

KAUAERANGA VALLEYBlanche Wormald

Mid-afternoon 18 Feb. we left Auckland to spend a weekend botanising in the Kauaeranga Valley which is about 10 km from Thames. From highway 25 the Coromandel Range made a beautiful picture as rain was falling giving a three dimensional effect with an odd patch of sunlight adding a touch of colour. By the time we reached Thames it had ceased. We stopped and had a picnic tea before going on to the campsite which we reached by 7.30 p.m. The Beaver family with helpers, already had the tents pitched and everything organised, so all we had to do was arrange our sleeping quarters.

Saturday morning those on roster had breakfast ready by 7 a.m. and at 8.30 we drove to the Wainora campsite where we parked our cars. We all set off on the track together but we slower ones were left to botanise on our own as the ten hardy botanist wanted to climb up and over Table Mountain and had a long hard day before them. The bush tracks were in good condition with a wide variety of vegetation and we crossed eight streams without mishap. The following notes and lists were made by various members of our party.

Dr Ross Beaver's notes (mainly based on observations made on Webb Creek Track, which climbs up a series of rock steps cut for pack horses in the early days). * indicates plants more or less restricted to the Coromandel Range.

*Celmisia adamsii: a number of plants were in good flower (first collected by T. Kirk "far up the Kauaeranga Creek" April 1869).

Dacrydium kirkii (Halocarpus kirkii) monoao: one small tree seen by track edge looking a bit like a long leafed totara. At its apex the transition to the minute imbricate adult leaves was just visible.

D. intermedium (Lepidothamnus intermedius) yellow silver pine: common.

John Smith-Dodsworth showed the party a colony of the uncommon Lindsaea viridis; also a colony of the broad-leafed Blechnum patersonii was seen under an over-hanging cliff; Lycopodium volubile and L. laterale along with the sundew Drosera auriculata and Schizaea fistulosa. On a rocky face near a stream crossing Earina autumnalis was in good flower and caught the photographers' eye. Ascarina lucida: although common in Westland, it has only local distribution in the north, e.g., a couple of plants on Little Barrier and recently found for the first time in the Waitakeres (R.O. Gardner. 1982 "Native Vascular Flora of the Waitakere Range Auckland", ABS Bulletin).

Urtica incisa: on shaded edge of old road by the Kauaeranga River. A new record for the valley.

Pseudopanax discolor: its bronzed leaves were common at higher altitudes.

*Brachyglottis myrianthos: difficult at first to distinguish from Olearia rani. Distribution Coromandel Range and one clump in the Hunuas. Type locality Kauaeranga River, collected by T.F. Cheeseman.

*Corokia buddleioides var. linearis: a narrow leafed variety reported from a few localities in the North Island. Type locality Kauaeranga, collected by T.F. Cheeseman.

*Olearia townsonii: common along the Webb Creek Track, resembles O. furfuracea but with shiny bright green leaves. Type locality Kauaeranga Valley, collected by W. Townson, Jan. 1920.

Pittosporum virgatum: two juveniles with their distinctive irregularly lobed leaves seen along the edge of Webb Creek Track, a new record for the valley.

Loxoma cunninghamii: on a bank near the river.

Some more of the rare plants seen were:

Archeria racemosa, Coprosma lucida var. angustifolia, Helichrysum glomeratus var. majus, Pittosporum virgatum var. matthewsii, P. huttonianum, Pseudowintera colorata.

Ferns listed by Jean King.

Asplenium bulbiferum	Hymenophyllum demissum
A. falcatum	H. dilatatum
A. flabellifolium	H. ferrugineum
A. flaccidum	H. flabellatum
A. hookerianum	H. flexuosum
A. lamprophyllum	H. revolutum
A. lucidum	H. sanguinolentum
Blechnum capense	H. scabrum
B. discolor	H. villosum
B. fraseri	Hypolepis distans
B. lanceolatum	H. rugosula
Cyathea dealbata	Lindsaea linearis
C. medullaris	L. trichomanoides
C. smithii	Paesia scaberula
Dicksonia squarrosa	Phymatodes diversifolium
Doodia media	Pteridium aquilinum var. esculentum
Gleichenia circinata	Schizaea dichotoma
G. cunninghamii	Thelypteris pennigera
Histiopteris incisa	Trichomanes elongatum
	T. endlicherianum

Mosses listed by J.E. Beever and B. Wormald. * indicates species seen with capsules.

