

Dr Steve Stephenson, from University of Arkansas delighted us yet again with another colourful and informative presentation. Many of the superb slides he showed us were bequeathed to his university by Emily Johnson, an amateur photographer whose incredible photography is also featured on the cover and in the book Steve co-authored with New Zealand mycologists: *Edible and poisonous mushrooms of the world*, Ian R. Hall, Steven L. Stephenson, Peter K. Buchanan, Wang Yun, Anthony L. J. Cole (Editor). It was fascinating to see how some of the species that we have here, such as the ubiquitous *Amanita muscaria*, look similar, but not identical, in North American forests. The ecological roles were interesting to consider, too. The attachment of mycorrhizal fungi to the roots of trees can aid forest growth, while wood rotting fungi are important for recycling forest nutrients but can be devastating for the logging industry.

Eco-sourcing local plant material for use in restoration projects. 8th June 2005

Talk by **Philip Dunn** of Ribbonwood Native Plant Nursery

Moiria Parker

Philip Dunn began his talk with excellent photos of some of the revegetation projects for which Ribbonwood nursery has supplied native plants. These projects include the revegetation at Leith Stream, Frasers Gully, the Green Island landfill, Silverstream, Kaikorai estuary, Kaikorai stream, Southern Reservoir, a Middlemarch wetland and the Owhiro stream.

At Leith Stream, an Otago Regional Council funded project, growth of plants has been particularly rapid. It was impressive to see photos of a 3 year old lemonwood that is now 3 m, and a 7 year old miro that has reached 2 m. The sheltered Leith Stream site has damp, alluvial soils that favour rapid plant growth, but Philip stressed that thorough releasing of young plants has also contributed to the success of this project. He also advocates the planting of young podocarps early in the life of a revegetation project, as often these species do not seed naturally.

Though some of the native plants at Ribbonwood nursery are grown from cuttings, to maintain genetic diversity the majority are grown from seed. Philip commented on the variation in leaf colour and shape that may be seen in a tray of *Pittosporum tenuifolium* seedlings.

On the topic of eco-sourcing, Philip regards provenance as significant for frost tolerance. However, he suggested that the dispersal of large seeds by kereru and the wind dispersal of pollen may both cause genetic material to be more widely distributed than is sometimes thought to be the case. As an example he quoted a Southland study in which transmitters were used to track kereru. The tracking data showed that these birds crossed Foveaux Strait four times and visited the Hokonuis twice during the period of the study.