

Barrier Islands and the Coromandel Peninsula.

We returned to Auckland via Miranda, where we stopped for tea, some taking it on a rather chilly beach, others in the warmth of the hotel or bus. The mangroves in the area bore masses of their somewhat insignificant flowers, surprising for their pleasant scent. A vote of thanks to our leader Mr. Purdie was carried by acclamation.

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Mr. and Mrs. Purdie will soon be leaving Auckland to live in Wellington, where Mr. Purdie will be based in his new position as Advisory Officer to the Nature Conservation Council. This looks like being a very interesting position and Mr. Purdie has already travelled several thousand miles in both Islands, looking at sites for proposed new developments etc., with possible conservation in mind. Already in the course of these travels he has found Hebe speciosa, thought to be extinct in the wild in the North Island. For obvious reasons he's not letting on as yet exactly where it is but will say that its on the west coast to the north of Dargaville.

I am sure that our members will be sorry to see them leave Auckland yet again, but will wish them both well in the future.

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SOUTH ISLAND '72.

The next Botanical Society trip to the South Island is now off the ground. It is proposed to visit the West Coast area, using Hokitika as a base and extending from the Punakaiki Rocks area in the North to Franz Josef in the South.

The approximate dates will be Friday, January 28th to Thursday, February 3rd. It is likely that we shall leave Auckland by plane at 5.30 a.m. on Friday, arriving at Nelson at 7.a.m. where it is hoped that breakfast can be arranged.

Accommodation has been arranged for 40 at a first class hotel in Hokitika. It is anticipated that the total cost will be about \$ 105. A lot of interest has already been shown in this trip, so please be in early with your bookings as soon as you are notified that they are being taken.

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