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NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

Please send news items or events to events@nzpcn.org.nz

Postal address: P.O. Box 16-102, Wellington, New Zealand

E-NEWSLETTER: No 18. MAY 2005

Deadline for next issue: Friday 10 June 2005

Message from the President

Plans for the national conference are well advanced and we have a great line up of speakers and field trips. Please make sure you are there and encourage colleagues to register as well. It is also the time for our AGM and re election of officers and Council members. A strong organisation needs people to give time and energy and we are keen for members who are keen to assist to put their hands up at this time. This is my last year as President. I have had a stimulating and challenging two years in the role as well as several months prior to that hatching the development of the organisation along with John Sawyer and others. I could never have imagined us coming so far in such a short time and the interest we would have engendered amongst the conservation community. We need to keep the momentum up and for that we need your support and time.



Plant of the Month

Plant of the month for May is the Nationally Critical *Carmichaelia muritai*. This coastal tree broom occurs only in northern coastal cliffs of South Marlborough on deeply eroded coastal cliffs on coarse, free draining gravel and loess, colluvial fans below cliffs. It is a small, generally leafless tree up to 6 m. The Network fact sheet may be found at the following link:

http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=8

Carmichaelia muritai. Photo: John Smith-Dodsworth

‘Restoring our threatened plant life – empowering our community’: **Network Conference 2005**

Information about the forthcoming Network conference 2005 can now be obtained from the Network website (look under Conservation Info). A registration form can be downloaded from the site although copies have already been sent to Network members. Please contact the Network (info@nzpcn.org.nz) if you would like more copies of the form. Please let your friends and colleagues know about the conference and encourage them to come, learn and share ideas about the protection and restoration of our threatened plant life. Help with sponsorship and organisation of the conference would be very welcome—please contact David Given: david.given@ccc.govt.nz

Network Plant Conservation Awards 2005

The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network has launched an awards scheme to acknowledge outstanding contributions to native plant conservation. A nomination form can be found on the website under Conservation info. We look forward to receiving your nominations for the various categories. Please bring this awards scheme to the attention of your colleagues and friends. The prize giving will be at the Network conference on the evening of Saturday 13 August 2005.

Botanic Gardens Conservation International appoints new Secretary General

The Board of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) has appointed Sara Oldfield as the new Secretary General. Sara succeeds Dr Peter Wyse Jackson who recently took up the position of Director of the National Botanic Gardens, Ireland.

Chair of the Board of Directors, Baroness (Joan) Walmsley, said BGCI welcomes Sarah's superb experience in international conservation. From her days as the first Conservation Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to her current roles as both Fauna & Flora International's Director of the Global Trees Campaign, and IUCN/SSC's Chair of Global Tree Specialist Group, she brings a range of knowledge, experience, drive and partnership working to BGCI which will benefit the plant conservation world.

Sara is delighted to be appointed at such an exciting time for BGCI and the botanic gardens around the world. With the progress of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, the International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation, and the success of the HSBC sponsored Investing in Nature Programme, BGCI's contribution towards botanic gardens and plant conservation is firmly underpinned.

Sara will take up her role as Secretary General from 16 May 2005.

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):

Wellington Botanical Society. Evening meeting Monday 16th May Members' evening. Please share your slides and photographic displays taken on BotSoc trips; your paintings, drawings and your favourite botanical readings. Plant specimens would add to a memorable evening. To be held at 7.30 p.m. 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.

The Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden, Winter Seminar Series, Seminar One 12 June 2005 9.30 a.m.–4.30 p.m. The Treehouse, Wellington Botanic Garden. Marking the Registration of the Wellington Botanic Garden by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Wellington's Native Bush: 'Forward from the Brink'. Illustrated Talks from Settlement to Today'.

Speakers:

Marian Minson (Alexander Turnbull Library), '*The Pictorial Record of Wellington's Bush at the Time of Settlement*'.

Walter Cook (Alexander Turnbull Library) and Winsome Shepherd, '*The Historical Photographic and Written Record*'.

Dr. Maggy Wassilieff, '*Studies of the Wellington Town Belt*'.

Dr. Geoff Park, '*Wellington's Bush Remnants Today*'.

Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne, '*John Buchanan's Paper of 1875 and the 2003 Survey of the Wellington Botanic Garden Bush Remnants*'.

Mike Oates (Manager, Wellington City Council Open Spaces) and David Sole (Manager, Wellington Botanic Garden and Otari/Wilton Bush), '*Managing the Wellington Botanic Garden Bush Remnant Today*'.

