

New Zealand - South Island Travel Scholarship Report 2024

**Flora of New Zealand, South Island including its
Forests, Ferns, Fungi, Epiphytes and Alpine Flora**

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All photographs by Thomas Rapley

Introduction

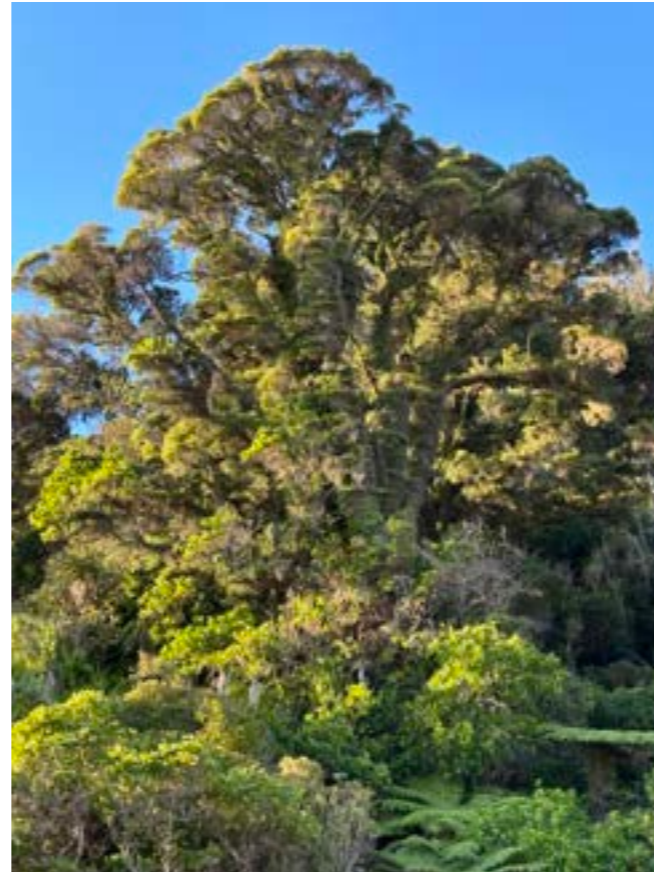
New Zealand is celebrated for its exceptional landscapes home to a rich variety of native flora and fauna, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. On my travel scholarship I had the privilege of beginning the expedition volunteering at Christchurch's Botanic Gardens and then going on to explore the South Island's diverse ecosystems, from the dramatic landscapes of Arthur's Pass to the temperate rainforests of the West Coast and Punakaiki.

A particularly memorable part of my journey was visiting the Christchurch Red Zone, an area devastated by the 2011 earthquake, where efforts are underway to restore the site to native parkland. Additionally, my visit to the Ōkārito introduced me to the inspiring work of the Ōkārito Native Plants Trust. This innovative initiative empowers communities and businesses to contribute to ecosystem restoration, fostering biodiversity and regenerating vital forests, waterways, and wetlands.

As I explored these remarkable places, I honed my skills botanising—using field guides to identify native plant species and observing the impacts that invasive alien species have on these fragile ecosystems.

While invasive species remain a significant threat to the nation's biodiversity, large-scale habitat destruction through deforestation, wetland drainage, and ecosystem degradation represents an equally serious issue. Together communities, conservation organisations, and government agencies are actively working to combat these threats through restoration projects, protective legislation, and public engagement.

In this document, I detail out the journey with images and descriptions of the plants and habitats I visited and identified along the way.



Christchurch Botanic Gardens

My journey began at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, where I was warmly welcomed by the wonderful staff and given an insightful tour of the native plant collection by Luke Miller, Head of the native flora collection. This visit served as the perfect introduction to New Zealand's unique flora before I set out to explore its diverse ecosystems. One of the highlights was learning about the podocarp trees and shrubs, whose lineage dates back to the time when New Zealand was part of the ancient supercontinent Gondwana. New Zealand is home to fifteen podocarp species, belonging to the coniferous families *Podocarpaceae* (twelve species) and *Phyllocladaceae* (three species). These ancient trees, including iconic species like Rimu, Kahikatea, Miro, Mataī, and Tōtara, represent some of the most precious remnants of New Zealand's natural heritage, supporting a rich diversity of plants and animals.

Another memorable moment was encountering the National Fern of New Zealand, *Alsophila tricolor* (formerly *Cyathea dealbata*), commonly known as the silver fern. This iconic species is instantly recognisable by the striking silver underside of its mature fronds, and seeing it for the first time felt like a fitting introduction to the country's botanical wonders.



From Top left to Right:

Luke Miller showing me CBG's living collection of mature podocarps including *Dacrydium cupressinum*, *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, *Prumnopitys ferrugineus*, *Prumnopitys taxifolia* and *Podocarpus totara*.

Pseudopanax crassifolius, This is one of the most stunning heteroblastic plants in NZ (of which are many), which means as the plant matures its leaf form changes entirely.

The National Fern of New Zealand *Alsophila tricolor*.

Luke Miller showing us the native *Drosera spatulata* of which I was hoping to see in the native wetland in Ōkārito.

Christchurch Botanic Gardens - Glasshouses



During my visit to the Christchurch Botanic Gardens I had the opportunity to volunteer in the historic Cunningham House glasshouse, which is soon to undergo restoration. Cunningham House, a heritage glasshouse, houses an impressive array of tropical and subtropical plants and serves as both an educational resource and a cherished piece of the garden's history. Plans for its upcoming restoration reflect a thoughtful approach to preserving its heritage while modernising its systems, including lighting, misting, and climate control. I also spent time working in the adjacent nursery facilities, which support the propagation and cultivation of a diverse range of plants, including native species essential for the garden's restoration projects and displays.

