



# 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

E-NEWSLETTER: NO 62. JANUARY 2009

Deadline for next issue: Monday 16 February 2009

## Message from the President

Diversity! If there was one word to sum up this month's newsletter it would be 'diversity'. There is a passing mention of a topic that has a connection with a global plant diversity initiative, there is a diversity of events to choose from, and the newsletter has diverse contents.

If you carefully read the newsletter, you will come across a brief mention of the fact that it is now possible once again to become a registered seed collector. You will of course know that the Network does have a Seed Bank and that it is now possible to deposit material. Seed banks are there as a 'back up' but in a more general sense seed banks are there to help conserve diversity. The Network's contribution here in New Zealand is in line with global initiatives. I wonder how many readers will have heard about the Svalbard Global Seed Vault or popularly called the 'Noah's Ark in the Eternal Ice' that was formally established last year. This is a secure seed bank on Spitsbergen in the Arctic Archipelago. As with other seed banks, this facility will help to guard against loss of diversity at the genetic level. In this case, it is all about conserving the diversity of the world's food crops and has been established at a time when there is so much uncertainty about the climate and food supplies. The Global seed vault is a back-up for national seed banks around the world and, as such, is one more reminder of the serious losses that are taking place in diversity at all levels of biological, taxonomic and ecological levels of organisation. We talk a lot about 'biological diversity' but all too often the term is being misused. In most cases, what is meant is 'species' and the relevance of 'diversity' is lost in the discussion. I believe that there are serious implications arising from the common misuse of the term or, putting it another way, we seem to have forgotten what the Convention on Biological diversity is all about. This example of the role of seed banks helps to make the point that it is 'diversity' that is the most important issue.

The diversity of coming events fills a large section of this month's newsletter and I am particularly pleased to see so many announcements. Easily overlooked is the 25th Anniversary of the Rotorua Botanical Society. A quarter of a century! This is indeed a milestone and an opportunity for the Rotorua Botanical Society to celebrate past activities but also a time to plan future activities. On behalf of the Network, I wish them every success. Where would we be without the rich array of botanical societies throughout the country? I would be interested to know about membership levels of these societies and whether or not they continue to grow.

Finally, there is the diversity of contents in the newsletter. I hope that such diversity will ensure that there is something for everyone; after all that is what newsletters are for. Once again Dr Peter de Lange has contributed some very timely and interesting articles. Bec Stanley summarises some rather worrying research about not taking a holistic view when managing pests. There is a piece about water weeds, an article about American ginseng, and news about the Kaipatiki Project. Last but not least, there is a summary about your views on the name of the Network. Many thanks to all who took the trouble to respond.

I look forward to hearing more from you. It is your Network!

*Ian Spellerberg*  
*Lincoln University*

## PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Asplenium lamprophyllum*



*Asplenium lamprophyllum*. Photo: Andrew Townsend.

*Asplenium lamprophyllum* is a beautiful small fern that spreads by rhizomes to form lush, extensive carpets. The species epithet comes from the Greek 'lampros', which means shining, and 'phyllo', a leaf. The fronds are a crisp glossy green and can reach about 800 mm long from the base of the stipe to tip of the lamina. It is similar in size and appearance to *A. bulbiferum*, hen and chicken fern, but can be distinguished by the absence of bulbils, its rhizomatous habit, and glossier, less divided fronds. *Asplenium lamprophyllum* is endemic to the North Island from Te Pahi south to near Wanganui and Hawke's Bay, but is common only north of Mokau and Gisborne and is not threatened. It is mostly found in forests and makes an excellent horticultural plant when grown in the shade, with deep, moist, free draining soils. The NZPCN fact sheet for *Asplenium lamprophyllum* may be found at: [www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular\\_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=1560](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=1560).

