

One specimen of our native sandalwood, Mida salicifolia, was found about half way up. This tree seems always to be solitary, and one wonders if it is a left-over from some previous vegetation, or if there is any place where it is plentiful. Its beautiful foliage would make it well worth cultivating if one could ever catch it in seed or find any young ones.

We were able to cover only a small portion of the bush at the southern end, so the area should be well worth another visit, either by following the same route directly to the top and then north along the ridge, or by going further north before entering so as to explore the bush towards that end. Either way would make a pleasant and profitable excursion.

M.M.N.

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GAY FUNGI AT THE KEITH GEORGE MEMORIAL PARK.

On Saturday June 1st, a crisp winter afternoon, a party of twenty members and friends visited the Keith George Memorial Park, in the Hutt Valley beyond Haywards. Of immediate interest were the Eugenia malro trees growing in a small clump in a swampy place beside which a well defined track led up the hill. Up we all went, firstly through tawa forest with an odd kamahi tree among it, and ferns in plenty, especially Cyathea dealbata and Leptopteris hymenophylloides. Next, and quite abruptly, we came into beech forest, with a lighter undergrowth which was dominated by a dainty Coprosma.

Fungi were very evident. I collected twenty-five different fungal fructifications but of these only five could be named for certain by the expert to whom they were referred. A neat brown and cream puff-ball, one to two inches across, opening by a round hole on the top, was identified as Lycoperdon compactum. Small dark-brown funnel-shaped cups were Polyporus oblectans, black, open, saucer-shaped cups about one inch in diameter were Peziza melastoma. A smaller, pale salmon-pink cup was Cyphella sp. Jet black clubs about two inches tall, represented the Geoglossaceae. There were many dainty Agarics, black, red, blue-green, yellow and browns. Even more brightly coloured were the various Clavarias, cream, pink, brilliant orange and yellow, and a beautiful mauve form which we also collected last year on a Botanical Society excursion to the Wellington Botanical gardens. In the autumn and winter months the fungi are a delightful feature of the bush.

We returned by rail-car discussing our trip on the way. We all agreed that a whole day could be spent with profit in this park at any time of the year.

Greta E. Cone.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE SOCIETY: In Wellington, 7s.6d., reduced to 5s.0d. if paid before November 30th.
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