



TRILEPIDEA

Newsletter of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

No. 265

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Deadline for next issue:
Friday 18 September 2026

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE NEWSLETTER

Contributions are welcome to the newsletter at any time. The closing date for articles for each issue is approximately the 15th of each month.

Articles may be edited and used in the newsletter and/or on the website news page.

The Network will publish almost any article about plants and plant conservation with a particular focus on the plant life of New Zealand and Oceania.

Please send news items or event information to info@nzpcn.org.nz

Postal address:
73 Stratford Drive
Cable Bay 0420
NEW ZEALAND

PLANT OF THE MONTH, p. 5



Celmisia cordatifolia var. *cordatifolia*. Photo: Jane Gosden.

NZPCN 2026 conference update—registrations closing soon and meet the keynote speakers

NZPCN 2026 Conference Organising Committee (2026nzpcnconference@gmail.com)

The countdown is well and truly on! With just a few weeks remaining until registrations close, now is the time to register for the 2026 NZPCN Conference, Māhia ngā here – Collaboration for Better Conservation, being held in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington from 12–15 October 2026.

Conference registrations close on **12 September 2026**, and with strong interest across the programme, workshops, and field trips, we encourage anyone planning to attend to register soon to avoid missing out.

The organising committee has been busy finalising what promises to be an engaging programme, showcasing plant conservation research, restoration projects, mātauranga Māori, seed banking, threatened species management, and much more. We are also excited to welcome four keynote speakers whose presentations reflect this year's conference theme of collaboration in conservation.

Here's a little teaser about what our keynote speakers will be sharing with us:

Aaria Dobson-Waitere – He kakano ahau: a Kaupapa Māori approach to reindigenising taonga species translocations

Despite a long history of translocating taonga species, these processes continue to be largely shaped by Western frameworks, with few recent examples led by indigenous knowledge and practice. Using the case study of Pua o te Rēinga (*Dactylanthus taylorii*), this research applies Kaupapa Māori methodologies to explore the values and tikanga guiding taonga species translocations across Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui, the Greater Wellington Region. The findings aim to strengthen partnership-based translocation practices in Aotearoa.

Carlos Lehnebach – Collaboration: A Driver of Plant Diversity and a Powerful Tool for Its Conservation

Nature is filled with remarkable examples of collaboration between species. Some of these interactions have been recognised for centuries, while others are only now beginning to be understood. In this talk, I will share the challenges and discoveries from a journey to understand the relationships our native orchids have developed with their pollinators and mycorrhizal fungi. Understanding these partnerships has been essential for developing practical conservation tools that are now being used to support the long-term survival of some of our most threatened orchids.

James Brock – Ferns across the Pacific

Ferns have long been understood to disperse by wind due to having microscopic spore and widely distributed populations, and New Zealand and the other islands of the Pacific provided the biogeographic patterns for this narrative. However, the patterns that framed early hypotheses and ideas on fern ecology are changing due to research into genetics and spore ecology alongside modern taxonomic efforts.

Further, in the context of landscape ecology, passive, atmospheric dispersal of spore to islands appears to be limiting; so, why do islands have so many ferns, and what other vectors of fern spore dispersal might contribute to fern occurrence and distributions across the Pacific?

Jason Arnold – Indigenising Protected Areas: Reclassifying Our Relationship with Nature Through Biocultural Approaches

For more than 180 years, Aotearoa New Zealand's protected area classification system has positioned Māori as separate from, and often a threat to, nature. This has resulted in an entrenched fortress conservation paradigm that fails both biodiversity and the potential for te Tiriti based equitable partnership. Jason's experience of conducting research with Ngāi Tahu and his mahi delivering Te Au Roa o Te Rākaihōia through the South-East Marine Protection programme (SEMP), have fuelled his interest in how biocultural approaches can transform protected area classifications to achieve stronger biological, cultural, and relational outcomes. This keynote explores how biocultural approaches grounded in ahikāroa, rangatiratanga, and kaitiakitanga can help reclassify the relationship between people and nature through mana whenua-led governance, equitable partnership, and lived connection to place.

Conference Sponsors and Supporters

The 2026 NZPCN Conference would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and supporters. Their contributions are helping us deliver an exciting programme of talks, workshops and field trips in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington this October.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Department of Conservation

Te Papa Atawhai the Department of Conservation is a proud corporate member of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. We see immense value for plant conservation through the shared dialogue and advocacy opportunities made possible through the network's conferences which we support both through conference attendance and session sponsorship.



Greater Wellington Regional Council

Greater Wellington Regional Council, along with being a principal conference sponsor, is also providing valuable in-kind support for our field trips, two of which are being held in Greater Wellington Regional Parks.



Wellington Botanical Society

Wellington Botanical Society aims to encourage the study of botany and foster an interest in New Zealand native plants, especially in the field. The Society encourages the cultivation of native plants and advocates for the protection of lands and waters in their natural state.



Wildland Consultants

Wildland Consultants is a progressive ecological consultancy committed to providing high-quality ecological information, advice and technical services to a wide range of clients. Wildlands has been a consistent supporter of many past NZPCN conferences and is currently a co-sponsor of the NZPCN website.

In-kind Supporters

We would also like to acknowledge the organisations contributing their time, expertise, venues and support to workshops, field trips and conference organisation:

- Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Ngā Manu Nature Reserve
- Te Papa
- Te Tira Whakamātaki
- Wellington Airport
- Wellington City Council
- Zealandia

We sincerely thank all our sponsors and supporters for helping make the 2026 NZPCN Conference possible.

If you or your organisation would like to support the conference, please get in touch with the conference committee at 2026nzpcnconference@gmail.com or visit the conference website for sponsorship information.