### New hyperica for New Zealand and a reinstated name

Peter de Lange, Department of Conservation ([pdelange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pdelange@doc.govt.nz))

The last treatment of the indigenous hyperica recognised two species, *Hypericum gramineum* and *H. japonicum* Thunb. ex Murray (Webb et al., 1988) for New Zealand. However, the late Tony Druce had long considered that New Zealand plants treated as *H. japonicum* were highly variable and he recognised at one stage as many as four unnamed entities lurking under that name. In some respects this variability was captured in the Flora IV treatment where it was stated that an upland form of *H. japonicum* apparently confined to the Central Volcanic Plateau of the North Island and the South Island might be distinct; it was even suggested that the this form could be called *H. pusillum* Choisy.

Heenan (2008) has revisited the taxonomy of the New Zealand *H. japonicum* complex. His work, utilising a combination of molecular (DNA sequence) and morphological data recognises three species within New Zealand: *H. japonicum*; two new endemic species, *H. rubicundulum* Heenan and *H. minutiflorum* Heenan; and, for the plant long believed to be *H. japonicum* in Australasia, Heenan reinstates the name *H. pusillum*. His work also shows that *H. japonicum*—whose type comes from Japan—is not present in Australasia and, further, that it is not closely allied to these Australasian species.

Of the two new species, *H. rubicundulum* is essentially a South Island endemic of montane to alpine tarns (it is known so far from one North Island site, in the southern Kaweka Range, within a geographic area from where several other primarily South Island species, e.g., *Rytidosperma corinum*, are also known to be disjunct to the North Island). Although much of this species habitat is threatened, there are still large parts of this species range where it is abundant and its habitat is protected. Heenan (2008) considers *H. rubicundulum* as "Naturally Uncommon" using the New

Zealand Threat Classification System. The second species, *H. minutiflorum*, is endemic to the Central Volcanic Plateau of the North Island where it grows in ephemeral bogs, on tarn margins and in damp or poorly draining ground in frost flats.



*Hypericum minutiflorum*. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

Judging by herbarium specimens, this species was once very common but, because much of its habitat has been lost to pine plantation or invaded by weeds, it is now highly threatened, and Heenan (2008) regards it as being “Nationally Critical”.

*Hypericum pusillum* is widespread through the main islands of New Zealand, though it is apparently absent from the Chatham and subantarctic islands. This species is also in Australia and possibly New Guinea. It is not considered threatened or

uncommon. Although highly variable, all of the forms when cultivated revert to the typical state.

Fact Sheets for these three species are available on the NZPCN website.

## References

- Heenan, P.B. 2008: Three newly recognised species of *Hypericum* (Clusiaceae) from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46: 547–558.
- Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: *Flora of New Zealand*. Volume IV, naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons. Christchurch DSIR, Botany Division

## New bitter cress recognised from Auckland Islands

Peter de Lange, Department of Conservation ([pdelange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pdelange@doc.govt.nz))

The New Zealand indigenous bitter cresses (*Cardamine*) are long over due for a full taxonomic revision. Currently, the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network accepts seven taxa, though one, *C. debilis*, which is highly variable, is treated on the website as an aggregate (agg.) meaning that there is at least more than one entity lurking under that name. Some informal listings suggest that our indigenous *Cardamine* could comprise over 60 “species”. However, the genus is tricky and is best studied using fresh plant material and a combination of traditional and modern biosystematic tools.

In a recent paper, Dr Peter Heenan has started to publish the results of his ongoing revision of the genus. His first paper (Heenan 2008) revisits the status of the endemic subantarctic bitter cress *Cardamine subcarnosa*. In this revision Heenan (2008) confines *C. subcarnosa* to Campbell Island, and refers the Auckland Islands plants previously included in *C. subcarnosa* to a new species *C. latior*. Both bitter cresses are regarded by Heenan (2008) as “Naturally Uncommon” qualified “RR” (Range Restricted).

