



## NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

E-NEWSLETTER: NO 7. JUNE 2004

Please send news items or events to [events@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:events@nzpcn.org.nz)  
Postal address: P.O. Box 16-102, Wellington, New Zealand

### Message from the President

Hard copies of the summary report from last years Global Strategy for Plant Conservation workshops are now available for purchase (members \$10, non-members \$15). Copies can be purchased by emailing the network ([info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz)).

In the next couple of days you will be receiving details of this years Network meeting (and AGM) in Auckland. It is to be held at Auckland Regional Botanic gardens on Saturday 7 August 2004 at the end of Conservation Week, sponsored by the Auckland Regional Council and the Department of Conservation.

Speakers so far include Ewen Cameron (Auckland) and Kevin Prime (Whangarei). Workshops will be held on various subjects including: the Threatened Plants of Auckland (run by Bec Stanley and Peter de Lange), New Zealand Fungi (run by Peter Buchanan) and the Translocation of Threatened Plants (run by John Sawyer). A field trip is also planned for the Sunday to look at threatened plants and their management in Auckland city. Please advertise this to your colleagues and friends. Registration forms are available by emailing [info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz)

### New Website features

If you want a list of New Zealand's threatened plants then this can be downloaded directly from the Network's website ([www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz)). This can be found at the following link: [http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz\\_threatenedplants/threatened\\_list.asp](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz_threatenedplants/threatened_list.asp)

The complete list of threatened plants was recently published in the New Zealand Journal of Botany. The reference is: de Lange *et al.* 2004. Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, 2004, Vol. 42: 45-76.

If you have information that can be added to the site including bibliographic references or funding opportunities please email us at [info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz)

### Plant of the month



*Trilepidia adamsii* (Adam's mistletoe) is one of New Zealand's four extinct vascular plants. It is a shrubby, hemi-parasitic mistletoe up to 1 m in diameter and was parasitic on *Coprosma arborea*, wharangi (*Melicope ternata*) and mapou (*Myrsine australis*). The causes of its demise have been attributed to habitat loss, over-collecting, loss of pollinators, loss of dispersers, and possum browse. The species was chosen as the Network's logo as a reminder that our work to protect New Zealand's indigenous plant life is vital to avoid further declines in our native flora. The Network's factsheet for this species can be found at:

[http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz\\_threatenedplants/detail.asp?PlantID=796](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz_threatenedplants/detail.asp?PlantID=796)

### **Setting the record straight on the “killer tree” Parapara (*Pisonia brunoniana*)**

Bird feathers are flying in Auckland as Tamaki Estuary Protection Society spokeswoman Ros Nicholson and her associates have continued their relentless campaign to get Parapara (*Pisonia brunoniana*) banned from sale and cultivation. Over the last three years stories have been circulated of the tree being exotic, that it is island endemic not indigenous to mainland portion of New Zealand, or that the Department of Conservation is involved in a conspiracy to encourage people to plant the tree. None of these stories are true. But they have arisen because of exaggerated statements that the trees kill numerous birds. “It is causing so much harm....the tree looks pretty but [are] really an enemy to wildlife”. The most recent campaign has taken the view that the tree is noxious and so should be listed under the Biosecurity Act.

In response New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Vice-President, Peter de Lange has refuted these claims, setting the record straight about the tree’s indigenous status, its worldwide conservation status, former and current distribution, seed-dispersal mechanism, and offered guidelines for its sensible cultivation. At this stage, and despite attempts by the SPCA to assist in the campaign to ban the tree, the Auckland Regional Council has no policy on the trees, beyond that they don’t recommend their planting in inner-city residential areas, because it is a primarily coastal species. In de Lange’s view hysteria about “killer plants” is uninformed, unhelpful, and grossly overstated. According to him it’s a personal choice, “if you don’t want to grow parapara – don’t. If you do, and you worry about the occasional bird capture, then prune off the fruit as they develop”.

### **Help sought from members**

If you or a family member or friend has accountancy skills and is willing to assist us with running the financial side of the organisation please contact the Council at [info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz)

### **Grasses needed to complete counts for the New Zealand Poaceae (nom. altr. Gramineae)**

**Brian, G. Murray**, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, [b.murray@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:b.murray@auckland.ac.nz); **Peter J. de Lange**, Science & Research Unit, Department of Conservation, Private Bag 68908, Newton, Auckland, [pdelange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pdelange@doc.govt.nz)

Brian and Peter are calling for live plants of the following New Zealand grasses (see list) to complete our chromosome survey. At present there are only 19 taxa still outstanding. They want living samples or fresh seed of the taxa listed below. In general, grasses are easily dug up and transplanted, and just a few tillers with a small amount of root ball can usually be transplanted. However, because of Auckland’s humid climate, and warm, wet, winters many of the southern species will not long persist in cultivation or flower. Therefore, a further request is that (if possible) a flowering/fruitlet specimen suitable for a herbarium voucher should be collected as well, and the live plant and the herbarium sample posted with full collection details to either of us.

We appreciate any assistance you can give us to help us complete our survey. Please make sure you have permission to collect before sampling grasses (or indeed any native plant) from the wild. List of grasses needed to complete chromosome counts for the New Zealand indigenous vascular flora is as follows (19 taxa).

