



TRILEPIDEA

Newsletter of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

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Deadline for next issue:
Friday 23 October 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

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NEW ZEALAND

PLANT OF THE MONTH, p. 3



Chionochloa juncea.
Photo: © Will Todhunter
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NZPCN 2026 conference update NZPCN 2026 Conference Organising Committee (2026nzpcnconference@gmail.com)

With only a couple of weeks until the conference kicks off, we are really looking forward to welcoming everyone to Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington for the 2026 NZPCN Conference.

Under our conference theme, *Māhia ngā here – Collaboration for Better Conservation*, we will come together from 12–15 October 2026 to share our challenges, achievements, and aspirations for the future of plant conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand. The conference provides an opportunity to connect with colleagues, learn from one another, and strengthen the partnerships that are so important for effective conservation.

A huge thank you to everyone who has registered, submitted talks and posters, volunteered to lead field trips and workshops, or offered support in other ways. The enthusiasm and generosity of our conservation community is what makes gatherings like this possible, and we are grateful to everyone who has contributed their time, expertise, and energy.

Keep an eye on the NZPCN website over the next couple of weeks. Our 2026 Conference Booklet, containing programme information, presentation details, workshop and field trip information, and other useful resources, will be available soon.

As many of you will know, the conference also coincides with the centenary celebrations of Ōtari Botanic Garden, New Zealand's only public botanic garden dedicated solely to native plants. We are delighted to be able to incorporate this significant milestone into the conference programme. To everyone who's shown interest in joining the Ōtari 100 celebrations, we look forward to marking this milestone together and celebrating a century of conservation, education, horticulture, and community connection at this very special place.

We are particularly grateful to our principal conference sponsors: Te Papa Atawhai – the Department of Conservation, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington Botanical Society and Wildland Consultants. Their generous support helps make events like this possible and enables us to bring together people from across the country who are passionate about protecting New Zealand's indigenous flora.

Safe travels to those joining us from around the country and overseas. We look forward to seeing you in Wellington in October.

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, is a principal conference sponsor and is also providing valuable in-kind support for our field trips, including visits to Greater Wellington Regional Parks.



Wellington Botanical Society

Wellington Botanical Society encourages the study of botany and fosters interest in New Zealand native plants, particularly through field-based learning. 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. Wildland has been a long-time supporter of NZPCN conferences and currently co-sponsors 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

Once again, we sincerely thank all our sponsors and supporters for helping make the 2026 NZPCN Conference possible.



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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/>

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *CHIONOCHLOA JUNCEA*



Jane Gosden (jlgosden@gmail.com)

September's plant of the month has been chosen in recognition of the threat all plants on the Denniston Plateau face from open cast coal mining. Although found in more places than just the Denniston Plateau, almost all herbarium collections of *Chionochloa juncea* cite Denniston as the collection locality and the Flora of New Zealand volume V (Gramineae) emphasises the Denniston Plateau as the home of *C. juncea*. The lectotype for *C. juncea* sits between the Stockton and Denniston Plateaux. Furthermore, large areas of the Stockton Plateau that formerly held this species are now open cast coal mines. Unsurprisingly, given the threat it faces, *Chionochloa juncea* is a species of coal measures being found in tussock grasslands, swampy places, and scrub. It has a conservation status of At Risk - Declining.



Photos: Denniston Plateau, June 2023. © Will Todhunter CC BY NC, Sourced from iNaturalist.

Chionochloa juncea is similar to the red tussock (*Chionochloa rubra*), in that both species are junceous (rush-like in their leaves, the trait from which *C. juncea* gets its name), red coloured, and retain their old leaf blades. It can be distinguished by the smaller floral parts on *C. juncea*. For example, the inflorescence is to 20 cm in *C. juncea*, the spikelets have up to six florets, and the lower glume is up to 11 mm long, whereas in *C. rubra*, the inflorescence is to 45 cm, spikelets have up to nine florets, and the lower glume is up to 12 mm. The central lemma awn of *C. juncea* is also not twisted at the base as it is in *C. rubra*.