*Cardamine latior* is distinguished from *C. subcarnosa* by a range of vegetative and fruit characters, including having shorter leaves with more leaflets, leaflets that usually overlap, more prominent leaf margin hydathodes, short and compact inflorescences, distinctly erect and broader siliques with a wider replum, and the septum with a distinct central vein.

## Reference

- Heenan, P.B. 2008: *Cardamine latior* (Brassicaceae), a new species endemic to the subantarctic Auckland Islands, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46: 559–566.

## Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the 2008–09 year are due. All corporate and NGO members whose subscriptions are due have been sent invoices. Individual members, including those in the categories of student or unwaged, have received a reminder. Many have paid very promptly and we thank you for that; we ask that the rest will treat their subscription payment as a matter of urgency. The Network can maintain and expand its services only as fast as finances permit.

## Plants threatened by animal pest control

Bec Stanley, Auckland Regional Council ([Rebecca.Stanley@arc.govt.nz](mailto:Rebecca.Stanley@arc.govt.nz))

Under the headings “While The Cat’s Away: How Removing An Invasive Species Devastated a World Heritage Island”, “Ecosystem meltdown” and “Cat kill wrecks island” internet news sites have reported that conservation management to protect birds on Macquarie Island has backfired for its flora. The reports are based on a scientific study in the British *Journal of Applied Ecology* (Bergstrom et al. 2009) which investigated the outcome of eradicating cats from the island in 2000 to protect the royal penguin. It found that removing cats allowed the island’s rabbits to increase and, in just over six years, the rabbits have devoured the vegetation, creating close-cropped lawns, and increasing erosion. As a geologically recent island, the flora of Macquarie is not particularly diverse but includes the spectacular mega-herbs *Pleurophyllum hookeri* and *Stilbocarpa polaris* as well as two endemic plants. The cat eradication seemed, as the researchers point out, a sensible and much-needed management intervention and that the unintended consequences look, in hindsight, obvious. Though this suggests land managers did not fully consider the cascading effects of cat control, they note rabbit and rodent eradication was identified as the next steps in the management of pests on Macquarie but the funding for this had not been obtained. Although comprehensive multi-species eradications targeting all species are preferable, because they are more expensive this does not always occur. This research signals that a holistic approach to animal pest control is urgent. In New Zealand, predator fences are popular but the impacts of selective predator removal (where, for example, fences cannot keep out mice, and “open ended” peninsula style fences cannot keep out rabbits) must be very seriously considered. In addition, any pest eradication that does not consider the cascading effects of the removal one species on the population of another may destroy an ecosystem the eradication is intended to protect. Plants are probably more vulnerable because the threats to them are often not as obvious as with animals.

### Reference

Bergstrom, D.M., Lucieer, K.K., Wasley, T., Belbin, L., Pedersen, T.K., Chown, S.L. 2009: Indirect effects of invasive species removal devastate World Heritage Island. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 46: 73–81.

## November’s tricky problem

In November we featured a water weed problem and invited help for the correspondents. Two replies were received and they are given below in case others have a similar problem:

- Have you tested the pH of the water in the pond? If the pH is lower than 6 (acidic) then put in a bale or two of pea straw or a kilo of lime to try to balance the pH. Otherwise plant trees that will provide shade to the water in the pond. Have a look at our publication “So you are thinking about a pond...” ([www.gw.govt.nz/section1742.cfm](http://www.gw.govt.nz/section1742.cfm)). Spraying the Azolla will only re-suspend the organic matter into the water, and may lead to algal bloom or more Azolla next spring.  
*Tim Park, Biodiversity Policy Advisor, Greater Wellington Regional Council.*
- *Azolla* becomes rampant in high nutrient water; this is often noted after the water shed has had a fertiliser application. *Azolla* makes good garden compost and has been used by a few people, gaining good results in the vegetable garden. If at all possible, try to restrict suspected high nutrient runoff from entering the pond.  
*Kevin Matthews ([kble@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kble@xtra.co.nz)).*

## Network website issues

As members will be aware that, since we were attacked by hackers last year, we have had problems with the completion of online forms on the website. We are now pleased to report that the online new member registration form and the seed collector registration form are both again functional. Please spread the message to any interested in joining the Network or in becoming registered seed collectors.

