

# FERNGLEN NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016



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Many thanks to committee member Nev Arbury for writing the Fernglen newsletter.

## 1. Curators Report September 2016

Unfortunately due to Council regulations Malcolm's contract as curator is currently temporarily suspended until Health and Safety regulation training matters are addressed.

Please note that there is a **Committee meeting**:

**October 6th at 2pm at Fernglen** All welcome.

**Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> 9am Spring Clean Working Bee- All welcome**

### Winter Plantings

Access to sourcing new species is reflected in the less extensive than usual planting this winter. We continually strive to expand the collection of native plants. Our new additions this winter are thanks to Geoff Davidson and the Oratia Native Nursery for their commitment to growing rare natives.

*Carex chathamica*

*Carex kermadecensis*

*Carex raoulii*

*Coprosma acerosa*

*Coprosma brunnea*

*Cordyline indivisa*

*Ixerba brexioides*

*Phebalium nudum* or *Leionema nudum*

*Pseudowintera colorato*

*Prumnopitys ferruginea*

*Weinmannia silvicola*

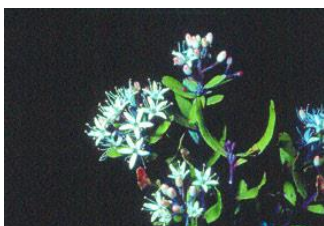


*Carex kermadecensis*

Photographer Jeremy Rolfe



*Ixerba brexioides* Tawari,  
whakou Photographer: John  
Smith-Dodsworth



*Leionema nudum* /mairehau  
Photographer John Smith -  
Dodsworth



*Pseudowintera colorato* /red  
horopito Photographer John  
Smith Dodsworth



*Weinmannia silvicola*  
Towai/tawhero  
Photographer: John Smith-  
Dodsworth

All photographs kindly reproduced from the NZPCN website.

## 2. Re-foresting the UK.

The Woodland Trust in the UK has an ambitious and laudable goal to plant 64 million trees in a decade –roughly one tree per person in the population. The cost of the 64 million trees is estimated at £100 million. They aim to partner with school and communities to plant 15 million trees in towns and cities. Also, to work with farmers and local authorities and plant 20 million in the countryside. Particularly restoring hedgerows to provide green pathways for wildlife. Government, landowners, and big business are the partners for planting the remaining 29 million trees to expand and create forests and woodland. This follows other proven Woodland Trust initiatives, including the Sainsbury backed ‘First World War Centenary Woods Project’, which planted 2.5 million trees over the past 10 years.

The Trust has identified that degradation of trees and woods undermines not only landscape and habitats for wildlife and nature, but also cultural identity. To return to “England’s green and pleasant land” replanting is viewed as a chance to reduce dependence on a narrow group of species. One suggestion is to plant area specific varieties example; sycamore, maple, beech and alder for Yorkshire, aspen, cherry, beech and apple to the west of Hertfordshire, black poplar, hornbeam and maple in the east of England, and willow in parts of Northamptonshire.

Intensified land use has fragmented woods, making them more vulnerable and less likely to recover from climate change, pests, disease, and the other hazards of increasing human population. Dutch elm disease has killed more than 60



"Betty" The Ash tree Daily Mail article-3553630

million trees since the 1970s. Ash trees are now at risk of being wiped out by the double threat of bright green Asian borer beetle, and ash dieback (chalara). Britain’s ash trees may be more resistant to dieback than other part of Europe. Denmark has lost 90% of its ash trees. The genetic makers of immunity in some British trees may be protective. Researchers are working with a sole tree standing amongst devastated stock. The 200 year old specimen nicknamed Betty may be used to produce natural cultivars to re-populate affected woodland. There has also been debate about the use of genetically modified stock to replace the destroyed species

In addition to plant diversity and preservation, the aim to invest in trees can have a beneficial effect on climate change .The UK forestry commission tables suggest that 64 million trees planted as woodland could capture 20 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over the first 50 years of their life.