Supported by

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke



For more information about our sponsors and the conference programme, please visit the conference website: <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nzpcn/events/2026-nzpcn-conference/>

Last week to nominate your 2026 plant conservation heroes!

Jo Smith (joannak.smith@outlook.com)

There's less than one week left to submit nominations for the **2026 NZPCN Plant Conservation Awards**.

This is your opportunity to recognise and celebrate the individuals, groups and organisations making an outstanding contribution to native plant conservation across the motu. We know there are countless individuals, community groups, nurseries, schools, young people and councils giving their time, knowledge and resources to help understand, protect and restore our unique flora - and we would love to recognise their mahi.

Nominations don't need to be lengthy. Tell us who you think deserves recognition and provide a few examples of their contribution and the difference they have made to plant conservation.

Nominations close 31 August 2026, so if someone comes to mind, now is the time to nominate them!

For more information or to download a nomination form, follow this link: [NZPCN Annual Plant Conservation Awards • New Zealand Plant Conservation Network](#)



NEW ZEALAND
PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

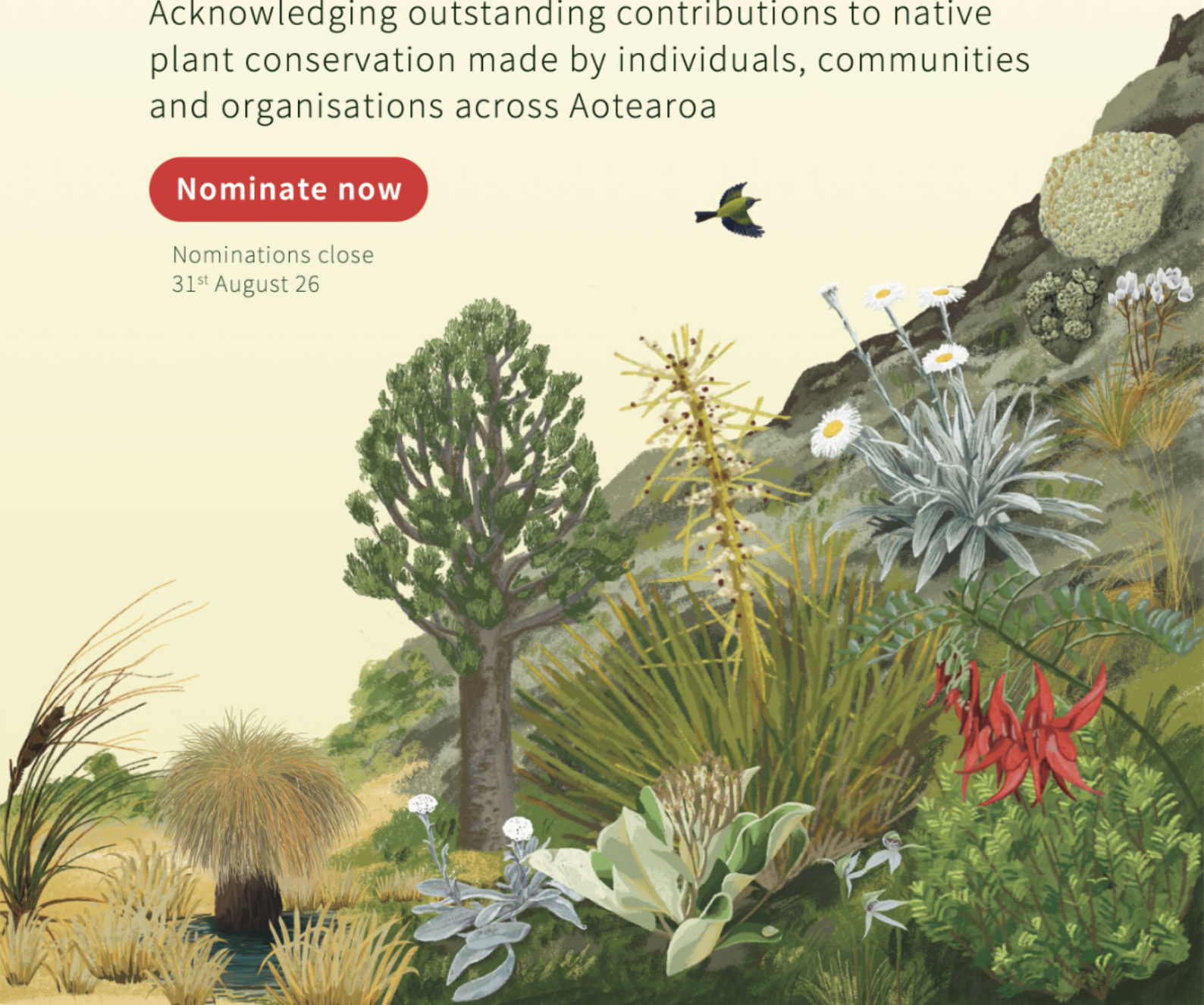
Rōpū hononga Koiora Taiao ki Aotearoa

NZPCN²⁰²⁶ Awards²⁶

Acknowledging outstanding contributions to native plant conservation made by individuals, communities and organisations across Aotearoa

Nominate now

Nominations close
31st August 26



PLANT OF THE MONTH – *CELMISIA CORDATIFOLIA* VAR. *CORDATIFOLIA*



Jane Gosden (jlgosden@gmail.com)



Mt Richmond, Richmond Range, January 2023.

It is all in the name for *Celmisia cordatifolia* var. *cordatifolia*. Folia referring to the leaves and cordati- from cordate, meaning heart shaped. The *Celmisia* with the heart shaped leaves.

