



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 54 MAY 2008

Deadline for next issue: Monday 16 June 2008

Message from the President

We seem to live in a World of Acronyms so here is a little test for you. What does Q.C.C. stand for? The answer comes up later.

I am very pleased to announce that the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network has another sponsor. This is a rather special sponsorship because it is not for a one payment for any single project. It is a sponsorship that will last for many years and will therefore make a very valuable contribution to the continuing and significant work of the Network. This sponsorship comes from 'Phytomed Medicinal Herbs Ltd' (Phytomed) which is based in Auckland. Phytomed is a New Zealand based manufacturer and supplier of herbal medicines for health practitioners and consumers. It has sustainable and ethical practices that are followed by all its wildcrafters. More information can be found at www.kiwiherb.com.

On behalf of the Network, may I offer congratulations to Nancy Willems for her item in this month's Newsletter about the Bay of Plenty Restoration Guide. This is very much the kind of news that we love to report and believe it is of wide interest to our readers. This is indeed a very timely publication and one that will help directly with restoration of these wetlands.

Thanks also to Bec Stanley for her newsworthy piece about the Manukau Heads Lighthouse Trust. This is a great example of the many projects that are taking place around the country. Could we please have more articles like this? And photographs are most welcome!

Perhaps you could send us photos and a short story about your activities on June 5th! As you will all know, this is a double event being World Environment Day and New Zealand's Arbor Day.

World Environment Day commenced way back in 1972 and was established by the first UN Earth Summit. It is a day for planting trees (hopefully native trees) and recognising how much we depend on trees for our survival on earth. The theme this year for World Environment Day is driven by the climate change debate (Kick the habit – towards a low carbon economy'). Seems to me that there is a lot of publicity about climate change at the expense of even greater environmental issues.

I think much more could be made of Arbor Day here in New Zealand. Why not make it a day when we celebrate the diversity and colour of our native flora! Why not make it a day when we acknowledge the significance of plants in every moment of our lives. Plants should be Number 1 and we should be doing more to promote the importance of our indigenous flora and its central role in achieving sustainability.

Please tell us about your activities on June 5th. Closing date for the next issue is Monday 16 June!

Finally, what does Q.C.C. stand for? Well, it's a new addition and very welcome addition to the Newsletter. I will leave you to work out what it is and where it is in the Newsletter.

*Ian Spellerberg
Lincoln University*

Plant of the Month



Juvenile *Pseudopanax ferox*, southern Rimutaka Range. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

Plant of the Month for May is the Nationally Sparse *Pseudopanax ferox* (fierce lancewood). This is a gynodioecious small tree up to 8 m tall. It has a slender trunk that is longitudinally deeply grooved and ridged with fawn bark often mottled grey-white. It is found in the North and South Islands. In the North, its distribution is rather patchy and is known from Ahipara, Woodhill Forest (South Kaipara), the Moawhango and southern Rimutaka Range. In the South Island, it is more widespread but easterly from the Marlborough Sounds to Southland. *P. ferox* is threatened by possum, deer and goat browse and, because juvenile plants command high prices in the nursery trade, accessible populations have been and continue to be plundered for seedlings and ripe fruit. The Network fact sheet for *Pseudopanax ferox* may be found at: www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=314.

NZPCN images help lighthouse project

Bec Stanley, Auckland Regional Council (Rebecca.Stanley@arc.govt.nz)

Manukau Heads Lighthouse Trust has been restoring a historic lighthouse and its surrounds at the tip of Auckland's Awhitu Peninsula. Planting suitable natives is an integral part of the project to return this very windy exposed area (occasional 200 km/h blasts) to the way it may once have appeared. The project began with flax, karo and pohutukawa plantings on the lower slopes, but lately has moved higher to the base of the lighthouse itself. Here a collection of indigenous plants chosen for their hardiness and ecological appropriateness are displayed and interpreted with the wonderful sign that uses images supplied by the network. Plants include the regionally rare sand coprosma as well as more common coastal species pohuehue, New Zealand ice plant and coastal spinach.



