

GuideLines

Number 361 – 30th May 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)

Flora News

By Warren Brewer

More winter flowers are appearing on Tiritiri Matangi.

Akapukaea (*Tecomanthe speciosa*). This rampant vine from the Three Kings Islands had a severe pruning several months ago. Instead of sulking



it has now produced a lavish display of large creamy white trumpet shaped flowers. The vine is behind the fence across from the Visitor Centre. You have to get close between the tables to really enjoy the flowering. Note how thick the vine stems have become.



Kohekohe (*Didymocheton spectabilis*). Another impressive flowering is occurring on many of the mature kohekohe trees on Wattle Track.

The small white waxy flowers have a subtle sweet scent and lots of nectar. Some trees have only female flowers with sterile stamens; they will bear lots of fruit. Other trees will have male flowers with usually non-functional ovaries. A few of these will form a small amount of fruit.

Kohekohe is gynodioecious, meaning it has fixed female and inconstant male flowers on separate trees.