



# TRILEPIDEA

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

Please send news items or events to [events@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:events@nzpcn.org.nz)

Postal address: P.O. Box 16-102, Wellington, New Zealand

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## Message from the President

After a bumper April issue of the newsletter, contributions have tailed off this month. Please send in your stories or information about trips or projects associated with our native flora. They will be appreciated by our readers.

I was recently reading a paper by Geoff Rogers and Susan Wisser about coastal turfs of mainland New Zealand, where they touched on the issue of the need for disturbance for some threatened plant species (Rogers and Wisser, 2010). In their paper, they found that turfs exposed to ungulate disturbance showed greater vegetation cover than those without (mainly farmed) ungulates. They tentatively recommended herbivore disturbance (preferably sheep) as a management tool in that situation.

Threatened plants that require disturbance often present managers with a dilemma. In the case of species such as these coastal turfs, succession results in their loss, but sometimes grazing is used to keep back competing exotic plant species, where intensive pest plant control is impractical. It is not always easy to balance creating the disturbance and damaging the plants using exotic animals. It goes against the grain of our usual conservation strategy of removing the pest animals or plants and letting nature do its thing. Unfortunately, we no longer have the natural disturbance mechanisms. In the case of the coastal turfs, Rogers and Wisser point out that the pre-human avian disturbance that was present, is now gone. It is a vexing issue but, hopefully, we can get it right with time and experience so that we can ensure the ongoing survival of these threatened plants.

Note that submissions about mining on conservation land close on 26 May. Please make your views known by sending in a submission (forms available at: [www.med.govt.nz](http://www.med.govt.nz)).

## Reference

Rogers, G.M.; Wisser, S.K. 2010: Environment, composition and conservation of coastal turfs of mainland New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 48: 1–14.

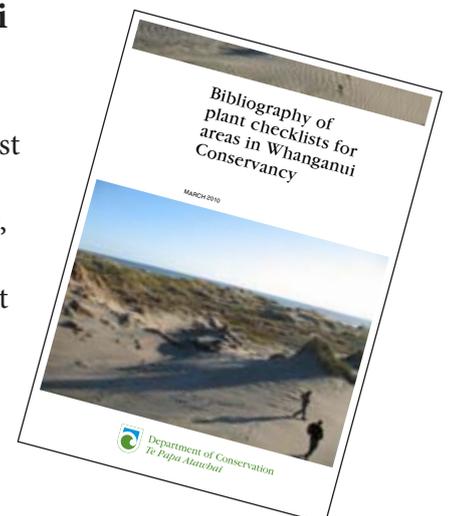
*Philippa Crisp*

## Publication of second edition of bibliography of Whanganui Conservancy plant lists

Graeme La Cock, Department of Conservation ([glacock@doc.govt.nz](mailto:glacock@doc.govt.nz))

The Department of Conservation has published a second edition of the list of plant lists for areas within the Whanganui Conservancy, thanks to the efforts of Beth Beale. The first edition, compiled by Viv McGlynn in 1999, included around 375 lists. The latest edition includes around 600 lists. A link to the document appears below. Many, but not all, of the DOC lists at the back are available through the NZPCN system; the other 375 aren't digitised yet, so they cannot be available through the NZPCN system.

Whanganui Conservancy covers the area from the Manawatu River to the Mokau River, then inland through Ohuara to Taumarunui, down



## PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Carmichaelia corrugata*



*Carmichaelia corrugata*. Photo: Gillian Crowcroft.

Plant of the month for May is *Carmichaelia corrugata* (common dwarf broom). This low growing broom is endemic to Marlborough, Canterbury and Otago in the South Island. It grows on well-drained gravel and sandy soils in disturbed, sparsely vegetated sites such as river beds and river terraces. It really is a beautiful plant, forming low dense mats to about 1 m wide with purple flowers appearing from October to May. *Carmichaelia corrugata* can be propagated by seed and cuttings

and is easily grown in a sunny, well drained site. Though not considered to be threatened, it is becoming scarce over large parts of its natural range.