NZPCN Conference 8–9 August 2008 – call for papers

The number of presentation slots is limited so at this stage we are seeking only titles of presentation titles – please submit these by 30 May 2008. A decision on the papers to be presented at the conference will be made in early June and for those that are accepted an abstract will be required by 11 July 2008. Presentations will be 15–20 minutes long. Conference sessions are: genetics and conservation; plant breeding systems; threatened ecosystems; restoration of rare species; and plant conservation success stories. Please send your paper title to the organisers of the scientific part of the conference: David Norton (david.norton@canterbury.ac.nz) or Peter Heenan (heenanp@landcareresearch.co.nz).

Bay of Plenty Wetland Restoration Guide – preserving and re-creating our wildlife water wonderlands in the Bay of Plenty

Nancy Willems, Environment Bay of Plenty (nancyw@envbop.govt.nz)

Like the rest of the country, Bay of Plenty's wetlands are constantly diminishing resources, with only an estimated 3% of the original extent remaining. So many publications about so many things, but no wetland restoration guide for the Bay of Plenty! Until now.

The lack of a wetland restoration guide for the Bay of Plenty was an issue identified by the Bay of Plenty Wetlands Forum.¹ It is not that it has never been done before, but we didn't have one of our own. We thought we should do something about and so we did.

The simple step-by-step layout was borrowed from Hamilton City Council's Gully Restoration Guide. Page 5 of the guide gives an overview and an index to the rest of guide. At each step we give guidance on what things need to be thought through and tips to achieve them. We've provided a zoning diagram and an example of a simple concept plan with pictures of what real wetland vegetation looks like in each zone. There are four steps involving: what plants to get and how many; where to get them from; preparing for planting; and doing the actual planting. The final step is the all important maintenance and monitoring of the project.



One of the main things we identified as an issue was a lack of guidance on what plants to use in a wetland restoration project. We wanted to provide a list of plants that are relatively “bomb-proof” and will do well given a little maintenance and the right place. With that in mind, we followed a similar style to other groups and provided a table with photos of each plant (supplied via the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network – thanks!).

We finished with a page of places people could get useful information, including a guide to what each member agency can help with, amongst organisations such as district councils, other regional councils, useful websites and a few recommended readings.

None of these things are new concepts and we gratefully acknowledge contributions from Greater Wellington Regional Council, Environment Waikato, Hamilton City Council, and Auckland Regional Council that meant we didn't have to reinvent any wheels. We adapted other restoration guides to suit our own needs to provide for the Bay of Plenty.

The publication is particularly timely with our new Regional Water and Land Plan's wetlands chapter becoming operative. This provides landowners with the option to do restoration work under a Wetland Management Agreement, which is designed to be a cost-effective alternative to the resource consents process for some works. We're hoping that this, and the availability of the wetland restoration guide for practical help, will encourage more people to restore wetlands on their own properties, maintaining them as a feature of the landscape.

The Bay of Plenty Wetland Restoration Guide is available on the website of each of the member agencies: www.doc.govt.nz; www.envbop.govt.nz; www.fishandgame.org.nz.

1. The Bay of Plenty Wetlands Forum is a small group of mostly operational staff from member organisations: Environment Bay of Plenty, Department of Conservation, Fish & Game New Zealand Eastern Region and QEII Trust. We meet regularly and the group has been really valuable in building relationships between staff at ground level.

Queries and comments corner

As reported in the March issue of *Trilepidea* there is now a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) area on the web site (see menu under Conservation). The March Council meeting thought it would be useful and informative if the more commonly asked questions featured in *Trilepidea*. That practice is starting in this issue. However, content for this corner is not limited to such FAQs. Members are welcome to send queries to info@nzcpn.org.nz for publication in the newsletter. They can then be answered, maybe in future issues, by other members. A couple of examples follow.



