



# TRILEPIDEA

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

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

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## President's Annual Report 2006–07

It gives me great pleasure to give the President's report for the last year. In doing so, I wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all the members of the NZPZN Council. They carry most of the work and without their help, little could have been achieved.

### 1. Council meetings

Since the last AGM (held on November in Auckland during the 'Cheeseman' Conference) there have been two Council Meetings: 28 February, 5 October.

### 2. Membership

Currently, the total number of people on the membership list is (including all NGO and Corporate members) is 468.

Individual	247
Student/Unwaged	60
NGO	14
Corporate	20
Honorary	6
Total members	347

The Network is particularly pleased that The Queen Elizabeth II Trust has joined the Network as an NGO member. We are also very pleased to learn that the Wellington Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society has joined the Network.

### 3. Highlights

#### 3a. The Launch of the National Native Seed Bank for endangered species

The launch took place in Palmerston North on Thursday 16 August. This was made possible with generous support from MWH New Zealand. The Seed Bank is housed at the Margot Forde Germplasm Centre located on AgResearch's Palmerston North Campus. This Seed Bank helps to implement Target 8 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

#### 3b. The new version of the New Zealand Naturalised Vascular Plant list

The Network published an updated version of its naturalised vascular list. This was compiled largely by Network members and Clayson Howell, weed ecologist with the Department of Conservation.

#### 3c. Important Plant Areas

The Important Plant Area (IPAs) are the best sites for wild plants and fungi. The purpose has been to identify a network of sites within biogeographical zones. This contributes to Target 5 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. A number of members have started to nominate sites for IPA status in New Zealand. Further work is required on this for us to fulfil Target 5.

### **3d. Website fact sheets and images**

The Network website continues to grow with over 850 fact sheets now complete and over 85% of the indigenous flora now illustrated. All acutely and chronically threatened plants, all orchids and many other groups of plants are finished. Members help is sought to plug the last few image gaps.

### **3e. Marae-based plant training courses**

The Network's marae-based plant training course has been developed further. More funding has been obtained to run several more pilots. One was held in Nelson earlier this month. The Department of Conservation has adopted one of the modules (Introduction to New Zealand plant life) as its introductory course for Departmental staff. Three other modules are nearly complete and pilots of these are planned for the next 6 months. These modules are: How to manage a covenant, How to grow plants and manage a plant nursery and How to restore a wetland or streamside.

### **3f. Threatened plant book**

The text for a new book about New Zealand's threatened plants has now been edited and is being checked by the authors. Images are being finalised and the publication date is likely to be in 2008. This project was made possible by MWH-New Zealand through sponsorship. Canterbury University Press is the publisher and is working with us to make a superb production.

## **4. Website use and development**

Website usage continues to grow with over 1500 people visiting every day making it the most visited plant information system in New Zealand. The website has now received over 900,000 visitors in the 4 years since it was established (now over 1 million hits per month).

Recent developments and changes to the website over the past year include the addition of the MWH Threatened plant seed bank area with a system for registration of seed collectors and the addition of threatened bryophyte fact sheets (mosses and liverworts) with images and text. There are now more than 13,000 images on the website. Please tell us if you can contribute images to this resource to improve it for everybody. Many more developments are planned and the Network is currently adding higher resolution images for access by members only, which will aid identification.

The Network is also awaiting confirmation of funding for its bid to digitise all back issues of all regional botanical society journals. This project is being done in conjunction with the regional societies and the New Zealand Botanical Society.

## **5. The David Given Scholarship**

The Network has now established the Trust Fund. This is to fund research into the biosystematics and conservation management, protection and recovery of New Zealand's threatened plant and fungi species and their communities. An occasional scholarship will be awarded for research that assists the protection and recovery of threatened plant species and communities. David's family has agreed to the eligibility and the conditions.

## **6. Working with the Department of Conservation**

A formal liaison group has been established and a first meeting took place on 28 February. This has proved to be an important development so that both parties can continue to update each other on progress and continue to work in a collaborative manner.

## **7. Network administrator**

Dr Eric Scott has been appointed as the Network Administrator. He is responsible for maintenance of the Network membership database, management of subscriptions, compilation of the Newsletter and process general communications. He has produced a very helpful report to Council.

