

When we left Auckland the weather seemed a bit doubtful, but improved steadily as we progressed. On our way we stopped for a short period at Kirks Bush, Papakura, which we had not visited for a number of years. This is typical taraire - pukatea forest with little undergrowth, rather attractive and unusual. We crossed the road to the erstwhile Botanical Block and noted with pleasure the growth of the trees planted there by the Society in previous years. We then journeyed on via Kingseat, Waiuku and Waipipi, to a patch of bush, just a few acres, on a private farm. This area, in which puriri seems to be dominant, contained the best part of 100 species, of which I shall mention only a few - titoki, taraire and tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, pukatea, karaka, mangeao, kahikatea, miro, totara and kohuhu. The smaller plants included Rhabdothermus solandri, Schefflera digitata, Tetrapathaea tetrandra, Melicope ternata, Olearia rani, Olea lanceolata, Pseudopanax crassifolium x lessonii and Peperomia urvilleana growing on a puriri. There were also a goodly number of ferns - Adiantum fulvum, 4 Aspleniums, and many smaller ferns. At the bottom of the gully grew an attractive group of king-ferns (Marrattia salicina), and Miss Crookes found several kingfern prothalli. We saw only 2 orchids, Acianthus fornicatus sinclairii and Earina mucronata. The forest regeneration was excellent, especially the number of young miro all over the place. We had our lunch in the bush in full view of an opossum in the tree above us. After lunch we rejoined the bus and went to Kariotahi Beach, where we spent a pleasant hour or so in the sunshine. Mrs. Hynes found Cotula minor and Miss Crookes found a specimen of the Green Bay Form of Blechnum capense. Also noted were Coprosma acerosa, Muhlenbeckia complexa, and Adiantum cunningghamii amongst the flax. We left for home just after 3pm after spending a most enjoyable day.

TAWAPOU ON WAIHEKE --- B. & M. Hall

We first discovered tawapou on Waiheke in 1932, an occasion we shall always remember. We came upon a tree in full fruit, with colours ranging from green, through yellow and orange to black. It must have been a good season for it was a glorious sight. This was on a cliff facing east, on a promontory called Thompsons Point, between Palm Beach and Onetangi. There were quite a few trees there, but not all fruiting so profusely. On the top of the headland were three or four really old trees, 40ft or more in height and well branched.

There are a few in a small patch of bush behind Palm Beach, several more at Careys Bay, east of Onetangi, one lone one on the left of the Ostend-Onetangi Road and another adjacent to the Forest and Bird reserve at Onetangi. With the exception of this last, they are all on country where sheep and cattle are running, so naturally no seedlings survive. The tree however that interests us most is just off the little used road at the head of

the bay at Ostend. When we first found it in 1932 it was a small tree about 7ft high. Now it is mature and has quite a number of seedlings and young trees of various ages growing up all around it. The species seems pretty well distributed on the western portion of Weiheke, but regarding the eastern end of the island we could not be sure. In the days when we did most of our botanising down there, it was a case of tramping 8 miles each way, which did not leave much time for thorough inspection.

IS THIS THE SITE OF KIRK'S SOUTHERN LIMIT FOR KAURI ? Colin Ogle.

In Forest Flora 1889, Kirk records kauri at its furthest south and east as 'inland from Maketu'. The nearest area of kauri to this location now appears to be on the western side of the Papamoa Hills, between Te Puke and Tauranga. A local historian considers this could be Kirk's area, as Maketu was the only large township at that time which could have been used as a reference. Though not as accessible as the McLaren's Falls kauri a few miles away, Bot. Soc. members may be interested in several features of this area. It is privately owned forest, near Cropi via Tauranga, and is near the sources of the Kirikiri and Waimapu streams. Though much of the bordering forest of rimu and tawa has been milled, the kauri have survived on the top of a steep rhyolite bluff, locally known as kauri knob. (This site is a contrast to that at McLaren's Falls, where the kauri grow on rocks in the river bed.) About 2 dozen kauri occur here, 2 larger ones measured at 20" d.b.h. and 34" d.b.h. respectively. The forest containing these would be several acres in area, and is dominated by kamahi and tawari (Ixerba). As at McLaren's Falls, there are a number of species common in more northern kauri forests, including tanekaha and toatoa, Corokia buddleoides, neinei (Dracophyllum latifolium), Mida, Cordyline pumillo and Lycopodium deuterodensum. Dracophyllum strictum, Gaultheria paniculata and kamahi are 3 species which occur here but not in kauri forests north of Auckland. Also of interest is the presence of the mistletoe (Elytranthe tetrapetala) on Quintinia, and on rhyolite rocks Hymenophyllum lyallii and Trichomanes strictum. Floristically this kauri forest bears more relationship to other rhyolite ridge areas of the Bay of Plenty, than to the other local kauri forest at McLaren's Falls. Rumours persist concerning the presence of further kauri remnants in the Te Puke - Tauranga area, but the above may well be the furthest south for kauri on the east coast.