



TRILEPIDEA

Newsletter of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

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Deadline for next issue:
Monday 20 May 2019

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 events@nzpcn.org.nz

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NEW ZEALAND

PLANT OF THE MONTH, p. 2



Ewartiothamnus sinclairii.
Photo: Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

We invite you to register for the 2019 Australasian Systematic Botany Society and New Zealand Plant Conservation Network joint conference to be held at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand in the last week of November.

Start planning now! Spaces in workshops and field trips are limited, so register early to get your top choices.

Check out the recently updated conference website to get all the important details about conference dates, venue, accommodation, programme, keynote speakers, field trips, workshops, silent auction, and more!

The conference theme, 'Taxonomy for Plant Conservation – Ruia mai i Rangiātea' aims to capitalise on the vast expertise of our two societies. There will be multiple upskilling workshops, three days of symposia, and a chance to explore Wellington's forests and rugged coastlines on our five different full-day field trips.

Feel free to contact the organising committee by email if you have any queries: plants2019nz@gmail.com, otherwise go to the conference website (<https://systematics.ourplants.org/>) to keep up to date with developments, or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for announcements.

We look forward to seeing you in Wellington in November!

Ngā mihi nui

Nā Rewi, Heidi and the Organising Committee

Thank you to our sponsors!

We would like to thank our sponsors that are showing their commitment to plant conservation networking by supporting our conference.

If you or your organisation is in a position to show your support please contact us for a sponsorship package today at info@nzpcn.org.nz



PLANT OF THE MONTH – *EWARTIOTHAMNUS SINCLAIRII*



Ewartiothamnus sinclairii. (A) Plant at Bluff River, Inland Kaikoura Range, 29 March 2019. (B) Flowers at Bluff River, Inland Kaikoura Range, 29 March 2019. (C) Foliage at Gore Stream, Seaward Kaikoura Range, 28 March 2019. Photos: Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls.

The plant of the month for April is *Ewartiothamnus sinclairii*, the only species in this monotypic genus, endemic to the Marlborough region. The species is only found in the Awatere and Clarence River catchments, where it inhabits open, semi-shaded rocky or bluffy areas, mainly in the montane and sub-alpine zones. It is a small sprawling sub-shrub, of steep valley sides and in gorges, generally seen as small clumped bushes, but sometimes trailing over rocky banks. The plants are a distinctive grey colour due to the leaves having a dense covering of white hairs on all sides. The white to pale yellow flowers are fairly small and bourn in large clusters at the tips of the branches. They are quite dry and papery, similar to those of species in the genus *Anaphalioides*.

The species is very distinctive, due to the dense covering of hairs on its leaves, and it's very restricted distribution. It could possibly be confused with Jersey Cudweed, *Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum*, which is somewhat similar looking and inhabits the same areas, but this species is much smaller without the woody stems seen in *Ewartiothamnus*. The flowers of *Ewartiothamnus* are also far more papery.

The species (and genus) is endemic to New Zealand and is currently listed as At Risk- Naturally Uncommon, as it has a restricted distribution, and is scattered within this area. It is possibly threatened by ungulate browse, mainly goats, and by mass land erosion, due to the unstable nature of its preferred habitat. The recent Kaikoura earthquakes have caused extensive mass land subsidence across most of this species range, especially in the mid-Clarence Valley, which is likely to have destroyed a reasonable portion of the population, but will also have opened up a lot of new habitat that may be able to be colonised by the species in the future.

The genus *Ewartiothamnus* is the named after famous Australian botanist Alfred James Ewart, who in the early 1900's wrote many books on the plants of Victoria, Australia. 'Thamnus' means shrub in greek, so *Ewartiothamnus* is 'Ewart's shrub'. The species is named after Dr Andrew Sinclair, an 18th century naval surgeon, naturalist, and secretary to New Zealand governor George Gray. Mr Sinclair died while trying to cross the Rangitata River in Canterbury in 1861.

You can view the NZPCN website factsheet for *Ewartiothamnus sinclairii* at: www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?!D=490

Native orchids of Lake Ohia Scientific Reserve

Bill Campbell (Revised 28 April 2019)

In 1993 Brian Molloy authored a publication titled “Management of Native Orchids, Lake Ohia, Northland”.

This article, some 25 plus years later, updates my 2013 report in the NZ Native Orchid Journal (Campbell 2013) which built on the information contained within Molloy’s (1993) publication. Here, I provide details on the current status of native orchids found in the Lake Ohia Scientific Reserve.

