THE COBB VALLEY ----------Mrs. G. Bedford

The Cobb Dam lies to the North West of Nelson, on a latitude comparable with Otaki and at an altitude of 2,700 ft. The road follows the Takaka River through magnificent and varied forest, extravagent with ferns. Climbing, the beech forest became predominant - Nothofagus fusca, truncata and menziesii. From the top of the ridge the Cobb Hydro Lake stretched far up the valley. Exocarpus bidwillii was plentiful on open sunny banks and there were two or three Pittosporum patulum on the forest fringe, none too vigerous unfortunately.

We went about ten miles up the Cobb Valley, passing the only outcrop of trilobite rock in the country, now practically reduced to rubble by geologists. Traversia baccharoides and Hebe Traversii were growing on the outcrop and the fissures were filled with Asplenium trichomanes. We went on beyond Chaffey's stream and hut, which looked very uninviting on a hot sunny day, with it's four unsavoury beds. It had a good stove, however, and would be a refuge in some of the savage weather experienced in an area where 90" of rain has to fall in a year. Great expanses of Bulbinella hookeri covered the floor of the valley and in the drier areas Gentiana tenuifolia held sway with its flowers of creamy white to pink. The beech forest was enchanting, airy with filtered sunlight, its floor all tangled roots forming perfect pockets for seedlings. Clematis australis and several gracefull Coprosmas - parviflora, ciliata, polymorpha and foetidissima were present as well as great patches of lichen growing on rotten trunks.

On the banks of the river in shaded places Parahebe lyallii was flowering and Viola cunninghamii and V. lyallii were plentiful. The thickets of divaricating shrubs - Discaria toumatou, Olearia virgata, Hymenanthera alpina, Coprosma parviflora, C. pseudocuneata etc., were most inhospitable to penetrate. On the forest edge, near a stream, Hoheria glabrata looked as alien as a plum tree.

Celmisias on Sylvester Ridge.

In the mountains above the Cobb Dam lie seven lakes. It is a long pull up with a heavy pack to Lake Sylvester which is approximately 2.000 ft. above the dam, with Little Sylvester narrowly separated from it and Iron Lake several hundred feet above. A stream rising from bogs near Iron Lake tumbles down the mountainside into Little Sylvester. This proved to be a wonderful area with Celmisia bellidiodes in full flower covering wet rocks; Senecio scorzoneroides very fine in flower; Celmisia incana, C. alpina and several shrubs of Hebe Macrantha covered in large white flowers, looking very beautiful near the water's edge.

Lake Lockett can be seen from Sylvester Ridge. It is perfectly round, contained within forbidding mountains and sheer screes. Lake Lillie is a small edition of Lockett, over the razor-edged ridge from the Iron Lake. From this ridge can be seen Lakes Diamond and Ruby in the Lockett Range. All are at different altitudes and present a fascinating sight.

Sylvester Ridge is a rounded slope covered in snow grass, crowned with sheer rocky crags. Here the Celmisias have it practically to themselves and occur in defined populations; C.graminifolia on the lower reaches, then C.spectabilis var. augustifolia, then patches only of C.sessiliflora a very lovely plant with flowers close to the glaucous cushion. We saw three plants of the rare C.compacta of Cheeseman, now considered to be a hybrid of sessiliflora x spectabilis. The whole plant is covered in buff tomentum. C.coriacea occurred higher and a few C.traversii in damper places. Aciphylla polita was plentiful in the grass as well as Astelia graminifolia, with its elegant bronze foliage. Aluminium leaved Celmesia laricifolia occupied the higher crags in company with Raoulia eximia.

Trip to Lake Lillie.

We descended a deep ravine from Sylvester Ridge following a small stream. We had to make straight through the Beech forest - very harsh on bare legs because of the twiggy young beech trees and the undergrowth of divaricating shrubs (Coprosma parviflora, C.Ciliata and C.pseudocuneata and Aristotelia fruticosa.

The superbly handsome giant grass tree Dracophyllum traversii was present, getting larger as we descended into damper forest, also Archeria traversii with its masses of little red flowers. Finally we reached the bottom and the stream which flows from Iron Lake. The Dracophyllums here were large trees and together with the striking Olearia lacunosa with its long dark green narrow leaves they presented a unique scene.

