



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

E-NEWSLETTER: No 50 JANUARY 2008

Deadline for next issue: Friday 15 February 2008

Message from the President

May I extend to every member of the Network, my very best wishes for 2008? I do hope very much that, through your individual efforts, the activities of the Network as a whole will go from strength to strength. I would also like to see the Newsletter go from strength to strength—but that all depends on you as I note below.

There is a very exciting year ahead for the Network and, in particular, in August we will be celebrating five years progress since that time when a large group of like-minded people met at Te Papa in 2003 and established the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. This year's Conference will, therefore, be a celebration of the Network's activities and also an event at which we will plan the next five years. I am also intent that the Conference will be a 'high profile' celebration of New Zealand's flora – our natural heritage. The Conference will take place on 8–10 August at Te Papa but we also plan to have a public evening event on Thursday 7 August. More about that later.

Finally and most importantly there is one particular message that I would like to include and that is to say something about the value of individual and group contributions to the Newsletter. Please don't say that you don't have time or that others can do better than you! Please share your observations and reports on activities. If you feel uncomfortable about writing, just send us some notes and we will do the rest.

As an example of this, you will see that Colin Meurk has kindly contributed some most interesting material. This comes from some discussions that we were having and later I prompted Colin to offer his observations to the Newsletter.

Given how much botanising has been reported in the Events last month and this month, I must make a plea for groups and individuals to report on their activities and observations in the field. We need 500 words or less and it need not be highly scientific.

As our Editor of the Newsletter reminds me, the only way that people in other parts of the country can become aware of conservation issues in other areas is if local people pass on the information to the Newsletter. Relevant photographs are also welcome.

So please—keep those items coming in for the Newsletter—they are an essential part of the Network activities.

Ian Spellerberg

Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions for the 2007–08 year are now well due. Corporate and NGO invoices were issued some time ago. The other categories of membership, Individual, Unwaged and Student, will get their reminders this week. Please pay promptly either by cheque to PO Box 16-102, Wellington or by direct credit to the Network's bank account the details of which are on the reminder. If you use the direct credit method please ensure that your name appears on our statement.

Plant of the Month



Carex calcis. Photo: Mike Thorsen.

Plant of the Month for January is the newly described endemic sedge, *Carex calcis*. This perennial sedge with stout tufts grows in the upper montane to alpine zones and is exclusive to soils derived from weathered limestone and calcareous mudstone/siltstone. It grows in open shrubland and *Chionochloa* tussock grassland. It is also common in grasslands and shrublands developed on colluvial deposits at the base and lower slopes of the escarpments and slips scars. It is found in North-West Nelson from about the Garibaldi Ridge south to the Matiri Plateau and flowers in November. It is not considered threatened but is biologically sparse over its entire range. The species was described in 2007 by Network member Kerry Ford, see Ford, K.A. 2007: *Carex* (Cyperaceae) – two new species from the calcareous mountains of North-West Nelson, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 45: 721-730.

The Network fact sheet for *Carex calcis* may be found at: http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=2434

Two important milestones

First, this is the 50th issue of *Trilepidea*. Since it was launched in September 2003, *Trilepidea*—the Network newsletter—has become an important vehicle for Network members to tell each other about plant conservation issues, plant discoveries, species recovery success and failures. The newsletter is read each month by over 1500 people. It provides a valuable insight into what plant conservation work is happening in New Zealand. If you would like to contribute articles please send them to info@nzpcn.org.nz. Suitable articles include those describing species recovery projects, programmes helping restore native plant communities, summaries of field surveys, taxonomic updates, stories about plants and the people that are working for their conservation. We look forward to receiving your stories to fill the next 50 issues.

The second milestone is that the 500th name was recently entered into the membership database. This is an increase of 32 since the AGM so we have been continuing to enrol new members at a rate between two and three per week. One new aspect of recent additions was that of people gifting a membership to a friend or acquaintance. Here is a good way to find the gift for that person for whom it is difficult to buy a present!

Orchid find

A population of over 100 plants of the native orchid *Linguella* (formerly *Pterostylis*) *puberula* has been found in Golden Bay. It was last known from this area over 20 years ago. Other populations are known on the Three Kings Islands and near Thames. This population increases the known number of plants by over 50%. The discovery was made by a keen orchid specialist Georgina Upson of Nelson. For more information about *Linguella puberula* refer to the Network's fact sheet at: www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=24



Linguella puberula. Photo: Bec Stanley.

New botanical finds, old finds and actions needed: Recent observations from Canterbury

Colin Meurk, Landcare Research (MeurkC@landcareresearch.co.nz)



Carex flaviformis in cultivation.
Photos: Jeremy Rolfe.