These nurseries are vital for maintaining the gardens' extensive plant collections and contribute to ongoing conservation efforts. Exploring these facilities offered a fascinating insight into the behind-the-scenes work that sustains one of New Zealand's most treasured horticultural landmarks.

The Red Zone

After the devastating 2011 earthquake, what was once a bustling suburban community of thousands was left in ruins, with all homes condemned and demolished. While the houses are gone, their footprints remain, etched into the landscape as a lasting reminder of the destruction. In place of the former homes, a new parkland is being established, with plans to integrate the footprints of the old properties into the design of the area.

Whilst volunteering at CBG I had the privilege of joining the Christchurch City Council team who are tasked with caring for this emerging parkland and who will play a key role in the area's restoration. The vision for this land is to create a vibrant, productive, and biodiverse urban farm that celebrates native landscapes, fostering a long-term hub of positive learning for the local community of Richmond, New Zealand. The project not only aims to restore ecological balance but also to engage the community in sustainable practices and environmental education.

During the tour, I was struck by the scale of the challenge. In the Red Zone, images of overgrown urban landscapes juxtaposed with mature non-native species, like the towering *Jubaea chilensis* (bottom left), vividly highlighted the extent of invasive non-native flora in the area. This palm, alongside other introduced species, serves as a reminder of the crucial work being undertaken by the council to restore the area with native flora and rebuild a thriving ecosystem that benefits both the environment and the people of Richmond.



Arthurs Pass

Arthur's Pass, located in the Southern Alps of New Zealand, hosts a diverse range of ecosystems due to its dramatic changes in altitude, climate, and geography. Key ecosystems include:

Montane Forests: Found at lower altitudes, dominated by *Nothofagus*, with a rich understory of ferns, mosses, and lichens.

Sub-Alpine Shrublands: Between the forest and alpine zones, featuring hardy shrubs like *Dracophyllum* and *Coprosma* species, tussock grasses, and small flowering plants.

Alpine Zone: Above the tree line, with sparse vegetation including cushion plants, alpine herbs, and species like the *Ranunculus lyallii*.

Wetlands and River Valleys: Home to sedges, mosses, and species like *Phormium cookianum*, these areas provide critical habitats for native birds and insects.

Rocky Outcrops and Scree Slopes: Harsh environments supporting specialized plants like *Celmisia* species and alpine lichens.

These ecosystems, shaped by Arthur's Pass's rugged terrain and extreme weather, are vital for biodiversity and showcase New Zealand's unique flora and fauna.



Arthurs Pass - Kura Tawhiti Conservation Area



I visited Kura Tawhiti Conservation Area/ Castle Hill as it is home to some of the most endangered plants in the South Island.

The Reserve was established in 1954 to protect the flora and fauna in the area.

I set out to observe the *Ranunculus paucifolius*, a limestone endemic that is naturally restricted to this specific location, which can make spotting it challenging due to its limited distribution and possibly low population numbers.

These plants are vulnerable to browse damage from rabbits, hares and sheep, weeds are a constant threat, and seedlings are rarely seen.

Top Left: Shows some recently planted *Festuca novae-zelandiae* a New Zealand native. Known as New Zealand fescue, this species is adapted to the country's diverse environments, including alpine and coastal regions. It plays an important role in stabilising soil and supporting local ecosystems by providing habitat and food for native wildlife.

Top Right: A stump of *Pinus radiata*, a non-native and invasive species. Originally introduced for timber production, *Pinus radiata* has become invasive, spreading in some areas and outcompeting native vegetation. Its rapid growth and high seed production make it difficult to control in certain ecosystems. While valuable for forestry, its presence in the wild can harm native biodiversity.

Bottom Row: The *Corokia*, *Oleria* and *Hebe* shrubs grow tightly nestled between the ancient and eroded limestone promontories.



Arthurs Pass

Bealey River

Non-Native and Invasive Species

This trip was undertaken, in part, to gain a deeper understanding of the non-native and invasive species on the South Island of New Zealand, many of which were introduced to the region less than two centuries ago. New Zealand has become home to over 30,000 introduced plant species, arriving here either deliberately or accidentally through human activity. Many of these species have adapted remarkably well to the New Zealand environment, flourishing in the country's diverse ecosystems. However, this success has come at a cost. Over 2,500 of these introduced species have become naturalised, meaning they have established themselves and are reproducing in the wild.

Of these naturalised species, more than 300 have evolved into environmental weeds, causing significant harm to the indigenous flora, fauna, and ecosystems. These invasive plants disrupt the structure, functions, and composition of New Zealand's native plant communities, as well as affecting waterways and the native wildlife that depends on them. The impact of these species on New Zealand's biodiversity is a major concern for conservationists and environmental organisations alike, who are working to mitigate their spread and restore the balance of native ecosystems.

The images, from left to right, show the non-native *Lupinus polyphyllus* (large-leaved lupin) and *Poa annua* (annual meadow grass), alongside the native *Epilobium melanocaulon* (native willow herb). These plants are a stark example of the competition between native and non-native species, with the invasive plants often outcompeting indigenous species for resources and space. Understanding this dynamic is key to addressing the challenges posed by invasive species and safeguarding New Zealand's unique ecosystems.



