

Although mountain plants for the most part, *Celmisia* can also be found at or near sea level. Cheeseman records from sea level *C. lindseyi*, *holosericea*, *rigida*, *hookeri*, *mackayi*, *major*, *gracilentia*, *graminifolia*, *linearis* and *argentea* on the mainland and three others from Stewart, Auckland and Campbell Islands.

Mr McKay at Otari has had seedlings of *C. mackayi* growing naturally as has Mrs Martin. This plant can be increased vegetatively by breaking off portions of a large plant and the same thing applies to *C. lindseyi*, *sinclairii*, *spectabilis* and *glandulosa* and probably some of the others as many of them branch profusely and others form mats such as *C. argentea*, *laricifolia*, *sessiliflora* and others. Moisture seems to be a necessity in the summer months for these plants and hosing has to be resorted to in the drier periods. *C. ramulosa* seems to be the only *Celmisia* which grows as a shrub although others are woody at the base. As mentioned at a previous meeting several species are well known as "fire weeds" and are increasing largely to the sorrow of the sheep farmer who would in many cases kill them out wholesale if possible in favour of grazing plants.

In my own garden I have growing more species of *Celmisia* than of any other genus and if I had to confine myself to growing one genus only there is no possible doubt as to what that genus would be.

A. D. Beddie.

#### WALLACEVILLE FIELD DAY.

The forethought displayed some 40 years ago by the late Dr Gilruth, has preserved for us a small remnant of the bush which once grew in that part of the Hutt Valley, and his appreciation of trees has made the Wallaceville Animal Research Station grounds a very pleasant place today. Besides the area of bush preserved there, many of the original totaras were left standing in the paddocks, and many exotics were planted as boundaries, and also around the caretaker's cottage. Dr Gilruth's wise discrimination has left for posterity a heritage both useful and interesting.

Members of the Society had the opportunity of visiting this locality on the 18th September and though heavy rains had fallen just before everyone managed the damp conditions easily. The party had mixed interests, but all found something worth while, the moss-gatherers, those seeking exotic conifers, and those interested in the lowland forest.

No stock is allowed to run in the bush area which is fenced off from the rest of the farm. Some exotics have crept in, the most troublesome being *Berberis vulgaris*. But lately the undergrowth has been coming away more rapidly and it may in time oust some of the intruders.

The dominant tree of the upper canopy is *Nothofagus solandrii*. The very mixed middle canopy includes *Pittosporum eugenioides*, *P. tenuifolium*, *Nothopanax arboreum*, *Gutttonia salicina*, *Olearia rani*, *Myrtus bullata*, *Olea cunninghamii*, and several species of *Coprosma*, the possible hybrids between the last mentioned giving much material for thought. Shaded by these shrubs are *Asplenium* of several species (one particularly fine specimen being seen with a close *bulbiferum* affinity), *Pellaea rotundifolia*, *Polypodium diversifolium*, *Cardamine* sp., *Ranunculus hirtus*, *Dianella intermedia*, and *Lagenophora pumila*. The mosses and liverworts were most attractive after the rain. It was amongst the green freshness of *Trichocolea australis* that the tiny *Corysanthes triloba* was seen, with its deep purple and green flowers quite hidden.

There were a few patches of young forest trees, *Podocarpus totara*, *Beilschmidia tawa* and matai. A very fine specimen of *Olea cunninghamii* near the old orchard was in full flower, as was also *Farctophila microphylla*.

Throughout the bush there are occasional clumps of *Eleocharis tetrapetala* growing on *Nothofagus solandrii* and they are a gay sight when in bloom during the summer. But just at this time of the year this mistletoe was seen at its best perhaps on a strange host, an exotic, *Betula alba*, a silver birch planted near the outskirts of the bush. The five green clumps of mistletoe showed clearly through the bare branches and appeared to be finding conditions there most suitable. M. Sinclair.