



NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

E-NEWSLETTER: NO 10. SEPTEMBER 2004

Please send news items or events to events@nzpcn.org.nz
Postal address: P.O. Box 16-102, Wellington, New Zealand
Deadline for next issue: Monday 11 October 2004

Message from the President

The Network has been awarded funding from the government's Terrestrial Freshwater Biodiversity Information System programme (TFBIS) to develop a conservation information system for threatened fungi over the next 2 years. This information system will be incorporated into the Network's website and will provide valuable information about New Zealand's threatened fungi. Visitation to the Network's website is now approaching 5000 people each month. Over the next few weeks over 600 additional threatened plant photographs will be added. A number of plant conservation publications have also been recently added to the website including factsheets and reports. If you have documents that you would like to have included on the site please send them through to us at info@nzpcn.org.nz

Name the Newsletter competition

A number of entries have been received in the "Name the Newsletter" competition. Some of the best include: Trilepedia, Conservation Conversations, Liana Line, Plant Talk, PlantLine, Tendrils, Take Root, Offshoots, Planter, Symbiosis, Verdure, Verdant, Newsleaves, Network News, NZPCN News and Newsletter of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. The Council will be voting on all the entries at its next meeting. Please let us know if you have another suggestion or if you prefer one of the above.

Plant of the month



Xeronema callistemon forma *bracteosa*.
Photo: G.M. Crowcroft.



Xeronema callistemon forma *callistemon*.
Photo: G.M. Crowcroft.

Plants of the month for September are the two beautiful forms of *Xeronema callistemon* (forma *bracteosa* and forma *callistemon*). Both taxa are listed as Range Restricted and are endemic to New Zealand. They are known from the Poor Knights Islands, near Tutukaka, Northland and forma *callistemon* is also from Hen (Taranga) Island, near Whangarei. *Xeronema* belongs to a newly established family of one genus with two species, the Xeronemataceae. They are mainly found on rhyolite sea cliffs and rock outcrops. The Network fact sheets for these species can be found at the following links:

http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz_threatenedplants/detail.asp?PlantID=718

and

http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz_threatenedplants/detail.asp?PlantID=719

Unusual form of silver beech found in Whirinaki Forest Park

By Chris Ecroyd and Paul Cashmore

An unusual plant specimen has been found in the upper Whirinaki Valley. Discovered by Brenda Baillie of Forest Research, it was identified by Chris Ecroyd (Forest Research herbarium curator) as silver beech (*Nothofagus menziesii*) but it has most unusual leaves. The plant was just over 1m in height and the leaves are small (about 9 mm long and 3–5 mm wide), very narrow and coarsely, irregularly serrated (Figure 1). Except for the size and shape of the leaves the specimen appeared to be typical of silver beech. Brenda Baillie returned to the site in July with Department of Conservation staff and confirmed it was the only specimen present in the vicinity. The Department of Conservation is interested to hear from anyone else who has seen unusual specimens of silver beech in this area before. Contact Paul Cashmore Tel: 07 3497 400 Email: pcashmore@doc.govt.nz

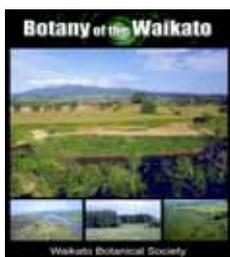


Figure 1: Leaves of an unusual form of silver beech compared with a leaf from another tree on the upper right.



Figure 2: A branch of the unusual form of silver beech (left) with a normal branch of silver beech on the right.

Botany of the Waikato



This lavishly illustrated book (more than 120 colour illustrations) describes the plants and ecosystems of the Waikato. Published by the Waikato Botanical Society in 2002, it took 3 years to produce and is the result of a team effort (16 authors) of amateur and professional botanists (from the University, Department of Conservation, Environment Waikato, Landcare Research, NIWA) and is published by the Waikato Botanical Society. An order form for the book is included at the end of the newsletter.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the Network you can contact Council members directly (contacts are listed in the 'Key People' section of the website – www.nzpcn.org.nz). Our postal address is P.O. Box 16-102, Wellington or email the Network at info@nzpcn.org.nz

Upcoming events

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

Botanical Society of Otago – Expedition to the Sea shore – Saturday 18 September: Start time: 9:30 AM, Finish time: 5:00 PM. A trip lead by Dr. Lisa Russell, Teaching Fellow in Botany. The intertidal zone (region between high and low tides) is particularly stressful for seaweed growth. Despite this however, there is a high diversity of species found within this zone on southern beaches around the Otago coast. Providing the weather is calm we will be heading to Shag Point to look at some diverse rocky platforms. Shag Point is a region of special conservation value not only in relation to marine species but also rare terrestrial species. It is also the site of one of New Zealand's few underwater coalmines. We will also look at the nearby reef at Moeraki where the intertidal seaweed community has been replaced by the invasive kelp *Undaria* and discuss some of the implications this species might have on our native species. People should bring gum boots if they want their feet to remain dry. Also lunch, hat, warm wind-proof and/or waterproof clothing. Meet at the Botany carpark at 9:30 AM. Contact Lisa Russell on 479 9061 (w) or Ian Radford as below. Contact [Ian Radford](#), phone: (03) 479 9065.

Rotorua Botanical Society – Okareka Mistletoe Restoration Project Host Planting Day - Saturday 18 September: Leader: Paul Cashmore 07 348 4421 (hm), 349 7432 (wk). Meet: Ex Okareka store 8:45am. Grade: Medium–Hard. Activities on this day will focus mainly on planting mistletoe host trees on the prepared site (see advert in this newsletter).

