968--- A.D. Palmer

Just after 9 a.m. we were settled in the bus ready to go, when we were told that there was a leak in the oil pipe and another bus would have to be sent for! This finally arrived and we set out at 9.45 a.m., across the Harbour Bridge, and along the No.1 Highway to our destination, a scenic reserve just outside Warkworth.

On arrival we walked along a narrow road leading up to an old, temporarily empty house, the terrace of which provided us with a dry place for lunch and somewhere to leave our packs. After lunch we slipped and slithered across a small ditch and entered the scenic reserve. The first thing that caught my attention by sticking its prickles into my hand was a specimen of bush lawyer, Rubus cissoides.