*Agrostis oresbia*

*A. subulata*

*Deschampsia pusilla*

*Hierochloa cuprea*

*H. recurvata*

*Lachnagrostis glabra*

*L. pilosa* subsp. *nubifera*

*L. tenuis*

*Lepturus repens* var. *cinereus*

*Poa aucklandica* subsp. *rakiura*

*P. celsa*

*P. cookii*

*P. maia*

*P. tonsa*

*Puccinellia walkeri* subsp. *antipoda*

*P. walkeri* subsp. *walkeri*

*Rytidosperma merum*

*R. nudum*

*Zotovia accicularis*

## **New plant families for New Zealand species**

In recent months there have been some significant changes in the classification of plant families. A recent scientific paper has disintegrated the Scrophulariaceae so that New Zealand *Hebe*'s are now in the Plantaginaceae. The genus *Mimulus* is now in the Phrymaceae. A popular article describing the changes can be found at:

[http://courses.washington.edu/bot113/Spring/WebReadings/PdfReadings/Pesky\\_Taxonomists.pdf](http://courses.washington.edu/bot113/Spring/WebReadings/PdfReadings/Pesky_Taxonomists.pdf)

A good table summarising recent changes in families due to genetic work:

<http://courses.washington.edu/bot113/Spring/WebReadings/PdfReadings/Scrophulariaceae.pdf>

The real paper for this is: Olmstead, R.G., de Pamphilis, C.W., Wolfe, A.D., Young, N.D., Elisens, W.J., Reeves, P.A. 2001. Disintegration of the Scrophulariaceae. *American Journal of Botany*, 88:348-361

## **Discount for Network members from Manaaki Whenua Press**



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P R E S S**

Manaaki Whenua Press offers a wide range of quality New Zealand natural history and science titles. Some, like the *Flora of New Zealand* series, are published by Manaaki Whenua Press, while many others are sourced from other publishers in order to expand and enhance our range. Manaaki Whenua Press also acts as exclusive distributor for CSIRO publishing, the New Zealand Plant Protection Society, and the Entomological Society of New Zealand. For more information, visit the website at

[www.mwpress.co.nz](http://www.mwpress.co.nz) NZ Plant Conservation Network members enjoy a 20%

discount off the RRP of all titles (excluding already reduced special offers) - please advise us of your membership status when placing your order. **[www.mwpress.co.nz](http://www.mwpress.co.nz)**

## **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](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz)). Our postal address is P.O. Box 16-102, Wellington or email the Network at [info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto:events@nzpcn.org.nz)).

## **Wellington Botanical Society Mana Island Field trip - Saturday 12 June: BOOKINGS**

ESSENTIAL to guarantee space. Help with planting trees as part of a reforestation project. See over 20 years of plantings, the concrete gannet colony, and extensive views. Tools will be provided. Take appropriate clothing for wintry, windy weather. Boots essential. Leader Sue Chester.eld 233 8314. Cancellation notice broadcast on 2ZB.

## **Botanical Society of Otago - Moores Bush and cryptogam ID workshop - Saturday 12**

**June, 2004.** Start time: 9:30 AM. Finish time: 4:30 PM. Morning Field Trip to Moores Bush, followed by afternoon cryptogam identification workshop. Moores Bush, in the upper Leith Valley, is the site of an on-going Forest and Bird restoration project, returning what was once dairy pasture to native forest. Their main emphasis now is in creating a mammal-free 'mini-mainland island' to aid the regeneration of podocarps. Miro, matai, totara, kahikatea and mountain cedar are all present, with some magnificent specimens towering above the vigorously regenerating under-story. Our main aim will be to help update the lichen, bryophyte and fern lists. Cryptogam (non-flowering plants) specimens needing identification will be brought back to the laboratory for the afternoon workshop in the Botany Dept. Lichen leaders Allison Knight and Jennifer Bannister, mosses - Maia Mistral. Bring hand lens and lunch. Contact Allison Knight, phone: (03) 479 7577.

**Rare and threatened plants of Banks Peninsula Workshop – Saturday 19 June 2004.**

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust with support from the NZLCT, DOC, and the Biodiversity Advice Fund is holding a workshop open to all. *Learn more about* the unique, threatened, and special plants of Banks Peninsula, the national and international scene, current projects underway to conserve native plants on Banks Peninsula, the role gardens can play in native plant conservation. To be held at Akaroa Sports Hall. 10am to 1pm. Bring a lunch, no charge, tea and coffee provided. Speakers include *Hugh Wilson* - Hinewai Reserve, *David Given*, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation, *John Sawyer*, Plant Ecologist, DOC Wellington, Secretary of the NZ Native Plant Conservation Network, *Anita Spencer*, biodiversity ranger, DOC Canterbury, *Rick Menzies*, chair BPCT, member feral goat working group. For more information contact: Frances Schmechel, BPCT, email: [frances@landcare.org.nz](mailto:frances@landcare.org.nz), Phone: (03) 962-9555. c/o NZLCT, PO Box 39-141, Christchurch

**New Zealand Plant Conservation Network – National Conference/Workshop –**

**Saturday 7 August 2004** at Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens. Workshops to be held on several subjects such as the threatened vascular plants of Auckland, New Zealand's indigenous fungi and the translocation of threatened plants. Email for registration forms: [info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz)