

well adapted to survive summer drought, producing two flushes of vegetative and/or reproductive growth each year, in spring and autumn, thus mimicking H. hookeri. From our observations on Banks Peninsula, Kaitorete Spit, and the Canterbury Plains the following species behave in this way: Ophioglossum coriaceum (s.l.), Cheilanthes distans, C. sieberi, Oxalis exilis, Dichondra brevifolia, Convolvulus verecundus, Geranium retrorsum and Wahlenbergia gracilis (s.l.); and there may be others. The last two species have large, fleshy, descending roots, the others have rhizomes; both effective ways of withstanding dry summers and responding to favourable spring, winter and autumn conditions. A similar case was put by Colin Burrows in No. 2 of this Journal, explaining the seasonal behaviour of some plants on Kaitorete Spit.

On the basis of these arguments we feel that Hypoxis hookeri has an equal right to be considered a native plant. But in any case how long does a species have to be resident in New Zealand to qualify as a native? And as many people are realising, the distinction between "native" and "adventive" is unscientific and the sooner we drop it the better. Fortunately the Flora of New Zealand is moving in this direction. It is time that more of the popular floras did the same.

PAPANUI BUSH MK II

Joe Cartman

Waimairi County Council recently grassed down an area of land on the east side of Grimseys Road, opposite the end of Wingate Street. This area is known as Owen Mitchell Park and is almost certain to be on or near part of the old Papanui Bush, logs were dug up during drainage operations indicating the site of ancient trees.

The next phase of development of this park is to plant

various trees, shrubs etc, install a playground area and generally landscape the area.

Part of the initial landscape plan included two large areas of native trees and shrubs planted on top of two springs, which, even after extensive drainage, still leave the area very wet and something of a problem for normal park use. After discussion over a period of time it was decided that an attempt be made to grow trees and shrubs of the Christchurch region in these areas.

It was then decided to follow the Riccarton Bush plant list and permission was obtained to propagate plants from Riccarton Bush, this from a botanical point of view would ensure genetic purity by using strictly local plant material. [If all plants in Riccarton Bush are strictly local. Ed.]

The method of establishing these areas in an open six hectare field will be as follows. The area will be sprayed with weedkiller to remove the grass. Pittosporum tenuifolium and P. eugenoides will be planted and allowed to grow for several years to make a sheltered micro-climate. Weeds will be suppressed with weedkiller during this time.

In the meantime plants will be propagated from Riccarton Bush and successive plantings will be carried out to fill in the areas with trees and shrubs. It is hoped that in a few years the growth will smother any weed growth and that the areas of bush will be self perpetuating from its own seedlings.

This is an exciting project both from a horticultural and botanical point of view and the writer hopes that Botanical Society members will take an interest in this project by observing and recording its progress.