

Pimelia longifolia which later on in the season adorns the dry hills in this area with its beautiful pink and white clusters of flowers and sweet scent. The coastal variety of kowhai, Sophors microphylla var. fulvida, was seen in several places as was another tree of this coastal strip, tawapou, Planchonella novo-zelandica.

When climbing a rocky outlook for the view we came across the small fern Cheilanthes sieberi growing in its usual dry sunny spot on the rocks and later Asplenium hookerianum was also found.

Our track now went downhill steeply and for quite some distance followed a delightful stream with all the familiar ferns growing in profusion on its banks. Of special note were Asplenium lamprophyllum and Pteris comans. The latter is the coastal form of Pteris and is plentiful in this locality but here we found it together with the other forms P. macilentata, P. macilentata var. saxatilis and P. tremula.

An interesting and varied walk indeed on the beach at Karekare and our thanks are again due to Mr. Mead for a very pleasant outing.

.....

QUINN'S ROAD. WAITAKERE RANGES.--20th July, 1968 ---A.D. Mead

Quinn's Road is a narrow blind road running south from the junction of Scenic Drive and West Coast Road at Waitatarua. It is a little over half a mile long, bordered on the west by the Nihotupu catchment bush and on the east by building lots on which houses and baches of a good type have been erected on the ridge line overlooking the city, harbour and Waitakere foothills. From the end of the metalled road a bulldozed track extends a further three quarters of a mile through water catchment forest just off the watershed ridge line. Our route led us to the end of this track and part way back by the remains of the earlier trail along the ridge top.

By some misunderstanding the bus was very late; several members had gathered at Waitatarua by car and while waiting the local waterworks foreman Mr. W. Beveridge kindly led the party into an adjoining 3 acre block of water supply land in a loop of the Scenic Drive, where he showed us two towhai, Weinmannia silvicola, trees which he had found. These, with another a little way down the eastern slope, are the only ones known in the Waitakeres. As they are on the edge of an old milling track, the suggestion was advanced that their seeds may have been brought in on sledge runners, horses' hooves or on men's clothing or boots, from the nearest natural stand a little north of Swanson. These trees have commenced to fruit in recent years and numerous seedlings are growing on track banks and stems of tree ferns close by. Just alongside is a patch of giant moss, Dawsonia superba.

Following this, our leader Miss M. Crookes, decided not to wait any longer for the bus and with the car group started along Quinn's Road on foot. They were soon overtaken by the bus which parked in a convenient entrance to a private driveway a little further on, where its passengers awaited the foot-sloggers. The margins of the first part of Quinn's Road carry typical second growth, with two trees of Pseudopanax edgerleyi to add interest. Towards the end of the metalled road we diverted a short distance on a ridge track in the catchment through tall manuka to see an extensive patch of Blechnum minus.

Beyond this point we rapidly entered a better class of bush and it would appear from the amount of millable timber still standing that this part of the Nihotupu valley has never seen axe and saw. There is practically no kauri here, which is perhaps the reason why we still have so many fine totara, rimu and miro trees left. Early millers in the Waitakeres were only interested in kauri, and this area was reserved for water supply prior to the later period of milling when everything was taken that would go through a saw. The area is notable also for its many large, shapely rata trees.

In the lower growth, a luxuriant young Ixerba brexioides stood near the entrance to the bulldozed section. Among the tree-ferns were numerous Cyathea smithii with abundant young plants and sporplings on the track side. Another Pseudopanax edgerleyi was found in the sapling stage with its leaves starting to change from juvenile to adult. The perching fern, Rumohra adiantiformis, was plentiful on tree-fern trunks and we saw a Pittosporum kirki epiphitic on a rata. The climbing rata, Metrosideros fulgens, was in full flower; it seems to have an unusually long flowering season this year in the Waitakeres.

The sun came out pleasantly as we sat down on the side of the track for lunch, under a leaning half-dead rata tree which carried a plentiful assortment of epiphytes, including Astelia solanderi in fruit, Dendrobium cunninghamii, Earina autumnalis, Lycopodium billardieri, Mecodium flabellatum, M. rarum, Thesipteris tannensis, a coprosma, kidney fern and the climber kieke. After lunch our leader, Miss Crookes, gave us one of her delightful and informative talks on Waitakere plants in flower or fruit at this season, with specimens.

Towards the end of the track a curiosity was found in the form of a young Coprosma australis with leaves in whorls of three instead of the normal opposite pairs and close alongside a similar juvenile pigeonwood, as already described in the March "Newsletter". On the return to the bus we spent a little time on a flat saddle just off the track, where grew a stand of Asplenium lamprophyllum. From this point our leader wished to take us a short climb to an outlook on a hilltop, but by a mistake in the route for which the present writer is responsible, we found ourselves in the grounds of a private holiday home. The

owner very kindly accepted our apologies and took us to his front terrace overlooking the precipitous drop to the Scenic Drive, the foreground bush, the western suburbs, the city, the two harbours and the islands in the gulf, surely one of the finest views in the ranges and providing a fitting climax to a most interesting trip.

A postscript was provided by Mr. Cozens, formerly of Waerenga and author of "Green Cathedral", who asked the bus driver to stop at the entrance to his retirement house a little way below Waiatarua, where he has preserved an acre of somewhat open native bush which he is interplanting both with Waitakere species and with natives from elsewhere in New Zealand. Among the latter may be mentioned Ackama rosaeifolia, Ascarina lucida (found by Cheeseman in the Waitakeres but whereabouts apparently not known to present workers), Cyathea colensoi, Dacrydium intermedium, Dicksonia lanata, Jovellana sinclairii, Leptopteris superba, Metrosideros umbellata, Todea barbara, Weinmannia racemosa, all the beeches and of special interest a nursery grown Senecio hybrid, its parents said to be Senecio greyi and an unknown Senecio. The third tree of Weinmannia silvicola mentioned earlier is on Mr. Cozens' land. Many of our members will remember a delightful trip some years ago to Mr. Cozens' farm at Waerenga, on which he had carefully preserved an area of native bush.

.....

WOODHILL ----- 17th August, 1968. ----- A.D. Palmer.

It was rather cloudy but dry for our trip to the 35,000 acre forest of Woodhill, near Helensville. On our arrival we were met by one of the forest rangers who welcomed us and said he hoped we would enjoy our visit - which we did! We drove through the forest to the new lookout on its western edge, from which a fine panoramic view of Muriwai beach is obtained. We spent what was left of the morning exploring close to the lookout and plants seen included Myrsine australis in some quantity; Coprosma rhahnoides, C. crassifolia, C. lucida and C. robusta; the very distinctive Corokia cotoneaster; the two mingi-mingis, Cyathodes juniperina with its needle-like leaves and Cyathodes fasciculata with its small drooping racemes of flowers; scrambling, variable-leaved Parsonsia heterophylla; Drosera auriculata on a wet bank; Pseudopanax lessonii plus hybrids; a very large specimen of Pteris tremula; Asplenium flaccidum, Phymatodes diversifolium and Pyrrhosia serpens all epiphytic on pine; Carmichaelia algera or cunninghamii? Dodonea viscosa, Geniostoma ligustrifolium, Knightsia excelsa, pohutukawa, hinau, Asplenium falcatum, Doodia media, Pellaea rotundifolia, Polystichum richardii, and the orchids Microtis uniflora and Thelymitra sp.

After lunch at the lookout we walked down one of the gullies towards what proved to be a very interesting area of native bush. On the way down the sandhill, everybody's attention