



TRILEPIDEA

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

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Deadline for next issue: Friday 13 April 2007

Message from the President

Of course I am biased but, on the basis of anecdotal evidence, I do believe that there is a growing interest in our native flora. For example, I was reading a monthly gardening magazine the other day and I counted up the number of references to native plants and the number of photographs of native plants. I then managed to obtain a copy of the same magazine from 10 years ago. Not a good sample size, I know, but there was very little by way of comparison on native plants in the old copy of that magazine. Other evidence comes from the plant nurseries; here in Central Canterbury we are finding that more and more nurseries are selling native plants.

It is very exciting to see that the plant of the month is a liverwort! This is the first time that a bryophyte has featured as plant of the month. This is not before time and it is thanks to the Network for securing the funding that has made this possible. It is one more example of the many successful projects being undertaken by the Network. In this month's Newsletter there are other examples of how the Network has directly or indirectly helped to secure funding for surveys and other projects.

I look forward very much to sharing information about these successes at the AGM later this year. We have, as yet, not fixed any date and, as noted below, the AGM will take place without a conference. However, there will be some kind of event where members will be able to take part. The next Network Conference will be in 2008 at Te Papa. A small group from the Council will start meeting this month to plan that Conference. We would very much like to have your suggestions and ideas about the content and format of that Conference. Do please contact me or just email the Network if you have any ideas or suggestions to make.

This month's Newsletter has a lot of information about events happening around the Country. This is very good news. It is good to know that future events are being posted in the Newsletter. Many thanks to all those people who are passing on the information. It is also good news in terms of the events themselves. I like to believe that this does prove that botanical society field days and related events are alive and well. There does indeed appear to be a continuing growth in the interest in our native flora.

Ian Spellerberg
Lincoln University

Network conference to be held August 2008

The Network Council has decided that, since our last conference was held so late in 2006, we should delay our next conference till 2008. That means we are now planning for the next Network conference to be held in Wellington during Conservation week in August 2008. Although that means no Network conference will be held in 2007, it also means there is more time to plan for next year. The busy programme of Network projects and other events for 2007 was a contributing factor in the decision to hold the next conference in 2008. There will still be an AGM held later in 2007. If you would like to assist with organising the 2008 conference (whether you are based in Wellington or not) or have good ideas for the conference that you would like to share please contact the Network: email info@nzpcn.org.nz

Plant of the Month



Bragginsella anomala, Temple Basin, Arthur's Pass. Photo: John Braggins.

Plant of the Month for March is the Nationally Critical liverwort *Bragginsella anomala*. In 2006, the Network, with funding from TFBIS, began installing fact sheets on its website for all of New Zealand's threatened bryophytes and, for the first time, the Network is using a threatened liverwort as plant of the month. *Bragginsella anomala* is an endemic monotypic genus. The plant is known from only one site in Arthur's Pass National Park where it is found in subalpine to alpine areas and grows on steep-sided walls of a deep stream draining an alpine basin or in dark or deeply shaded sites hidden under overhanging tussock and sedges. Since it is known from only a single site it is vulnerable to over-collection and, because it is so small and inconspicuous, and occupies such a small area, its eradication by accident or stochastic events is a major conservation concern. The generic name commemorates the remarkable achievements of Dr John Braggins, former Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland, and now a Research Associate at the herbarium (AK) of the Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland City, New Zealand. The Network fact sheet for

this species may be found at: <http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/liverwort/detail.asp?cryptogamid=10>. For more information about "What is a liverwort" see the Network website under NZ native flora.

QEII Covenant surveys for threatened plants begin

The Network, in collaboration with the Queen Elizabeth II Trust, secured funding from the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Fund in 2006 to survey threatened plant populations that occur on privately owned covenants throughout New Zealand. This work has just commenced with Wildland Consultants being employed to survey for a wide range of threatened plant species including *Carmichaelia hollowayi*, *Gentianella calcis* subsp. *waipara* and *Sicyos australis* (all Nationally Critical) and *Simplicia laxa*, *Carmichaelia kirkii* and *Pittosporum obcordatum* (Nationally Endangered) amongst others.



Gentianella calcis subsp. *waipara*.
Photo: David Glenny.



Carmichaelia kirkii. Photo: John Barkla

The purpose of the project is to provide detailed advice to the landowners on whose property the threatened plants occur about how best to manage and monitor the species. It is also hoped that the QEII regional representative will learn about the species and what they look like so leading to further discoveries during covenant field work. The final survey reports will be held by QEII and the landowner.

