

Acknowledgements

My thanks, in producing the Index, go to Leslie Haines for her careful proofreading and to Ross Beever, Ewen Cameron and Mike Wilcox for giving me the benefit of their wide experience.

Historical reprint

Kathleen (Katie) Wood (1915-2006), was a member of the Auckland Botanical Society from the late 1940s, and together with Phyllis Hynes was also an associate botanist at the Auckland Museum for some years. She was a gifted artist and wrote and illustrated a series of botanical articles that were published in the *NZ Weekly News* from 1965-1979. This piece appeared in the 13 January 1965 issue.

Elusive Ferns of the Kauri Bush By Kathleen Wood

When plant lovers visit us and ask to walk in the bush we like to take them up the Huia Valley to a place where the stream forms a loop, almost surrounding a small stand of kauris.

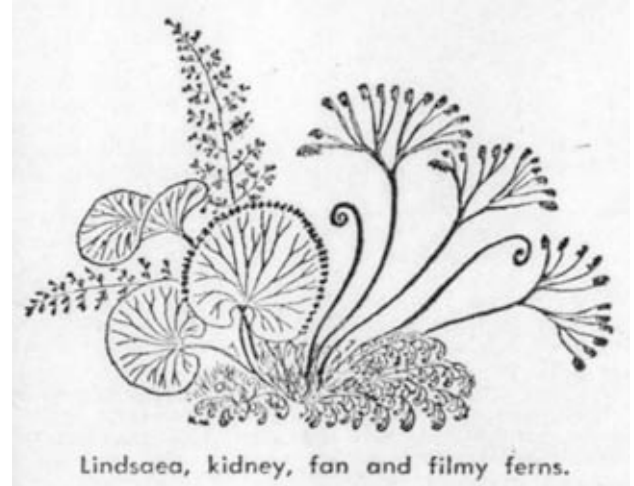
Here is a fairyland indeed, for the encircling stream seems to create a humid atmosphere that encourages phenomenal growth. Among the kauris grow a surprisingly rich variety of plants and the ground is carpeted with thick masses of moss and kidney fern.

Large clumps of kauri grass (*Astelias*) mingle with Kirk's daisies. Toropapa, the sweet-perfumed native honeysuckle, is there, too; also yellow-flowered korokias; neineis, or spiderwood; and the attractive Cunningham's umbrella fern, *Gleichenia* [*Sticherus*] *cunninghamii*.

The trunks of the tree ferns are clad with filmy ferns, and the bush orchids grow from the moss and lichens on the ground. This moss forms a nursery for many seedling trees such as kauri, tanekaha, totara, miro and the rarer tawhari and tawheowheo.

Most interesting of all, however, are the splendid examples of fan ferns, *Schizaea dichotoma*, to be found there. They prefer the

company of large kauris but are elusive. Not every kauri clump shelters them.



These wiry, primitive plants are very unfernlike in appearance. They spring from the bed of moss, unfurling their quaint fronds, and the upper part opens out into stiff fan-shaped segments. Each of these is tipped with a small, comb-like fertile part which secretes the spores.

Usually the fronds are about eight inches in height, but many in this patch are very tall, measuring up to 17 inches. This excites the interest among fern specialists and live plant specimens have been sent overseas for special study.

Recently we feared that this part of the valley would be drowned by the lake which will be formed when the new dam is completed, but now it is thought that it will be just out of reach. Although it will then be inaccessible to us we hope that such a rich area can remain unspoiled.

The same hope cannot be held for a patch of the rare and beautiful fern *Lindsaea viridis*, which grows beside streams further down the valley, for this will definitely be under the water. This is a tragedy, for only in one other place in the Waitakeres is this fern known to grow.

Corrigendum:

Young, M. (2007): Labour Weekend Camp: Whangarei Heads, 19-22 October 2007. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 62(2): 120-124: Pg 120 & 121 delete *Celmisia adamsii* var. *rugosula* and replace with *Celmisia adamsii* var. *rugulosa*.

Acknowledgement: The Editor gratefully acknowledges the work of the editorial team (Ewen Cameron and Ross Beever) towards the production of this Journal.