

# promoting natives

By Les Anstis

uniquely  
us  
....and  
proud of  
it!

Recent in the local rag M Walmsley, Tauranga was decrying the use of Natives on our roadsides, parks and gardens as "boring and unattractive". His comment was that they should be limited to the bush. It is tragic to think that such people in this country would prefer our landscape to be an international mishmash of flora already seen in many part of the developed world rather than having our own unique landscape that builds our identity and gives us a sense of patriotism that says to one and all: Welcome to Aotearoa New Zealand; we are uniquely us; please embrace and enjoy the difference.

With the same rationale that the French protect their language and the Scottish love their bagpipes so too should we protect and promote our native flora and fauna. This is a part of our identity, our culture, our land, our personality. The silver fern as one of our iconic brand is more than just a pretty picture.

Credit has to be given to our Maori communities, regional bodies and charitable trusts for their endless pursuit of protecting and restoring our natural heritage.

Native Plants can be more than just the weeds of our ancestors. Spellerburg and Given (*Going Native*; ISBN 1-877257-13-3) claim that there are more than 2200 species of native flowering plants and almost 200 fern species and the number continues to climb. Even last week Naturally Native sourced some *Pseudopanax lessonii* (PVR pending) that has recently been discovered, with its unique leaf shape (aptly called Moe's toes).



Many of the Native New Zealand plants can grow in environments different from their natural habitat giving a wide variety of textures, sizes, structure and colour. They can grow indoors, be pruned, potted and trained into shapes to accommodate the most creative architect. Sure you can do the same, maybe even easier with a nice exotic but why not preserve the essence of the kiwi identity.

## Back In the Nursery

Give Teresa a call for the latest specials lists if you haven't already seen it. We need to make space for our potting program and there are some very good quality plants heavily discounted.

If you need assistance on a project either in design, management plans or pricing, we've got experts available on casual consultancy rates that will be a good investment to your project.

If you have a long term project needing eco sourcing give Ann a ring to assist with the sourcing and planning of the material.

Finally if you're driving by pop in and say hi. We welcome visitors.

### Need a Quote Today

Email your requirements to  
[ann@naturallynative.co.nz](mailto:ann@naturallynative.co.nz)

### Contact us today

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