

Footnote: The communities in which most of the species listed above may be found are currently being investigated for their reserve potential.

Reference

Kelly, G.C. 1972: "Scenic Reserves of Canterbury". Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 390 pp.

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'THE OLD MAN RANGE'

Ross Elder

Swinging high on the lift platform of a tractor, and seated in comfort on a couch, we turned off the Roxburgh-Alexandra highway, down across Chasm Creek and up the ridge behind the Shingle Creek Tavern. We were on a farm-inspection and general sight-seeing trip to the top of the Old Man Range.

At the start the vegetation was mainly silver-tussock with a good cover of pasture grasses and clover, while occasionally white or blue flowers of Wahlenbergia albomarginata or the orange drupes of Cyathodes fraseri showed amongst the grass. Matagowries were dotted about near the road but as we progressed higher they were replaced by spaniards. At 1000 m the predominant plant was snow tussock, larger and more rank in its growth habit than the silver, and with a mat of dead foliage surrounding each plant. Little other growth was apparent. Somewhere about 1100 m it was replaced by the smaller blue tussock. A much finer species, the individual plants spaced much further apart, with intervening ground well clad with grasses and low growing herbs.

The track we followed serves as an access route to the 'Last Chance' race, and had been recently graded. In the turned over soil on either side grew masses of Neopaxia (Claytonia) australasica in full flower and whose sweet scent, carried by the wind, could be smelt over a chain away.

Above about 1500 m the vegetation was mainly low-growing cushion and sprawling mat plants set off by large rock outcrops variously coloured by patches of lichens. The tops are reached at about 1500 m and present a magnificent view of the surrounding country. Eastward lies Lake Roxburgh, to the West, through a gap in the Garvie Mountains, part of the Remarkables near Queenstown are visible. Looking North the tops slope gently up to Hyde Rock, 1672 m, and seven to eight kilometres further on, the Obelisk, 1785 m, the highest point of the range.

Noticeable, is a row of low stone cairns, spaced a chain apart, which were erected in the early 1880's, at \$2.00 each, as guides to miners working in the Campbells on the Waikaia side of the range. The track started at Gorge Creek, where the 'Miners' Monument' now stands. The timber poles which stood upright in the cairns have long since disappeared.

The whole of the tops are curiously stepped. Looking eastward the appearance is of complete smooth covering of greenish-grey vegetation, while looking westward vertical ridges of near bare soil, up to eight inches high, meet the eye.

Just below Hyde Rock there is a large basin facing East, usually has snow patches along the top edge and below slopes down into an alpine meadow. It is here that many of the plants listed below have been found.

<i>Abrotanella inconspicua</i>	<i>D. villosus</i>
<i>A. caespitosa</i>	<i>Epilobium alsinoides</i>
<i>Agrostis muscosa</i>	<i>E. tasmanicum</i>
<i>Anisotome flexuosa</i>	<i>Geum leiospermum</i>
<i>Brachycome sinclairii</i>	<i>G. pusillum</i>
<i>Bulbinella angustifolia</i>	<i>Grammitis armstrongii</i>
<i>Caltha novae-zelandiae</i>	<i>Hebe buchananii</i>
<i>Carex berggrenii</i>	<i>H. hectori</i>
<i>C. wakatipu</i>	<i>H. pimeleoides</i> var. <i>rupestris</i>
<i>Celmisia angustifolia</i>	<i>H. poppelwellii</i>
<i>C. argentea</i>	<i>Hectorella caespitosa</i>
<i>C. brevifolia</i>	<i>Lageniphora cuneata</i>
<i>C. coriacea</i>	<i>Ligusticum lanuginosum</i>
<i>C. gracilentia</i>	<i>Luzula pumila</i>
<i>C. haastia</i>	<i>Luzula rufa</i> var. <i>rufa</i>
<i>C. laricifolia</i>	<i>Myosotis elderi</i>
<i>C. prorepens</i>	<i>M. pulvinaris</i>
<i>C. ramulosa</i> var. <i>tuberculata</i>	<i>M. pygmaea</i> var. <i>minutiflora</i>
<i>C. sessiliflora</i>	<i>Nertera balfouriana</i>
<i>C. viscosa</i>	<i>Ourisia glandulosa</i>
<i>Cheilanthes tenuifolia</i>	<i>Pachycladon novae-zelandiae</i>
<i>Chionohebe thomsonii</i>	<i>Parahebe trifida</i>
<i>Chionohebe densiflora</i>	<i>Phyllachne colensoi</i>
<i>Colobanthus apetalus</i> var. <i>alpinus</i>	<i>P. rubra</i>
<i>C. stricta</i>	<i>Plantago lanigera</i>
<i>Cotula goyenii</i>	<i>P. uniflora</i>
<i>C. albida</i>	<i>Poa exigua</i>
<i>Craspedia lanata</i>	<i>Ranunculus gracilipes</i>
<i>C. uniflora</i>	<i>R. lappaceus</i>
<i>Cyathodes fraseri</i>	<i>R. pachyrrhizus</i>
<i>Dracophyllum muscoides</i>	<i>Raoulia hectori</i>
<i>Drapetes lyallii</i>	<i>R. subulata</i>

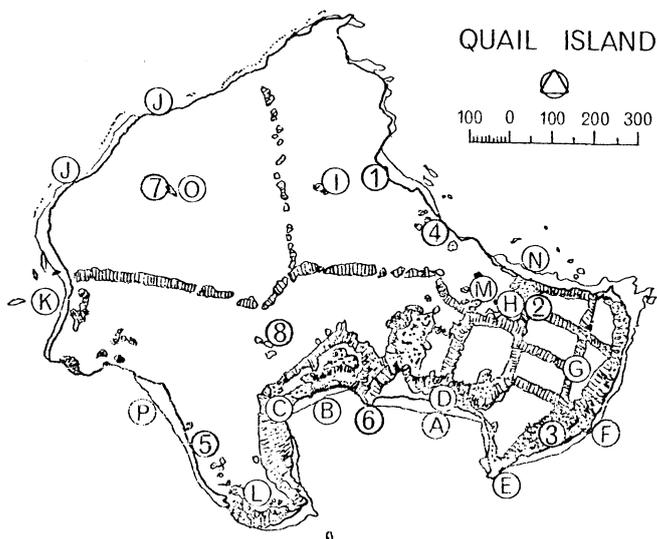
*Rostokovia magellanica*  
*Schizeilema exiguum*  
*Scleranthus brockiei*  
*S. uniflorus*

*Senecio revolutus*  
*S. southlandicus*  
*Wahlenbergia albomarginata*  
*W. gracilis*

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QUAIL ISLAND, LYTTELTON HARBOUR

E. Mary Chapman



POINTS OF INTEREST

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| A Main beach               | I Wards' Cottage Site |
| B Waterski beach           | J Quarries            |
| C Terraces of old hospital | K Scuttled ships      |
| D Barracks                 | L Lepers' grave       |
| E Main wharf               | M Basalt 'cap'        |
| F Deep water wharf         | N 70 m basalt cliff   |
| G Stables                  | O Stock water dam     |
| H Farmhouse                | P South west beach    |

PLANT COLLECTION SITES 1-8 (see text)