



TRILEPIDEA

Newsletter of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

No. 228

April 2023

Deadline for next issue:
Friday 19 May 2023

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:

PO Box 147
Mangonui 0442
NEW ZEALAND

PLANT OF THE MONTH, p. 2



Pittosporum pimeleoides subsp. *pimeleoides*. Photo: Bill Campbell.

Spaghetti and apple—an intriguing combination

Bill Campbell (billcampbell@xtra.co.nz)

On Thursday 20 April Marley Ford and I visited one of the two sites where *Taeniophyllum northlandicum* is known to grow in New Zealand. We wanted to establish whether this orchid is still surviving at the site and also to give Marley the opportunity to view and photograph this diminutive, but nevertheless appealing, epiphytic orchid species for the first time. The species has been landed with the rather unimaginative, and decidedly unappealing, vernacular name of New Zealand spaghetti orchid, presumably on account of its root structure.

I had been to the site previously, when the orchid was first discovered growing there in December 2021 by the property owner (see the March 2022 issue of *Trilepidea* for a detailed account www.nzpcn.org.nz/site/assets/files/0/69/990/trilepidea_march_2022_final.pdf), so I had a fair idea of what we were looking for and where to find it. Although not in flower or seed at this time of the year, it didn't take too long to find plants on one of the original host feijoa (*Feijoa sellowiana*). Photographs were duly taken by Marley before moving on to search for more plants. Marley's sharp eyes soon spotted a couple of plants growing on a neighbouring apple (*Malus domestica*) (Fig. 1), which is a new host for the species. That discovery encouraged us to examine all the fruit trees in the orchard but, apart from several plants on another of the original host feijoas, no further plants were observed in that area.



Figure 1. *Taeniophyllum northlandicum* on apple, Peria, Northland, 20 April 2023. Photo: Marley Ford.

We then proceeded to make our way to a solitary southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) just outside the orchard, where the property owner had observed *T. northlandicum* in 2021. It took a while but Marley eventually located two plants growing amongst moss on the trunk. One of these plants was no longer attached to the tree, so its future is uncertain.

At least 11 individual plants were seen, on three different host species, over the course of approximately 45 minutes. Further detailed searching, particularly when the plants are in fruit and therefore more easily seen, is likely to reveal more. All of the plants observed, with the exception of the detached individual, appeared to be healthy and thriving. Accordingly, this population appears to be stable and not under any immediate threat.

The property owner is very co-operative and it is hoped that a far more extensive survey can be carried out late this year to determine the true extent of this population and whether any plants are being hosted on native tree species. It is most definitely an enigma that a species described as an endemic has thus far only been observed growing on gorse, feijoa, southern magnolia and apple in this country.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *PITTIOSPORUM PIMELEOIDES* SUBSP. *PIMELEOIDES*

Bill Campbell (billcampbell@xtra.co.nz)

The plant of the month for April is *Pittosporum pimeleoides* subsp. *pimeleoides*. The species is endemic with a limited distribution, only being found from Karikari Peninsula south to about Whangarei in the east and south to Waipoua Forest in the west.

Pittosporum pimeleoides subsp. *pimeleoides*. is usually associated with kauri forest, although it can be encountered also in coastal forest and gumland scrub. Where it is present there are often numerous plants in the locality.

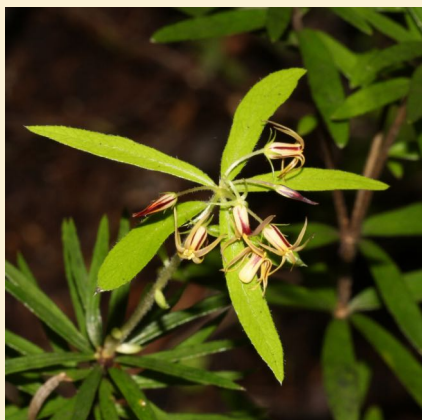
The plant has a variety of growth habits and may be erect, semi-erect or sprawling across the ground. It is usually a much-branched shrub, growing up to 2.5 metres in height. It is very attractive when in flower, with its many yellow, red-striped flowers. Occasionally plants are seen with plain yellow or cream flowers. It has a wide variety of leaf forms and is easily overlooked amongst other vegetation.

