

the fern Microsorium novae-zelandiae and below it in the ground Hypolepis rufobarbata. One or two other ferns were about and hundreds of small nettle plants. Thus ended most of my plant hunting activities of the trip, which had been enjoyable and worthwhile. All that remained was the two hour descent next morning and the drive back to Opotiki.

AHURIRI ESTUARY THREATENED

Prof. V.J. CHAPMAN

Some members of the Botanical Society will know of, or will have seen, the Ahuriri estuary and the adjacent ponds just before the Taupo-Napier Road reaches Napier. The large lagoon, known as the Westshore pond is a reserve under the control of the Wildlife Trust. Recently the Napier City Council proposed a scheme to develop a large marina in the estuary and in association with this to carry out extensive dredging operations. The Trust, which leases the pond and adjoining reserve from the City Council, at the same time announced plans to develop the area into a tourist attraction and cater for some 10,000 visitors annually. Among new attractions envisaged were a deer park and zoo. Both proposals have aroused considerable local antagonism and a report by a firm of consultants commissioned by the City Council has pointed out the great dangers inherent in both proposals.

The Ahuriri estuary is of considerable interest botanically because, although the halophytic plants that grow there are not necessarily rare, they have appeared there as a result of the Napier earthquake. I believe, therefore, that it would be regrettable if these salt marshes were to disappear in order to make way for a marina. The low tide channel, the mud flats and the Westshore lagoon provide a major habitat for a large variety of plants and animals. The Consultants report indicates that if the proposals for the marina and the refuge are not good, neither can the ponds be left as they are because they are already silting up and unless some action is taken they will disappear.

At the moment the Harbour Board, City Council and Trust have called a halt but some positive action will be necessary in the future. There is scope for some development but anything that is done will have to proceed with great caution.

MILLER'S RESERVE, WARKWORTH

J. BEEVER

Our November trip was to a new reserve so that even older members found something of interest. It is situated on a ridge on the Auckland side of Warkworth, looking back about half a mile across green fields to the T.V. Satellite Reception Station. The bush was given

to the nation by Mr. J. Miller as a reserve with restricted access, so that if anyone wishes to visit it they must obtain permission from the Lands and Survey Dept. Mr J. Miller died not long after the reserve came into being but his son still farms the adjoining area and takes a keen interest in the reserve. Part of it is fully fenced and the rest will be enclosed when the departmental wheels finally grind round to it.

Because of this the area offers an unusual opportunity to botanists to follow the course of regeneration over the years. The Natural History Club was associated with the formation of the reserve and Mr Noel Kitchen has been compiling a list of seed plants and ferns to form a basic list of all that is there. As the reserve is not very large it should be possible to list all the plants now present. Once fencing is done it is normal for undergrowth to develop very rapidly, so progress should soon be noticeable. Our thanks for a good trip go to our leader Mr R. Afford who was assisted by Mr Kitchen, both of whom have been involved in the reserve formation. We hope that the additional plants added to their list by our trip will bring its completion nearer.

On the bank of the cutting where the bus had parked were dozens of the two genera of orchids, Microtis and Thelymitra. Mr Butler found a Microtis unifolia head which with careful counting produced 130 flowers. Does this approach ∞ as given in Moore and Edgar?

Our list of seed plants is as follows:

Acianthus fornicatus var. *sinclairii*
Agathis australis
Alectryon excelsus
Alseuosmia macrophylla
Astelia sp.
Beilschmiedia tarairi
Callitriche sp.
Clematis paniculata (juvenile)
Cordyline australis
Colloospermum hastatum
Coprosma arborea
 " *areolata*
 " *australis*
 " *rhamnoides*
Dacrydium cupressinum
Drymocanthus adversus
Dysoxylum spectabile
Earina mucronata
Epilobium rotundifolium
Freycinetia banksii
Geniostoma ligustrifolium
Griselinia lucida

Hedyocarea arborea
 Knightia excelsa
 Leptospermum ericoides
 Leptospermum scoparium
 Melicytus macrophyllus
 " micranthus
 " ramiflorus
 Metrosideros fulgens
 " perforata
 Myrsine australis
 " salicina
 Nestegis cunninghamii (lanceolata?)
 Nertera dichondraefolia
 Olearia rani
 Paratrophis microphylla
 Parsonsia capsularis (heterophylla?)
 Phyllocladus trichomanoides
 Pittosporum tenuifolium
 Podocarpus ferrugineus
 " hallii
 " spicatus
 Pseudopanax crassifolius
 Pterostylis banksii
 Ranunculus hirtus
 Rhopalostylis sapida
 Ripogonum scandens
 Rubus cissoides
 Rubus australis (juvenile)
 Schefflera digitata
 Tetrapathaea tetrandra
 Vitex lucens

LABOUR WEEKEND AT THE BAY OF ISLANDS

J. BEEVER

Leaving Auckland at 5 p.m. on the Friday we made a good trip to Paihia and arrived at the Fourways Hostel at Haruru Falls soon after 10 p.m. Our host and hostess gave us a warm welcome and a light meal which was a surprise and much appreciated. Early walkers next day