Left: kahikatea, *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, Bruce Park Scenic Reserve, Hunterville. Right: kahikatea fruit. Photos: Jeremy Rolfe.

What is New Zealand's tallest tree?

Kahikatea is New Zealand's tallest indigenous tree. This is a distinctive tree of usually swampy alluvial terraces. Its main habitat is lowland forest. It was formerly dominant on frequently flooded, and/or poorly drained alluvial soils. Occasionally it extends into lower montane forest. Once the dominant tree of a distinct swamp forest type it is all but extinct in the North Island—the best examples remain on the West Coast of the South Island. For more information see the species fact sheet www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=2155

How many plant species are there in the world?

There are an estimated 422,000 flowering plants in the world, approximately 1,000 gymnosperms, 15,000 ferns and lycophytes (including club mosses, spike mosses, quillworts, spike horsetails and whisk ferns) and approximately 22,000 mosses, liverworts and hornworts.

A message for the pollination ecologists of New Zealand

Caroline Gross (UNE, Australia) & Linda Newstrom-Lloyd (Landcare Research NZ) (NewstromL@landcareresearch.co.nz)

Following a side event held at the joint Australian and NZ Ecological Societies meeting in Wellington, August 2006, the Oceania Pollinator Initiative is up and running. Here is an update on activities since then.

We are official! Linda Newstrom-Lloyd visited the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome in March 2007 and again in February 2008. Our group is now formally accepted as the Oceania Pollinator Initiative (OPI). We have registered the domain name www.oceaniapollinator.org and the e-mail for OPI business is opi@landcareresearch.co.nz. The web site is now live at www.oceaniapollinator.org/. You are invited to register your interest at this site.

Finally, joining OPI does not oblige members to participate in any official capacity for OPI. OPI is a research network and information exchange organization for scientists and end-users concerned about sustainable pollination in Oceania. OPI is aligned with four other continental-size pollinator initiatives under the umbrella of the FAO Pollinator Initiative of the CBD. This initiative is designed to promote progress in the conservation of pollinators and pollination systems. Thus our research and grant applications are conducted in Oceania and a broader international context based on a global strategy. In this international network, shared experiences facilitate progress towards the goal of pollinator conservation in agricultural and natural ecosystems. Meetings are hard for all to attend but we are aiming for a Pacific meeting in 2009 and of course there is an opportunity before or after INTECOL for a side event. Keep an eye on the OPI web site for updates.

Rediscovery of *Corunastylis nudiscapa* in Tasmania

Corunastylis nudiscapa, listed as extinct on the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, has been rediscovered in Tasmania by field naturalist Kevin Bonham after not being seen for 156 years. The existence of the orchid in Tasmania had been in doubt because the only collection from 1840 by J.D. Hooker was reportedly made in February of that year, though Alex Buchanan from the Tasmanian Herbarium had noted that Hooker was not in Tasmania at the time. However, during his recent investigations, Mark Wapstra initiated the discovery of another Tasmanian specimen collected by J. Milligan from Oyster Cove in 1852.

Following from Kevin's discovery, local orchid enthusiasts have been out in force. Approximately 60 plants (most not in flower) have been found so far in a number of sites straddling Huon Road on Cascades land and in a Hobart City Council Bushland Reserve. The identity of the specimens has been confirmed in Canberra and specimens have been lodged at the Tasmanian Herbarium and in Canberra. The species occurs in *Eucalyptus tenuiramis* forest on sediments, a threatened forest community, and with improved knowledge of its habitat, further searches can be undertaken for the orchid. Given that the species is distinctive and can be identified over a relatively long period for orchids, and past survey effort, it is not expected that many more populations or plants will be found. The Scientific Advisory Committee has been informed of the discovery to initiate the downlisting process.

Until recently, *Corunastylis nudiscapa* was thought to occur in NSW and Victoria (small population). The NSW occurrence has now been attributed to *Corunastylis densa*, which has retained the common name of dense midge-orchid. The Wapstras have therefore proposed 'bare midge-orchid' as a new common name for *Corunastylis nudiscapa*. This describes the bare stem and bare open ground habitat of the species.