This At Risk – Naturally Uncommon plant resides on a handful of mountain peaks in the Richmond and Bryant Ranges between Nelson and Blenheim. It is well worth the climb to see, because on the underside of those heart-shaped leaves are beautiful, thick, rusty-brown hairs. Perhaps it could be confused with *Celmisia traversii* (which also has luscious rusty-brown hairs), but the two species do not overlap in their range and *C. traversii* lacks the heart shaped leaves. Only one other *Celmisia* has distinctive heart-shaped leaves and that is *C. verbascifolia* subsp. *membranecea*, which only grows further south in the mountains around Lewis Pass (its leaf undersides also appear hairless to the naked eye).

If you are around the summit of Mt Richmond (and only here) you might find *C. cordatifolia* var. *similis*, which differs from *C. cordatifolia* var. *cordatifolia* in having hairy but pale lower leaf surfaces with any rusty-brown hairs confined only to the margins. A third variety of *C. cordatifolia* (var. *brockettii*) is restricted to peaks around Mt Bounds (Ragland Range) in Marlborough. It is rarely seen and requires further taxonomic work to confirm its status—David Given's treatment of this *C. cordatifolia* did not consider *C. cordatifolia* var. *brockettii* to be distinct.

Goats are a threat to *C. cordatifolia* with flower heads being snipped off and eaten, potentially limiting recruitment in some places.

You can view the NZPCN website factsheet for *Celmisia cordatifolia* var. *cordatifolia* at <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/celmisia-cordatifolia-var-cordatifolia/>

One of our least known mosses, *Scorpiurium cucullatum* (Mitt.) Hedenäs rediscovered in Northland

Marley Ford (Private Consultant; mfecobotany@gmail.com), Andrew Townsend (Department of Conservation; atownsend@doc.govt.nz) and Ryan de Regnier (Unitec; rderegnier@unitec.ac.nz)

Scorpiurium cucullatum (Mitt.) Hedenäs is one of the most poorly recorded species in the New Zealand moss flora (Fife, 2020). It inhabits wet habitats, noted as corticolous on willow and terricolous on rotting wood and damp silt, usually in wetlands, willow carr (*Salix* spp.), or on the banks of streams and rivers (Figures 1–4). Plants grow in flood zones and are often covered in silt. Previously it was known from three locations, Kawakawa (1979), Wellington (2014) and Rai Valley (1979) (Figure 5), all of which have been heavily modified through development and flooding. The species had not been relocated at Kawakawa or Rai Valley as of 2004, despite considerable search effort (Glenny et al., 2011). As part of the Department of Conservation Data Deficient Threatened Species Research Workstream *Scorpiurium cucullatum* and other Data Deficient moss species were identified for surveys (Michel et al., 2026). Here we present the rediscovery of *Scorpiurium cucullatum* at Kawakawa and the new location found retrospectively at Wairua Falls.

Scorpiurium cucullatum is a small, nondescript species that looks like many mosses in the Brachytheciaceae. Based on habitat and form it could be confused with small leaved forms of *Leptodon smithii* (Hedw.) F.Weber & D.Mohr because both have curved dry branches and grow as epiphytes. The leaves of *S. cucullatum* are narrower relative to their width than those of *L. smithii*. The clearest difference is cell size: mid-leaf cells are much longer in *Scorpiurium* (c. 35–45 µm) than in *Leptodon* (<15 µm). *Scorpiurium* also lacks paraphyllia, which *Leptodon* always has, even in its small-leaved forms. Host tree and sporophyte features offer further support for distinguishing the two: *Leptodon smithii* occurs on a wide range of tree hosts and on rock, whereas *S. cucullatum* is an epiphyte of silty habitats; *Leptodon*'s calyptra bears golden hairs at the base while *Scorpiurium*, like other Brachytheciaceae, has a smooth calyptra (Figure 2; Fife, 2020).



Figure 1 (left). *Scorpiurium cucullatum* at Wairua Falls on titoki, 26 November 2025. Photo: Marley Ford.

Figure 2 (right). *Scorpiurium cucullatum* with capsules at Kawakawa River floodplain, 27 November 2025. Photo: Andrew Townsend.

Waiharakeke Stream, Kawakawa River floodplain

On 27 November 2025 the swampy margins of the Waiharakeke Stream, a Top 150 rated wetland on the Kawakawa River Floodplain (Wildland Consultants, 2011), was surveyed for *S. cucullatum*. We were accompanied by mana whenua from Ngāti Hine. A small proportion of the willow carr on the Kawakawa floodplain occurs in Public Conservation Land (Kawakawa Conservation Area, Waiharakeke Stream Marginal Strip, and Hydro and Road Reserve), but the greater proportion of it is

privately owned. Here, the species was quickly located and was found to be locally common on shaded and silty, live and dead crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) wood in swamp (Figures 3 & 4). This population was widespread across the two areas surveyed, and it seems likely the species would prove more widespread if the surrounding habitat were surveyed. Additional hosts recorded include the native trees and shrubs *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* (A.Rich.) de Laub. and *Coprosma propinqua* A.Cunn var. *propinqua*. *S. cucullatum* was often fertile, with many old capsules seen. We surveyed nearby riparian willow in Waiomio and failed to find any additional populations of *Scorpiurium cucullatum*.



Figure 3 (left). *Scorpiurium cucullatum* on the base of willow at Kawakawa River floodplain, 27 November 2025. Photo: Marley Ford.

Figure 4 (right). *Scorpiurium cucullatum* habitat in willow carr at Kawakawa River floodplain, 27 November 2025. Photo: Marley Ford.

