

OUTINGSTHE FAR NORTHJanuary, 1970.L.W. Butler.SATURDAY Jan. 24th.

We left Auckland at 8.30 a.m. and travelled via the Harbour bridge and the East Coast Bays road and then the usual road to Whangarei. We stopped for about an hour at the limestone outcrop at Hikurangi for lunch. Botanising in this area was very disappointing, ( mostly weeds ).

At Pakaraka we took the eastern road and a few miles from Kaeo branched off, on the Matauri Bay road, to a farm house where we saw a wonderful collection of petrified wood and other rock samples. On hearing that the loop road to Kaeo was unsuitable for the bus, we retraced our route back to the main road and through Kaeo. We crossed an inlet of the Whangaroa Harbour and passed through Mangonui, Coopers Beach and Cable Bay, arriving at the Awanui Hotel about 5.p.m. We had time to settle down in our rooms, some in the Hotel and others in the attached Motel, before a very welcome dinner.

SUNDAY Jan. 25th. (P)

Led by one of our country members, Mr Ross Michie, we travelled about nine miles to a place called Pukepoto, where we turned off up a Forestry road into the hills. This steep clay road which led us up into the bush was in very good order and enabled us to ride in the bus to over a thousand feet elevation. On the way we stopped and examined the bush for about an hour then, rejoining the bus went on to a turning place where we had our lunch. This lunch proved a pleasant surprise as it consisted of individually wrapped packs of sandwiches, which solved the difficulties that usually arise when our food comes in one large lot.

When finished we strolled on up the road and into the bush in various places, returning to the bus about 3.30.p.m. On our way back we stopped at a hilltop from which we had a very comprehensive view of Kaitaia. We went on to Mr. Michie's garden where we spent an hour wandering round amongst the various exotic and endemic plants he has so diligently propagated. We were back at our hotel by 5.p.m.

MONDAY Jan. 26th. (A)

At 9.a.m. we started on a trip to Ahipara, a little settlement at the southern end of the ninety mile beach, where several members indulged in a swim in the surf before lunch. After this we went south along the coast as far as the bus could safely go. Then some of us followed the beach around the rocks and cliffs whilst others climbed up the hill to some sand drifts above the cliffs. We returned hot and tired in time for a dip in the hotel's swimming pool before dinner.

TUESDAY Jan. 27th. (M)

The weather up to now had been hot and fine and we travelled to the Mangamuka Gorge. At the top of the Maungataniwha Range we stopped for a while at the lookout and also did some plant hunting in the

immediate vicinity. We then went on down the hill to a reserve. Some of us walked further down the road to sample a soda spring on the bank of the stream. Back at the reserve we sat under the trees to have lunch. This spot is in a beautiful setting at the junction of two streams. Unfortunately at this time a couple of light showers occurred but the weather cleared and we were able to wander in the adjacent forest for a couple of hours. On the way back we ran into a heavy storm at Kaitaia but at Awanui there had been no rain at all.

WEDNESDAY Jan. 28th. (H)

The Mini-buses took us north from Awanui at 9.a.m. for a journey to Cape Reinga. Unfortunately the two buses we had chartered had strangers in all the front seats and the management would do nothing about it, so our botanising had to go by the board and we became just ordinary tourists. The first stop was at Lake Waiparera in the sandhills just off the main road. Then we called at the Houhora Heads and further on at the old Houhora Hotel. The next stop was at Te Kao on the way to the shores of Parengarenga harbour with it's white sands and some beautiful views. Several miles further on we stopped at Waitiki Lodge to have lunch. We then went on through the Te Pahi station to Cape Reinga lighthouse where we stopped for half an hour. Returning to the Te Pahi station we turned west down the stream to the beach. Here we turned north again and were taken to Scott's point, the end of the ninety mile beach. After a short spell we were speeded down the beach to the Bluff, a volcanic outcrop jutting out into the Tasman sea. The party spent a few minutes here and then on to Waipapakauri, where we came off the beach, rejoined the main road and returned south to Awanui after experiencing an interesting but botanically rather disappointing day.

THURSDAY Jan. 29th.