Lake Ohia Scientific Reserve covers an area of at least 1,263 hectares and consists of low scrub covered gumland hills to 70 metres a.s.l., with the Lake Ohia basin itself being a gumland clay pan, exposed ancient Kauri forest, rush and sedge peat wetlands and an area of open water. In places the reserve extends from the shores of Tokerau Beach to the estuarine habitat of the Rangaunu Harbour.

The main access points are off Lake Ohia Road (exposed ancient Kauri forest), Inland Road, and Tahanga (Tohanga) Road. Several paper roads and other unsealed tracks lead off these roads, providing relatively easy access to a large part of the reserve.

I have regularly visited different areas of the reserve since June 2007, sometimes in the company of local botanist Kevin Matthews, and have photographed and recorded orchid entities (not all are formally described or recognised taxa) present. It is noted that some species for which suitable habitat exists, other than those listed by Molloy, have not been observed yet. This may be due simply to the right areas not being visited at the right time, rather than indicating that they are not present at all.

For the purpose of this article, the current status within Lake Ohia Scientific Reserve of the orchid entities present is recorded as rare (r), uncommon (u), common (c) or abundant (a), with distribution noted as localised (l) or widespread (w). Entities reported as being present in the 1993 publication are indicated with an asterisk *. The full list of recorded entities follows.

Acianthus sinclairii (u) (l) two small colonies known near Inland Road.

**Caladenia alata* (c) (w)

Caladenia bartlettii (u) (l) One colony and scattered plants observed.

**Caladenia* “green column” Not observed.

**Caladenia minor* Not observed.

**Calochilus herbaceus* (r) (l) Three distinct colonies and scattered individual plants observed, consisting of <50 plants in total.

Chiloglottis cornuta (u) (l) One colony observed east of Inland Road.

Corybas cheesemanii (u) (l) One colony observed east of Inland Road.

Corybas oblongus (u) (l) <200 plants known from a couple of sites.

Corybas “late pale” (r) (l) One colony observed. This entity is now believed to be nothing more than a colour variation of *C. rotundifolius*.

Corybas rotundifolius (c) (w) particularly east of Tahanga Road.

**Cryptostylis subulata* (a) (w) In Lake Ohia basin and extending its range yearly.



Calochilus herbaceus 12/10/18



Corybas rotundifolius 16/07/17



Cryptostylis subulata 12/12/18

Cyrtostylis oblonga (r) (l) One small colony observed east of Inland Road.

Earina mucronata (r) (l) One terrestrial plant observed. No longer known at site.

**Genoplesium pumilum* (u) (w).

Microtis arenaria (u) (w) Scattered plants observed in the Tahanga Road area.

**Microtis parviflora* (u) (w)

**Microtis unifolia* (c) (w)

**Prasophyllum colensoi* (u) (l) Almost certain to be *P.* “Tohanga”, the not yet formally described distinct northern form of *P. colensoi*.

**Prasophyllum hectorii* (r) (l) One colony of <100 plants located by the author in 2012. Now believed to be the only colony of this species known north of Auckland.

Prasophyllum “Tohanga” (r) (l) Undescribed entity in the *P. colensoi* aggregate, known from a number of widely scattered plants in several locations.

Pterostylis puberula (r) (l) One colony of several hundred plants known. The number of plants in the colony has reduced significantly since it was first located by Kevin Matthews.

Pterostylis tasmanica (r) (l) One small colony known. This colony has reduced to less than a handful of flowering plants over the past few years.

Pterostylis trullifolia (a) (w)

**Spiranthes* “Motutangi” (u) (l) Reasonable numbers present, but only on the north-western side of the Lake Ohia basin. A recent scientific paper has placed all known New Zealand *Spiranthes* entities under *S. australis*.

**Thelymitra aemula* (u) (w)

**Thelymitra* “Ahipara” (r) (l) This taxon was first observed in 2012 and a small natural colony is known to persist. First observed flowering in 2016.

**Thelymitra carnea* (c) (w) Both colour forms present.

Thelymitra colensoi (u) (l) Known only from east of Inland Road.

Thelymitra cyanea (r) (l) A few plants, first observed in 2012 and known from east of Inland Road (one plant) and the north-west area of the Lake Ohia basin.

**Thelymitra* “darkie” (u) (w)

Thelymitra longifolia (r) (l)

**Thelymitra* aff. *longifolia* (u) ((l)

**Thelymitra malvina* (u) (l) Restricted to area where ancient kauri logs are exposed.



Prasophyllum hectorii 12/12/18



Pterostylis puberula 11/10/15



Pterostylis tasmanica 25/09/08



Thelymitra “Ahipara” 23/11/16

**Thelymitra pauciflora* (u) (w)

**Thelymitra pulchella* (a) (w)

**Thelymitra* “rough leaf” (c) (w)

20 entities were recorded in the 1993 report and that number has increased to 36 as the result of subsequent observations.

