

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.