Wairua Falls Scenic Reserve

Retrospectively, it was realised that a specimen from Wairua Falls, surveyed on 26 November 2025 as part of surveys for other data deficient moss species, was *Scorpiurium cucullatum*. This is a new population for New Zealand, the fourth nationally and second for Northland (Figure 5). It occurred as a lush corticolous moss on the silty trunk of tītoki (*Alectryon excelsus* Gaertn. subsp. *excelsus*) in the waterfall spray zone, along with *Syntrichia serrata* and *Philonotis tenuis* (Tayl.) Reichdt. Plants were sterile (Figure 1). Because this population was discovered from a sample in retrospect, a more extensive survey of the site was not carried out and an estimate of the population cannot be given.

Figure 5. Distribution of *Scorpiurium cucullatum* in New Zealand. The orange points show the National distribution and the yellow the population found during this survey.



Summary

Scorpiurium cucullatum was found at two locations during this survey, one of which was new, both on and off public conservation land. Images and diagnoses were uploaded to *iNaturalist*, but unlike another Data Deficient moss, *Cryphaea ovalifolia* (Michel et al., 2026), this has not generated any new observations at any other locations. *S. cucullatum* is considered secure overseas and appeared to be locally common and reproducing at Kawakawa. The size of the population at Wairua Falls was only noted on one tree and was not fertile, and no current information exists on the state of the other populations. Before an updated threat ranking can be recommended, these other populations need to be reassessed. Rather than a Vagrant, as proposed by Glenny et al. (2011), it appears this species is native and well established in New Zealand, being widespread, locally common and probably more widely distributed than currently recorded. However, the precautionary principle (Townsend et al. 2008) suggests that this taxon should remain in the Data Deficient category, reflecting insufficient information on how easily it can be identified, how many individuals exist, and whether the population is changing over time.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Department of Conservation Data Deficient Species Research Workstream and Thomas Emmitt for direction; Suzie Hati-Scott from Ngāti Hine for enabling us to survey the Kawakawa Flood Plain, with guidance from Raphael Polson and his wife Danielle Polson who allowed us to survey nearby private property.

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Seeking observations of naturalisation of staghorn fern *Platynerium bifurcatum*, Polypodiaceae

Peter J. de Lange, Ryan de Regnier, School of Environmental & Animal Sciences, MIT & Unitec Institute of Technology, Mt Albert, Auckland (pdelange@unitec.ac.nz),

As part of her Master of Applied Sciences Samira Akter (akters03@myunitec.ac.nz) is interested in receiving observations of staghorn fern (*Platynerium bifurcatum* (Cav.) C.Chr.), plants that have naturalised. In particular, she is keen to know of sites where this species has naturally established in indigenous vegetation.

Currently we are aware of naturalisations of this fern in the Auckland (Fig. 1, 2) and Bay of Plenty Regions but we suspect it is more widespread than this. Notably, herbarium data on this fern's naturalisation process is thus far limited.

To date, most naturalisations have been noted in the vicinity of planted specimens, often on street verge trees, stone walls, etc., but there are hints that this species has jumped into indigenous vegetation as well.



Figure 1 (left). Well established *Platycerium bifurcatum* plant that has naturalised on Persian lilac (*Melia azedarach*), Auckland, Sandringham, Leslie Street.

Figure 2 (right). *Platycerium bifurcatum* naturalised on Persian lilac (*Melia azedarach*), Auckland, Takanini, Adios Place (P.J. de Lange 15923, UNITEC 15644)

If you are willing to help, we would ask that you email Samira with good clear images of the plant, circumstances of naturalisation (i.e. show what it is going on, please identify the ‘host’ if you can), noting if plants occur near planted specimens, and please provide the latitude and longitude of the location as well as the usual location details, e.g. Auckland, Mt Albert, Stilwell Street.

Alternatively post your observations on iNaturalist NZ (<https://www.inaturalist.nz/home>) making clear that the observation is of a naturalisation—many of the current records posted there fail to note this detail.

Your contribution to Samira’s research will not only be much appreciated, it will be acknowledged subject to your preferences also.

Orchid patrol – a new orchid species moves across from Australia

Matt Ward, NZPCN Council Member mattdavidward@gmail.com

On Friday 14 August, I just happened to look at the New Zealand Native Orchid Group’s (NZNOG) Facebook page, something I very rarely do... To my surprise, the first conversation was about a picture (I look at pictures before words) of an orchid I immediately recognised as an Australian species. I thought “I wonder what’s going on here”. The conversation related to Anne Jones, a NZNOG member, having found this orchid locally and wondering if anyone knew what the species was. Gael Donaghy was already on the case and had suggested the correct species. Once I realised it was in New Zealand my first question was, how many flowers? I also relayed that there had been no historical records of that species in New Zealand at any time in the past and I suggested that it would be a good find to place on iNaturalist too, so that the Australians could have a look and confirm what we believed it to be.

Anne posted on iNaturalist, and it got confirmed as the species by the Australian who has identified it the most across Australia, which was an excellent outcome. Out of interest, I called a few people to discuss the details of the find, and all were quite stunned in all honesty.

So, I thought I would contact Anne and coordinate a visit to collect a record for DNA and take a couple of pictures also. Anne was very obliging and happy to meet, so due to cost and lacking frequency of ferries, that visit soon occurred on Monday morning 17 August.

The first thing that was noticeable when Anne pointed out the leaves hidden amongst the skeletal mahoe leaves (see Figure 1.) was the colour. Compared to the majority of our native *Corybas*, these leaves were what I would call blue-green, whereas our locals are generally yellow-green to green. I have to admit I don’t think the camera shots do the leaf colour justice, unless of course it was my lack of sleep. I asked Anne “how on earth did you notice these?” As you might expect from a fellow orchid



Figure 1. Some of the flowering *Corybas diemenicus* flowering specimens amongst the mahoe leaves. Photo M. Ward 2026.

botherer her immediate response was “well, I am always keeping an eye out”. Amazing I reckon, considering these were not obvious in any way or form, the leaf colour being the same as that of the barberry (*Berberis glaucocarpa*), and wall lettuce (*Mycelis muralis*) seedlings. It would be easy to become colour blind to the prostrate glaucous foliage all over the place, particularly when they are weeds.

