



TRILEPIDEA

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

E-NEWSLETTER: NO 11. OCTOBER 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 8 November 2004

Message from the President

The Network is now working to secure funding to complete a national stock take of plant conservation education resources and programmes. The Network has also submitted a bid to the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Fund seeking funding to develop and implement a marae-based plant conservation training course. We will let you know in due course if this bid is successful. We are also in discussions over potential partnership programmes (with other organisations), and we are developing a Network policy on Network sponsorship.

Website development is on-going. We are about to start on the next phase which will include providing information about threatened fungi, and fact sheets for all native vascular plants (yes all 2330 of them!). We will let you know when these go live. We have just completed adding of over 700 threatened plant images. However, there are still a number of gaps so if you have images you are happy for us to use please send them to us as jpg files. Members have started recording their observations of threatened plants using the online recording form. Jenny Lux has discovered a new population of the Nationally Endangered *Todea barbara* and Harvey Phillips has found many populations of the, Nationally Sparse, leafless mistletoe (*Korthalsella salicornioides*) in the Wairarapa.

Work has also started on the organisation for our next conference that will be held in Christchurch in 2005. Information will be sent out about this in due course.

Name the Newsletter competition

As a result of the "Name the Newsletter" competition we received 20 suggestions. The winner was John Sawyer who suggested 'Trilepidea'. The Council voted unanimously in favour of his suggestion. For his winning suggestion John will receive a copy of the new native plant book to be published by Canterbury University Press edited by Ian Spellerberg and David Given (see order form at end of this Newsletter).

Subscription for July 04 to June 05

Annual Network membership subscriptions are now due. The subscription form can be downloaded from the website. Please note, fees have stayed the same for this year. But in addition to the standard membership costs, we are offering subscriptions to the magazine 'Australasian Plant Conservation' for an extra \$30. Four issues of this magazine will be posted to subscribers each year.

The magazine has articles about plant conservation in Australasia and will keep you up-to-date with what is going on in the field of plant conservation.



Myosotis australis var.
lytteltonensis.

Photo: Peter de Lange.

Plant of the month

Plant of the month for October is the Nationally Critical *Myosotis australis* var. *lytteltonensis* (Lyttelton forget-me-not). This prostrate herb is generally found in coastal areas, on cliff faces, but also found inland. It usually grows in damp and shady places. It produces white or yellow flowers, around 4mm long on very short flower stalks. The Network fact sheets for these species can be found at the following links:

http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz_threatenedplants/detail.asp?PlantID=29

Christchurch Botanic Gardens

The Christchurch City Council is looking at how the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park should be upgraded and managed to meet the demands of the 21st century. The Gardens have long been an icon of Christchurch, attracting two-thirds of all visitors to the city and with 1.2 million people through the gates each year. The Council has set aside \$10.36 million for capital projects. Staff are also working on a new Master Plan for the Gardens which will cover a wide range of activities including education, horticulture, research, landscaping and facilities. We would welcome comment, and ideas. The initial consultation closes 8 October (see www.ccc.govt.nz/haveyoursay) but will be followed in the first part of next year by a further round of consultation. David Given, Curator (david.given@ccc.govt.nz).

Carex specimens needed to complete nrDNA ITS sequencing for the New Zealand carices

Peter J. de Lange, Science & Research Unit, Department of Conservation, Private Bag 68908, Newton, Auckland, pdelange@doc.govt.nz; **D. Jeanette Keeling**, **Richard C. Gardner**, School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland r.gardner@auckland.ac.nz.

As part of a broad based molecular study of the New Zealand Cyperaceae using the nrDNA Internal Transcribed Spacer Region (ITS) we are looking for the following indigenous carices (see list) to complete our sequences for the genus.



Carex pterocarpa.
Photo: John Smith-Dodsworth

We require well labelled (as to locality, collector etc) fresh specimens sent to either of the addresses provided. Specimens should be sent moist, in a snap-lock bag with sufficient material to make a suitable herbarium specimen (i.e. including seed heads/spikelets and culm bases to enable identification), and if at all possible in sufficient quantity for us to try and grow on the plants. We are also interested in samples of *Carex dissita* from outside Northland and Auckland, as our preliminary investigations suggest significant ITS variation exists within this species, some of which can be matched to morphology.

