

## FLOWERING TIME

Flowering of native trees and plants in the Waitakere Ranges this spring and summer has been sufficiently unusual as to warrant notice. While a few, kowhai for example, were normal, some regular friends have almost or wholly failed us, while others have been abnormally profuse.

Ixerba brexioides, which the previous year put on a fine show at the beginning of December, had this year a spread season of very scanty flowering. Pohutukawa produced very few blossoms, and I saw no flowers at all on the tree rata. By way of making amends, both the latter have produced abundant new leaf shoots. The red and white climbing ratas are flowering but less than usual. Very abundant flowers were produced by Persoonia toru, hinau, ake-ake, flax and Olearia furfuracea.

While on the subject of bush flowers it may be worth mentioning that the flowering and fruiting times of many species are not listed in the standard flora, and the recording of these would be an object worthy of attention by the Society, or perhaps by individual members who make frequent visits to the ranges, the Society arranging for reception and correlation of records.

A. D. Mead.

(Our thanks to Mr. Mead for his most interesting note. It is indeed to be hoped that members will follow out the suggestion he makes in his final paragraph. We all know that plants have good flowering seasons and bad ones, and if records of these are set down over a series of years, they will provide useful data in connection with the why and wherefore of these seasonal variations. New records of flowering and fruiting times with notes on such variations could well become a useful feature of our News Letter. Ed.)

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"A List of Native Plants of the Auckland Area and a Short History of the Botanical Society."

This is a publication to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Auckland Botanical Society. Price 5/- plus 3d postage.

We would like to draw the attention of members to this publication. The first part consists of a brief history of the Society (contributed by the editor) followed by an alphabetical species list of native plants found in the Auckland district, compiled by our energetic treasurer, Mr. F. Warren. Mr. Warren's list is the result of a great deal of patient and (one fears) tedious work, and he has not merely provided a list of species under their scientific names followed by authorities, but has also added where practicable Maori

and popular names as well. In a sub-title the list is described as preliminary. Volume 2 of Allan which includes all the Monocotyledoneae has not yet been published, and new records and alterations of names continue to appear. It is hoped that anyone detecting any mistake or having further information to communicate will get in contact with Mr. Warren (as he requests) so that as time goes on the list may be suitably modified, when it is re-issued at some future date. In the meantime the list should prove of great use to members for some time to come and it is to be hoped that they will avail themselves of it without delay.

#### WHANGAREI TRIP

Our trip to the Whangarei area at Anniversary Day weekend started a few minutes after the appointed time of 8.30 a.m. in fine and mild but cloudy weather with 32 in the bus of whom 3 were members of the Woodlands Park Horticultural Society and 2 friends of members. Stopping only for a few minutes at Brierly Hills for morning tea, we reached Whangarei at 12.45 p.m. where we were met by Miss Marjorie Maddren, a number of other members of the Whangarei Forest & Bird Society and a reporter from the "Northern Advocate". A reception committee such as this is most unusual and it is indicative of the interest of the Forest & Bird Society in the native flora of the district, and of their desire to co-operate with other societies having objects somewhat similar to their own.

A short run brought us to the Coronation Reserve in the Western Hills, at the entrance to which we were very pleased to partake of lunch, as most of us had had breakfast much earlier than usual.

Led by Miss Maddren, who has an excellent knowledge of the bush areas in the district, and of the native flora, we explored the Reserve by a track which brought us back to our starting point. The commonest tree in the area appeared to be the tree coprosma (Coprosma arborea). The most unusual in appearance was the Totara (Podocarpus totara). There were many of these with very long, straight trunks, like young kauris. Alseuosmia was plentiful, but puzzling as usual where there is more than one variety growing in the district. Some appeared to be Alseuosmia banksii, some were clearly Alseuosmia quercifolia, some had the characteristics of both, while others had the leaves of both on the one plant. The New Zealand Iris (Libertia ixioides), the dwarf cabbage tree (Cordyline pumilio), and rimu (Dacrydium cupressinum) with long, straight trunks were also plentiful.

The hard beech (Nothofagus truncata) was present but not plentiful, only two trees being sighted. A small clematis, which appears to be Clematis parviflora, was met with quite frequently on the ridge. At the entrance to the Reserve, a nice patch of Athyrium japonicum was noted. This fern is local in its occurrence and is not common in the Auckland district. It is not proposed to weary

*Hypolepis rugosula* <sup>5</sup> Wintrose Track