Arthurs Pass - The Devils Punch Bowl



This region offers an excellent example of the remarkable diversity of biomes found on the South Island. The transition from lowland grasslands to montane forests is swift and dramatic, occurring within an elevation range of just 300 to 600 metres.

As you ascend, the landscape quickly transforms from open grasslands to dense, lush forests, showcasing the stark contrast between New Zealand's ecosystems.

One such forest, nestled within a deep valley, is dominated by *Nothofagus cliffortioides*, a tree species that can grow up to 30 metres tall. These towering trees form a canopy that shelters a diverse range of understory plants, including *Pittosporum*, *Pseudopanax*, *Gaultheria*, *Dracophyllum*, and *Rhipidura*. The rich variety of plant species within these montane forests supports a delicate balance of life, providing habitat for many native birds and insects that rely on the distinct flora for food and shelter.



A highlight of this trail was the understory, where I was fortunate to observe two unique plant species: *Raoulia hasstii* (Central bottom) and *Cranfillia fluvitilis* (Bottom right).

These plants thrive in the shaded, moist conditions of the forest floor, their growth often hidden beneath the dense canopy. *Raoulia hasstii* and *Cranfillia fluvitilis*, are both rare and distinctive species that thrive in these specific conditions.

Their presence in the understory highlights the unique adaptation of New Zealand's plant life to its varied and often challenging environments, adding to the complexity of the island's already diverse ecosystems.

Arthurs Pass - Otira Valley Track - Sub Alpine Zone



The Otira Valley Track in Arthur's Pass is a pristine native ecosystem, rich in alpine plant diversity. Highlights include:

From left to right:

The famous Mount Cook Lily - *Ranunculus lyallii*

Common New Zealand Gentian - *Gentianella bellidifolia*

Armstrong's Mountain Daisy - *Clemesia armstrongii*

Mountain Daisy - *Clemesia semicordata*



Arthurs Pass - Otira Valley Track - Alpine Zone

I journeyed upward from the sub-alpine to the alpine zone (from 900 meters to 2,200 meters), reaching the scree fields at the top of the Otira Valley Track. This area is typically blanketed in snow for much of the year. I stopped at an elevation of over 1500 metres where I explored the exposed scree fields, a challenging environment where only the hardiest plants can survive.





Arthurs Pass

Otira Valley Track

Alpine Scree Fields - Continued

Among the plants I encountered was the *Leucogenes gradiceps* (Top Left) a striking alpine species with white, woolly flowers that stand out against the stark, rocky backdrop. Known for its rare occurrence in cultivation, this plant is a true testament to the adaptability of New Zealand's alpine flora, able to withstand the harsh, wind-swept conditions of the mountain screes.

I also came across the *Melicytus alpinus* (Top Right), a low-growing shrub that, despite its unassuming size, boasts distinctive prickly foliage, making it easily identifiable. This shrub thrives in the scree fields' well-drained, often dry soils and plays an important role in stabilising the fragile slopes, contributing to the overall health of these mountain ecosystems. Its compact form and dense, spiny structure make it an interesting and valuable species for alpine gardening, though it remains uncommon in cultivation.

Lastly, I encountered *Leptinella pyrethrifolia* (Bottom Left) a small but remarkable plant known for its finely divided leaves and delicate, feathery appearance. This species is particularly adapted to survive in the harsh conditions of the scree, where it often forms dense mats that help bind the soil. Its rare presence in cultivation makes it all the more special to observe in its natural habitat.



Arthurs Pass

Temple Basin

Montane/Sub Alpine Zone

Across the valley from the scree fields at a similar elevation was The Temple Basin Station trail. A ski field during winter, the area is home to plants uniquely adapted to endure months buried beneath deep snow, demonstrating their remarkable resilience in harsh alpine conditions.

Bellow: *Olearia arborescens* sits behind a gnarly and very woody *Dracophyllum longifolium* with *Brachyglottis buchananii* in front.

Top right: Mountain Flax - *Phormium cookianum*

Bottom right: *Clemisia armstrongii*



Arthurs Pass

Temple Basin - Continued



Pulchrocladia retipora): A delicate, branching lichen resembling coral.



Ozothamnus leptophyllus: A native shrub with fine, needle-like leaves.



Brachyglottis buchananii: A hardy subalpine shrub with silvery-green foliage.

Punakaiki - Paparoa National Park - West Coast.