The source of any specimens sent will be freely acknowledged in any resulting publication. We truly appreciate that this is a big ask, especially as carices can be tricky to identify. If you feel you might be able to help but would like further information please don't hesitate to contact us.

Please make sure you have permission to collect before sampling carices (or indeed any native plant) from the wild.

List of carices needed to complete nrDNA ITS sequencing of the genus for the New Zealand indigenous species.

Carex acicularis
Carex allanii
Carex astonii
Carex cockayneana
Carex coriacea
Carex decurtata
Carex devia
Carex druceana
Carex edgariae
Carex enysii
Carex filamentosa
Carex goyenii

Carex impexa
Carex kirkii var. *kirkii*
Carex kirkii var. *elatior*
Carex lachenalii subsp. *parkerii*
Carex ophiolithica
Carex pleiostachys
Carex pterocarpa
Carex pyrenaica var. *cephalotes*
Carex tahoata
Carex trachycarpa
Carex traversii

New Zealand Flora goes on-line

In a project sponsored by TFBIS, Landcare Research have now digitised the five volumes of the New Zealand Flora Series and they are available for free at the following web link:

Flora Series: <http://FloraSeries.LandcareResearch.co.nz>

In addition, Landcare Research have set up 'He Whanaketanga o Nga Tipu o Aotearoa - Phylogeny of New Zealand Plants'. This phylogeny site provides a set of nested trees that summarise the recent information on the phylogenetic relationships of the N.Z. flora. This site can be found at the following link:

Phylogeny: <http://nzflora.LandcareResearch.co.nz/phylogeny>

Plant conservation documents

Do you have any plant fact sheets or reports or documents that you would like to see disseminated widely? If you do, the Network is happy to include them in the Newsletter & Publications section of the website. More than 380 documents are downloaded from the website each week. Please send pdf files to us at info@nzpcn.org.nz and we will load them up on to the website for people to access.

Botanical Society volunteers saving threatened native mistletoe

Rotorua Botanical Society members and volunteers have been working to protect two of New Zealand's nationally threatened native mistletoe species at Lake Okareka. The project, which began in 2002 aims to control weed threats and restore the habitat in two Department of Conservation administered reserves at Lake Okareka where a large population of two native green mistletoe species (*Tupeia antarctica* and *Ileostylus micranthus*) are present. The overall project is a partnership between the Rotorua Botanical Society, the Department of Conservation and the Rotorua branch of Forest and Bird with funding from Environment Bay of Plenty's Environmental Enhancement Fund.

The Rotorua Botanical Society has held regular Saturday workdays at Lake Okareka over the past couple of years attended by a small but dedicated group of members assisted by a range of other volunteers from the local community and from DOC. Most of the work has focused on removing a huge range of weed species such as tradescantia, ivy, jasmine and Japanese honeysuckle which threaten to overwhelm the mistletoe species present.



Botanical Society members and volunteers planting mistletoe host trees at Lake Okareka 18 Sept 2004

This work culminated in a planting day on Saturday 18 September to restore habitat for mistletoe in place of the exotic weed species present beforehand. Over 500 plants were put in by a team of 14 volunteers completing the task in several hours in light rain. Rotorua Botanical Society coordinator for the project Paul Cashmore says "There is a fairly large population of mistletoe at Lake Okareka which is regionally important therefore local botanists, DoC and volunteers were keen to get stuck in and do something positive to protect them in the long term."

“Hopefully the work the Botanical Society and volunteers are doing in the Okareka area will raise awareness amongst local landowners of the importance of protecting mistletoe plants on their land and managing the threats to them, especially possums and weeds” advised Paul.



Green mistletoe (*Tupeia*) in fruit at Lake Okareka

New Zealand's native mistletoe species are nationally threatened. Possum browsing, weed encroachment, habitat loss and the loss of the native bird species which disperse the seed are the major factors leading to their ongoing decline around the country. They are somewhat unique in that they are semi-parasitic and live on a range of native host trees. In the Bay of Plenty the Rotorua Lakes area is the stronghold for the two green mistletoe species, with one of the largest populations of *Tupeia* occurring at

Lake Okareka both in reserves and on private properties. “The Rotorua Botanical Society will continue working to protect mistletoe at Lake Okareka for as long as it takes to see the mistletoe population increasing again” said Paul.

