



Auckland Island from Rose Island

(*Phalacrocorax colensoi*) colonies, some members of which came and gawked at the humans feeding; banded dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*) on the higher land and both red-crowned parakeets (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*) and New Zealand pipits (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) were finding something to eat on the chewed-down ground cover near the shore. For the birds and animals to accept us, unafraid, as part of the natural scene was a precious experience.

December 6. The morning was spent at Tandy Inlet where we were hoping to climb to Chapel Rock (31m) to look for snails and to see what plants were growing there. But apart from speeding up through occasional patches of snow-grass and inanga, progress through the scrub was painfully slow and everyone finally gave up the struggle. The coastal edge was more rewarding where a single plant of a beautiful deep-blue forget-me-not was seen *Myosotis capitata*, with flower heads about 5cm across. Bellbirds (*Anthornis melanura*) were numerous, both young and mature birds delighting the ears of the listeners.

Our afternoon stop was at Hanfield Inlet where we saw several specimens of the tree fern (*Cyathea smithii*). Tree ferns occur in only a few sheltered places in the Auckland Islands and the most southerly in the world were found by Dr Eric Godley in 1969 growing in Waterfall Inlet, 11km to the south of Hanfield Inlet.

We scrambled around a cliff edge to see *Stilbocarpa polaris* growing in a spot accessible to pigs. It is a handsome plant with deeply ribbed leaves up to 45cm across.

That night we anchored in Waterfall Inlet where we spent an hour or so ashore before our evening meal. We were more often than not on sea-lion tracks, with their distinctive smell, and this time we used them to pass through the band of shoulder high silvery-yellow grasses near the shore. There was always the anxiety of a sudden meeting with one of these enormous beasts in a restricted spot, and here we saw one, resting, that had presumably been wounded in a fight.

In the adjoining rata forest a tomtit (*Petroica macrocephala*) with a white breast was feeding two yellow-breasted young. It had a raised "crest" which may have been to make it look bigger and so frighten us off but his top-knot did not produce the same effect as that caused by the sudden roar of a sea-lion.

December 7. This was to be an important day so we left our anchorage at 6am and headed up Carnley Harbour for Fairchild's Garden on Adams Island. Here a special

*Myosotis capitata*, Tandy Island



*Pleurophyllum speciosum*, Fairchild's Garden, Adams Island

*Bulbinella rosii*, Enderby Island