*Brachythecium plumosum	(D. flexifolium)
Breutelia pendula	D. ?punctulatum
*Bryum billardieri var. platyloma	Echinodium hispidum
Bryum blandum	*Eriopus cristatus
Galomnion laetum	Fissidens asplenioides
Camptochaete arbuscula	F. pallidus
C. gracilis	*F. tenellus
*Campylopodium euphorocladium	Glyphothecium sciuroides
Campylopus arboricola	Homalia falcifolia
*C. clavatus	H. pulchella
*C. introflexus	*Hymenodon pilifer
C. pallidus (C. torquatus)	*Hypnodendron arcuatum
Catagonium politum	*H. colensoi
Catharomnion ciliatum	*H. comatum (Mniodendron comosum)
*Cladomnion ericoides	*H. menziesii
*Cryptopodium bartramiioides	(Sciadocladus menziesii)
Cyathophorum bulbosum	*Hypnum chrysogaster
Cyrtopus setosus	(H. cupressiforme var. chrysogaster)
Dawsonia superba	Hypopterygium filiculaeforme
Dicnemoloma pallidum	*H. rotulatum
(D. sieberianum)	*Leptostomum macrocarpum
*Dicnemon calycinum	*Leucobryum candidum
Dicranella clathratum	*Lopidium concinnum
(D. vaginata var. clathrata)	*Macromitrium ?gracile
*Dicranoloma billardieri	*M. longipes
D. menziesii	*M. ?microstomum
*Distichophyllum crispulum	Papillaria crocea
D. microcarpum	*Pogonatum subulatum
*D. pulchellum	*Polytrichadelphus magellanicus
*Ditrichum difficile	*Pterygophyllum dentatum

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| *P. quadrifarium | *Sematophyllum amoenum |
| *Ptychomnion aciculare | *S. jolliffii |
| Rhacocarpus purpurascens
(R. humboldtii) | Thuidium furfurosum |
| *Rhacopilum convolutaceum | T. laeviusculum |
| (R. strumiferum) | Weymouthia cochlearifolia |
| Rhizogonium bifarium | W. mollis |
| *R. novae-hollandiae | Wijkia extenuata
(Acanthocladium extenuatum) |
| | *Zygodon intermedius |

69 species

Quite a number of adventives were noted around the campsite:

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| Centaurium erythraea | Plantago lanceolata |
| Chrysanthemum leucanthemum | P. major |
| Cirsium sp. | Prunella vulgaris |
| Crepis capillaris | Ranunculus sp. |
| Cyperus sp. | Rosa rubiginosa |
| Euphorbia peplus | Rubus fruticosus |
| Leycesteria formosa | Senecio jacobaea |
| Linum marginale | S. vulgaris |
| Lotus pedunculatus | Solanum nigrum |

Saturday evening the party of ten arrived back late and tired from their botanical trip over the mountain. The Japanese scientist from Tokyo who spent the weekend with us seemed very pleased with what he had seen. He was also very happy when he took a photo of our group. Before breaking camp some of us followed the track climbing above the camp where we saw a pigeon and further on disturbed a covey of Californian quail. At the top we had an excellent view of the Kauaeranga Valley and River with Table Mountain in the background. Returning by a different track we were faced by a landslide and had to make our way via a very steep side track.

Many thanks to our leaders for a well organised trip, Ross and Jessica Beever and Anthony Wright.

PASPALUMS - NATIVE OR EXOTIC?

R.E. Beever

In the key to Paspalum species in the last Newsletter (38(1)9, 1983) I forgot to mark which species are native and which are adventive. For the record:

- *Paspalum paspalodes (Mercer grass) adventive from South America.
- P. distichum native, widespread through tropics and warm-temperate regions.
- P. orbiculare (scrobic) native, widespread through Pacific.
- *P. dilatatum (paspalum) adventive from South America.
- *P. urvillei (Vasey grass) adventive from South America.