More information and some great photos of the flowers can be found on the Network fact sheet at: [www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1597](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1597)

SH4 to Raetihi, across to and including the army country, down the Ruahines to the Manawatu. It includes all or part of the following Ecological Districts: North Taranaki, Egmont, Taumarunui, Matemateaonga, Tongariro, Moawhango, Rangitikei, Ruahine, Foxton, Manawatu Plains and Manawatu Gorge. The lists are sorted by ecological district and, within them, by main towns or areas.

Obviously the list is not complete. If you have a plant list that we have not included I would appreciate it if you could send me a copy to include in the next edition (DOC, Whanganui Conservancy, Private Bag 3016, Whanganui; or [glacock@doc.govt.nz](mailto:glacock@doc.govt.nz)). Likewise, if you would like a copy of a list, please let me know.

This bibliography wouldn't be possible without the efforts of botanists who compiled the lists, especially Tony Druce, Colin Ogle, Michael Greenwood and Alan Esler, as well as the Wellington, Whanganui and Manawatu botanical societies. Thank you very much for your efforts over the years.

To find a list follow this link: [www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/conservation/native-plants/bibliography-of-plant-checklists-for-areas-in-whanganui-conservancy.pdf](http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/conservation/native-plants/bibliography-of-plant-checklists-for-areas-in-whanganui-conservancy.pdf)

### **New book for sale: *Illustrated guide to New Zealand sun orchids* by Jeremy Rolfe and Peter de Lange**

This newly published book, written by Jeremy Rolfe and Peter de Lange, provides an updated, fully illustrated key to the New Zealand sun orchids (*Thelymitra* spp.), full descriptions of the 15 accepted taxa and 5 widely accepted but as yet unnamed informally recognised entities, and plates showing the growth habit and variation within each species. The book is a significant advance in our knowledge of the New Zealand sun orchids and completely revises the last Flora treatment published in 1970.

The book may be purchased through the Network's online bookshop (order online at [www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz)). See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information.

## A good news story!

In the January issue of *Trilepidea*, the featured Plant of the Month was *Simplicia laxa*. In that article it was stated that “Although found in Wairarapa in 1880, it has not been seen in the North Island since then and is currently known only to be in several small populations in Otago.” In the latest



Above: Leaf and inflorescences of *Simplicia* from Kawhatau, December 2009. Parts of newly emerged inflorescence (left); previous summer's inflorescence, with the tiny and unequal glumes indicated (right). Photos: Colin Ogle.

issue of the Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, Colin Ogle reports the discoveries of five populations of *Simplicia* in the Rangitikei catchment (Ogle 2010). His first discovery of *Simplicia* was in the Kawhatau Valley near Mangaweka and that had been reported in the NZ Botanical Society's newsletters 80 (in 2005) and 84 (in 2006). Colin's 2010 article acknowledged that, at the time of writing, it was not certain that the plants were *S. laxa*, but biogeographical considerations make this the more likely taxon. The good news is that, to quote Ogle (2010), “*Simplicia* is scattered but sometimes locally common in the Taihape district of the Rangitikei catchment.”

In the article, Colin also notes six habitat features common to all of the sites where he and others have found *Simplicia*:

1. very well-drained—gravel river terraces, or close to edges of mudstone cliffs, or sunny sides of seasonally dry mudstone valleys;
2. lightly shaded—over-topping trees that cast dappled shade, such as kowhai, or low stature forest with a very broken canopy, or treeland;
3. divaricating shrubs scattered in understorey;
4. sparse ground cover, mostly of native grasses (including *Micolaena stipoides*, *Poa matthewsii*, *Echinopogon ovatus*) and small, often creeping, dicot herbs (*Hydrocotyle* spp., *Cardamine* sp.);
5. stock grazing (usually sheep rather than cattle);
6. high fertility soils from alluvium or well-drained mudstone, plus livestock use.

