

# Dreaming of *Coprosma intertexta*: citizen science for protecting Significant Natural Areas

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On March 14 2021, Canterbury Botanical Society members William Reinders and I, as well as friend Ari Campion, went botanising on the Selwyn District Council road reserve along Algidus Road. We were beside the View Hill Plantation about 3 km due east of Lake Coleridge village. Andy Spanton, Biodiversity Coordinator at the Selwyn District Council, was looking to assess the site for designation as a Significant Natural Area (SNA). We made a plant list of what we found (Table 1, p. 42).

The highlight of the day was the *Coprosma intertexta* on the road reserve (Fig. 1). We were concerned about patches that had been affected by herbicide from wilding conifer control, although the patch that remained looked very healthy. *Coprosma intertexta* is At Risk – Declining, which is a good reason to protect this Council-owned road reserve. Will was delighted to see it in the wild. The next morning he said: “Last night I dreamed of *Coprosma intertexta* waving in the wind”.



**Figure 1.** William Reinders in the main population of *Coprosma intertexta*.

We recorded our observations on iNaturalist (<https://inaturalist.nz/>), an example of citizen science to help make the case for designating this an SNA.

**Table 1.** Species growing on a section of the Selwyn District Council road reserve along Algidus Road in March 2021. \* = exotic.

Species	Conservation Status	Species	Conservation Status
<b>GYMNOSPERM</b>		<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> *		<i>Kunzea robusta</i>	Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable
		<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	Not Threatened
<b>ANGIOSPERMS</b>		<i>Malus x domestica</i> *	
<b>DICOTS</b>		<i>Melicytus alpinus</i>	Not Threatened
Herbs - composites		<i>Olearia bullata</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Brachyglottis lagopus</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Olearia nummulariifolia</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Celmisia gracilentia</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Olearia paniculata</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Celmisia spectabilis</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Ozothamnus leptophyllus</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Raoulia subsericea</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Pimelea oreophila</i>	Not Threatened
		<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i> *	
Herbs – not composites		<i>Rubus schmidelioides</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Aciphylla aurea</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> *	
<i>Echium vulgare</i> *		<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Gentianella grisebachii</i>	Not Threatened		
<i>Gonocarpus aggregatus</i>	Not Threatened	<b>MONOCOTS</b>	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i> *		<i>Anthosachne solandri</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Wahlenbergia albomarginata</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Austroderia richardii</i>	Not Threatened
		<i>Bulbinella angustifolia</i>	Not Threatened
<b>Lianes</b>		<i>Carex secta</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Clematis marata</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Chionochloa rigida</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Festuca novae-zelandiae</i>	Not Threatened
		<i>Machaerina rubiginosa</i>	Not Threatened
Trees & shrubs		<i>Phormium tenax</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Berberis glaucocarpa</i> *		<i>Poa cita</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Poa colensoi</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Coprosma crassifolia</i>	Not Threatened		
<i>Coprosma intertexta</i>	At Risk – Declining	<b>Orchid</b>	
<i>Coprosma petriei</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	Not Threatened		
<i>Corokia cotoneaster</i>	Not Threatened	<b>FERNS and others</b>	
<i>Discaria toumatou</i>	At Risk – Declining	<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Dracophyllum rosmarinifolium</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Blechnum penna-marina</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i> *		<i>Lycopodium fastigiatum</i>	Not Threatened
<i>Gaultheria crassa</i>	Not Threatened	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Not Threatened
		<i>Racomitrium</i> spp.	Not Threatened