

## **UPDATE ON OKAREKA MISTLETOE RESTORATION PROJECT**

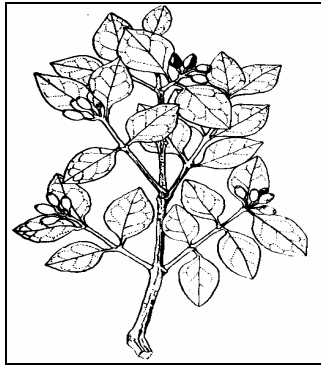
Paul Cashmore

In 2009 we have had two successful workdays to date. The first on March 7<sup>th</sup> was catch up time as summer weed growth had invaded our plantings with the usual convolvulus problems. Some manual clearing of vines quickly sorted out these problems and with the majority of plantings now well established the releasing is becoming an easier job every time. With only a handful of faithful helpers this time we could only make so much progress. The younger plantings along the old driveway in Tikitapu Scenic Reserve were in good condition although some convolvulus, blackberry and jasmine were starting to get away at one end. Aside from this our focus was the marginal strip area and it gave John and myself time to rework some of the several jasmine infestations which were starting to reappear. With rain imminent no spraying was undertaken. However not wanting to lose the opportunity I popped back on Sunday afternoon to tidy that.

Our second day on April 15<sup>th</sup> had 5 volunteers with the right mix of skills and equipment (chainsaws, hedge clippers, slashers and knapsacks) to get stuck into some of our bigger weed problems. With no releasing needed it allowed us to focus on respraying all the wandering willie infestations around the two reserves we were managing. It also gave us the opportunity to head down Okareka Loop Rd and recut the rampant wattle regeneration which we had not had time to tackle for several years. At the same time Mike and Grant were able to cut their way off the road and into the large jasmine infestation that had been unchecked for several years, and had smothered a five-finger. All the wattles were cut and the jasmine cut and sprayed along with an old man's beard seedling. Mike and I also took the opportunity of the autumn colours on the cherry trees to go deep into the Tikitapu Scenic Reserve in search of rogue cherry trees. With less weed effort in this part of the reserve the 5 small trees we initially went after become 20+ trees with some big specimens which had obviously never been

treated before. We emerged several hours later with our colleagues wondering where we had got to. A very successful day for the small dedicated group that turned out.

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### **WEED CONTROL/MISTLETOE HOST PLANTING WORK DAYS FOR 2009**

**“Come and join Rotorua Botanical Society to control weeds threatening mistletoe sites and plant new host trees. Activities will involve hand-pulling, cutting, sawing of vines, climbers and small trees.**

**WHEN: SAT 12 SEPT– PLANTING DAY/ WEED CONTROL**

**SAT 21 NOV– WEED CONTROL/PLANT RELEASING DAY**

**MEET: CNR SUMMIT AND LOOP RDS @ 8:45 AM**

**GRADE: MEDIUM-HARD - ACTIVITIES SUITABLE FOR ALL**

**AGES AND ABILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED**

**PLEASE CONTACT ORGANISER PAUL CASHMORE 07 348 4421 (HM) OR 07 349 7432 (WK) TO RSVP. EQUIPMENT TO BRING WILL BE ADVISED.**