

Secretary's Notes.

The end of our financial year is getting near. It would assist me and save extra work if those who owe a subscription would give the matter early attention.

To those who are in arrears with their subscriptions, I would point out that, under our rules, a member who is two years or more in arrears may be struck off.

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If you change your address, would you be kind enough to let me know as soon as possible. This will avoid trouble to the Post Office as well as to me and also result in a small saving to the Society.

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The attention of members, especially new members, is drawn to the fact that the Society's publications are available from me at any time. Particulars of the publications and their cost are as follows:-

Jubilee booklet, containing a short history of the Society and a list of the plants of the Auckland district.
Price. 50 cents

Auckland's Orchids. Price 15 cents.

Finding Plant Names. Price 15 cents.

Marine Botany. Price 5 cents.

Local Species of Coprosma, Hymenophyllaceae, Astelia and Collospermum and the Wild Olives. (This contains many diagrams) Price 45 cents.

WHERE HAS ALL THE FLORA GONE?

Colenso made his first ascent of the Ruahine Range in February 1845, and later recorded his impression on reaching the top in these words:-

"When at last we emerged from the forest and the tangled shrubbery on its outskirts, on to the open dell-like land just before we gained the summit, the lovely appearance of so many and varied beautiful and novel wild plants and flowers richly repaid me the toil of the journey and the ascent -- for never before did I behold at one time in N.Z. such a profusion of Flora's stores! In one word, I was overwhelmed with astonishment and stood looking with all my eyes, greedily devouring and drinking in the enchanting scene before me. I had often seen what I considered pleasing botanical displays in many N.Z. forests and open valleys, particularly at the Kerikeri waterfall before it was rudely disturbed by civilisation -- and in the sweet well-remembered glen near the East Cape -- again at Lake Waikare -- and on the mountains of Huiarau and of Ruatahuna, far away in

the interior -- but all were as nothing when compared with this -- either for variety or quantity or novelty of flowers -- all too in sight at a single glance!"

Quoted in "William Colenso", by Bagnall and Petersen.
But the goats and deer have wiped that very nearly all out.

A.D.Mead.

PLACES TO VISIT.

Whenever you are in Taupo, I would strongly recommend that you try to make time for a visit to the Waipahihi Botanical Reserve. It was in 1964 that the idea was first mooted that an area of Crown land on the outskirts of Taupo should be used for the creation of a botanical reserve. The idea was supported by the Government and Local Authorities and the land was made available for this purpose.

Since then great strides have been made in creating a worthwhile scenic and botanical attraction. An area of close on 85 acres takes a great deal of planting and subsequent maintenance and considering only voluntary labour is available, the Board of Management of the Waipahihi Botanical Society Inc. and their willing helpers deserve great credit for the result.

The first features of interest on entering the reserve are the Hebe collection and the excellent rock garden, planted with many interesting New Zealand alpine plants. From here a circular road, leading up to a lookout at the highest point with fine views of the lake and mountains, may be taken.

Many native shrubs have been planted, as well as attractively placed exotics such as Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Camellias. There is also a well labelled fern walk and tree fern dell.

In short, a place well worth a visit, very well worth supporting.

A.D.Palmer.

If you know of similar areas of botanical interest in other centres which out of town members may not be aware of, please drop me a line about them so that we can make this a regular feature in the Newsletter.

"Let us by all means have continued and proper regard for the plans of the conservationists ---

It falls to the lot of some people to stand off and criticize, it costs them nothing to do so. And it falls to the lot of others, engineers and architects to plan, often with limited resources, so that people can enjoy a better standard of life. Somehow all this has to be done in the compromising atmosphere of the need to develop and the desire to conserve."

- Assistant Commissioner of Works, Mr R.G.Norman, talking to final year students of the Auckland University School of Engineering.