The flowers present are also quite camouflaged amongst the dappled light, appearing like snail shells, rounded from above and dark reddish brown, easy to miss if not attuned. This species, *C. diemenicus* is a winter/early spring flowerer like our *Cyrtostylis* spp. so yet another stroke of timing luck for Anne to have noticed these hiding on the scrub floor. I was so impressed with Anne’s find I asked if she was aware that this is really quite a significant find, unique and unexpected. Her response was “well, I have always wanted to find a new species... a new New Zealand species, not an Aussie one, so I will carry on looking”. I suggested that maybe we will struggle a bit these days as it seems we are almost at a climax for our species with the better communication, cameras and online formats available, Anne recalled “I have this orchid book from the 80s (I think it will be Molloy & Johns’s ‘Native Orchids of New Zealand’), and when I think about the time since the book was published, there are so many more species”. A very valid point as there are 77 species (including a couple of tag-names, now recognised as species) in Brian’s book, and we presently recognise 121 (not including 13 tag-named entities), a huge jump in species since 1983 (63% increase). Anne seemed very familiar with our orchids, and I would not put it past her to find something new whilst on her travels either locally or regionally. Ultimately, if you don’t look you don’t find.

The colony of *Corybas diemenicus* was the only obvious one in the area. Anne had already looked nearby, and I spent three hours covering the wider area quite thoroughly. You never know of course, time will tell, now that this species has been located in New Zealand maybe it will sink into the general botanically aware folks’ grey matter and trigger a closer look anytime we see something like it at this time of year.

The details of the colony include 155 plants, 22 of which had flowered this year so far. Four of those flowers had withered and one had fallen off and the colony covered an area of 1.2×1.3 metres. The habitat was in dappled light below mahoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*), kākūka (*Kunzea ericoides*), and some whauwhaupaku—five finger (*Pseudopanax arboreus*) was nearby. The substrate was peaty soil below a bank of fractured Waipapa composite rock. DNA analysis will likely divulge what fungus the plants may be using.

The plants themselves are very cute and quite small, similar(ish) to our *Corybas cheesemanii* (see Figure 2.), but with bigger leaves and a considerably more extravagant labellum. The leaf begins almost circular about 25mm across, it extends to heart-shaped when flowering 20–25 mm $\times$ 25–30 mm; the ovary is bright pale green and deeply channelled, held above the leaf; the flower (see Figure 3.) in general is dark red-brown to maroon with a prominent white central boss; the lateral sepals and petals are severely reduced, almost impossible to see at the base of the labellum, occasionally protruding 2–3mm long, the hooded dorsal sepal is extensive, almost completely covering the whole flower like a beanie extending beyond the labellum, 10–15mm across, red-brown, flecked towards attachment at base; the auricles are wide and downward facing at the base of the labellum; the labellum is almost circular 15–20mm across and acutely cupped with the outer margins extending forward, the outer edges of the labellum are coarsely toothed, mostly transparent, with each tooth apex having a blotchy vein of maroon colour returning centrally, the central boss is white and outward bulging surrounded by a narrow row of minute coarse hairs.



Figure 2. aspects of *Corybas diemenicus*: (left) Face on from ground level; (centre) View from above; (right) profile from ground level showing veins. Photos M. Ward 2026.

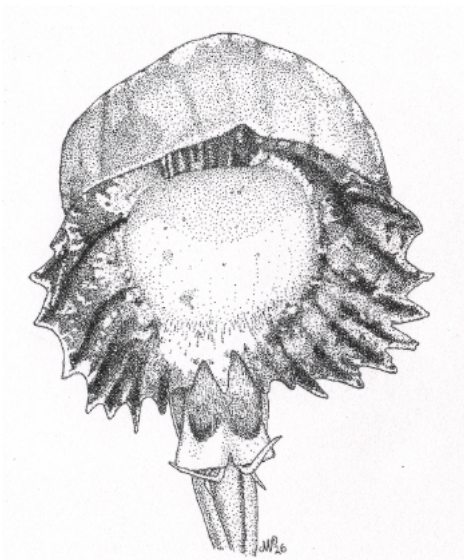


Figure 3. *Corybas diemenicus* illustration showing all flower features visible in detail. Illustration: M. Ward 2026.

This is an Australian species which has found its way to our shores. *Corybas diemenicus* is called the stately helmet orchid in Tasmania (etymology of the species epithet), the veined helmet orchid on mainland Aussie and it is regarded as common there. Here however, this is a first time record that Anne Jones was astute enough to notice and alert folks to her find. Time will tell if this is the only colony and whether it will subsist. I personally would like to thank Anne immensely for sharing and hope this colony continues to survive and thrive, another species to add to our orchid flora, as a Non-resident Native—Vagrant, not bad for an Aussie.

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Contribute your plant knowledge and images to Wikipedia this October!

Heidi Meudt (heidi.meudt@gmail.com) and Siobhan Leachman (siobhan_leachman@yahoo.co.nz)

You can help plant conservation by contributing to Wikipedia. Using your own photos, and those from iNaturalist and the NZPCN website, you can improve open knowledge about native and threatened New Zealand plants.

Join us for two opportunities to learn digital skills by adding images and information to Wikipedia. We invite you to two upcoming botanical Wiki events in Wellington in October, together with the NZPCN 2026 Conference. First up is a half-day pre-conference plant Wiki workshop (Monday 12 October) followed by a full-day New Zealand species Wikipedia edit-a-thon (Saturday 17 October). Both events are open to everyone, and are free or cheap (\$5).