One of the best things you can do to support the amazing coal measure ecosystems on the Denniston Plateau is to visit *C. juncea* in person. The Denniston Plateau is home to many other interesting species that are worth seeking out as well. For example, *Celmisia dubia*, *Celmisia parva*, *Schizacme helmsii*, and *Euphrasia wettsteiniana*. (Obviously the impacts of open cast mining go beyond the plants themselves, for example, the Denniston area is currently the only known home of the Avatar moth, *Arctesthes avatar*.)

The NZPCN factsheet for *Chionochloa juncea* is found here: <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chionochloa-juncea/>

Northland horopito, *Pseudowintera insperata* Heenan et de Lange, a true endemic of Northland

Marley Ford (Private Consultant; mfecobotany@gmail.com) and Andrew Townsend (Department of Conservation; atownsend@doc.govt.nz)

The distribution of *Pseudowintera* in northern New Zealand has remained incompletely known for several decades, with repeated calls for new records and site relocations (Moore, 1983; Bellingham & Cameron, 1985, 1986; Vink, 1970). During the 2026 Northland Regional threatened plants assessment (Ford et al., 2026), it was noted that the regionally endemic status of the Nationally Critical shrub *Pseudowintera insperata* Heenan et de Lange (Figure 1 & 2) was uncertain (de Lange et al., 2024). This was because *P. insperata* had been identified from a specimen (CHR 404048) at Logue's Bush, Auckland, by Heenan & de Lange (2006). However, *P. insperata* was not included in the regional vascular plant threat assessment for Auckland (Simpkins et al., 2025).

This article documents field observations and re-examines herbarium material of two *Pseudowintera* populations in northern New Zealand previously identified as *P. insperata*: one at Logue's Bush (Auckland; CHR 404048) and a second at Tutamoe (Northland; CHR 525112), reassessing the natural distribution of this species and confirming it as a Northland endemic.



Figure 1 (left). Foliage of *Pseudowintera insperata* in understorey at Mount Manaia. Photo: Marley Ford.

Figure 2 (right). Underside of foliage and flowers of *Pseudowintera insperata* at Bream Head. Photo: Andrew Townsend.

Pseudowintera Dandy is a genus endemic to New Zealand, in the family Winteraceae R.Br. ex Lindl. This family of trees and shrubs is found across old Gondwanan regions including Malesia, Oceania, eastern Australia, New Zealand, Madagascar and the Neotropics, with most genera concentrated in Australasia and Malesia (Hutchinson, 1973; Marquinez et al., 2009). Winteraceae has traditionally been described as "primitive" because it lacks xylem vessels and has simple, unfused flowers with variable parts (Cronquist, 1981). However, more recent molecular work suggests the lack of vessels is a derived adaptation to cold conditions, rather than an ancestral trait (Field et al., 2002; Soltis & Soltis, 2004).

Currently, three species of *Pseudowintera*, commonly called horopito, are recognised in northern New Zealand (Figure 3). *Pseudowintera axillaris* (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) Dandy is widespread but local; *Pseudowintera colorata* (Raoul) Dandy is uncommon and known from very few localities (Bellingham & Cameron, 1985, 1986) usually at higher altitudes; and *Pseudowintera insperata*, a local endemic (Heenan & de Lange, 2006) restricted to high points on the Whangōrei Heads. *P. insperata* has a chromosome number of $2n = 86$ (Heenan & de Lange, 2006), consistent with the $n = 43$ previously reported for *P. axillaris* and *P. colorata* by Hair & Beuzenberg (1966).

