



# 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 69. AUGUST 2009

Deadline for next issue: Monday 14 September 2009

## Message from the President

I wonder how many members of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network have a passion for both native New Zealand plants and introduced plants. I was thinking about this the other day when I was busy pruning our roses. Yes, my Wife and I have a large rose garden and we also have a property that is slowly becoming dominated by native plants. Visitors to our property often tease me about the introduced plants such as the roses. However, we also have a large vegetable garden and a modest orchard with some very old varieties of apples. Our place is a welcome mix of native plants and 'exotics' but I would draw the line at anything that looks remotely like a rhododendron. I spent too many weeks (even months) in England trying to remove invasive rhododendrons from around nature reserves. They (Rhododendrons) make good firewood.

Standing back from our rose garden, with all plants now neatly pruned, I looked at the bare spaces between the plants. Apart from a few spring bulbs, we have never planted between the roses. I was wondering therefore what locally sourced native plants would be suitable as ground cover. Furthermore, are there suitable 'companion native plants' that could be used in rose beds. Does anyone know? Come on now—there must be someone out there who has explored the use of different ground cover natives for rose gardens.

There has long been much written about companion plants, particularly those that are suitable in vegetable gardens. Everywhere there is mention of marigolds! So what about 'companion native plants'? Has there been any research? Yes there has and possibly the most exciting research has been the Greening Waipara Programme.

If you look at the Programme Newsletters or the Programme web site (<http://bioprotection.org.nz/greening-Waipara>) you will see that 'biodiversity and sustainability are key principles behind the Greening Waipara Programme and these ideas captured the interest of the New Zealand winegrowers during a recent nationwide tour'. There are many projects within the Programme including biodiversity trails and research on the use of native ground cover plants amongst the vineyards. There is now clear evidence that 'native plants have ecological and economic value to viticulture and agriculture in general'. Jean Tompkins, one of the researchers, has assessed the value of native plants for use in vineyards including *Acaena inermis*, *Anaphalioides bellidioides*, *Hebe chathamica*, *Leptinella* sp., *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*, and *Pratia angulata*. A brief outline of her work was published in the 2008 Network Conference Proceedings 'Celebrating our Native Plant Life'.

I look forward to hearing more about the use of native plants as 'companion plants' in horticulture, agriculture and also in amenity gardens. Meanwhile, I now feel at ease with our mix of native plants and rose beds. That leads me to encourage you to contact the Network if you have information about restoration case studies that include 'garden restoration', 'threatened species recovery' and 'ecosystem restoration'. Do please contact us if you have any news!

The special news this month is undoubtedly about the award of the Loder Cup to Phillip Simpson. I am sure that you will all join me in congratulating Phillip on this timely and well deserved award. If you not have read his books then I do urge you to do so. I look forward very much to seeing his forthcoming book about the New Zealand tōtara.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Coprosma intertexta*



*Coprosma intertexta*. Photo: Mike Thorsen.

*Coprosma intertexta* is endemic to the South Island, east of the Main Divide from the Awarere valley in Marlborough south to Central Otago. It grows in drier basins between mountains, often in grey scrub communities.

It grows into a self-layering divaricating shrub, forming thickets up to 2 x 2 m. Its specific name *intertexta* refers to its divaricating habit (*inter*, between; *texere*, to weave). Leaves are small and narrow, dark coloured grey-green to red-brown or purple-green. Flowers appear from late winter through spring, followed by translucent blue fruits flecked with blue or white. *Coprosma elatirioides* is similar in appearance and also endemic to the South Island, but has a more sprawling, trailing habit, much thinner leaves, and white translucent fruits. Their habitats also differ, *C. intertexta* is restricted to drier inter-montane basins, *C.*

*elatirioides* prefers open wetlands, or poorly drained soils with higher rainfall. The Network fact sheet for *C. intertexta* can be found at: [www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular\\_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=251](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=251)

I am most grateful to those individuals who have contributed to this month's Newsletter, especially to Peter de Lange who once again has written a compelling story. There is a very strong message in his piece and that is 'if we are to get serious about ex-situ conservation we had better rethink our attitudes to dealing with ex-situ stocks'. I leave you to read his other comments and I urge you to reflect seriously on his messages.