It is anticipated that other entities will be located as time goes on. A species expected to be present but not yet observed by the author is *Caladenia chlorostyla* (possibly the *Caladenia* “green column” listed as present in the Molloy publication). Other members of the *Caladenia* genus may yet

be turned up, as may *Corybas cryptanthus* and possibly one or more other *Corybas* entities, along with other vagrants and rarely encountered entities.



Thelymitra “darkie” 22/10/18



Thelymitra malvina 05/10/18

References

Campbell, W. 2013: Native orchids of Lake Ohia Scientific Reserve. *New Zealand Native Orchid Journal* 129: 13–14.

Molloy, B. 1993: Management of native orchids. Lake Ohia, Northland. *Conservation Advisory Science Notes* 11. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 11 p.

ASBS-NZPCN 2019 Conference in Wellington: Updates

Planning and organising for the 2019 conference are now in full swing! Registrations are now open, as per the front page article. Following up from our presentation at the 2018 ASBS Conference in Brisbane (which was then published as an article in the [Dec 2018 ASBS Newsletter](#)), we’ve got a few updates to share with you regarding the 2019 conference.

2019 Conference at a glance

- Conference title: “Taxonomy for Plant Conservation – Ruia mai i Rangiaitea”
- This is a joint conference of ASBS and the [New Zealand Plant Conservation Network](#)
- Our venue is the [Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa](#), Wellington, New Zealand
- Dates: 24–28 November 2019
- Overview: 5 full days including presentations, workshops, field trips, and public events.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)
- Get more details and subscribe to updates on the [conference website](#)
- Please support our [sponsors](#)!

Important dates to diary

- From now: If you are planning to collect plants in New Zealand during your stay, make sure you get your permit applications in soon. See [our website](#) for more details.
- From now: Source some items for our silent auction (see related article in this newsletter).
- Early April 2019: The conference website will be fully updated with registration costs, field trip and workshop options, and other important information to help you plan. Get helpful information now on [transport and accommodation options](#) from our website—if you know you are coming, book accommodation now.
- 23 April 2019: Early-bird registration (with reduced registration fees) will be officially open!
- 23 August 2019: Abstracts are due. Early-bird registration closes. Standard fees will apply from this date.
- 24–28 November: The conference is on!

- Various dates from Oct-Dec 2019: A number of other conferences and events of potential interest to conference attendees are happening in Wellington and elsewhere in New Zealand around the same time as our conference. For those planning to come to the conference, why not stay a bit longer in New Zealand to take advantage of these other opportunities? Check out the latest list on [the conference website](#).

Confirmed workshops

We will be offering seven half-day or full-day pre-conference workshops on Sunday 24 November. Please note: all workshops will need to have a minimum number of participants to go ahead, and spots will be limited, so register early to make sure you don't miss out on your first choice. For more information on these workshops, please check the conference website regularly from early April.

Workshop #1: Wikipedia Edit-a-thon on Australasian endangered plant species

An Edit-a-thon is an all-day attempt to improve Wikipedia's coverage of a particular topic. Led by experienced Wikipedia editors [Mike Dickison](#) and [Siobhan Leachman](#), participants will learn how to edit pages, correct mistakes, add references, and upload photos. Complete beginners are welcome; training and troubleshooting is provided. This edit-a-thon will focus on adding content on **New Zealand and Australian endangered plant species** to Wikipedia. Our goal for this full-day workshop is to collectively improve the representation of Australasian endangered plants in Wikipedia.

Workshops #2 & #3: Botanising with iNaturalist – workshops for beginners and advanced users

[iNaturalist](#) is the world's biggest online community dedicated to recording all species. Being a botanist in the iNaturalist community is both great fun and useful; we connect people to nature and grow both botanical knowledge and future botanists. There will be two half-day iNaturalist workshop options, a morning workshop for beginners, and an afternoon workshop for advanced users. You may sign up for one or both! The morning workshop will give you an introduction, starting from scratch and get you up to speed as both an observer and an identifier on iNat. The afternoon workshop will focus on how to take your iNat use to the next level, including bulk operations, curating the iNaturalist species tree and nomenclature, managing projects, dealing with threatened species, and other advanced functions. Both workshops will be led by [Jon Sullivan](#), who is the site admin of [iNaturalist NZ–Mātaki Taiao](#) and a trustee on the charitable trust that operates iNaturalist NZ. His day job is an ecology lecturer at Lincoln University.