## 8. Looking ahead

Plans are now being made for the 2008 Conference to be held in Wellington at Te Papa. This will be five years on from the inaugural meeting at Te Papa. This Conference will be a major event in respect of looking to the next five years and also in respect of a celebration of native plants of New Zealand. We hope that many of you will be able to attend.

## 9. Acknowledgements

I have already mentioned, in general, the Council. In particular, I would like to mention Peter de Lange who has contributed a large and valuable amount of his time to the work of the Network. John Sawyer has (as Secretary) continued to put a very large amount of time into the Network's activities. I am also most grateful to Mike Oates who has made the role of Treasurer seem so simple but in fact has worked hard to establish an excellent accounting system. The rest of the national Council has also provided valuable support for the Network during the year.

Finally I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the Newsletter—and in doing so made the Newsletter a grand source of information.

*Ian Spellerberg, President NZPCN*

## Report from a Patron

I am delighted to confirm my continuing support for the NZ Plant Conservation Network as a Patron. The Network has made excellent progress this year by expanding its influence throughout New Zealand's conservation community perhaps best evidenced by the decision of QEII National Trust and the Wellington branch of RNZFBFS to join the network, and by the formal liaison we've established with the Department of Conservation. We are all looking forward to the launch of the Threatened Plant Book next year. The Network is indebted to the planning and hard work of Council members and the many Network volunteers.

Best regards,

*Rob Fenwick, Patron*

## Plant of the Month



Nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) seedlings.  
Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

Plant of the Month for October is the endemic **nikau palm** (*Rhopalostylis sapida*). This is primarily a species of coastal to lowland forest in the warmer parts of New Zealand. It is found in North Island and in South Island from Marlborough Sounds and Nelson to Okarito in the west and Banks Peninsula in the east. The nikau palm forms a tree with a trunk up to 15 m and has fronds up to 3 m long. The tree is not threatened but was chosen as Plant of the Month because it is currently in the Top 5 in the Network's on-line vote for New Zealand's favourite plant. The palm on the Chatham Islands is probably distinct from *R. sapida* but further research is required. Chatham Islands plants have a distinct juvenile form, larger fruits, and thicker indumentum on the fronds. The Network fact sheet for the nikau palm may be found at: [www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz\\_threatenedplants/detail.asp?PlantID=1290](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz_threatenedplants/detail.asp?PlantID=1290)

## New Honorary Member

As a result of a motion approved at the AGM, Audrey Eagle has had Honorary Member status of the Network conferred on her. Audrey's work in native plant illustration and identification has been mentioned in previous issues of *Trilepidea*. All members not able to be at the AGM will join with those that were there in congratulating Audrey on her membership.

## Dr Matt McGlone tells Network to act as if there is a biodiversity crisis

Dr Matt McGlone, Science leader at Landcare Research, gave his Keynote address to the annual Network AGM. The title of his talk was: *The NZ Biodiversity crisis: symbolic gestures, imaginary friends and real loss*.

Dr McGlone focused on three key issues: Biodiversity loss in NZ (the fact that we have already messed things up over generations and that the public appear to be unaware of the current crisis); the many symbolic gestures that pretend to or apparently address the problem but fail (such as getting out and doing it, killing pests unless part of an island or mainland island programme, attending international workshops and conferences and planning without budgets); and finally our imaginary friends (such as using ecosystem services to promote biodiversity conservation, urban biodiversity initiatives and the focus on climate change related biodiversity losses).

He explained that worrying about current losses in biodiversity should be far more pertinent to NZers rather than thinking about a future changed climate which might even have an economic upside. When people say that "looking after NZ's biodiversity is a bottomless pit" they could easily be saying the same about climate change but which issue is more urgent in the NZ context?

He suggested we could learn a thing or two from Karl Rove (former Deputy Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush) by making sure of your core supporters, not wasting time on those who will never support you, using negatives more (as they work 10 times better than positives) and attacking opponents where they feel confident and strong.

He suggested that we must behave in such a way as to demonstrate that there is a crisis, reduce ignorance, aggressively prioritise and monitor and analyse our outcomes. We must also mobilise the masses (we can do something about ignorance as the Network has shown via its website) and find knowledge solutions for people (we have the best ever informed cohort of retirees and school leavers). His final suggestion was for an autonomous Volunteer Biodiversity Corps providing a wide range of tasks for the volunteers (from physical to intellectual).

