

The next surprise was to see signs of grazing, by a sizable flock of sheep judging by the droppings. On our next visit heavier grazing was apparent. We decided to traverse the Reserve from the bottom to the top through the precipitous bush gully.

This we did on 5th September 1981. Damage by grazing was very apparent. Few ferns had escaped most were grazed to ground level. It was difficult to find tree or shrub seedlings, shrubs had been eaten, even the Urtica ferox looked thinner. What regeneration that had taken place was wiped out. We were unable to find specimens of Macropiper, Black pine or supple jack. How had the sheep gained entry? The gate leading from the Reserve to adjoining land was missing.

So ends my cautionary tale with the Reserve being grazed, as before, regeneration of the bush being non-existent and the number of native species being reduced by some 30 species.

BAUMEA RUBIGINOSA

JOHN THOMPSON

We are pleased to record the finding of Baumea rubiginosa on a site new to us (on Saturday 24th April 1982.) In the Bottle Lake Forest Park there are many damp areas containing a variety of Juncus plants. One such area on the "blue" track, left hand branch, some half hours walk from the sawmill, has a small patch of Baumea rubiginosa bearing a dozen culms. These were mixed with Juncus plants which probably accounted for the moderate height of the culms, around 50 cms.

We spent some time examining the surrounding area but were unable to find further Baumea plants.