## **NZPCN Committee 2008–2009**

In the interests of providing better information about the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, here is a brief outline of the committee members, their backgrounds, network responsibilities and contact details.

### **President: Professor Ian Spellerberg**

Ian Spellerberg is Director of the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation and Professor of Nature Conservation at Lincoln University. He is also chairs the University Environmental Sustainability Advisory Group. He has established two international masters programmes, one in sustainability and one in nature conservation. His teaching includes 'Ecological Monitoring', 'Science and Policy' and 'Sustainability'. He has published several books in the area of ecology and conservation and regularly contributes opinion articles to newspapers. As President, Ian coordinates the activities of the network via the council and by representing and promoting the network at every opportunity. Ian plays a major role in the overall strategic direction of the network, helping to recruit members, listening to the members; seeking support via sponsorship and via patrons. Ian provides a regular commentary in the network's newsletter *Trilepidea* and by prompting members to contribute. Ian strongly maintains his key role is to initiate new ideas to help the network achieve its mission.

Contact: [Ian.Spellerberg@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:Ian.Spellerberg@lincoln.ac.nz)

### **Vice President: Dr Philippa Crisp**

In her current role, Philippa heads a team that cares for the ecological health of Greater Wellington Regional Council's parks and forests. She has been involved in a wide range of conservation topic areas over the past 12 years. Philippa was a founding member of the NZPCN and helped to develop the marae-based native plant training courses. She was part of the Wellington team that organised the 2008 NZPCN conference and has recently taken on the sponsorship co-ordinator role.

Contact: [Philippa.Crisp@gw.govt.nz](mailto:Philippa.Crisp@gw.govt.nz)

### **Secretary: Mr John Sawyer**

John is a plant ecologist who has been with the Department of Conservation for 15 years involved in threatened species recovery, island restoration, habitat protection and pest plant management. As well as being a founding member and Secretary of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network he is also Editor of the Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin and Immediate Past President of the New Zealand Ecological Society. He has written a range of books about native plants, environmentally friendly gardening and, most recently, about gourmet tramping. John is the webmaster for the NZPCN website and is the first point of contact for the website. Contact: [jsawyer@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jsawyer@doc.govt.nz)

### **Treasurer: Mr Mike Oates**

Founding member of the network, former President of the NZPCN Mike is currently the network's treasurer. Mike has a keen interest in native plants and horticulture. Aside from being responsible for the network's finances, for the next 12 months Mike was part of the small Wellington team that organised the 2008 NZPCN conference. Contact: [michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz)

## **Committee members**

### **Sarah Beadel**

The founding director of Wildland Consultants in 1985, Sarah is a restoration ecologist and botanist, and plans and implements ecological restoration projects, undertakes threatened species survey and monitoring, vegetation and flora surveys and mapping, and identification of management issues and options for natural areas. Sarah is the author of more than 500 botanical reports, papers and articles and is passionate about plants and ecological restoration. Contact: [sarah@wildlands.co.nz](mailto:sarah@wildlands.co.nz)

### **Shannel Courtney**

Shannel needs little introduction with a full description of his activities having been published in the September 2008 issue of the newsletter. Shannel is a botanist who works in the Nelson/Marlborough conservancy of the Department of Conservation. He has a wide knowledge of native plants and has also put his efforts into practice with a 6 ha covenant at Pohara. As readers of *Trilepidea* will know, he was awarded the Loder Cup in 2008 for his personal and professional commitment to protecting and restoring threatened indigenous plant life, particularly in the Nelson and Marlborough regions. For the 2008 conference, he collected and collated all the registrations.