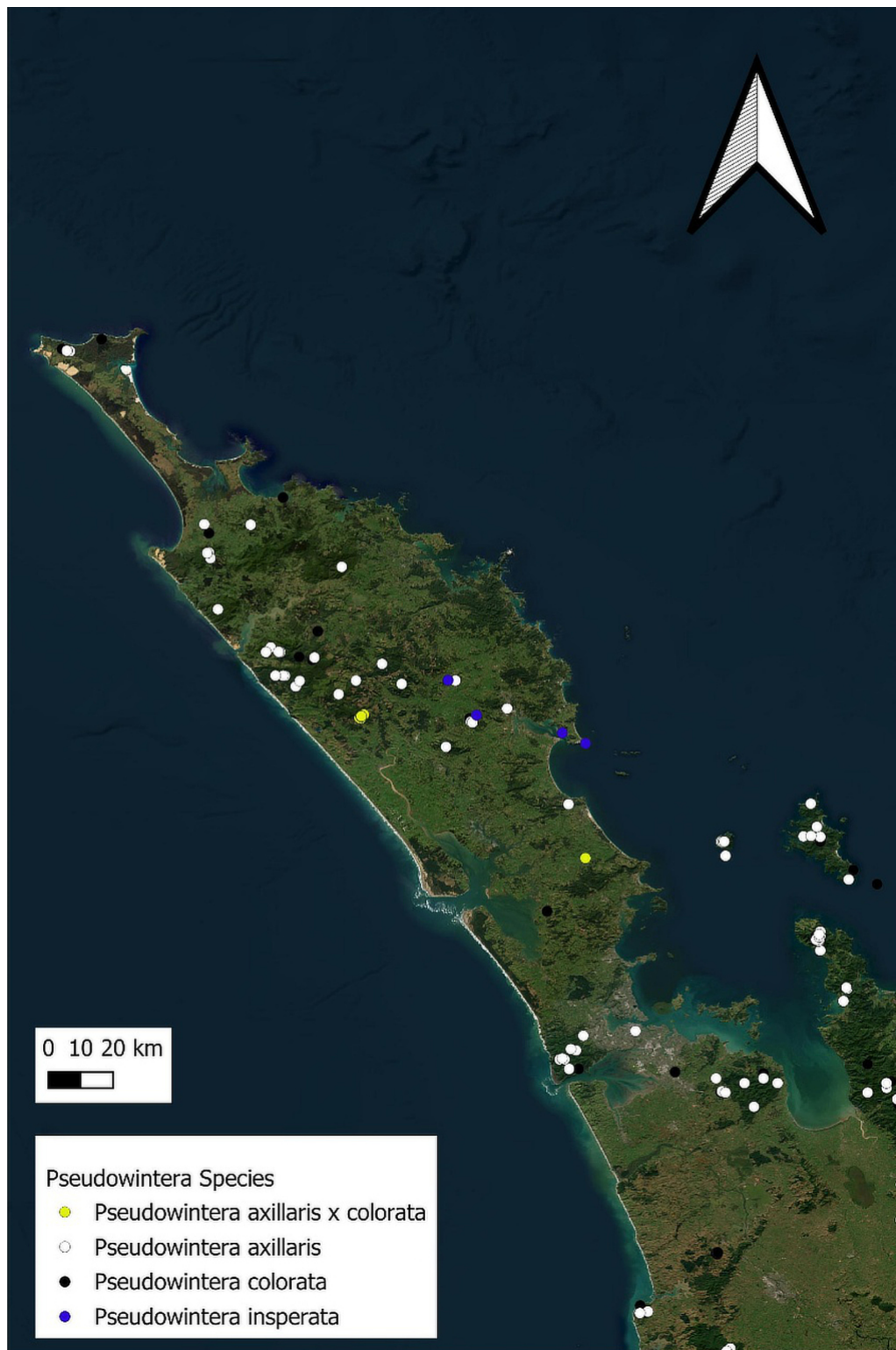


Figure 3. Distribution of *Pseudowintera* species records across Northern New Zealand, including *P. axillaris*, *P. colorata*, and *P. insperata* at its two confirmed extant sites (Mount Manaia, Bream Head) and two historic sites (Purua, Maungatapere). Occurrence data compiled from herbarium specimens, the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), and iNaturalist NZ.

Pseudowintera insperata is a relatively recently described small tree, known with certainty only from the vicinity of Whangārei, Northland (Heenan & de Lange, 2006). There, two extant populations are known from Manaia Ridge and Bream Head Scenic Reserves. In these reserves, *P. insperata* occurs in lowland forest and wind-shorn scrub on south-facing, exposed ridge tops and gullies, on freely draining but permanently damp, skeletal soils developed from igneous (andesite and dacite) breccia and rubble between outcropping tors.