Workshops #4 & #5: Plant identification workshops

[Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve](#) is the only public botanic garden in New Zealand dedicated solely to native plants. It is also home to the largest forest remnant in Wellington City. Come along and experience this national treasure as we host two half-day workshops running morning and afternoon on the day. These workshops will give participants the opportunity to look closely at New Zealand ferns in the field and under the microscope with the Te Papa Botany team (WELT), and to do some field botanising in the forest with the [Wellington Botanical Society](#). There will be guided walks telling the story of the forest, gardens, and the unique New Zealand flora. Botanists from Landcare Research and the Department of Conservation will also be helping out on the day. It will be a fantastic day for beginners and experts alike!

Workshop #6: Basics of Illustration

Simple drawings are a very effective form of scientific communication: after all, a picture is said to be worth a thousand words! Photographs do not always provide a suitable visual aid. This workshop is meant for those who would like to produce simple illustrations, but think they cannot draw or don't know how to get started. We will work with photographs to create illustration-quality line drawings. You will learn some basic drawing techniques using pens. Composition, scale and preparation for digitisation will be discussed. By the end of the workshop, you should have some line drawings that you can be proud of and would not hesitate to include in your publications, laboratory manuals or teaching resources. The main goal of this workshop is for participants to create simple line drawings as an alternative to photographs so as to improve communication of scientific observations.

Workshop #7: Science Communication Skills

Confirmed field trips

Field trip organisers: Anita Benbrook and Tim Park

We can now confirm we will have a total of five different, full-day field trips on offer for Wednesday 27 November. Please note: all field trips will need to have a minimum number of participants to go ahead, and spots will be limited, so register early to make sure you don't miss out on your first choice. For more information on these and other field trips, please check the conference website regularly from early April.

1. Old-growth forests of Wainuiomata and Remutaka (travel by bus; good fitness required)
2. Coasts, freshwater lake and lowland beech forest across the harbour (travel by bus; good fitness required)
3. Rugged south Wellington coast & ecological restoration (travel via 4WD vehicles on rough terrain)
4. Matiu/Somes Island plants and wildlife (travel via ferry; easy walking)
5. Otari-Wilton's Bush, Te Papa herbarium and Bush City (travel via bus; easy and accessible to all).

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us (plants2019nz@gmail.com) with any queries or ideas you have. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in November in Wellington!

Heidi Meudt & Rewi Elliot – 2019 ASBS-NZPCN joint conference co-organisers

2019 ASBS-NZPCN Conference Charity Auction: Items required! Can you help?

Matt Ward, NZPCN Secretary – mattwardward@gmail.com

I am happy to announce we will be having a charity auction at the 2019 New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (NZPCN) and Australasian Systematic Botany Society (ASBS) "Taxonomy for Plant Conservation – Ruia mai i Rangiātea" joint conference running this November in Wellington, New Zealand. The charity auction is a fundraiser that the NZPCN has carried out successfully at our conferences since 2013. The funds raised from the auction will be split 50/50 between our two societies and used to bolster the allocated research funds of each society. The NZPCN will split its share of the funds raised between the 'David Given Scholarship' and the 'John Sawyer Plant Conservation Fund' [http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/page.aspx?nzpcn_awards].

The ASBS will use the funds raised to bolster its Scientific Research Awards, which currently include the 'Hansjörg Eichler Scientific Research Fund' and the 'Marlies Eichler Postdoctoral Fellowship' [<http://www.asbs.org.au/asbs/research-funds/index.html>].

The auction will be silent, allowing some level of mystery as to whom you may be bidding against when you wish to win a must-have item. Each conference attendee will be given a number in their conference pack for use when bidding. Bidding will simply involve adding your number and the dollar value you wish to bid on a sheet next to the item, which will be on display at the conference. It's a fun and exciting way to support your societies! Depending on the number of items up for grabs, the conclusion of each auction may occur in a staggered fashion to prevent any conclusion confusion. More running details will be established closer to the date.

To make the auction a success, we rely on worthy donations from individuals, businesses, institutions and agencies. This is where you can help! If you can donate an item, or have a suggestion for a donation, please let me know. Items which garner substantial interest include artwork, experience vouchers, books, outdoor gear, handmade uniqueness, etc. You can see what was on offer at our 2015 conference here:

[http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/page.aspx?nzpcn_events_conference_2015_auction]. Te Papa Press has kicked things off by kindly donating three fantastic NZ-themed hard back books.

There is an excellent chance of the silent auction having extra-interesting items this year with the trans-Tasman tie-in, so let's make the auction a ripper and raise as much as possible for our societies' worthy funds. Please contact me on the above e-mail address with any queries or to make your donation!

Revision of “Above the Treeline: a nature guide to alpine New Zealand.”