Colin suggests that recent searchers may have been looking in wrong habitat areas in the Wairarapa where Kirk found the first North Island populations. We look forward to botanists, armed with these habitat criteria, taking another look in Wairarapa for populations of *Simplicia*. Colin also details and provides illustrations of the features that allow the identification of the genus. Peter de Lange is now investigating the taxonomy of *Simplicia* so this is unlikely to be the end of the story.

## References

- Ogle, C. 2005: Wanganui Museum Botanical Group trip report—‘Ben Moi’ farm, Kawhatau Valley, east of Mangaweka and Utiku - 29 Jan. 2005. *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* 80: 5.
- Ogle, C. 2006: Wanganui Museum Botanical Group trip report—February Field Trip: ‘Ben Moi’ farm, Kawhatau Valley, east of Mangaweka and Utiku *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* 84: 5.
- Ogle, C. 2010: Rediscovery of a rare species of grass in the genus *Simplicia* in the North Island. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 52: 38–46.



Viv McGlynn and Colin Ogle in *Simplicia* habitat at Kawhatau, February 2008. Photo: Peter de Lange.

## Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award 2010 applications sought

Wellington Botanical Society invites applications for an award of up to \$2500 to encourage and assist applicants to increase knowledge of New Zealand's indigenous flora and commemorate the Society's 50th Anniversary in 1989.

### Purpose of the Award

The award is open to anyone working in New Zealand. It will be granted for: fieldwork; artistic endeavour; publication; research; propagation or cultivation of New Zealand native plants for educational purposes and/or other studies that promote the better understanding of New Zealand's indigenous flora and vegetation.

The interpretation of these conditions will be flexible, except that the main criterion will be the furtherance of knowledge or promotion of the intrinsic value of New Zealand's indigenous flora and vegetation.

The award may be used to defray costs such as travel, accommodation, materials or publication.

### Applications for the Award

Applications should be made in typescript to:

Secretary, Wellington Botanical Society, PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6143 by 15 November 2010.

There is no prescribed application format, but the following must be provided:

- the applicant's name, postal address, telephone number
- any relevant position held
- a summary statement of the applicant's accomplishments in the field of botany – no more than one page
- an outline and timetable for the proposed project for which the award is sought
- a proposed budget for the project

### Selection

The Award will be made to one or more applicants selected by a subcommittee nominated by the general committee of Wellington Botanical Society. Award(s) will be made, and applicants informed of the results in writing, by 24 December 2010. Successful applicants will be required to provide, at an agreed time, a short report about what they have achieved and account for their expenditure of award funds.

The names of the award recipients, the value of the award(s), and a synopsis of the project(s), will be published in the Annual Report of Wellington Botanical Society.

### Network conference 2010

The 2010 conference is to be held in Christchurch with the theme "Plants in a human landscape—conservation outside nature reserves" is scheduled for 8–10 October. Please mark it in your diary now and make a resolution to attend. You are invited to send in your ideas for papers and spread the word by circulating the flyer ([nzpcn.org.nz/publications/Conference10-flyer-100326.pdf](http://nzpcn.org.nz/publications/Conference10-flyer-100326.pdf)) around your networks.

### CURRENT FORUM TOPICS

- What is known about epiphytes in New Zealand?
- Is *Isotoma fluviatilis* now an Australian species and not a native?
- What is the correct spelling of *Dactyloctenium aegyptium*? (That is correct.)

## Call for papers: special issue of the *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management*

The Editors of the *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management* invite offers of papers on Biological Diversity for a special issue of the journal in December 2010. This year, 2010, is the United Nations designated International Year for Biological Diversity. In one statement, the United Nations Environment Programme said “The importance of biological diversity to human society is hard to overstate. An estimated 40 percent of the global economy is based on biological products and processes. The effective use of biological diversity at all levels—including genes, species and ecosystems—is therefore a precondition for sustainable development.”

