Pittosporum anomalum was growing as low flat bushes looking very much like *Melicytus alpinus* at first glance, but distinguished on closer inspection by some of the leaves having weakly toothed margins. With Alastair's help we were able to identify several hebes during the day: *Hebe odora, H. canterburiensis, H. cryptomorpha*, *H. macrantha* var. *brachyphylla*, *H. decumbens*, *H. masoniae*, *H. lycopodioides*, *H. hectorii* ssp. *coarctata*, along with *H. vernicosa* and *H. leiophylla* below the treeline. See Alastair's informative article "Hebes of the Summer Camp" below, reproduced from the February 2015 edition of the Canterbury Botanical Society Newsletter.

A rocky outcrop and stonier ground yielded *Raoulia bryoides*, *Aciphylla monroi*, *Colobanthus acicularis*, *Scleranthus uniflorus* (golden-green mats, single flowers, four sepals), and *S. brockiei* (bright green mats, paired flowers, five sepals). I find the newly-named *Montia* species difficult to tell apart, but the appearance, the locality and the species recorded on the 1992 Nelson Botanical Society list for this area made *Montia calycina* the most likely identity for an attractive species growing on gravelly ground.
This was another enjoyable day, with magnificent views and interesting botanising.

DAY 4 TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2015

MOUNT ARTHUR SUMMIT SUB-GROUP

Paul Maurice

While the rest of the group explored the forest above Flora Saddle, four of us took advantage of the glorious weather to tramp to the summit of Mount Arthur (altitude 1795 m) and enjoy the alpine flora and expansive views on the way. Being a marble mountain, Mount Arthur is home to some interesting plant species and also offers some good karst landscapes.

The day started auspiciously with the sighting of a pair of kakariki flying across the track in front of us and of numerous riflemen seen quite close up. *Hebe vernicosa* was growing just below the tree-line. Above the tree-line we were soon seeing a great variety of hebes, including the glaucous *H. albicans* and *H. topiaria,* the low, round-headed *H. masoniae, H. macrantha* var. *brachyphylla* covered in white flowers, the low-growing *H. macrocalyx* var. *humilis,* the whipcords *H. ochracea* (At Risk – naturally uncommon), and *H. hectorii* ssp. *coarctata*, and the semiwhipcord *Leonohebe ciliolata.*

The celmisias were at their best and seven species were noted. Particularly attractive were *Celmisia dallii* (Fig. 9, p. 54), with its white-rimmed, stitched leaf margins, and *C. traversii,* with a velvety rusty-brown coating to the undersides of the leaves. Also seen were *C. spectabilis* (with longer narrower leaves than I am accustomed to in Central Canterbury plants), *C. discolor, C. incana, C. sessiliflora*, and *C. semicordata.* On the summit of Mount Arthur was a hybrid plant, referred to in the 1995 edition of Mark and Adams as *C. linearis,* and thought to be a hybrid between *C. sessiliflora* and one of the larger species.

Sweetly-scented *Poranthera alpina* (At Risk – naturally uncommon) filled the rock crevices. This genus was previously included in Euphorbiaceae, but is now placed in the Phyllanthaceae family. There is only one other member of the genus in New Zealand, the rest are in Australia. Another species which was flourishing on rocky terrain was the magnificent *Epilobium vernicosum* (Fig. 10, p. 54), with flowers up to 2 cm across, deep pink in bud, and with glossy leaves with red margins. The same habitat yielded *Raoulia eximia, R. apicinigra, Helichrysum intermedium, Colobanthus buchananii* and *Anisotome pilifera. Dracophyllum kirkii* was trailing over rocky banks, with its relative *D. traversii* growing as trees down in the forest. *Ranunculus insignis* was common around sinkholes and still flowering in places, with the delicate *R. verticillatus* emerging from the tussock. The fine-leaved, glaucous *Aciphylla glaucescens* was noted, along with the coarser more yellow-green *A. ferox*. Other species of interest were *Astelia petriei, A. nervosa, A. graminea* and *Craspedia lanata.* Trevor pointed out *Traversia baccharoides.*

Some treasures seen on the stony summit of Mount Arthur were the threatened, Nationally Critical *Myosotis angustata* (Fig. 11, p. 55), flowering well (a bit like *M. traversii* but with very obviously protruding stamens), the northwest Nelson endemic *Pachycladon latisiliquum* (Fig. 12, p. 55), and *Notothlaspi australe*.

DAY 4 – TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2015
TO MT ARTHUR HUT AND BACK VIA THE FLORA HUT

Gillian Giller

Miles and I joined George and Margaret Ridgen to enjoy the botanical treasures growing along the track to the Mt Arthur Hut. We were not disappointed. At first the track climbs through beech with a dominant understorey of *Astelia aff. nervosa* 'Broad' in some places . The constant calls from the titi pounamu (riflemen) and frequent close-up sightings of the birds was an added bonus. The birds were often down at ground level