1. Plant Wiki skills workshop—Monday 12 October, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

This hands-on workshop will be led by experienced Wikipedians and is suitable for anyone wanting to increase the impact of their plant images. In this plant Wiki skills workshop for the 2026 New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Conference, you'll learn how to upload your own openly-licensed images - as well as those from iNaturalist and the NZPCN website - into Wikimedia Commons and add them to Wikipedia articles.

Wikimedia Commons is the image repository and source of images for Wikipedia. Images of New Zealand plants placed in Wikimedia Commons can be reused in Wikipedia articles and also across the internet. By learning to add your plant images to Wikimedia Commons and reusing these in Wikipedia you can help support plant conservation efforts by increasing the visibility of our native plants and accessibility to knowledge about them.

Bring a laptop and charging cable, and we'll shout the morning tea!

 Monday 12 October, 9:30am–12:00pm

 Wellington Botanic Gardens Treehouse Visitor Centre

 Free attendance, limited to 30 spaces

This workshop is free and open to anyone, but you DO need to register via the NZPCN 2026 Conference registration page by 12 September  <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nzpcn/events/2026-nzpcn-conference/>

Note you DO NOT have to register for the conference to attend this free workshop—sign up for the workshop only. After 12 September, simply email Heidi or Siobhan to RSVP.

2. New Zealand species Wikipedia edit-a-thon—Saturday 17 October, 10 am – 4 pm

Join our Wiki community for a native species themed Wiki edit-a-thon and help improve the accessibility and reliability of knowledge about Aotearoa New Zealand's unique flora. This one-day event is a chance for complete beginners, experienced editors, and anyone in between to come along and edit Wikipedia articles on our native species.

Wikipedia is one of the top-visited websites in the world, and content from the platform is reused across the internet, including images and information about New Zealand native and threatened plants. Anyone can edit Wikipedia and we welcome newcomers to our community to help increase open knowledge about New Zealand plants.

You don't need any particular skills or experience to help — just bring a laptop and charging cable, and you'll be shown everything you need to know. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea are all included!

 Saturday 17 October 2026, 10am–4pm

 Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Wellington Central Library, 65 Victoria St, Wellington, Te Whare Ngārara - Community 1 (M.13 - Mezzanine floor)

 \$5 per person, bookings required

Anyone can attend this workshop! Get more info and register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/nz-species-edit-a-thon-2026>

Questions about either event? Email us at:

heidi.meudt@gmail.com (Heidi Meudt, Curator Botany, Te Papa and Wikimedian)

siobhan_leachman@yahoo.co.nz (Siobhan Leachman, Independent researcher and Wikimedian)

Please share these events with friends, students, colleagues and networks. We look forward to seeing you in October!

2026 NZPCN conference charity auctions—items wanted

Matt Ward, NZPCN Council Member—mattdavidward@gmail.com

Kia ora folks, there is a fantastic conference in the making in our wonderful Capital, the theme *Māhia ngā here – Collaboration for better conservation*. The conference will coincide with Ōtari Native Botanical Garden & Wilton's Bush Reserve 100-year Anniversary. It's shaping up nicely, relying on you all to attend to make it memorable. I have been tasked with running the charity auction to continue to raise funds for our two trust funds, the 'David Given Scholarship' and the 'John Sawyer Plant Conservation Fund'. Any funds made from the auctions will be split between the two trust funds.

I'm hoping there will be two auctions this conference, as long as we get a selection of items to auction that is, which is where you can contribute... A silent auction run during the presentation programme and a second brief live auction during the conference dinner which will include a selection of up to 10 items depending on how things land. You will all be at the awesome dinner evening as its part of the registration fee, so excellent, lots of potential.

I'm sure you are aware, making these auctions happen is only possible with your help, in the form of item donations, or suggestions for me to follow up on. We are happy to receive anything donated particularly if it themes toward our core, Aotearoa flora. In the past we have had creations of all types from woven items to oil paintings, hand-crafted celebration cards to second-hand books of interesting provenance, live plants, pressed plants, printed plants, carvings, cups, drink bottles, vouchers, experiences, garments, perfumes and jewellery. You name it, we will auction it, it's all for a good cause, our native plants.

So far, we have had some awesome items generously donated, and a few promises...

ART—From Jane Gosden—3 beautiful original acrylics on canvas paintings.

Matt Ward will donate a couple of pieces of art too.

Jo Knight is going to donate a couple of his photographs framed.

Kev O'Donnell has kindly donated two pieces of art.

BOOKS—Te Papa Press (thanks to Heidi Meidt), a boxset of 6 gorgeous nature books, also a copy of Bayly & Kellow's—*An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes*.

Roger Steele of Steele Roberts Aotearoa has kindly donated two copies of a special book about some of the plants of Rēkohu –*Manaka Mai: A celebration of plants from Rēkohu, Chatham Islands*.

We recently received a copy of *Aotearoa in Bloom* to review; this copy has also been donated for auction.

Robyn Smith has kindly donated an out-of-print beauty in *Pohutukawa & Rata: New Zealand's Iron Hearted Trees*

MERCH—The National Wilding Conifer Control Programme (thanks to Leigh Strange) has promised us some cool merch.

HANDCRAFTED—Catherine Beard has promised a couple of handmade wooden utility items, which will include a story of where the recycled or discarded timber used has come from, simply awesome!

Melanie Newfield has promised some hand drawn gift cards.

Cara-Lisa's Schloots' mum has again stepped up to donate an item of delicate harakeke weaving, very beautiful work as anyone at the last conference will recall.