Ecologist examining young trees Daily Mirror article7876109

### 3 “Million Trees Programme Policy” in Auckland

In a similar vein to the UK initiative Phil Goff released his environmental policy to address climate change, and proposes to plant a million trees in Auckland. He aims to utilise local boards, schools, social groups, farmers, and DOC, to plant trees purchased by council. New Zealand has to meet obligations under the Paris Conference on Climate Change agreements. The outcome of the current mayoral election may have some significance for the re-forestation of Auckland. Fernglen, with its partnership with the Auckland Council looks forward to playing a part in any future developments.

Other re-forestation projects already implemented in New Zealand include the Trees for Survival Trust. Pakuranga Rotary organised the Trees for Survival Trust program in 1994. In partnership with 120 schools they met 1 million trees milestone in 2010, and last year reached 1.5million.

Support for this organisation can be made on their website

<http://www.tfsnz.org.nz/>



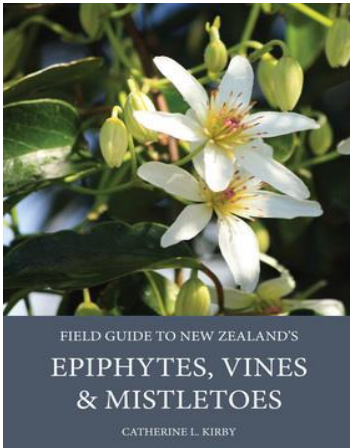
*Community partnership*



*Nursery plants from the Trees for Survival website.*

## 4. Book Review: Field Guide to New Zealand's epiphytes, vines, and mistletoes

by Catherine L. Kirby



Published by the Environmental Research Unit University of Waikato, and written by Research Support Officer Catherine Kirby. This is the first time in New Zealand that a book has been devoted to this largely unexplored group of mostly flowering plants and ferns. One reason for this is perhaps because they are so difficult to reach in the tree tops. The first edition was published in 2014 and a new edition April 2016. Catherine is passionate about epiphytes, she completed an MSc on epiphyte ecology and the shrub epiphyte *Griselinia lucida*, participated in canopy flora and fauna surveys, restoration research, academic publishing, photography, conference and community presentations. Catherine convened the

first New Zealand Epiphyte Workshop in 2013, the second workshop took place at the Auckland Botanical Gardens this year. She also launched the New Zealand Epiphyte network and blog to provide information and connections for people interested canopy ecosystems (see details below). A head for heights and tree climbing ability are clearly additional attributes.

Whilst found throughout New Zealand these plants are more abundant in the mild and moist lowland forests, especially at the edge, where they receive more light. These plants have an important contribution the biological diversity of a forest system. They provide a habitat in the form of; water, nectar, fruit, and nesting material- for invertebrates, bats, frogs, geckos and birds. Displacement by exotic plant species and predation by exotic animals threatens these incredible plants. The development sequence of these plants can be followed on a time scale, from the arrival of early lichen and moss colonising the bark of a host tree, to the colonisation of ferns, and finally the arrival of plants.

The author is also the photographer, and has provided outstanding illustrations for the concise and informative description of the plants. This makes for an essential field guide. Of particular interest is the chapter that describes our eight species of mistletoe, unique “hemi-parasites” that have been little covered in other literature.

If you are interested in collaborating on canopy flora research you can access information on the website [www.nzepiphytenetwork.org](http://www.nzepiphytenetwork.org) -the source of this photograph of abseiling tree canopies.



#### 4. Kari Street Nursery Closure

Kari Street nursery in Grafton closed in August this year. An Auckland Council facility it operated at the site since the 1950's and provided millions of plants for public planting. Initially it operated as a nursery for bedding plants in the style of amenity planting in the 50's and 60's. The plants were grown in a traditional cold frame trays with the window frames removed on sunny days. The plants were then transferred to public spaces in the inner city such as Albert Park and the traffic islands near the town hall.