To finish off he reminded us again of the need to start by making government agencies fully aware of the risk of losing NZ's unique biodiversity.

## Rare plant rediscovered



David Given, in his 1981 book "Rare and Endangered Plants of New Zealand", expressed his dismay that "a good colony of *Todea barbara* could be seen until very recently near Coopers Beach but this colony was eliminated during the construction of a parking area and lookout". Coopers Beach resident and Network member, Bill Campbell, wondered recently whether there were any plants on the opposite side of the road. A scramble through weedy scrub vegetation on a steep bluff, including an old quarry, revealed at least 50 healthy plants, mostly around the top edge of the quarry. This emphasises the importance of local enthusiasts in helping to locate endangered plants.

*Todea barbara*. Photo: Lisa Forester.

## **Network awards for Native Plant Protection**

New Zealand's leading guardians of the country's native plants have been recognised with awards from the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. The award winners include two primary schools, community-based nurseries and a South Island district council, with a special achievement award for a native plant enthusiast from West Auckland.

### **Individual Award**

Wayne Bennett receives the Network's individual award for his efforts to lift the profile of ecological restoration planting and eco-sourcing in the Waikato. The judges said the award acknowledged a vast accumulation of knowledge on native plant propagation, fruiting and flowering phenology and restoration planting. Mr Bennett recently established an eco-sourcing plant nursery and shares his knowledge widely. He produces a newsletter profiling plants and ecosystems and runs propagation and seed collection workshops as part of Eco-Sourced Waikato. He has also been heavily involved in projects to save threatened flora such as Cook's scurvy grass.

### **Community Award**

The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society's Home Nursery in Wellington receives the award for best community project. The Wellington Home Nursery Group has provided endemic plants for land restoration in and around Wellington for the past 15 years. It was established through concern with the local council's inaction on plant diversification. Around 150,000 plants have been raised from eco-sourced seeds, including many species that are under threat nationally. Of these, around 50,000 plants have been supplied to the city council and 100,000 to restoration groups and projects.

### **Council Award**

The Marlborough District Council received the Network's council award for its Significant Natural Area (SNA) programme. Coastal and lowland southern Marlborough has little remaining indigenous habitat and a high proportion of threatened ecosystems. Marlborough's SNA project has extended across privately owned land throughout southern Marlborough and the Marlborough Sounds. The Network's judges commented that it is a model for achieving conservation gains in partnership with land owners. Over 250 Marlborough property owners have welcomed input from ecologists to carry out plant and habit surveys, with more than 680 hectares identified as ecologically significant.

### **Nursery Award**

Kerikeri Shadehouse, a community-based nursery providing plants for restoration projects, has won the Network's nursery award. It has provided inexpensive plants for restoration and revegetation projects in the Bay of Islands (especially Motupapa Island, Motukawanui and Waewaetorea Island) and on the mainland (including Bream Head, Te Paki, and Mimiwhangata). Over the past eight years the nursery has provided more than 50,000 eco-sourced plants and received an award from the Department of Conservation's Northland Conservancy. The judges said the nursery's ability to provide high quality plants at low cost is a major achievement in plant conservation.

### **School Award**

This year two schools received awards. Paroa School, on the South Island's West Coast, received an award for a little blue penguin project that began in 2005. The project has broadened to look at the protection of the whole beach environment and now grows pingao/pikao (*Desmoschoenus spiralis*) in tunnel houses for planting along the dunes. The knowledge gained from the project has been integrated into the school curriculum.

Maruia School, in Buller in the South Island, received an award for its work with two threatened plants: *Meliclytus flexuosus* and *Coprosma wallii*. These threatened plants feature in pupils' learning both inside and outside the classroom, with pupils helping Department of Conservation staff with planting into hare exclosures in the Maruia Valley. The school has also established its own nursery on the school grounds and officially adopted a planting site early in 2007 where it displays the school's art and interpretive information about the plants.

## Lifetime Achievement

Geoff Davidson of Oratia Valley, West Auckland, received the Life Time Achievement Award from the Network's National Council. This award recognised Mr Davidson's work to save species from extinction, running the country's top nursery (Oratia) and being part of major initiatives to protect plants and plant communities. These include the Kaikoura Island Trust and the Native Forest Restoration Trust. The judges commented that Mr Davidson has been a consistent ambassador for New Zealand plant life and has always been first to offer assistance with research on indigenous plants.