ARC celebrates NZPCN award

Bec Stanley, ARC, (Rebecca.Stanley@arc.govt.nz)

The Auckland Regional Council won the 2006 council category of the NZPCN plant conservation awards at last year's Network conference. At a celebratory morning tea ARC Parks & Heritage Committee Chair, Sandra Coney, explained that the council received the award because of the contribution the heritage, biosecurity and parks teams (including the Botanic Gardens) make to plant conservation through replanting, managing the threatened plant garden, protecting biodiversity through pest control and managing native vegetation on parks. Councillor Coney then displayed the beautiful *Trilepidea* print by Sue Wickison. There was much discussion about where this painting will reside!



Staff from the Botanic Gardens, parks, biosecurity, and natural heritage with Councillors Christine Rose, Sandra Coney and Dianne Glenn.

L-R first row: Christine Rose, Sandra Coney, Shona Myers (Acting Manager Heritage), Dianne Glenn

L-R second row: Jane Wright (Botanic Gardens), Sarah Gibbs (Biosecurity), Abigail Forbes (Natural Heritage), Jack Craw (Team Leader Biosecurity), Holly Cox (Biosecurity), Bec Stanley (Biosecurity)

L-R back row: Louise Mason (General Manager Programmes and Partnerships), Lance Vervoort (General Manager Parks), Graham Ussher (Natural Heritage), Jonathan Boow (Biosecurity) and Rod Smart (Biosecurity).

New Zealand's threatened vascular plants

Have you made your submissions yet on the status of New Zealand's threatened vascular plants? We have already received over 160 submissions but we want more. Please use the submission form on the Network website see: http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/threat_listing/threat_list_form.asp

You are welcome to make as many submissions as you like on as many species as you want. A new threatened vascular plant list is being compiled this year and we need your help. Please tell us if you think the current threat listing is wrong or if you have evidence that a previously unlisted species is

now threatened. Please provide as many details as you can of your field observations to support your submissions so that the expert committee can make an informed decision.

The New Zealand Threatened Vascular Plant List is only as good as the information used to make it so please tell us what you think. The new list will be used in many ways to drive plant conservation projects in New Zealand.

If you want to read more about this project, please refer to Trilepidea No 37 (www.nzpcn.org.nz/documents/Trilepidea-061221.pdf).

Please forward this email to friends and colleagues who may be interested in making a submission. The deadline, 31 March, is fast approaching, make your submission NOW.

Many thanks for your help with this important project.

Threatened plant survey commences in the Bay of Plenty



Hypolepis dicksonioides. Photo: John Barkla.

The Network recently bid successfully to the Wairakei Environmental Mitigation Charitable Trust for money to undertake surveys of threatened thermal ferns in the Waikato/Bay of Plenty region. The project plan is to determine the distribution and abundance of three threatened thermal ferns (*Christella* sp. 'thermal', *Cyclosorus interruptus*, and *Hypolepis dicksonioides*) at geothermal sites. Work has now begun with Wildland Consultants being employed to do the work. Nick Singers and Paul Cashmore are coordinating the project. Results from the survey are due in late June 2007 and will be reported in this newsletter. This project shows how Network members can initiate projects, with prior approval of the national council, to complete important plant conservation work. Please contact the Network in the first instance (email: info@nzpcn.org.nz) if you are interested in bidding to funding agencies near you for money to undertake similar plant conservation work.

Global Restoration Network launched

The Global Restoration Network was launched in Tucson, Arizona on March 15, 2007. The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) International launched a free, online hub for comprehensive information on ecological restoration at GlobalRestorationNetwork.org. It is claimed that the website is a unique industry resource rich with data, information, expertise and the latest techniques and innovations in restoration. Freely accessible to anyone in the world who has an Internet connection, users can now find the exact information they need to research, implement and improve their ecological restoration projects in three clicks or less. Sponsors of the Global Restoration Network include the U.S. Forest Service, Biohabitats Inc., Chevron, Temper of the Times Foundation, Blackwell Publishing and Island Press.

With this being a very recent development, no one from NZPCN has yet had the opportunity to evaluate the site. Members' comments are welcome, please forward them to: info@nzpcn.org.nz.

Identification of your Most Important Plant Areas

The Network is now calling for nominations of Important Plant Areas using the on-line nomination form on the Network website (www.nzpcn.org.nz) – see NZ Native Flora>NZ Important Plant Areas.

Important Plant Areas (**IPAs**) are the best sites for wild plants and fungi. The purpose of an **IPA** programme is to identify a network of sites within each biogeographic zone that are critical for the long-term viability of naturally occurring wild plant populations. The identification of IPAs in New Zealand and throughout Oceania is valuable so that conservation efforts for wild plant species and their habitats may be appropriately targeted to these sites. Target 5 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation is that “protection of 50% of the world’s most important areas for plant diversity assured by 2010”. So that New Zealand may achieve this target, the Network is working to identify IPAs and criteria for identification of these areas have now been developed. The Network is now calling for nomination of sites using the form provided. These sites will be examined by an expert panel every few months and if supported will become part of the Network’s IPA database. Gradually, the Network will build up a database of the most important areas in New Zealand for plants, which will aid our conservation programme.

