

## Collecting permit for Sandymount Reserve

Moira Parker

The Otago Botanical Society now has a Department of Conservation collecting permit for the Sandymount Recreation Reserve, Otago Peninsula, valid for 5 years, which allows for collection of seed and cutting material by members of the Society.

The application for a permit follows from the 2004 publication of a report by Dr Peter Johnson "Otago Peninsula Plants: An annotated list of vascular plants growing in wild places". Peter identifies 75 native plants that occur in only one or two sites. 24 of these species with a very restricted distribution are known from Sandymount and Sandfly Bay (Table 7 page 14) This report alerts us to a situation where a number of species may be disappearing from the Otago Peninsula flora.

Uncommon woody plants present at Sandymount include *Olearia fragrantissima*, *Carmichaelia petriei*, *Coriaria sarmentosa*, *Coprosma acerosa* and *Raukaua anomalus*.

Peter Johnson has provided a list of 11 herbaceous plants that are relatively uncommon on Otago Peninsula, and which occur in the Sandymount and Sandfly Bay area. His list includes *Raoulia tenuicaulis*, *Myosotis pygmaea* var. *pygmaea*, *Cardamine corymbosa*, *Ranunculus acaulis* and *Viola cunninghamii*.

In addition Peter has provided information on 7 herbaceous plants known from only this area of Otago Peninsula. Searching for these plants to confirm their continuing presence would be a valuable exercise.

I hope that interested Botanical Society members may be able to find and identify some of these relatively uncommon species. Then we can propagate them so that eventually these plants can be established in other locations on the Otago Peninsula. Some members have volunteered their propagation skills and the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust has offered facilities at their community plant nursery in Company Bay.

I would like to organise a field trip to the Sandymount Reserve in early 2006. If you have never been there, it is a stunning place. However, if anyone is interested in botanising the reserve for a half day during November/December, please contact me on 4780-214 or email [moiraparker@clear.net.nz](mailto:moiraparker@clear.net.nz). It would be good to identify some of these uncommon plants in flower before we mount a seed-collecting expedition.