The species is currently ranked Nationally Critical (de Lange et al 2024), with approximately 70 plants in the wild. It can be distinguished from the other species of *Pseudowintera* by its upright, small-tree growth habit, broadly obovate to broadly elliptic leaves that are glossy and without blemishes or blotches, a conspicuous pale cream to yellow-green midvein, ciliate inflorescence bracts, an entire cupule, and black, obovoid to obovoid-oblong fruit (Heenan & de Lange, 2006).

At the time of its description, six discrete populations of *P. insperata* were thought to have once existed, based on herbarium specimens: Manaia Ridge, Bream Head, Logue's Bush, Mt Lion, Maungatapere, and Purua, with the latter three considered probably extinct. The Mt Lion record was collected from between Mt Lion and Bream Head, Whangōrei Heads (M. E. Young, Jun 1986, AK 177419), and the grid reference places it about 500 metres west of the known population. Although not having been able to be relocated recently, it probably represents an outlying plant. Historical collections of *P. insperata* from Maungatapere (by H. H. Carse, Oct 1897, AK 264973) and Purua (A. Thompson, Aug 1899, CHR 294548), to the west/northwest of Whangōrei have also been made, but it has not been recorded at these sites since.

As discussed by Heenan and de Lange (2006), *P. axillaris* was sympatric with *P. insperata* at Maungatapere (H. H. Carse, Oct 1897, CHR 294542) and Purua (A. Thompson, Aug 1899, AK 246974), and it is therefore very likely that both *P. axillaris* and *P. insperata* once grew in close proximity in these areas.

Moore (1983) and Paterson (2004) each reported two plants of "*P. axillaris*" growing at Logue's Bush Scenic Reserve, Whangaripo Valley, south of Whangōrei and a specimen (CHR 404048) was collected by L. B. Moore in May 1982. Heenan and de Lange (2006) noted that it was very similar to *P. insperata*, having ciliate floral bracts, broadly obovate and broadly elliptic leaves, hairs along the abaxial midrib and adjacent lamina, and some small cupules that appear more-or-less entire. They also noted that the identity of the plants from Logue's Bush should be confirmed with fresh material.

Another specimen, collected from Tutamoe by M. J. Heads in Apr 1997 (CHR 525112) was initially determined as *P. axillaris* by Heenan & de Lange (2006 – distribution map) but later redetermined as "possibly *Pseudowintera insperata*," with the note that the site should be surveyed for fresh material.

This report summarises site surveys of these two localities to provide an update on our understanding of *P. insperata*, 20 years since its description.

Logue's Bush

On 23 July 2026, the authors of this article, along with David Wilson (DOC Tamaki Makaurau) and Kallan Mehrstens (DOC Whangōrei), surveyed Logue's Bush Scenic Reserve to attempt to relocate the *Pseudowintera* plant discussed by Heenan & de Lange (2006).

Surprisingly, a plant was still present, growing in heavy shade in thick alluvial silt amongst *Tradescantia fluminensis* Velloso (Figure 4); even more surprisingly, the plant was in flower (Figure 5; <https://www.inaturalist.nz/observations/395708446>).

This plant resembled an intermediate between *P. axillaris* and *P. colorata* more than *P. insperata*, but the specimen (CHR 404048) had previously been diagnosed as *P. axillaris* based on its pale leaf colour. Like northern plants of *P. colorata*, which lack the blemishes or blotches characteristic of the species further south, this hybrid's unblemished leaves likely contributed to its earlier misidentification. Based on DNA and morphological evidence, this specimen is now recognised as a hybrid, *P. axillaris* × *P. colorata* (Wayman et al. 2010 pro parte). Peter de Lange (pers. comm., 2024 iNat¹) noted that north of Port Waikato and Aotea/Great Barrier Island, essentially all *Pseudowintera* plants, with the exception of *P. insperata*, have proved to be hybrids between *P. axillaris* and *P. colorata*, rather than pure representatives of either parent species, a conclusion grounded in the phytochemistry reported by Wayman et al. (2010), who analysed the phytochemistry of the three *Pseudowintera* taxa. They

