



TRILEPIDEA

Newsletter of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

No. 138

May 2015

Deadline for next issue:
Monday 15 June 2015

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE NEWSLETTER

Contributions are welcome to the newsletter at any time. The closing date for articles for each issue is approximately the 15th of each month.

Articles may be edited and used in the newsletter and/or on the website news page.

The Network will publish almost any article about plants and plant conservation with a particular focus on the plant life of New Zealand and Oceania.

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

Postal address:

P.O. Box 16102,
Wellington 6242,
NEW ZEALAND

PLANT OF THE MONTH, p. 2



Carex rubicunda.
Photo: John hobbs.

New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seed Bank (NZIFSB): Seed collector training in Wellington and visits from two overseas students

Jessica Schnell (J.L.Schnell@massey.ac.nz), Craig McGill (C.R.McGill@massey.ac.nz)

Wellington Seed Collector Training 23–24 April 2015

A training workshop for seed collectors was held in Wellington from 23–24 April. The first day of the workshop covered the principles of seed collecting and was held at the Department of Conservation National Office. The second day was when workshop participants were able to put the principles into practice. The day was based at Otari Wilton's Bush Native Botanic Gardens and Bush Reserve and resulted in two more species being collected for the seedbank. The workshop was timed to coincide with a larger meeting of Department of Conservation staff. This enabled 11 staff from the Department to join the workshop. In addition, Anthea McClelland, one of the group of volunteers who do a fantastic job preparing and accessing the collected seed for banking, Vanessa Angster from the Margot Forde Germplasm Centre, Gareth Porteous, a Kew diploma student visiting New Zealand and Hippolyte Perry, a French a student from AgroSup, Dijon, joined the workshop. These 16 trained collectors bring the number of trained collectors working in the project to 99.



Collecting *Ozothamnus leptophyllus* at Otari Wilton's Bush (left). Lois Allison-Cooper completing the field data form (right).

Visits from Gareth Porteous, Kew diploma student and Hippolyte Perry, AgroSup, Dijon

In addition to joining the Wellington training workshop, Gareth Porteous participated in two collecting expeditions. The first of these was to Mt Holdsworth in Tararua Forest Park where seed of *Gentianella montana* and *Leucogenes leontopodium* were collected. The second was to the Cobb Valley and Mt Arthur in Kahurangi National Park. This expedition resulted in a second *Gentianella*, *G. vernicosa*, being collected as well as *Ozothamnus vauvilliersii* and *Hebe masoniae*. These collections and those collected as part of the training workshop in Wellington add to the 46 species collected already this year and 82 species in total collected since October 2013. We are grateful for contribution of both time and energy from Gareth to the project.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *CAREX RUBICUNDA*



Carex rubicunda. Photo: John Hobbs.

Plant of the month for May is *Carex rubicunda*. *Carex rubicunda* is an endemic sedge that grows in montane to subalpine lake, tarn, and pond margins, or ephemeral wetlands and seasonally flooded locations. It's a stiffly erect tufted sedge; reddish brown leaves reach 300 mm tall with curled leaf tips. It's regarded as nationally vulnerable; populations might be at risk from horse trampling, vehicle traffic and invasive wetland weeds.

In the North Island, it is found in swamps in the southern Kaingaroa Plain, the Kaimanawa and Ruahine Mountains, and in Tongariro National

Park. Its exact distribution in the South Island is still unclear, but has long been known from Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri, and has been found more recently at Lake Lyndon in Canterbury and Lake Wanaka in Otago.

If you think you spot it, please record it. It's possible to confuse *C. rubicunda* with *C. petriei* and *C. cirrhosa*, but you can find out how to spot the difference at the Network fact sheet for *C. rubicunda* at: www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=401

Hippolyte Perry, who is undertaking a four month internship at Massey University as part of his study at AgroSup, also participated in the Wellington training workshop and contributed to the Tararua Forest Park and Cobb Valley/Kahurangi National Park collecting. While at Massey University, Hippolyte will work on the seed of a number of species to determine if these seed are able to be dried without being killed by the drying process. The research Hippolyte will be undertaking will add to the knowledge base needed to secure seed in the seedbank. We are very pleased to have Hippolyte working here



Gentianella vernicosa (left) at the Cobb Valley, and *Leucogenes leontopodium* (right) at Mount Holdsworth.

with us and contributing not only to the collecting but also our knowledge base.

As it is the peak seed collecting time and a high volume of seed collections are coming in we are still looking for volunteers who can spare a few hours to help out with cleaning, processing, germination testing of seeds (full training is provided). If you have some time to available please contact Jessica Schnell by email: J.L.Schnell@massey.ac.nz or phone: 06 356 9099 ext 83236.



Gareth Porteous, Hippolyte Perry and Jess at Jumbo Hut.

David Given Threatened Plant Research Scholarship—applications are now open

The NZ Plant Conservation Network administers the David Given Threatened Plant Research Scholarship which is offered biennially. The scholarship is now open for applications to fund research that assists the protection and recovery of New Zealand's threatened plant species and threatened communities. Threatened species and communities can be either nationally or regionally threatened. Plant species include vascular and non-vascular plants as well as fungi. Applicants must be New Zealand residents or citizens but the work could involve overseas researchers who collaborate with the principal NZ researcher. Funds available for this year's scholarship are \$7000.