Louise Webster of Cycled Ceramics, Christchurch has donated a completely unique creation titled "*Ode to Trilepidea adamsii*", a ceramic work honouring one of Aotearoa New Zealand's extinct native plants. It uses fragile vessels, hand-formed leaves and classification labels to trace the plant's movement from At Risk, to Threatened, to Extinct. The work reflects Louise's broader practice of using ceramics to tell stories about environmental loss, human impact and the urgent need to care for our fragile ecosystems. Its inclusion in the NZPCN charity auction feels especially fitting, as proceeds support plant conservation through the David Given Scholarship and the John Sawyer Plant Conservation Fund. In case you might be thinking that sounds familiar, it's our NZPCN logo and the newsletter you are reading is also an ode.



A set of ceramic creations by Louise Webster the founder of Cycled Ceramics, Christchurch.

PLANTS—Ben Wright has kindly donated three lovely specimens of *Libocedrus bidwillii* for auction. Grant Timlin has generously donated three lovely specimens of *Xeronema callistemon*, Poor Knight's lily, raupō-Taranga.

If you would like to donate an item or two towards this year's auctions please contact me (email up top) and I can give you a Wellington address to send to, or we can discuss it coming with you to the conference, whatever works for you. We will happily accept anything that may be useful, decorative, dreamy, warm, smelly, you name it!! We are now only weeks away, so the sooner you donate, hopefully before 20 September, I can thank you in my final September Trilepidea column before the conference!

August 2026
PhD positions
Freshwater Ecology



Four Fully Funded UC Connect PhD Scholarships

Working in New Zealand's Iconic Braided Rivers

The University of Canterbury and the Department of Conservation (DOC) invite applications for four interconnected UC Connect PhD Scholarships in their collaborative research programme.

Working as part of the [Freshwater Ecology Research Group \(FERG\)](#), you'll join a collaborative cohort of PhD students, University of Canterbury researchers and DOC staff investigating the ecological processes that sustain New Zealand's iconic braided rivers.

Together, these four projects will investigate the ecological processes that sustain braided river ecosystems, from ecosystem functioning and biological invasions to species persistence, ecological connectivity and freshwater restoration. The programme contributes directly to DOC's [Ngā Awa River Restoration Programme](#) and [Critical Ecosystem Pressures Programme \(CRESP\)](#), generating knowledge to support conservation management across the nationally significant Upper Rakitata catchment as part of the [Rakitata River revival programme](#). Combining ecological theory with applied conservation, you'll help answer fundamental ecological questions while producing science that directly informs freshwater management and restoration.

Choose Your Research Journey

Position one

Silent Invasion: Managing Invasive Aquatic Plants in High-country Spring Ecosystems

Investigate the ecological processes driving aquatic weed invasions in spring ecosystems, their effects on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, and identify restoration approaches that best protect these freshwater habitats.

Work at the interface of invasion ecology, restoration ecology and conservation practice.

[Silent invasion: Managing Invasive Aquatic Plants in High-country Spring Ecosystems | UC](#)

Position two

Finding Refuge: Understanding the Upland Longjaw Galaxias in Dynamic Braided Rivers

How do rare species persist in environments that are constantly changing? Explore how floods, habitat connectivity and landscape dynamics shape the persistence of one of New Zealand's rarest freshwater fish while informing its long-term conservation.

Work at the interface of disturbance ecology, landscape ecology and conservation practice.

[Finding Refuge: Understanding the Upland Longjaw Galaxias in Dynamic Braided Rivers | UC](#)



Further Information

PhD study at the University of Canterbury
www.canterbury.ac.nz/postgrad/

School of Biological Sciences
www.canterbury.ac.nz/science/schools/biological-sciences/

Freshwater Ecology Research Group
www.ferg.org.nz

Primary supervisors
• [Prof. Angus McIntosh](#)
• [Dr Helen Warburton](#)

*Te Kura Pūtaiao Koiora
School of Biological Sciences*

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have events or news that you would like publicised via this newsletter please email the Network (info@nzpcn.org.nz), prior to the published copy deadline, with details of meetings, field trips or other events taking place during the following month or later. The deadline for copy for the following month's *Trilepidea* is at the top of the front page of each issue.

If you intend to participate in one of the advertised botanical society meetings or field trips, please check with the relevant society beforehand to confirm that the published details still stand.

NZPCN 2026 Conference

The NZPCN 2026 Conference will be held in Te Whanganui-a-Tara/Wellington, 12–15 October 2026. Mark these dates in your diary now for an exciting few days of botanical knowledge sharing, networking and local exploration. More information will be included in future issues of *Trilepidea*, as details are finalised.

Selecting native plants that attract beneficial insects—a Canterbury guide

Just a quick reminder that the launch of **Selecting Native Plants that Attract Beneficial Insects: A Canterbury Guide** is coming up on **Tuesday 15 September**.

9.15am–12.30pm | Tai Tapu Community Centre | Free to attend

We're pleased to share that the **full and final programme is now available on the event website**, with details of the speakers, presentations and panel discussions planned for the morning.

The programme brings together perspectives from across **farming, horticulture, biodiversity, restoration and rural extension**, with a focus on how native planting can support pollination, natural pest control, farm resilience and biodiversity across Canterbury.

If you haven't registered yet, there's still time to sign up. View the full programme and register:

<https://scienceevents.eventsair.com/b4bi>

Everyone who attends will receive a **free digital copy of the new Canterbury guide**, with hard copies available to pre-order at a special launch price.

We'd also really appreciate you helping us continue to spread the word.

If you work with farmers, growers, landowners, catchment groups, rural professionals, restoration practitioners or others who may be interested, **please feel free to forward this invitation or share the registration link through your networks.**

We're keen to make sure the guide reaches the people across Canterbury who can put the research into practice.

