

Yaldhurst Water Race:

Again following Prof. Wall's footsteps we examined the water race that runs for some two miles on the side of the Old West Coast road above Yaldhurst. He records seeing three species of ferns and five of Carex growing on the side of this water course. We noticed four species of fern Blechnum capense was very, very abundant. The surprise to me was observing plants of Paesia scaberula with their rhizomes in the water. It has been found by me more commonly on dry banks. Three species of Carex were found in fruit with one species without nuts. This is a pleasant walk on a fine day.

Asplenium:

The New Zealand kinds have defied all attempts to be limited by words, and with the exceptions of A. flabellifolium and A. polygdon I know of no two, however dissimilar, that can well be distinguished at first sight from one another by descriptions. I would caution the New Zealand student against expressing any decided opinions on the Aspleniums till he has arranged a large herbarium of them, from all parts of the islands and compared the specimens with one another and with those from other parts of the world.

Ibid.

AMURI HUTS SUMMER CAMP 1972

By: J.S. Reid

Have you ever walked off a map with only a hazy idea of what lay beyond? It was an experience of this sort which quickened my interest in the proposed summer camp.

Christmas - New Year 1933-4 was notable for heavy snowfalls in the mountains and even for broadcast concern about a University party from Wellington remote from huts in the upper Rainbow. Our route out was by a high level crossing from the Paske river over to the head of the Clarence. On that range I was careless enough to slice open a leg and hence had to forgo the trip from the overnight camp at Lake Tennyson to Lake Ada and the Waiiau. With a companion I trudged the 20 odd miles down the Clarence to St. James Station. There was some slight degree of apprehension about our reception as two tramping types that we met on the way greeted us with the news that they had been chased out of the Station homestead by the ----- cook armed with an axe! But we got the "hot scones" type of welcome and even an

offer to take me, in the morning, by some sort of rugged transport to Hanmer!

Pride forbade acceptance of the proffered lift although the morning was damp. It also stopped us from enquiring just exactly where Hanmer lay, or from following the rough road - that is when we walked off the map and headed up what we now call the Styx! Cloud thickened as we went up a good spur, across a first class rabbit fence, on to what could only be the Captain Range. There was no snow and no view but the alpine garden was so delightful that I was entirely unconcerned about our being misled. As it happened, we dropped off the other side of the range out of the mist and into the Rogerson, and so to Hanmer by evening. It was a bit late to get a job of leg-stitching done.

. Memory can play tricks, with a time lapse of 38 years, but the dearth of flowers and the extent of eroded surfaces came as a surprise in our recent trip. It is hard to explain simply on the grounds that 1972 was a poor flowering season for Celmisia and Aciphylla spp., that the 1934 journey was over a different part of the Captain Range and that cloud concealed the erosion then.

Last January on the fairly lengthy excursion from Amuri huts to Mt. Captain, there was plenty of botanical interest but not enough time to linger along the way, or at Mt. Captain. Notes along the way must be quoted with caution therefore :-

1. The scree plants were best near Mt. St. Patrick.
 2. Haastia pulvinaris and its variety minor, seen to particular advantage on St. Patrick, seemed to have faded out long before we reached Mt. Captain; perhaps we had walked out of their habitat.
 3. Observations on Leucogenes and Raoulia near San. Jago were made by another member of our party (hybrid?).
 4. A change in site was indicated by the presence of Hebe cheesemanii near Amuri huts and its replacement on Mt. Captain by H. ciliolata.
 5. On an eastern face near San. Jago one garden was noted as containing within a small compass a fine assembly of flowering plants as well as grasses and sedges including 5 Celmisias (spectabilis, traversii, viscosa, incana laricifolia), Raoulia bryoides and R. grandiflora, Cotula pyrethrifolia, Phyllacne colensoi, Drapetes sp., Pygmea pulvinaris, Leucogenes grandiceps, Dracophyllum pronum, Gentiana sp., Aciphylla monroi, Anisotome imbricata, Epilobium spp.
 6. Pimelea traversii with its massed, unopened pink flower buds was abundant along the ridge towards Mt. Captain.
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