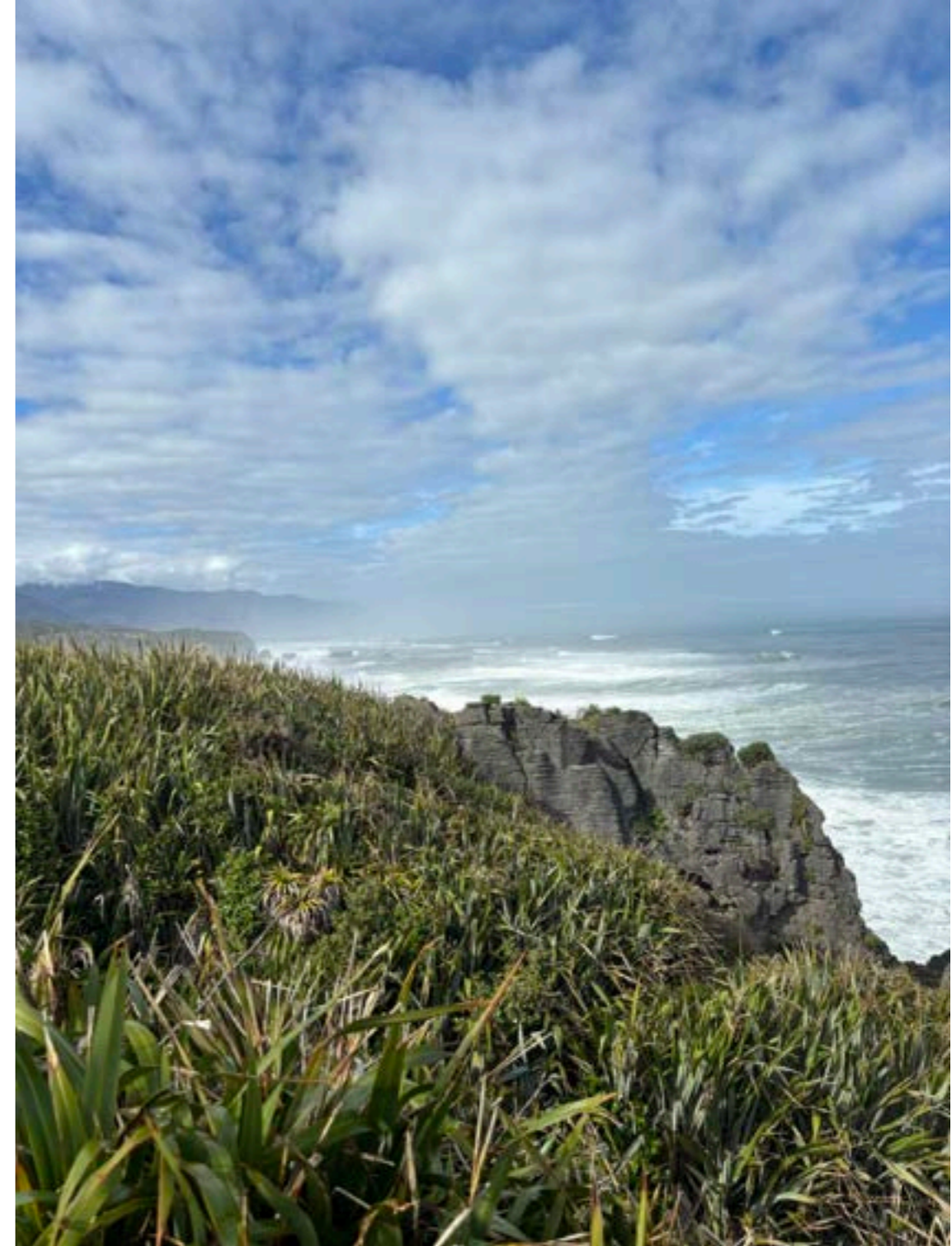
My next destination was Punakaiki, where the oceanic climate and prevailing westerlies create a unique environment. The high rainfall and maritime influence support diverse plant life, which I will explore further in the coming pages.

One notable species I encountered was the Nīkau palm (*Rhopalostylis sapida*), the only palm species endemic to mainland New Zealand. It is also the world's most southerly and cold-tolerant palm.

The Māori used the Nīkau palm in various ways, from eating the inner leaves and young flowers to using the tough leaves for making baskets, rugs, and thatched roofs. This slow-growing tree lives for over 200 years, a testament to its resilience.



Punakaiki - Pancake Rocks



The Pancake Rocks and Blowholes are a coastal rock formation found in Punakaiki.

The limestone of the Pancake Rocks has been uplifted and then eroded into the current landforms by a combination of two processes: karst erosion (a slow process where chemical erosion of the limestone occurs through the action of water flowing in joints and caverns), and coastal erosion (including the collapse of caverns).

This habitat is home to some remarkably hardy species of plant, capable of withstanding high winds, salt water spray and extreme seasonal temperature changes.

To name but a few:

Left: New Zealand Ice Plant - *Disphyma australe* clings to the rock face along with some Selliera - *Goodenia radicans* and Shore Hebe - *Veronica elliptica*.

Middle: The steep forested bluffs and cliffs of the Paparoa Range, descending several hundred metres to small beaches and sheer headlands, with occasional flats and terraces in between.

Right: Dense populations of Mountain flax - *Phormium Cookianum*.

Punakaiki River



The image above was my first wild encounter with the *Cordyline australis*, commonly known as the cabbage tree, or by its Māori name of tī or tī kōuka, is a widely branched monocot tree endemic to New Zealand. *Cordyline australis* is one of the most widely cultivated New Zealand native trees. In Northwest Europe and other cool oceanic climates. Visiting this pristine ecosystem was incredible.



The Nikau palm - *Rhopalostylis sapida* with the epiphytic New Zealand Bamboo Orchid - *Earina mucronata* growing on its trunk.



The *Podocarpus totara* (totara) is a towering, slow-growing tree that can reach over 30 meters and live for centuries. Found in New Zealand's forests, it provides vital habitat and contributes to ecosystem regeneration. Its durable wood was historically used by the Māori for canoes and tools, making it a key symbol of New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage.

Punakaiki - Tree Ferns



Sphaeropteris medullaris (formerly *Cyathea medullaris*), also known as the black tree fern, is a species that can grow up to 20 meters tall. I observed many thriving in the wet and humid river valley—a perfect environment for these iconic ferns. My first encounter with this species was in cultivation while working in the Temperate House at Kew Gardens. These plants sparked my passion for New Zealand flora, making it a special highlight to see them in their native habitat. As an ornamental plant, it has earned the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit for its striking appearance and cultivation value.



