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O Ye Vitex and Carex, Bless the Lord

Submitted by Helen Preston Jones

Words by Jessica Beever to music by Andrew Carter. The original is a section, Badgers and Hedgehogs, from Carter's Benedicite written as a result of inspiration from the new carvings made for the part of York Minister destroyed by fire.

O ye Vitex and Carex, bless the Lord.
O ye Vitex and Rubus and Carex, bless the Lord.
O ye Vitex and Rubus and Rumex and Juncus and Carex, bless the Lord.

O ye Clematis and Cassytha, Passiflora and Sicyos,
Samolus and Sophora and Schefflera and Sonchus
And Vitex and Carex, bless the Lord.

O ye Fomes and Phoma and Fissidens and Physcia,
Lindsaea and Lycopodium, Phylloglossum and Phymatodes
And Vitex and Carex, bless the Lord.

O ye Pterostylis and ye Corybas and Bulbophyllum and Orthoceras,
Dawsonia and Dingleya and Dacrycarpus and Agathis
And Vitex and Carex, bless the Lord.

O ye Clematis and
O ye Fomes and these three verse to be sung concurrently
O ye Pterostylis and

Bless the Lord.

Sung at the Auckland Botanical Society, Midwinter Dinner, July 1995. Adapted by permission from *Benedicite* by Andrew Carter & Oxford University Press 1991.

Field Trip To North Cape, October 20-25 1995

Introduction

Maureen Young

Over an extended Labour Weekend, 23 members headed north intent on exploring the North Cape Scientific Reserve and surrounding areas. Thanks to the efficient and enthusiastic support of the Department of Conservation staff members, Lisa Forester and Trevor Bullock, camp was set up, first at the shearers' quarters at Te Paki, and subsequently at Carl's Bach, a stone's throw from beautiful Waikuku Beach. Trevor's assistance in escorting the motley assemblage of 4WD vehicles over the hair-raising road to the Cape, was also much appreciated.

To spread the weighty responsibility of writing a trip report, a new approach was tried. Each day a randomly chosen member of the party was told - "today is your day!". The following patchwork report is the result of this tactic.

Friday 20 October

Stella Rowe

There was a prolonged arrival by Bot. Soccers at the Te Paki shearers' quarters all Friday afternoon, and indeed on into Saturday morning when the food eventually arrived. Once the bees were cleared away from under the roof we all settled in, reminiscing about past trips and planning for the delights to come on the Surville Cliffs, a botanists' Mecca.

Saturday 21 October

Our convoy of four wheel drives set out for Waikuku Beach after breakfast, taking a turn-off from the Spirits Bay Road on the old serpentine quarry route which runs at first through pine forest.

Several of us were dropped off to walk along Tom Bowling Bay, going down through the pines to the stream at the southern end. *Pomaderris edgerleyi*, *Hibiscus diversifolius*, *Colensoa physaloides* and a vivid pink *Parsonsia capsularis* by the stream, then *Doodia aspera* on the hillside, all took time to examine, but in the end we were not long behind the others who had to tow each others' vehicles out of the deep muddy spots on the road.

Camp near an old bach was an idyllic spot under pohutukawas two minutes from the beach, which most people explored in the afternoon, the *Atriplex billardierei* being an especial draw. The plants did not appear as lush as in David Given's photograph (Wilson & Given, 1989) as *Theleophyton billardierei*.

It was a good start to what was to follow on the Surville Cliffs the next day.