

REPORT OF LITTLE BARRIER TRIPFRIDAY 28th - MONDAY 31st MARCH 1975BRENDAN O'FLAHERTYFriday 28th March

We assembled at Remuera Intermediate at 5.30 a.m. and set off for Leigh to embark on the chartered boat leaving Ti Point for Little Barrier at 8.30 a.m. The trip took two hours. The conditions were quite favourable for our boat so we were able to observe the seabird population.

On arriving and safely landing our gear we took our belongings to the bunkhouse before an early lunch. After that we set out our gear and put up tents then split up into four parties, each moving in a different direction. The group I was in was led by Mr Hamilton and the others were Wendy, Jane, Jonathan and Mrs Freeman. We went through green pastures until we came to the Shag Track.

Not far up the track we saw our first whitehead. The track ended at the shore so we had a look round the rocks before returning. After a short rest we had a very appreciated swim. At 4 p.m. every day the birds are fed in the troughs in the Ranger's garden so we went there and saw a multitude of tuis and bellbirds.

After tea some of us gave talks on our wildlife subjects. That night we were quite surprised to see a Brown Teal, the rarest duck in New Zealand, approach us looking for food. We had no hesitation in feeding it with bread and it came within a few yards of our feet. Later in the visit we found it coming up to our outstretched hands pecking at the bread. Each night four of us had to sleep out in the two pup-tents so Jonathan and I decided to sleep in one of the tents each night and let the others take turns in the other tent.

Saturday 29th March

I changed groups to Dave Court's which contained Joe, Judy and Colleen. We set off up the main track but were permitted to go only to the 1800' mark. It was a great disappointment for us that we could not go right to the summit because of un-repaired track. On the way we saw a few stitch-birds and a red-crowned parakeet. Coming back we collected lichens for a friend of Dave Court. That evening after tea we went past the homestead looking over Pohuehue scrub sighting bats. We saw quite a number of the little darting creatures before returning.

Sunday 30th March

In the mornings we had breakfast at 8 a.m. but if we had obtained permission previously we could go up the tracks near the bunkhouse as early as we wished; most did.

That day Dave Court and I set off on the Thumb Track to do two surveys, the first quadrat was a 10 yd. by 10 yd. square. This did not cause too much difficulty to find. After we had finished this and also measured half-a-dozen tea-trees we had lunch. We were doing these two quadrats for the University Field Club.

After lunch Mr Gallagher's group met us, they were on their way back, and decided to come with us in search of the second quadrat. After a few hours search we gave up and went back to camp.

Monday 31st. March

On this the last day it was decided that the Junats would devote their time to helping the Ranger (John Wisnesky) clear the tracks of debris. We did this for half the morning before returning to camp. We gathered our belongings then were free until boarding the return boat. The return journey was rougher than our first crossing. When we arrived at Ti Point we left for Auckland in the vehicles of some of our parents.

Botany of the Island

The indigenous flora of Hauturu (The Little Barrier), Waipoua Forest, Kapiti and New Zealand according to botanical groups is summarised:-

Botanical Group	Number of Species				
	Hauturu		Waipoua	Kapiti	New Zealand
Pteridophytes	90	57	63	43	166
Gymnosperms	9	7	11	2	20
Dicotyledons	187	85	122	126	1229
Monocotyledons	82	39	45	47	428
Totals	368	188	241	218	1843

The first column of figures for Hauturu are those stated by W.A. Hamilton. The second column is of those found by our party. The Waipoua figures are from Cockayne (1908), Kapiti from Cockayne (1907), New Zealand from Cockayne (1928). Our figures seem quite reasonable considering the period we stayed for and the area we covered.

