

flourishing mission school which was finally transferred to Koha nga, 12 miles up the river where, with the increased area of flat arable land, it continued to prosper until the outbreak of the Maori Wars in 1863, when it was abandoned. An early description of the Waikato Heads in the eighteen-thirties tells us that "it was a popular summer resort for Maoris living in the watershed of the Waikato and its tributaries, but had few permanent residents. At times the broad Maoro Bay (north of the river mouth) was thick with duck in the spring, the run of whitebait was phenomenal - likewise pigeons and kakas."

The beach was in full sunshine when we arrived, a fine surf running and a pleasant westerly breeze blowing. We found much to interest us - rock pools, a variety of seaweeds, green, brown and red, and back on the sand dunes the familiar sand binders, Desmoschoenus spiralis (pingao) and Spinifex hirsutus with the introduced Lagurus ovatus. In the gullies behind the cliffs the windswept characteristic bush of the west coast is obvious and, on the steep cliffs and headlands above the beach, Cortaderia splendens (toetoe) was flowering in profusion amidst the clumps of flax (Phormium cookianum) which are so much a part of this coastal flora.

The South Head is a happy hunting ground for fossils, and Mr. Beever discovered here a small cigar shaped structure about 3 inches long in a rocky shingle outcrop near the beach - a belemnite. These are strange lanceolated relics of ancient geological times. They are fossilised remains of ancient cephalopods, which are the forerunners of the squids and cuttlefish of today.

We had tea and began our homeward journey just in time to avoid a heavy shower of rain. The places we visited during the day are rich in historical associations and this, combined with lovely weather and pleasant surroundings, provided us with a most interesting and enjoyable trip. We have to thank Mr. Warren, whose careful planning made it possible.

CORYBAS ORBICULATUS IN THE WAITAKERES

E.D.H.

The 1972 edition of Mr. Mead's excellent little book on the native flora of the Waitakere Range omits the orchid Corybas orbiculatus (Coleenso) L.B.Moore.

This was listed in the 1969 edition as Corybas macranthus var. longipetalus. It occurs on the upper reaches of the larger streams where it hugs wet banks in dense colonies. I have myself found it on the Cascades, Nihotupu and Karamatura streams, and unexpectedly on a seepage area on the exposed sea cliff at Kaitarakihiri.

Hooker's species the true macranthus also occurs, but less frequently and on drier ground. For purposes of recognition orbiculatus

has petals as long or almost as long as the lateral sepals, while in macranthus the petals are short, rarely more than a third of the length of the sepals.

PARACALEANA MINOR - an old orchid with a new name.

E.D.H.

In Contributions from the National Herbarium of N.S.W. 4:1972.p.281, D.F.Blaxell discusses and rearranges the related orchid genera Arthrochilus, Drakaea, Spiculaea and Caleana. The only New Zealand species affected is Caleana minor, which becomes Paracaleana minor (R.Br.) D.Blaxell.

This orchid was last seen nearly fifty years ago near Rotorua by K.W.Allison (1924) and appears to be one of those casual visitors which are blown across the Tasman from time to time but fail to find a permanent foothold. If you ever come across it you will have no trouble recognising it for the flowers are shaped uncannily like a flying duck.

ARTICLES PLEASE

To be a success the Newsletter should include articles on as wide a range of subjects of botanical interest as possible. The last thing that should happen is for the Editor to have to write most of the copy himself, with the Newsletter becoming, as a result, just a vehicle for him to air his own personal views. I would therefore ask all members to consider how they might help. Articles need not be massive tomes, short notes and observations are just as welcome, as are newsworthy items of personal interest about members. Country members in particular can involve themselves more in the Society by letting us know what they're up to.

My address is in the front of the Newsletter and all material for inclusion in the next issue should reach me no later than the first week in July. Diagrams to be included should be drawn, actual size required in print, in Indian ink, or suitable for Xerox copying.

Editor.