Also, there is an item in this Month's Newsletter that takes us to a global environmental level. Have you heard about the "Global Environmental Governance Project"? We are told that a group of emerging environmental leaders have pledged their personal commitment to creating a new wave of environmental action in the 21st century. Well, I can't help but be cynical in the knowledge that similar words were used back in 1972 (at the first World Environmental Summit). For the last 40 years at least, there has continued to be unsustainable and inequitable use of nature and the environment. I believe the biggest and most significant changes happen when people such as yourselves are committed to plant conservation and to the goals of the Network. Every member of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network is already making significant contributions to sustainability.

*Ian Spellerberg*  
*Lincoln University*

## **Marae plant training course—in the mail**

Copies of the marae based plant training module, *Introduction to plant life in New Zealand*, have now been posted to those who ordered it. We apologise for the delay sending them but some unexpected problems that occurred during the printing and binding have now been resolved.

If you would like to order a copy please e-mail the Network ([info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz)) or send a cheque for \$35 (members) or \$45 (non-members) to New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, PO Box 16-102, Wellington and provide a postal address to which we can send the document.



## **Please consider being on the NZPCN council**

At the AGM in November (in Auckland) we will be electing officers for our council. The council is a group who run the NZPCN. Decisions at council meetings are made on the website, newsletter, conferences and much more. At the moment we are drafting a strategy for the network based on the workshops we have held with you at our conferences as well as organising the AGM. The council meets once or twice a year, often in Wellington, and has regular e-mail communications. The current council believes it would be good to have some new blood on the council so please think about whether you'd like to be involved. Let our secretary, John Sawyer know ([jsawyer@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jsawyer@doc.govt.nz)) if you are keen.

## **Phillip Simpson wins Loder Cup**

Dr. Simpson has been honoured with the Loder Cup for 2009 for his outstanding contribution to plant conservation. A founding member of the Project Crimson Trust, established to protect pohutukawa, Dr. Simpson is also an award-winning author and is acknowledged for his work in setting up community based planting schemes.

“Dr. Simpson has supported work with schools, landowners and community groups around New Zealand to protect and restore native plant life.

“This award acknowledges both his professional and personal dedication to conservation and is thoroughly deserved,” Mr Groser said.

Dr Simpson is a recent recipient of Creative New Zealand's Michael King Writers' Fellowship, and was granted \$100,000 towards his up coming book about New Zealand's native totara tree.

The Loder Cup will be presented to Dr. Simpson at a special ceremony later this year. The cup was donated by English botanist, Gerald Loder in 1926 and is awarded by the Minister of Conservation each year for outstanding achievements in flora conservation.

## **Network draft strategy 2010–2015 available for comment**

The [Network's draft strategy for 2010–2015](#) is available for download from the Network website.

This document has been prepared by the Network Council using information from workshops held at last year's conference. All suggestions to improve the strategy are welcome so please email us your comments on this draft by Wednesday 30 September so that we can finalise the strategy in time for the 2009 Annual General Meeting. Having read this strategy please identify what you think should be the top 5 priorities for NZ Plant Conservation Network for the next 5 years. Email us your thoughts to [info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz) We look forward to hearing from you about this important document and our priorities as a Network.

## Update on Kermadec koromiko

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



*Hebe breviracemosa*. Photo: Peter de Lange.

At one time regarded as extinct, it is now twenty-six years after a single shrub of Kermadec koromiko (*Hebe breviracemosa*) was discovered on Raoul Island. That plant found by goat hunter Ray Scrimgeour was for a long time the only example known of this Raoul Island endemic. In 1999 a further 51 plants were reported from the island. Now 450 wild adult plants are known.

Kermadec koromiko (*Hebe breviracemosa*) is not the most spectacular of New Zealand's 90 or so species; the short-flowered racemes from which it takes its species epithet are hardly conspicuous, and the pale lilac flowers are easily missed amongst the larger leaves. However, what constitutes an attractive plant is simply a matter of personal taste and not an issue of concern here, more interesting by far is the fact that at one time this plant was regarded as Extinct. Then

in 1983, in circumstances only briefly drawn to public attention in the New Zealand Herald Ray Scrimgeour stumbled upon a plant of this "extinct" species while tracking a goat across Hutchinson's Bluff, at the north-western end of Raoul Island. A cutting from that plant was sent to the University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, where it was successfully struck by Mr Tony Palmer and so a species believed to be extinct was back again in the blink of an eye and its future assured.

