



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 56 JULY 2008

Deadline for next issue: Wednesday 13 August 2008

Message from the President

Have you seen the headline news in the media?

‘New Zealand native plants destroyed and many more threatened.’

Over the last four weeks I have heard about several incidents in which native trees were destroyed and in some instances entire plant communities were destroyed. Added to that, I have heard about several entire plant communities being threatened. One example is on the Mt. Cass Ridge (see below). I was only joking about the headlines in the media but there could well be such headlines. I believe that the continued destruction and threat to our native flora is unacceptable and indeed an embarrassment to New Zealand - a country with a respected and international reputation for nature conservation. If you know of any examples of native plants or plant communities being threatened, then do please let us know. As well as reporting examples in the Newsletter, I suggest we should also list examples on the Network website. As a new initiative, each month we could announce some welcome events and some unwelcome events.

Helping to take my mind off the topic of destruction and threats to native flora is the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Conference that will take place at Te Papa 8–10 August. Not only is there an excellent programme, but this year’s Conference is also a very special occasion!

The Conference this year is a celebration of New Zealand’s flora and marks five years on from that first meeting that took place at Te Papa back in 2003. At that time, some like minded people came together and established the Network. Included in that meeting, five years ago, were several valuable workshops about the Network’s future role and activities. Many ideas were adopted and consequently the Network has made extraordinary contributions to plant conservation in New Zealand and contributions to addressing the 16 targets of the Global Plant Strategy.

This coming August we will do the same (that is have some planning workshops) and I invite everyone to take part. With respect to plant conservation in New Zealand, many things have changed over the last five years. There are many new threats and challenges facing plant conservation. Some threats and challenges are driven within New Zealand (see below for example the piece about Mt. Cass) but there are also many challenges driven by events taking place outside New Zealand. The Network has a central role to play in conservation but the Network can do this only with your help and ideas. Be part of the planning and take the opportunity to be part of what is sure to be a very enjoyable and memorable Conference.

*Ian Spellerberg
Lincoln University*

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network 2008 Conference

The Network conference is very soon! It will be a great opportunity to network with like minded people and hear the latest botanical news. The conference will be held 8–9 August with field trips on Sunday 10 August. The registration form is now on-line on the Network website. Attached at the end of this newsletter are details of the programme which includes many of New Zealand’s leading

plant conservation experts. The keynote Tane Ngahere Lecture will be by Brian Molloy and is entitled ‘*Reflections on 50 years of New Zealand botany and plant conservation*’. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Draft conference programme

Friday 8 August 2008		
9.10-9.15 Introduction and welcome		
Session 1 <i>Chair: John Sawyer</i>		
9.15-9.45	<i>Peter de Lange: keynote speaker</i>	<i>Threatened plant classification</i>
9.45-10.05	Brian Rance	Conserving our small-leaved tree daisies
10.05-10.25	Bec Stanley	City Slickers—protecting plants in NZ’s biggest city
10.25-11.00	<i>Morning tea</i>	
Session 2 <i>Chair: Philippa Crisp</i>		
11.00-11.20	Shannel Courtney	A plant on the edge - the trials of coastal peppergrass recovery
11.20-11.40	Marc Hasenbank	A very hungry caterpillar— <i>Pieris rapae</i> (Lepidoptera – Pieridae) and its impact on a population of <i>Lepidium oleraceum</i> (Brassicaceae) on Matariki Island
11.40-12.10	<i>David Norton: keynote speaker</i>	<i>Restoration of rare species</i>
12.10-1.40	Lunch followed by Poster session and Presentations from 20 of the regions Enviroschools about their plant conservation work.	
Session 3 <i>Chair: David Norton</i>		
1.40-2.10	<i>Gary Houlston: keynote speaker</i>	<i>Genetics and conservation</i>
2.10-2.30	Leon Perrie	Conservation genetics in <i>Pseudopanax</i>
2.30-3.00	<i>Susan Wiser: keynote speaker</i>	<i>Threatened ecosystems</i>
3.00-3.20	Cathy Jones	To save an ephemeral wetland and its threatened plants: a battle with <i>Carex ovalis</i>
3.20-3.45	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
Session 4 <i>Chair: Mike Oates</i>		
3.45-4.15	Dave Kelly: <i>keynote speaker</i>	<i>The importance of pollination and dispersal in native plant conservation</i>
4.15-4.35	Peter Heenan	New insights in the diversity and origins of the Chatham Islands flora
5.00-6.00	Tane Ngahere Lecture Brian Molloy	Reflections on 50 years of New Zealand botany and plant conservation
<i>Chair: Ian Spellerberg</i>		