The only taxa with which it may be confused is subsp. *majus* but that is a plant restricted to the ultramafic scrub of North Cape. Some plants, particularly those with a sprawling growth habit and particularly broad leaves, growing near Whangaroa Harbour have been mistaken for subsp. *majus* in the past.

Pittosporum pimeleoides subsp. *pimeleoides* has a current threat ranking of At Risk – Naturally Uncommon. Most known populations appear to be secure, with fire being the biggest threat, but populations have been lost in the past due to land development, particularly for coastal settlement.

The genus name *Pittosporum* means 'pitch seed', referring to the sticky substance surrounding the seeds. The species epithet *pimeleoides* means 'resembling a pimelea'.

You can view the NZPCN website factsheet for *Pittosporum pimeleoides* subsp. *pimeleoides* at <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pittosporum-pimeleoides-subsp-pimeleoides/>.



Above from left to right:
Flowers, Te Kuihi, Taipa, 12 June 2016.
Plants, near Whangaroa Harbour, 8 October 2007.
Unstriped flower form, Whangaroa Harbour, 20 July 2013.
Left: Large-leaved form with fruit, Whangaroa Harbour, 3 October 2007.
Photos: Bill Campbell.

From the Field – Rēkohu Treasures

Matt Ward, NZPCN Council Member (mattward@gmail.com)

Before I start, I should say this article will use Moriori words for plant names and terms, to acknowledge the waina pono of Rēkohu. Also very important, before planning a trip to Rēkohu you should consider that all the land is privately owned and therefore, apart from a couple of Department of Conservation (DOC) owned pieces, you need to get permission to explore. The Queen's chain is not a thing there.

I was recently lucky enough to be asked back again as a volunteer planter on Rēkohu, Chatham Islands. Under the guidance of our fair leaders Maui and Uana, the mission was to get as many plants in the ground as possible in five days, making sure they were planted, staked, and mulched soundly as to have a good chance of surviving. In between work times there were precious moments to squeeze in a bit of botanising and general plant salivation.

As I'm sure most of the readers will know, the Chatham Islands are home to numerous endemics and several odd versions of what we have on mainland Aotearoa/ New Zealand. The most well-known and iconic endemic would probably be the Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable kopakopa – *Myosotidium hortensia*, Chatham Island forget-me-not. Which, I might add, is not in flower at this time of the year (flowers from September – November). However, we were planting another local endemic species many may know the Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable, hakapiri – *Olearia traversiorum*, Chatham Island akeake (see Figure 1.). This species would be the main focus of our planting, as its reputation for resilience and longevity are qualities not to ignore. (There were a couple of existing populations in isolation still hanging on for dear life in the area too.) Many folks use it as a hedge on the mainland, as it also copes well with trimming and topping.



Figure 1. A remnant grove of the Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable, Hakapiri – *Olearia traversiorum*, Chatham Island akeake, which were likely more than a hundred years of age. Some of the bamboo stakes can be seen, which indicate the location of a newly planted sapling. Photo: Tim Park 2023.

The cliff top site we were planting is a secondary site, the primary site is on a flat lowland terrace near the sea. The locality of both sites is Manukau, an area Moriori have remained in possession of since their enslavement in 1836 and complete loss of rights to ownership of their whenua after a Native Land Court decision in 1870. Manukau means many birds. The concept of the project is to bring back the habitat for the Manu to return. Considering the site has been farmed continuously since 1912 (one of the last places on the island to be cleared), it's amazing there are any plants remaining other than introduced pastoral grasses.

The cliff faces and edges near where we planted were relatively rich in local endemics. The steep slope seen in Figure 2 was home to the At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, kokamuka Rēkohu – *Veronica chathamica*; At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, *Poa chathamica*; At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, horokaka Rēkohu, *Dysphyma paillatum*, Rēkohu ice plant; harapepe, *Phormium aff. tenax*; as well as *Austroblechnum durum* and *Senecio lautus*. Another cliff face site nearby showed up some incredible specimens of another stunning endemic resident, the Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable, keketererehe, *Macrolearia chathamica*; an impressive shrubby aster with leathery saw-toothed margined leaves that feels like an ancient and primitive survivor which would look at home in an alpine environment. The



Figure 2. Matt Ward in particularly slippery trousers collecting seed on a typical steep slope in Manukau, Rēkohu. Photo: Chris Logan 2023



Figure 4. Close up of remaining keketerehe flower past its best and being predated. Photo: Matt Ward 2023.

aged specimens here have gnarled trunks with remnant flowers being attacked by a local moth caterpillar, see Figures 3 & 4.

