



TRILEPIDEA

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

Please send news items or events to events@nzpcn.org.nz

Postal address: P.O. Box 16-102, Wellington, New Zealand

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Deadline for next issue: Monday 15 January 2007

President's Notes

The president is currently indisposed. However, he sends his compliments of the season to all members of the Network and wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Plant of the Month



Brachyglottis huntii. Photo: John Sawyer.

Plant of the month for December is *Brachyglottis huntii* – rautini, or the Chatham Island Christmas tree. This Nationally Endangered aromatic woody tree, which grows up to 6 metres tall, came first in the Network's 2006 poll to find New Zealand's favourite plant. The bright yellow flowers can be seen during summer. The plant is endemic to the Chatham Islands and was once much more common there but has declined seriously over the last century. Threats include habitat destruction; browsing and trampling by cattle, sheep, pigs and possums. The Network fact sheet may be found at the following link: www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz_threatenedplants/detail.asp?PlantID=55

Some comments made by people who voted for rautini include:

I remember it as a child flowering around Christmas time at Otari Botanic Gardens. —Melissa

We have an amazing flora of 2300 odd taxa, most unique to this country—we need to celebrate this by profiling new parts of that flora each year—so I agree go Rautini, never heard of it before, now I wish I get the chance to see it, flourishing in the wild. —Julian

I grew it once and it was very beautiful (till Phytophthora got it anyway). Surprised but delighted to see people voting for something a little different. —Carolyn

Well I like the Southern Hemisphere attitude to Xmas trees—none of those pine needles getting in your hair, just beautiful, flowering trees to gawp at. I reckon the Chatham Islanders picked the best of the lot for their pagan totem. —Jeff

Well having read the fact sheet and what other people have said I feel a need to vote for a tree I never knew existed. That's the point really, get in and learn something about the flora. We already know all about cabbage trees, pohutukawa, nikau and kauri. I reckon our flora is so much more than this. I hope Rautini wins. It'd be good for the tree, the Chatham Island people and world views on plant conservation. —Ernie

The rest of the top ten are:

2. Poor Knights lily, raupo-taranga
3. Parapara
4. Bamboo rush, giant wire rush
5. Bartlett's rata
6. Burr grass, devil grass, owie grass, owee grass
7. Surville Cliffs kohuhu
8. Northland horopito
9. Adam's mistletoe
10. Scarlet mistletoe, korukoru, pirita, roeroe

For more comments about these and the factsheets see the Network website: www.nzpcn.org.nz.

Network awards for 2006

The annual Network Plant Conservation awards were made at the recent Network conference in Auckland. We are pleased to announce that the awards for outstanding contribution to plant conservation went to the following recipients.

Individual award

Maureen Young (Auckland Botanical Society)

Maureen Young is a skilled botanist. She is one of the most important advocates for plant conservation in Auckland. She has assisted the Department of Conservation with locating threatened plant sites and has volunteered time to help locate sites over many years. In terms of Auckland plant conservation, as it said on her nomination form “She is a legend”.



Maureen Young accepts the Individual award. Photo: John Sawyer.

Council award

Auckland Regional Council

The work of the Auckland Regional Council spans many areas of plant conservation and it leads the country in so many of these. The Auckland Regional Botanic Garden has a threatened plant garden and native plant nursery for re-vegetation of all Auckland's regional parks. The Natural



Jonathan Boow collects the Network Council award on behalf of the Auckland Regional Council. Photo: John Sawyer.

Heritage section is involved in the re-vegetation of regional parks (75,000 native plants planted per year), species conservation programmes, biodiversity protection and restoration advocacy with landowners and community groups. The Parks Department is involved in the management of regional parks and the operational side of parks re-vegetation and conservation, plant nurseries at Arataki and Wenderholm and education programmes. Then there is the Biosecurity team that is involved with preparing and implementing the Regional Pest Management Strategy and animal and plant pest control programmes.

Plant nursery award

Motukarara Nursery (Canterbury)

A Canterbury institution providing quality plants, quality information and collaboration with many others. Its contribution to plant conservation in Canterbury has been immense.

Community award

Kitchener Park Team (Feilding)

The members have faced huge personal problems but have come together as a team driven by the needs of Kitchener Park. The team's story is one of the most moving plant conservation stories of the decade. Kitchener Park is 13 hectares of native bush outside Feilding that supports many podocarps and 'the largest kowhai in New Zealand'. The team has worked to eradicate *Tradescantia* from the park and is replanting with locally sourced ngaio, ribbonwood and lemonwood. The team is supported by the mayor, MP and local businesses and community.

School award

Newbury School (Palmerston North)

Newbury School is an Enviroschool. Its work stands out as being the most impressive by any school in New Zealand. A children-led programme of native planting has been established. Children are encouraged to persist to do the best they can in everything they attempt. Their school motto is “Kia Kaha – Attitude is Everything.”

Lifetime achievement award

Brian Molloy

Brian Molloy has been a key figure in the New Zealand plant conservation movement. He was one of the first to see the need for threatened plant management—mainly through his work with *Hebe armstrongii* at the Enys Reserve in the early 1970s and in his role with the Queen Elizabeth Trust and on the Mt Peel Conservation Board. Brian is still a member of the Riccarton Bush Board of Trustees. Brian has been mentor to many people including David Given and Peter de Lange. He has never been afraid to speak his mind and his most memorable statement that has earned him the undying love of many botanists is his frank assessment of DOC’s attitudes at his 1990 Loder Cup award ceremony “DOC has a fixation on saving what is feathered or farts...”! Brian is also a taxonomist and because of his past work he has had a kowhai named after him (*Sophora molloyi*) inspired perhaps by the fact that it, like Brian, is a very tough little %^\$#*^%.



Life time Achievement award winner Brian Molloy alongside Peter de Lange, 2006 recipient of the Allan Mere Award. Photo: John Sawyer.

Christchurch Botanic Gardens

One of the last major pieces of work that the late David Given was involved with was the proposal for the re-development of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and adjoining Hagley Park. David wrote a significant report on which the current proposals that are being subjected to public consultation and input. He saw a greater role for research, which is probably not surprising to those who knew him. He also saw a greater role for education. Though submissions are presently being heard those interested in botanic gardens in general or these gardens in particular can still make their views known to the Christchurch City Council.

A new partnership—the New Zealand Threatened Plant Committee re-formed *Peter J. de Lange, Chair, New Zealand Threatened Vascular Plant Committee (E-mail: pdelange@doc.govt.nz)*

Threatened Vascular Plant Listing of the indigenous New Zealand Vascular Flora has been with us since the early 1930s. However, it was the late David Given who first undertook regular listings and saw a need to involve all New Zealanders. In 1991, a series of meetings held between New Zealand botanists and the Department of Conservation resulted in the formation of the first New Zealand Threatened Plant Committee which – despite its name – only ever undertook listings of the conservation status of the indigenous vascular plant flora. That committee was funded by the Department of Conservation and acted as a subcommittee of the New Zealand Botanical Society. During its eight year existence that committee prepared three official listings. The first two were published within the *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* (Cameron *et al.* 1993, 1995) and the last as a peer-reviewed paper within the *New Zealand Journal of Botany* (de Lange *et al.* 1999).

During its eight year existence the committee worked on and developed its own unique threat listing classification (see de Lange & Norton 1998). That classification system argued that New Zealand has a disproportionate number of narrow-range endemics, which under the existing IUCN Threat System received unacceptably high threat listings that often did not truly reflect their actual conservation status. Partly because of that publication the New Zealand Department of Conservation met in 1999 and agreed to develop, in consultation with New Zealand experts, a New Zealand based Threat Classification System. The result was published in 2002 (Molloy *et al.* 2002) and forms the basis of all threat listings undertaken by the New Zealand Department of Conservation. With the implementation of the system, the New Zealand Threatened Plant Committee was disbanded by the department and its role taken over an expert panel appointed by the Department of Conservation to undertake that task. For vascular plants this resulted in the most recent threatened plant listing, de Lange *et al.* (2004), which is now due for revision.

