

# Ranunculus lyallii

## COMMON NAME

giant buttercup, great mountain buttercup, Mount Cook buttercup, Mount Cook lily

## FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

## AUTHORITY

Ranunculus lyallii Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

RANLYA

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to South and Stewart island.

## HABITAT

Apparently confined to montane and subalpine herbfield and creek sides.

## FLOWERING

October - January

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

November - March

## THREATS

Vulnerable to browsing mammals, in particular hares, chamois, deer and tahr.



Upper Hollyford, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Upper Hollyford, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

## ETYMOLOGY

**ranunculus:** From the Latin 'rana' frog, meaning little frog and probably refers to the plants typical marshy habit where frogs abound

**lyallii:** Named after David Lyall (1817-1895), 19th century Scottish naturalist and surgeon with the Royal Navy, who explored Antarctica, New Zealand, the Arctic and North America and was a lifelong friend of Sir Joseph Hooker.

An early English common name for this plant 'Mount Cook Lily' refers perhaps to the practice of naming any plants with large white flowers lilies regardless of what family they belong to.

The name Mount Cook lily is misleading as this plant is not confined to the Aoraki/Mount Cook area nor is it a lily.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ranunculus-lyallii/>