Applications addressing each of the subject areas on the scholarship brochure (see attached to the end of the newsletter) should be emailed (preferred delivery option) to info@nzpcn.co.nz, or posted to the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, PO Box 16 102, Wellington and marked "David Given Scholarship". **Applications close 30 September 2015.**

This award is named after the late David Given in recognition of his considerable influence on plant conservation in New Zealand and worldwide over his lifetime.

NZPCN 2015 Conference Dunedin 28-30 October

'Nurturing Our Conservation Roots for Generations to Come'

This is the first time the Network has held a conference in Dunedin, home of the country's earliest botanical society and oldest botanic garden. Two days of symposia at Otago Museum will be preceded by a selection of workshops that delegates are invited to attend. Saturday will be devoted to exploring the native plant communities and native gardens in and around Dunedin.

The conference will offer eight symposia themed around celebrating early plant conservation and fostering plant conservation efforts into the future. The symposia themes are:

- Early Plant Conservation in New Zealand
- Unique Southern Flora
- Native Plant Protection – legal issues and opportunities
- Threatened Plant Research
- Grassroots Plant Conservation
- The Next Generation of Plant Conservationists
- Working with Native Plants
- Building Networks and Partnerships

Conference costs, workshop and field trip details are still being finalised and will be announced soon on our website (www.nzpcn.org.nz).

2015 Conference field trips

There will be three field trips offered at the 2015 conference, catering to a range of abilities and interests. Further details about the conference can be found on our website (www.nzpcn.org.nz) under 'NZPCN>Events>2015 Conference'.

Field Trip 1—Gardens of Dunedin

This trip stays close to Dunedin and begins with a visit to the extraordinary native garden of Peter and Pru Johnson on the Otago Peninsula. Then it's on to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust nursery at Company Bay where a wide selection of local natives is being propagated for local projects. Finally, the trip will return to the city to see the extensive native plant collections of the Dunedin Botanic Garden.

Field Trip 2—North Otago Coast

This trip will head north stopping first at a coastal headland at Karitane steeped in Maori history and

the focus of recent revegetation. Next will be a visit to Tavora Reserve, near Palmerston, where the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust has done outstanding restoration work to protect and enhance coastal habitat for native flora and fauna. Finally, the trip will visit Shag Point with its coastal shrublands, herbfields, abundant marine wildlife and attractive coastline.

Field Trip 3—Tussock and Tors of Inland Otago

The trip will travel west from Dunedin to the inland catchment of the Taieri River, stopping at Sutton Salt Lake near Middlemarch, with views of the Rock and Pillar Range. From here the bus will travel to Macraes Flat to give the opportunity to inspect mid altitude tussock grassland and rock tors. Returning to the east coast, the trip will stop at Tavora Reserve where outstanding restoration work has been done to protect and enhance coastal habitat for native flora and fauna.

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):

Australian National Seed Science Forum

Date: 14–16 March 2016. **Venue:** Australian PlantBank hosted by the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan, in collaboration with the Australian Network for Plant Conservation and the Australian Grains Genebank. The Forum will commence with an evening event on Monday 14 March; the main science programme will be presented on 15–16 March. The Forum will be a rare opportunity to bring together leading botanical and agricultural institutions, seed scientists and conservation and restoration experts to share ideas that showcase the importance of seed science to the future of plant conservation and food security in Australia. An exciting programme of local and international experts is planned, speaking on seed conservation, storage, preservation and germination. More details on the National Seed Science Forum will be provided in the near future. Invited keynotes and a call for presentations will be announced soon. Please share information on this Forum with your colleagues and through your networks.

Forum web pages: www.seedpartnership.org.au.
Email: info@seedpartnership.org.au to register for Forum announcements.

Auckland Botanical Society

Meeting: Wednesday 3 June at 7.30 p.m. for a talk by Matt Buys titled 'Mesembs: tackling an abominable mystery'. **Venue:** Unitec Room 115-2017.

Contact: Maureen Young,
email: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz.

Field trip: Saturday 20 June 2015 to Chelsea Estate Heritage Park, North Shore. Leaders: Margi Keys and Neil Davies.

Contact: Maureen Young,
email: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz.

Meeting: Wednesday 1 July at 7.30 for a talk by Robert Hoare.
Venue: Unitec Room 115-2017.

Contact: Maureen Young,
email: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz.

Field trip: Saturday 18 July for a Plant Families Workshop at the function centre, West Lynn Garden, 73 Parker Ave, New Lynn; lunch supplied.

Leader: Mike Wilcox,
email: mike.wilcox@xtra.co.nz.

Kaipatiki Project

Bush Walk and Talk: Surprise walks series Sunday 7 June. **Time:** 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. **Where:** Glenfield. **Cost:** \$6.