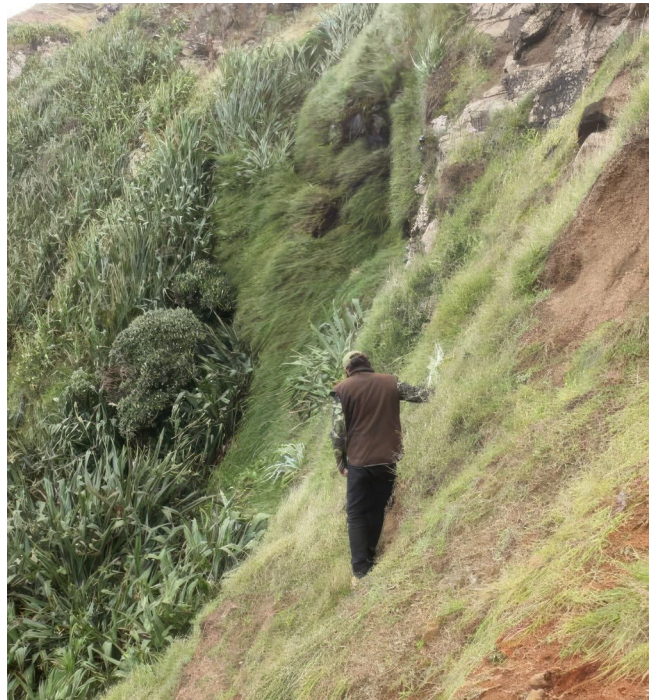


Figure 3. Tim Park heads toward a large specimen of the Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable, Keketerehe, *Macrolearia chathamica* (centre left of picture). Photo: Joe Dillon 2023.

Because this group of volunteers mostly consisted of people who work with native plants in common, and for most their first visit to Rēkohu, everyone was thrilled to meet some new and exciting green friends. Figure 5 shows five of the group inspecting an overhang with three At Risk – Naturally Uncommon species growing together: *Lobelia arenaria*, *Poa chathamica*, *Leptinella potentillina*, and *Apium prostratum* subsp. *denticulatum*, Rēkohu celery (see Figure 6).



Figure 5. From left to right, Tom Mayo, Matt Ward, Trevor Thompson, Tom Belworthy, Anita Benbrook, all finding fascinations below a ledge. Photo: Chris Logan 2023



Figure 6. The impressive collection of local treasures, At Risk - Naturally Uncommon, *Lobelia arenaria*, At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, *Poa chathamica*, At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, *Leptinella potentillina*, and At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, *Apium prostratum* subsp. *denticulatum*, Rákohu celery. Photo: Chris Logan 2023.

When we had a day’s rest from the planting it was time to do some exploring. As I mentioned earlier we had permission to do so (very important in a small community that we are visitors to after all). First stop some very rare plants. The location of this lot cannot be revealed, as they are so valued and potentially vulnerable to foot traffic, and collection. Those of the group who were interested got to meet the At Risk – Relict, *Leptinella featherstonii*, Rēkohu button daisy, seen in figure 7, the largest *Leptinella* species I have ever encountered. The first time I met it I walked straight past the first specimen as it seemed too large to comprehend. The leaves of each rosette are 15-60 x 6-25 mm, the stems are woody, and the plants can stand up to 1.5 metres high.



Figure 7. At Risk – Relict, *Leptinella featherstonii*, Rēkohu button daisy, one of a couple of specimens in the area. Photo: Matt Ward 2023.

Also in the area was the Threatened – Nationally Critical, *Lepidium rekohuense*, Rēkohu scurvy grass (see Figure 8). Numerous rosettes were seen, I recall one of the local DOC folks telling us this area was being managed and restocked from locally eco-sourced specimens, so it is another nice species to see knowing its rarity and plight. Like many other *Lepidium* genera, erosion, land use change, and predation are troubling this species.



