

a short detour to look at the diminutive fern, Schizaea bifida, and the tiny orchid Prasopphyllum. Several Olearia furfuracea were in flower here.

Flagging a little, we arrived at the head of the Kitekite falls and stopped for a very welcome lunch. It is an attractive spot, the bush surrounding the pools included kowhais, Brachyglottis repanda, Dodonaea viscosa, Hoheria populnea, Corokia buddleioides, Geniostoma ligustrifolium and Coprosma sp. A mystery Pittosporum was finally identified as P. ellipticum.

After lunch we followed the track down the side of the gorge. The dry banks sprouted several small Phelipium nudum and the rengarenga lily, Arthropodium cirrhatum. A patch of kidney fern struggled against the drought and looked rather the worse for wear. Bulbophyllum pygmaeum was spotted. As we neared the stream again Peperomia urvilleana made an appearance on the damper rocks. On the far side of the stream there was a large puriri, Vitex Lucens, a tree we were to see more of from now on, together with Corynocarpus laevigatus and Dysoxylum spectabile. We were now at the base of the falls, which were an impressive sight in spite of the recent lack of rain. They would certainly be well worth seeing after heavy rain, the water cascading down the three almost equally spaced steps in the rock visible from where we were standing. Parataniwha clung to the rock in masses, luxuriating in the continuous moisture. Pratia angulata crept amongst the wet rocks.

The track climbed again from the base of the falls. Looking back from higher up we could see that there was more to the falls than was apparent from their base. Helichrysum glomeratum, Coriaria arborea and Rhabdothamnus solandri were all seen growing in the banks bordering the track.

We arrived back at the bus at Piha to join those who had botanised on the flat after a thoroughly enjoyable day's walking through some very interesting bush. Our thanks are due once again to our leader, Mr. Mead.

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COSSEY'S CREEK DAM. ----- 19th April 1969 ----- L.W. Butler.

Although the weather was doubtful when we left in the morning, it turned out reasonably pleasant when we arrived at the Dam at about 11 a.m. Mr. Mead gave us a short talk on his discovery of the Dam site and development that followed subsequently.

We strolled around in the immediate vicinity for about an hour, seeing one or two interesting specimens, especially a large miro in full berry, an unusual sight as specimen was out in the open and fully visible.

After lunch we crossed the Dam and entered an easy track which followed up a ridge into heavy bush. At the entrance of this track stood a Coprosma arborea about 20 cm. in diameter and 10 m. high. A little distance into the bush an Alseuosmia quercifolia was in berry. The dominant tree seemed to be miro, Podocarpus ferrugineus.

The bush was typical of the Hunua rain forest, similar in many ways to the Waitakeres. The kauris seem to be cut out, though there are some towards the top of the range. We saw a grove of about fifty Coprosma arborea, all large trees and, strangely, a large number of Cordyline pumilio which we all know are not very common.

The only orchids seen were some Farina autumnalis which were in full flower and some rosette leaves, presumably of Pterostylis trullifolia.

We returned to the bus at about 3 p.m. and left for home after a very pleasant and not too strenuous day.

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UNIVERSITY RESERVE, WAIMAUKU -----17th May 1969

The day was fine for our trip to the University Reserve at Waimauku. We arrived without incident and found our way down the narrow road leading to the reserve. Once we were out of the bus the driver tried to reverse, only to find that it was well and truly stuck, the wheels spinning helplessly on the wet clay. Thinking that it would be better to free it than rather than after our botanising, further attempts were made to reverse out but, even with the help of dead tree branches and chains under the back wheels, the bus still refused to move. Fortunately a Post Office landrover came by and the driver shovelled out the clay from under the rear wheels and replaced it with loose metal from the road. He attached a chain from the rear of the bus to the back of the landrover and then helped to tow the bus out, helped by those giving a few pounds at the front. He then drove off, barely giving us time to thank him.

We walked down a narrow road, noting some Metrosideros fulgens in flower and Carmichaelia aligera in fruit. We entered the reserve and made our way towards some large kauris. We saw Coprosma spathulata, with plenty of berry, C. rhamnoides growing alongside C. lucida, Brachyglottis repanda and Nertera dichondraefolia. There were several beautiful large kauris as well as regenerating ones. One large specimen looked as if it had originally been two separate trees, the trunks of which had later fused together, leaving a distinct line down one side.

We were pleased to see a good plant of Schizaea dichotoma with