

SOME CHANGES AT HUIAMrs. K. WOOD

Since the lower Huia dam was completed a few years ago several changes have taken place. The dam overflows for only a short time in the spring, so most of the time the stream below becomes just a trickle fed by one or two side streams, but twice a day the tides fill it as far as the swing bridge. Previously I had never seen mangroves at Huia, but now a small group is growing in a muddy backwater beside the Huia dam road. These were first noticed by Lloyd Esler on 31.12.73 and they are still flourishing.

Just past the the dam gates on the left of the track, there used to be a small swamp where Baumea huttonii grew but with the filling in of this area these plants have disappeared. The white flowered poroporo, Solanum aviculare var. albiflorum was so disturbed by the dam building operations that it has also gone from the hillside by the spillway. Carex pumila used to grow on the shore at the mouth of the stream but the tides have washed away this area of ground. Pampas and kikuyu grass have invaded Huia within the last decade, two species of ginger plant grow on the roadsides, and arum lilies are still fairly plentiful in spite of being "tidied" away from many areas which are now mown.

1975 OUTINGSJ. BEEVERD.S.I.R. - 15th. March

This time we broke with our custom of getting out of town and spent the morning at the D.S.I.R. Research Station at Mt. Albert. Here, by courtesy of the Director, we were able to look at some of the more interesting plants in the grounds and have a brief glance at some of the botanical work being done in the laboratories. Our tour was conducted by two of the scientists from the Research Station, Mr Stuart Dawes and Dr Ross Beever who had both already spoken to the society during the last two years.

First Ross took us for a general tour, beginning with the beeches at the entrance. Here an interesting group of Nothofagus species from various southern hemisphere countries allowed a comparison of closely related species from places now very far apart. How did they spread so far?

Then on down to the car park, where our attention was drawn among other items to Cordyline baueri, the Norfolk Island cabbage