Well that's how we'd like the story to go anyway. Reality is much harsher. Graham Hutchins' view in his book "Hebes here and there" (1997, Hutchins & Davies, Berkshire), which at the time of that book's publication were quite inaccurate, ended up, most ironically, being quite correct for this species did not "compete well in the garden" with other "more showy hebes...[and so it has been]... neglected and [almost] lost to cultivation". Indeed in 2005 needing material for DNA sequencing I was horrified to find out that very few people stocked the species in New Zealand, and that much of what I saw was now hybrid material. So here at least this species has not fared well, proving that if we are going to get serious about ex-situ conservation we had better rethink our attitudes to dealing with ex-situ stocks. Remember too it is not only "ugly" plants that suffer in this way, for kakabeak (*Clianthus puniceus*) too has been all but replaced in gardens by its close relative *C. maximus*, sold as 'Kaka King'. The faddism associated with horticulture is indeed a tricky beast to harness for conservation purposes.

On Raoul Island ascertaining an exact status of Kermadec koromiko has always been fraught by the problems of distance and communication, and the fact that staff placed on the island are primarily concerned with weed management, so have little time for much of anything else. Nevertheless in 2007 it was estimated that there were 200 wild plants and so the species was listed as "Threatened/Nationally Critical". In May 2009 I briefly visited Raoul and was delighted to be shown 350 wild plants in just one ravine system, further populations exist in other ravine systems along the north and south sides of the massive Hutchinson's Bluff promontory.

It seems likely that Kermadec koromiko is now secure in its home ground. Observations of these wild plants also helped dispel understandable misconceptions. One needs to remember that virtually everything we know about this plant to date has been based on the type specimen, a few—very old—scrappy gatherings, and live material all derived from the single plant found on Raoul in 1983. Armed with a much better range of specimens it was interesting to observe wide variation in leaf shape and size, sinus size, raceme length and growth habit. Hopefully these observations show that the wild population is more genetically diverse than had been believed. Once cuttings grown from these grown in New Zealand are genetically assayed we should know more.

## Botanic gardens – Connecting people and plants

David Sole, Manager, Botanic Gardens of Wellington

The role of NZ botanic gardens to collect display and disseminate knowledge about plants has remained unchanged since the 1800s. The purpose and focus of that role has changed from botanical colonialism and economic exploitation to revealing, or perhaps reminding us, that plants are fundamental to our lives. Plants play a role in the interconnectiveness of all things; many in ways which we have yet to understand. They clothe us, feed us and from the distant past they drive us. Whether we agree with it or not plants are part of our collective cultural heritage. Most fundamental for botanic gardens today is their role in connecting plants with people.

The botanic gardens of Wellington comprising Truby King park, Bolton Street Memorial Park, Otari Wilton's Bush and Wellington Botanic Garden all achieve the people connections in different ways. Truby King Park is a heritage site with the remnants of Truby King's plantings. Truby King understood the value of plants both economically and the recreational value of working with plants in his insightful programmes at Seacliff. His garden at Mount Melrose, now the park, was renown and his horticultural generosity extended to the neighbourhood. Bolton Street Memorial Park is where Wellington's, and some of New Zealand's, most important early settlers were interred. Closed in 1892, the garden still contains *Rosa* 'Lutea' from that time. The garden has built on this to create a nationally recognised heritage rose collection. Otari Wilton's Bush is New Zealand's iconic native plant botanic garden. Formally established by Wellington City Council in 1926, under the guidance of Dr Leonard Cockayne as Honorary Botanist to WCC, his visions for the garden remain true to this day—education, conservation and recreation. Wellington Botanic Garden is very much built in the mould of Victorian style botanic gardens across the commonwealth. It has the traditional base of collections and colourful floral displays associated with the public perception of botanic gardens. It is also in the fortunate position of having nearly 40% of its area as bush cover—the majority having regrown since 1868 but with modified pre-European bush remnants scattered throughout.

Otari Wilton's Bush is the only garden of the four gardens entirely dedicated to with New Zealand flora. It has had, from its time of establishment, a mandate for New Zealand plants. Cockayne formally defined the role of Otari in 1932 as

- **Flora**—to establish a collection of all the New Zealand species possible to cultivate in the native plant museum
- **Vegetation**—examples of artificially produced various types of the primitive vegetations of New Zealand
- **Horticulture**—the use of indigenous plants for horticultural purposes shall be illustrated in various ways for the information of those desirous of using such plants in their garden
- **Forest restoration**—the forest shall be brought back as far as possible to its original form, both as to its structure and composition<sup>1</sup>

