

plentiful. The moister conditions also favour supplejack, kiekie and Alseuosmia, Kahikatea, miro, kohekohe and karaka are likely to be the conspicuous trees of the reserve in the future.

In our brief encounter we noted 45 species of trees and shrubs, 21 ferns and 21 other kinds of native plants. Quite a number of exotic plants grow beneath the canopy gaps but are not very significant. However, shade-tolerant species such as wild ginger Hedychium gardnerianum, wandering Jew and Selaginella kraussiana are likely to assume much more importance.

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#### AN INTERESTING SERIES OF REPORTS

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Recently Alan Esler of the Botany Division, D.S.I.R. lent me a set of booklets prepared by S.W. Burstall for the New Zealand Forest Service. They are entitled "New Zealand Forest Research Institute Forest Mensuration Reports Nos. 16 - 24, 1974 (unpublished), and each one lists, with comments, the individual indigenous and exotic trees of New Zealand from two or three of twenty territories which cover the entire country, if they are considered to be worthy of note because of historical reasons or because of size, age or rarity.

They make most fascinating reading and stimulate one to get out and find the more interesting specimens listed in the local area. The publication fills a need, for it has been done very thoroughly and I should think that there can be few if any important trees in N.Z. that have been omitted. Such a list is invaluable for reference and though of course any such book is out of date from the day of publication yet it records the position at present very well.

Most trees are set out with botanical names, common names, address of property and position of tree, diameter at breast height, height and canopy spread as in 1969-72. Anyone in the future who starts out to write about any N.Z. tree or group of trees must go to this publication to find out what the situation was in 1970. The number of trees specifically mentioned must be over 2500 and when you consider that each was measured and its site recorded then you realize what a mammoth task this was. The work has involved the collating of many local and national lists made by others, to whom the author gives full credit. As a forester this has been for Mr Burstall a part time occupation for over 20 years and his own lists, especially for the Waikato and Bay of Plenty, must have been invaluable.

We are all suckers for records as the phenomenal success of the Guinness Book of Records shows, so it is of interest to read in the introduction - "Much has been written about the fast growth of many

tree species introduced into New Zealand. Diameters of 70 to well over 100 inches have been repeatedly recorded for long-living species such as Californian Big Trees, redwoods, Douglas firs, oaks and chestnuts at about 100 years of age. Many of these trees have shown an increase in diameter of about one inch annually over the past 14 years.

" However it is the trees with a shorter life span like poplars, some cypresses, pines and eucalypts that have reached dimensions not attained in their countries of origin. It could be fairly reliably stated that in New Zealand we have the second biggest poplar in the world, the thickest and tallest radiata pine, the thickest and tallest Monterey cypress, the biggest of at least five eucalypts (E. viminalis and E. globulus) and the tallest Norfolk Island pine."

Thus some fun can be derived from tree hunting to find a larger or a taller tree than the specimens he indicates e.g. the Norfolk Island pine at 219 Manukau Road, Epsom; at 158 ft. in 1969 - " The tallest tree in Auckland City and possibly the tallest of this species in the world." Well is it? Do you know a taller one?

The Auckland list appears to be basically Dr Millener's lists revised with the assistance of many other tree lovers in the area. He finds a number of localities in Auckland of exceptional interest for their early plantings and subsequent preservation of exotic trees, some of rare types. He cites the Gillies Avenue, Owens Road, Mountain Road area as his choice but also rates highly the " Pah Farm " site covering the Monte Cecilia Convent and Marcellin College properties, and other plantings at St. John's College, the Glen Innes estate of the William Innes Taylor family, the St. Kentigern School property of the " N.Z. Herald " Wilsons, the old Government House and University, and a number of other private sections.

The use of the Auckland list has made walking and driving around the city much more interesting for me and I would recommend anyone who can gain access to this, as yet, unpublished series to do so. The Museum library may have copies and our Society now has a set of the following six reports:

- Auckland & Northland
- Taranaki & Central North Island
- Wairarapa, Manawatu & Wellington
- Marlborough, Nelson & Westland
- North & South Canterbury & Chatham Is.
- Otago & Southland

The Forest Research Institute has promised us copies of the other three reports if they are reprinted. They are so popular that they are out of print at present.

Anyway " Good Hunting! "