Saturday 9 August 2008

9.00-9.05	Introduction and welcome	
Session 5 <i>Chair: Shannel Courtney</i>		
9.05-9.25	Heidi Meudt	Taxonomy and species limits in the Australasian snow hebes
9.25-9.45	Mike Burtenshaw	Investigations into the food value of bracken fern rhizomes
9.45-10.05	Jean Tompkins	Ecosystem Services provided by native New Zealand plants in vineyards
10.05-10.35	Morning tea	
10.35-10.45	Philippa Crisp	Development and delivery of marae-based plant conservation training in New Zealand
10.45-11.00	To be confirmed	
11.00-11.30	John Sawyer	The Good the Bad and the Ugly – what next for the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network?
11.30-12.30	NZPCN AGM	
12.30-1.30	Lunch	
1.30-2.00	Ian Spellerberg	Where to for NZPCN for next 5 years
2.00-3.00	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-situ protection of plant life: achieving greater habitat and legal protection for threatened species and ecosystems. • Ex-situ management of plants: promotion of the national seed bank, botanic gardens and increasing use of natives in gardens • Advocacy and information: future development of the website, publicity materials and the newsletter • Training and education: marae-based plant training courses, workshops and involving schools and Enviroschools • Membership and sponsorship: how to help members, increase membership, involve councils and fund raise • Research: increase and promote threatened plant research and biosystematics and fund raising for the David Given Trust 	
3.00-3.20	Afternoon tea	
3.20-4.20	Workshops – Repeated	
4.20-5.00	Workshop feed back, discussion, and conference wrap-up	
7.00 p.m.	Conference dinner and Network Awards ceremony at the Wellington Brewery To be held at the Brewery on the Wellington Waterfront (corner Taranaki and Cable Streets, 3 minutes walk from Te Papa), price includes buffet dinner and a free drink.	

Sunday 10 August: Field trips

<p>1. Eastbourne Hills – ferns, mistletoes and orchids Depart 9 a.m. from outside Te Papa Tongarewa. Return 4.30 p.m. Visit one of the largest and most diverse forest reserves in the lower North Island. The beech-podocarp forested hills are home to more than 30 species of orchid, the red-flowered mistletoe, a diverse array of ferns, northern rata and plenty more.</p>	<p>2. Otari /Wilton Bush (native botanic garden and Tony Druce collection) and Karori Sanctuary, the largest restoration project in the region Depart 9 a.m. from outside Te Papa Tongarewa. Return 4.30 p.m. Visit one of the largest restoration projects in the country and New Zealand's first native botanic garden and remnant of Wellington's original forest.</p>	<p>3. Matiu /Somes Island – an historic and scientific reserve and major restoration project Depart 10 a.m. from the main East by West ferry terminal near Shed 5 on the Wellington waterfront. Return ferry price included. Return to wharf 3.45 p.m. We will look at a well advanced restoration project, the history of the island, the indigenous and exotic plant and bird life.</p>
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Network awards

The Network is still accepting nominations for this years plant conservation awards. These awards acknowledge outstanding contributions to native plant conservation in New Zealand. This year a new category has been established of Young Plant Conservationist of the Year (for people younger than 18 at 30 June 2008). The awards will be given out at the NZPCN Conference dinner to be held at the Wellington Brewery on the evening of Sat 9 August 2008. To make a nomination fill out the nomination form (included in last months newsletter) and post to the Network at the address below with supporting documentation. Alternatively, e-mail details to the Network at info@nzpcn.org.nz. We look forward to receiving your nominations by Wednesday 23 July 2008.