Today Otari has a collection of approximately 1000 species of NZ vascular plants in its collections and 101 ha of native bush of which 7.8 ha predates European settlement. This is the largest intact remnant on the Wellington peninsula. The staff at Otari work with the Department of Conservation in growing threatened species, the most recent success being the propagation, growing and repatriation of 200 *Olearia gardneri* to the Wairarapa, *Melicytus* aff. *obovatus*, *Austrofestuca littoralis* for Wellington's south coast, and *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides* to supplement a very small Pencarrow population. While the obligatory threatened species border is present, Otari is moving towards a much more immersive experience in its new landscape development plan. There will be a stronger focus on representative vegetation types interspersed with the taxonomic collections. We have recognised that more people go to gardens for recreational experiences and the ambience that plants add than actually go to specifically look at plants. This will be addressed by consolidating the path network to primary and secondary experiences with interpretation to support. It will be very much about placing plants in contexts which visitors can relate to and understand rather than

viewing plants in isolation. There will be a much stronger emphasis of the diversity of plants and interestingly, with respect to the horticultural applications proposed by Cockayne, will highlight the relatively common incidence of natural hybridism within some New Zealand genera.

Wellington Botanic Garden is in the fortunate position of having a fascinating juxtaposition of 'wild' bush, under laid by the original landscape forms, and the traditional highly cultivated lawns and collections. For our visitors this provides a challenge of the unknown set against comfort of 'normal' botanic gardens with which they are familiar. Supported by the Friends of Wellington Botanic Garden, we have been working towards protecting and restoring the bush remnants in the garden. A recent ecological assessment<sup>2</sup>, the culmination of a number of assessments, will provide us with guidelines for managing the bush areas in the future, the level of intervention and a picture of the possible species composition of the bush into the future. Like Otari, we maintain a possum control programme and have begun mustelid tracking and trapping.

For the remaining two gardens the focus is very much on exotic species with a heritage focus—both with plants and the structures in the gardens. Both are within highly modified urban environments with much of the management being addressed at adventive native plant growth. Along with the botanic garden the presence of exotic plants is an anathema to some—a travesty which can only be redressed by their removal from cultivation! However this ignores the cultural importance of these plants and the urban context in which they are grown. (It does not remove us from our obligations to remove recognised aggressive weeds species from any of the gardens).

We are developing a web based education programme for Otari and the Botanic Garden. Until 2006 our environmental education was delivered in partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature but with the loss of a major funder and reprioritisation of their programmes, their on site environmental education services ceased. There are considerable environmental education resources available through Greater Wellington, Department of Conservation, enviroschools, the Zoo and Zealandia. We have set out to prepare an off the shelf online matrix of self deliverable units for teachers. The base of the units is the science curriculum prescription which will be used to stimulate interest in plants in primary aged children and to encourage them to think about how plants affect their lives and the world around them. The children will explore plants, their context in their lives, their ecological values and the interconnectiveness of all things. They will then make a site visit to see, explore and understand these concepts. Finally they will return to their schools and, guided by their teachers, use their new found knowledge as a call to action: what can I do that will make a difference at my school and at my home? But environmental education is not just about schools. Our interpretation provides an opportunity to engage with visitors and to tell our stories. Stories about weed and pest control, about restoration of our bush, about our integrated pest management programme, deeper detail around plants—especially threatened species of New Zealand and of the world, and to create a tangible link between people and plants. Volunteer guides at Otari and the Botanic Garden also tell the stories often adding a historical and cultural flavour to the visitor experience

The Botanic Gardens of Wellington do not have science programmes attached to them but do work closely with staff from Te Papa, Department of Conservation and Victoria University with students doing research papers. We have deliberately stayed away from science. With a small population we are already well served with scientific institutions. The role for botanic gardens is to work with the institutions to generate the greatest value through well formed and effective partnerships either long term or project based. The 2007 Bioblitz at Otari was an almost perfect fusion of Council, community and scientists working together to identify 1345 species, aside from the collections, of plants and animals at Otari.

Supporting communities plays an increasingly important role. Otari has been a leader with the involvement of the OWB trust, Otari Staff, Greater Wellington Zealandia and the community groups working together towards a whole catchment restoration.