***Flowering Times of Tasmanian Orchids: A Practical Guide for Field Botanists* by Wapstra, M., Roberts, N., Wapstra, H. & Wapstra, A. (Published in April 2008)**

This publication has been prepared to assist administrators (e.g. those in government agencies who recommend surveys for certain species), landowners, land managers, property developers, forest managers (e.g. those that are told they need to have a survey undertaken) and field botanists (e.g. those actually doing the surveys) in making rational decisions regarding the timing of surveys for orchids. It may also be a handy reference for orchid enthusiasts and botanists who wish to see what is likely to be flowering at any given time during the year.

This publication is available online: at www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Publications/LJEM-7DX294?open and from various other locations on the www.dpiw.tas.gov.au website.

Get Snapping for the International Garden Photographer of the Year

Julia Willison, *Botanic Gardens Conservation International*, (julia.willison@bgci.org)

BGCI is excited to announce that a new category has been created for the International Garden Photographer of the Year competition. One of seven categories, 'World Botanic Garden' is intended to capture the essence of what makes a botanic garden.

In return for promoting the competition, through botanic gardens worldwide, BGCI will receive 10% of the revenue raised through the entries to the 'World Botanic Garden category'. Funds raised will be used for our work in environmental education in botanic gardens through training, workshops and conferences.

The competition is open to everyone, amateurs and professionals alike. Entries are welcome from any country in the world and there are no restrictions on the type of camera used, or the techniques used to produce the final image.

There is a fantastic range of cash and other prizes available to winners and to runners-up, together with the unique prize of having a photograph exhibited in a special exhibition at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

So get snapping and please support BGCI's work by promoting this competition as widely as possible to your visiting public and through your networks.

For detailed information about the competition and how to enter please visit www.igpoty.com. To download an A4 poster of the competition promoting the 'World Botanic Garden' category, visit www.bgci.org/botanic_gardens/news/0510/.

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):

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

Conference: The Network conference will be held 8–9 August with field trip options on Sunday 10 August. Registration forms are now available (please contact the Network to obtain a copy, e-mail: info@nzpcn.org.nz). Since accommodation at the venue is limited, it will be important to get your registration form in early. Also there will only be a limited number of reduced registration fees for students.

Auckland Botanical Society

Meeting: Wednesday 4 June in the Unitec School of Natural Sciences, a talk titled "Fungi ecology" by Barbara Paulus of Unitec School of Natural Sciences. **Contact:** Maureen Young (e-mail: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz.)

Field trip: Saturday 21 June, a trip to Ernest Morgan Reserve. **Contact:** Maureen Young (e-mail: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz).

Waikato Botanical Society

Field trip: Saturday 19 April to Hangitiki Wetland, Waitomo – a good opportunity to compile a species list and locate several threatened plants (as well as the odd weed such as pampas and willow). **Meet:** Waitomo Tavern car park at 10 a.m. **Contact:** Thomas, ph: 07 878 1055 (wk) or 07 878 3437 (hm).

Field trip: Sunday 1 June to the A.J. Seeley Reserve, Hamilton City and to a 'Threatened Plant Collection' working bee at Waikato University. The reserve is a good example of how Hamilton's gullies could look. Gifted to the city by Dr Seeley, it is now a Hamilton City Council Reserve. After visiting the gully 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 a.m. at Waikato University Gate 9, Hillcrest Rd. **Contact:** Liz Grove ph: 846 0965 (hm) e-mail: eg3@waikato.ac.nz

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field trip: Saturday 7 June (note change of date) to Ohope Scenic Reserve. **Leader:** Sarah Beadel, ph: 07 362 4315, e-mail: Sarah@wildlands.co.nz. **Meet:** The Rotorua District Council car park on Fenton St at 8.00 a.m. or at Ohope Beach at 9.30 a.m. (at the bottom of the hill). **Grade:** Easy–medium

Wellington Botanical Society

Meeting: Monday 21 April at 7.30 p.m., in Theatre 101, Murphy Building, Kelburn Parade a talk titled "Plants of south-western Australia" by Leon Perrie, Curator of Botany, Te Papa.

