

LABOUR WEEKEND - OMAPEREMrs B. Wormald.SATURDAY Oct. 24th.

We left the city at 8.30 a.m. in a fine misty rain which however, didn't dampen our spirits as we travelled over the Harbour Bridge to pick up the rest of the party on the North Shore.

Owing to the distance we had to travel, we didn't stop to botanize on the way. A few miles beyond Dargaville we branched off the main highway to the lakes near Kaihu<sup>u</sup> where we sat under the trees on the edge of Lake Tahoroa to shelter from a light rain while we had our lunch. This lake looked very calm but we were told that deep under the surface there is terrific turbulence. Not much botanizing was done owing to the weather and lack of time, but Mrs. Hynes found Gnaphalium candidissimum which is a South African plant. She had also found it growing in the damp at Helensville. It was first recorded as growing in New Zealand in 1961. Pomaderris phyllicifolia var. ericifolia was quite plentiful near the edge of the lake. We returned to the main highway and travelled up through the Waipoua Forest to Omapere, where some of the party left the bus to stay at the boarding house and the rest went on to the hotel at Opononi.

SUNDAY Oct. 25th.

We travelled back to the Waipoua Forest where many of the trees and shrubs were in bloom. Both Acakama roseaefolia and Weinmannia silvicola were full of flower and looked much the same from a distance, Knightsia excelsa was carpeting the ground with its flowers and the makomako (Aristolelia serrata) and Persoonia toru with its scented flowers were at their best. Elaeocarpus dentatus (hinau) and Ixerba brexioides were still in bud. Clematis paniculata and Metrosideros albiflora draped the trees with their lovely white blooms and both male and female flowers were to be found on Freycinettia banksii (kiekie). Other plants of interest were Nestegis montana, Litsea calicaris (mangeao), Podocarpus spicatus, Pittosporum cornifolium, Quintinnia serrata, Pseudopanax edgerleyi, Alseuosmia spp., Olearia rani (heketara), Myrsine salicina and Dracophyllum latifolium (neinei).

We visited the well known kauri, Tane Mahuta and along the Matua Mahere track we found the rather rare fern, Macroglena stricta. Two other ferns of interest were Rumohra hispida and Lindsaea trichomanoides var. lessonii. The floor of the forest, trees and fallen logs were covered with luxuriant growths of filmy ferns, liverworts and mosses. Plagiochola gigantea, a large liverwort was in thick masses as were the various umbrella mosses. A large tree stump was covered with Corybas rivularis with its quaint red flowers and we also found Pterostylis albulata and P. graminea in flower.

We had lunch on the edge of the stream and afterwards crossed over and explored the bush along the edge. Here we found the native gloxinia, Rhabdothamnus solandri, covered with bright red flowers.

A few hardy members from Omapere went on to Opononi in the bus and walked the two and a half miles back, arriving just in time for dinner.

MONDAY Oct. 26th.

With regret we left Omapere for the return journey home, once again passing through Waipoua Forest, where we stopped to look at some tall spindly trees covered with bloom, which we found to be Phebalium nudum ( mairehau ).

At Kaihu we pulled up beside a stream for lunch and then went on to Trounson Park which is very different to Waipoua, there being very little undergrowth. Here there are quite a few kauris and one called the four sisters was most interesting, owing to the four trunks growing close together to form one tree. Along the track we noted Pittosporum kirkii, Melicope simplex and high in a tree Griselinia lucida with its large, bright green leaves. Of the ferns we found Hymenophyllum revolutum, H. flabellatum, H. demissum and Dicksonia lanata. The orchid Corybas rivularis was quite abundant here also.

The journey home was uneventful until almost at Waiwera, where we came to a complete halt owing to the density of traffic, 25 miles of bumper to bumper - so we crawled to Silverdale and from there on we were able to travel at a more reasonable speed.

.....

Worth mentioning in connection with the Kaihu lakes is the abundance of Pomaderris prunifolia var. edgerleyi in the area. This is a semi-prostrate shrub, tending to grow horizontally or downhill if on a bank and particularly attractive when in flower. Its habit and appearance make it worth cultivating, although cuttings are difficult to strike. It is found at North Cape, Scotts Point, Parengarenga, the coast from Maunganui Bluff to N. Kaipara Head and for some miles inland on poor clay hills. - Ed.

.....

PSILOFUM NUDUM AGAIN.

Some little time ago an article appeared in our newsletter regarding the appearance of Psilotum nudum in unexpected places and asking for a report on other discoveries.

I have now found it growing out of a crack in a brick wall in Benson Rd., Remuera, about 100 yards from my front gate. How did it get there? My guess is that, as the wall faces the south, the spore from which the plant sprang travelled on the wind from Little Rangitoto in Upland Rd or from the Mt. Wellington lava field. Has any other member seen it growing in Remuera?

F.M.W.