For location and to book online:
www.kaipatiki.org.nz/courses

Waikato Botanical Society

Field trip: Saturday 13 June to Walter Scott Reserve. **Meet:** 9.00 a.m. at the Landcare Research car park or 10.00 a.m. at the reserve, 80 Scott Road. **Grade:** easy.

Leader: Mike Clearwater,
ph: 07 854 7259 or 021 203 2902;
email:
m.clearwater@waikato.ac.nz.

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field trip: Saturday 6 June to Matekerepu Historic Reserve and Waioweka River Mouth dunes (western side). **Meet:** car park Rotorua at 8.30 a.m. **Grade:** easy.

Leader: Sarah Beadel, ph:
07 345 5912 (hm) or 021 924
476 (cell); email: sarah.beadel@wildlands.co.nz.

Meeting: Monday 22 June at 6.00 p.m., for the Annual General Meeting with wine cheese and nibbles followed at 7.30 p.m. (combined with Rotorua Forest and Bird) by a talk by Paul Cashmore on his recent trip to Mangere Island titled 'Mission to Mangere'.

Venue: DOC East Coast BOP Conservancy Office, 99 Sala Street, Rotorua; enter by Scion North Entrance (Forest Research) and turn left before the locked gates.

Wanganui Museum

Meeting: Tuesday 2 June at 7.30 p.m. for a talk by Gavin Scott titled 'Kitchener Park, Feilding'.

Venue: Davis Lecture Theatre.

Wellington Botanical Society

Field trip: Saturday 6 June to the Kohekohe Loop Track, Paekakariki. **Meet:** 10.00 a.m., at St Peter's Hall, Beach Rd, Paekakariki (cnr. Beach Rd and Wellington Rd).

Leaders: Ken Fraser, ph: 04 905 3714 or 022 6417 658; email fraserjk@paradise.net.nz, and Paul Callister, ph: 04 9058037 or 022 086 2405.

Field trip: Saturday 13 June for a Te Marua Bush working bee. This is a major planting session—we have 80 plants to plant, so please join us! **Bring:** gloves, grubber, spade or trowel, kneeler. **Meet:** Te Marua Bush at 9.30 a.m. or by train: 8.05 a.m. Hutt line train from Wellington – ring leaders to arrange to be met at Upper Hutt Station.

Co-leaders: Glennis Sheppard, ph: 04 526 7450; Sue Millar, ph: 04 526 7440.

Meeting: Monday 15 June at 7.30 p.m. for a talk by Anne Evans on Whareroa Farm Reserve followed by VUW PhD student Amanda Taylor who will describe the assemblage of cliff plant communities growing in harsh conditions on Lord Howe Island's southern mountains, including the role of *Asplenium nidus*.

Venue: Lecture Theatre M101, ground floor Murphy Building, west side of Kelburn Parade; enter building off Kelburn Parade about 20 m below pedestrian overbridge.

Field trip: Saturday 4 July to Northern Porirua Scenic Reserve. **Meet:** 9.30 a.m. near 80 Rangituhi Cres, Elsdon, Porirua.

Leader: Leon Perrie, ph: 04 381 7261 (wk), mobile 027 419 1378.

Nelson Botanical Society

Field Trip: Sunday 21 June to Kokorua Sandspit. **Meet:** 8.00 a.m. at the Church steps. **Register** by Friday 19 June with the leader.

Leader: David Grinsted,
ph: 03 542 4384.

Meeting: Monday 22 June at 7.30 p.m., subject and speaker to be decided.

Venue: As there may be a change of venue please contact Susan Cook ph: 03 544 6175 for details.

Canterbury Botanical Society

Meeting: Saturday 6 June at 10.00 a.m. for the Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by Matt Walters titled 'Photographing the Nigerian Forest'.

Venue: St Ninian's Presbyterian Church hall, Puriri Street, Riccarton.

Meeting: Monday 6 July at 7.30 p.m. for a talk by Dr Julie Barcelona titled 'Ferns of the Philippines'.

Venue: Upper Riccarton Library community meeting room, 71 Main South Road.

Otago Botanical Society

Meeting: Wednesday 3 June at 5.20 p.m. for a talk by Jon Sullivan, Lincoln University, titled 'An introduction to NatureWatch NZ'.

Venue: 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.

Field trip: Saturday 6 June, for the lichen field trip up Leith Saddle Track. Meet: at 9.30 a.m. at the Department of Botany car park, 464 Great King St (bad weather date, Sunday). Bring: hand lens.

Contact: Allison Knight, ph: 03 487 8265, email alli_knight@hotmail.com.

Meeting: Wednesday 1 July at 5.20 p.m. for a talk by Robert Hofstede visitor to Botany Department and Consultant to International Organisations in Tropical Nature Conservation and Environmental Policy, titled 'Natural History of the North Andean High Mountains: the Most Diverse Alpine Ecosystems on Earth'.

Venue: 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.

Field trip: Saturday 4 July to Bethunes Gully and Mt Cargill. Meet: at the Botany car park at 9.00 a.m. Bring: lunch, warm clothing, good footwear and parkas.

Contact: David Lyttle, ph: 03 454 5470; email: djlyttle@ihug.co.nz.