I have often heard the lament at the attractiveness of fur and feathers in garnering the popular vote and financial and volunteer support. If you place the clown antics of kaka or tui alongside *Olearia gardneri* you can understand why. What we have failed to do, and need to apply more effort to, is reducing the focus on the plant and work harder on the notion that threatened species have a connection with our everyday life. In botanical terms the fact that a remnant population was found was remarkable. That we have been able to intervene to protect and sustain the population is important. But the truly remarkable fact that everyone can relate to was that it was accidentally found in a cow paddock—that threatened species and conservation are not restricted to coastal cliff or subalpine scrub—they are part of our every day lives.

This is where botanic gardens can and will connect people and plants more effectively in the future. Otari's focus will be immersion of the conscious and subconscious into native plant experiences—where you will learn whether you want to or not. In the Botanic Garden we have used *Muehlenbeckia astonii* as a folly by forming it as a sofa around a popular seat so not only do visitors look at it they can sit in it and touch it. Further up in the threatened species garden we are planting a series of hedges using threatened and/or endangered divaricate species to catch visitor's attention, to tell the story but most of all to connect the unfamiliar with the familiar.

<sup>1</sup> P16, Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve(Otari Wilton's Bush) Management Plan, August 2007, Wellington City Council

<sup>2</sup> Blaschke P; Forsyth F. 2009: Ecological Assessment of the Wellington Botanic Garden Forest Remnants. Unpublished report for Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden and Wellington City Council

## Restoration case studies sought

The Plant Conservation Network is building a restoration portal on the new redesigned Network website that will be online in the near future.

Include in this portal will be case studies about species and ecosystem restoration. Are you interested / willing / able to provide a case study about any aspect of restoration or can you direct the Network to someone that might be able to assist? This maybe something you have already written for another purpose or published elsewhere or new material. This case study would take the form of an essay (between 400 and 1000 words) with several accompanying images to illustrate the story. Preferably the case study would include the objective, methods, monitoring and results.

The subject headings for the case studies are as follows but please contact the Network if you have one that does not match any of the headings below.

- Ecosystem restoration (i.e., forest, estuarine, coastal dune, island etc)
- Garden restoration (i.e., botanic or private garden)
- Threatened species recovery (i.e., tree, orchid, fern, coastal cress etc)

Please contact the Network ([info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz)) if you have any queries about this project or if you can help.

## Lecturer/senior lecturer in conservation and ecological restoration

The position of lecturer/senior lecturer in conservation and ecological restoration is being advertised by the School of Biological Sciences, Wellington, New Zealand.

Applicants must have a strong record of research in conservation or restoration of species, communities or habitats within terrestrial, freshwater or marine ecosystems; and the ability to teach courses in ecological restoration, ecology and conservation. Complementary skills in areas such as GIS, ecological modelling and conservation genetics are desirable. More details of the School and the position are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/sbs/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sbs/)

**Reference A185-09Q, Applications close 4 September 2009. For further information and to apply online visit <http://vacancies.vuw.ac.nz>**

## **A new flora resource for Tasmania**

*By Marco Duretto, Tasmanian Herbarium*

The Flora of Tasmania Online (FTO—[www.tmag.tas.gov.au/FloraTasmania](http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au/FloraTasmania)) is a publicly available web-based resource for the identification of plants and the dissemination of modern taxonomic information. FTO was launched on 9 June 2009 by Michelle O'Byrne MHA (Minister, Department Environment Parks Heritage and the Arts). It will be published in parts, each covering 1 family. FTO contains keys, descriptions, synonymy, distributional and habitat data etc for all taxa with appropriate referencing. For now, the focus of the FTO will be on the Angiosperms (Flowering Plants; 139 families), especially the Dicotyledons (100 families). The first 45 accounts (all Dicotyledons) have now been published. These include families, eg. Griseliniaceae, that have never had treatments for Tasmania (or indeed Australia!) published before. Other families have had major changes since the Student's Flora of Tasmania was published and the FTO accounts outline new concepts, species and genera. Families that will be published later in 2009 include Amaranthaceae (includes Chenopodiaceae), Elaeocarpaceae (includes Tremandraceae—Tetratheca), Ericaceae (includes Epacridaceae), Malvaceae (includes Sterculiaceae) and Myrtaceae (Eucalyptus).

FTO combines the scientific value of citable and permanently available documents with the speed and accessibility of the internet. FTO is notable in that:

- family accounts are provided free of charge (web pages & PDF files);
- each account is a stand alone, citable, scientific document with unique version and ISBN numbers;
- all accounts will remain publicly available even when superseded by new and revised accounts;
- public feedback is encouraged;
- there is commitment to continuously update and improve the FTO by assimilating public feedback, new research and new discoveries;
- for the first time the flora for the entire State of Tasmania (including Macquarie Is.) will be covered;
- all documents will also be electronically archived (and publicly available) at the State Library of Tasmania.