Under threat: Mt Cass

By Glen Metcalf (contact@aridgetoofar.org.nz)



The Mt Cass Ridge near Waipara is by far the best remnant of limestone bush left in Canterbury (DOC 2007). Not only is it a beautiful place with its succession of bush-clad limestone knolls separated by glades from which there are glorious views, it is also home to over 150 different species of native plants many of which are rare and endangered. The Mt Cass Spaniard survives only here, and the ridge is a population stronghold for limestone wheat grass (*Australopyrum calcis* subsp. *optatum*). The threatened Canterbury gecko

lives among these rocks. This area of limestone bush is unique in Canterbury for retaining remnants of old growth forest forming a canopy over a complex assemblage of shrubs and forest floor plants.

It is here that MainPower NZ Ltd has applied for resource consent to build a wind farm. If they succeed they will build up to 83 wind turbines at intervals of as little as 80 m along 6.8 km of the ridge. The access road will necessitate cuts of up to 17 m deep through the limestone knolls and fills of up to 11 m high between them. MainPower will excavate an estimated 325,000 m³ of mainly rock and limestone from the ridge, crush rock on site, stockpile aggregate, batch 9300 m³ of concrete, push 55,000 m³ of excess spoil on to 12 ha of glades and dry gullies, flatten extensive areas around each turbine base, erect buildings. The effect on this rare and lovely place will be dire.

There was no need to choose the Mt Cass Ridge. MainPower knows that the Doctors Hills ridge on the other side of Waipara is feasible for a wind farm and that it has the potential to generate almost as much wind power as Mt Cass. It seems that an ecological jewel is to be sacrificed for short-term gain. There is little time if we are to save Mt Cass. The closing date for submissions to the Hurunui District Council is 5 p.m. on 1 August. See www.aridgetoofar.org.nz for information.

Te Moata Charitable Trust

By Annie Chapman

Te Moata Charitable Trust has an exciting vision to develop a “sanctuary for people and a sanctuary for nature”. Te Moata has run for 20 years as a Retreat Centre on a large covenant of regenerating bush. A new Trust board was appointed at the beginning of this year and our expanded vision has two main elements:

- Encouraging awareness of the interconnectedness of people and nature; enhancing holistic well-being and personal responsibility through deepening relationship with nature and with each other.
- Implementing an ecological restoration plan on the 344 hectares of regenerating secondary Kamahi/ Rewarewa/ Kauri regrowth situated approx 7 km northwest of Tairua.

The bush here also harbours threatened and/or sparse native species. Some of the plant species identified in our recently commissioned ecological survey include *Brachyglottis myrianthos*, *Libocedrus plumosa*, *Corunastylis pumila*, *Diplodium brunalis* and *Pomaderris phyllicifolia*. There are pockets of original podocarps, wetland areas with large Swamp Maire, healthy streams with abundant Koura and some native fish. Significant fauna identified include Hochstetter's frogs, Fernbirds and Pied Tits. Kiwi were heard calling on the Southern boundary. Te Moata is almost continuous with a large area under management of Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group. Although there is already some pest management in place at Te Moata, large areas of the bush are currently unprotected. The ecological report strongly recommended an extension and reinforcement of the existing trap and bait station buffer line, as well as circles of protection around five significant natural "seedling nursery areas" within the bush. We have just received funding that will allow us to proceed with getting some of the more urgent areas protected by Spring. The Charitable Trust is raising funds to purchase the property, with the current land-owners leaving in \$400,000.