Panel discussion and questions from the floor with Dr. Maggy Wassilieff (Chair), Dr. Geoff Park, David Sole, Dr. John Dawson, Mike Oates, Barbara Mitcalf, Chris Horne and Walter Cook'. Cost for the seminar: \$28 per person. \$20 for students. Includes refreshments and lunch. Registration for this seminars is essential. The last day to register is 30 May 2005. To register and/or for further information please telephone the Treehouse on 499 1400 or email treehouse@wcc.govt.nz. To register and/or for further information please telephone the Treehouse on 499 1400 or email treehouse@wcc.govt.nz.

8th Australasian Bryophyte Workshop. Saturday 25 June to Thursday 30 June 2005. The 8th Australasian Bryophyte Workshop is to be held in Palma Village, North Queensland, Saturday 25 June to Thursday 30 June 2005. Expressions of interest are being sought now as numbers will be limited. Enquiries should be made to Andi Cairns, Tropical Biology, James Cook University, Townsville 4811, Australia. Email Andi.cairns@jcu.edu.au

Waikato Botanical Society - Saturday 2 July

Herbarium Workshop - Sedges and Rushes - with Rotorua Botanical Society

Following on from the very successful grass workshop in 2004 this workshop will cover the basics of identifying sedges and rushes, followed by a practical session on keying out specimens. Start by collecting specimens over summer to ensure that seed heads are available. Remember that roots can be important for identification of rushes. We hope to demonstrate the use of a "Proscope".

Bring: specimens, pen & paper, books, hand lens, microscopes.

Leader: Chris Ecroyd (assisted by Graeme Jane)

Meet: 10a.m. at Forest Research main reception, 49 Sala St, Rotorua [after 10.10 a.m. phone 07 343-5609 to get the gate re-opened!]

Contact: Please advise Chris either by phone (07 3479067 evenings) or email chris.ecroyd@forestresearch.co.nz if you are coming.

Bring your lunch. Workshop will finish c. 4 p.m.

The Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden, Winter Seminar Series Seminar Two 10 July 2005 9.30am - 4.30pm. The Treehouse, Wellington Botanic Garden. Marking the Registration of the Wellington Botanic Garden by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

'Your House - Our Trees': the Importance of the Exotic Conifers in the Wellington Botanic Garden'.

Winsome Shepherd and Walter Cook (Alexander Turnbull Library), *'Conifer Introductions to New Zealand in the 19th Century, and the Role Played by Wellington Botanic Garden and Early Scientific Institutions'.*

Kerryn Pollock, *'The Wellington Botanic Garden and the Creation of Environmental Change in Colonial New Zealand: the Conifers'.*

Keynote Speaker Dr. Jenny Aitkin (Forest Research Institute, Rotorua), *'Genetic Studies in Conifers and the Importance of the Wellington Botanic Garden: DNA Analysis and its Implications'.*

David Sole (Manager, Wellington Botanic Garden and Otari/Wilton Bush), *'Where to From Here? Managing the Conifers at the Wellington Botanic Garden'.*

Panel discussion and questions from the floor with Mike Oates (Chair), Dr. Jenny Aitkin, David Sole, Winsome Shepherd, Kerryn Pollock and Walter Cook.

Cost for the seminar: \$28 per person. \$20 for students. Includes refreshments and lunch.

Registration for this seminar is essential. The last day to register is 30 May 2005. To register and/or for information please telephone the Treehouse on 499 1400 or email treehouse@wcc.govt.nz.

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network conference 2005: Friday 12 – Sunday 14 August 2005. *‘Restoring our threatened plant life – empowering our community’*. For more details see article above or visit the Network website www.nzpcn.org.nz and look under Conservation Info/Events.

National Conference of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation - Plant Conservation: the challenges of change. 26 September – 1 October 2005. Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia. The Australian Network for Plant Conservation and the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage invite you to Adelaide to exchange ideas and to participate in discussions on the challenges that currently face us all in plant conservation. Whether these challenges be of changing climates, environmental conditions, government and policy focus, or confronting scientific information, this conference will stimulate consideration and participation. The conference will appeal to all those involved in plant conservation from on-ground practitioners to researchers and policy makers. The Conference will include the following themes:

1. Extreme policy changes
2. Urban ecology
3. Revegetation & rehabilitation
4. Partnerships - partnering for plant conservation
5. Indigenous agendas and conservation

Further information will be posted on the conference website (address below) regarding the conference, associated workshops and a call for workshop topics. For further information contact:

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