



TRILEPIDEA

Newsletter of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

No. 267

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Deadline for next issue:
Friday 20 November 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. 2



Azorella polaris.
Photo: Jane Gosden.

He Pihi Kāuru, the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network launches a plant conservation fund for Māori and Moriori communities

Alex Fergus, Taylor Davies-Colley, Joanna Smith

During the closing comments of our conference in Te Whanganui-a-Tara/Wellington, Rōpū hononga Koiora Taiao ki Aotearoa/the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (NZPCN) President Alex Fergus announced the network's new He Pihi Kāuru fund, a native plant conservation fund for Māori and Moriori communities. The purpose of the fund is to support Māori and Moriori native plant conservation or ecosystem restoration by nurturing new ideas, supporting emerging opportunities and empowering Māori whānau, hapū and Moriori hunau, pui to realise their plant conservation aspirations.

The name, He Pihi Kāuru, was a collaboration from Rāwiri Walsh and Holden Hohaia. Holden notes "the name draws on the imagery of *pihi*, representing new shoots and emerging potential, and *kāuru*, evoking the uppermost growing reaches of a tree." Together the two kupu symbolise a journey of growth — from the first emergence of an idea to its full flourishing.

Examples of projects the fund would encourage include Mātauranga Māori focused conservation and restoration methods; restoration projects for native plant species; conservation projects for native plant species including seed banking; research to support conservation of native plant species, and community engagement for education programmes increasing awareness of native plant species.

Applications for the fund open via the NZPCN website on Monday 26 October and close on Friday 27 November 2026. More information can be found on the NZPCN website here <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nzpcn/he-pihi-kauru/>.

2026 Favourite Native Plant Vote update

We're halfway through the 2026 vote and after some initial jostling we have three strong contenders for the top spot. Maire tawake / swamp maire (*Syzygium maire*, Nationally Vulnerable) is currently in the lead—possible due to its association with the beloved pua o te reinga (*Dactyloctenium aegyptium*, Nationally Vulnerable) which we heard a lot about during the conference. Coming in close second is the tarn speedwell (*Veronica lilliputiana*, Declining)—a very small and specialised beauty. Carnivorous plants are fascinating to many, and the pygmy sundew (*Drosera pygmaea*, Naturally Uncommon) is coming in third at present. Readers can check



Maire tawake. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

out the leaderboard here: <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/favourite-plant-vote/leaderboard>.

Voting is open until 10 November, so please get voting. Tell your friends, tell your whanau, tell your friends' whanau and your whanau's friends! All the candidates are charismatic and worthy of your vote, and we promise we will be able to announce a winner very quickly after voting closes.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *AZORELLA POLARIS*



Jane Gosden (jlgosden@gmail.com)



Flowering *Azorella polaris* with a tomtit for scale. Photo: Jane Gosden

Whilst known as pūnui or the Macquarie Island cabbage, *Azorella polaris* is broadly speaking a carrot because it belongs to the Apiaceae family. Further misleading in the English common name is Macquarie Island, because this megaherb is also found on Mōtū Maha/the Auckland Islands, Motu Ihupuku/Campbell Island, and the Antipodes Islands of Aotearoa/New Zealand. This magnificent plant reaches two metres tall and can be just as broad.

Azorella polaris has a Conservation Status of At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, reflecting its endemism to the far-flung Subantarctic Islands. It is threatened by pigs on the main Auckland Island but is recovering nicely on the now pest free islands of Macquarie (previously devastated by rabbits), Antipodes, Enderby (in the Auckland Islands group), and Campbell.

Although botanically misleading, *A. polaris* gained the name cabbage after it was eaten by early sealers and shipwreck survivors in the Subantarctic. Both the rhizomes and leaves were eaten, and you can read more about the fascinating history of eating *A. polaris* [here](#). A trip to the Subantarctic is quite an undertaking, but botanically spectacular (the birds and seals are alright too).

Closer to home, you can occasionally see *A. polaris* in some New Zealand botanic garden collections. If you happen to be in Hobart you can visit the Subantarctic Plant House at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and see it there as well.

The factsheet for *Azorella polaris* can be found here: <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/azorella-polaris/>

Discovery of the gritty peat pelt lichen (*Austropeltum glareosum* Henssen, Döring & Kantvilas) in Arthurs Pass National Park (and the threat to its type locality on the Buller Plateaux)

Melissa Hutchison (melissa@tenax.co.nz) and Marley Ford (mfecobotany@gmail.com)

Although we have more than 2,300 lichen species in Aotearoa/New Zealand (NZ), only 15 species are currently classified as ‘Threatened’ (de Lange et al. 2018). However, more than half our lichens (58%) are classified as ‘Data Deficient’ as we have little or no information about their distribution, abundance or population trends. A substantial number of species (perhaps 10% of the lichen flora) have only been recorded once in NZ (see Galloway 2007). Most of our lichens are cryptic and easily overlooked (even by sharp-eyed botanists!) and you need microscopy and chemical tests to identify them, so it’s no wonder we know so little about them.

Yet some of our lichens do stand out from the crowd – one of our most charismatic species surely has to be the terricolous lichen *Austropeltum glareosum* Henssen, Döring & Kantvilas, which is classified as ‘Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable’ (de Lange et al. 2018).

Taxonomy, description and etymology

Austropeltum is a monotypic genus in the Sphaerophoraceae family (Wedin & Döring 1999). The type locality for *A. glareosum* is the Stockton Plateau (900 m a.s.l.), north of Westport, New Zealand (Henssen *et al.* 1992). The species is Australasian, and part of a strong biogeographical link shared with similar habitats in South-West Tasmania; other shared lichen species include *Pertusaria gymnospora*, *Pycnothelia caliginosa* and *Siphula elixii* (Kantvilas 1995; Kantvilas 2023).

Austropeltum glareosum has a distinctive leathery, squamulose (scale-like) thallus that grows flat against the ground, and the thallus is green, olive-brown, or blackish (in sunburnt specimens) (Figure 1). Its most conspicuous and striking features are the large, black, globose (blackberry-like) fruiting bodies (apothecia) that stick out from the margins of the thallus (Figure 2).

The genus name is derived from *Austro-* meaning "southern" or relating to the Southern Hemisphere, and *-peltum* meaning "shield", referring to its small, shield-shaped, or leaf-like structures. The species name comes from the Latin word *glareosus*, which means "gravelly" or "gritty", referring to the gritty soils and sandstone pavements it occupies. After learning about this unusual and charismatic lichen, we felt it deserved a common name and dubbed it the “gritty peat pelt lichen” (after its typical habitat and appearance).



Figure 1 (left): Gritty peat pelt lichen (*Austropeltum glareosum*). Growing with the fruticose lichen *Neophyllis melacarpa*.
Figure 2 (right): Black, globose fruiting bodies (apothecia) of the gritty peat pelt lichen. Photos: Melissa Hutchison.

Distribution and habitat

Austropeltum glareosum is found only in New Zealand and Tasmania, where it occurs in gritty, nutrient-poor soils on exposed, wet mountain summits, subalpine ridges, and sandstone plateaux (Figure 3). Its distribution and habitat are described in the Flora of New Zealand: Lichens (Galloway 2007¹) as follows:

“South Island: Nelson (near Fenella Hut Cobb Valley, Denniston and Stockton Plateaux, Mt Rochfort, Mt Augusta), Southland (West Dome). In open, exposed often inundated quartzite sand or peaty soils, 750–900 m, associating with species of *Cladia* and *Cladonia*, *Neophyllis melacarpa*, *Pycnothelia caliginosa* and species of *Siphula* (*S. decumbens*, *S. foliacea*², *S. fragilis*¹, *S. jamesii*¹). A prominent element in the vegetation on these exposed, windswept tablelands, offering considerable resistance to surface soil erosion. Known also from similar habitats in Tasmania (Henssen *et al.* 1992; McCarthy 2003, 2006).”



Figure 3: Typical sandstone pavement habitat of the gritty peat pelt lichen on the Denniston Plateau, northern West Coast. Photo: Melissa Hutchison (24 May 2025).

The first known specimen of *A. glareosum* was collected by David Galloway in 1967 on Rakiura/Stewart Island at Bald Cone, Port Pegasus (CHR 666174). Galloway collected two more specimens in 1969 at Deceit Peaks, southern Rakiura/Stewart Island (CHR 375617; CHR 528806)³. The species was recently discovered by Marley on the north-western side of Rakiura, in the Ruggedy Ranges (PDD 122672), where sunburnt (black) specimens were found on peaty granite soils, growing with *Siphula decumbens* (Figure 4; Ford 2023a; Dorsman & Ford 2026).

¹ See <https://floraseries.landcareresearch.co.nz/taxa/323d321f-407b-46e0-984b-f151690707b6>.

² Now called *Parasiphula foliacea*, *P. fragilis*, and *P. jamesii*.

³ The online record for CHR 375617, which was collected in 1969, states “1st known collection of this species!” although the first collection was actually in 1967 (see <https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/2d54e141-cb58-4c0f-b78c-770d0ef53494>).



Figure 4: Habitat of the gritty peat pelt lichen in exposed granite outcrop on the Northern Ruggedy Ranges, Rakiura/Stewart Island. Photo: Marley Ford (6 March 2023).

New population discovered at Arthurs Pass

After hearing Marley enthusing about the botanical diversity of the far north, Melissa wanted to show off some of the South Island's botanical treasures at Kura Tāwhiti/Castle Hill and Arthurs Pass National Park. The subalpine vegetation of the Otira Valley is just a short walk off the main highway, and we had a great time photographing as many plants and lichens as we could find during our brief visit to the area. Melissa later uploaded an iNaturalist observation of an unusual lichen growing on damp soil on the side of Lake Misery track (Hutchison 2020, see Figure 5). A year later, we realised that we had discovered a new population of *A. glareosum* well outside its known distribution range! Within New Zealand, the species was previously thought to be restricted to the northern West Coast (Stockton and Denniston Plateaux) and Southland (West Dome and Rakiura/Stewart Island), so this was a significant extension to its national distribution (see Figure 7).

Subsequently, several more patches of the gritty peat pelt lichen were found near Arthurs Pass by David Glenny and Marley (MF 2422) (independently) during the John Child Bryophyte and Lichen Workshop in November 2023. The habitat consisted of damp vertical banks on the side of Margaret Tarn track (Figure 6). The specimens were rather dried out and sunburnt (black), and were growing with *Neophyllis* and *Siphula* (Ford 2023b).



Figure 5: A new population of gritty peat pelt lichen (*Austropeltum glareosum*) was discovered on Lake Misery track, Arthurs Pass National Park in February 2020. Photo: Melissa Hutchison (3 June 2022).



Figure 6: Several patches of gritty peat pelt lichen were found along Margaret Tarn track in Arthurs Pass National Park during the 2023 John Child Workshop. Photo: Melissa Hutchison (25 November 2023).



Figure 7: Distribution of gritty peat pelt lichen (*Austropeltum glareosum*) in New Zealand and Tasmania.

Type locality under threat

Although the gritty peat pelt lichen occurs on public conservation land in Arthurs Pass and Rakiura National Parks, its type locality (and presumed population stronghold in NZ) on the Stockton and Denniston Plateaux is far from safe. Underneath these gritty peat habitats lies a valuable mineral resource: coal. The Denniston Plateau is under imminent threat from open-cast coal mining – a consortium of mining companies led by Bathurst Resources Ltd (Bathurst) recently lodged a Fast Track application that would destroy most of the Plateau (see <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/buller-plateaux-continuation>). Bathurst wants to enlarge its Stockton mine (NZ's largest open-cast mine) and expand its operations to the Denniston Plateau. Some of the documents relating to the application have been withheld from the public (<https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals/fast-track-projects/buller-plateaux-continuation-project/>). In late September, the Environmental Protection Agency rejected the substantive Fast Track application because it was deemed to be incomplete (it did not comply with all the requirements of Section 46(2) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024), but Bathurst is expected to resubmit a revised Fast Track application in the near future (see <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/environment/1557245/fast-track-application-to-mine-denniston-plateau-on-west-coast-rejected>).

Although the Denniston Plateau is public conservation land it is classified as Stewardship Land, which means it has limited protection from mining. Forest and Bird and other environmental groups have highlighted the unique and significant ecological values of the area and are calling for the Plateau to be reclassified as a Scientific Reserve (see <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/denniston-should-be-scientific-reserve-not-fast-tracked-coal-mine>; Hargreaves 2025).

More observations needed

Though many lichens are difficult to recognise, some species are distinctive enough to identify in the field, and by uploading photographs to iNaturalist, others can be identified retrospectively by

experts—a great way to increase knowledge of these understudied taxa. *Austropeltum glareosum* is a good candidate for this. The gritty peat pelt lichen appears to have a wider distribution than previously thought, but is still confined to habitats with wet, gritty, low fertility soils. Despite these new finds, *A. glareosum* still sits within the Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable category (de Lange et al. 2018). New records have increased its known range, but the species' core population remains under threat from mining, so its overall conservation status hasn't improved.

With very little known about many lichen species in NZ, it is easy to make new discoveries that provide valuable information, so keep looking and sharing your observations on iNaturalist – you never know what you're going to find!

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Reflecting on the 2026 NZPCN Plant Conservation Awards

Joanna Smith (joannak.smith@outlook.com)

As this was my first year coordinating the NZPCN Plant Conservation Awards, it was a privilege to gain a deeper appreciation of the breadth and diversity of conservation work happening across the motu.

The awards provide an opportunity to shine a light on some of the remarkable individuals, groups and organisations dedicated to protecting and restoring our indigenous flora. Much of this work happens quietly behind the scenes, often without recognition. To see these people and organisations nominated by their own communities speaks volumes about the value and appreciation of their contributions.

NZPCN President Alex Fergus summed this up well: “The challenges facing native plant conservation in New Zealand are significant. Echoing the theme of our recent conference, it is only through collaboration that we can begin to meet those challenges.”

This year's award recipients certainly reflect that sentiment, demonstrating what can be achieved through dedication, the sharing of knowledge and collaboration.

I'd like to extend my congratulations to all five of our 2026 award recipients and thank those who took the time to submit nominations and recognise the efforts of others.

2026 NZPCN Plant Conservation Award Recipients

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Jeremy Rolfe
- **Individual Award:** Yvette Ridley – Queenstown Lakes District Council
- **Plant Nursery Award:** Tawapou Nursery – Guy and Sandra Bowden
- **Local Authority Award:** Otago Regional Council – Scott Jarvie
- **Community Award:** Whakatipu Reforestation Trust



Figure 1: Otago Awards Recipients—from left Alex Fergus (NZPCN President), Yvette Ridley, Sararose Brown, Neill Simpson, Scott Jarvie and Jo Smith (NZPCN Awards Convenor).



Figure 2: Plant Nursery Award winners – Tawapou Nursery – From left Alex Fergus (NZPCN President), Sandra Bowden, Guy Bowden and Jo Smith (NZPCN Awards Convenor).



Figure 3: Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Jeremy Rolfe, with outgoing NZPCN President Jesse Bythell.

Although the awards are over for now, I hope everyone continues feeling inspired. With our next conference on the horizon (October 2027 in Blenheim), it's a good reminder to start thinking about the individuals, groups and organisations making outstanding contributions to native plant conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand who deserve recognition.

Our award categories include Individual, School, Local Authority, Community, Plant Nursery, Young Plant Conservationist and Lifetime Achievement. So, keep an eye out for those deserving of recognition, and consider putting their names forward when nominations next open!

NZPCN 2026 AGM

The 2026 NZPCN AGM was held in Wellington during the conference lunch break on Wednesday 14 October. All current council members stood for re-election and no other nominations were received. After three years in the role Jesse Bythell chose not to stand again for the role of President and Alex Fergus was duly elected to that position. Megan Ireland was elected to the role of secretary and Bill Campbell again elected to the role of Treasurer. Other elected council members are Jesse Bythell, Hamish Carson, Taylor Davies-Colley, Marley Ford, Joanna Smith and Matt Ward.

Members can access the President's report here (you will be prompted to log into the website): <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/publications/documents/2026-presidents-report/>

Nature's odd couples – Audrey Austin, Youth Trustee for the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust, puts the spotlight on the inter-species relationships holding together some of the Whakatipu's trickiest ecosystems

(Reproduced with permission)

Matagouri and nitrogen-fixing bacteria

Matagouri are dense, spike-covered bushes common around our region, particularly in barren, sub-alpine environments or riverbeds. They are covered with thick spikes and small leaves with beautiful white mini-flowers appearing in spring. Have you ever gazed over the golden schist-covered hills of central Otago and noticed patches of matagouri clinging to the barren landscape? The story of their survival in some of the driest ecosystems in Aotearoa is much more complex than the cling-and-hope strategy they might seem to be deploying.

Matagouri have evolved smaller leaves to conserve water evaporation during times of drought. On the other hand, this reduces their ability to photosynthesise and produce energy, contributing to the slow-growing nature we know today. In these conditions, other resources, like nitrogen, become incredibly important to maximise the small amount of energy they have. Nitrogen is essential for plant growth, forming a key part of chlorophyll—needed for photosynthesis—as well as the proteins plants rely on to grow and function. Historically, Aotearoa’s soils are relatively nitrogen-poor which means colonising plants like matagouri have to extract it from the air.



A baby jewelled gecko in matagouri, Central Otago. Can you spot it? Photo: Samuel Purdie.

Unfortunately there are few enzymes (proteins that help break or build chemicals) that can break down nitrogen gas into forms they need like ammonium. Usually, these enzymes are only found in bacteria, fungi and algae so matagouri have evolved a symbiotic relationship with a group of bacteria called *Frankia*. By using an enzyme called nitrogenase, *Frankia* is capable of breaking down nitrogen gas into more useful ammonium molecules. Because nitrogenase breaks down in the presence of oxygen, *Frankia* uses precious resources to create specialised structures called vesicles which shield the nitrogenase so it can keep producing ammonium. In return, matagouri supplies the bacteria with glucose so it can produce sufficient energy to grow and repair. Matagouri also create nodules around their roots which create the perfect oxygen-poor environment for these bacteria to thrive.

Matagouri and *Frankia* bacteria don’t just benefit each other, but they also create a nitrogen-rich micro-ecosystem where other plants can begin to thrive. Next time you see matagouri around our district or at a Whakatipu Reforestation Trust community plant day, take a moment to appreciate the intricate multi-species relationship that creates a better environment for the whole ecosystem.

Oecophoridae* (concealer moths) and *Dracophyllum*, *Veronica*, *Acaena* and *Wahlenbergia

Moths are one of our most under-studied groups of organisms in New Zealand and yet they play a pivotal role in our ecosystem. A study centred in the Cardrona area revealed a family of moths, *Oecophoridae* or concealer moths, may play a larger role as a pollinator in alpine ecosystems than we previously thought. Named for the leaf-litter shelters their larvae build to conceal themselves,

Oecophoridae are a global family of moths. Of the roughly 200–250 species that live in New Zealand, the large majority of these are found nowhere else in the world. They range in colour from drab, white-grey to bright green with intricate patterns.



Atomotricha chloronota. Photo: Samuel Purdie.

The study, concentrating on Mt Cardrona, used pollen samples from moth individuals to identify the plants they were visiting. This highlighted that concealer moths were pollinating four main native plant genera including *Dracophyllum*, *Acaena*, *Veronica* and *Wahlenbergia*. This highlighted the importance of our moth populations in our alpine environments where more ‘typical’ pollinators like birds and honeybees, struggle in the hard climate. To do this, concealer moths have evolved symbiotic relationships with these plant species over thousands of years. Moths find flowers by scent and subtle visual cues so many species in the genera mentioned above have evolved white flowers to better reflect light. As the moths drink the flower’s high-energy nectar through a long, straw-like proboscis, pollen catches on hair around their body and is transferred to the next plant it visits. This pollinates the flowers and allows them to reproduce while the moths are supplied with energy-rich food to help them survive in the harsh alpine environment.

In this study, a greater portion of moths carried pollen at higher alpine sites suggesting most become more important as pollinators the higher up you go. In the lowlands of Aotearoa, birds and bees are some of the most obvious pollinators there are. This behaviour has yet to be described in concealer moths overseas, suggesting our species may have evolved unique mutualistic relationships with our plant species after centuries of isolation.

At our Whakatipu Reforestation Trust nursery, we grow *Hebe* (*Veronica*) *cupressoides*, *H. hectorii*, *H. odora*, *H. propinqua*, *H. rakaiensis* and *H. salicifolia*. Although these moths are not the primary pollinators at our lowland planting sites, growing these native species helps preserve the vital plant life that sustains Aotearoa’s unique alpine ecosystems.



