



# 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

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## President's annual report 2005–2006

It gives me great pleasure to present to you this President's report for the last 12 months or so. In doing, so I wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all the members of the NZPCN Council. They carry most of the work and without their help, little could have been achieved.

### 1. Council meetings

Since the last AGM (held in Christchurch in August 2005) there have been three Council Meetings: 16 February, 19 May, and 18 August. A fourth is to be held on 19 November before the Cheeseman Symposium.

### 2. Patrons

I am very pleased to say that Peri Drysdale and Rob Fenwick have kindly accepted the invitation of the Network to become Patrons. This was announced in the Newsletter and there is information about our Patrons on the web site.

### 3. Membership

Individual	184
Student/Unwaged	24
NGO	10
Corporate	17 (6 members each = 102)
Total members	235
Total number of people on membership list (including Corporate members)	333

### 4. Website use and development

Website usage continues to grow with over 1100 people visiting every day making it the most visited plant information system in New Zealand.

Recent developments and changes to the website over the past year include:

- 54 Animal pest fact sheets
- Threatened bryophyte search engine
- 1700 plant checklists for areas in New Zealand
- Threatened plant lists by Regional Council boundary
- Important Plant Area nomination and viewing area
- Links from plant fact sheets added to Landcare Research's New Zealand Flora and Oratia Plant nursery
- Threatened plant fact sheets completed for all Acutely (129) and Chronically threatened (103) plants. All Sparse fact sheets have also been completed (135).
- 100 fact sheets for common plant species have been completed
- 9000 images for over 85% of the New Zealand vascular flora have been added to the site
- 'What's a moss' and 'What's a vascular plant' text has been added.

## 5. The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Brochure

A brochure has been prepared. It has been very well designed with information about the Network and an application form for membership. These are now being widely distributed.

## 6. The David Given Scholarship

The Network has established a Trust Fund for the purpose of resourcing a scholarship in memory of David Given and the work he did for the conservation of New Zealand's indigenous flora. Details about the Trust will soon be made available.

## 7. Relationships with the Department of Conservation

I am very pleased to announce that we have been working very closely with the Department of Conservation. We have established a very special partnership and one example of this partnership is the threatened taxa listing for the native flora. Furthermore and following a series of meetings, the Department has proposed the formal establishment of a link between the Department and the Network via Shaun O'Connor (Threatened Species Manager, Terrestrial Conservation Unit) and the Network Vice President, Peter de Lange. It is proposed that this be the first point of contact that can facilitate action on several issues. This is yet to be finalised. There are indeed several issues that the Network and the Department can work on as partners—to the great benefit of our native flora.

## 8. The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

The 16 targets of the Global Strategy provide an important framework for the activities of the Network and indeed no other group in New Zealand is doing so much to meet the targets for New Zealand.

### *Target 1. List of known plant species*

Peter de Lange, John Sawyer and Jeremy Rolfe have completed a revised checklist of New Zealand vascular plants and published it for members on the website. Hard copies are available for sale (members \$12, non-members \$20 including postage).

Details can be found on the Network website.

### *Target 2. Assessment of the status of all plants*

The manuscript for the book *Threatened Plants and Fungi of New Zealand* by Peter de Lange and John Sawyer has been completed and is now with the Publishers, Canterbury University Press. This project has been sponsored by MWH New Zealand.

### *Target 5. Important Plant Areas*

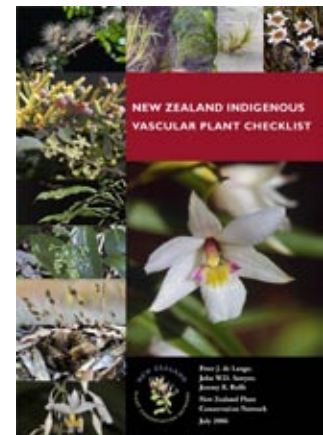
The Network has launched a programme to seek input from members and the public about important plant areas in New Zealand. This involves an on-line nomination form that provides criteria for identification of IPAs and a form for people to nominate places they feel meet the criteria. This system will allow us to identify the most important places for plant conservation in New Zealand.

### *Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in ex-situ collections*

A discussion paper has been prepared by Phil Knightbridge (Network member and Department of Conservation botanist) about the establishment of threatened plant seed bank. This paper is about to be presented to many of the agencies involved or with an interest in this project with a view to establishing the seed bank in the next 12 months.

### *Target 11. Legal Protection for native plants*

Some members of Council met with both the previous Director General and the acting Director General to discuss this and other issues. As a consequence, a formal link between the Department and the Network has been established. This will facilitate discussions on several issues.



