

Distinctive plant communities can be found occupying at least six different kinds of habitat. On the highest tops some of the plants found growing in association are a variety of Prostantheros lasianthos (the Victorian Christmas bush), the mountain Correa, and low growing forms of Eucalyptus alpina and a variety of Banksia integrifolia. This is the coastal banksia which is here believed to be a relic of a former sea-level; part of the evidence that seems to affirm that twenty million years ago the Grampians formed a promontory jutting out into the sea which at that time covered the surrounding countryside.

Lower down in moist sheltered gullies and on the eastern slopes, wet sclerophyll forests include messmate Eucalyptus obliqua, Acacia melanoxylon - blackwood, the hairy Correa C. aemula, Pomaderris apetala, Cyathea australis and many ground ferns. In the dry sclerophyll forests on the middle and lower slopes of the ranges are found species of Leptospermum, Melaleuca and Hakea.

In heathlands and heath woodlands the ground is dotted and splashed with colour in spring - with pinks, blues and yellows of orchids, white and creamy yellows of pimeleas and goodenias, golden yellows of hibbertias to the orange of bush-peas, deeper orange to reds of the grevilleas, and whites, pale pinks, reds and yellows of the common heath, bearded heath, flame heath and pine heath.

If you plan to visit Victoria in the spring, a couple of weeks will not be too long to spend in the fascinating and colourful Grampians.

Acknowledgements:

Rodger Elliot: An Introduction to the Grampians Flora  
1975 (with plant identification guide).  
J.H. Willis, B.A. Fuhrer, Fieldguide to the flowers and plants of  
E.R. Rotherham: Victoria 1975.

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GENTIANA ACAULIS AND PULSATILLA VULGARIS NEAR CASTLE HILL

Joe Cartman

On the way back from the Botanical Society Show weekend trip to the University Field Station at Cass - 12th November, 1978 - Janet Moss remarked that there was a patch of Gentiana acaulis growing on the site of the old Enys homestead and suggested we visit it. This was interesting as I have often wondered how an introduced alpine species would react in the New Zealand alpine situation.

I would have expected the G. acaulis to have firmly established itself in the vicinity of the original plants, however this was not the case.

The site is at present occupied by a holiday bach and the occupier, Mr. Brittan was at home to give me some information concerning the plants.

The present site is a circle of wire netting enclosing a few square metres of rough grass through which grew several dozen large, fat, deepblue buds. This patch was in full sun, more or less left alone and the plants appeared to be perpetuating themselves within the wire circle.

Outside the wire was a mown area of grass, cut twice per year, in November and February. A close search revealed about a dozen G. acaulis seedlings within 1.5 m of the wire.

The Gentians had been in the present site for 20 or so years and in another enclosed area a few metres away for at least 50 years.

This original site had several plants but only one flower and was shaded by shrubs. A third and smaller site had several plants but no flowers and was also in some shade.

Mr. Brittan said he had never seen a flower outside the netting. Any escapes would almost certainly be noticed.

Another plant in the netting enclosure was Pulsatilla vulgaris. This consisted of five large plants covered with silky seed heads. There were no seedlings.

This plant would also appear to be in an ideal situation of limestone grassland. Perhaps it is too dry for these plants in the summer, the seedlings may perish. If Pulsatilla seed dries out too much it will not germinate. The wind may not scatter the seeds beyond the reach of the lawnmower, or perhaps they are evolving, generation after generation and getting used to their new mountains so that one day they may travel out from their wire cage and dot the hillsides with deep blue cups of Gentiana acaulis and nodding sky blue flowers and silky seed heads of Pulsatilla vulgaris.

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#### FLORISTIC RECORDS FOR CANTERBURY

B.P.J. Molloy

Some interesting plant records for 1978-79 are as follows :-

Coprosma sp. (aff. C. parviflora): Damp places in milled bush, Clarke Flat, Peel Forest Park, South Canterbury. This is the southernmost extension to date of an uncommon, undescribed, small-leaved species which forms tall, slender, leaning trees on wet alluvial sites. This species was first recorded in the South Island at Coopers Creek by A.P. Druce in 1978 (Molloy 1978) and has probably been confused in the past with another coprosma, also aff. C. parviflora - the "C. parviflora" of most authors, but not the true C. parviflora of North Auckland. This coprosma could be included in the register of rare and endangered New Zealand plants (see Given 1979).

Hymenanthera angustifolia (sens. lat.): Milled bush, Clarke Flat, Peel Forest Park, South Canterbury. A plant seldom seen in