

REPORT OF THE BOTANICAL TRIP TO BARTON'S BUSH NOV 1 1947.

A stalwart if small party of four members defied a doubtful southerly day to explore the flora in Barton's bush near Trentham. The approaches to the bush were particularly swampy and the air heavy with the scent of Plagianthus betulinus in full flower. A close watch was kept for the Kapiti Island lancewood a supposed cross between Nothopanax arboreum and Pseudopanax crassifolium which had been noted in this district some years previously, but no specimen was seen.

Large trees of long standing surrounded us everywhere, an especially old matai, many tawa and titoki in fruit and flower. Nearer the river we saw a lovely group of kewhai, several past flowering but one in full gold splendour. On the Cordyline australis and other trees dense clumps of the Barina mucronata gave prospect of a glorious display later, being masses of buds.

Nettles specially prolific made us step warily both through the Urtica australis in flower and the carpet of incisa.

Of special interest in this district are the distinct forms of the hybrids between Myrtus bullata and obcordata, also Fuschia colensoi and perscandens.

After a pleasant lunch by the river where cardamome was in flower and numerous juvenile and adult forms of matai and white pine were studied we set a search, reinforced by two more members for the local specimen of Dicksonia fibrosa and found a lovely one with its furry aerial roots matted over the trunk. The loose sandy bank of the river is being rapidly washed away and a fine cabbage tree fell near the lunching spot, where other huge totara are obviously doomed.

The last prize of the day was a spray of mistletoe, Loranthus micranthus, on a branch of Melicope simplex in flower. The only sorrow of all was the knowledge gained from a member who had visited this bush in earlier days that so many of its fine trees had been lost and the remainder menaced by river erosion.

Further specimens found were; Burdock: Paratrophis microphylla; Coprosma rubra; Metrosideros hypericifolia, pink in colour, and M. colensoi; Muehlenbeckia axillaris; native passion flower, Tetrapathaea tetrandra; Parsonia capsularis; Teucrium parvifolium, not common in Wellington district; micro; Olearia cunninghamii, with its bright red berries; Pterostylis banksii not yet in flower; wineberry; Coprosma rotundifolia. Particularly thick lawyer stems on a tawa took our notice and one massive tawa took four persons to span it.

Janet Hislop.

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WELCOME TO A VISITOR FROM ENGLAND.

Miss Joyce Sansom has recently arrived from England as the bearer of a two years' scholarship awarded by the Goldsmiths' Coy. She will be working on certain aspects of the ecology of beech forests. At present she is acquainting herself with our flora in various parts of the country. On her return to Wellington she will settle down to the hard work of her job, and will be a very welcome and helpful member of our society during her two years' stay. In return members will be glad to help Miss Sansom in any way they can.

H. H. A.  
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