We ascended a slip, out through beech (all N.cliffortioides) and up through the tussock in the heat. From the top we saw Lake Lillie, a round, deep lake held in an amphitheatre of rocky cliffs. A rest here and time to dangle hot feet in the lake's cool waters before the climb up onto the ridge which broadened at the top, where there was a large deposit of glistening white quartz. Amongst the loose scree, in very austere conditions, was an extensive colony of Leucogenes leontopodium, a beautiful silver plant with woolly flowers. Haastia sinclairii was also present.

From the top we had a wonderful panoramic view of high mountains all round, Lakes Lockett and Ruby in the distance and below us Iron Lake, Little Sylvester and Sylvester. The Tasman Mountains and the Kaikouras still had snow on the high peaks. Down the Cobb Valley the river appeared a gentle stream. Anisotome aromatica, Hebe Epacrides,

In the afternoon went on to the Waihohonu track, but somehow we missed the entrance and went on for a couple of miles to the Oturere stream where we spent a pleasant half hour. On our way back we found the lost track and walked along it for about an hour. We then returned to Ohakune via Waiouru.

WEDNESDAY 24th Jan. AREA "RL"

Being only a short trip to the Lakes Reserve on the Raetihi Road we left at 9.30 a.m. This reserve is under the protection of the Forest and Bird Society. The lake, Rangataua, is the remains of an ancient crater - the most southerly of the central North Island volcanic system. We walked along the track around the lake and saw many interesting plants, one being tawa in full bloom. None of us had seen these flowers closely before. There were also large hinaus and kamahi. At lunch time we returned to the small reserve behind Raetihi Hill and then went up the road to where the old Punch's Tramway joins it. We then followed the track till it came out onto the road again. We found Gastrodia cunninghamii here. After wandering round a clearing here, we returned to the track and some of us followed it down till it came out of the bush just behind the Ohakune Junction Railway yard. Some then went along a short track at the base of Raetihi Hill, returning in plenty of time to change for dinner.

THURSDAY 25th Jan. AREA "K". ----- Basil Hall.

We made a trip to the two crater lakes (Rotokuru) at Karioi and found a lot to interest us in the way of trees, ferns and orchids. The forest is mainly beech, some quite large, old trees. Among others of interest were Pseudopanax edgerleyi (raukara) and Eleocarpus hookerianus (pokaka) both juvenile and adult. We found one tree about 14ft high, with juvenile foliage extending up the trunk for about six or seven feet before turning to the adult. Another good find was the fern Dicksonia lanata covering a large area. For orchid lovers there was a great selection.

On the first lake we came to there were three birds which from a distance looked like Dab-chicks. In fact the area was so interesting that we spent so much time there that we had to alter our itinerary. We returned home tired but well satisfied with a good day's botanising.

(Ask Mr.Mead about the mistletoe we found and the results of standing, or being dragged under it. L.W.B.)

FRIDAY 26th Jan. AREA "M".

We left at 9 a.m. for the Mangetepopo Hut at the base of Ngauruhoe mountain. At Erua we dropped three members who wished to explore Mt.Hauhangatahi (AREA "H"). We went on and were able to take the bus right up to the hut. Some of us wandered round the old lava flows and others went on to the Soda Springs. returning to the hut for lunch. After a short spell we left for the Chateau, stopping for a few moments at the Mahuia Rapids.

On the Chateau road we gave a lift to three Australian girl hikers which was, I am sure, well appreciated. About two miles from the Chateau we stopped to look at the Tawhai Falls. These falls, with a drop of 43 ft. are well worth seeing. When we got to our destination we walked around the Alpine Gardens for half an hour or so and then returned to Erua to pick up the members left there, thence back to Ohakune through Raetihi, arriving back at about 5 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. C.L.Purdie arrived from Turangi to stay with us for the weekend.

SATURDAY 27th Jan. AREA "Th".