If you feel interested in our project or are inspired to help in any way, please feel free to contact us on 07 868 8798 or email ac.temoata@orcon.net.nz

The Importance of NOT finding a rare plant

By Bec Stanley, Auckland Regional Council

While you might think that not finding a threatened plant during a survey is unsuccessful that isn't necessarily the case. This type of survey could almost be seen as an occupational hazard (after all threatened plants are uncommon) and it is not something that should be regarded as negative. Take looking for the extremely rare moss *Lindbergia maritima* as an example. It has been found only once, ever, on a small islet off Piha, Auckland's most famous surf beach. Auckland Regional Council recently completed 40 hours of survey for this species without finding anymore than was originally known. While we didn't expect to find acres of it we hoped we would find more however knowing where it is not is just as valuable in a conservation sense as we know so much more about its distribution and rarity—it's just not as exciting as finding it!. We were well prepared for the survey, visiting the Auckland Museum to view specimens, and taking the experts Jessica Beever and John Braggins to show us the only known wild site. Far from a waste of time this result has enabled researchers to more accurately assess its rarity. Maybe the only known wild patch is not just the only bit found but possibly the only bit remaining? ARC is not giving up and will continue to survey in similar habitats on the wild west coast of Auckland.



Rangers Lynette Ho and Chris Muller look at the only known site of *Lindbergia maritima* with bryologist Dr. John Braggins (centre).

Plant of the Month



Myosotis petiolata var. *pansa*.
Photo: Bec Stanley.

Plant of the Month for July is the nationally endangered forget-me-not *Myosotis petiolata* var. *pansa* a rosette forming perennial herb of shaded, wet and disturbed sites in coastal shrubland. This forget-me-not forms large patches of rosettes sometimes up to half a metre in diameter. It is endemic to the western coast of the North Island of New Zealand, from the Waitakere Ranges of Auckland to northern Taranaki. It requires open ground for its seed to germinate and is increasingly competing for bare ground with exotic grasses and herbs.

The Network fact sheet for *Myosotis petiolata* var. *pansa* may be found at: www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=79

Manukau City Council Restoration Guide launched

Manukau City Council Parks have launched guidelines for restoring native plants in Manukau city. The guideline, entitled *Restoring Our Native Plants*, contains lists of plants suitable for use in each of Manukau City's eight ecosystem character areas, along with tips for planting. Readers can find out which native plants are best suited to their area by looking up their 'eco-address'. The booklet has won a gold award in its landscape planning and environmental design category and also a supreme award, the Charlie Challenger Award for Landscape Planning, at the prestigious New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects' (NZILA) 2008 awards. A copy of 'Restoring Our Native Plants' guidelines is available from the council website www.manukau.govt.nz - key words: restoring native plants or use this link: www.manukau.govt.nz/uploadedFiles/manukaugovtnz/Parks_and_Leisure/Parks/restoration%20guidelines_SMALL.pdf



Manukau Parks Ranger Trudie McNie assists pupils of Baverstock Oaks School with their planting

New *Pimelea* recognised in revision

New Zealand *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) is in serious need of taxonomic revision. Over the last few decades—as a retirement project no less! Dr Colin Burrows has been revising the New Zealand species. The first of his papers has just been published in the June issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Botany* (45(2) (2008)).

Dr Colin Burrows of Christchurch, New Zealand has always had an interest in *Pimelea*, and when he retired from lecturing at the University of Canterbury in the mid 1980s he announced that he was now going to complete what he'd started as a Master's thesis in the 1950s. That is, a comprehensive revision of New Zealand *Pimelea*.

His first offering on the subject, a paper just published in the June issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Botany* (Burrows 2008) deals with seven glabrous (hairless) leaved species. Burrows (2008) maintains *Pimelea gnidia*, *P. longifolia*, *P. traversii* and *P. poppelwellii*. He relegates the little known *P. crosby-smithiana* into synonymy with the widespread and rather variable *P. gnidia*. Two new subspecies are recognised in *P. traversii*, a north-eastern Marlborough endemic of limestone



Pimelea gnidia.