¹ <https://www.inaturalist.nz/observations/227706864>

found that *P. insperata* is distinguished by high levels of a unique coumarate compound, *P. axillaris* by paxidal, and *P. colorata* by polygodial and 9-deoxymuzigadial. In three plants sampled from Logue's Bush, neither the coumarate nor paxidal was detected; instead, 9-deoxymuzigadial dominated, with lower levels of polygodial, a profile closer to *P. colorata* than to *P. axillaris* or *P. insperata*. Wayman et al. (2010) considered the taxonomic status of the Logue's Bush plants unresolved, noting that cryptic hybridism between *P. axillaris* and *P. colorata* was chemically indicated.



Figure 4 (left). Plant of *Pseudowintera axillaris* × *P. colorata* in understorey at Logue's Bush. Photo: Marley Ford.
 Figure 5 (right). Underside of *Pseudowintera axillaris* × *colorata* (putative hybrid, cf. Wayman et al. 2010, pro parte) foliage with flowers at Logue's Bush. Photo: Marley Ford.

The Logue's Bush population is, however, an unusual occurrence of this species, growing closer to sea level than is typical (at c. 51 m a.s.l.) for a plant commonly called "mountain horopito". This is most likely due to the local site conditions: the uncommon, in Northland, alluvial matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia* (D.Don) de Laub.) forest is in an inversion zone where cool air pools. Notably, *P. colorata* is almost completely self-incompatible (Godley & Smith, 1976); as a solitary individual, this plant is therefore unlikely to be reproducing sexually, and its persistence at this site may depend on longevity and vegetative survival rather than ongoing recruitment.

Tutamoe

The survey was conducted on 7 May 2025 by the authors, along with Lisa Forester (NRC), Katrina Hansen (NRC), and Steph Tong (NRC), together with Andrew Knock (DOC Kauri Coast), Anja Meduna (DOC), and Reuben Booth (DOC), to Northland's second-highest point, Mount Tutamoe (770 m), to investigate the presence of "possible *P. insperata*" based on CHR 525112.

Both *P. axillaris* and *P. colorata* were present on the upper slopes of Mt Tutamoe, and at their extremes could be easily separated by fruit colour (*P. axillaris*: red; *P. colorata*: black), but some intermediates were observed that are potentially hybrids. One plant noted in previous surveys (7 July 2024; Figures 6 & 7;) was observed again during this survey, however with heavy browse. This plant matched *P. axillaris* in leaf colour and shape, having glossy, green, elliptic-oblong to elliptic-obovate leaves without blemishes or blotches, a glabrous abaxial surface, and a yellow-green midvein distinct from the leaf colour; it also resembled the entity collected as CHR 525112.

We were not able to determine that the specimens were the same; the grid reference provided on the herbarium specimen is accurate to ± 1000 m, and the plants we saw were within that envelope, suggesting that they are representatives of the same population, if not one of the same plants.

We propose that this entity is better referred to *P. axillaris* than *P. insperata*, although given the intermediate characters observed among other plants at this site (see above), we cannot rule out that it represents a *P. axillaris* × *P. colorata* hybrid rather than a pure *P. axillaris* individual. Typical *P. colorata* was also noted nearby during this survey (Figures 8 & 9; <https://www.inaturalist.nz/observations/287778611>), however its dull green foliage made it relatively easy to distinguish.



Figure 6 (left). Plant of *Pseudowintera axillaris* at Tutamoe summit. Photo: Marley Ford.

Figure 7 (right). Underside foliage of *Pseudowintera colorata* at Tutamoe summit. Photo: Marley Ford.



Figure 8. Plant of *Pseudowintera colorata* at Tutamoe summit. Photo: Marley Ford.

Figure 9. Foliage of *Pseudowintera colorata* at Tutamoe summit. Photo: Marley Ford.