To assist workers with the new classification system used in the FTO there is an interface to determine what family a genus is placed in. In addition, there are mechanisms for feedback [strongly encouraged as this will help improve and refine the FTO] and adding your name to a notification system. This last system will be used to notify users when new accounts are published and of any other changes to the website.

## **Environmental leaders commit to renewed green governance**

A group of emerging environmental leaders have pledged their personal commitment to creating a new wave of environmental action in the 21st Century.

Speaking at the close of four intense days of discussion with prominent environmentalists including all the successive Executive Directors of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the group set out their practical ideas on how to kick-start a deep change in the way the world economy works to prioritise human welfare through a long-lasting, sustainable approach to the use and preservations of our environment.

“This meeting sought to inspire and foster a new wave of leadership in global environmental governance, drawing on the knowledge of several generations of environmental leaders”, said Maria Ivanova, Director of the Global Environmental Governance Project and faculty at the Government Department at the College of William and Mary.

The meeting in Switzerland drew together an unprecedented group of high-level environmental leaders spanning the last 40 years. This was the first time all five successive Executive Directors of

UNEP gathered together in one meeting: Maurice Strong, the Secretary-General of the first United Nations conference on the human environment and the Rio Earth Summit; Mostafa Tolba; Elizabeth Dowdeswell; Klaus Töpfer; and Achim Steiner, the current Executive Director.

Other participants included Gus Speth, Dean of the Environment School at Yale; Mohamed El-Ashry who was the CEO of the Global Environment Facility from its inception to 2003; Yolanda Kakabadse, the newly elected President of WWF International; and Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director-General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Senior diplomats who have shaped today's international environmental laws and structures, and those currently involved working to reshape that system, all took part in the debate with a key group of young environmental leaders on the rise.

“While the issues are complex and seemingly intractable, there are also many reasons for optimism”, said William Ruckelshaus, the first Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency. “We have made important strides on environmental issues, and need to keep moving forward with new solutions”, he said.

Current challenges identified by the emerging environmental leaders included the need to secure greater accountability on environment-related commitments, and advocating for a more central place for environmental issues in decision making and structures.

“We need to be making investments in the right places—investing in skills, in young people from all fields, and in our leaders”, the young leaders said. “We will need to be as radical in our thinking as the first generation of doers were, and take action through our networks, using new media and all the tools we have at our disposal.”

The historic event was convened by the Global Environmental Governance Project, a joint initiative of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the College of William and Mary in collaboration with the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Center, the United Nations Foundation, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and the governments of Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

For more information please visit [www.environmentalgovernance.org](http://www.environmentalgovernance.org) or contact Maria Ivanova, Director of the Global Environmental Governance Project, [maria.ivanova@environmentalgovernance.org](mailto:maria.ivanova@environmentalgovernance.org); phone: +1 203 606 4640.

## 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 trips:** Guided botanical walks in the Auckland Domain, Auckland Heritage Festival—  
Wednesday 23 September 2009: 10 a.m.–12.15 p.m.  
Sunday 27 September 2009: 2p.m.–4.15 p.m.  
Meet at the band rotunda in the Domain.  
Family and wheel-chair friendly

**Guides:** Ewen Cameron and Mike Wilcox  
Booking not required.  
For further information contact Mike Wilcox, 09 622 0323 or [mike.wilcox@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mike.wilcox@xtra.co.nz)

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### Waikato Botanical Society

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**Field trip:** Sunday 20 September—Hauraki Wetland 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. This trip is being re-run after cancellation due to inclement weather last year.

Frank Speedy Memorial Reserve—This kahikatea-*Cordyline* 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. Large clumps of *Gahnia xanthocarpa* are present in the wetter areas under the canopy, also good specimens of mature *Streblus heterophyllus* in the shrub layer along with *Melicope simplex* and other small leaf plants, are of interest in this isolated reserve including 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. The carpets of salt tolerant *Samolus repens*, *Selliera radicans* and *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*, found in certain spots as almost pure growths, in and amongst the mangroves, are well worth seeing.

**Meet:** 9.30 a.m. Frank Speedy Memorial Reserve SH2, 2km East of Ngatea township.

**Contact:** Doug Ashby [dj.ashby@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dj.ashby@xtra.co.nz) ph 07 862 4706

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**Field trip:** Saturday 17 October—TE MĀRA REO Language garden and Lake Hakanoa wetland.