Photo: John Smith-Dodsworth.

rocks, subsp. *boreus*, and a southerly outlier of ultramafic rock substrates in the Livingstone Range, subsp. *exedra*. Burrows also names two new species, the highly threatened—and very close to extinct—*P. actea*, which was long known as *P. "Turakina"* in threatened plant listings, and another Range Restricted species, *P. telura* (long known as *P. "Three Kings"*), confined, says Burrows, to the larger of the Three Kings Islands: Manawa Tawhi (Great Island), South-West and West Islands. However, it is also present on the smaller North East Island and Arbutus Rock in the Princes Group (P. J. de Lange pers. comm.). Burrows provides conservation assessments for all of the taxa treated, and suggests that many North Island populations of *P. longifolia* are hybrid swarms between *P. gnidia* and *P. longifolia*.

Fact Sheets for the new taxa are now available on the NZPCN website.

Reference

Burrows, C.J. 2008: Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand I. The taxonomic treatment of seven endemic, glabrous-leaved species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 45: 127-176.

Enigmatic *Parahebe* “Bamboozle” rediscovered!

The tiny, enigmatic *Parahebe*, dubbed “Bamboozle” because of its peculiar morphology, chromosome number and the unusual circumstances surrounding its discovery last year in a west Auckland bush remnant has been rediscovered by a combined Auckland Botanical Society and Royal Forest and Bird field trip...

Earlier this year the NZPCN website and newsletter *Trilepidea* reported that a new and rather distinctive *Parahebe* had been recognised from a cultivated plant that had been collected in a small forest remnant near the Woodhill Pine Forest, west of Auckland City by the 2007 NZPCN Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Mr Geoff Davidson of Oratia Native Plant Nurseries.

At the time of the report several surveys for the plant had already been undertaken at its only known location—all without success. During May of this year a larger team spent an entire day combing the forest remnant, and they too failed to find the elusive *Parahebe*.

However, rumour of the *Parahebe* and the unusual vegetation and associated species of the forest remnant had provided the main stimulus for the Auckland Botanical Society to visit the reserve on June 21. It was they, together with members of the local Forest and Bird branch, who successfully discovered a small population on the banks of a small stream within the forest remnant. Their find was not at the same site where Geoff Davidson had found his plant, suggesting that further populations are likely to be found in the forest.

Both Professor Phil Garnock-Jones and Dr Peter de Lange, who are now planning to describe the new *Parahebe* sometime in the next year, are delighted. “With something as unusual as this plant it’s always a worry when all you have to work with is a single cultivated specimen. Now with at least one wild population of *Parahebe* “Bamboozle” known, we are in a much better position to resolve its status” said Peter de Lange, who is both elated and irked with the find. It transpires that the population was found less than 2 metres away from where he had given up searching due to failing light during his survey there earlier in May.

A small perching orchid drops into view

By Simon Walls, Ranger, Golden Bay Area Office, Department of Conservation

Golden Bay has some plant species which are usually associated with the North Island.

Recently, on a field trip to delta islands at the mouth of the Takaka River, the Golden Bay DOC threatened plant ranger came upon a population of yet another northern species.

While paddling his kayak up a tide-flooded channel the ranger saw that many tōtara trees were dead and dying in the seaward zone of the estuary margin podocarp forest. These grey, leafless tōtara were beginning to decay and fall apart. Changes in water levels and salinity were dramatically altering the vegetation zones with deep rooted trees and shrubs becoming the casualties.



Adelopetalum tuberculatum. Photo: Simon Walls.

Among the rain of rotten branches under these stricken trees the ranger found a small orchid, still clinging to a fragment of lichen encrusted branch. It was *Adelopetalum tuberculatum*. Leaving the kayak on the channel bank the ranger searched among the fallen debris and found large numbers of orchid plants. Looking up, many more could be seen, waiting to plunge to their deaths. The excitement of this discovery was tempered by the desperate plight this population of a rare species was suffering.