Figure 8. The Threatened – Nationally Critical, *Lepidium rekohuense*, Rákohu scurvy grass. Also present At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, kokamuka Rēkohu – *Veronica chathamica*, and *Samolus repens* var. *repens*, shore primrose. Photo: Matt Ward 2022



Figure 9 (top). The Threatened – Nationally Endangered, *Atriplex billardierei*, crystalwort, habitat.

Figure 10 (bottom). Close up of *Atriplex billardierei* flower, with finger for scale. Photos: Matt Ward 2023.

Tim pointed out another local species that we missed last visit, the Threatened – Nationally Endangered, *Atriplex billardierei*, crystalwort (see Figures 9 & 10) in flower. This is not uncommon in the beach areas of the island, but a species new to all present. This species is believed to only reside on Rēkohu now, after not being seen on the mainland since 1982.

Another megaherb I managed to miss during last year’s visit was the At Risk – Recovering pūhā pārākau rahi, *Sonchus grandifolia*, Rēkohu sow thistle (see Figure 10 & 11). This species was also pointed out growing in foredune habitat. The rosettes were hard to miss growing amongst the kokomuka Rēkohu, as well as out in the open sands. The giant leaves remind me of the less desirable variegated thistle we see in many rural areas on the mainland, although I’m not sure you would eat the latter.

Rēkohu has more than 40 endemic flora species and new ones are still being recognised, many of which we did not see on this trip or the earlier one in October 2022. The closer you look with a keen eye the more you find. Joe Dillon, a very astute young botanist, was ravenous in his pursuit of



Figure 11 (left). The At Risk – Recovering, pūhā pārākau rahi, *Sonchus grandifolia*, Rŭkohu sow thistle habitat, growing amongst kokomuka Rŭkohu.

Figure 12 (right). Underside of pūhā pārākau rahi leaf with hand for scale. Photos: Matt Ward 2023.

botanising during the trip and found an amazing amount of species which you can see on iNaturalist NZ. I only have a couple more to share.

Figure 13 shows the local endemic, At risk – Naturally Uncommon, *Geranium traversii*, Chatham Island geranium, a species found in numerous parts of the island, dunes, coastal cliffs, on rock and dwelling in peat cracks; an all-round good doer. Its various coloured flowers (either white or mainly pink) are generally around any month of the year depending on location, and its densely hair-covered leaves are soft to the touch.



Figure 13. Yet another endemic rarity, the At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, *Geranium traversii*, Chatham Island geranium, not a megaherb, but lovely all the same. Photo: Matt Ward 2023.

Of course, there must be an orchid involved! The Chatham Islands, have their own distinctive greenhood orchid, the At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, *Pterostylis silvicultrix*, tutukiwi, Chatham Island greenhood (Figures 14 & 15), which is present on Rŭkohu, Pitt, Mangere and the South East Islands. We did not see it anywhere apart from on the last day of both trips on private property (permitted access). I feel with more time and access it may be an easy species to find, as is suggested in the detailed descriptions available online. It differs from *P. aff. banksii* (which is also present) by being

Figure 14 (left). The At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, *Pterostylis silvicultrix*, tutukiwi, Chatham Island greenhood habitat, with seed capsule present during April visit.

Figure 15 (right). Close up of the flower seen in October 2022 from the same area, the privately owned Awatotara Bush. Photo's Matt Ward 2022 & 2023



more robust and having a spiralled leaf pattern compared to the alternate leaf structure of the latter mentioned. The flowers distinct forward curled lateral sepals give the impression of horns, like some forms of *P. montana* seen on the mainland.

Finally, the last plant to share, yet another local endemic species, the At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, tarahinau, *Dracophyllum arborea*, Chatham Island grass tree. A very important species to Rēkohu and the other nearby islands, as it is often the dominant species of inland forests and may reach heights up to 18 metres. This species, like several mainland *Dracophyllum sp.*, is dimorphic, having juvenile and mature vegetative stages. In typical Rēkohu style the differences are extrem. The juvenile foliage is large and almost triangular in appearance, measuring 100–220 × 10–18 mm; the mature leaves are far smaller and needle-like measuring a mere 25–90 × 1–2 mm (see the differences in foliage in figures 16, 17 and 18).