Contact: [scourtney@doc.govt.nz](mailto:scourtney@doc.govt.nz)

### **Rewi Elliott**

As a child I started playing in the mud as my dad laboured in the vegetable plot and eventually I got interested in the green part of the garden. This led to leaving school early and studying horticulture at polytech. Eventually, I found myself at the Wellington Botanic Gardens where I stayed for five years. Feeling the urge to put myself in more debt I left the gardens to study environmental studies at Massey University. Near the end of my studies the manager's position at Otari-Wilton's Bush opened up and I was lucky enough to land it. I am still plugging away at extramural study but Otari was too good an opportunity to pass up. I'm three years into the job now and I love it. If you're visiting Wellington, Otari is the "must see" – and get your kids playing in the mud!

Contact: [rewi.elliott@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:rewi.elliott@wcc.govt.nz)

### **Bec Stanley**

Bec is a plant ecologist with the Auckland Regional Council working on threatened plant survey, protection and restoration in Auckland's 26 regional parks. Bec provides ecological assessments for events in parks, wrote the council's revegetation strategy and has involvement with statutory projects that are consented to by council. The statutory role of councils in ensuring biodiversity values are protected has been enhanced by the publication by Bec, Peter de Lange and Ewen Cameron on the regionally threatened plants of Auckland. Bec was a plant ecologist with the Department of Conservation from 1997 to 2005 involved in threatened plant recovery, island restoration, and habitat protection. Bec is also on the Auckland Botanical Society committee. For the network, Bec provides a quarterly update on the work of NZPCN to the Australian Network for Plant Conservation which is published in their journal *Australasian Plant Conservation* and is responsible for checking information loaded on the NZPCN website for accuracy, clarity and spelling. Bec is currently compiling the ideas generated at past conference workshops from members into a strategic plan for the network. Contact: [rebecca.stanley@arc.govt.nz](mailto:rebecca.stanley@arc.govt.nz)

### **Mike Thorsen**

Mike Thorsen is employed as a botanist with the Department of Conservation in the Otago Conservancy. His botanical interests include threatened plant conservation, field surveys, taxonomy, photography, protection of natural areas and integration of conservation with private land use. His current research interest is the interaction of threatened species with their physical and biotic environment (currently researching the biology of *Lepidium kirkii* and habitat use by the endangered skinks *Oligosoma ottagense* and *O. grande*). He is also near (some days nearer than others) completion of a PhD on seed dispersal in New Zealand and the effect extinction of a disperser has on spatial patterning of seedlings. Contact: [mthorsen@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mthorsen@doc.govt.nz)

### **Network Administrator: Dr Eric Scott**

A retired Lincoln University academic, Eric's interests include insect ecology and conservation including plant-insect interactions. As administrator for the network, Eric's responsibilities are to look after membership details from the processing of new registrations through issuing subscription notices to keeping the database up to date with members' changes. He also assembles the text of each issue of *Trilepidea* before sending it to Jeremy Rolfe for formatting. Contact: [mescott@clear.net.nz](mailto:mescott@clear.net.nz)

## What's in a name? – the feedback

John Sawyer, Network Secretary ([jsawyer@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jsawyer@doc.govt.nz))

Thank you to all those who responded to the article published in the December issue about the Network's name. A majority said they were very happy with the name as it is. I was pleased to hear comments such as:

*"...the current name says all it needs to say and I can now roll off NZPCN without thinking".*

*"...the name immediately brings in the elements that were intended for the organisation – Network, New Zealand, Plants and Conservation".*

*"...I like the name and have no trouble recalling it and telling others about it. I vote it stays the same."*

*"...I find the word Network a really powerful descriptor, that indicates wide involvement, cross-fertilisation, connectivity. All these are good things that communities of like-minded people apply to good ends, whether professional or amateur".*

I also received several comments that it is a good way to introduce the website by reminding people, during public presentations, that if you miss the second "n" off the web address you end up at the website of the New Zealand Prostitutes Collective!

