

Purakauiti Stream

Allison Knight

Without John Barkla's inside knowledge we would have been hard-pressed to explore the rare alluvial forests of Purakauiti Stream, marvel at the giant *Pittosporum obcordatum* and *Olearia lineata* and the weird leafless *Melicytus flexuosus*. The continuing wind and a wayward key prompted a difficult decision to cut the trip short, leaving plenty of interest to explore another time. Thanks, John, for sharing so much.

December 2005 Adrienne Markey: A journey southwards to the subantarctic islands.

Arlene McDowell

I always look forward to Adrienne's talks as her passion for botany is evident and her breadth of knowledge about natural history is extensive. Adrienne treated us to a talk about her 7 day voyage in early 2005 with Heritage Expeditions from Invercargill to the subantarctic islands.

The subantarctic islands are located between latitude 40° and 60° south including the area known as the *Roaring 40s*. Contrary to the weather that makes this stretch of ocean infamous, the expedition that Adrienne was on had glorious sunny weather and calm seas! The voyage included visits to Aucklands, Campbell and the Snares Islands.

Campbell Island was formed by volcanic activity and the main harbour, Perseverance Harbour, was formed by glaciers. The flora of Campbell Islands includes tussock grassland (*Chionochloa* spp.) and Adrienne's slides of the megaherbs were truly spectacular. The flowers ranged from pink and purple hues including *Pleurophyllum* spp. with their broad, distinctively corrugated leaves and purple daisy-like flowers to the green umbels of *Stilbocarpa polaris* (known as Maori or Macquarie cabbage). Adrienne was also able to acquaint herself with other members of her PhD study subjects – the subantarctic species of *Coprosma*.

The Snares Islands lie 200 km south of Bluff on New Zealand's South Island. No landings are permitted on the Snares without a Department of Conservation permit and they are the only subantarctic island group that is free from any introduced terrestrial mammals. Adrienne concluded her talk by showing a DVD with some action footage taken during her trip. Whilst not terribly botanical in nature, the Snares crested penguins (*Eudyptes* sp.) were very cute! (Our Chairman was very impressed with this DVD technology and I think he will have added another item to his Santa wish list).