We hope to see you there! The Biodiversity for Beneficial Insects Team

New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science



38th John Child Bryophyte and Lichen Workshop – Rotorua

Thursday 12 November – Tuesday 17 November, 2026

Organiser: Anne Redpath, annepathred@gmail.com

Where: Wai-o-tapu Camp, Old Waiotapu Rd, Kaingaroa Forest. The Wai-o-tapu camp has a interesting history. Check out their website, www.waiotapucamp.org.nz. The camp is close to Kerosene Creek, a free shallow warm water creek popular with tourists.

When: From Thursday 12 November afternoon (dinner included) to Tuesday 17 morning (breakfast included). The timing of this workshop is an attempt to co-ordinate with the conclusion of University exams.

Who: The workshop is open to anyone interested in bryophytes and lichens from novices, amateurs to

professional botanists. The aim is to gain and share knowledge of, and to encourage an interest in the mosses, liverworts, hornworts and lichens of New Zealand. Regular attendees are friendly and willing to help beginners. Microscopes will be available to share.

Accommodation: The accommodation is a series of independent huts with separate toilet and shower blocks. Each hut sleeps 2–6 in beds or bunks. You will need to bring a sleeping bag and pillow. Some bedding will be available. The hall, dining room and kitchen facilities will be more than adequate for our group. Internet & cell phone available. More details about the accommodation will be sent in later newsletters to those who will be attending. Other accommodation is available in Rotorua.

Meals: We will make our breakfasts and lunches from food provided. Dinner provided. An attempt will be made to cater for dietary requirements, but those with specific diets may wish to bring their own food.

Daily Field Trips: Will be in groups to various reserves in the region, shared vehicle transport will be used. You will need to bring suitable clothing and footwear for all the different weather types NZ can produce.

Getting there: Rotorua is a major tourist town with plenty of flight and bus options. Pick ups and transport to the camp will be arranged later.

Costs: We attempt to keep these as low as possible. Accommodation costs will be around \$25 per person per night. Food costs will be determined at the end of the workshop and passengers will contribute to shared vehicle costs. A deposit will be asked for closer to the time.

Tom Moss Award: Students who give a 15-minute talk at the workshop are eligible for this award. The best speaker receives a monetary award.

Mailing List: Hopefully this mailing list is going to the right people. Please pass this circular on to whoever you think might be interested.

Iwitahi Working Bee & Native Orchid Weekend

Friday, December 4th - Sunday, December 6th

At the Iwitahi Reserve off SH5 (Napier - Taupo)



Starts Friday after 4pm
Ends Sunday Lunchtimeish



Includes Meals and 2 Nights' Accommodation at Sika Lodge
(bunk room style)

Light /Moderate Track Maintenance, Weeding etc.
Orchid Identification, Photography, And Discussions On Site

\$125+ / -PP
[THE MORE THAT COME](#)
[THE CHEAPER IT GETS](#)

We would expect to see *Calochilus*, *Chiloglottis*, *Gastrodia*,
Thelymitra and *Pterostylis* species in flower or bud

If you are unable to attend for the full weekend but would like to join us at the reserve or prefer to organise your own accommodation, please let me know so we can keep an eye out for you

To register your interest, contact me by FB Messenger me or email - tobymarris@hotmail.com



Auckland Botanical Society

Meeting: Wednesday 2 September at 7.30pm. **Speaker:** Peter de Lange. **Topic:** An update on the Chatham islands Flora—changes since 2011.

Venue: Unitec, School of Natural Sciences, 139 Carrington Road, Mount Albert, Auckland. Gate 4, Building 115, Room 2005, Level 2.

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field Trip: Sunday 6 September to Matahina Reserve.
Meet: To be confirmed. **Grade:** Easy-Medium.

Leader: Bill Clark, email gumfields@netsmart.net.nz,
ph. 021 0897 7261 or 07 322 8401.

Wellington Botanical Society

Field Trip: Saturday 5 September to Raumati South peatlands. **Meet:** 9:30 am at entrance of Te Rā school. Park at the QEP entrance and cross the road, please don't park at the school. If travelling by train a pick-up can be organised from Paeākāriki Station, or walk 3.6 km/50min from Paraparaumu Station.

Leader: Andy McKay, Tel 04 296 4653,
Mobile 027 555 5653,
Andy.McKay@kapiticoast.govt.nz

Meeting: Monday 21 September at 7.30 pm. **Speakers:** Lisa Wolf and Finn McKinlay, Victoria University of Wellington, and Edie Cullen, Hataitai School.

Venue: Victoria University, Wellington, Lecture Theatre M101, ground floor Murphy Building, west side of Kelburn Parade.

Nelson Botanical Society

Field Trips/Meetings: Please refer to the website: <https://www.nelsonbotanicalsociety.org/trips-meetings>.

Canterbury Botanical Society

Field Trips/Meetings: Please refer to the website: <https://canterburybotanicalsociety.org.nz/canterbury-botanical-meetings-field-trips> for current details.

Botanical Society of Otago

Meeting: Wednesday 9 September at 5.20 pm. **Speaker:** Jennifer Bannister, Research Associate, Department of Botany. **Topic:** Baylis Lecture—Interesting discoveries of a botanical kind.

Contact: Lydia Turley, email lydiamturley@gmail.com, ph. 021 062 3602.

Venue: Zoology Benham Building, 346 Great King Road, Dunedin. Go to main entrance and proceed to Benham Seminar Room 215 on second floor.

Field Trip: Saturday 12 September to Devils Bridge, North Otago. **Meet:** Botany Department carpark at 8.00 am.

Contact: David Lyttle, email djl1yttle@gmail.com, ph. 03 454 5470.
