

HUIA - 18th September 1976

J. Beever.

Although the weather on the days before and after the trip was showery, the day itself turned out fine except for a short shower at 3.30 p.m. The result - overhead fine, underfoot a bog. Our leader Katie Wood did her best for us and took us on a route which avoided the worst, but there was still plenty of slipping and sliding. The route led from the parking area by the Huia bridge at the end of the tar-seal and ascended the hills to a point known as Goat Hill.

Along the stream as we entered, kowhai welcomed us, while in the depths of the bush Clematis kept peeping at us from unexpected perches, letting us know that spring was here. The most noticeable feature was the large number of big ratas (Metrosideros robusta) which we passed along the track, often three or four only thirty yards apart. Although big ratas are not uncommon in the Waitakeres the concentration here seems much higher than the average.

The first point of interest was the Huia stream which since the dam was closed now consists mainly of spillway overflow and thus throughout late spring, summer and autumn is of very small volume indeed. This is apparently the reason for the appearance of mangroves, Avicennia resinifera, at its mouth in the last few years, presumably because the sluggish stream allows the piling up of mudflats and the establishment of floating mangrove seedling plants as well as a more saline substratum. It will be well worth watching to see to what extent this establishment and growth continues.

The following list of plants is normal for the Waitakeres except for one or two rarities such as Hebe bishopiana, noticed near the top of the climb, and Pittosporum cornifolium growing near the start at a low altitude.

FERNS

Asplenium flaccidum  
 " falcatum  
 " lucidum  
Blechnum capense  
 " fraseri  
Cyathea medullaris  
 " dealbata  
Microsorium scandens  
Paesia scaberula  
Pyrrosia serpens  
Blechnum discolor  
Lygodium articulatum

GYMNOSPERMS

Agathis australis  
Dacrydium cupressinum  
Phyllocladus trichomanoides  
Podocarpus ferrugineus  
 " spicatus  
 " totara

DICOTYLEDONS

Alseuosmia macrophylla (flowering)  
Beilschmiedia tawa  
Brachyglottis repanda  
Carmichaelia aligera  
Clematis paniculata (flowering)  
Coprosma arborea  
 " australis  
 " lucida  
 " rhamnoides  
 " spathulata  
Corokia buddleoides  
Corynocarpus laevigata  
Dodonaea viscosa (green)  
Dracophyllum latifolium  
 " sinclairii  
Dysoxylum spectabile  
Elatostema rugosum  
Elaeocarpus dentatus  
Geniostoma ligustrifolium  
Griselinia lucida (on rata)  
Hebe bishopiana

Hebe stricta	Tetrapathaea tetrandra
Hedycarya arborea	Vitex lucens
Hoheria populnea	Weirmannia silvicola
Knightia excelsa	<u>MONOCOTYLEDONS</u>
Leptospermum ericoides	
" scoparium	Acianthus fornicatus var. sinclairii
Lophomyrtus bullata	Astelia banksii
Macropiper excelsum	Chiloglottis cornuta
Melicope simplex	Collospermum hastatum
" ternata (flowering)	Cordyline banksii
Melicytus ramiflorus	Dianella nigra
Metrosideros excelsa	Earina mucronata
" fulgens	Freycinetia banksii
" perforata	Gahnia sp.
" robusta	Microlaena sp.
Myrsine australis	Pterostylis banksii
Nestegis lanceolata	" graminea
Olearia furfuracea	Rhopalostylis sapida
" rani (flowering)	Ripogonum scandens
Paratrophis microphylla	Uncinia sp.
Pittosporum cornifolium	
" crassifolium (flowering)	
Pseudopanax crassifolius	
Rubus cissoides	
Schefflera digitata	
Sophora microphylla	
" " var. fulvida	

After we emerged from the bush Mrs Wood kindly invited us to her home nearby and we spent a pleasant half hour looking at the many native plants and having a timely cup of tea provided by our hostess and leader. Especially notable among the plants were the Hebe bishopiana, the Sophora microphylla var. fulvida and the Pratia physaloides from North Auckland. The west coast kowhai ( var. fulvida) seemed to be of a more intense yellow than the larger leaved specimen.

#### CUTTY GRASS TRACK - 20th November 1976

On the last trip of the year we scored again with a lovely fine day and as it was a very easy walk the good turnout of members had an enjoyable outing. We walked to the Anawhata road corner where we lunched before returning to the bus at the Scenic Drive. As we then had a little time to spare we went on to the Information Centre for a browse around.

The bush in the late spring was kind to us and although the notable and glorious display of heketara was fading the Ixerba and Quintinia were starting to flower, as were other less spectacular plants, altogether providing a feeling of fresh life and a new season. The track is fairly flat but the altitude is of the order of 1000' so that the vegetation reflected this. Among the trees commonly noted were Quintinia serrata, regarded as montane in the North Island, and Ixerba brexioides, a frequent companion of Quintinia in such situations. Cordyline banksii