Last year, the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (NZPCN) became the IUCN Red Listing Authority for New Zealand. In that role the NZPCN recognised a potential conflict that could result from its IUCN requirement to undertake threatened flora listings. In particular, NZPCN did not want to see two listings using two different systems, one prepared by NZPCN and one by the Department of Conservation. Network members wanted to see the re-establishment of an independent threatened flora listing body free of any political influence.

Therefore, since July 2006, NZPCN has been in discussion with the Department of Conservation on how best to achieve a satisfactory outcome. The result is that the NZPCN has formed a partnership with the Department of Conservation. It has been agreed that the department will fund the travel and accommodation costs of expert “Flora” panels who will meet triennially to review the status of New Zealand’s indigenous flora. The threat listing system to be used will be the New Zealand one (Molloy *et al.* 2002). The IUCN will be invited to assist in the process and develop another listing using their system with the data NZPCN has obtained. It was agreed that all data gathered during each listing will be held by the department for its internal needs and record keeping, and that the lists prepared will be published through appropriate peer-reviewed journals as hard copy. As with the former New Zealand Threatened Plant committee, each panel will act independently of the department in preparing objective listings by threat of our indigenous flora.

The first listing under this system will be undertaken next year by the indigenous vascular plant panel. The panel to undertake this listing comprises Peter de Lange, Peter Heenan, David Norton, John Barkla, Ewen Cameron and Shannel Courtney—many of whom have an already extensive knowledge of threatened plant listing and publication.

Please make your own submissions online using the NZPCN website—www.nzpcn.org.nz. Log on to the website, go to the big green “Make a Submission” button on the right hand side of the home page and follow the instructions. It’s easy, fast and efficient. Already there have been 78 submissions made to the listing process by NZPCN members. At the end of March next year, NZPCN will close the submission field off. Submissions will be collated and the panel will meet and use your submissions as the raw data to prepare a new listing. For those of you who have no wish to make submissions electronically, you are welcome to send in written ones—an address to where these should be sent is provided at the end of this article.

Some helpful pointers to help guide you are:

1. You may make as many submissions as you like—either on a taxon by taxon basis or as block submissions of many taxa.
2. It helps if you try to provide your reasoning succinctly and summarise thus: Recommend: ‘Acutely Threatened/National Critical’ Criteria 1, 2 and 3, Qualified DP, OL, EF, so that the panel that uses your submission can quickly understand your reasoning. If you have any doubts then download a copy of Molloy *et al.* (2002) which will help you arrive at the most suitable category.

3. It is OK to propose unnamed entities as threatened. However, should you wish to do so then you **must** cite a herbarium specimen of that entity to verify its existence. **Failure to do so will mean that your submission will be invalid.** If in doubt, check Appendix 2 of de Lange *et al.* (2004) to see the format used there for such entities.

Remember each threatened plant list is merely a statement of our evolving conservation knowledge. Therefore, it is only as good as the information used to prepare it. To help NZPCN get it right, it is recommended that you download a copy of de Lange *et al.* (2004) and go through it carefully. Ask yourself whether you agree with the current listings. If not, let us know your opinion with appropriate information to support your case. If you feel the listing is correct and wish to add further information to support that assessment, then please do so. Think carefully—are there any plant taxa that have been missed? Are there any plants you believe are threatened that haven't been considered before? We want to know. Remember don't assume someone else will have seen what you have or know what you know—the list is only as good as your input. Lastly, please remember the list is only for **indigenous vascular plants**.

Written submissions should be sent to:

Andrew Townsend
Threat Listing Facilitator
Research, Development and Improvement
Department of Conservation
P.O Box 10-420
Wellington

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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 Clayton 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 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.

Willem Boshoff's Garden of Words at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden

Story provided courtesy of Willem Boshoff (the artist) and Art Logic (www.artlogic.co.za – the Producer)

The Installation

Fifteen thousand memorial flowers were “planted” on the main lawn of Kirstenbosch making the installation the first thing visitors to the gardens see. The installation was timed to coincide with the opening of the biodiversity conference in Cape Town. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) General Assembly met in Cape Town from 28 to 31 August 2006. Participants included finance ministers from 37 countries and about 1,200 other international delegates. In addition to delegates, the work was seen by members of the public and the many foreigners that visit the gardens.