List of indigenous plants observed on Little Barrier Island during Easter 1975 arranged in the main botanical groups, with the species grouped in alphabetical order:-

Psilopsida

Tmesipteris elongata
T. tannensis

Lycopsida

Lycopodium billardieri
L. deuterodensum
L. volubile

Filicopsida

Adiantum aethiopicum
A. cunninghamii
A. hispidulum
Anarthropteris lanceolata
Asplenium bulbiferum
A. falcatum
A. flaccidum
A. lamprophyllum
A. lucidum
Athyrium australe
Blechnum capense
B. discolor
B. filiforme
B. fraseri
B. lanceolatum
B. membranaceum
B. nigrum
B. norfolkianum
Cyathea dealbata
C. medullaris
C. smithii
Doodia media
Grammitis billardieri
G. heterophylla
Histiopteris incisa
Hymenophyllum demissum
H. dilatatum

Hymenophyllum ferrugineum
H. flabellatum
H. multifidum
H. rarum
H. revolutum
H. sanguinolentum
H. scabrum
Lindsaea linearis
Lindsaea trichomanoides
Iygodium articulatum
Paesia scaberula
Phymatodes diversifolium
P. scandens
Pteridium aquilinum var. *esculentum*
Pteris comans
P. tremula
Pyrrosia serpens
Rumohra adiantiformis
R. hispida
Schizaea dichotoma
Thelypteris pennigera
Todea hymenophylloides
Trichomanes elongatum
T. endlicherianum
T. reniforme

ANGIOSPERMAEMonocotyledons

Astelia banksii
A. solandri
A. trinervia
Bulbophyllum pygmaeum
Carex dissita
C. inversa
C. ochrosaccus
C. virgata
Collospermum hastatum
Cordyline banksii
C. pumilio
Cyperus ustulatus
Dendrobium cunninghamii
Dianella nigra
Dichelachne crinita
Drymoanthus adversus
Earina autumnalis
E. mucronata
Freycinetia banksii
Gahnia lacera

Gahnia pauciflora
G. setifolia
G. xanthocarpa
Juncus gregiflorus
Lepidosperma australe
L. laterale
Microlaena avenacea
M. stipoides
Morelotia affinis
Notodanthonia sp.
Oplismenus imbecillus
Poa anceps
Phormium tenax
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Schoenus tendo
Scirpus nodosus
Uncinia banksii
U. uncinata

Dicotyledons

Alseuosmia macrophylla
 Archeria racemosa
 Beilschmiedia taraira
 B. tawa
 Brachyglottis repanda
 Calystegia sepium
 Carmichaelia cunninghamii
 Centella uniflora
 Clematis paniculata
 Coprosma arborea
 C. australis
 C. lucida
 C. macrocarpa
 C. repens
 C. rhamnoides
 C. robusta
 C. spathulata
 Corokia buddleioides
 Corynocarpus laevigatus
 Cyathodes fasciculata
 C. juniperina
 Dichondra repens
 Disphyma australe
 Dracophyllum matthewsii
 Dysosyllum spectabile
 Elaeocarpus dentatus
 Entelea arborescens
 Fuchsia excorticata
 Geniostoma ligustrifolium
 Geranium solandri
 Haloragis erecta
 H. incana
 Hebe macrocarpa
 Hedycarya arborea
 Heimerliodendron brunonianum
 Helichrysum glomeratum
 Ixerba brexioides
 Knightia excelsa
 Leptospermum ericoides
 L. scoparium
 Macropiper excelsum
 Melicytus ramiflorus
 Metrosideros excelsa
 Metrosideros diffusa
 M. fulgens
 M. perforata
 M. robusta
 M. umbellata
 Mida salicifolia
 Muehlenbeckia complexa
 Myrsine australis
 Nertera dichondraefolia
 Nestegis lanceolata
 Nothofagus truncata
 Olearia furfuracea
 O. rani
 Oxalis corniculata
 Parsonsia heterophylla
 Pelargonium inodorum
 Peperomia urvilleana
 Persoonia toru
 Phebalium nudum
 Pittosporum cornifolium
 P. crassifolium
 P. tenuifolium
 P. umbellatum
 Pomaderris phyllifolia
 Pseudopanax crassifolius
 P. discolor
 P. edgerleyi
 P. lessonii
 Pseudowintera axillaris
 Quintinia acutifolia
 Rhabdothamnus solandri
 Rhagodia triandra
 Rubus australis
 R. schmidelioides
 Senecio kirkii
 Scandia rosaefolia
 Schefflera digitata
 Solanum aviculare
 S. nodiflorum
 Vitex lucens
 Weimannia silvicola

Brendan is a very keen junior member of our Society and the above account is of a trip that he made to Little Barrier as a member of the Junior Naturalist Club (Junats), Eastern Suburbs.