

# Canterbury Botanical Society

## Code of Conduct

June 2024

Canterbury Botanical Society is dedicated to creating a supportive and rewarding environment for everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, religious beliefs, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, professional status, marital status, economic status, disability, physical appearance, political affiliation, organisational affiliation, or technology choices. Members of the Canterbury Botanical Society are brought together by a collective appreciation for New Zealand native plants, and the special flora of the Canterbury region.

The Canterbury Botanical Society does not tolerate harassment of members or guests in any form. Every member of the Society has an obligation to ensure a supportive and rewarding environment is upheld. As such, all members have a responsibility to speak up when there is, or could be, a situation that may breach or lead to a breach of this Code, or the law.

### 1. General

- a. Members will not represent themselves as Spokespersons or agents for the Society without express authorisation by the Chair of the Canterbury Botanical Society.
- b. Robust debate is encouraged, but members will engage in debates in a respectful manner.
- c. Members have an obligation to uphold this code of conduct.

### 2. Field trips

- a. Permission to visit a site:
  - Obtain permission from landowners or managers before visiting private or restricted land (e.g., some scientific reserves).
  - Respect the rights and wishes of the landowners or managers and adhere strictly to any conditions that they may apply.
  - Ensure all Health and Safety instructions from private landowners are followed, and if required, all members sign in and out of the site. All participants should wear enclosed footwear when visiting private land.
  - Understand whether a site is important to Mana Whenua and obtain appropriate permissions or seek advice before undertaking the trip.
- b. Care of sites visited:
  - Take all rubbish (including food scraps) away with you.
  - Avoid sensitive sites (e.g., bogs, sand dunes, screes) with large groups and minimise time spent in these places.
  - Always toilet at least 50 m away from waterways. Dig a hole for solid waste, use paper sparingly, and bury it properly. Preferably, cart solid waste and paper out and dispose of it properly off-site.
  - Take extreme care with fire – do not light fires and avoid smoking in dry places.
  - Be mindful of where vehicles are parked, especially in summer when dry grass is present, as fires can be started by hot vehicles.

- c. Collecting:
- Specimens or seeds may not be collected from private land without prior permission from the landowner and the field trip leader.
  - Only collect specimens from Public Land if you have a permit. Obtain permits well in advance of the field trip.
  - Only collect if there are >10 individuals of the plant in the area you are collecting from.
  - Do not collect Threatened or At Risk species, unless you have a very good reason to take them and there are >20 individuals in the area you are collecting (e.g., to formally record a new location).
  - Take as little material as possible, and only what is necessary to complete an identification.
  - If collecting for a herbarium, ensure that the specimen is representative of the species and where possible include sterile and fertile material. Record the collector, date, location (grid reference or lat/long coordinates), plus notes on habitat, habit, and associated species.
- d. Photography and iNaturalist:
- Obtain permission from private landowners before uploading observations to iNaturalist.
  - Respect the right of landowners to decline permission for iNaturalist observations to be made on their property.
- e. Behaviour on field trips:
- Let the field trip leader/s know you are coming prior to the day.
  - Let the field trip leader/s know if you intend to leave early or wander off somewhere on your own.
  - Each participant is responsible for their own personal safety.
  - Look out for others and warn of any hazards spotted during the trip (e.g., rock fall).
  - Be cognisant of your physical fitness and know your own limitations when on a field trip.
  - Reimburse drivers for travel costs.

### 3. Meetings

- a. Respect the speaker and make them feel welcome.
- b. Robust debate is encouraged, but where opinions differ, then raise concerns or questions with the speaker or other Botanical Society members in a respectful way.
- c. The Canterbury Botanical Society often hosts student speakers, and while their work should also be held to rigorous scientific standards, be mindful that this may be their first experience of public speaking.