Conclusions

The transitory nature of the taxonomic diagnosis of these herbarium specimens over time highlights the point that herbarium specimens are only partially helpful when determining historical collections of cryptic taxa, such as the Northland *Pseudowintera* species. Analysis of fresh material and critical evaluation of plants in the field is also needed. This uncertainty reflects a broader problem: *P. insperata* remains cryptic and difficult to identify reliably from herbarium material alone, with several specimens historically flagged as possible *P. insperata* on the basis of pressed material only.

Based on the phytochemical evidence of Wayman et al (2010) and our critical assessment of specimens in the field, it appears that *P. insperata* is a Northland endemic, currently known from two locations in the Whangārei Heads district. This raises the number of endemic vascular plants confined to Northland from 69 (Ford et al. 2026), to 70. Currently this is the second-highest count of regional endemics for any New Zealand region, behind only Southland (72, B. Rance, pers. comm., 3 November 2025, cited in Ford et al., 2026), although as other regional floras are assessed, this will undoubtedly change.

Further genetic work is needed to test the boundaries and relationships among the northern species of *Pseudowintera*, particularly in western Northland, on Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island and Aotea/Great Barrier Island, and on the Coromandel Peninsula. Heenan & de Lange's (2006) observation that plants become increasingly hairy further west also warrants closer study. Wayman et al. (2010) analysed material from four plants on Bream Head and one on Manaia, but from nowhere else in Northland. All five contained the coumarate unique to *P. insperata*, but the Manaia plant also contained a significant proportion of 9-deoxymuzigadial. This compound is also present in the Logue's Bush plant and the Waitakere hybrid and occurs in trace amounts in morphologically typical *P. axillaris* from the Waitakere Ranges. It is absent from the central North Island but reappears in *P. colorata* from the southern North Island and South Island. There is scant information on the morphology and phytochemistry of *Pseudowintera* on Te Hauturu-o-Toi, Aotea, or the Coromandel Peninsula, and filling this gap would help clarify relationships between these species.

It may be that *P. insperata* arose through an ancient hybrid speciation event, or its intermediate characters, instead, reflect a basal ancestral position, with derived parallelisms in character evolution. Either way, modern sequence-based data would help resolve this question and clarify the status of putative hybrids.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the Northland Regional Council Biodiversity team (Lisa Forester, Katrina Hansen and Stephanie Tong), the Department of Conservation Kauri Coast (Anja Meduna, Andrew Knock and Reuben Booth) and Te Roroa (Taoho Patuawa) for enabling the Tutamoe survey, and Kallan Mehrstens and David Wilson for helping us organise our outing to Logue's Bush. Finally, we would like to thank Peter de Lange for helpful discussion.

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2026 NZPCN conference charity auctions—items wanted

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

Kia ora folks, there is a fantastic conference coming up very soon in our wonderful Capital, the theme *Māhia ngā here – Collaboration for better conservation*. The conference will coincide with ħtari Native Botanical Garden & Wilton's Bush Reserve 100-year Anniversary. Registrations have closed, so 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 Trusts, 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.

It looks like there will be two auctions this conference, as we have a selection of items to auction and would gladly accept any more, which is where you can contribute, this is my last chance to ask for any further items you might consider donating... The auctions will include 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 finally land. All of you who have enrolled to attend will likely be at the awesome dinner evening as it's part of the entry fee, excellent, lots of potential.



Thelymitra pulchella – striped sun orchid, *Thelymitra nervosa* – spotted sun orchid, *Thelymitra carnea* – pink sun orchid. Jane Gosden 2025

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, as 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.

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

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

Ian St George has donated a '*Pterostylis* triptych', which has to be seen to be believed.



Rātā vine. Kev O'Donnell.

Kate McAlpine has donated two pictures of her 'Nature Rearranged' works, colourful and creative!!

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 Ríkohu – *Manaka Mai: A celebration of plants from Ríkohu, 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*.

The Allan Herbarium (via Alex & Ines) kindly donated some classic must haves for any technical botanical library, Flora III, IV, & V, as well as Volume 1 & 2 of the Lichen Flora. Also included is 'Plants that Poison' and 'Mosses- An Illustrated Glossary'.