Several suggestions were made that by-lines could be used such as *Future-proofing our flora*.

Supporters of a name change commented:

*"...while the current name is functional, it is perhaps a little cumbersome both in its full and its abbreviated forms."*

*"...perhaps it conveys too much 'community' and not enough 'authority' to be politically punchy?"*

And suggestions for Network names were:

- Plants of New Zealand (shortened to PONZ)
- Plant Association of New Zealand – (then we could all be PANZies!)
- Plant Survival Network
- Plant Conservation Network (using the New Zealand as a by-line for letterhead, etc).

Overall it seems that the name we chose over 6 years ago and used at the incorporation of the Society in April 2003 has stood the test of time. From the correspondence received to date it appears that we should keep our name and just keep reminding people who we are and what we are doing.

## Kauri dieback information

Kauri dieback, reported on the Network's website in August, is caused by *Phytophthora* taxon *Agathis*, a distinct and previously undescribed species of *Phytophthora*. Symptoms include yellowing of the foliage, loss of leaves, canopy thinning, dead branches and lesions that bleed resin. The disease can kill seedlings and trees of all ages. So far it has been found at Huia and Maungaroa Ridge in the Waitakere Ranges and in Department of Conservation reserves on Great Barrier Island and Trounson Park in Northland.

A collaborative response team has been formed to work on the disease. The team includes: MAF Biosecurity, DOC, ARC, Northland RC, Environment Waikato and Environment BOP. The team is charged with: assessing the risk; determining methods and their feasibility to limit the spread; collecting more information (e.g. how widespread); and ensuring a coordinated response.

Simple precautions all can take are: keep to defined tracks; clean footwear before and after entering kauri forest areas; stay away from kauri roots; and keep dogs on a leash.

For more information visit: [www.kauridieback.co.nz](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz)

## American ginseng

Emmett Bowker, *Phytomed Medicinal Herbs Ltd* ([emmett@phytomed.co.nz](mailto:emmett@phytomed.co.nz))

Kia ora, Tripleidea readers. Recently, Kiwiherb released a new native herb product called Energiser made from New Zealand grown ginseng (*Panax quinquefolium*) and kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*). Of course, since Energiser contains kawakawa, 10 cents from the sale of every bottle will be going the Network. However, there's another conservation aspect to this product that we thought readers might find interesting.

Ginsengs, like many medicinal plants, are victims of their own success and human greed. For centuries, Chinese herbalists have used ginseng, especially *Panax ginseng*, as a Qi (pronounced 'chee') tonic. In other words, it is used for boosting energy and 'increasing physiological functioning'. As you can imagine, a medicine endowed with such powers became extremely popular; unfortunately this led to unsustainable harvesting and wild *P. ginseng* is now considered 'practically extinct' in China and Korea.



American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolium*)

Then, along came the cavalry! Botanists out there may be familiar with the 'disjunct eastern Asiatic — eastern North American range' phenomenon but, for the rest of us, this refers to about 100 genera of plants that occur only in eastern Asia and Eastern North America. The *Panax* spp. belong to the group. There is a very interesting tale of how European settlers 'discovered' ginseng in North America but, suffice to say, a large and profitable industry developed through exporting American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolium*) to the insatiable Chinese ginseng market.

As you may suspect, history was repeated; wild stocks were severely depleted and now *P. quinquefolium* is on CITES Appendix ii. Thankfully, New Zealand growers are now producing some of the best quality American ginseng in the world and Kiwiherb has harnessed this and combined it with our very own all round tonic, kawakawa, to make a sustainably sourced pick me up for all of us dealing with the demands of modern living.

