

"It is inevitable that there will be pressure from those who see an opportunity to make money to develop national parks in undesirable ways" continued Mr. MacIntyre, "but we must guard against exploiting such areas too much so that we lose all in the search for the dollar. For people who come to holiday in the parks we need roads and tracks and huts with parking areas, an occasional shop and washing facilities at main points of entry but we do not want a fairground atmosphere."

In this way and through projects of vision and imagination such as Rotoiti Lodge, New Zealanders would understand and appreciate natural surroundings in a positive and enlightened manner, concluded the minister.

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A NOTE ON MOEHAU ----- A.D.Mead.

With three Wellington friends interested in botany, I spent a week of August in the Coromandel peninsula, with our main objective a climb of Mt. Moehau, 2926 feet.

The Moehau Range runs NW and SE along the centre of the northern part of the peninsula, and it is interesting to compare it botanically with the Waitakere Ranges. The Moehau is a little further north than the Waitakeres, and the sea round its coast is warmer, the Waitakere coast being influenced by the cold Tasman Sea current from the south. Consequently the Moehau vegetation shows the influence of a much greater range of temperature from base to summit than does that of the Waitakeres. The botany of the range was first described in a paper in Transactions 1888 by Adams, who was greatly intrigued to find on the summit alpine plants which do not reappear till the centre of the North Island is reached. About 45 years later Lucy Cranwell and Lucy Moore made a detailed botanical survey of Moehau. They published two papers, one on microclima and the other on kauri, including a certain amount of general botany, but I have not yet located their manuscript giving their full cover of the range. I have nothing to add save to mention a few plants which specially interested us. As illustrating the warmth of the coast, we were delighted to find at Port Charles, overhanging the coastal cliffs, Pittosporum umbellatum in full flower. On the climb of Moehau, the approach spurs at 2000 feet show indications of colder conditions than in the Waitakeres, with for example Weinmannia racemosa, Grisselinia littoralis, Metrosideros albiflora and Pseudowintera axillaris. The true alpine are found on the south summit of Moehau, which is a sharp rock peak 50 feet lower than the broad rounded summit forming the highest point, and it is considered that it is its greater exposure to gales which creates the more alpine condition on the south peak. Three plants which specially delighted us were Celmisia incana carpeting the ground with its silvery rosettes, with one plant in flower, Ourisia macrophylla and Dacrydium bidwillii.