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):

Auckland Botanical Society

Meeting: Wednesday evening April 4, Unitec School of Natural Sciences, a talk entitled ‘Birds as pollinators & seed dispersers of the native flora’ by Sandra Anderson, Field Ecologist, School of Biological Sciences/School of Geography & Environmental Science, University of Auckland.

Abstract: New Zealand’s long biogeographic isolation has left a legacy of distinctive flora and fauna. The flora is characterised by a high percentage of trees (33% of species), a high percentage of bird-dispersed species (72% of trees), and a low incidence of ornithophily (4% of genera). Six of 7 bird-pollinated plant species examined so far are pollen-limited to some extent at mainland sites. Three of 8 fruiting species studied are suffering reduced dispersal on the mainland, and large (>1.4 cm) diameter fruits now depend on a single disperser (NZ pigeon). Conservation of these plants requires management of native bird populations (especially tui, bellbirds and NZ pigeon) to avoid long term shifts in vegetation composition.

Field trip: The annual Easter field trip 6-9 April is to Karikari Peninsula. This camp will be based at Whatuwahiwi, and the peninsula will be explored during the weekend, with trips also to private property at Hihi and the Motutangi Swamp. Leaders: Maureen Young and Barbara Paris. Contact Maureen (email: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz) for more details.

Field trip: Saturday 21 April to the Hunua Ranges led by Steve McCraith.

Waikato Botanical Society

Meeting and AGM: Tuesday 27 March at 7 pm. **Venue:** R2.06 Biology Department, University of Waikato. Parking at Gate 9 entrance, Hillcrest Rd, follow entrance over speed bumps around right-hand bend and down hill, R-block building entrance on right has sharp left-hand turn approach. Access at ground floor of stairwell, follow signs to 2nd floor to room, R2.06. The talk will be given by Bruce Mackay on *Restored Urban Forest Patches*. Bruce has many years experience working for City and District Councils and has recently completed a Masters thesis at Waikato University. His research looked at factors in the success of restored urban forest patches in the Hamilton Ecological District by comparing vegetation composition over time under different planting and maintenance regimes.

Contact: Liz Grove, eg3@waikato.ac.nz, ph 07 846 0965 (home).

Field visit and work: Sunday 29 April, Taitua Arboretum & Botanical Society Threatened Plant Collection Working Bee #5.

See the autumn colours turning at this impressive collection of over 1500 mature indigenous and exotic tree and shrub species. The arboretum was gifted to Hamilton City Council by John and Bunny Mortimer who over several decades planted many rare and unusual trees. After our self-guided wander through Taitua and a picnic lunch, we will return to the University for a working bee in the threatened plant garden. Please bring gloves, old clothes and boots for weeding, planting and propagating activities.

Meet: 9.45 am at Waikato University Gate 9, Hillcrest Rd to carpool to Taitua. The arboretum is on Taitua Rd, off Howden Rd, signposted off SH23 between Hamilton and Whatawhata. **Contact:** Liz Grove eg3@waikato.ac.nz ph 07 846 0965 (home).

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field trip: Sunday 1 April, Oruatewehi Ecological Area, Northern Kaingaroa Forest 20 years on!

Leader : Paul Cashmore 07 348 4421 (home), 07 349 7432 (work). **Note:** Vehicle permits from Timberlands are required to access the forest. Please contact trip leader by Wed 28 March if bringing a vehicle - 4WD vehicles only on this trip please. **Meet:** the car park 8:30 am or DOC Rangitaiki Area Office, SH 38 Murupara 9:15 am. **Grade:** medium. Oruatewehi Ecological Area (Troutbeck's Bush) is one of the largest of the few remnants of native forest on the Kaingaroa Plateau. The remaining forest still provides a good indication of the type of forest which covered this segment of the Kaingaroa upland a few hundred years ago. About 10 ha of tawa-dominant forest with occasional large kahikatea, matai and rimu, and rare totara, occur in the bottom of the gorge, with abundant matai regeneration in adjoining "second-growth" of rohutu and tree ferns. Surrounding low ridges and gorge faces are mantled by 50 ha of kamahi-kanuka-rewarewa forest. Smale and Courtney (1985) recorded 144 indigenous vascular plant taxa here; this number was increased to 150 during the last visit by RBS to this reserve in March 1987. Since it is now 20 years since RBS last visited it is time to revisit this special area to document any changes to the flora that have occurred since then.

Field trip: Saturday 21 April, Okareka Mistletoe Restoration Project Weed Control Work Day. Leader: Paul Cashmore 07 348 4421 (home), 07 349 7432 (work). **Meet:** Ex-Okareka store 8:45 am. **Grade:** Medium-hard – activities suitable for all ages and abilities will be provided. This day may include releasing our September plantings and weed control elsewhere in the reserve.