Boshoff's aims

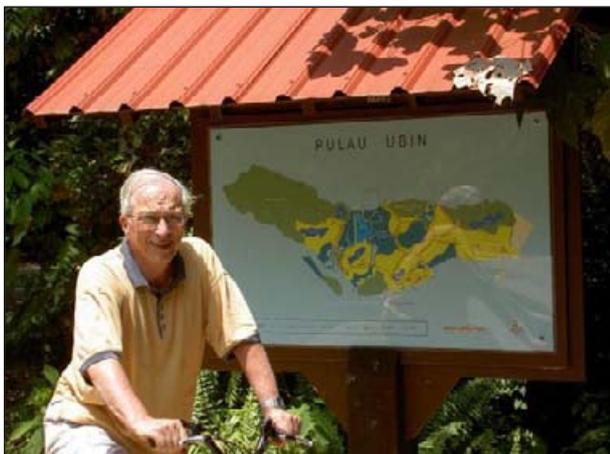
- To portray the magnitude of the loss to the world should the 30,000 plants on the CITES red data list become extinct.
- To promote the idea of observing plants as a way of gardening in one's mind. “I believe a healthy ecology of the head to be a prerequisite for a meaningful defence of the world's flora, fauna and natural environment”. To this end as many school children as possible will be given a stake in the creation of the work.
- To create a new “memorial garden” after every 5,000 new plants catalogued in the Garden of Words project. Six gardens, each 5,000 plants larger than the one preceding are envisaged. The final garden will include 30,000 plants, the same number of species as the CITES's red data projection of threatened species.
- To traverse the domains of contemporary art on the one hand and botany and horticulture on the other.

The Memorial flower

Fifteen thousand memorial flowers were created using a combination of cloth and PVC stems. Each cloth flower bears the botanical and common names of one of the 15,000 plants Boshoff has recorded.

New Administrator

As announced back in November, I have taken up the position as administrator for the Network. Since the November newsletter was already pretty full I did not include anything about myself but I will rectify that position now. My secondary school education was at Mt Albert Grammar School



Exploring the reserves of Pulau Ubin, Singapore.

in Auckland followed by Auckland University first for a BSc and then an MSc in zoology. My only formal botanical study is Botany I that was passed, only just, in 1961. After teaching at various secondary schools I was appointed to a lectureship in zoology at the then Lincoln College in 1970. At first, I was largely concerned with teaching agricultural science and agricultural commerce students but, on the introduction of the Park Ranger option of the Diploma of Parks and Recreation, I became heavily involved in that course and its subsequent transition from a three year diploma into a degree. I became Chair of the

Department of Entomology and Ecology in 1997 and then, with the restructuring of the University, Group Leader of the Ecology and Entomology Group when the plant ecologists became part of the same administrative unit as the animal ecologists and entomologists. It was during this time that I had greatest involvement with the late David Given as he taught into a number of the subjects for which we were responsible. I retired from my fulltime position in June 2004 but have continued even into this year with some teaching commitments. This year's teaching involved 7 weeks in Singapore teaching basic ecology to Landscape Architecture students—Lincoln's BLA degree has been taught there since 2001 but that will cease next February. My duties in this current position include the preparation of the monthly newsletter and the handling of membership applications and annual subscriptions. I hope that I can use my administrative skills to advance the work and influence of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

Eric Scott, Christchurch

Identification of your most Important Plant Areas

The Network is still calling for nominations of Important Plant Areas using the on-line nomination form on the Network website (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 can 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 Networks 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.

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):

Auckland Botanical Society Field Trips – Chatham Islands

4–11 January, refer to Maureen Young for details. **Anniversary Weekend Trip.** This year's trip over 26–29 January is to Te Kauri Park Scenic Reserve. It will be led by Peter de Lange and will involve different parts from the 2000 trip to the same area. Enquiries and bookings should be made through Maureen Young, phone 09 425 7162, email youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz.

International Association for Vegetation Science 49th Annual Conference

New Zealand: New home; new habitat! New ideas? This is being held in Palmerston North, 12–16 February 2007. As well as the week of the conference activities, there are associated tours. For information, contact G. Rapson, Massey University (email: G.Rapson@massey.ac.nz).

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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