

LABOUR WEEK-END TRIP TO TAUPO -----L.W. Butler.

We left Auckland about 5 p.m. on Friday October 24th, a fine mild evening and arrived at the Lake View Hotel about 10.30 p.m. where we were given a light supper.

Next morning we boarded the bus about 9 a.m. and, with Mr. Young of the Taupo Botanical Society as leader were taken on the Napier Road to Opepe, a reserve dedicated to the British troops who were ambushed by Maoris and killed. We followed a track through bush which featured ravines running in all directions - a very easy place in which to become lost. The following plants were seen:- A profusion of juvenile Pennantia corymbosa, Brachyglottis repanda, Elaeocarpus hookerianus, E. dentatus, Carpodetus serratus, Neomyrtus pedunculata, Melicope simplex, Neopanax arboreum, Pseudowintera colorata, Dacrydium cupressinum, a very large 36 ft. diameter Podocarpus totara, many juvenile P. spicatus, P. ferrugineus, Olea lanceolata, Weinmannia racemosa, Pseudopanax edgerleyi, Clematis forsteri, numerous unidentified Coprosma, C. arborea, Earina mucronata and Dendrobium cunninghamii.

We came out of the bush and went on to the Forest Reserve behind Poronui, passing through several acres of Dracophyllum subulatum and here we had lunch after which we strolled up the clay road through an interesting Beech forest. Nothofagus fusca and N. menziesii were dominant. Along this road there were two hebes I could not recognise and a small Coprosma which appears to be a cross between C. colensoi, C. banksii and C. foetidissima - it had beautiful dark red berries. We saw also Melicope lanceolata, Cordyline australis, Pseudowintera colorata in full flower, Pittosporum tenuifolium, Aristolelia serrata, Cyathodes fraseri, C. juniperina and C. fasciculata, Gaultheria antipoda, a small Helichrysum and two orchids Earina mucronata in flower and Chiloglottis cornuta.

Leaving about 3 o'clock we returned to Taupo via the Waipahihi Reserve cared for by the Taupo Botanical Society who are to be heartily congratulated for the splendid way they have developed this interesting area out of virtually nothing. One noticeable feature was the dominance of Neopanax arboreum.

On Sunday morning we started on a trip to Roto Pounamu situated by Pihanga mountain, south of Turangi. A beautiful area of virgin forest through which an interesting track runs up a fairly steep slope to the edge of the ancient crater rim, before dropping down to this almost circular lake. From this ridge is a grand view of Roto Aira and the central plateau volcanoes. We decided to walk right round the lake, a trip of between four and five miles. About a third of the way round we stopped for lunch under the shelter of the big forest trees, Nothofagus fusca, Podocarpus hallii, Weinmannia racemosa, Dacrydium cupressinum, Podocarpus dacrydioides, Elaeocarpus dentatus, E. hookerianus (juvenile and adult) Olea cunninghamii, Pennantia corymbosa, Melicope simplex, Carpodetus serratus, Pittosporum eugenioides,

P.tenuifolium, Pseudowintera colorata, a specimen of Olearia nummularifolia, both Barina mucronata and E.autumnalis on one log and Corybas triloba were the only orchids we saw. There were numbers of ferns, amongst which were Lindsaea trichomanoides, L.viridis, Asplenium hookerianum, Botrychium australe. At the eastern side of the lake the track took us along a sandy beach where we were exposed to a fierce wind which whistled through a gap in the crater wall, but in the forest at the other end of the beach it was quite calm. We tramped on further and eventually joined the track we came in by and returned down it to the bus, thence back to Taupo arriving back about 5 p.m., tired but cheerful and ready for dinner.

On Monday we left in misty weather after breakfast and started off home, travelling through Wairakei and Reporoa through Waitapu to the Waimangu geyser valley. I think we saw more rangioras in flower here than anywhere else in New Zealand and, considering that the whole of the plant life was destroyed in 1917, the regeneration is remarkable.

Led by Mr. Marx, the officer in charge of this area, we tramped down the track to Rotomahana through very active volcanic country. On the banks of a small stream we saw clumps of Psilotum nudum, and on the hot flat adjacent Microtis uniflora and several Thelymitras not in flower and I could not identify them. We climbed back to the bus for lunch and then the rain came down heavily. We were lucky to have had it reasonably fine for our scenic jaunt.

The rain ceased after we had passed through Rotorua and over the Mamaku range and the weather became quite fine as we proceeded to Hamilton and the main road home. Unfortunately we struck a terrific traffic jam at Pokeno, which made us later home than we expected.

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MOANATUATUA BOG, HAMILTON.

15th November

C.L.Purdie.

Just two hundred years ago, Captain James Cook, accompanied by Banks and Solander, made his furthest inland trip during his New Zealand visit - up the Waikato River from the Firth of Thames to see what the inland looked like. It was a pure coincidence that on the 15th November 1969, just five days short of the bicentenary of that trip of Cook's, the Auckland Botanical Society made a similar trip to the opposite end of the bog complex and visited the Moanatuatua Bog about 8 miles south-east of Hamilton.

The guest leader, Mr.E.W.E.Butcher, an authority on this bog, greeted the party and over lunch gave a most interesting talk illustrated by samples of the plant life we were to see during the afternoon walk over the bog with him. This land is some of New Zealand's most interesting country.