The New Zealand tree fern (*Dicksonia squarrosa*) is a tall, trunk-like fern with large, feathery fronds. Found in temperate rainforests, it can grow up to 10 meters tall and provides important shelter for wildlife.

Epiphytes



Epiphytes play an essential role in forest functioning via abiotic processes and interactions with host species. They influence the water, nutrient and light fluxes of forests via rainfall interception.

New Zealand temperate rainforests have distinctive vascular epiphyte communities. The epiphytic flora of New Zealand is among the most species rich of any temperate rainforest and comparable to many tropical rainforests regarding species richness and biomass. Epiphytes constitute almost 3% of New Zealand's indigenous vascular flora.

Vines, mistletoes and epiphytes



Dicksonia squarrosa supporting many epiphytes, vines and mistletoes.



Metrosideros robusta, the northern rātā, is a forest tree endemic to New Zealand. It grows up to 25 metres or taller, and usually begins its life as a hemiepiphyte high in the branches of a mature forest tree; over centuries the young tree sends descending and girdling roots down and around the trunk of its host, eventually forming a massive, frequently hollow pseudotrunk composed of fused roots.

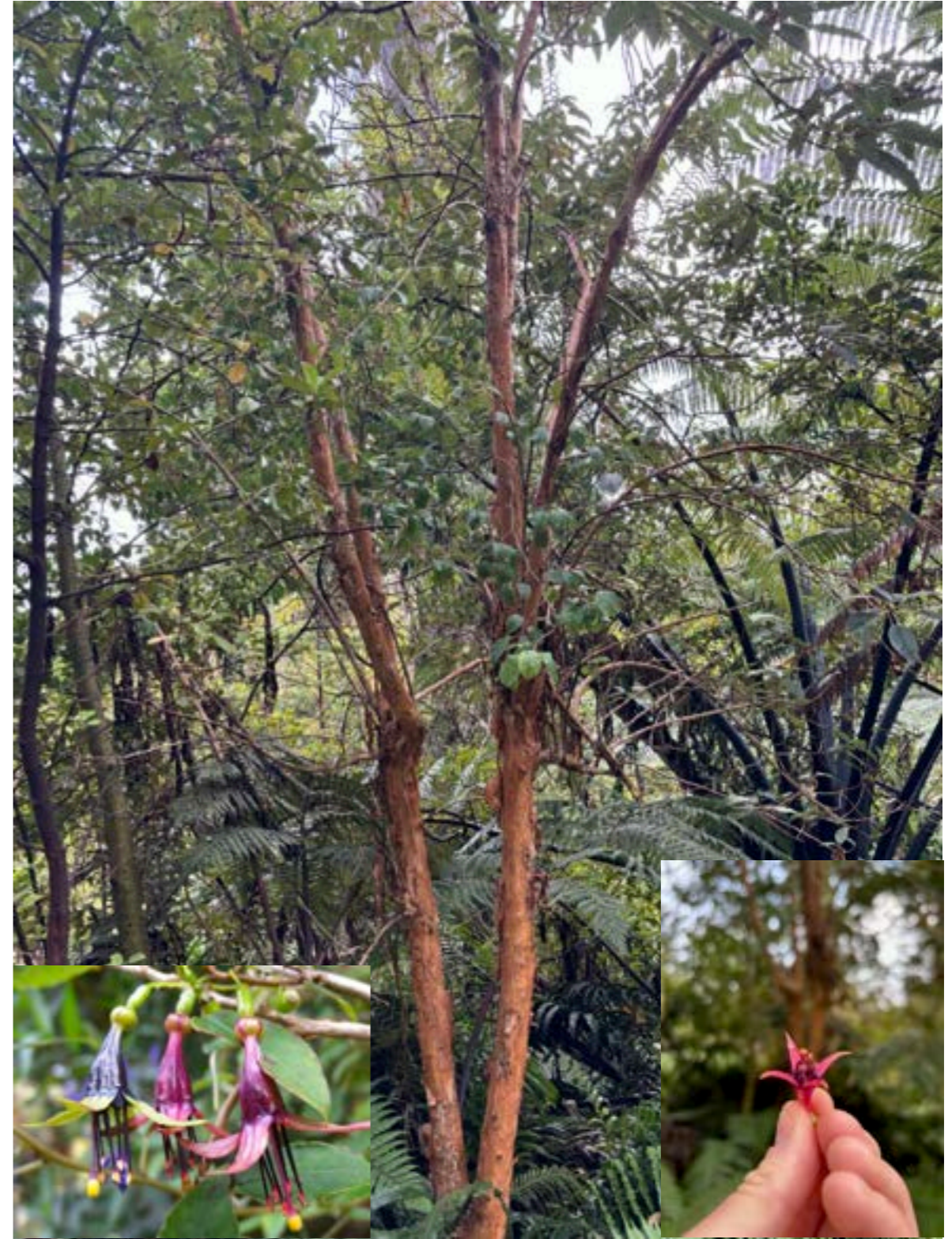


Freycinetia banksii is a densely branched, brittle, woody climber native to New Zealand. It is a member of the screwpalm family Pandanaceae.

The Westland Temperate Rainforest



Westland Tai Poutini National Park with the snow capped Southern Alps.