There are very few records of this orchid from the South Island. Since the first record in 1884 near Collingwood (collected by Dall of *Pittosporum dallii* fame), it has been rarely seen. In May, 1992,

one plant in full bloom was found on a totara at the Aorere River delta. A survey followed this find which involved climbing every tree in the vicinity! No more were seen. Then, in 2005, Frank Soper, a local botanist, found a plant in his covenanted forest on Waitapu Hill, a few kilometres from the Takaka River mouth.

These three records of *A. tuberculatum* from Golden Bay are the only confirmed records for the South Island since the time of Dall, an era that has seen the wholesale removal of lowland and coastal podocarp forest and consequently the treetop habitat of this orchid. This orchid is in the naturally uncommon threat category and is a target for orchid collectors. It has recently been moved from the genus *Bulbophyllum* and is both an endemic species and the only New Zealand *Adelopetalum*. It is possible that it has developed a symbiotic relationship with lichens and that lichen substrate is important for germination and establishment. The colourful flowers appear in autumn although a few late flowers were still present on the recently found plants. DOC are now planning a rescue effort that will involve moving several hundred plants to new safe sites. It is interesting to speculate on whether this small perching orchid could be a victim of sea level rise!

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):

6th Annual General Meeting of the NZ Plant Conservation Network Inc.

Telstra Clear Suite, Te Papa, Wellington - Saturday 9 August 2008 (as part of the conference) around midday.

Kaipatiki Planting days for winter 2008

Kaipatiki Project community planting days have started at the Eskdale Reserve. Come along on 12 July at the corner of Domain Rd and Glenfield Rd, on 9 August behind the centre 17 Lauderdale Rd in the reserve (annual Kaipatiki plant sale where you can buy eco-sourced north shore plants) and on 13 of September on Glenfield Rd; All welcome 9.30 a.m.–12 p.m. Gloves, spades and a BBQ provided. Contact restoration@kaipatiki.org.nz for more information.

Auckland Botanical Society

Meeting: Wednesday 2 July 7.30 pm Lichens of the Auckland Region Speaker: DanBlanchon Lichens are a prominent and important feature of the Auckland landscape. Dan has been lucky enough to study lichens at a number of sites in the Auckland Region and will present an overview of the different lichens found in our area, from offshore islands like Rangitoto and Motu Kaikoura to more mundane sites like urban basalt outcrops, rock walls and street trees. Venue: Unitec School of Natural Sciences Gate 3, Building 023 Room 1018

Contact: Maureen Young (e-mail: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz.)

Field trip: Saturday 19 July Maungaroa Lookout Track, Piha (incorporating the Nikau Grove Track shown on older maps). Leader: Sandra Jones **Meeting Place:** 10am at the car park at the end of Glen Esk Road, Piha. From there we will car pool to the end of Garden Road where parking space is very limited. Although the track climbs steeply up and then drops steeply down, it is only 2.2 km long. Therefore there will be plenty of time to botanize the high quality coastal forest and stream side. There are a good number of not particularly common coastal species and a few that are rare in the Waitakeres. A species list will be provided on the day and the challenge will be to add to it. E-mail Sandra at kemsdale@ihug.co.nz if you'd like a copy emailed to you in advance.

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field trip: Sunday 3 August Wairoa Stream, Woodlands Rd, Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park, north of Katikati. **Meet:** The carpark between conference centre and police station at 8.00 a.m. or Katikati town centre at 9.30 a.m. Leader: Graeme Jane ph 07 570-3123 gtjane@clear.net.nz

Waikato Botanical Society

Field Trip: Sunday 27 July Hauraki Remnants. A visit to remnants of the Hauraki Plains once magnificent kahikatea forest and what is left of the salt meadow on the banks of the Waihou River. Frank Speedy Memorial Reserve. This kahikatea-cabbage tree forest remnant south of Ngatea is an area gifted by the Speedy family that was part of the homestead reserve but is now a public road side rest area. It is an area that has been passed a million times but probably never really looked at, and includes some hybrids between two *Melicytus* species. From here a 10 min. drive to the Kopu Bridge, and a short walk along the mangrove fringe of the Waihou River. Heading downstream beside the tidal edge, allows a chance to look at salt tolerant plants away from the tall fescue that dominates this area. **Meet:** 9.30 a.m. Frank Speedy Memorial Reserve SH2, 2km south of Ngatea. Contact: Doug Ashby dj.ashby@xtra.co.nz ph 07 862 4706