Figure 16 (left). The At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, Tarahinau, *Dracophyllum arborea*, Chatham Island grass tree juvenile foliage.

Figure 17 (centre). A windswept specimen in transition with both foliage styles still obvious.

Figure 18 (right). Adult foliage and in full flower, during 2022 visit near the privately owned Awatotara Bush. Photos: Matt Ward 2022.

There are many more interesting species on Rēkohu, that have traits worth sharing, but that may require your own follow up. We were actually invited onto the island to undertake a large planting task, not just drool at plants. As we did in the previous trip, we planted 5 out 7 days and went as hard as we could to try and achieve the target set early by our hosts. The planting methods improved during the visit and as Trev said during our farewell debrief karakii “*It’s a shame we’re leaving, it seems like we finally got the hang of the planting*”. The group of people who planted were all excited to be there and were enthusiastic and willing to get as much mahi done as possible.

Maui and Tim tell me that the efforts of the two planting visits we have attended has placed 20500 plants over a 12.7-hectare area. That’s awesome! Well done to both groups of planters, Maui, Uana, Tim, Trent, Nick, Chris, Peter, Tom, Bart, Matt, Rick, Liz, Tom, Anita, Denise, James, Izzy, Joe, Trevor, Lucy, Ngaio, Finn, Nate, Juliette, Dave... Me rongo. This effort should get a good terikarawao (forest) started to return the wair¹ (a living soul) to the land.

As seen in figures 2, 6, 8, and 11, quite often Rēkohu reveals associations of plants we mainlanders regard as rare because we don’t get to see them every day, I felt like this phenomenon became somewhat less unusual even after only my second visit. I could imagine if you were living on Rēkohu fulltime the uniqueness may lessen somewhat as you become more blasé about easily finding rare and

endangered plants. Or, like our hosts, the thought of being surrounded by exceptional threatened species makes them exude manawareka (compassion, and sweetness of heart). What a treasure!

Kioranga Maui and Uana, t'ch rongo mai.

Acknowledgement

I would just like to say a massive thank you to Tim Park for inviting me along to the first planting back in 2022. Without the invite I would never have managed to get the chance to enjoy the treasure of Rēkohu, people and plants!

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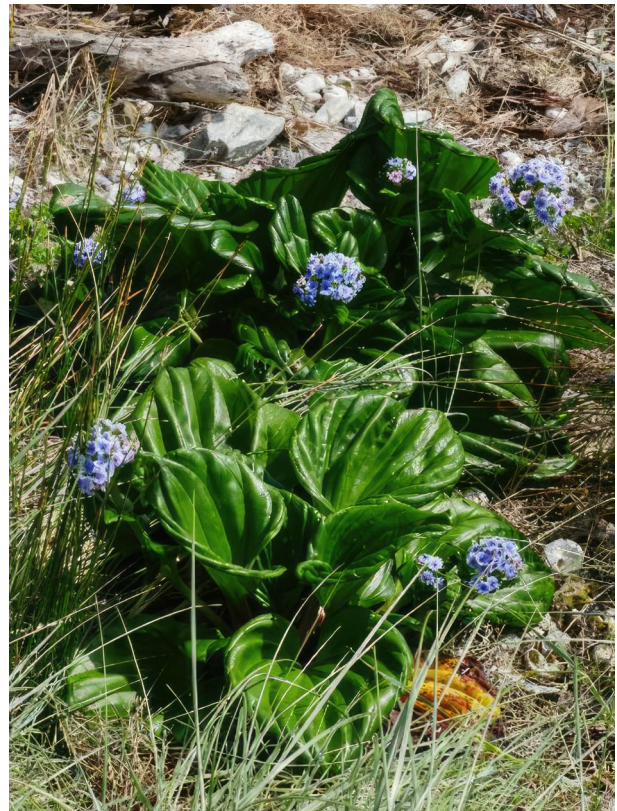


Figure 19. The Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable, Kopakopa, *Myosotidium hortensium*, Chatham Island forget-me-not. In the wild and in full bloom in October 2022, Rekohu. Photo: Matt Ward 2022.