I made a few botanical observations recently up at the border between the new Pegasus Township and Tutai Paku lagoon (outside the city I know but relevant to the biodiversity of the Canterbury Plains). These are *Schoenus pauciflorus* and *Carex flaviformis* in the fen (not much of these left on the Plains) but, more interestingly, *Oreomyrrhis ramosa* on willow trunk bases along the forest edge where there is an ecological window with just enough light for them to grow but not enough for dense competitive weeds. I don't know of this anywhere else on the Plains.

This reminds me of a small population of *Ophioglossum* and *Hydrocotyle sulcata* near Spencerville which I wrote a report about some years ago. I haven't seen the plants for the last couple of years and they may have died out now. I feel that if we are being serious about biodiversity we have to take action on such populations (maybe involving the regional council, Ecan, as well, given its biodiversity strategy). These are the species that we have to protect and manage if we are to hold on to biodiversity (numbers) and not be left with just physiognomic plants.

I have also noted a few other things. The Wilmers Road 'reserve' was finally fenced and sheep grazed a year or so ago (perhaps due to Trevor Partridge), but there have been no sheep for a while and the grass has grown and broom has spread alarmingly. There needs to be a new way of managing these assets such as call up times with someone designated to check on them periodically, regardless of changes in staff and loss of institutional memory. Otherwise we are locked into constant ad hoc actions dependent on chance observations and the abilities of a few concerned individuals. Each time this happens (or doesn't happen) there is generally a further increment of degradation until recovery is almost impossible.

Many plantings around Christchurch City are being slowly invaded by willows, sycamore, yew, blackberry, stinking iris and other weeds. There needs to be better surveillance and action on these, i.e., nipping problems in the bud (as it were). In fact, we should be slowly removing all the sycamore from the city (and the other species that I've mentioned before they need urgent attention). And, before it infects all our waterways, *Carex pendula* along the mid Heathcote River should be removed. I believe it would be relatively easy to check it now, but soon it will be out of hand and it will be competing with our large tussock sedges, making further inroads into our riparian and wetland environments. I presume its source will be found somewhere in mid-upper Heathcote and soon it will be in the nursery trade and being propagated like male fern, etc., at garage sales and school fairs. It is very attractive.

I think it is time that the riparian spread of male fern, female fern and iris was stemmed along the middle Avon River, with gradual replacement by *Carex* spp., *Polystichum vestitum*, *Blechnum novae-zelandiae* and *Hebe salicifolia*.

(Editor's Note: Colin has raised some interesting points. Network members may care to respond to them or else provide some similar observations about their area.)

296 images still required

The Network is not far from having illustrated the entire indigenous vascular flora of New Zealand. Thanks to a number of people who have been sending through images to plug gaps, we now have 88% of the flora illustrated. We now seek images for only 296 taxa—see list below. If you have any images of any of the plants below please send them to the Network (preferably in electronic form) at info@nzpcn.org.nz or post slides or prints to PO Box 16-102, Wellington. The Network hopes, with your help, to have the entire flora illustrated by the end of 2008.

Dicotyledonous Herbs

– Composites – 52

Abrotanella filiformis
Abrotanella muscosa
Abrotanella patearoa
Abrotanella rosulata
Abrotanella spathulata
Brachyglottis bellidioides var. *crassa*
Brachyglottis traversii
Brachyscome longiscapa
Celmisia clavata
Celmisia cockayneana
Celmisia cordatifolia var. *brockettii*
Celmisia cordatifolia var. *similis*
Celmisia dubia
Celmisia gibbsii
Celmisia glandulosa var. *longiscapa*
Celmisia haastii var. *tomentosa*
Celmisia hieraciifolia var. *gracilis*
Celmisia inaccessa
Celmisia parva
Celmisia polyvena
Celmisia ramulosa var. *ramulosa*
Celmisia rigida
Celmisia rupestris
Celmisia semicordata subsp. *aurigans*
Celmisia semicordata subsp. *stricta*
Celmisia similis
Celmisia spectabilis subsp. *magnifica*
Celmisia thomsonii
Celmisia verbascifolia subsp. *membranacea*
Centipeda aotearoana
Centipeda elatinoides
Craspedia robusta
Craspedia uniflora var. *grandis*
Craspedia uniflora var. *subhispidata*
Craspedia uniflora var. *uniflora*
Craspedia viscosa
Euchiton paludosus
Euchiton polylepis
Euchiton ruahinicus
Gnaphalium luteoalbum var. *compactum*
Haastia recurva var. *wallii*
Lagenifera stipitata
Leptinella atrata subsp. *luteola*
Leptinella intermedia
Leptinella traillii subsp. *pulchella*
Leptinella traillii subsp. *traillii*
Raoulia goyenii