Recognising the importance of biological diversity, the Editors have agreed that the 2010 December issue of the *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management* will be a special issue devoted to papers on biological diversity. Papers submitted for possible publication in this special issue must follow the ‘guidelines for contributors’ including length limit of 6000 words (see [www.eianz.org/publications/australasian-journal-of-environmental-management](http://www.eianz.org/publications/australasian-journal-of-environmental-management)). The emphasis will be on ‘diversity’ or ‘variety’ in nature at any level of biological or ecological organisation. The topics may be wide ranging and could include accounts of management and conservation of diversity as well as the benefits and functions of diversity in nature. Those benefits could be environmental, ecological, social, cultural or economic. Papers that use the term ‘biological diversity’ in a general sense and without qualification will not be accepted.

Papers to be presented at the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand annual conference are welcome, subject to the timelines below. Please submit abstracts or expressions of interest to the Editors at [ajem@uq.edu.au](mailto:ajem@uq.edu.au) as soon as possible. Full manuscripts: 18 June. (This is to allow sufficient time for reviewing, revisions and production). Earlier submissions are welcome. Enquiries: [ajem@uq.edu.au](mailto:ajem@uq.edu.au), or Prof. Helen Ross on 0061 0408 195324 (please allow time to respond as the e-mail account is staffed part time).

### More copy needed

This issue of the newsletter is rather thin. We need more copy. Surely reports from some of the many field activities over the summer are now ready. We would love to hear about the ‘finds’ from those expeditions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have important events or news that you would like publicised via this newsletter please e-mail the Network ([events@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:events@nzpcn.org.nz)):

### Auckland Botanical Society

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**Meeting:** Wednesday 2 June at 7.30 p.m. a talk by Ewen Cameron titled ‘The wild vascular flora of Tiritiri Matangi Island’. **Venue:** Unitec School of Health Sciences, Gate 4, Building 115. Room 2005.

**Contact:** Maureen Young (e-mail: [youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz)).

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**Field trip:** Saturday 19 June to Mt Pleasant bush, Pine Valley Road, Silverdale, property of Bob and Molly Crawford. Leader: Lisa Clapperton.

**Contact:** Maureen Young (e-mail: [youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz)).

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## Waikato Botanical Society

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**Field trip:** Saturday 12 June the Waikato Wetland Plants Field Guide peat lake field trip and workshop. **Meet:** Field trip departs 9.00 a.m. Landcare Research car park, Gate 10 Silverdale Rd, Hillcrest. Workshop 1.00 p.m., Waikato University Gate 9, Hillcrest Rd (CD link stairwell at Gate 9 entrance, please call 07 838 4466 x 7824 or mobile if you are late).

**Contact:** Monica Peters, e-mail: [monica.peters@landcare.org.nz](mailto:monica.peters@landcare.org.nz), ph: 07 859 3725 (wk), mob: 021 049 2036 or Liz Overdyck, e-mail: [eg3@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:eg3@waikato.ac.nz), mob: 021 155 3622.

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## Rotorua Botanical Society

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**Field trip:** Saturday 29 May to Thornton Dunes, Rangitaiki Plains. Meet: car park at 8.00 a.m. or Rangitaiki River Mouth (western side) at 9.00 a.m. **Grade:** easy.

**Leaders:** Jo Bonner, ph: 07 308 0411 and Sarah Beadel, ph: 07 345 5912, e-mail: [Sarah@wildlands.co.nz](mailto:Sarah@wildlands.co.nz).

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**Field trip:** Sunday 13 June to Carmichael Reserve-Bethlehem Valley, Tauranga. **Meet:** car park at 8:30 a.m. or 9:45 a.m. at junction/overbridge of Expressway and Waihi Road, Otumoetai. **Grade:** Easy.