MERCH: The National Wilding Conifer Control Programme thanks to Leigh Strange, have come through with some cool merch, AS - Caps, Aurora - soft cell Wind breakers, and Compadre - Drink bottles all very useful fieldwork items.

HANDCRAFTED: Catherine Beard has donated 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.

Moirra Parker has donated a couple of her daughter Sonia Joy Parker's pieces of work, two pendants made from locally sourced timbers.

Kate McAlpine has donated some greeting cards using the art from her recent collaborative exhibition 'Petals & Threads'



Caps, drink-bottles and jackets all donated by NWCCP.

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.

Andrew Jinks from Porirua City Council Nursery has donated 3 amazing *Metrosideros perforata*, akatea, climbing rata.

If you would like to donate an item or two towards this year's, auctions, *it's not too late*, 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 a couple of weeks away, so I won't be able to squeeze you into an article before the conference but definitely a thanks afterwards... Thank you everyone who has helped and donated with what we have so far, just awesome!!!

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!

NZPCN Website Terms of Use

The NZPCN Council recently approved a new document 'Website Terms of Use'. This has its own page under 'Help' <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/help/website-terms-of-use/>. There is a link to the Terms of Use page at the bottom of every page on the website as well. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with your obligations as a user of the website. By using the website you agree to our terms of use, including copyright and data use.

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.

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 7 October at 7.30pm. **Speaker:** Marcela I. Sanchez, President, Argentine Network of Botanical Gardens. **Topic:** Flora of Argentina (and neighbouring countries- Southern Cone) and the relationships with NZ through Gondwana species, with an emphasis on orchids.

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

Field Trip: Saturday 17 October to Rural Design Farm.

Leader: Jack Warden.

Meeting: Tuesday 27 October. **Topic:** Lucy Cranwell Lecture – Jessica Beever.

Venue: Auckland Museum.

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field Trip: Sunday 4 October to Lake Rotoiti and Matawhaura Scenic Reserves, Rotoehu Road. **Meet:** Rotorua carpark at 8.15am or outside 391 Rotoehu Road, Pongakawa at 9.00am. **Grade:** Medium.

Leader: Paul Cashmore, email pcashmore@doc.govt.nz, ph. 07 349 7432 (wk) or 027 205 1922.

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field Trip: Saturday 17 October for RBS/Landcare Okareka Mistletoe Restoration Project Weed Control/Plant Releasing Work Day. **Meet:** Corner Summit and Loop Roads, Okareka (lake end) next to start of mistletoe track at 8.45 am – 12.00 noon. **Grade:** Medium-hard.

Leader: Paul Cashmore, email pcashmore@doc.govt.nz, ph. 07 349 7432 (wk) or 027 205 1922.

Field Trip: Saturday 31 October - Sunday 1 November – East Cape revisited. **Meet:** TBC. **Grade:** Moderate-hard.

Contact: Paul Cashmore, email pcashmore@doc.govt.nz, ph. 07 349 7432 (wk) or 027 205 1922.
Leader: Clarke Koopu, email ckoopu@icloud.com, ph. 027 232 9960.

Wellington Botanical Society

Field Trip: Saturday 3 October to Belmont Regional Park – Dry Creek entrance at 9.30am.

Leader: John Barnett, 021 063 1590, johnbarnett@inspire.net.nz

Meeting: Monday 19 October at 7.30pm. **Speakers:** Paul Bell-Butler and Lee Oliver, Victoria University of Wellington.

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

Field Trip: Saturday 24 October – Sunday 25 October to Stoney Creek block, Tukurumuri, Wairarapa.

Leader: Owen Spearpoint, ph 027 285 8083, email owen.spearpoint@gw.govt.nz

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

Field Trip: Saturday 3 October to identify the ferns of Leith Saddle. **Meet:** Botany Department carpark at 9.00am.

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

Meeting: Wednesday 14 October at 5.20pm. **Speaker:** Paul Guy. **Topic:** Gardens of Tokyo: a botanical perspective. **Contact:** Jo Sinclair.

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