## Favourite plant 2007



Parataniwha (*Elatostema rugosum*), New Zealand's 5th favourite plant in 2006.  
Photo: Peter de Lange.

Voting for New Zealand's favourite indigenous plant is now open for 2007 via the website of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (see [www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz)). Please help us find New Zealand's favourite indigenous plant for 2007.

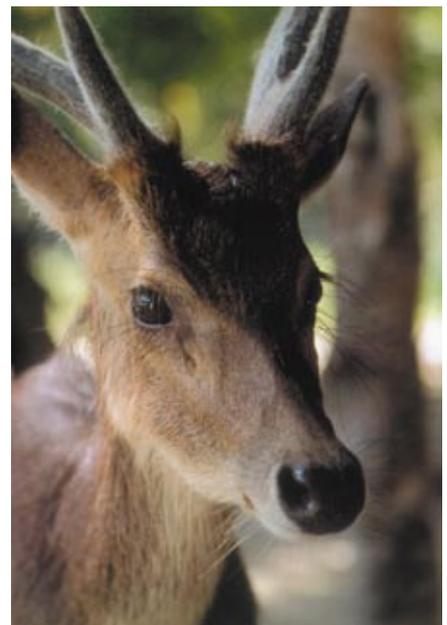
The voting system allows each person to vote up to five times. Please register your votes and encourage your friends and colleagues, local schools, family members, members of your species recovery groups and regional plant networks to vote also. This year's vote is sponsored by the Department of Conservation with five voters winning \$100 worth of native plants to be given to a local restoration project nominated by them.

This system will not only enable us to determine the New Zealand favourite indigenous plant and why but also to look at regional variation in what is the top species. Plants that make the top 10 tend to gain a lot of publicity. Last year's winner was the Chatham Island Christmas tree (*Brachyglottis huntii*) and in 2005 it was *Lepidium oleraceum* (Cook's scurvy grass). For more information about previous winners go to: [http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/voting/nz\\_favourite\\_plant.asp](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/voting/nz_favourite_plant.asp)

Voting closes on **Friday 30 November** and results will be announced shortly afterwards. Please forward this e-mail to your own networks and get them to start voting.

## Deer, chamois, tahr and pigs – Managed as pests or valued as a hunting resource?

As part of a Confidence and Supply Agreement between United Future and the Labour-led government it was agreed that United Future could participate in the development of a nationwide pest reduction strategy. A five member panel has released a discussion paper and online questionnaire ([www.gameanimalpanel.org.nz/](http://www.gameanimalpanel.org.nz/)) and is currently seeking submissions from the public by the **6 November 2007** on how we should manage deer, chamois, tahr and wild pigs in New Zealand. NZPCN is urging its members to fill in this online questionnaire, especially as Forest and Bird has already contended that the panel has a clear bias in favour of "managing" rather than controlling these animals.



Rusa deer. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

## National plant pollination survey – volunteers needed

The 2007 National Pollination Survey is underway. The purpose of the survey is to measure the health of bird-plant mutualisms throughout New Zealand. We are using the pollination service for tree fuchsia as an indicator of the health and wellbeing of our native ecosystems. This is part of ongoing research jointly run by Landcare Research, Department of Conservation and University of Canterbury.

We need your assistance. We need lots of people to complete the survey from lots of locations all over New Zealand this spring and summer. Please help by completing the survey for a tree fuchsia population near you. For more information and the survey forms visit: [http://www.biol.canterbury.ac.nz/pollination\\_survey/index.shtml](http://www.biol.canterbury.ac.nz/pollination_survey/index.shtml)



A stick insect feeds on rangiora (*Brachyglottis repanda*).  
Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

## Images wanted of browsed indigenous plants

As part of our on-going programme to improve the indigenous plant fact sheets on the Network website we are seeking images of native plant species in the wild that show evidence of browse whether it be of five-finger, kowhai, the Chatham Island forget-me-not or any other species. That browse may be due to exotic animal pests such as deer, possums or snails or it may be due to native animals such as moths or stick insects. Images should be e-mailed to the Network as jpgs at [info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz) or posted on a CD to PO Box 16-102, Wellington. High resolution images are preferred and each image will be stored with a caption and details of the photographer.