To celebrate, we are giving one lucky reader a chance to win some Kiwiherb products to try over the summer. Simply subscribe to our newsletter by emailing me your name and how you are involved with the Network and you could win:

- 1x Kiwiherb Energiser 50 ml
- 1x Kiwiherb Digestive Aid 50 ml
- 1x Kiwiherb Herbal Insect Repellent 50 ml
- 1x Kiwiherb Ginger & Kawakawa Tonic 50 ml

Send entries by 31/01/2009 to: [emmett@phytomed.co.nz](mailto:emmett@phytomed.co.nz) with NZPCN as the heading. The prize will be drawn on 2/02/2009, and the winner will be notified by e-mail.



## The Kaipatiki Project

This is an ecological restoration project based in North Shore City. The Project is a non-profit organisation working to protect and restore the fragmented native forests on the north shore, the habitat for much native wildlife, such as kereru, tui, native skinks and spiders. Kaipatiki Project has a nursery where we grow plants to be put into our local reserves, by volunteers from the community. We run an environmental information centre, offering people a place to come for advice and to ask questions about their environment. We also provide resources for people trying to rehabilitate their own garden back to its native state.

Kaipatiki coordinates weeding and planting days in the two reserves closest to us, Eskdale and Witheford Reserves. We cater for groups ranging from 5–100, providing an excellent opportunity for people to come and make a difference to their environment and have a fun day out with friends or colleagues.

On Mondays and Thursdays, we hold nursery working bees, feel free to come and help out with potting up plants, weeding and basic nursery tasks as well as administration/data entry and cleaning. For more information please contact me, Holly Stannard, Natural Heritage Co-ordinator, Kaipatiki Project (email: [restoration@kaipatiki.org.nz](mailto:restoration@kaipatiki.org.nz)) or see our website: [www.kaipatiki.org.nz](http://www.kaipatiki.org.nz)

## 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

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**Field trip:** Saturday 21 February to Goldies Bush, Waitakere Ranges.

**Contact:** Maureen Young (e-mail: [youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz)).

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### Department of Biological Sciences, Waikato University

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**Summer course:** 6–20 February, 2009, a course titled Flora of Aotearoa/New Zealand Biol226C. **Enquires:** to Dr Gemmill, Prof Bruce Clarkson, e-mail: [clarkson@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:clarkson@waikato.ac.nz); ph: 07 838 4237 or contact the Department of Biological Sciences, ph: 07 838 4022, University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton.

**Contact:** course co-ordinator Dr Chrissen Gemmill (email: [c.gemmill@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:c.gemmill@waikato.ac.nz); ph: 07 838 4053; to enrol.

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### Rotorua Botanical Society

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**Field trip:** Saturday 14 February, 25th Anniversary trip to Waimangu Scenic Reserve. **Meet:** the car park at 9.00 a.m. or Waimangu Thermal Valley entrance, signposted on Waimangu Rd off SH 5 south of Rotorua at 9:30 a.m. **Grade:** Easy.

**Leaders:** Chris Ecroyd, ph: 07 347 9067 (h), 343 5609 (w), e-mail: [Chris.Ecroyd@scionresearch.com](mailto:Chris.Ecroyd@scionresearch.com); Chris Bycroft ph: 07 346 3647, e-mail: [chris@wildlands.co.nz](mailto:chris@wildlands.co.nz).

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**Anniversary Dinner:** Saturday 14 February the Rotorua Botanical Society 25th Anniversary Celebration Function. All existing or previous members or friends of the Rotorua Botanical Society are invited to a barbecue to celebrate 25 years of fascinating botanising in the Bay. Continuous slide show (PowerPoint) of Society activities during the evening (please send any photos (electronic) to Sarah Crump ([scrump@doc.govt.nz](mailto:scrump@doc.govt.nz))). Some celebratory speeches will be made as well. BBQ is catered and not bring your own. Bring swimming togs. There is lots of space to erect tents and also a lovely big shed if you would prefer (bring your own sleeping mattresses and sleeping bags, although we do have a few on hand).