This is the day we were to return home and leaving Awanui about 9.a.m. we travelled to Kaitaia to say goodbye to Mr. Michie, then on through the Mangamuka gorge, Okaihau and Ohaewai to Pakarakawhere where we joined the main road south. We got as far as Whangarei where we stayed for lunch at Mair's park, a most attractive place, and after a fast but uneventful journey arrived in Auckland about 5.p.m.

To avoid repetition I have placed the appropriate letters of the various places visited opposite the plants in the following list:-

P.= Pukepoto. A.= Ahipara. M.= Mangamuka. N.= The northern trip to Reinga

<i>Agathis australis</i>	P.M.	<i>Cladium sinclairii</i>	A.
<i>Ackama rosaeifolia</i>	P.	<i>Clematis forsteri</i>	P.M.
<i>Alseuosmia banksii</i>	P.	<i>Coprosma arborea</i>	P.
" <i>quercifolia</i>	P.M.	" <i>areolata</i>	P.
<i>Aristolelia serrata</i>	P.	" <i>australis</i>	P.
<i>Beilschmiedia tarairi</i>	P.M.	" <i>crassifolia</i>	A.
" <i>tawa</i>	P.M.	" <i>parviflora</i>	P.
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	P.M.	" <i>rhamnoides</i>	A.P.
<i>Carmichaelia cunninghamii</i>	A.	" <i>spatulata</i>	P.
<i>Cassinia retorta</i>	A.N.	<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	A.P.
<i>Cassutha paniculata</i>	N.	<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	P.M.

Dodonaea viscosa	P.	Nestegis lanceolata	P.M.
Dracophyllum latifolium	P.	Olearia furfuracea	P.M.
Elaeocarpus dentatus	P.	" rani	M.
Elatostema rugosum	M.	Paratrophis microphylla	M.
Epilobium ?	A.	Parsonsia heterophylla	P.
Geniostema ligustrifolium	P.M.	Pennantia corymbosa	P.
Griselinia lucida	P.M.	Phyllocladus trichomanoides	M.
Gumnera strigosa	M.	Pittosporum cornifolium	M.
Hymenanthera novae-zelandiae N.		" eugenioides	P.
Ipomoea palmata	A.	" kirkii	P.
Knightia excelsa	P.M.	" tenuifolium	M.
Libertia grandiflora	A.	Podocarpus dacrydioides	P.M.
Lobelia anceps	A.	" hallii	P.M.
Lophomyrtus bullata	P.	Pseudopanax crassifolium	P.
Melicope simplex	P.	Quintinia serrata	P.
" ternata	M.	Rhabdothamnus solandri	M.
Melicoytus ramiflorus	P.M.	Rhipogonum scandens	P.M.
Metrosideros robusta	M.	Rhopalostylis sapida	P.M.
Mida salicifolia	P.M.	Samolus repens	A.
Muehlenbeckia australis	P.M.	Schefflera digitata	P.M.
" complexa	P.	Senecio kirkii	P.M.
Myrsine australis	P.	Vitex lucens	P.M.
" salicina	P.	Weinmannia silvicola	P.M.
Neopanax anomalum	P.		

ORCHIDS

Acianthus fornicatus		Earina mucronata	P.M.
var. sinclairii	P.	Microtis unifolia	P.
Bulbophyllum pygmaeum	M.	Pterostylis banksii	P.
Corybas macranthus	M.	Sarcochilus adversus	P.M.
Dendrobium cunninghamii	M.	Thelymitra sp.	P.
Earina autumnalis	P.M.		

FERNS & FERN ALLIES

Adiantum cunninghamii	A.	Cyathea medullaris	P.M.
Asplenium bulbiferum	P.M.	Dicksonia lanata	P.
" falcatum	P.M.	" squarrosa	M.
" flaccidum	P.M.	Gleichenia dicarpa	P.
" lucidum	P.M.	Hymenophyllum spp.	
Athyrium australe	P.	Rumohra hispida	P.M.
" japonicum	P.	Todea barbara	N.
Blechnum fraseri	P.M.	Thesipteris tannensis	M.
Cardiomanes reniforme	P.M.		

In the Pukepoto bush Ceniostoma ligustrifolium with narrow, very thin leaves and on the roadside a splendid specimen of Mida salicifolia with large clumps of very large fruit - quite spectacular!

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