My co-authored book: “Above the Treeline: A nature guide to alpine New Zealand” is now out of print and the publishers, Pottan & Burton, have decided to republish it in a revised and slightly enlarged version, with somewhat more space allocated to the images.

This provides an opportunity to have more of the plants illustrated and also to improve some images where possible. Accordingly, I invite anyone who wishes to contribute images to contact me for further details at: alan.mark@otago.ac.nz.

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have events or news that you would like publicised via this newsletter please email the Network (events@nzpcn.org.nz).

Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ)

9th Congress: Te Papa (Wellington). 20–23 October 2019.

Plants from the past – Plants for the future.

This conference will explore the role of Botanic Gardens in science communication & story-telling, plant conservation, managing collections and displaying plants. Join us or submit an abstract to contribute your ideas. Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) is the peak body representing all botanic gardens in Australia and New Zealand. BGANZ promotes the interests and activities of all Australian and New Zealand botanic gardens through its 140 member gardens, enhancing the state of botanic gardens internationally. The 9th BGANZ Congress will be attended by over 20 Directors, General Managers and Presidents of botanic gardens from Australia and New Zealand. More than 50 botanic gardens are expected to attend.

Information:

www.confer.nz/bganz2019/

Auckland Botanical Society

Meeting: Wednesday 1 May at 7.30 pm – Speaker Dr Craig Bishop. **Topic:** A proposed Duneland Monitoring Framework for the Auckland Region.

Field Trip: Saturday 18 May to Hosking Reserve, Lucas Heights. **Meet:** 10.00am at 469 Dairy Flat Highway. Parking is limited, so carpooling is recommended.

Leader: Richard Hursthouse, email richard.hursthouse@gmail.com or ph. 021 216 1296.

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field Trip: Sunday 12 May to Utahina and Mangakakahi Walkways, Rotorua City. **Meet:** 9.00 am at the Convention Centre carpark, Fenton Street, Rotorua. **Grade:** Easy.

Leader: Chris Bycroft, email: chris.bycroft@wildlands.co.nz or ph. 07 345 3840.

Whanganui Museum Botanical Group

Meeting: Tuesday 21 May at 7.30 pm – Speaker Dr Philip Simpson. **Topic:** Totara and the writing of his book ‘Totara, a natural and cultural history’.

Field Trip: Sunday 12 May at 2.00pm to 42 Stafford Street, Springvale. **Bring:** Pencil and paper. Afternoon tea provided.

Leader: Margi Keys, email: margikeys93@gmail.com or ph. 06 344 1250.

Wellington Botanical Society

Meeting: Monday 20 May at 7.30 pm for a members' share evening. Val Smith will launch the second volume of her book 'Common Ground: who's who of botanical names'.

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

Field Trip: Saturday 4 May to Rallywoods, Akatarawa Forest.
Meet: 9.30 am at the SH2/SH58 Haywards interchange on the Hutt motorway to carpool from there.

Leader: Lara Shepherd, email: lara.shepherd@tepapa.govt.nz or ph. 027 363 5854.

Nelson Botanical Society

Meeting: Monday 20 May at 7.30 pm – Speaker Geoff Ridley.
Topic: The Fascination of Fungi.

Venue: Jaycees Room, Founders Park.

Field Trip: Sunday 19 May – Fungal foray at Red Hills. **Meet:** 9.00am at Cathedral steps.

Leader: Andrew MacDonald, email: andy@nzandy.com. Please contact Andrew in advance if you intend to participate.

Canterbury Botanical Society

Meeting: Monday 6 May at 7.30pm – Speaker Lily Brailsford.
Topic: Evidence for genetic decline within Afromontane forest fragments on the Mambilla Plateau, Nigeria.

Venue: Upper Riccarton Library, 71 Main South Road.

Field Trip: Saturday 11 May to the Tors farm, hosted by John and Sue Stevens. **Meet:** 9.00 am in Malcolm Avenue on the corner opposite the Z petrol station, 23 Colombo Street, Thorrington.
Grade: Medium to more difficult. **Bring:** Lunch and something to drink, warm jacket, raincoat and walking boots.

Leader: Alice, email alice@caverock.net.nz or ph. 027 366 1246.

Botanical Society of Otago

Meeting: Wednesday 8 May at 5.20 pm for the AGM and photographic competition.

Venue: Room 215, 2nd Floor, Zoology Benham Building, 346 Great King Street.

Field Trip: Saturday 25 May – Fungal foray to Knights Bush. **Meet:** 8.30am at the Botany Department carpark to carpool. **Bring:** Footwear with good grip for steep slopes.

Contact: Allison Knight, ph. 027 487 8265.