## Annual subscriptions now due

Annual subscriptions for the 2007-08 year are now due. Invoices will be sent out soon. Prompt payment either by cheque or by electronic transfer to the Network's bank account would be appreciated.

## Australian Network for Plant Conservation

Our sister organisation is holding its annual conference in Mulgoa, near Penrith, west Sydney in April next year. The organisers would love to see a significant number of New Zealanders at the conference. Contributions by way of papers or posters are very welcome. Plan to be there; the earlier you make your flight bookings the cheaper they are likely to be. For more details, see the information in the Events section of *Trilepidea* no 46.

## Upcoming Events

If you have important events or news that you would like publicised via this newsletter please e-mail the Network ([events@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:events@nzpcn.org.nz)):

### Auckland Botanical Society

**Field Trip:** Labour Weekend 20–22 October, a camp at Whangarei Heads. Explore Mt Manaia and Bream Head. **Contact:** [youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz).

**Meeting:** Wednesday 7 November a talk by Dr Peter Bellingham, Landcare Research, Lincoln, on Island ecosystems: Seabirds, nutrients and plant growth.

**Field Trip:** Saturday 17 November, to the northern end of Awhitu Peninsula, Wattle Bay to Orua Bay. Transport by boat from Mangere Bridge. **Contact:** [youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz)

**Meeting:** Saturday 15 December. End of year pot-luck dinner, Landcare Research Cunningham Mycological Suite before a walk on Maungarei (Mt Wellington).

### Waikato Botanical Society

**Field Trip:** Saturday 10 November to Opuatia wetland. Concentrating on the northern segment of the wetland, which is owned by the regional council, we will botanise the fen vegetation and mineralised edges that border the wetland. Several threatened species are known to occur at the south end of the wetland but the northern end has received less attention so this trip will aim to fill some gaps in our knowledge. **Meet:** Rangiriri Tavern car park at 9 am. To carpool from Hamilton, **contact:** Andrea Brandon (e-mail: [abrandon@doc.govt.nz](mailto:abrandon@doc.govt.nz), ph: 07 858 1018 (wk)).

### University of Waikato

**Summer course:** 8–22 February 2008, Flora of Aotearoa/New Zealand, Department of Biological Sciences summer course: BIOL226BLK-08. Enquiries to: Dr. Chrissen Gemmill (e-mail: [c.gemmill@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:c.gemmill@waikato.ac.nz), ph: 07 838 4053), Dr. Bruce Clarkson (e-mail: [b.clarkson@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:b.clarkson@waikato.ac.nz) ph: 07 838 4237) or contact the Department of Biological Sciences (ph: 07 838 4022), Waikato University, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton.

### Rotorua Botanical Society

**Field trip:** Saturday 3 November – Lake Rotokawa/Otumuheke Stream. **Leader:** Chris Bycroft (ph: 07 346-3647, email: [chris@wildlands.co.nz](mailto:chris@wildlands.co.nz)). **Meet:** The Rotorua District Council car park (Fenton St) at 8:30 am or contact Chris for other arrangements. **Grade:** Medium. This is a good time of year to look for orchids at geothermal sites.

**Work day:** Saturday 17 November, Okareka Mistletoe Restoration Project Weed Control/Plant Releasing Work Day. Leader: Paul Cashmore, (ph: 07 348 4421 (hm), 349 7432 (wk), e-mail: [pcashmore@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pcashmore@doc.govt.nz)). Meet: Ex Okareka store 8:45a.m. Grade: Medium-Hard – Activities suitable for all ages and abilities will be provided.

**Field trip:** Sunday 2 December, Kakahu Stream Kauris, Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park (Combined trip with Waikato Botanical Society). **Leader:** Paul Cashmore (ph: 07 348 4421 (hm), 349 7432 (wk) e-mail: [pcashmore@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pcashmore@doc.govt.nz)). **Meet:** The Rotorua District Council car park on Fenton St at 8:00 am or Okoroire Hall on cnr SH 28 and Okoroire Rd 8:45 am. **Grade:** Medium.

### Wellington Botanical Society

**Field trip:** Saturday 20 October, Dench garden weeding. **Co-leaders:** Arnold and Ruth Dench, 37 Linfield Lane, Newlands (ph: 477 4490). Bring suitable weeding tool, kneeler, gloves and food; hot drinks provided.