**Venue:** 67a Te Puea Road (turn left off the Rotorua-Whakatane Highway just before Hells Gate geothermal area. Time: 6.00 p.m. or earlier if staying. Please RSVP to Sarah ([sarah@wildlands.co.nz](mailto:sarah@wildlands.co.nz)) so we can arrange catering, but latecomers will not be turned away! See you all there. **Contact:** Sarah Beadel, ph: 07 345-5912, or 021 924-476, e-mail: [sarah@wildlands.co.nz](mailto:sarah@wildlands.co.nz).

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## Waikato Botanical Society

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**Field trip:** Saturday 21 February, a Threatened Plant Collection Working Bee. 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 Overdyck ph: 07 846 0965, email: [eg3@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:eg3@waikato.ac.nz)

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**Field trip:** Saturday 7 March to Port Waikato Coastal Remnants. Cook's scurvy grass and *Hebe speciosa* should be able to be viewed from the Ward property with binoculars. **Meet:** 8.30 a.m. at the BP petrol station at the south end of Ngaruawahia township SH1.

**Contact:** Gerry Kessels or Britta Deichmann, ph: (07) 825 9025, email: [britta@kessels-ecology.co.nz](mailto:britta@kessels-ecology.co.nz) or [gerry@kessels-ecology.co.nz](mailto:gerry@kessels-ecology.co.nz)

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## Wellington Botanical Society

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**Meeting:** Monday 16 February, a talk entitled 'Delimiting species within the native sedge genus *Uncinia* (hook grasses)' by Carlos Lehnebach, Botany Researcher, Te Papa.

**Venue:** Victoria University, Wellington, Lecture Theatre 101, Murphy Building, Kelburn Parade.

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**Field trip:** Saturday 7 February to Waikanae wetlands. Botanise wetlands and possibly a QEII National Trust property – bring gumboots. **Meet:** 9.00 a.m., Harcourt's Real Estate car park, corner Te Moana Rd and SH1, Waikanae.

**Leader:** Lisa Clapcott, ph: 06 364 2207 (w); Wellington contact: Sunita Singh, ph: 04 387 9955.

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**Field trip:** Saturday 21 February, Druce garden working bee. Help with maintenance of this nationally important garden containing many threatened indigenous plant species established by Tony and Helen Druce over 40 years ago. It is a QEII National Trust Open Space Covenant. **Meet:** from 9.30 a.m. at 123 Pinehaven Road, Pinehaven. Bring food; hot drinks provided. Bring gloves, kneeler, weeder and secateurs.

**Leader:** Helen Druce, ph: 04 970 7853.

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## Nelson Botanical Society

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**Field Trip:** Sunday 15 February to Mt Arthur.

**Contact:** Trevor Lewis, ph: 03 547 2812  
e-mail: [tandjlewis@actrix.co.nz](mailto:tandjlewis@actrix.co.nz)

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## Canterbury Botanical Society

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**Meeting:** Friday 30 January. Alastair Macdonald will hold a *Hebe* identification evening. Come and test your skills on samples of *Hebe*. Please bring several samples of *Hebe* from your garden or wherever. Alastair has designed a key for us to use (bring hand lenses). It will be an informal evening with a chance to chat with other members.

The meeting is one week early due to Friday 6 February being Waitangi Day and also the next camp in the Craigieburn Forest Park.

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**Field trip:** Saturday 31 January 2009 to Prices Valley from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Limited to 30 people. An easy trip.

**Leader:** Miles Giller, email: [broadleaf@actrix.gen.nz](mailto:broadleaf@actrix.gen.nz), ph: 03 313 5315.

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**Field trip/camp:** Friday 6 February to Sunday 8 February, Waitangi Weekend, to Craigieburn in conjunction with the New Zealand Alpine Garden Society. More details will be sent to you when you book. A deposit of \$25 is required when booking.

**Contact:** Ryan Young, ph: 03 352 7896, e-mail: [ryan.young@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ryan.young@xtra.co.nz).

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## Botanical Society of Otago

The next event is a free BBQ on Friday 6 March at 12.00 noon.