**Leader :** Graeme Jane, ph: 07 570-3123, e-mail: [gtjane@clear.net.nz](mailto:gtjane@clear.net.nz).

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**Meeting:** Monday 21 June at 7.30 p.m., Annual General Meeting. **Venue:** DOC BOP Conservancy Office, 99 Sala St, Rotorua, go in Scion (Forest Research) north entrance and turn left before the locked gates. Following the AGM, members will show images of recent expeditions so bring photos of recent expeditions on memory stick or CD; 10 images or 10 minutes please.

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## Wanganui Museum Botanical Group

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**Field trip:** Sunday 30 May to Ashhurst Domain jointly with the Manawatu Botanical Society. Meet: at Wanganui Police Station 9.00 a.m. or the domain at 10.00 a.m.

**Leader:** Colin Ogle, ph: 347 8547, e-mail: [robcol.ogle@xtra.co.nz](mailto:robcol.ogle@xtra.co.nz).

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**Meeting:** Tuesday 1 June at 7.30 p.m. a talk by Gillian Tasker of Alexander Library, Wanganui titled 'Old Botanical Books'. **Venue:** Alexander Library in Queens Park. Bring along older botanical books from personal collections.

**Field trip:** Sunday 4 July to St Johns Hill School & Bens Place. Meet: at St Johns Hill School, 9.00 a.m.

**Leader:** Graeme La Cock, ph: 345 3630, e-mail: [glacock@doc.govt.nz](mailto:glacock@doc.govt.nz).

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**Meeting:** Tuesday 6 July at 7.30 p.m. a talk by Tom Welch, arborist, titled 'Travels in Sikkim (India), Gallipoli and Europe'. **Venue:** Alexander Library in Queens Park.

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## Wellington Botanical Society

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**Field trip:** Saturday 5 June to Griffiths covenant, Pukerua Bay, Including weeding out naturalised species of fern Polypodium vulgare.

**Leader:** Leon Perrie, e-mail [leonp@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:leonp@tepapa.govt.nz) for further details.

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**Meeting:** Monday 21 June at 7.30 p.m. a talk by Dr Mark Jones, Wellington School of Medicine, titled 'Fungi from the forests infecting birds and man'. **Venue:** Victoria University, Wellington, Lecture Theatre M101, ground floor Murphy Building, west side of Kelburn Parade. Enter building off Kelburn Parade about 20 m below pedestrian overbridge.

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## Nelson Botanical Society

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**Field trip:** Sunday 20 June to Abel Tasman National Park beach to botanise and celebrate mid winter.

**Leader:** Cathy Jones, ph: 03-546-9499, e-mail: [cjones@doc.govt.nz](mailto:cjones@doc.govt.nz).

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## Canterbury Botanical Society

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**Meeting:** Saturday 12 June at 10.30 a.m. the AGM of the Society followed by a shared pot luck lunch.

**Venue:** St Ninian's Church Hall, 9 Puriri St, Riccarton.

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**Meeting:** Friday 2 July at 7.30 p.m. a talk by Jo Ogier, a natural history artist.

**Venue:** Room A5, University of Canterbury.

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## Botanical Society of Otago

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**Field trip:** Saturday 12 June, a Fungal Foray and identification workshop, Orokonui Ecosanctuary. **Meet:** Botany Department car park at 9.00 a.m.

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**Contact:** [David Orlovich](mailto:David.Orlovich@otago.ac.nz), ph: (03) 479 9060.

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## Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand

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**Annual Conference:** Tuesday 26 October to Friday 29 October at Te Papa, Wellington. The title of the conference is "From Discovery to Delivery: Science, Policy, Leadership and Action". These are the four elements that, together, are essential for sound environmental management.

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**Information:** [www.confer.co.nz/eianz2010](http://www.confer.co.nz/eianz2010).