Field Trip: Sunday 7 September. Fitzgerald Glade (Tukorehe Scenic Reserve), SH 5, Mamaku Plateau (combined trip with Rotorua Botanical Society). A visit to a well known native forest remnant on the western side of the Mamaku Plateau that everyone has driven through on SH5 but few have stopped to take a closer look. Common species include tawa, mangeao, rewarewa, pukatea, and strangely, masses of young nikau and *Arthropteris tenella*. Also lots of supplejack. A good chance to produce an up-to-date species list from a rarely botanised scenic reserve. Grade: Medium. **Meet:** 9.15 a.m. Fitzgerald Glade tearooms, SH 5 Contact: John Hobbs ph 07 348 6620 jffhobbs@paradise.net.nz

Wellington Botanical Society

Monday 21 July: Evening meeting Otari-Wilton's Bush - BioBlitz and the previous century. Rodney Lewington will summarise the floristic results of the March 2007 BioBlitz, and in doing so look at the previous 100 years of botany in the natural area of Otari.

Saturday 2 August: Field trip Pauatahanui Inlet. Botanise this wetland of international significance and see the re-vegetation work being done by Forest and Bird. Study birds from the specially constructed 'hides'. Meet 9 a.m. at Pauatahanui Reserve. Take SH 58 to junction with Paekakariki Hill Rd, then turn into parking area. Co-leaders (tbc): Barry Dent and Sue Freitag 476 6536.

Monday 18 August: Evening meeting 1. Annual General Meeting. 2. AP Druce Memorial Lecture: Looking inside from the outside – working toward a Flora for the Chatham Islands. Speaker: Dr Peter de Lange F.L.S., Threatened Plants Scientist, DOC. The Chatham Islands (CI), internationally recognised as a biodiversity "hot spot", are rich in endemic species of plants and animals. Botanically there are two endemic genera, the iconic CI forget-me-not (*Myosotidium*) and CI sowthistle (*Embergeria*), and a further 34 endemic species, subspecies and varieties of plants. Recent fieldwork suggests that endemic vascular plant species may exceed 50, including at least one new tree species. Since 1996, Peter de Lange has been involved in the conservation management of the islands' threatened flora, and has developed a keen interest in the islands, their vegetation, biogeography, botanical history, and people. This talk will focus on aspects of the islands' flora, its evolutionary history, its conservation, and provide an update on what we know about the islands' remarkable vegetation.

Botanical Society of Otago

Meeting: Sequencing the seas. Wednesday 20th August, 2008 12:00 – 12.50 p.m. Prof John A Raven, University of Dundee, Scotland and John Smaillie, 2008 Tennant Lecturer, University of Otago. **Note special venue:** Union Street Lecture Theatre. Contact Robyn Bridges, ph: 03 479 8372.

Field trip: Saturday 26 July, 2008 10am. Flax collection, Dunedin Botanic Garden.

Debra Carr from Clothing & Textile Science, University of Otago and Rua McCallum (Ngai Tahu) will introduce the Rene Weaving Collection and the 'Dunedin Cultivars' which have whitau (fibre) as good as the best in the Rene Collection. The Dunedin Cultivars were donated to the Garden in the early 1900s by Matthews, a Dunedin horticulturist. Debra & Rua will teach how to care for and clean harakeke using traditional methods and demonstrate how whitau is extracted. Bring a sharp knife that has not been used for food, gardening gloves, boots, packed lunch and warm clothing.

Meeting Place: carpark next to the Polytechnic Centre, Botanic Garden, on Lovelock Avenue. Alternative day in case of rain is Sunday 27 July. If in doubt contact Debra Carr 021 239 3045.