Fuchsia excorticata is the largest species of Fuchsia in the world and is endemic to New Zealand.

The Westland Temperate Rainforest - Ōkārito Lagoon and Dunes



Maram Grass (*Calamagrostis arenaria*).



Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) was introduced to New Zealand in the early stages of European settlement. It is now a major invasive plant species with millions of dollars spent on its control.

Ficinia spiralis is a coastal sedge endemic to New Zealand (including the Chatham Islands). Originally widespread, it has suffered severely from competition with introduced marram grass, gorse and animal grazing and now has only a patchy distribution.

On the left hand side of the image you can see Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) growing underneath the coastal sedge.

The Westland Temperate Rainforest - Ōkārito Wetlands



The lagoon is 8,000 acres in area, mostly quite shallow. It is the largest sandbar-built estuarine wetland in the West Coast region – and the largest such unmodified wetland in all New Zealand.



The saltmarsh and swampland is dominated by *Apodasmia similis* and bordered by *Phormium tenax* and *Leptospermum scoparium*. The swamp transitions through *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* swamp forest into bush dominated by *Dacrydium cupressinum*, and *Manoao colensoi*.

Ferns

New Zealand has an unusually high number of fern species for a temperate country and about 40 per cent of these species occur nowhere else in the world.



Above and Top Left: *Sticherus cunninghamii*



Above and Top Right: *Blechnum novae-zelandiae*

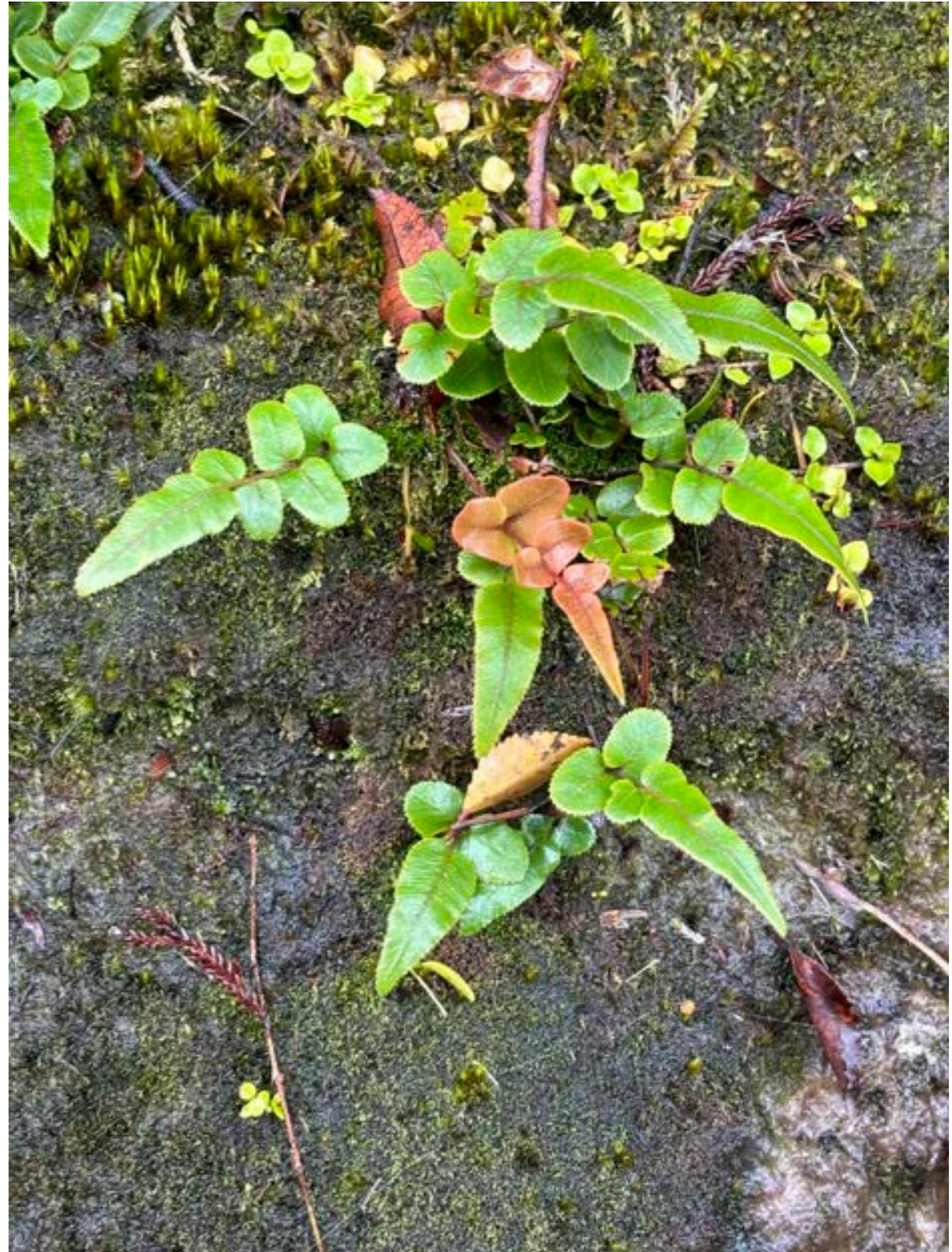
Ferns - Continued

Juvenile *Microsorium pustulatum*.

The shape of its mature foliage tends to resemble the shape of a kangaroo's foot. It is also referred to as 'hound's tongue'.