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## Kaipatiki Project ([www.kaipatiki.org.nz](http://www.kaipatiki.org.nz))

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**Eskdale Reserve Network community planting day:** Saturday 5 June (Queen's Birthday weekend) from 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon at Lauderdale Reserve, Lauderdale Road, Birkdale, North Shore. **Meet:** at entrance to Lauderdale Reserve.

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**Enquiries:** ph: 09 482 1172, mob: 021 149 4586, e-mail: [cwiapo@ihug.co.nz](mailto:cwiapo@ihug.co.nz), mob: 0211494586.

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## Biosecurity Bonanza

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**Meeting:** June 9 starting at 9.30 a.m. **Venue:** Commodore Airport Hotel, 449 Memorial Ave, Christchurch. Free workshop, limited to 120 people, to secure your place register online at [www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/conferences/biosecuritybonanza/](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/conferences/biosecuritybonanza/).

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**Contact:** Andrea Airey, ph: 03 321 9618, e-mail: [aireya@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:aireya@landcareresearch.co.nz) or Hugh Gourlay, ph: 03 321 9683, e-mail: [gourlayh@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:gourlayh@landcareresearch.co.nz) for more information.

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## 2010 Australian Systematic Botany Society Conference

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**Theme:** "Systematic botany across the ditch: links between Australia and New Zealand". Monday November 29 to Friday December 3 at Lincoln University. Subject areas include palaeobotany, biogeography, phylogeny, algae, hybridisation, and biosecurity/weeds.

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**Information:** [www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/conferences/asbs2010/index.asp](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/conferences/asbs2010/index.asp) (registration form, speakers abstracts form, accommodation, field trip details etc) or e-mail: [ASBS2010@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:ASBS2010@landcareresearch.co.nz).

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# Illustrated guide to New Zealand sun orchids, *Thelymitra* (Orchidaceae)

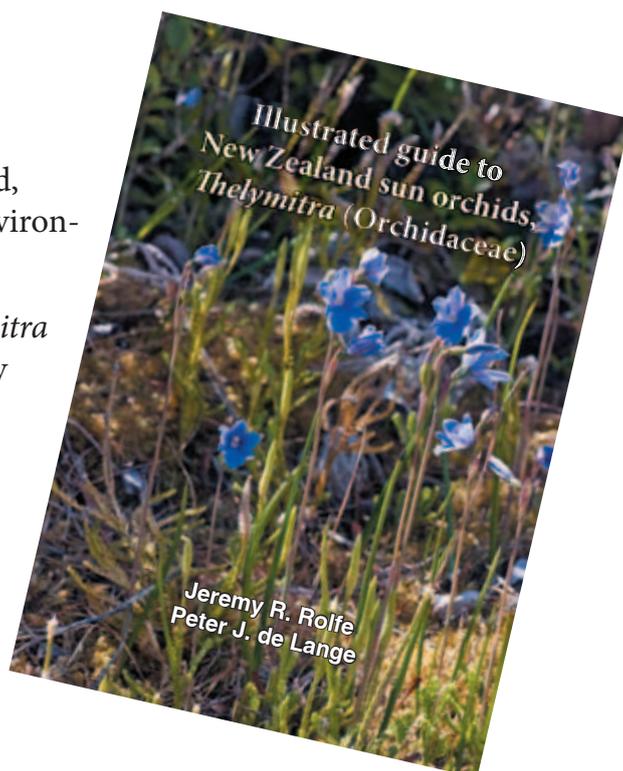
by Jeremy Rolfe and Peter de Lange

Sun orchids are widespread throughout New Zealand, growing in open sites from the coast to subalpine environments.

This new guide discusses the complexities of *Thelymitra* taxonomy in New Zealand, and has an illustrated key and photos to aid identification.

For the first time in one book, detailed descriptions are provided of the 15 sun orchid species accepted as native to New Zealand. Interim descriptions of a further five awaiting formal description are also provided.

A5 format, 64 pages, more than 120 colour photos.



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