New Course in Practical Taxonomy at UC

The University of Canterbury School of Biological Sciences will offer a new course in practical taxonomy in February 2005 as part of the UC Summer Programme. ***Practical Taxonomy for Field Biologists*** is an intensive, short course designed to meet the need for training in the collection, preparation and identification of biological material. It will be valuable for students who intend to seek employment in areas such as field ecology, conservation, biodiversity and taxonomy or biosystematics. It will also be of interest to members of the workforce who need to acquire or upgrade taxonomic skills, e.g., from Crown Research Institutes, Department of Conservation, Regional Councils, Botanic Gardens, horticulture and teaching. The course is open to students with 12 points in Biology at level 2 and to others with suitable work experience.

Applications to enrol open 6 October 2004. The first 16 applications will be accepted for the course, provisional to meeting the prerequisites. Subsequent applications will be wait-listed. Instructions for enrolment can be found in the *UC Summer Programme Brochure* or on the web at www.summer.canterbury.ac.nz

For more information about the course, visit the BIOL 305 webpage go to www.biol.canterbury.ac.nz and look under either *School news* or *Courses*.

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 - 3rd Annual Geoff Baylis Lecture - A modern taxonomist in a postmodern era Servant or Master? Wednesday 13 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 monophyleticism or the presence of paraphyleticism? 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.

Botanical Society of Otago - Weekend field trip to the Catlins with John Barkla - Saturday 16 October, 2004. Start time: 8:30 AM. The Catlins offer a huge range of botanical delights including silver beech forest, alluvial valleys with rare shrub communities, peat bogs, coastal dunes, cliffs and estuaries. Saturday will be spent in the south Catlins exploring the fine coastal podocarp forests of Tahakopa Bay, coastal ecosystems and possibly peat bogs. Sunday will be based around the northern Catlins with visits to see the extraordinary wildlife and flora of Nugget Point and an *Olearia hectorii* restoration site in the Owaka Valley. Accommodation on Saturday night will be at the Nugget Point Lighthouse Keepers house (numbers limited). Day trippers are welcome to join us on either day. To reserve accommodation or find out more contact John Barkla ph. 476 3686 (evenings). Leave from the Botany car park at 8:30 AM. Contact [John Barkla](#), phone: (03) 476 3686.

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. BotSoc meetings are usually held at 7.30 pm on the third Monday of each month at Victoria University, Wellington, Lecturer Theatre M101, ground floor Murphy Building, west side of Kelburn Parade. Enter building off Kelburn Parade about 20m below pedestrian overbridge.

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.

Weed ecology and biocontrol workshop – Wednesday 3 November: This event will be held at Southern Cross Hotel, Dunedin. If you are interested in: Predicting invasive weed species; Chilean flame creeper control programme at the Otanamomo Scientific Reserve; Southern weeds: recent invaders and attempts at control; and What's hot and what's not – an overview of biocontrol of weeds projects. To secure a space, please contact Hugh Gourlay (Ph 03 3256-701 ext 3748 or send an email to gourlayh@landcareresearch.co.nz)

Wellington Botanical Society - Field Trip – Gibbs Covenant and Butterfly Creek - Saturday 6 November: Tour George and Keena Gibb's covenant and then botanise Butterfly Creek. See the newly described Eastbourne Hills *Libertia edgariae*, *Libertia* aff. *grandiflora* Druce), *Drymoanthus flavus* and mistletoe. We will record

sightings of these special plants, and invasive weed species. Meet: Junction of Puriri Street and Muritai Road, Eastbourne, at 9 am. Leaders: George and Keena Gibbs (tbc). Contact Chris Horne ph. 475 7025.