Dr Richard Benton will show us around his 2 ha Ngaruawahia property which has been developed into a “language garden”. Over the last decade Richard and his family have planted many of the NZ native plants whose names were brought here by this country’s first Polynesian settlers ([www.tumanako.org/](http://www.tumanako.org/)). Afterwards, we will visit a remnant wetland on the shores of Lake Hakanoa (Huntly) and continue along the boardwalk to a restored area. **Meet:** 9:30 a.m. at Landcare Research carpark, Gate 10 Silverdale Rd, Hillcrest.

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**Contact:** Monica [monica.peters@landcare.org.nz](mailto:monica.peters@landcare.org.nz) Ph 859 3725 (wk) mob 021 049 2036

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**Working bee:** Saturday 31 October—Threatened Plant Collection. A working bee in the threatened plant garden. Please bring gloves, old clothes and boots for weeding, planting and propagating activities. **Meet:** 9.45 am at Waikato University Gate 9, Hillcrest Rd.

**Contact:** Liz Overdyck ph 846 0965 [eg3@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:eg3@waikato.ac.nz)

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**Field trip:** Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November— Pureora Waihora Lagoon and Mt Pureora. The diversity of the park will allow us to be flexible with our timetable so there will be opportunities to visit other botanically interesting sites depending on what folks feel like. A suggestion is that we explore the lagoon on Saturday morning. The nationally endangered water brome *Amphibromus fluitans*, described as a “cryptic, somewhat elusive species” can be found here. On Sunday we’ll tackle Mt Pureora. Along an altitudinal gradient, the vegetation forms a sequence from submontane to montane conifer-broadleaved forest, then to subalpine scrub and shrub-mossfield (see Leathwick et al. 1988, NZJB online). If the weather’s good (and if we botanize fast enough!) we should have some great views from the summit.

**Contact:** Monica for cabin/campground bookings and carpooling [monica.peters@landcare.org.nz](mailto:monica.peters@landcare.org.nz) office: 859 3725 / 021 049 2036

**Meet:** at Pureora village cabins Saturday 10:30 a.m. There will be an option to head down on Friday night to stay in the park, either at the cabins or at the nearby DOC campground (no facilities).

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**Field trip:** Saturday 5 December—Waiorongomai-Pahiko (Combined with Rotorua Botanical Society). We will head up the Waiorongomai Valley to the Bendigo Battery Site. From there we will pass through hard beech, kauri, rata and the odd puriri and mida whilst following the old pylon route to Pahiko Trig (780 m). Great views from the top if the weather is fine. Return via a different ridge. **Grade:** Hard—Some of the track is quite steep and we will be out all day. Expect to back at the road end about 5.00 p.m. or a bit after. **Meet:** 8:30 at Waiorongomai Road End.

**Contact:** Kerry Jones ph. 07 858 1055 (work) and 07 855 9700 (a/h) and cellphone 027 747 0733 email: [kmjones@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kmjones@doc.govt.nz)

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## Rotorua Botanical Society

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**Field trip:** Saturday 5 September Tarawera Falls. **Meet:** The carpark at 9 a.m., or at the corner of Waterhouse Street and River Road, Kawerau at 9.45 a.m. **Grade:** Medium. Walk up through pohutukawa, northern rata, and pohutukawa x northern rata hybrids forest to the spectacular Tarawera Falls and then on up to the lake. We will shuttle cars up to the top carpark, so no need to walk back! Please contact trip leader beforehand as access permits are required for vehicles.

**Leader:** Sarah Beadel ph 07 345 5912; 021 924 476; [sarah@wildlands.co.nz](mailto:sarah@wildlands.co.nz)

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**Field trip:** Saturday 12 September—Okareka Mistletoe Restoration Project Host Planting / Weed Control Day. **Meet:** Ex Okareka store 8.45 a.m. **Grade:** Medium-Hard—Activities on this day will focus mainly on planting mistletoe host trees on the existing planting site if more plants are required (see advert in this newsletter).

**Leader:** Paul Cashmore 07 348 4421 (hm), 349 7432 (wk) [pcashmore@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pcashmore@doc.govt.nz)

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**Field trip:** Sunday 4 October—Wairoa Stream, Woodlands Rd, Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park, north of Katikati. **Meet:** The carpark at 8:00 am or Katikati town centre at 9.30 a.m. **Grade:** Easy but with possibly a couple of shallow stream crossings. A gentle walk up old logging and former miners track along a streamside through mixed tawa forest with odd patches of kauri. Promises a good range of ferns and orchids.