Wellington Botanical Society

Meeting: Monday 16 April: evening meeting – Native species gone weedy? A case study with karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*).

Speaker/s: Jill Rapson and/or Jessica Costall (Massey University). This talk will discuss the results of a postgraduate research project, supervised by Jill Rapson at Massey University, Palmerston North. In 2004, 13 bush remnants from the lower North Island were selected to assess the invasiveness of karaka and the results will be discussed.

Field trip: Saturday 31 March: Druce garden working bee.

Help with maintenance of this nationally important garden containing many threatened indigenous plant species established by Tony and Helen Druce over 40 years ago. It is a QEII National Trust Open Space Covenant. Meet: from 9.30 am. Bring food, hot drinks provided. Bring gloves, kneeler and weeder.

Leader: Helen Druce, 123 Pinehaven Road, Pinehaven. Ph: 970 7853.

Field trip: Easter field trip, Friday 6 April – Monday 9 April, Tautane Station, Cape Turnagain. Explore and enjoy covenants which include massive northern rata with podocarp, karaka and broadleaf forest and a coastal karaka forest at Poroporo a few kilometres north of the Cape. **Accommodation:** Tautane Station has bunkrooms with full facilities. The Station provides access to areas of bush that are being or have been covenanted on the station and around Cape Turnagain. Cost: \$10/person/night plus share of group food. (There is more up-market accommodation should you wish.) If you have not already booked you may be too late. Leader: Marie Taylor (QEII Regional Rep). Wellington contact: Bev Abbott 475 8468, or bevabbott@xtra.co.nz.

Otari Bioblitz

24 hour event: 3 pm Friday 23 March to 3 pm Saturday 24 March, Otari Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd. For information phone 04 499 4444 or see www.otari100.org.nz, or www.owb.co.nz. This Bioblitz is brought to you by the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust and the Wellington City Council, with the essential scientific expertise of the School of Biological Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington, the Royal Society of New Zealand, and the Greater Wellington Regional Council, and the work of many volunteers.

Canterbury Botanical Society

Meeting: Friday 13 April, 7.30 p.m., room A5, University of Canterbury. "Show and Tell"
Have you some interesting images in print, slide or digital format of a botanical nature? Anything of a botanical nature can be exhibited at this evening. Eric Godley will have his newly launched book "A Botanist's Notebook" for sale at \$20 cash on the night. Orders may be made through Margaret Geerkens (bert.marg@xtra.co.nz).

Field trip: Saturday 14 April to Mt Thomas. Meet behind the Belfast Hotel for car pooling and departure at 9 a.m.

Botanical Society of Otago

Field trip: Saturday 14 April, 2007 to the DOC reserve at Nenthorn/Macraes.
Nenthorn/Macraes (inland from Palmerston) is best known as a site for rare skink conservation but there is also great botanical diversity, including over 25 threatened plants. We'll seek out some of the less familiar species and should encounter coral broom, wetland herbs such as *Gratiola nana* and *Tetrachondra hamiltonii*, and the rare grass *Simplicia laxa*. Leave Botany car park at 8.30 a.m. and return around 6 p.m. Bring lunch and be prepared for cool changeable weather conditions. The mileage for this trip is expected to be about 100km. Students are encouraged to apply for the student subsidy for this trip (download [form](#) at the Botanical Society of Otago website). **Contact Mike Thorsen**, phone: (03) 453 6800.

Meeting: Wednesday 18th April, 2007, 5.20 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. An evening of Botanical Photography and AGM.

Renowned photographers Rod Morris, Peter Johnson and Kelvin Lloyd will judge the inaugural BSO photographic competition following a brief AGM. Entries will be on display, photographic tips given and prizes presented. It's not too late to enter. Entries close 30 March. See [BSO website](#) or notice board for entry forms. At the 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 because we have to hold the door open. Contact: [Kevin Gould](#), phone: (03) 479 9061.

21st New Zealand Fungal Foray

Date: Sunday, 6 May 2007 – Saturday, 12 May 2007 based at Mawley Park Motor Camp, Masterton.
The Fungal Foray is an annual event held each year at a different site in New Zealand. It is intended for both amateur and professional mycologists. The amateurs range from members of the public with a general interest in natural history, to photographers, to gastronomes, to those with an extensive knowledge on New Zealand's fungi.

The Foray has three main aims:

- to better understand the diversity and distribution of New Zealand's native fungi;
- to increase public understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's fungi; and
- to provide a forum for anyone in New Zealand interested in fungi to meet informally at least once a year.

Registrations are due by 28 March. For details and the registration form see: www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/event_details.asp?Ev_ID=452.