Parablechnum procerum is found from lowland to alpine areas among forest, scrub and tussock.



Ferns - Continued



Notogrammitis heterophylla



Polystichum polyblepharum



Asplenium bulbiferum

Lichens and Fungi

A lichen is a unique symbiotic organism, consisting of a colony of algae or cyanobacteria living in partnership with multiple fungal species, often accompanied by yeasts and bacteria. These components are embedded within the lichen's protective outer layer, or "cortex," working together in a mutualistic relationship to thrive in diverse and often extreme environments.

I attempted to identify the lichens and fungi using my field guides, but their diversity and subtle distinctions made it a challenging task. This experience has sparked my curiosity, and I look forward to exploring these remarkable organisms more deeply in the future.

Bellow: *Pseudocyphellaria carpoloma* growing on a young *Dacrydium cupressinum*



Left: *Crustose* lichens growing on a young *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* trunk.

D. dacrydioides is the tallest known native tree species in New Zealand.

Lichens - continued



Fungi

Fungi are organisms like yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, classified in their own kingdom. They are eukaryotic (with a nucleus), non-photosynthetic, and absorb nutrients from other sources. Fungi can reproduce through spores and play important roles as decomposers, symbionts, or parasites.



Fungi - continued



New Zealand is home to over 3,000 species of fungi, including:

Mushrooms: Species from genera like *Agaricus* and *Psilocybe* found in forests and grasslands

Lichens: Symbiotic organisms common in various environments.

Mycorrhizal Fungi: Species like *Rhizopogon* form relationships with plants.

Pathogenic Fungi: Includes *Fusarium* and *Botrytis*, which affect plants and animals.

Edible and Medicinal Fungi: Species like *Auricularia auricula-judae* have health benefits.

New Zealand's rich fungal biodiversity is still being explored, especially in the wet western forests.

Bryophytes - Mosses

New Zealand has approximately 550 species of moss in more than 200 genera. Mosses are a vital part of the country's ecosystems, thriving in a range of environments, from forests to wetlands. Their ability to retain moisture and provide habitats for small organisms makes them ecologically significant.

Climate change impacts mosses by altering temperature, water availability, and habitat. Warmer temperatures can limit growth, while droughts or excess moisture can stress them. Shifts in habitats may force some species to move, and extreme weather events can damage populations. Changes in competition with other plants may also affect moss survival, making them more vulnerable to environmental changes.



Left and Right: *Hypnodendron* species - Umbrella mosses.

Filmy Ferns

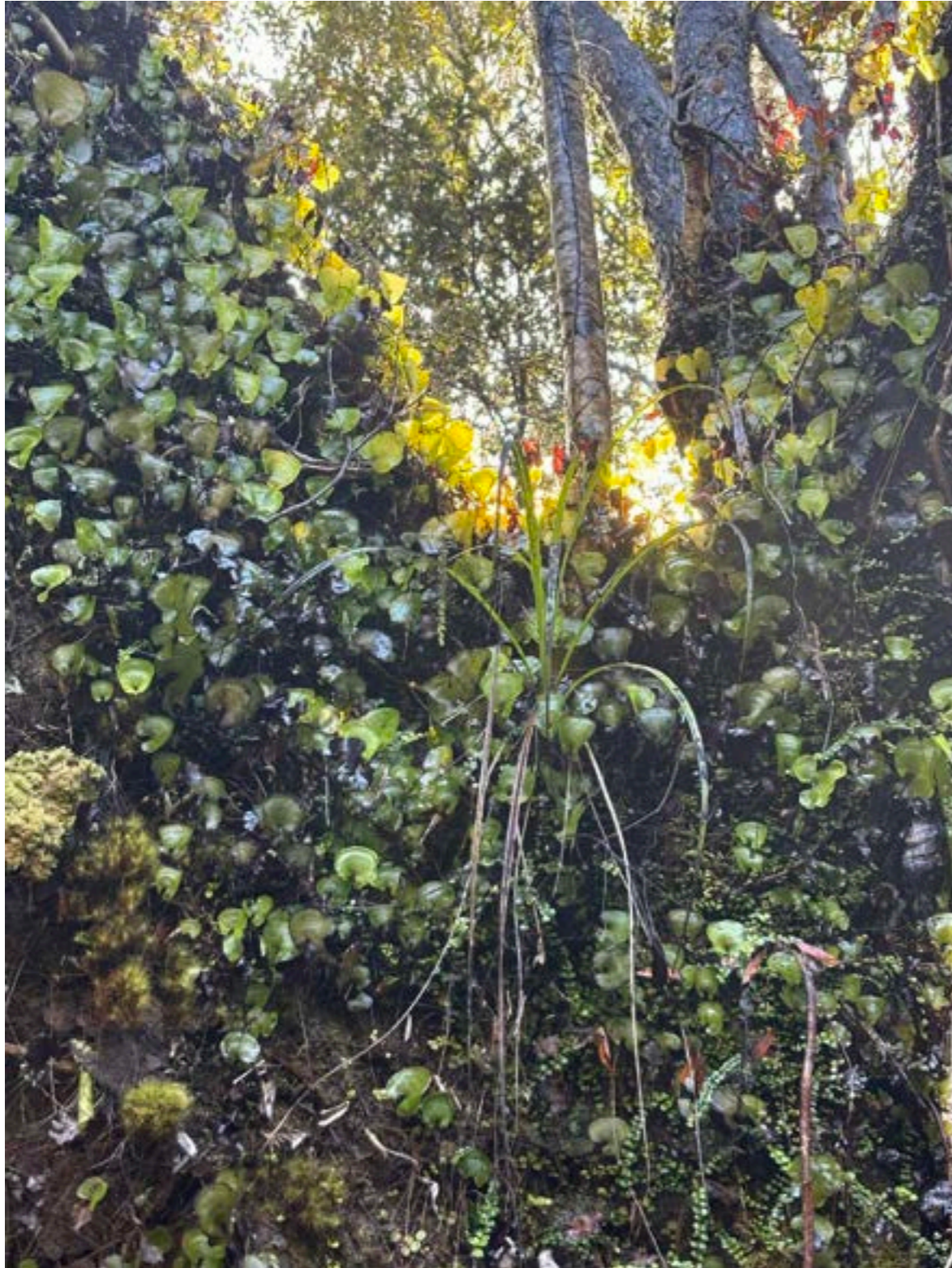
Hymenophyllum is a genus of ferns in the family *Hymenophyllaceae*, commonly known as filmy ferns. The name "*Hymenophyllum*" means "membranous leaf," referring to their very thin, translucent fronds, which are typically only one cell thick and lack stomata. This makes them highly vulnerable to drying out. As a result, they are found only in humid environments, such as moist forests and sheltered rocks. These small ferns are often easy to overlook due to their delicate appearance.

