The celmisias were at their best and seven species were noted. Particularly attractive were *Celmisia dallii* (Fig. 9, p. 54), with its white-rimmed, stitched leaf margins, and *C. traversii,* with a velvety rusty-brown coating to the undersides of the leaves. Also seen were *C. spectabilis* (with longer narrower leaves than I am accustomed to in Central Canterbury plants), *C. discolor, C. incana, C. sessiliflora*, and *C. semicordata.* On the summit of Mount Arthur was a hybrid plant, referred to in the 1995 edition of Mark and Adams as *C. linearis,* and thought to be a hybrid between *C. sessiliflora* and one of the larger species.

Sweetly-scented *Poranthera alpina* (At Risk – naturally uncommon) filled the rock crevices. This genus was previously included in Euphorbiaceae, but is now placed in the Phyllanthaceae family. There is only one other member of the genus in New Zealand, the rest are in Australia. Another species which was flourishing on rocky terrain was the magnificent *Epilobium vernicosum* (Fig. 10, p. 54), with flowers up to 2 cm across, deep pink in bud, and with glossy leaves with red margins. The same habitat yielded *Raoulia eximia, R. apicinigra, Helichrysum intermedium, Colobanthus buchananii* and *Anisotome pilifera. Dracophyllum kirkii* was trailing over rocky banks, with its relative *D. traversii* growing as trees down in the forest. *Ranunculus insignis* was common around sinkholes and still flowering in places, with the delicate *R. verticillatus* emerging from the tussock. The fine-leaved, glaucous *Aciphylla glaucescens* was noted, along with the coarser more yellow-green *A. ferox*. Other species of interest were *Astelia petriei, A. nervosa, A. graminea* and *Craspedia lanata.* Trevor pointed out *Traversia baccharoides.*

Some treasures seen on the stony summit of Mount Arthur were the threatened, Nationally Critical *Myosotis angustata* (Fig. 11, p. 55), flowering well (a bit like *M. traversii* but with very obviously protruding stamens), the northwest Nelson endemic *Pachycladon latisiliquum* (Fig. 12, p. 55), and *Notothlaspi australe*.

DAY 4 – TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2015
TO MT ARTHUR HUT AND BACK VIA THE FLORA HUT

Gillian Giller

Miles and I joined George and Margaret Ridgen to enjoy the botanical treasures growing along the track to the Mt Arthur Hut. We were not disappointed. At first the track climbs through beech with a dominant understorey of *Astelia aff. nervosa* 'Broad' in some places . The constant calls from the titi pounamu (riflemen) and frequent close-up sightings of the birds was an added bonus. The birds were often down at ground level

and only 2 to 3 metres away, rather than high in the trees. Further along the mature *Olearia lacunosa* trees (Fig. 13, p. 56) had long strips of hanging bark and the dense stands of *Dracophyllum traversii* invited us to linger and admire, and to take photos. *Drosera spatulata* and *Aporostylis bifolia* were flowering on the side of the track. When we spotted some *Libocedrus bidwillii* we started to look for *Hymenophyllum malingii* which is often seen growing on dead wood of this species. We found a stump 50cm high entirely covered with the fern (Fig. 14, p. 56). Its blue grey fronds overlapped like feathers on a cloak. As we neared the bushline we found *Brachyglottis laxifolia* growing in an open rocky spot. After lunch at the Mt Arthur hut and a short exploration of the marble rock just above the hut, we descended through more *Dracophyllum* and mountain and silver beech towards the Flora Hut. The spring germination of beech seedlings had been prolific and they formed a dense carpet in places looking very much like a lawn. Just before we reached the Flora Hut we heard a kakariki call and caught a brief glimpse of it in some beech trees. When we had seen the *Olearia lacunosa* earlier in the day, we had wondered if we would see any hybrids. Just past the Flora Hut, George spotted a few plants which were clearly *O. lacunosa* hybrids. Further down the track we saw *O. ilicifolia* which would have been the other parent of the hybrid plants. Back at the carpark we had a cuppa and enjoyed the late afternoon sun whilst we waited for the rest of the party to return.

DAY 5 WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2015
MT CAMPBELL AND HOARY HEAD, NW NELSON

Trevor Blogg

This particular day of our camp saw eight of us (Fig. 15, p 57) driving in two high-clearance 4WD vehicles to the Mt Campbell communications tower, a structure visible from much of the Motueka area. This provides the most convenient access to the unique vegetation of the marble mountain-top that is Hoary Head, though “convenient” is a relative term. In the event a 3½ hour undulating hike through un-tracked terrain was needed to reach the open tops. The drive in passed through remarkable, park-like areas dominated by large *Hebe topiaria* shrubs.

Our commitment to reach Hoary Head meant that we did not botanise the hiked route in any detail, but many species were obvious without close inspection. We brushed by *Olearia avicenniifolia*, *Dracophyllum filifolium* and *Podocarpus cunninghamii* (Mountain Totara), saw *Thelymitra longifolia*, *Corokia cotoneaster*, *Podocarpus nivalis*, *Olearia lacunosa*, and various coprosmas (including the ubiquitous *C. dumosa*, and the