A trip to Pipiriki on the Wanganui River was to be the one today, but as the report on the road conditions was adverse, we decided on a trip to the Moawhango River near Taihape, as suggested by Mr. Purdie. This river is going to be used in the Tongariro power scheme. We spent a little while on a bridge over the river, which is lined with Kowhai - it must be a wonderful sight in the flowering season. Then on to Taihape, where we had lunch at the Reserve. There was a very pleasant track in this reserve with a large variety of plants, some of which have been introduced. After lunch we returned to a valley on the Moawhango-Taihape loop road and entered a small patch of private bush by the roadside. In this bush there were a lot of interesting subjects; a very large Olea cunninghamii with a girth of about 14 ft., an Hoheria Angustifolia and an Earina in flower which fitted the Cheesman description of Earina aestivalis. We arrived back at about 4.30 p.m. after a short, welcome stop at Waiouru. I have marked this AREA "Mo".

SUNDAY 28th Jan. AREA "BH". (same as Mon.22nd)

This trip, up the old Blyth track, is a pleasant one that the Society has done several times before. From the entrance on the mountain road it is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the hut. Most of us went about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way, a few went right up to the Hut and back down the road. Travelling slowly we were able to observe numbers of the smaller plants at ground level. I will mention a few, though a full list of the whole trip is printed below to save endless repetition. Lots of Enargea parviflora, Libertia pulchella, Neomyrtus pedunculata, Viola filicaulis and a large patch of Drosera binata. We returned fairly early to enable us to pack for our return the next day.

MONDAY 29th Jan.

After saying good-bye to Mine Host and the Hotel staff we left for home via National Park and then, after crossing the upper Wanganui River, went on to the new road past the Italian tunnelling settlement. This road passes Lake Roto-a-ira, over a saddle, past Lake Rotopounamu on the side of Mt.Pihanga and through virgin bush to Turangi.

Under the direction of Mr. Purdie, we stopped at a lookout and he describe the various works of the huge power project. Then down the hill to the displat centre of the works, where we spent

an interesting hour before saying goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Purdie. We then proceeded round the lake to Taupo and from there to Huka Falls, where we stopped for lunch. from there we had an uneventful trip, arriving home about 5.30 p.m. I think one and all had a long to be remembered, delightful week of botanising in a most interesting area.

For the list of plants found on the various days, refer to the area letters as follows:-

R.-Rongakaupo Reserve. TT.-Tourist Track, Raetihi Hill. BH.- Blyth Hut and Blyth Track. UW & W.- Upper Waikato River and Waihohonu Track. RL.- Rangataua Lakes, Raetihi Road. K.- Karioi, Rotokuru Lakes. M.- Mangatepopo Track. Th.- Taihape. Mo.- Moawhango Valley. H.- Hauhangatahi Mt.

FERNS

Asplenium Bulbiferum.	RL.K.Th.Mo.H.R.
" " var.Tripinnatum	TT.
" falcatam	TT.RL.Th.H.R.
" flaccidum	TT.RL.K.Mo.H.R.
" hookerianum var.colensoi	Mo.
Blechnum dapense	RL.K.Th.H.R.
" colensoi	H.R.
" " var.patersonii	RL.
" discolor	TT.RL.K.Mo.H.R.
" filiforme	TT.
" fluviatile	TT.RL.Th.Mo.H.
" lanceolatum	RL.Mo.H.
" minus.	H.
" penna-marina	K.H.
Ctenopteris heterophylla	H.
Cyathea smithii	RL.H.
Cyclosorus pennigerus.	RL.K.Th.H.
Dicksonia fibro sa.	TT.RL.H.
" lanata	K.
" squarrosa	RL.H.
Grammitis billardieri.	TT.K.H.
Histiopteris incisa.	R.TT.RL.K.Mo.
Hymenophyllum demissum	TT.RL.H.
" dilatatum	TT.K.H.
" flabellatum	TT.RL.K.H.
" malingii	BH.H.
" peltatum	H.
" pulcherrimum	H.
" Rarum	TT.RL.K.H.
" rufescens	H.
" sanguinolentum	TT.K.H.
" scabrum	TT.H.
" villosum	TT.RL.
Hypolepis punctata	RL.K.
" rugulosa	K.Mo.H.
Leptolepia novae-zelandiae	TT.

FERNS. Cont.