Hymenophyllum bivalve is a species of filmy fern. It is found in moist, sheltered areas in or near mountain rainforests in Australia and New Zealand. The habitat is on tree trunks, rocks and fallen logs.



Filmy Ferns - Continued

A true highlight was observing *Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum*, the kidney fern! It is a filmy fern species native to New Zealand.



Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum is a species of filmy fern in the genus *Hymenophyllum*. It is native to New Zealand and is known for its delicate, translucent fronds, which are typically only one cell thick.

Like other *Hymenophyllum* species, *H. nephrophyllum* is highly sensitive to desiccation and requires consistently high humidity to survive.



Carnivorous Plants

New Zealand has several endemic carnivorous plants, including:

Drosera species (Sundews): There are several endemic species of *Drosera* in New Zealand, such as *Drosera arcturi* (found in alpine areas) and *Drosera spatulata* (spatulate-leaved sundew), which are adapted to nutrient-poor environments and capture insects using sticky glandular hairs.

Utricularia species (Bladderworts): *Utricularia australis*, a species of bladderwort, is found in New Zealand's wetlands. These aquatic plants capture small organisms in bladder-like traps.

These plants are vital to New Zealand's unique ecosystems, thriving in boggy, moist, and often nutrient-poor habitats.



Drosera spatulata

Summary

This travel scholarship has been an incredibly transformative experience in my horticultural career. It has provided me with invaluable hands-on opportunities, exposure to unique ecosystems, and a deeper understanding of ecological restoration.

One of the most impactful experiences was volunteering in the historic Cunningham House glasshouse before its full restoration, as well as working in the glasshouses and plant nurseries at Christchurch Botanic Gardens. This opportunity allowed me to work with a variety of plant species, observe horticultural practices at one of New Zealand's premier botanical institutions, and gain firsthand knowledge of the plant care techniques that are employed in both conservation and horticultural settings.

In addition to the time spent in the gardens, I had the privilege of exploring a diverse range of ecosystems across New Zealand's South Island, from Christchurch to Okirito. The journey took me through temperate rainforests, alpine regions, wetlands, and coastal habitats, providing ample opportunities to identify and study native plants in the field. This exposure was incredibly beneficial, as it allowed me to deepen my understanding of plant species in their natural habitats and the complex relationships they have within their ecosystems. One of the highlights of my journey was visiting Department of Conservation sites and community-led ecological restoration projects. These visits allowed me to witness and learn about the ongoing efforts to rehabilitate and restore New Zealand's ecosystems, particularly those affected by invasive species and human activity. It was inspiring to see communities and organisations actively working together to protect and restore native biodiversity, and it deepened my understanding of the long-term commitment and effort required for successful ecological restoration.

As I move forward, I look forward to continuing my research and exploration of New Zealand's forests, ferns, fungi, epiphytes, lichen, and alpine flora. The knowledge and skills I gained during this scholarship will directly influence my future work in the UK, especially in restoring and conserving our rare temperate rainforests and ecosystems. I am excited to implement the techniques and strategies I've learned in New Zealand to support the restoration of our native habitats here at home.

Overall, this scholarship has been a defining experience that has not only expanded my horticultural knowledge but also inspired me to continue pursuing ecological restoration as a central focus of my career.



Costs Breakdown

Dates: 18th February - 9th March

Grants Awarded:

The Merlin Trust - £1500

Kew Donor - £1500

Hardy Plants Society - £1000

Total grants raised - £4500

Personal contribution - £200

Cost Breakdown

Return Flights - £1970

(London >> Singapore - Singapore >> Sydney -Sydney >> Christchurch)

(Christchurch >> Sydney - Sydney >> Dubai - Dubai >> London)

Accommodation: £350 (AirBnB)

Food: £20 per day x 19 days - £400

Vehicle: £924 + £204.38 Tax - Total £1128.38

Fuel: £650 including Tax

Public Transport: £43.78

Visa: - £150

Total: £4692.16



The Merlin Trust
Grants for Young Horticulturists



Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew



HPS
HARDY PLANT SOCIETY