

fern not collected since 1882; without hesitation he guessed "Botrychium lunaria".

The second plant brought back I grew on till it had increased in height to several centimetres I then pressed it, and it is now in the herbarium at Botany Division, Lincoln.

What of the future? Well, surely Botrychium lunaria is elsewhere on the "marbleous" mountains of N.W. Nelson (Mt. Arthur, Mt. Owen, etc) For a start we are hoping to visit Mt Arthur next January and perhaps someday we will go back to Hoary Head.

The moral of this story is, of course: "Beware of the Man in the Grey Suit" or "Don't count your B..'s before they're safely delivered!"



STONY RANGE FLORA RESERVE SYDNEY

John Thompson

Should any of my readers be in Sydney with a few hours to spare then a visit to the Stony Range Flora Reserve should be accorded high priority. This reserve, containing 3.3ha (8.25) acres, has been developed for the purpose of growing Australian plants and what a magnificent collection of plants it contains.

The reserve is situated in the suburb of Dee Why, with the bus stopping at the gates, and has been developed by voluntary labour with the greater part of the finance being obtained by donations from the visiting public.

The main flowering season is from the end of June until mid-October with the main flush from mid-August to the end of September. Throughout the year there are always some plants in flower.

A booklet is available at the gate which provides

information on its history, a plant of the tracks and a list of plants to be found together with a brief description of each plant.

If I have counted correctly the booklet lists 566 species of Australian plants growing in the Reserve in 1973.

No doubt many more have been planted since that date.

A quick glance through the list discloses that it includes:

- 35 species of Pterophyta (ferns).
- 20 species of Compositae.
- 9 species of Hibbertia.
- 8 species of Anigosanthus, (kangaroo paws)
- 14 species of Prostranthera (mint bushes).
- 14 species of Liliaceae..
- 83 species of Leguminosae, including 41 Acacia
(wattles), and 42 with papilionate flowers.
- 68 species of Myrtaceae, including 19 Eucalypts,
14 Melaleuca, and 8 Leptospermums.
- 28 species of Orchidaceae.
- 8 species of Banksia.
- 28 species of Grevillea.
- 15 species of Boronia.

In the nursery some thousands of plants are grown annually each year many of which are sold to the public.

The booklet gives detailed instructions on growing Australian native plants from seed and cuttings and the subsequent cultivation of plants after they have been set out. Did you know that in growing seeds of the Eastern Rutaceae small twigs and leaves are placed on the seed box and are then set on fire and kept burning for some 10 minutes?

We intended making a short visit to the Reserve but so delighted were we with its contents that we stayed for over 3 hours.

Never, never will I forget the masses of yellow blooms of the orchid Dendrobium speciosum.