**Field trip:** Saturday 3 November: Whareroa Farm, Paekakariki. See wetlands being restored, and Campbell Track with *Carex secta*, then botanise regenerating forest and three remnants of mature lowland forest. Boots recommended! **Meet:** 9 am at gate to Whareroa Farm, opposite entrance to Queen Elizabeth Park - leave SH1 at that exit. **Co-leaders:** Karen Palmer (ph: 499 1381), Ann Evans, Whareroa Guardians Community Trust Inc.

**Field trip:** Saturday 17 November: Te Marua Bush working bee. **Meet:** Upper Hutt Station car park at 9 am, or Te Marua Bush at 9.30 am. **Co-leaders:** Glennis Sheppard (ph: 526 7450, Sue Millar ph: 526 7440). **NOTE:** This is an extra field trip.

**Meeting:** Monday 19 November, Dr Colin Meurk, Landcare Research, Senior Scientist will give a talk entitled *The seven dimensions of restoration ecology*.

## Canterbury Botanical Society

**Field Trip:** Show Weekend, Friday 16 November – Sunday 18 November 2007, camp (15 – 17 November) Kaikoura area. Explore the Blue Duck reserve, Mt Fyfe and (hopefully) some QEII covenants. There is also good opportunity for marine botany. **Leader:** Miles Giller. We have booked 14 beds, so if you wish to attend please send a \$20 deposit, indicating which nights you wish to come (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) to: Kaikoura Camp, c/- Trevor Blogg, PO Box 8212, Riccarton, Christchurch 8440.

**Botanical Camp:** Tuesday 27 November to Tuesday 4 December to the Chatham Islands. The trip complement is full.

**Summer Camp:** Friday 11 January – Thursday 17 January 2008. Mokihinui River mouth, north of Westport. Botanise the special vegetation of the coal plateaux of Denniston and Stockton (see *Forest & Bird* No.284 pp.27–33, 1997, by David Norton). Bookings to Margaret Geerkens (ph 03 352-7922, e-mail: [bert.marg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bert.marg@xtra.co.nz)) and deposits to: Summer Camp, CBS, PO Box 8212, Riccarton 8440.

**Winter Camp:** Tuesday 26 August – Monday 2 September 2008, to Broadbeach, Gold Coast, Australia. For further information contact: Margaret Geerkens (ph 03 352-7922, e-mail: [bert.marg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bert.marg@xtra.co.nz)) or Russell Moffitt (ph: 03384-1979).

## Botanical Society of Otago

**Meeting:** Wednesday 14 November, at 5.20 pm, a talk by the 2007 Allan Mere recipient Dr Peter Johnson who will give a talk entitled *Very Merry Mere* 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 as we have to hold the door open. Dinner will follow this talk, at a restaurant to be decided. If you would like to go to dinner, e-mail [Robyn Bridges](mailto:robyn.bridges@otago.ac.nz) ([robyn.bridges@otago.ac.nz](mailto:robyn.bridges@otago.ac.nz)) by 12 November 2007. **Contact** [Kevin Gould](mailto:Kevin.Gould@otago.ac.nz), (ph: 03 479 9061).

**Field Trip:** Saturday 17 November, 2007 to Pulpit Rock and the Painted Forest. **Start:** 8:30 am. **Meet:** 8.30 am Botany Department car park. **Contact:** [Robyn Bridges](mailto:Robyn.Bridges@otago.ac.nz) (phone: 03 479 8372).

**Meeting:** Monday 3rd December, at 5:20 pm a talk by Professor Lars Franzén, Earth Sciences Centre, Göteborg University, Sweden entitled: *The Peatland /Ice Age hypothesis, and a possible glacial pulse initiation trigger*. 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 as we have to hold the door open. An end-of-year BSO dinner will follow this talk, at a restaurant to be decided. If you would like to go to dinner, e-mail [Robyn Bridges](mailto:Robyn.Bridges@otago.ac.nz) ([robyn.bridges@otago.ac.nz](mailto:robyn.bridges@otago.ac.nz)) by 30 November 2007. **Contact:** [Bastow Wilson](mailto:Bastow.Wilson@otago.ac.nz) (ph: 03 479 7572).