

Podocarpus hallii - Hall's totara - Mountain forests and open woodlands of this species are well developed in Marlborough, on Banks Peninsula, in South Canterbury, and in Otago. It appears that similar forests were also present on the drier ranges of North Canterbury, but most were cleared by natural or early Polynesian fires. The Mt. Mason population probably is the largest stand left in this region, and includes at least one plant of snow totara, and hybrids between it and Hall's totara.

Traversia baccharoides - tree daisy - this white-flowered species is another shrub distributed from southern Marlborough to North Canterbury. On Mt. Mason it is confined to limestone.

SAND DUNE FUNGUS AT KAIRAKI BEACH, NORTH CANTERBURY

By Bryony Macmillan

During the Society's outing to Kairaki salt marsh and beach on 7th October, 1976, a group who returned along the foredune was intrigued to find a fungus which none of us had seen before.

Clusters of grey-brown flask-shaped structures were huddled together on the seaward side of a low dune, on which marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) grew. The individual flasks were several centimetres across and when we gently lifted them out of the sand very fragile strings of mycelia covered with sand grains were found to be attached.

Specimens were named by Miss Joan Dingley of Plant Diseases Division, Auckland, as *Peziza austrogeaster*. It is a cup-fungus, saprophytic on decaying plant fragments in the sand.

GASTRODIA CUNNINGHAMII - FURTHER FIND

By Edith Shaw

In Journal No. 8 "Orchids of Banks Peninsula" - M.J.A. Simpson mentions *Gastrodia cunninghamii* as being found in Podocarp forest Montgomery Bush.

On 5th February, 1977 while visiting Jollies Bush I found one plant of *Gastrodia cunninghamii* growing in a well-shaded spot about quarter the way along the track going up the hill.

Jollies Bush (1.1 hectares) is an area of original bush in which there has been planted a mixture of native trees and shrubs. Besides beech, totara and olearias, large specimens of *Brachyglottis* (Rangiora) and *Paratrophis* (milk-tree) may be found here. From the top of the hill is an excellent view of Pegasus Bay.