Over time it became a depot to house trees and shrubs purchased for ornamental planting in the city and later still for re-vegetation planting. With a small staff, augmented at times by the gardeners from the Auckland Domain, the nursery quietly progressed. The explosion of demand for re-vegetation plants in the 1980's saw Kari Street become the hub of plant propagation from locally sourced seeds and cuttings. A succession of skilled propagators provided park officers with large numbers of grown- to -order native plants. The nursery thrived, expanded in size, and added shade and plastic houses, to meet the demand for plants. John Stevenson was appointed to manage the nursery and also nurtured the talents of enthusiastic nursery workers. Thanks to the Kari Street nursery, increasing numbers of endangered native species were planted around Auckland. This ensured the survival of plants such as *Alectryon excelsus subsp. grandis*, *Meterosideros barlettii*, *Nestegis apetala*, *Streblus banksia*, to name a few. The Kari Street nursery recently provided 22,900 seedlings used by the Trees for Survival programme in schools across west and north Auckland.

The Auckland Domain Masterplan published by the Auckland Council in July 2016 aims to restore the Kari Street nursery site to an active recreation area and event space ... take pressure off sports fields ... provide for other event opportunities. Other parts of the 20year plan include reducing car access and parking in the domain, and enhancing archaeological, and botanical features. Sadly the idea of redeveloping the 2 hectares of the Kari Street nursery received the most support and least disapprovals in the public/stakeholder feedback. Two additional recent proposals for the site include meeting the recreation needs of Auckland's Asian community, and an Auckland Council candidate recently proposed emergency housing on the site in 70 "tiny houses". Whatever the long term use of the site, the ongoing propagation of plants appears to be transferred to other council park nurseries at the Botanic Gardens, Ranui, and Arataki sites. Kari Street is clearly an unfortunate casualty of the rapid expansion of Auckland's population and the space pressure of the inner city. Many thanks to those who have worked at Kari Street over the past 60years.



Google map. Kari street nursery site

## 5. *Asparagus scandans* an increasing scourge

*Asparagus scandans* commonly known as climbing asparagus has rapidly become a major noxious weed. Of the *Liliaceae* (lily) family it originates from South America.

It is very versatile, fast growing, creeping as well as climbing, copes with most soil types, moderate to high rainfall, and hot to cold temperatures. It thrives in both heavy shade and full sun. It attaches to trees and shrubs, raises light levels, and causes the invasion of further weeds. It can also ringbark and kill soft-barked shrubs and trees, and invade areas where epiphytes are usually found, replacing already vulnerable species. It provides a dense carpet that smothers young plants and prevents seedlings from germinating. Its bright berries are spread by birds, and its tubers rapidly multiply in the ground. Originally introduced as a very hardy houseplant it has become a scourge in northern New Zealand native reserves and home gardens. It has become one of the biggest weed problems on Great Barrier Island with seeds constantly ferried by birds. Ongoing major efforts to control the problem, including abseiling teams on the cliffs at Great Barrier, aim to eradicate this pest.

### How to get rid of *Asparagus scandans*

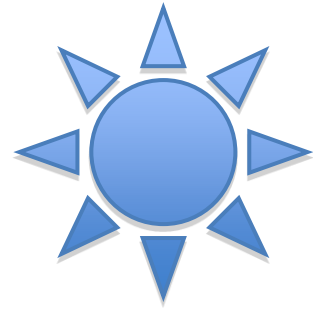
1. Dig out tubers. Dispose of at a refuse transfer station, burn or bury. Other plant material can be left on site to rot down. .
3. Spray (spring-early summer only): glyphosate (20ml/L). Do not add penetrant when spraying against tree trunks. Avoid runoff.
4. Spray (autumn and winter in frost free areas and on healthy growth): glyphosate (10ml/L). Plants taller than 60cm should be cut at a height of 30-60cm, then this lower vegetation can be carefully sprayed. The remaining cut material will die without the need for treatment. Spot spray any missed plants within 30-60 days.



*Asparagus scandans*

S P R I N G

C L E A N



At

FERNGLEN GARDENS

Located after no. 29 Kauri Road, B/head  
(Off Waipa Street)

WORKING BEE

- Outdoor garden/bush tidy up -

Sat 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016

9am start

ALL WELCOME

Any queries call Kelly on 021 236 5800