

HUTT ROAD.

The Wellington Beautifying Society called for support from all the local bodies of Wellington district and a number of Societies including our own in a move to preserve from development the steep hillside bordering the Hutt Road. A meeting of representatives of these bodies was called and I attended representing the Wellington Botanical Society. The meeting decided to send a deputation to the government to ask that the strip of steep hillside bordering the Hutt Road between the boundary of Wellington City and the Petone Woollen Mills be set aside as a reserve, preferably by setting back the road boundary to the top of the steep hill. I went with the deputation which waited on the Minister for Lands, the Hon. Mr. Skinner, and the Minister in charge of Main Highways, the Hon. Mr. Semple, who received us most sympathetically and promised that the appropriate department would search the titles of the lands involved for a first step.

The Wellington Beautifying Society has already done commendable work in planting, or supplying for planting, native trees and shrubs for many streets and highways of Wellington district, for which purpose their nursery at Mt. Crawford gaol grows large numbers of plants. Members of the Botanical Society could help in this work by collecting seed of suitable species, which I would be glad to accept and deliver to the Beautifying Society.

Greta Cone.

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MURITAI - PENCARROW.

Across Port Nicholson from Wellington is a stretch of rocky coast, leading to Pencarrow Head. Rising steeply to 500 ft. and more, it is in places steeply cliffed; it feels the full force of N.W. and S.W. winds and it provides varied habitats for many genera of different growth forms. Large-leafed, glossy karakas may be found within a few yards of moss-like clumps of Scleranthus, mats of Raoulia australis and rigid Aciphylla squarrosa. Perfect weather conditions and an early flowering season combined on October 4, 1947, to give Botanical Society members an enjoyable day's wander over shingle and rock.

A few patches of remnant forest gave a fair idea of the original forest covering on more stable slopes. Typical plants were Ngaio, mahoe, kawakawa, karaka, Shawia paniculata, tree tutu. Undergrowth was not dense, Solanum aviculare being prominent, with the divaricating Coprosma rhamnoides and the ferns Asplenium lucidum and Polystichum richardii.

Following the burning and grassing of the steep hillsides native shrubs including manuka, tauhinu, Olearia solandri, Hebe salicifolia, hybrid Coprosmas, Shawia paniculata, rangiora and native flax, will regenerate providing that burning does not continue. Tauhinu and manuka sometimes share the dominance but in more exposed coastal locations tauhinu is more abundant. Where burning has continued grass has increased its hold and now covers many slopes near Muritai.

The steep shattered greywacke provides foothold for many plants, some with close affinities with or identical to those of the mountain flora. Shrubs growing on the cliffs are stunted and wind-trimmed especially the tauhinu and taupata. Many of the