Raoulia haastii

Raoulia hookeri var. *laxa*

Senecio banksii

Senecio glaucophyllus subsp. *toa*

Senecio radiolatus subsp. *antipodus*

Dicotyledonous Herbs other than Composites – 100

Acaena emittens
Achyranthes velutina
Aciphylla cartilaginea
Aciphylla indurata
Aciphylla leighii
Aciphylla stannensis
Aciphylla takahea
Aciphylla traillii
Aciphylla trifoliolata
Actinotus novae-zelandiae
Anisotome acutifolia
Anisotome procumbens
Azorella macquariensis
Callitriche aucklandica
Cardamine corymbosa
Cardamine depressa var. *depressa*
Cardamine depressa var. *stellata*
Chenopodium ambiguum
Chionohebe ciliolata var. *fiordensis*
Chionohebe ciliolata var. *pumila*
Colobanthus hookeri
Colobanthus squarrosus subsp. *drucei*
Colobanthus squarrosus subsp. *squarrosus*
Elatine gratioides
Epilobium alsinoides
Epilobium brunnescens subsp. *minutifolium*
Epilobium cinereum
Epilobium cockayneanum
Epilobium elegans
Epilobium gracilipes
Epilobium krulleanum
Epilobium matthewsii
Epilobium rubromarginatum
Euphrasia repens
Euphrasia wettsteiniana
Forstera sedifolia var. *oculata*
Galium antarcticum
Gentianella antipoda
Gentianella gibbsii
Gentianella lilliputiana

Gentianella lineata

Gentianella montana subsp. *montana*
var. *stolonifera*

Gentianella serotina

Geranium potentilloides

Geum albiflorum

Geum divergens

Gingidia flabellata

Gingidia trifoliolata

Glossostigma cleistanthum

Glossostigma diandrum

Hydrocotyle moschata var. *parvifolia*

Hydrocotyle pterocarpa

Hydrocotyle robusta

Hypericum involutum

Kelleria lyallii

Kelleria villosa var. *villosa*

Mitrasacme montana var. *helmsii*

Mitrasacme novae-zelandiae

Myosotis antarctica

Myosotis capitata

Myosotis goyenii

Myosotis matthewsii

Myosotis venosa

Myriophyllum triphyllum

Oreomyrrhis rigida

Pachycladon crenatus

Parahebe brevistylis

Parahebe martinii

Parahebe senex

Parahebe spectabilis

Polygonum plebeium

Ranunculus altus

Ranunculus biternatus

Ranunculus carsei

Ranunculus haastii subsp. *piliferus*

Ranunculus kirkii

Ranunculus mirus

Ranunculus recens var. *lacustris*

Ranunculus simulans

Ranunculus stylosus

Ranunculus subscaposus

Ranunculus viridis

Schizeilema allanii

Schizeilema cockaynei

Schizeilema colensoi

Schizeilema nitens

Schizeilema pallidum

Schizeilema reniforme

Selliera microphylla

Stellaria decipiens var. *angustata*

Stellaria decipiens var. *decipiens*
Stilbocarpa lyallii
Wahlenbergia albomarginata subsp.
flexilis
Wahlenbergia albomarginata subsp.
laxa
Wahlenbergia congesta
Wahlenbergia littoricola subsp.
vernica
Wahlenbergia pygmaea subsp. *drucei*
Wahlenbergia pygmaea subsp.
tararua
Wahlenbergia ramosa
Wahlenbergia rupestris

**Dicotyledonous Lianes and Related
Trailing Plants – 5**

Clematis petriei
Convolvulus fractosaxosa
Parsonia capsularis var. *ochracea*
Parsonia capsularis var. *tenuis*
Rubus schmidelioides var.
subpauperatus

**Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs –
27**

Brachyglottis buchananii
Dracophyllum longifolium var.
cockayneanum
Dracophyllum longifolium var.
septentrionale
Dracophyllum palustre
Dracophyllum pearsonii
Dracophyllum politum
Hebe angustissima
Hebe brachysiphon
Hebe cockayneana
Hebe crenulata
Hebe divaricata
Hebe flavida
Hebe haastii
Hebe leiophylla
Hebe macrantha var. *brachyphylla*
Hebe matthewsii
Hebe murrellii
Hebe rupicola
Hebe stricta var. *lata*
Hebe truncatula
Helichrysum selago var. *acutum*

