

walk out onto the dam which was finished in 1952. We noticed the booms which are necessary to catch the water weed and prevent it from passing through the turbines. Further on we drove over Maratai 11 and later over the bridge crossing the Mangakino Gorge, reputed to be the highest road bridge in New Zealand.

Our botanical stop was at Mr. Parker's 232 acre farm at Pukeatua, at the back of which is a reserve on the lower slopes of Mt. Maungatautari. This was most interesting, dominated by massive tawa, the undergrowth being very unusual and consisting mainly of Macropiper excelsum, small pukatea (Laurelia novae-zelandiae), titoki seedlings, supplejack, tree ferns, ferns such as Leptopteris hymenophylloides, Blechnum discolor, Asplenium bulbiferum, A. lucidum, A. lamprophyllum, Cyclosorus penniger some with trunks up to 2' high, Lastreopsis hispida and masses of filmy ferns carpeting the ground. Other plants noted in smaller numbers were matai, rimu, poroporo, nikau, Aristotelia serrata, Brachyglottis repanda, Knightsia excelsa, Litsea calicularis seedlings, Parsonsia heterophylla, Paratrophis banksii, Freyinetia banksii and a single specimen of Alseuosmia macrophylla with masses of its sweet scented flowers. The only orchids seen were a Corybas sp. and Earina mucronata in flower - in fact we saw virtually no orchids during the whole weekend. Of note was the almost complete absence of Coprosmas.

Having thanked Mr. and Mrs. Parker for their hospitality we returned to Auckland, stopping for lunch in the attractive Memorial Park in Te Awamutu. Rain started soon after lunch and we arrived back in Auckland in a downpour.

Mr. Beaver asked us to thank Mr. Warren and Mrs Purdie for all the work they had put in to make this such an interesting and enjoyable weekend, and Harry our driver for safely ferrying us around.

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WHANGARURU NORTH HEAD is situated on the east coast of Northland, 12 miles south of Cape Brett. It lies on the end of a peninsula which forms the eastern margin of Whangaruru harbour. The Whangaruru North Head Lands and Survey farm, which is part of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park, consists of 644 acres on the southern tip of the peninsula.

I was interested to read in Mr. A. Esler's report on the vegetation of the above area of the occurrence there of Fuchsia procumbens, the little native fuchsia which has trailing stems bearing upright flowers and large red berries and which is now widely grown in our gardens. Mr. Esler says that it is known from about 20 other localities but he doubts if it occurs elsewhere in such profusion. On the eastern slopes it forms extensive patches under pohutukawas, in scrubland and on forest margins.

Another plant he mentions is the rare, small flowered native convolvulus Calystegia marginata, growing here mostly with blackberry. Psilotum nudum occurs less than half a mile outside the reserve and may well be in other places in the area.