

After lunch, which we had on a nice grassy area on the side of the road, we drove to Naughton's bush Camp where we saw the well preserved remains of a Maori pah. Here, the bush is quite different though so close, the many nikau giving it a tropical appearance. On the slope overlooking the Muriwai Lakes we saw hinau Elaeocarpus dentatus and, growing together on a tree nearby, the orchid Drymoanthus adversus, formerly known as Sarcophilus adversus, and Bulbophyllum pygmaeum. A third orchid, Farina autumnalis was in flower nearby. Carmichaelia sp. grew quite thickly on the banks of the road.

As we still had some time we drove to the Muriwai beach where some of us climbed the cliff and others relaxed on the beach. Many of the small coastal plants had gone from the roadside owing to more space being made for parking, but on the pathway up the cliff we saw Lobelia anceps in flower, Samolus repens and very healthy kawakawa, Macropiper excelso, growing in low thick bushes, their leaves unspoilt by caterpillar.

We walked over to Maori Bay to see what damage is being done by quarrying to the unique cliff formations. We were appalled by the large area destroyed and hope the rest of the cliff will be left. Many thanks to our leader for a very interesting day.

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NOTES ON WAIPUNGA RIVER AND BALL'S CLEARING, PUKETITIRI

Mrs N. BEDFORD

There is a rest area beside the Waipunga River on the Taupo to Napier road past the stop to look at the falls - close by is the junction of the Okoeke River with the Waipunga. Here is to be found an astonishing array of divaricating shrubs in a very small area. Dominated by a large and beautiful Nothofagus truncata, crowded together were to be found Meliccytus micranthus, Necmyrtus pedunculata, the bright green climber Muehlenbeckia australis, Elaeocarpus hookerianus, Aristotelia fruticosa, Plagianthus betulinus, Carpodetus serratus, an enchanting juvenile and adults in flower; two attractive looking climbers Rubus schmidelioides and Rubus australis; also Paratrophis microphylla, Pennantia corymbosa (adults in flower), Melicope simplex with articulated petiole, Myrsine divaricata and Hoheria angustifolia. The most arresting of all were Podocarpus spicatus, matai, juveniles 6' - 10' high with tortuous cascading growth and occasional leaves, very decorative indeed. Coprosma propinqua and Leptospermum scoparium were also present - a grand opportunity to see and learn them all.

Ball's Clearing, Puketitiri. The amazing thing is that this reserve exists at all, as all the surrounding country has long been grazed judging by the vintage of most farm-houses. Lovely country with the Mungahururu Range, and the more dramatic Kaweka Range. Many of the shrubs found at Waipunga were present, but with a difference. The entrance to the area and for some considerable distance was dominated

by giant kahikatea, Podocarpus dacrydioides, at climax, wet and with reduced light. Here were Coprosma rotundifolia and very large Todea hymenophylloides and filmy ferns in abundance; also many beautiful and interesting fungi. We came to a stream where Carmichaelia flagelliformis was overhanging. On higher ground beech, Nothofagus fusca (leaves with domatia) formed the canopy, with large tawa. Large areas of the forest floor were covered in 3'-4' Polystichum vestitum, really magnificent ferns, and on the forest fringe was Corokia cotoneaster in fruit.

Incidentally, we stayed in the Forest and Bird Lodge at Partoka, 12 miles from Ball's Clearing and 20 miles from Napier. A comfortable, pleasant place, suitable for self supporting botanists and administered by the Napier branch. Non-members may apply.

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

At our May meeting we were given an enlightening and disturbing lecture on the proposals to mill the South Island beech forests by Mr Ross Petersen of the Beech Forest Action Committee. This Committee, modelled on the successful Save Manapouri Campaign, was formed solely for the purpose of seeing that, if utilization of the beech is to occur, it is not on as large a scale as is presently proposed. If you are interested in becoming a member of B.F.A.C. you should contact Mr Petersen at 107 Mangere Road, Otakuhu, or phone OH 67904. A national magazine has recently been started and copies are available from Mr Petersen at 10 cents each. The Committee also run a stall at the Downtown Mall every Friday.

Did you know that your Society publishes more than a Newsletter? At intervals over the years we have printed small, moderately priced bulletins covering subjects such as - "Auckland's Orchids"; "Local Species of Coprosma, Hymenophyllaceae, Astelia and Collospermum and the Wild Olives"; "A List of Native Plants of the Auckland District"; and several others. Their small size makes them handy for taking along on field trips for quick reference. They may be obtained at any time from the Secretary or Treasurer, who always has a supply available at meetings.

Seen outside an orchardist's shop in Glen Eden a sign advertising 'Colliflowers' for sale. Sounds like a new species to me!

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