### ***Target 14. Education and Public awareness***

(i) An education stock take has been completed the results of which will presented at the Cheeseman Symposium in November.

(ii) Three 2-day marae based plant conservation courses have been developed in conjunction with Northland Polytechnic. The first of these “An introduction to Native Plants” was run successfully as a pilot course in Northland for Ngati Hine in February and March 2006. The other two courses ‘Cultivation of native plants and managing a plant nursery’ and ‘Restoring your streamside and wetland’ are currently being finalised for publication. A fourth course is also being developed entitled ‘How to manage your Covenant’. It is intended that these courses will be run nationwide over the next 2 years (funding permitting).

### ***Target 15. Training***

Workshops have been organised as part of this Conference.

### **9. Network Administrator.**

I am very pleased to report that Dr. Eric Scott has been appointed as the Network Administrator. Eric will be responsible for maintenance of the Network Membership database, management of subscriptions, compilation of the Newsletter and processing of general communications.

### **10. Looking ahead**

Discussions are taking place with the prospect of holding the 2007 AGM and Conference at Te Papa in Wellington. It is hoped that a collaborative event can take place to celebrate and promote our natural living heritage.

The Network will be making a contribution to the activities of Conserv-Vision – the celebration of 20 years of the Department of Conservation to take place next July in Hamilton. This will be in the form of some workshops.

The Network needs sponsors and this will be one of the main activities for 2007. Equally important is the fact that we need to build the membership. This is where everyone can help. We really do need your help.

### **11. Acknowledgements**

I have already mentioned, in general, the Council. I would in particular like to mention John Sawyer who has (as Secretary) continued to put a very large amount of time into the Network’s activities. I am also most grateful to Mike Oates who has made the role of Treasurer seem so simple but in fact has worked hard to establish an excellent accounting system. In particular, I would like to mention Peter de Lange who has contributed a large and valuable amount of his time to the work of the Network and finally Steve Benham and Philippa Crisp who have run the Education Stocktake and Marae based plant course programmes during the last year. Finally, I would like to thank Jeremy Rolfe for his work preparing *Trilepidea*—the Network newsletter—for publication every month and all those who contributed to it—and in doing so made the it all the more worthwhile.

*Ian Spellerberg, Lincoln University*

## **Final chance to vote for your favourite New Zealand plants**

The voting closes on Sunday 19 November so please log on and use all of your 5 votes and encourage your friends and family and colleagues to vote. The results will be announced on Monday 20 November at the Conference dinner at the Cheeseman Symposium in Auckland. Go to [www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz) for more information.

## Plant of the Month



*Thelymitra matthewsii*.  
Photo: Eric Scanlen.

Plant of the month for November is *Thelymitra matthewsii*. Although this plant has previously been listed as Vagrant, it may be re-classified in the forthcoming re-listing of threatened plants to be done in April 2007. Opportunities to nominate plants or suggest changes to the current threatened plant list will be announced at the Network conference in Auckland in late November.

The Network fact sheet may be found at the following link:  
[www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular\\_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=746](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=746)

## New Zealand naturalised vascular plant list – new version available

The Network has just published an updated version of its naturalised vascular plant list. This list has been compiled largely by Network member and Department of Conservation weed ecologist Clayson Howell. This list includes the names of all 2437 naturalised vascular plant taxa in New Zealand. This is a substantial revision of the 2005 list. Network members can download the list for free as a pdf file from the website or can order a hard copy by emailing the Network at [info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz) and posting a cheque to the Network (\$12 including postage). Non-members can order a hard copy only by posting a cheque to the Network (\$20 including postage). This list will be valuable to anyone involved in weed management, plant surveys, horticulture or weed research. Copies of the native plant checklist are still available for the same price. Purchase both at the same time for \$18 (for members) and \$30 (for non-members) including postage.



## Identification of your Most Important Plant Areas

The Network is now calling for nominations of Important Plant Areas using the on-line nomination form on the Network website ([www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz)) – see NZ Native Flora>NZ Important Plant Areas.

Important Plant Areas (IPAs) are the best sites for wild plants and fungi. The purpose of an IPA programme is to identify a network of sites within each biogeographic zone that are critical for the long-term viability of naturally occurring wild plant populations. The identification of IPAs in New Zealand and throughout Oceania is valuable so that conservation efforts for wild plant species and their habitats may be appropriately targeted to these sites. Target 5 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation is that “protection of 50% of the world’s most important areas for plant diversity assured by 2010”. So that New Zealand may achieve this target, the Network is working to identify IPAs and criteria for identification of these areas have now been developed. The Network is now calling for nomination of sites using the form provided. These sites will be examined by an expert panel every few months and if supported will become part of the Network’s IPA database. Gradually, the Network will build up a database of the most important areas in New Zealand for plants, which will aid our conservation programme.