Botanical Society of Otago – Evening meeting. Plants with a Purpose - Wednesday 10 November, 2004: Start time: 5:20 PM. Finish time: 7:00 PM. A talk by Beatrice Hale, author of [The New Zealand Pleasure Garden](#) (2004). The speaker writes: "I want to explore the myriad purposes of plants- their purposes and our purposes. I want to take you on a personal journey beyond the plants in our gardens to discuss the excitement of their origins, their journeys to New Zealand, and their value to us. The New Zealand Pleasure Garden is about how we can use our plants beyond the usual picking, cooking and potpourri activities. It is about making a garden for all the senses, vision, taste, touch, hearing and fragrance; it is also about what lies beyond. What else can we do with our plants? At the NEW Zoology Benham Building, 346 Great King Street, behind the Zoology car park by the Captain Cook Hotel. Use the main entrance of the Benham Building to get in and go to the Benham Seminar Room, Rm. 215, 2nd floor. Please be prompt as we have to hold *the door open*. Contact [Ian Radford](#), phone: (03) 479 9065.

Wellington Botanical Society - Evening talk - “Global Plant Conservation in New Zealand – a way forward in the 21st Century” Monday 15 November: Speaker: John Sawyer, Wellington Conservancy, DOC. John will outline new developments in plant conservation and options for the future. BotSoc meetings are usually held at 7.30 pm on the third Monday of each month at Victoria University, Wellington, Lecturer Theatre M101, ground floor Murphy Building, west side of Kelburn Parade. Enter building off Kelburn Parade about 20m below pedestrian overbridge.

GOING NATIVE

MAKING USE OF NEW ZEALAND PLANTS

edited by Ian Spellerberg & David Given

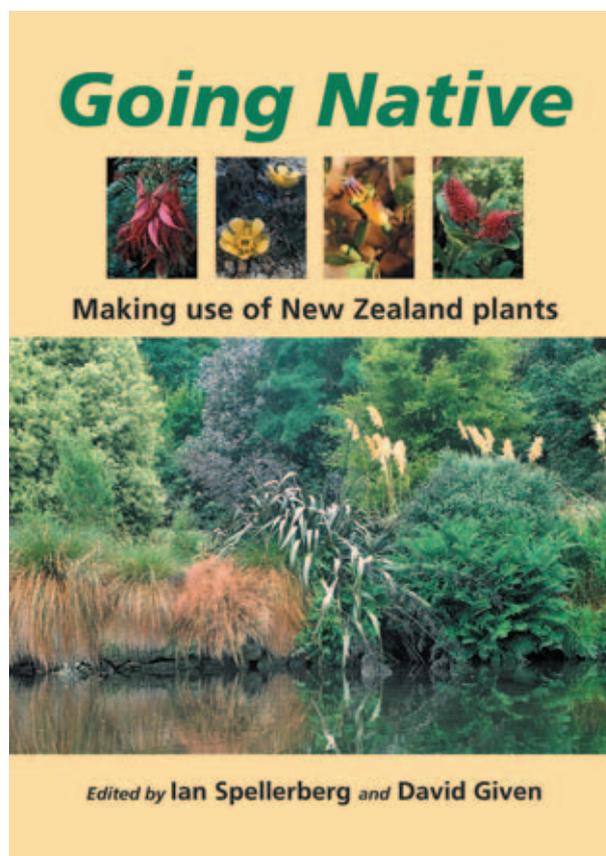
HAVE YOU EVER wondered how best to best to incorporate New Zealand native plants into your garden? Or how to re-create a patch of native bush? This book is a rich compendium of ideas, describing the many and varied practical uses of New Zealand plants.

With contributions from gardening experts to moving accounts from school children, this is a book by New Zealanders for New Zealand.

If you are wondering which New Zealand native plants are frost-tender, which prefer coastal sites or which are tall-growing species, there is an extensive A-Z glossary to guide you.

Advice on landscaping with natives and on cultivating from seed or cuttings is presented in richly illustrated chapters. If you want to play your part in conservation and grow rare and endangered species, or restore an area of native plant habitats, you will find the guidelines in this book.

For far too long introduced plants have overshadowed our native plants. This book will help ensure there is a better future for our rich and diverse flora.



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256 pp, colour throughout
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