

**TIERED ANNUAL GROWTH HABIT OF
*ELAEOCARPUS HOOKERIANUS***

Mel Aiken & Margaret Bulfin

The story starts back at least before October 1982. when the growth habit of a pokaka (*Elaeocarpus hookerianus*) growing in the drive way of Mel Aiken's house at 89 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch, attracted attention.

Edith Shaw pointed it out to Margaret Bulfin; who expressed interest; with the outcome, that Mel took a series of photographs, one of which is reproduced here.

The tiered form shows very well in the photograph and Mel informed us that the number of tiers or 'bulges' fit in with its age of about six years. The actual specimen is over 3m tall and adult foliage is just beginning to appear at the top. The foliage of the bottom four tiers has apparently coalesced by secondary growth, but an examination of the trunk shows the same gaps which are so apparent further up.

A superficial look at some pokaka in Ashly Forest showed a similar growth habit .