Otari-Wilton's Bush Open Day and Plant Sale: Sunday 19 September from 9.30 to 2.30. Plant sale of beautiful native plants in categories such as exposed sites, coastal, clay banks, shade – moist, shade – dry, climbers, bird and invertebrate attracting plants and garden gems. Displays from Greater Wellington on pests animals and plants, Forest & Bird and Botsoc. New Zealand Books Abroad are selling NZ books. Guided tours from 10am on the hour until 2pm.

Wellington Botanical Society – Evening meeting – Origin and biography of New Zealand *Craspedia* – Monday 20 September: Speaker: Kerry Ford, Landcare, Canterbury. Discussion on her recent research on *Craspedia* (Gnaphalieae: Asteraceae) a daisy genus of 23 species restricted to NZ and Australia. Researching the frequency of colonisation of NZ by this genus provides a basis for further research of morphological, ecological and geographical patterns at a finer scale in NZ, and also has relevance to the debate on the origins of the NZ flora and the inter-relationships of the NZ and Australian floras.

Wellington Botanical Society Field Trip – Waterfall Road Bush – Saturday 2 October: Walk through an 80-ha patch of private bush with three species of maire, large northern rata, rimu, totara, *Mida salicifolia* and an interesting range of ferns and orchids. Terrain rugged in parts. Meet: Paekakariki railway Station at 9 am. Catch 8 am. Paraparaumu train from Wellington. Pool cars to Waterfall Road. Leader: Olaf John ph. 478 7065, deputy leader: Chris Horne ph. 475 7025.

Rotorua Botanical Society – Fort Galatea Wetland, nr Murupara – Sunday 3 October: Leader: Paul Cashmore 07 348 4421 (hm), 349 7432 (wk). Meet: The carpark at 8:30 am or Fort Galatea Historic Reserve (signposted entrance on Pokairoa Road off SH 38, near overbridge before Murupara) at 9:30am Grade: Medium – Bring your gumboots!! A visit to a little known DoC wetland complex on the Rangitaiki River. The area consists of 3 contiguous reserves – Fort Galatea Historic Reserve (a historic site with extensive historic interpretation and a small wetland area),

Fort Galatea Wildlife Management Reserve which contains wetland areas with a mix of native and exotic species and Fort Galatea Conservation Area which contains two significant wetland areas dominated by manuka – *Coprosma propinqua* shrubland and cabbage tree/manuka – *Coprosma propinqua* scrub including flax, toetoe, pole kahikatea and *Baumea rubiginosa*.

Wellington Botanical Society – Field Trip – Workbee at Manawa Karioi, Tapu Te Ranga Marae – Sunday 10 October: This event is scheduled to coincide with a regular Manawa Karioi workbee. BotSoc has had a long-term involvement with Tapu Te Ranga and we have been invited by kaumatua Bruce Stewart to advise on the marae's impressive collection of threatened plant species. Bring a trowel and/or weeding gear, to help with potting up, etc. Later, see the results of 15 years' restoration work on the surrounding hillsides. Boots advisable. Lunch provided. Meet: Marae carpark. Take the No. 1 Island Bay bus 9.04 am. from the station, to the intersection of Tamar Street and Island Bay Parade. Walk up Tamar Street to Rhine Street. The pedestrian entrance to the marae is at No. 44. If driving, go up Rhine Street and turn right into the vehicular entrance. If coming, ring co-leaders: Barbara Mitcalfe ph. 475 7149, or Chris Horne ph. 475 7025.

Botanical Society of Otago – 3rd Annual Geoff Baylis Lecture – A modern taxonomist in a postmodern era Servant or Master? Wednesday 13th October, 2004: Start time: 5:20 PM, Finish time: 7:00 PM. A talk by Henry Connor. The pinnacle of botanical research is taxonomy; every sub-discipline is its contributor. Most users of the outcomes of taxonomic endeavour look for a binomial of convenience. Is this an appropriate outcome? Or are taxonomists just targets of attack over the lack of monophyeticism or the presence of paraphyeticism? A modern taxonomist will attempt some answers to modern problems, but will emphasise the amount of tedious work that lacks the modern appeal of DNA sequencing, cladograms and prominence in every botanical journal. Contact [Ian Radford](#), phone: (03) 479 9065.

Wellington Botanical Society - Evening meeting – Penwiper to pingao – Monday 18 October: Speaker: Val Smith, amateur photographer. Val will share some of her favourite slides of people, plants and places from more than a decade of New Zealand-wide forays with botanical, native orchid and tramping groups. However the main focus of the programme will be BotSoc New Year field trips between 1992 and 2004. Members are welcome to add their comments and reminisces.

Open Day at Percy Scenic Reserve, Lower Hutt – Sunday 31 October: A great opportunity to see the Druce Alpine Collection and other threatened plants and the alpine rockery. Tours start at 10am, 11am, 12 noon and 1pm. Meet at the aviary.



WAIKATO BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Book Order Form

Botany of the Waikato

Please return with payment to: Book Order
Waikato Botanical Society
c/- Department of Biological Sciences
University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105
Hamilton

Please print clearly

Name:

Address:

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Phone:(day)(evening)

Number of copies@ \$20 /copy or \$15 /copy for 10+ copies

Payment enclosed:

Please make cheque payable to “Waikato Botanical Society Inc”

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