

kept so neat and free of weeds, forming a sanctuary for so many tiny plants. Tiny plants from our own country and overseas were thriving in a large, well ordered rock garden which must be of interest to all who love plants, at any season of the year. I think almost everyone would leave with their own favourite impressions from this delightful place - I know I shall always remember it wherever I see Parahebe cataractae in flower again, or that tiny alpine relative of the rimu, known as Dacrydium laxifolium - reputed to be the world's smallest conifer. Our thanks went to Mr and Mrs Petersen for sharing not only their garden, but also a warming cup of tea when the rain came on.

Even yet those members travelling with the bus were able to share some more interest - this time of a cultural and historical kind. We made a detour on the way home to view the very first display of any kind, an art show, in the old Pupuke Lake pumphouse, which has been renovated for this sort of purpose.

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MITCHELINA STURTON BARR - AN APPRECIATION

Miss O. PLATT

It is with much regret that we learned of the death on 11th June of Minnie Barr who has been a member of the Society for about thirty years, during which time she has served on Committee, arranged outings and has always been willing to write up an account of outings.

She was a keen amateur botanist and was especially interested in filmy ferns, of which she made a collection.

She became quite a tripper later and was twice to the United Kingdom and Europe and back through U.S.A. One of her last trips was to Nepal over the Hillary trails at a time when most of us would rather see it all in pictures. She stood up to it better than many of the younger ones in the party. Her last trip was to China.

Earlier she was a keen tramper and walked many of the mountain valleys and passes of the South Island, and as one who went with her I must say that she was always with us with hand outstretched if help was needed. Yes some of us will miss her very much and we offer our most sincere sympathy to her family.

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Outing - Saturday June 18th.

Mrs B. WORMALD

We were fortunate to have such a lovely day for our trip, as Friday was anything but pleasant. Along the Scenic Drive the rata, Metrosideros fulgens, was still in bloom, adding a gay touch with its orange flowers to the sombre greens of the trees. Mr Beaver led us into the University Reserve and pointed out some of the rarer species of trees in the area, one being Dacrydium kirkii with both juvenile and adult foliage. There were many young kauri rikas and some quite big trees with large spreading

heads. Underneath we found more Schizaea dichotoma, the kauri fern, than we had ever seen before. We noted quite a wide variety of trees, shrubs and smaller plants, miro, tawa, Nestegis montana, Persoonia toru, Senecio kirikii, Corokia huddeloides, rimu, tanekaha, Alseuosmia quercifolia, Pittosporum tenuifolium, Coprosma spathulata and C. rubra, Freyinetia banksii, Gleichenia microphylla and Nertera depressa a creeping herb. The floor was carpeted with many seedlings. The ferns we listed were Elechnum capense, B. filiforme, B. fraseri, Lindsaea trichomanoides, L. linearis, Cardiomanes reniforme, Hymenophyllum multifidum, H. dilatatum, Dicksonia squarrosa, Cyathea dealbata and Lygodium articulatum the climbing fern. The orchids Pterostylis brumalis and P. trullifolia were just starting to bloom, several clumps of Barina mucronata and one small patch of Bulbophyllum pygmaeum grew on trees. For members interested in the mosses:- on the ground clumps of pale green milk moss, Leucobryum candidum, Dicranoloma billardieri, Mniodendron dendroides, Campylopusis introflexus, Ptychomnion aciculare and in very damp places Breutelia pendula, one of the apple mosses so called as its capsules are round. On the tree trunks the feathery moss Lapidium concinnum and Leptostomum in thick clumps. Macromitrium species crept along the trunks and boughs of the trees.

After lunch we followed Mr Hatch along the road leading to the Waitakere dam. There we saw more rata in bloom and one with bright red flowers. Griselinia lucida, Gleichenia cunninghamii and the ferns Histiopteris incisae grew on the banks. We found Microsorium diversifolium with heavy leaves rather like scandens. At the foot of the dam two perfectly shaped young rims of a rich bronze green were thriving. Mosses on the banks, in the open were Polytrichadelphus magellanicus, Pogonatum subulatum and Polytrichum juniperinum. Thuidium furfuasum mixed with the grasses.

Though the return walk was all uphill we thought it worth the energy involved.

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CRYPTOSTYLIS SUBULATA (Labill.) Reichb.f. A NEW ORCHID FOR NEW ZEALAND

E.D. HATCH

In the N.Z. Journal of Botany 1976: Vol.14: p 275-7 Mr D.K.F. Graham describes the fascinating discovery of several dozen plants of the Australian Cryptostylis subulata in the Motutangi swamp, between Houhora and Rangaunu, in the 'sand trap' area of the far northern peninsula. Growing as it often does actually in water, C. subulata has much the same basic structure as Spiranthes, from which it is easily distinguished when not in flower, by the petiolate leaves. I had Australian material in cultivation here for some years and the tall spindly flower stems always tumbled over and had to be staked. At Motutangi the plants were closely surrounded by rushes and sedges which solved the support problem. The spidery-looking flowers have a large red-purple labellum which is very attractive to pollinating wasps. This may be alright in the swamp but is rather embarrassing in the glasshouse. The illustration is from the famous painting by W.H. Nicholls.