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Olearia traversii

[Synonyms : *Eurybia traversii*]

CHATHAM ISLAND DAISYBUSH is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to Chatham Island to the east of New Zealand it has insignificant daisy-like, woolly and dull white flowers. It is also known as *Ake-ake* (Maori), Chatham Island ake ake, Silver akeake, and Traver's daisybush.

Traversii commemorates a member of the Travers family of New Zealand. There seems still to be some debate as to whether this species was named for William Thomas Locke Travers or his son Henry Hammersley Travers. The most likely candidate appears to be in this case (uncertain).

First the Irish lawyer, politician and explorer-naturalist, William Thomas Locke Travers (1819-1903) was brought up in France and fought in the British Auxiliary Legion in Spain in 1835. He became a lawyer after his Spanish exploits and then emigrated with his family to New Zealand where he set up a legal practice. He served on local councils and in the New Zealand Parliament, as well as on the Board of the Wellington Botanic Garden which he was involved in establishing. At the same time he not only explored lesser known parts of New Zealand (some with his son) but also collected plants for the English Botanic Garden at Kew from 1860 to 1880 (noting particularly the elevation at which a specimen was discovered).

Then Henry Hammersley Travers (1844-1928) was a botanist and plant collector, who not only explored New Zealand but also the Chatham Islands where he collected new species under the patronage of the Board of Wellington Botanic Garden.

In New Zealand this drought-tolerant plant has been cultivated as a hedge plant.

The strong durable wood has been used for making furniture.