Applications now open for the 2023 David Given Threatened Plant Scholarship

Alex Fergus (fergusa@landcareresearch.co.nz)

The NZPCN administers a fund which honours the contribution of the late David Given to New Zealand plant conservation. The scholarship funds research into the biosystematics, autecology and conservation management of New Zealand's indigenous threatened plants, fungi and their communities. Applications for the current funding round are now open.

One scholarship is awarded every two years and will provide up to \$8000.00 towards the cost of a research project. The scholarship is granted for research that assists practical and/or technical understanding of the taxonomy and ecology of New Zealand's threatened plant taxa or supports the protection and recovery of threatened plant taxa and their communities.

Applicants must be New Zealand residents or citizens, but the work could involve overseas researchers who collaborate with the principal researcher. Threatened species and communities can be either nationally or regionally threatened. Plant species include vascular and non-vascular plants. Fungi are also covered by this scholarship.

For this funding round we have sharpened up the description of the scholarship and implemented an application form. We encourage potential applicants to focus on describing the conservation issues

associated with their target taxa and describe the impact of your potential project. Please include explicit examples of how you believe your research will contribute to better conservation of the threatened taxa or community. All potential applicants are encouraged to contact the DGTPS committee chair if they have any queries about the relevance of their project or about the application process (fergusa@landcareresearch.co.nz).

The DGTPS selection committee comprises the president and at least two other members of the current NZPCN Council. The selection committee may refrain from making an award if, in their opinion, there is no application of sufficient merit. The most recent project funded by the DGTPS is a great example of the sort of research that we are aiming to support. This was Debra Wotton's research focusing on understanding the remaining genetic diversity of the Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable dryland shrub *Veronica (Hebe) armstrongii*. More about Debra's research can be found here: <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/publications/documents/trilepidea-e-newsletter-for-september-2021/>

Scholarship details and forms are available from: <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nzpcn/awards/david-given-scholarship/>

Applicants must complete and sign the application form and submit written or electronic applications to: NZPCN, PO Box 147 Mangonui 0442 or info@nzpcn.co.nz. For email applications please include the subject "David Given Scholarship". Applicants must nominate two referees who can attest to their experience and their ability to complete the project within a two-year period. Applicants are also responsible for ensuring their referees complete the referee forms before the funding round closes. Applications for the current funding round close on Monday 31 July 2023.

The DGTPS committee will deliberate during August and notify the applicant by Thursday 31 August 2023, permitting time to undertake relevant project logistics for the 2023/2024 field season. The name of the successful applicant will be announced on the NZPCN website shortly after they have confirmed their acceptance of the scholarship.

Scholarship deliverables include brief 6-monthly progress updates, and a short report summarising the results upon completion of the research. Successful applicants are also expected to assist the NZPCN in preparing a short article about the research for our newsletter *Trilepidea* at the beginning of the project.

If you have any questions relating to the DGTPS please contact Alex Fergus, fergusa@landcareresearch.co.nz.

The return of Holy Grass, a century unrecorded in the North

Marley Ford, Private Consultant (mfecobotany@gmail.com)

An unexpected finding while undertaking *Schoenus carsei* surveys in western Northland was kāretu, scented holy grass or *Anthoxanthum redolens*, previously known to New Zealand botanists as *Hierochloa redolens*. Even though nationally this grass is not threatened, it has not been recorded on the northern New Zealand mainland for over a century.

On 3 February 2023, scattered plants were found in the brackish waters of Kellys Bay on the eastern Pouto (north Kaipara) Peninsula (<https://inaturalist.nz/observations/148368267>). The population was in the brackish waters of a small northeastern facing estuary. Plants were growing in a swamp amongst the sedges *Machaerina rubiginosa*, pakihi rush (*Machaerina teretifolia*), swamp millet (*Isachne globosa*), the fern kiokio (*Parablechnum novae zealandiae*) and harakeke (*Phormium tenax*) (Figure 1). Nearby were populations of the threatened sedge *Schoenus carsei* and the threatened swamp shield-fern (*Cyclosorus interruptus*). Most seed heads of the grass were spent but a couple were mature (Figure 2). It is very similar to the exotic tall fescue (*Lolium arundinaceum* subsp. *arundinaceum*) but can be distinguished by the obvious awns and the pleasant, sweet scent from the chemical coumarine that gives this species its vernacular name and species epithet, especially obvious in dried material.



Figure 1. Habitat of kāretu in swamp.