## Re-creating rare restiad wetlands in the Waikato

Monica Peters, Wetland Coordinator, NZ Landcare Trust (T: 07 858 3725)



*Sporadanthus ferrugineus*.  
Photo: Peter de Lange.

*Sporadanthus ferrugineus* (Restionaceae) is a conservation dependent species, endemic to the northern half of the North Island. Although Cockayne records its presence from the Kaitaia region, *Sporadanthus* is today found only in three wetland areas in the Waikato Region. Originally covering some 100,000ha, a century and a half of industrious drainage and burning for conversion to farmland is the primary reason why only 3140ha of restiad dominated wetlands remain.

*Sporadanthus* is a late successional species, arriving in bogs once another restiad, *Empodisma minus* is well established. In restiad dominated bogs, over time the accumulation of undecomposed plant material (peat) may create a dome-like structure. Isolated from nutrient rich ground water sources, these domes are fed by rainwater alone, resulting in a nutrient poor environment to which *Sporadanthus* and a handful of other species (e.g. *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Epacris pauciflora*) are well adapted. *Sporadanthus* typically grows in dense clumps up to 1.5 m diameter, made up of 200–300 stems reaching an average height of 1.7 m. The jointed bamboo-like stems grow from a sturdy rhizome. As with

*Empodisma*, leaves are reduced to sheaths which grow from the joints. *Sporadanthus* is dioecious, though male and female plants are difficult to distinguish in the field. Seed heads grow from the ends of the canes and are rust-coloured, feathery and often drooping.

There is still much to learn about restiad ecosystems—research for example by Corinne Watts (Landcare Research) revealed a new genus of moth now named *Houdinia flexilissima*. The larval form (nicknamed “Fred the Thread”—due to its elongated shape) burrows inside the thin, bamboo-like stems of the plants. Initiatives are currently underway to increase the size of *Sporadanthus* dominated wetlands, as well as to establish “new” restiad wetlands in areas where they were once found. Based on Landcare Research *Sporadanthus* revegetation trials carried out Torehape Peat mine (see references below), the New Zealand Landcare Trust is undertaking a restiad wetland “re-creation” project. The aim of this project is to trial best practice techniques for re-introducing *Sporadanthus* and *Empodisma* into areas surrounding peat lakes within agricultural catchments. The trials are located at Lake Serpentine east (Waipa district) and Lake Komakorau (Waikato District). This project is funded through the Ministry for the Environment’s Sustainable Management Fund and the Waikato Ecological Enhancement Trust. Further support comes from EW, Waipa DC, Waikato DC, Landcare Research, DOC, University of Waikato and from the farmers whose land adjoins the wetlands where these re-creations are taking place.

### References

- Clarkson, B. and Watts, C. 2003: Recovery of vegetation and invertebrates in the restoration of cut-over peat bog. Landcare Research Contract Report
- Cockayne, L. 1919: New Zealand Plants and their Story. Wellington, N.Z.. Govt. Print., 2nd ed.
- de Lange, P.J., Heenan, P.B., Clarkson, B.D., and Clarkson, B.R. 1999: Taxonomy, ecology, and conservation of *Sporadanthus* (Restionaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37: 413-431

## New Release

*From Te Papa Press*

*Eagle's Complete Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand*

By Audrey Eagle

Publication date: **November 2006**

**NZ RRP (incl. GST): \$200.00**



### Every known native New Zealand tree and shrub – in colour and life size

This beautiful two-volume set brings together Audrey Eagle's botanical artworks from her best-selling 1975 and 1983 publications. It includes **over 170 new paintings**, bringing the total number of plants to more than 800—all in colour and life-size. Flowers, fruits, and other features are shown in superb detail.

Accompanying the illustrations are comprehensive notes, written in consultation with expert botanists. They provide up-to-date information on each plant's habitat, distribution, identification, nomenclature, and more. This is an outstanding contribution to botany in New Zealand—and an essential addition to any library.

### About the author

Audrey Eagle has been painting New Zealand native plants since 1952. The author of *Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand in Colour* (1975) and a number of other books, Eagle is an active member of botanical and conservation societies such as the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, the Nature Conservation Council and the Loder Cup Committee. *Eagle's Complete Trees and Shrubs of NZ* represents her life's work and the achievement of her goal: to illustrate representatives of all genera of native trees and shrubs.