Heliohebe hulkeana subsp. *evestita*
Heliohebe pentasepala
Olearia colensoi var. *argentea*
Pimelea concinna
Pimelea crosby-smithiana
Pimelea poppelwellii

Ferns – 3

Grammitis gunnii
Grammitis magellanica subsp.
magellanica
Hymenophyllum falklandicum

Grasses – 78

Agrostis dyeri
Agrostis imbecilla
Agrostis magellanica
Agrostis pallescens
Agrostis personata
Agrostis subulata
Chionochloa crassiuscula subsp.
directa
Chionochloa flavescens subsp. *lupeola*
Chionochloa flavescens subsp. *hirta*
Chionochloa flavicans f. *temata*

Plant and fungus discoveries recorded over the past 12 months

Please tell us of your threatened plant discoveries via the on-line form on the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network website (www.nzpcn.org.nz under Contact us).

Olearia cheesemanii – Waiohine Gorge, Tararua Forest Park, below the swingbridge by Pat Enright.

Telaranea granulata (liverwort) – Chatham Islands (the first gathering since the type collection which was from the southern South Island in 2004) by Peter de Lange.

Lophozia herzogiana (liverwort) – Chatham Islands (very uncommon in New Zealand but apparently a weed in Britain) by Peter de Lange.

Frullania probosciphora (liverwort) – Lake Rakeinui, Chatham Islands, by Peter Heenan and Peter de Lange.

Tetragonia tetragonioides – Kakamatua inlet, Waitakere Ranges, by Jeff McCauley.

Asplenium lyallii – Karori, Wellington, Wright Hill, track between Fitzgerald Place and summit car park by Leon Perrie and Lara Shepherd.

Baumea teretifolia – Poplar Avenue wetland, Queen Elizabeth Regional Park, Kapiti Coast, by Melanie Dixon.

Pimelia arenaria – dunes at Waitohu Estuary by Geoff Monk.

Aecidium otagense (rust fungus) – on clematis, Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve, near Wellington, by Brent Tandy and Peter Simpson.

Mazus novaezeelandiae subsp. *impolitus* f. *hirtus* (dwarf musk) – seepage on track near East Cape lighthouse by John Sawyer.

Petalochilus alatus – El Rancho Wetland, Kapiti Coast, by Tim Park and Kerry Bodmin.

Amphibromus fluitans – Takamore Wetland, Kapiti Coast, by Tim Park and Kerry Bodmin



Olearia cheesemanii in the Waiohine gorge.
Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

Network conference to be held August 2008

The Network's next national conference will be held from 8 - 10 August 2008 at Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington. Day 1 will be devoted to the "*Science of plant conservation*". It will also feature the Tane Ngahere Lecture by Brian Molloy entitled "*Reflections on 50 years of New Zealand botany and plant conservation*". Day 1 will also feature a concurrent Enviroschools Forum at Te Papa. During lunchtime we plan for each Enviroschool from the region to present posters about their plant conservation work to conference attendees. The conference dinner will be held that night. Day 2 will be devoted to "*Plant conservation in practice*" including workshops on where the Network should go during the next five years and the AGM. Several plant field trips will be offered on Sunday 10 August. More information about the conference will be sent out early in the New Year. If you would like to assist with organising this conference (whether you are based in Wellington or not) or have good ideas for the conference that you would like to share, such as the subjects for workshops, please contact the Network: email info@nzpcn.org.nz. Mark the dates in your diary now and get in early to obtain the cheaper air fares.

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 email the Network (events@nzpcn.org.nz):

Auckland Botanical Society

Field Trip: Friday 25 to Monday 28 January 2008, Anniversary Weekend Camp to Lake Okataina, Rotorua, jointly with the Rotorua Botanical Society (see below). **Leader:** Mike Wilcox (email: mike.wilcox@xtra.co.nz)

Field Trip: Saturday 16 February to Tomarata Lakes, near Wellsford. **Leader:** Maureen Young (email: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz)

Waikato Botanical Society

Field trip: Saturday 26 January to Awaroa Scenic Reserve. The dominant vegetation is rimu-tawa forest with large kahikatea along the river flats.

Meet: 10 a.m. at the corner of SH 31 and 39 (the main Otorohonga to Kawhia highway).

Contact: Thomas ph: 07 878 1055 (wk) or 07 878 3437 (hm).

Field trip: Saturday 23 February to Matarangi Coastal Wetland. Explore a large freshwater wetland at Matarangi on the northern shores of Whangapoua Harbour, Coromandel Peninsula. Details to be confirmed. **Meet:** 10 a.m. at the intersection of Matarangi Drive and Waimaire Ave (in Matarangi itself); follow the Matarangi road in from SH25 and veer left once you get to the settlement.