Figure 2. Panicle of kāretu against flax. Photos: Marley Ford 3 February 2023.

In New Zealand this grass is found throughout the country but with no recent records north of the Waikato until this observation (Australasian Virtual Herbarium). The last records in Northland were by James Adams from Kerikeri in 1905 (AK14294) and by Harry Carse from near Kaitaia with no date but is estimated to be collected in the early 1900s (AK265401). This makes the Pouto population finding a regionally significant record and the first record in Northland for over a century.

Outside of New Zealand k̄aretu is found naturally in Australia, New Guinea and South America (Schouten & Veldkamp, 1985). It was formerly placed in the genus *Hierochloe* R.Br. which it shared with six other endemic species (Zotov, 1973). Now it is regarded as a member of the genus *Anthoxanthum* L. but more work is need for the placement of our other closely related endemic species (Edgar & Connor, 2000). K̄aretu shares the genus *Anthoxanthum* with two exotic species in New Zealand (Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, 2023). The type is said to have come from New Zealand but there is some confusion about its residing here or in South America (Schouten & Veldkamp, 1985; Zotov, 1973). The synonym *Hierochloe* comes from the Greek hieros, 'sacred', and chloa, 'grass', so means 'holy grass'. European species of this genus were once strewn on church floors, hence the name. The current genus *Anthoxanthum* comes from the Greek anthos, 'flower', and xanthum, 'yellow', referring to the colour of the panicles. K̄aretu was used by Māori as women's belts, headbands, anklets, sachets and chaplets (Best 1942; Te Rangi Hiroa 1923) and was used in medicated vapour baths (Taylor, 1870). William Colenso (1868) remarked 'sitting and sleeping places strewed with leaves' of k̄aretu.

This species could be more widespread in Northland. It is often thought to be associated with cold, upland habitats, and frost flats. Or perhaps it may just be the case of lack of intact habitat for this species, as suggested by the Three Kings, Great Island records (AK162633, AK239464, AK226794, AK184138). There is the possibility that because of its scent, it was taken to a settlement in the north where it did not occur naturally, but this seems unlikely. Nevertheless, further searching should be carried out for k̄aretu throughout Northland and Auckland. Areas that share the species' te reo name or are close to them could shed light on its past occurrences.

For more information on this species see the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Factsheet: <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/anthoxanthum-redolens/>

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Andrew Knock for organising the project, the Department of Conservation Species on the Brink funding, Rhys Gardner for his confirmation on the specimen and prompt of keeping an eye out for this species, Dhahara Ranatunga from the Auckland Museum with help accessing specimen information and Andrew Townsend and Mark Smale for their review of text.

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Queenstown Lakes District restoration pathways workshops

Alex Fergus, Jesse Bythell, Jo Smith

15 May 2023

The Athenaeum, Arrowtown

Session 1: 1 – 4 PM

Session 2: 6 – 9 PM

An enormous amount of ecological restoration mahi is planned and underway in the Queenstown Lakes District (QLD). Much of this work has defined goals, but with many practitioners involved, there is a lack of an overarching strategy or the networks in place to share learnings, define and facilitate success. The NZPCN biennial conference in Tāhuna – Queenstown in December 2022 focused on Hauropi whakahou ki Aotearoa – Restoration Ecology in New Zealand. On the final day of the conference the organisers invited conference participants to provide examples of local restoration stories. However, time limitations prompted the NZPCN to commit to continuing this collation exercise in a workshop format.



**SHARE YOUR
RESTORATION
STORIES WITH US**

QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT
RESTORATION PATHWAYS WORKSHOPS

15TH MAY 2023
ATHENAEUM HALL, BUCKINGHAM STREET, ARROWTOWN
SESSION 1 (1-4 PM), SESSION 2 (6-9 PM)

The NZPCN, with support from the Queenstown Lakes District (QLD) Council, are inviting all restoration practitioners who work in the QLD to attend local workshops and contribute stories about their restoration experiences. Restoration stories can be anonymous, and while it would help to have specific locations, this information can be omitted if we can capture specific details of local climate/terrain. Most practitioners will have multiple examples of restoration projects they've been involved in, and we will encourage folks to share a story for each. To make the process of collecting stories simple, and fast, we have generated a template which will be used to structure story collection.