Meringium bivalve	H.
" multifidum	TT.K.H.
Microsorium diversifolium	H.
" novae-zelandiae	H.
Paesia scaberula	R.TT.RL.K.H.
Pellaea rotundifolia	Th.Mo.
Phymatodes diversifolium	TT.K.Th.Mo.RL.R.
Polystichum vestitum.	TT.RL.R.Th.Mo.H.
Pteridium esculentum	K.H.
Pyrrosia serpens	K.
Todea hymenophylloides	R.TT.RL.H.
" superba	TT.RL.H.
Trichomanes venosum.	RL.H.

ORCHIDS.

Caladenia carnea var.minor	K.
Chiloglottis cornuta.	BH.K.
Corybas macranthus.	R.
" trilobus	BH.K.
Earina aestivalus?	Mo.
" mucronata	R.RL.
Gastrodia Cunninghamii	BH.K.
Prasophyllum colensoi	BH.UW&W.
" rogersii	BH.UW&W.
Pterostylis banksii var. patens	BH.UW&W
" montana var.montana	BH.UW&W.
Thelymitra decora	W.
" several unidentified.	K.
Microtis parviflora	UW

OTHER PLANTS.

Acaena sp. most areas.	
Aciphylla squarrosa	UW&W.
Alseuosmia macrophylla	TT.
Anisotome aromatica	UW&W
Aristotelia fruticosa	BH.R.
" serrata	TT.R.RL.K.Th.
Arthropodium candidum	H.
Astelia fragrans	R.RL.Th.
" nervosa	R.Th.
Australina pusilla	H.TT.
Beilschmiedia tawa	R.RL.K.
Brachyglottis repanda	R.K.Mo.
Cardamine debilis	TT.
Carmichaelia flagelliformis	Th.
" orbiculata	UW.
Cassinia vauvilliersii	BH.UW&W.
Celmisia glandulosa	BH.M.
" gracilenta	BH.M.RL.UW&W.
" incana	BH.M.
" spectabilis	BH.M.
Claytonia australasica	M.
Clematis paniculata	R.TT.RL.

OTHER PLANTS Cont.

Coprosma Australis	TT.Th.RLK.H.
" brunnea	K.
" cheesemanii	W.
" foetidissima	BH.H.M.
" microcarpa	BH.K.
" parviflora	Th.Mo.
" propinqua	RL.K.
" pumila	M.
" rhamnoides	R.BH.
" rigida	R.
" rotundifolia	TT.Th.Mo.
" rugosa	K.
" tenuifolia	TT.Th.BH.K.H.
Cordyline australis	Mo.
" indivisa	H.
Coriaria arborea	TT.
" pterioides	UW&W.
Craspedia uniflora	BH.
Cyathodes colensoi	BH.UW&W.
" empetrifolia	BH.K.
Dacrydium bidwillii	BH.H.
" biforme	BH.
" colensoi	BH.
" cupressinum	R.TT.K.H.
" laxifolium	BH.
Dracophyllum recurvum	BH.
" subulatum	BH.M.
Drosera arcturi	BH.
" binata	BH.RL.
" spathulata	BH.
Elaeocarpus dentatus	RL.BH.R.K.TT.
" hookerianus	TT.BH.RL.H.R.K.
Elytranthe colensoi	K.
Enargia parviflora	BH.TT.
Epacris alpina	BH.UW&W.
Epilobium sp.	UW&W.
Erechtites sp.	Mo.K.
Euphrasia cuneata	M.
Forstera bidwillii	M.
Fuchsia excorticata	R.RL.Th.Mo.
Gaultheria antipoda	UW&W.M.
Geniostoma ligustrifolium	TT.Th.Mo.R.
Gentiana bellidifolia	UW&W.M.
" grisebachii	BH.
Gnaphalium traversii	K.BH.
Griselinia littoralis	R.TT.BH.Mo.
Gunnera Dentata	UW.
Hebe odora	BH.
" salicifolia	K.Th.RL.
" tetra gona	BH.
Hoheria Angustifolia	Mo.
" sexstylosa	R.TT.RL.Th.

OTHER PLANTS Cont.

