

## REVISITING OLD HAUNTS.

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It is a common occurrence to return some years later to a site where one found choice plants to discover that these choice plants no longer exist. Sometimes one is pleasantly surprised.

In Journal 9, we recorded finding on 3rd December 1975, 2 plants of Myosotis pygmaea var pygmaea very close to the summit of Mt Herbert, one in a rock crevice and the other under a stone. This was the first record of this plant on Banks Peninsula since R.M. Laing found it on Mt Bossu in 1909.

Visiting the summit of Mt. Herbert on 9th December 1981 we were delighted to discover that not only was a plant growing in the same crevice, but three other substantial patches of M. pygmaea adorned the hill side. All plants were sporting their diminutive white flowers, the colour of the leaves varying from light green to dark brown. All plants were young ones, no old plants could be seen.

We were also pleased to note that Geum parviflorum, recorded by Arnold Wall in his Botany of Christchurch in 1922 as growing near the summit of Mt Herbert still flourishes.

In 1975 we had seen a few plants of the orchid Prasophyllum colensoi growing on the slope below the final ridge. This orchid has apparently found conditions to its liking for we saw on this visit an abundance of this dark variety of Prasophyllum. How beautiful it looks under a lens.

Alas we found no sign of the fern Botrychium australe, previously found on 3rd March 1976, though we looked long and carefully. Perhaps someone else may be more fortunate.