It's important to note we are interested in all facets of restoration, the full continuum from unassisted (natural) recovery to intensively assisted recovery. Putting that in a QLD perspective, perhaps you've observed the first broadleaf forest species recruit into a patch of local mānuka scrub without any help, or near the other end of the continuum, perhaps you've blocked drains, rewetted paddocks, removed willows and planted intensively to convert pasture back to wetland. Our scope is wide. Projects will also be very different in terms of time, some may only be a few years old, some might stretch to decades. We want to hear about both successes and failures, as both are equally important.

In two workshop sessions we will use a facilitator (Matt Hollier) to define the aims and process for each workshop. We will break participants into four groups, each with a table moderator/scribe, and working together we will draw out restoration stories using the existing templates. If we have time, we will synthesise commonalities as we go, allowing the opportunity at the end of each workshop to identify areas of oversimplification or for adding examples that have been missed. We don't want to pre-empt the nature of the output of this work until we have a better idea of the number and complexity of the restoration stories. One option would be to generate simple state-and-transition diagrams for different ecosystem or vegetation types, identifying transitions and the factors that did (or did not) impact on them. The broader goal would be to identify successful pathways that could guide future restoration work in the region. All restoration stories will be reviewed alongside grey and published literature. No matter what the output, all story contributors will be welcomed as authors on the final synthesis document which will be published in *Trilepidea* and as a standalone document that will be available to download for free from the NZPCN website. To RSVP to attend a workshop, or if you have any questions, contact Alex Fergus (fergusa@landcareresearch.co.nz).

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.

Auckland Botanical Society

Meeting: Wednesday 3 May at 7.30pm. **Speaker:** Lydia Starr. **Topic:** Low Incidence Pest Plants (LIPP), less known weed species lurking in your neighbourhood.

Venue: Unitec, School of Natural Sciences, 139 Carrington Road, Mt. Albert (Gate 4, Building 115, Room 1028).

Field Trip: Saturday 20 May to the Leigh coast. **Meet:** Leigh Marine Lab, parking along the main road (Goat Island Road) before the Lab entrance, at 10.00am.

Leaders: Ewen Cameron and Sandra Anderson (University of Auckland).

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field Trip: Saturday 6 May to Moutohora (Whale Island) combined with Eastern Bay Forest and Bird. **Meet:** White Island Rendezvous Carpark (time to be confirmed). **Grade:** Medium.

Leader: Jo Bonner, email coastlandspn@xtra.co.nz, ph. 027 471 5684.

Field Trip: Saturday 20 May to Ohuanui (Tikitere). **Meet:** Rotorua carpark at 8.30 a.m. **Grade:** Moderate-hard.

Leader: Angela McQuillan, email simpson.angela1@gmail.com, ph. 021 239 2554.

Wellington Botanical Society

Field Trip: Saturday 6 May to Trelissick Park, Ngaio Gorge. **Meet:** Crofton Downs railway station car park at 9.45 a.m.

Co-leaders: Michele Dickson 04 972 2350, Julia Stace 04 385 4606.

Meeting: Monday 15 May at 7.30 p.m.—Members' evening.

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

Nelson Botanical Society

Field Trip/Meeting: Please refer to the website: <https://www.nelsonbotanicalsociety.org/trips-meetings> for details.

Canterbury Botanical Society

Meeting: Monday 1 May at 7.30pm. **Speaker:** Justin Morgenroth (Associate Professor, School of Forestry, Kura Ngahere). **Topic:** Urban forest cover.

Venue: St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo Street, Christchurch.

Field Trip: Saturday 6 May to Terrible Gully, Rakaia River, Mount Hutt Conservation Area (weather dependent). **Meet:** Double Hill Run at the Terrible Gully Track at 10.00am. **Grade:** Moderate-hard.

Leader: Alice Shanks. Email fieldtrips@canterburybotanicalsociety.org.nz if you intend to participate.

Botanical Society of Otago

Field Trip: The fungal foray field trip to Waikaia planned for Saturday 6 May has been postponed until spring.

Meeting: Wednesday 10 May at 5.20pm. AGM and photographic competition.

Venue: Main seminar room, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, 764 Cumberland Street, Dunedin.
