

In more open parts *Freycinetia banksii*, *Rubus cissoides* and *Metrosideros scandens* were common scramblers. Plants of *R. cissoides* certainly covered much greater areas than they did in 1942. *Microlaena avenacea*, *Uncinia* sp., *Histiopteris incisa* and *Gleichenia cunninghamii* were common. There were a few thistles. There were occasionally shrubs of *Myrtus pedunculata*, and a good deal of *Pseudowintera axillaris* and young miros and tawas about three feet high. One small totara was seen.

There were tracks made by animals up the ridge, presumably by goats, which heavily infested the valley in 1942 and of which a number were seen on this trip. Deer, although present, did not seem to be so common.

Leaves of *Freycinetia banksii* near the tracks were eaten right back. *Microlaena avenacea* and sometimes *Uncinia* sp. had been grazed. On a small slip there were some plants about eighteen inches high of *Dacrydium cupressinum*, *Carpodetus serratus*, and *Weinmannia racemosa* which had all been severely eaten, although the grass, *Microlaena avenacea*, seemed little touched. Some of the young tawas had been badly eaten, though those a little distance from the tracks were untouched.

A VISIT TO KANGAROO ISLAND AND TASMANIA

On August 15 Miss Lucy Moore gave a lecture to the Society on her visit to Australia in January 1949. During the earlier part of her stay she paid a short visit to Kangaroo Island with a party from Adelaide University. This interesting island, 90 miles long, lies off the coast at approximately the latitude of Whangarei and was probably once part of the mainland. Endemic species have developed on it and at the end of the nearby Eyre Peninsula. Round most of the island steep cliffs rise to the gently rolling interior. At the eastern end mallee scrub and heath predominate, but as the rainfall increases westward low forest takes charge.

In a broad estuary known as Pelican Lagoon which Miss Moore visited, the shore is fringed by a wide belt of *Hormosira*, and further out, by one of *Posidonia australis*, its lower parts embedded in the mud. Except for the difficulty of collecting, *Posidonia* fibre might be used in industry. Miss Moore showed one of the balls of fibre rolled and cast up by wave action.

Shore vegetation included rigid-looking plants of *Spinifex hirsutus*, a *Salicornia* and a bushy species of *Rhagodia*. An interesting low scrub grew on cliff tops, and cliff-dunes fixed by vegetation occurred. The bush *Scaevola*, related to *Selliera*, flowered abundantly on the dunes.

Further inland were scattered trees of *Casuarina* (she-oak) with a characteristic grey-green colour. The low *Eucalyptus* forest was open and well-lighted, with shrubby undergrowth. Much of the island is covered in scrub 6-10 feet high; it appears uniform, but is actually a mosaic of plant communities. *Acacia armata* was seen in second growth. *Xanthorrhoea tateana*, one of the Australian grass-trees (Liliaceae), is a source of yacca gum, a commercial resin. Unfortunately this industry is destructive to the trees. The endemic *Eucalyptus cneorifolia* is also used industrially for its oil, and attempts are being made to establish plantations in India.

Most of the island is still fairly primitive owing to its infertile soil, but since the cause (a trace deficiency of molybdenum) has been found, it is expected that more land will be cleared.

After her arrival in Tasmania, Miss Moore visited the Mt. Field National Park, a large area north of Hobart. This region is a dissected plateau, with flat-topped mountains of uniform height (c. 4,500 feet) giving it a characteristic appearance. In the *Eucalyptus* forest were many shrubs of the "mingi-mingi" type, often with showy flowers and fruit. *Nothofagus gunnii*, with pleated deciduous leaves, was merely an undershrub here, but *Phyllocladus rhomboidialis* had a more familiar look. On the edge of the forest were a few of the endemic "King Billy" pines (*Athrotaxis selaginoides*).

Above the main forest were moors and bogs, strikingly similar to some in New Zealand. The dominant moor plant was "button-grass" (*Mesomelaena sphaerocephala*) which looked like *Isolepis nodosa* but behaved ecologically like the New Zealand red tussock *Danthonia rigida*, except that it was apt to harbour snakes. *Gleichenia*, *Hypolaena* and a cassinia-like bush grew near the bogs, and the handsome pencil pine *Athrotaxis cupressoides* was abundant.

The upper forest, dominated by snow-gums, had a characteristic hoary look due to large numbers of dead standing trees. *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, a large and common tree in the rain forest about 2,500 feet, here towards the upper limit of its range becomes dwarfed to a low shrub. Species of *Richea* were closely similar to *Dracophyllum* species.

Above the forest several alpine plants reminded one of New Zealand—species of *Pentachondra*, *Cyathodes* and *Podocarpus*, and a conifer as low growing as *Dacrydium laxifolium* in unsheltered areas. On the level tops, alpine bogs were common. The species list and general appearance were strikingly like those of Key Summit, near the Hollyford Valley. The raoulia are not cushionlike and 2-3 inches tall, while *Pterygopappus* closely resembles the compact New Zealand raoulia.

Miss Moore also visited northern Tasmania, and mentioned the drier eucalypt forests that have developed into open grazed parkland, where

many shrubs and orchid species are found. Both *Leptospermum* and *Melaleuca*, which look very similar, are known as "tea-tree."

Beyond Stanley, on the north-west coast of Tasmania, many bright-coloured flowers, including a butterfly-like *Utricularia*, grew on the old dune-system, now partly peat-covered. Round the coast a rust-coloured lichen made a wide brilliant band.

A number of interesting slides and specimens were shown. Miss Moore was thanked on behalf of the audience by Prof. Gordon, who mentioned especially the quality of the herbarium specimens collected.

A. LUSH.

LODER CUP AWARD FOR 1949

Miss Noeline Baker has been awarded the Loder Cup for 1949. The cup is presented annually to a person or body of persons for outstanding work in protecting and cultivating New Zealand plants. Before Miss Baker handed over her property, "Moturau Moana," to the Minister of Lands in 1948, she had established a botanical garden containing almost every plant native to Stewart Island. The Loder Cup committee, in recommending Miss Barker, made special reference to the high standard of the nominations received for 1949.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Local Species of Astelia, Collospermum, Coprosma and Hymenophyllaceae; Auckland Botanical Society Bulletin, No. 4. Copies obtainable from Miss Crookes, 31 Maungauhau Road, Epsom, for a small charge.

Sand-Dune Plants, by Lucy B. Moore, with illustrations by Nancy M. Adams; Post-Primary School Bulletin, Vol. 3, No. 4. A limited number of copies are available from Information Bureau, D.S.I.R., Wellington.

DEATHS

With deep regret the Society records the death of two of its members, Mr. W. W. Samson and Mrs. A. Morris Jones; also the death of Mr. W. J. Jamieson of the Collingwood district.