Extent: **Two hardbacked volumes of 500 pages each, in a slipcase. Containing 500 full-colour plates.**

ISBN: **0909010080.**

Format: **280 × 230 mm portrait**

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Offer closes 31 December 2006

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## Upcoming Events

If you have important events or news that you would like publicised via this newsletter please email the Network ([events@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:events@nzpcn.org.nz)):

### **Wellington Botanical Society Field trip – Te Marua Bush workbee: Saturday 18 November**

BotSoc has been committed since 1989 to do weed control and re-vegetation work in this important matai-totara-maire remnant in Kaitoke Regional Park. A grant from Greater Wellington Regional Council enables us to hire a contractor to help with weed control, but our biennial workbees must continue so that we keep ahead of re-invasion by weeds, particularly around the plantings. So please come to help with this important work and also help with more plantings. Bring: gloves, kneeler, weed bag, and your favourite weeding tools, e.g. trowel, hand fork, loppers, pruning saw, pinch bar. Meet: Upper Hutt Station car park at 9 a.m., or Te Marua Bush at 9.30 a.m. (250 m north of Te Marua Store and 50 m off SH2 along the road to Te Marua Lakes, Kaitoke Regional Park). Catch 8.05 a.m. train on Hutt line from Wellington Station, and tell leaders you wish to be met. Maps: R26 Paraparaumu and Upper Hutt street map.

Co-leaders: Glennis Sheppard 526 7450, Sue Millar 526 7440.

### **Auckland Botanical Society – Lucy Cranwell Lecture: 20 November 2006**

This year's Lucy Cranwell Lecture will be held as part of the Cheeseman Symposium. Ewen Cameron will be speaking on the life and times of Thomas Cheeseman.

### **Botanical Society of Otago – Botanising in N.E. Newfoundland: Wednesday 29 November, 2006**

Start time: 5:20 p.m. A talk and slide show by Howard Clase, a retired Chemistry Professor from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Howard writes: "Our local society [The Wildflower Society of Newfoundland and Labrador](#), has a week long field trip to a different part of the Province each summer, and this year we were exploring the NE coastline and a couple of offshore Islands. There are from 12 - 25 people on these trips with various levels of expertise from professional botanists through reasonably experienced amateurs (like us) to pretty flower lovers - but we all get on well and have a good time, nearly always making some fairly significant new discoveries. Recently there's a grass & Carex expert who comes over from Scotland and we have also had people from the Nova Scotia Flora Society join us." At the Zoology Benham Building, 346 Great King Street, behind the Zoology car park by the Captain Cook Hotel. Use the main entrance of the Benham Building to get in and go to the Benham Seminar Room, Rm. 215, 2nd floor. Please be prompt as we have to hold the door open. Contact [Robyn Bridges](#), phone: (03) 479 8244.

### **Waikato Botanical Society – Te Waihou Walkway and Wairere Falls, combined Christmas trip with Rotorua Botanical Society: Sunday 3 December**

We will walk the Te Waihou walkway near Tirau and look at aquatic vegetation in the Blue Spring with Paul Champion from NIWA. Those who are interested will then travel over to the Wairere Falls where a 1hr boardwalk takes you up to the base of the falls, a further 45min walk uphill leads to a lagoon at the top of the falls. **Contact:** Andrea Brandon ph. 07 858 1018 (wk) or [abrandon@doc.govt.nz](mailto:abrandon@doc.govt.nz) to carpool from Hamilton. **Meet:** 9 a.m. at Landcare Research car park, Gate 10 Silverdale Rd, to carpool from Hamilton or 10 a.m. at the Leslie Road car park (Leslie Rd is off Whites Rd, which is SH 28).

**Wellington Botanical Society – Weekend Field trip – Clive Paton’s bush, south  
Wairarapa: Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 December**

Visit the less botanised northern end of western side of the Aorangi Range and see species not found elsewhere in the range—northern rata trees, sedges, ferns and orchids. There may be a bit of creek-walking but boots are still recommended owing to the nature of the terrain. A moderate level of fitness required. Bring mossie repellent. MEET: 9 a.m. at Dorset Square Native Reserve, cnr SH2 and Moore St, Featherston. Accommodation: Clive Paton’s two-bunk bach and tenting space. Pot luck dinner. Map S27. LEADER: Clive Paton tbc. Wellington contact: Sunita Singh 04 387 9955.

**Auckland Botanical Society – End of year function: Saturday 9 December 2006**

The end-of-year function will be held at Ambury Park, Mangere, on the shores of the Manukau Harbour. A walk in the park will be followed by a members’ show and tell, and then a pot luck dinner. Contact, Secretary, Elaine Marshall [3jems@ww.co.nz](mailto:3jems@ww.co.nz)