Hydrocotyle americana	RL.
" tripartita	UW&W.
Hymenanthera angustifolia	UW&W.
Hypolaena lateriflora	BH.
Ixerba brexioides	R.
Lagenophora pumila	K.
Leptospermum ericoides	W.
" scoparium	RK.
Libertia pulchella	BH.
Libocedrus bidwillii	BH.H.
Liparophyllum gunnii	BH
Lophomyrtus obcordata	Th.Mo.
Melicope simplex	Th.Mo.
Melicytus lanceolatus	R.
" micranthus	Th.
" ramiflorus	R.TT.RL.Mo.H.
Metrosideros diffusa	R.TT.RL.Mo.K.
" robusta	R.TT.
Microseris scapigera	W.
Meuhlenbeckia australis	R.RL.M..TT.
" axillaris	BH.
Myosotis Forsteri	H.
Myrsine divaricata	BH.Mo.
" salicina	H.
Neopanax arboreum	TT.N.
" simplex	K.
Nothofagus fusca	BH.K.
" menziesii	BH.K.
" solandri	BH.K.
" " var. [illegible]ioides	K.
Olea cunninghamii	Mo.RL.TT.H.R.
" lanceolata	TT.RL.Th.
Olearia arborescens	BH.M.
" rani	TT.
Parahebe spathulata	M.
Paratrophis microphylla	TT.Mo.
Parsonia capsularis	RL.Th.
" heterophylla	R.RL.K. Th.Mo.
Pennantia corymbosa	RL.TT.H.
Pentachondra pumila	W.
Phyllocladus alpinas	BH.M.H.
Pittosporum colensoi	TT.RL.K.
" eugeniodes	TT.K.
" tenuifolium	Th.
Plagianthus betulinus	R.
Podocarpus dacrydioides	R.TT.RL.Th.Mo.
" ferrugineus	R.TT.K.H.
" nivalis	M.BH.
" spicatus	R.Mo.TT.RL.
" totara	R.RL.K.Th.H
Pseudopanax crassifolium	R.TT.K.Mo.H.
" edgerleyi	K.

OTHER PLANTS Cont.

Pseudowintera axillaris	H
" colorata	TT.BH.H.
Ranunculus nivicolus	M.
" rivularis	K.
Raoulia sp.	W.
Rhipogonum scandens.	R.Mo.RL.K.BH.
Rubus cissoides	R.TT.RL.K.BH.
" schmideliodes	R.RL.Th.Mo.
Schefflera digitata	RL.R.
Sophora microphylla.	Mo.Th.
Stellaria parviflora	RL.
Tetrapathaea tetrandra	Mo.
Urtica ferox	TT.
" incisa	TT.Th.Mo.
Utricularia monanthos	BH.
Viola filicaulis	BH.
Wahlenbergia pygmaea	UW.
Weinmannia racemosa	R.TT.H.RL.

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Many thanks are due to Mrs.P.Hynes and Miss J.Miller for their very complete lists.

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GOLDIE'S BUSH ----- 16th March 1968 -------Mrs. D. White.

After a pleasant drive, on a warm sunny day, a party of 30 or so set off on the shaded Mokoroa Falls track. Along this wide track, an old logging road, we saw a wide range of Coprosma species, namely: C.robusta, arborea, lucida, australis, areolata and rhamnoides, as well as Hebe salicifolia, rangiora, kohekohe, mingimingi and akeake. On the left of the track, Mr. Butler noticed the orchid Bulbophyllum pygmaeum growing on a kauri and nearby we saw Mida salicifolia and Olea lanceolata

A clearing was reached where we left our packs whilst trips were made to the top and the base of the Mokoroa Falls. The flow was light as a result of the long dry summer. Rimu was plentiful with much Lycopodium growing beneath. On the rocks at the base of the falls there were some filmy ferns and also a small patch of kidney fern. Umbrella moss was seen along the edge of the river.

During the morning Mr. Warren indicated a small patch of Botrichium australe (parsley fern), now very rare in Auckland. After lunch we proceeded along the track, seeing Persoonia toru before clambering over a gate into a pleasant field in which there were several attractive rimu and kauri groves, with young alien redwoods here and there. We wound our way down to the river and admired the bright fruits of Pratia angulata, also the flowers of the New Zealand gloxinia (Rhabdothamnus solandri). Above us on the kahikatea by the river were luxuriant native passionfruit vines in fruit.