Field trip: Saturday 7 June to East Harbour Regional Park. Botanise Kaitawa Track, Ridge Track, and Ferry Road Track and gully. See black and hard beech forest, with terrestrial northern rata.

Map: R27 Wellington and street map. Park brochure available. **Meet:** 8.45 a.m. at end of Kaitawa Rd, York Bay (limited parking!). Transport: Catch no. 83 Eastbourne bus 7.50 a.m. from Courtenay Place, c. 7.59 a.m. from north end of Lambton Quay; alight at York Bay. **Leader:** Mick Parsons, ph: 972 1148.

Meeting: Monday 16 June at 7.30 p.m. in Theatre 101, Murphy Building, Kelburn Parade a talk titled "Monitoring regional council lands" by Owen Spearpoint, Environmental Technician, Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Field trip: Saturday 14 June a working bee at Te Marua Bush (Note extra field trip). *Please help BotSoc celebrate Arbor Day week* by planting the new area immediately north of Te Marua Bush.

Bring: Lunch and a drink, gloves, kneeler, weed bag, and your favourite weeding tools, e.g. trowel, hand fork, loppers, pruning saw, pinch bar. **Meet:** 9.30 a.m. at Te Marua Bush (250 m north of Te Marua Store and 50 m off SH2, along the road to Te Marua Lakes, Kaitoke Regional Park), or 9 a.m. Upper Hutt Station car park. **Transport:** Catch 8.05 a.m. train on Hutt line from Wellington Station. If you plan to use the train to Upper Hutt, please ring the leader to arrange pickup. Map: R26 Paraparaumu, and Upper Hutt street map. **Co-Leaders:** Glennis Sheppard, ph: 526 7450; Sue Millar, ph: 526 7440.

Canterbury Botanical Society

Meeting: Saturday June 7 the AGM 10.30 a.m. will be held in St Ninian's Church Hall, Puriri St followed by a talk on the Chatham Islands by Bill Sykes **Contact:** Margaret Geerkens, ph: 352 7922, e-mail: bert.marg@xtra.co.nz.

Meeting: Friday 4 July at 7.30 p.m., Room A5 University of Canterbury a talk titled "Invasive Plants" by Professor Phil Hulme of Lincoln University. **Contact:** Margaret Geerkens, ph: 352 7922, e-mail: bert.marg@xtra.co.nz.

Field trip: Saturday 5 July a visit to the insectivorous plants in Christchurch Botanic Gardens. **Contact:** Margaret Geerkens, ph: 352 7922, e-mail: bert.marg@xtra.co.nz.

Winter Camp: Tuesday 26 August – Monday 2 September 2008, to Broadbeach, Gold Coast, Australia. Trip fully booked.

Botanical Society of Otago

Field trip: Saturday 19 April, to Kurinui, North Otago, starting at 9.00 a.m. **Contact:** [Scott Dunavan](mailto:Scott.Dunavan@otago.ac.nz), ph: 027 290 3643.

Meeting: Wednesday 11 June at 5.20 p.m., a talk titled "The expanding range of *Undaria* in Southern New Zealand" by Dr Lisa Russell. 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. Contact: [Robyn Bridges](mailto:Robyn.Bridges@otago.ac.nz), phone: (03) 479 8372.

Field trip: Sunday 22 June to Varleys Hill. This will be an easy walking circuit of the reserve that takes in all the highlights. The QEII covenant at Varleys Hill on the Otago Peninsula includes a small salt meadow, lowland broadleaf forest, large areas of kanuka, and a hill top shrubland. Start: 9.00 a.m., ending about 5.00 p.m. Contact: [Moiria Parker](mailto:Moiria.Parker@otago.ac.nz), ph: (03) 478 0214.