

It is a most adaptable and widespread fern. If it is planted in a pot it will multiply and continue fruiting for years.

Stuartina muelleri:

Near to the Hypoxis and Ophioglossum but a little higher up the hill on the right I found a plant unknown to me.

This was the Stuartina muelleri, a visitor from Australia - an annual, some 6 inches high with leaves and stems covered with greyish tomentum. Its flowers remind one of a Gnaphalium and can be seen in June.

Orchids:

If you are interested in Orchids I would recommend a walk to you which should be undertaken at the end of October or early November. Follow the red route labels from Kaituna Valley and climb up the spur towards the Youth Hostel formerly known as the Sign of the Packhorse.

On the final grass slope commencing a few yards above the bush line you may see scores of Pterostylis. These include Pterostylis areolata, P. graminea var. rubricaulis and P. montana.

Near the stream, in the bush, you may find - if you are as lucky as we were - a specimen of that most delightful pink orchid Caladenia carnea.

A LOWLAND STATION FOR UTRICULARIA MONANTHOS IN CANTERBURY

By: Ruth Mason
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The only place where I have ever found the bladderwort Utricularia monanthos growing on the Plains is between the Rakaia Mouth and Taumutu, near the Lee Stream and McIlraiths Outfall, about three quarters of a mile westward of Coopers Lagoon. There in November 1965 it occurred only on a damp hummock that was about a yard in diameter and clothed in the rush Juncus articulatus, but in that small area it was abundant. The hummock has not been there since at least March 1968 and was presumably washed away in a flood.

This is, of course, some miles from Lake Ellesmere, where as Dr. Burrows mentions in Bulletin No. 2 Wall recorded U.monanthos, but in primitive days it may in times of flood been part of the outflow waters

of Ellesmere. The divide between the flow eastward to Ellesmere at Taumutu and the channel where the shingle bank has diverted stream flow westward to the Rakaia mouth is very low and, when before the modern outfalls were built and the opening of the lake depended on natural means, waters must have risen much higher.

ODD PLANTS IN ODD PLACES

By: Yvonne H. Elder

Christchurch streets hold lots of odd plants growing in odd places. Epilobium (two species) growing outside the Bank of New Zealand in High Street, bracken poking through a picket fence in Waltham Road, young cabbage trees growing by the side of the road in Aynsley Terrace, just to mention a few.

One place which always holds great interest to me is around the Opawa Post Office and Library. At the steps to the Post Office is a Hymenanthera alpina growing happily. Having been clipped back over the years, it has assumed an upright habit, thus enabling the mass of whitish berries to be more readily visible.

The plot on the south side of the Library is in a wild state, rather like our native bush. Hoheria populnea and ferns (foreign) are growing out of the stone wall. Bracken is at least four feet high and at the time of writing is still a dark green. Senecio compatus and S. monroi sprawl over Hebe albicans and a smaller leaved Hebe, while Rubus is making its way upwards. Amongst these are various exotics such as Acuba, Choisya, Cotoneaster, Euonymus, but all seem happy and getting on with their growing amidst this mechanical world of ours.

Further along the river towards Ferry Road is Woolston Park containing only natives. One plant which I feel worth a special mention is Fuchsia perscandens - a four by four feet mass of long thin rambling branchlets, bare and golden at this time of year - July.