The porcupine shrub and lizards

Amongst the ramble of *Olearia* and *Coprosma* sp. in WRT's community planting sites, you may have noticed a drab, grey shrub perhaps resembling nature's version of a pin-cushion. This peculiar grey-land shrub is a *Melicytus alpinus*, also known—quite rightly—as porcupine shrub. Its Latin name is slightly misleading as it's actually found around 2000 metres above sea level, right down to the coast in open landscapes, but its common name encapsulates it perfectly. The dense shrub is packed with thick speckled branches and little 1cm-long leaves usually condensed into a rounded pin-cushion shape squeezed into rock crevices. Like many other plants around Aotearoa, it evolved complex inter-species relationships to survive in their sometimes-harsh environments.

The clue is in their beautiful flowers and fruit. The flowers are inconspicuous, cream-yellow coloured blooms which grow over spring and develop into little, purple-patched berries throughout the summer. To protect these precious gems from the rain and wind on 1200 metre slopes, they only grow on the underside of the stems, along with its leaves, leaving the outer wind-breaking branches to bear the force of the south-western gale. Otherwise, its flowers would simply be blown off the plant before it had even finished growing. Not only does it help them resist the elements, it also avoided herbivory when our large mega-fauna like moa still roamed the landscape.

So, if a porcupine shrub tucks its berries deep inside a tangle of branches, how on earth does its seed spread anywhere? In lowland forests, many plants use bright berries to lure birds who then drop the seeds elsewhere wrapped in a nutrient-rich package of fertiliser. In the high alpine however, it's the lizards that play this same role. Native and endemic skinks and geckos seek refuge in the sheltered core of the porcupine shrub, where the white and purple spotted berries are very attractive to their lizard-eyes. They gobble up the juicy fruit and when they leave to find another place to hide, they deposit the seed in a ready-made nutrient package. Passing through the lizard's digestive system increases the chance of germination as well as providing a kick start in sometimes very harsh conditions. All the while, our lizards benefit from the energy rich berries and shelter these plants give them.



Using these clever techniques, the porcupine shrub can propagate in harsh environments. Occasionally, on a summer's day you might see a skink hiding away in a porcupine shrub at our Whakatipu Reforestation Trust, Whitechapel site. Take a moment to appreciate the intricate multi-species relationship that creates a better environment for the whole ecosystem.

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.

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 4 November at 7.30pm. **Speaker:** Sarah Wells. **Topic:** *Pimelea eremitica*.

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

Field Trip: Saturday 21 November to Kepa Bush and AUT living labs (Second site to be confirmed).

Leader: Max Corlett.

Waikato Botanical Society

Field Trip: Saturday 28 November to Kinloch (Combined with Rotorua Botanical Society). **Meet:** Rotorua carpark at 8.00am (phone for car-pooling) or at Kinloch near the marina by 9.00am. **Grade:** Medium.

Leader: Chris Bycroft, email chris.bycroft@wildlands.co.nz, ph. 021 394 096.

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field Trip: Friday 27 November to Arawa Park Racecourse, Rotorua, for annual red-bearded orchid survey. **Meet:** Arawa Park Racecourse beside grandstand just before 9.00am. **Grade:** Easy.

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

Field Trip: Saturday 28 November to Kinloch (Combined with Waikato Botanical Society). **Meet:** Rotorua carpark at 8.00am (phone for car-pooling) or at Kinloch near the marina by 9.00am. **Grade:** Medium.

Leader: Chris Bycroft, email bycroft@wildlands.co.nz, ph. 021 394 096.

Wellington Botanical Society

Field Trip: Saturday 7 November to Druce Garden, Pinehaven.

Leader: Eleanor Burton trogs@duck.com, or phone 0210588324

Meeting: Monday 16 November at 7.30pm. **Speaker:** Jane Gosden. **Topic:** Kettle hole tarns.

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 11 November at 5.20pm. **Speaker:** Peter Johnson. **Topic:** Water Words: a plant perspective. **Contact:** Gretchen Brownstein, ph. 021 065 8497.

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 14 November to McNallys Track, Milton. **Meet:** Botany Department carpark at 9.00am.

Contact: Gretchen Brownstein, ph. 021 065 8497.