Waimaire Ave is about 800 m along on the right, the wetland is opposite.

Contact: Catherine Beard, email: Catherine.Beard@ew.govt.nz or ph: 855 5479 (hm).

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 (email: c.gemmill@waikato.ac.nz, ph: 07 838 4053), Dr Bruce Clarkson (email: 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: Friday 25 to Monday 28 January, Anniversary Weekend Camp to Lake Okataina, Rotorua, jointly with the Auckland Botanical Society. **Accommodation:** Okataina Education and Recreation Trust Outdoor Education Centre (ph: 07 3627729), about 30 minutes drive from Rotorua. A comprehensive programme including native bush, lake margins, ignimbrite gorges, and thermal areas has been organised. **Leaders:** Mike Wilcox and John Hobbs (07 348 6620 jffhobbs@paradise.net.nz). **Booking:** Please book by 20 January 2008 with Mike Wilcox, ph: (09) 622 0323 or email: mike.wilcox@xtra.co.nz. Families, mokopuna, etc., welcome. The walks planned will not be too arduous or difficult. **Cost:** c. \$120 per person.

Field trip: Tuesday 12 February, "Botany after Five" trip to Five Mile Gate North Wetland. **Meet:** Five Mile Gate, SH5, 5min south of Rotorua at 5:30 p.m.. **Grade:** Medium, bring your gumboots for a little bit of paddling. See the only known population of *Astelia grandis* in the Rotorua Ecological District. The trip will be followed by a BBQ tea (pot luck) at Blue Lake with a swim for those willing. **Leader:** John Hobbs ph: 07 348 6620 or email: jffhobbs@paradise.net.nz

Field trip: Sunday 17 February to Lake Whakamaru/Lake Atiamuri. **Meet:** The Rotorua District Council car park on Fenton St at 8:30 a.m. or the corner of SH1 and Ongaroto Rd (where SH1 crosses Waikato River) near Atiamuri Village. **Grade:** Easy. **Note:** It is most important that the leader is contacted about a week beforehand so that boats and other gear can be organised. Other boat owners should let the leader know if they can bring a boat. **Leader:** Willie Shaw ph: 07 3439017 (wk), 3624315 (hm), or 021 757522, email: okere@wave.co.nz or willie@wildlands.co.nz

Wellington Botanical Society

Summer Camp: Thursday 30 January to Friday 8 February 2008 - nine nights at Aotea / Great Barrier Island - Summer Camp. If you intend to come, we would appreciate knowing as soon as possible. See website (www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz) for further details.

Meeting: Monday 18 February 7.30 p.m., Victoria University of Wellington Lecture Theatre 101, Murphy Building, Kelburn Parade, a talk entitled 'Trees in the urban environment' by Bruce Moorman, Arboriculture Manager / Acting Operations Manager, WCC.

Wellington Botanic Garden

Summer Event: Wednesday 31 January at 5.30 p.m. in the Treehouse for Friends of the Botanic Garden. This a special viewing of the Linnaeus Exhibition currently at the Treehouse, with a talk by Professor Phil Garnock-Jones, Professor of Plant Sciences at Victoria University. The photographic exhibition is entitled Herbarium Amoris and is a wonderful pictorial tribute to Linnaeus. More information may be found at www.friendswbg.org.nz.

Canterbury Botanical Society

Meeting: Friday 1 February 7.30 p.m., Room A5 University of Canterbury a talk titled 'When can plants act as a carbon sink' by Larry Burrows, a scientist at Landcare Research.

Field trip: Saturday 2 February to Mt Hutt. **Meet:** at the old Toll Booths, where there is a wide parking area, at 9:30 a.m.. The weather can be quite chilly even in February. Wear plenty of warm clothing and bring a warm windproof jacket. This is an all day trip, bring plenty of food and drink (both hot and cold). **Contact:** Margaret Geerkens (ph: 352 7922, email: bert.marg@xtra.co.nz) before mid January.

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

Wai Wetlands Symposium

Symposium: will be held at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, 14-16 February 2008. The 2008 Wai Wetlands Symposium is a joint venture between the National Wetland Trust, NIWA, University of Canterbury, Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury, Ng i Tahu, Department of Conservation, Landcare Research, Waihora Ellesmere Trust, University of Waikato, Meridian Energy, Fish & Game Council and Banrock Station Wines and Wetlandcare New Zealand. This will be the third time that the event has been held (Wellington, 2004; Hamilton, 2006), but the first time in the South Island. Further information and registration can be obtained from the following links

www.uco.canterbury.ac.nz/community-education/wetlands

www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/symposia.html