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**Leader:** Graeme Jane  
ph 07 570-3123  
[gtjane@clear.net.nz](mailto:gtjane@clear.net.nz)

## Wellington Botanical Society

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**Field trip:** Saturday 5 September—Otari-Wilton's Bush: Cockayne's impact on the natural areas. A little history and quite a bit of botanising. We will start with a short talk on what Cockayne and Andy McKay did in Otari between 1926 and 1933, then botanise the bush areas, identifying the paths by the names they used, discovering the remnants of their plantings, and considering what regeneration has occurred. We will have the plant list from the BioBlitz as a starter to see if we can add any native vascular species. If you have a GPS, please bring it, preferably set to NZMG. **Meet:** 9.30 a.m. at Te Marae o Tane Information Centre, Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd.

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**Leader:** Rodney Lewington  
970 3142,  
deputy-leader Chris Horne  
475 7025.

**Meeting:** Monday 21 September: Evening meeting – Lancewoods and five-fingers: hybridisation, conservation, and the ice-age. **Speaker:** Leon Perrie, Curator of Botany, Te Papa, and Lara Shepherd, Research Fellow, Allan Wilson Centre, Massey University. *Pseudopanax* comprises twelve species of small trees and shrubs. Some are common and widespread, while others are quite restricted. Many are popular in cultivation. Lara and Leon will discuss: 1) each of the species, including how to recognise them and where to find them; 2) their preliminary research results on hybridisation between lancewood and coastal five-finger, including field-identification, which is especially pertinent in Wellington since the hybrids and coastal five-finger have become weedy here; and 3) the results of their Jubilee Award-funded research on the population genetics of fierce lancewood, and what this tells them about how this species became so sparsely distributed, which in turn has a bearing on how NZ's forests fared during the ice-age, as well as plant conservation in general.

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

## Canterbury Botanical Society

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**Meeting:** 4 September—Max Visch: Foreign Invaders and their contribution to the Garden City.

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**Field Trip:** 12 September—Victoria Park with Di Carter to help her ID some small leaved shrubs in the garden at the visitor centre.

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**Meeting:** 2 October—Sally Tripp: Filmy Ferns on the Port Hills; Alwyn Williams: student talk on research project.

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**Field Trip:** 10 October—Church Bay: native and exotic vegetation.

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## Botanical Society of Otago

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**Meeting:** Wednesday 16 September, 6–7 p.m.— 8th Annual Geoff Baylis Lecture. Assoc. Prof. Daphne Lee. Palms, podocarps, orchids and proteaceans: the contribution of new fossil plants from Otago and Southland to our understanding of New Zealand's vegetation history. Lecture at 6 pm in Castle 1, with nibbles and drinks from 5:15 pm in the concourse outside the Castle lecture theatres.

**Contact:** [Robyn Bridges](#),  
phone: (03) 479 8372.

**Field trip:** Saturday 19 September, 9.00 a.m.—Spring Fungal and Lichen Foray. A two day trip to collect lichens and fungi in the Catlins, following on from our very successful Autumn trip. We'll do the Catlins River walk from the Tawanui Camp Ground end on Saturday and from the Chloris Stream end on Sunday. Leaders, David Orlovich and Allison Knight. Accommodation on Saturday night will be at Nugget Point Lighthouse Keepers house (numbers limited). Day trippers are welcome to join us on either day. To reserve accommodation or find out more contact David Orlovich by Wednesday 16 September. Leave from Botany carpark at 9.00 am Saturday.

**Contact:** [David Orlovich](#),  
phone: (03) 479 9060

## National Wetland Trust of New Zealand

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**Annual General Meeting:** 19 August. **Venue:** Auckland Regional Council (cnr Pitt and Hopetoun Sts), Auckland. **Guest speaker:** Janet Hunt, author of Montana Book Award winner New Zealand Wetlands: A bitter sweet story.

**Enquiries:** [enquiries@wetlandtrust.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@wetlandtrust.org.nz)

**Conference:** 4th National Wetland Restoration Symposium  
**Venue:** Rotorua, 3–5 March 2010. Talks and demos include propagating wetland plants, monitoring wetland vegetation etc..

Details on our website, including provisional programme. [www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/symposia.html](http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/symposia.html)

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