

No other specimens of Scirpus fluviatilis are known from Canterbury and recently Ruth Mason and I examined the coastline of the inner Akaroa harbour from Wainui to Akaroa, looking for it or S. caldwellii without success. Possible sites may have been destroyed as the foreshore has been built up and reclaimed, some places are rocky and therefore unsuitable and the most likely site where a stream runs into the harbour is effectively obliterated by a large rubbish dump. If S. fluviatilis does still grow on Banks Peninsula we may have to look for it in some of the more remote, less popular bays.

References

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WINTER PLEASURE

By Myrtle O'Connor

As the days step through winter I can remain indoors and enjoy through the low window, the wider outdoors miniaturised in our riverbed garden. A red tussock leans from the corner, and with a hebe guards a precious new plant of Myosotis uniflorus. Nearby the main plant of Carmichaelia corrugata is sturdy and its tendrils thread the other plants and reappears unexpectedly.

A lonely sensuous mound of Coprosma dominates this area; it is threaded with Raoulia hookeri which also grows round its edges and looks like silvery lace. Next to the Coprosma is R. haastii, a warm cocoa brown, mixed with bronze and gold, adds its lovely colour. Nearby a Scleranthus uniflorus, also a satisfying lump to touch or look at. Muehlenbeckia axillaris always in need of discouragement threads the lump and surroundings. Neat little patches of R. subsericea show here and there - most of them self seeded from the original, R. glabra likes to scramble between several hebes. R. monroi thrives here. Its pale sage green feathers are more luxuriant than any seen in the wild.

Acaena microphylla var. robusta, neat and low by the wall, and bright green novae-zelandiae, add texture and colour.

The path of river smoothed pebbles and large flat stones has patches of R. tenuicaulis usually dominating but now static for winter is host to many seedlings. Over the path more R. tenuicaulis, R. hookeri and the lovely and smooth R. australis has a baby hebe growing right in its centre - next R. parkii. The latter two showing their almost undescrible greying white greeny fawn colour of winter.

As July ends, when I look closely, the faintest tinge of green shows and also the flower buds of R. tenuicaulis. The first to scent the air and tell me spring is real.

THE ARNOLD WALL MEMORIAL TREE-CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS

B.P.J. Molloy

On Saturday 30th September 1967 the Canterbury Botanical Society, supported by the Christchurch City Council Parks and Reserves Department, held a tree-planting ceremony in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens to honour the memory of Arnold Wall (1869-1966), Professor of English at Canterbury College from 1898 to 1931, whose extra-curricular activities helped to improve our knowledge of the native flora of Canterbury. The Society felt that a totara from Kennedys Bush would be an appropriate memorial tree because the totara is long-living and typical of Canterbury, and also because of Arnold Wall's particular interest in the botany of the Port Hills. A suitable young specimen was duly selected from Kennedy's Bush by the Parks and Reserves Department and planted for the Society by Arnold Wall's grand-daughter, Mattie Wall. Subsequently a stone tablet recording this event was prepared in Takaka marble by Cecil Dunn and set in place by the Society at the foot of the young totara.

For the past 10 years the Arnold Wall memorial totara has grown steadily on the lawn by the steps leading from Beswicks Walk to the New Zealand section lake. To the left of it, and facing the lake, is a male lowland ribbonwood (Plagianthus betulinus), a female kahikatea (Dacrycarpus dacrydioides) which bears fruit with distinctly yellowish as opposed to the normal reddish arils, and a kauri (Agathis australis), while to the right is a large common kowhai (Sophora microphylla) and the Nothofagus lawn.

However, the memorial totara is not the species the Society or the Parks and Reserves Department thought it was. It is neither true totara (Podocarpus totara) nor Hall's totara (P. hallii), both of which occur on the Port Hills and elsewhere in Canterbury. It is in fact the needle-leaved totara (P. acutifolius), a species more at home in Westland and western Nelson, but which crosses the low part of the Main Divide between the Harper and Amuri passes, and is found sparingly in North Canterbury. The easternmost plants I have seen grow in typically riparian fashion alongside Sisters Stream which flows into the north branch of the Hurunui River.