



TRILEPIDEA

Newsletter of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

No. 154

September 2016

Deadline for next issue:
Monday 17 October 2016

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



Microsorium scandens.

NZPCN Annual General Meeting

The Network's AGM will be held in Wellington at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 11 October at the Wellington Botanic Gardens Treehouse, 101 Glenmore St, Thorndon. The meeting will be followed by a talk by Dr Peter de Lange titled 'From Kirk to now – New Zealand Plant Conservation and its present-day challenges.'

There will be refreshments available. Public parking is available on Glenmore Street; there is no parking available at the Treehouse. If any member has matters that they wish to discuss at the AGM, they are requested to inform the secretary, Rewi Elliot (Rewi.Elliot@wcc.govt.nz) before the meeting.

New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seed Bank (NZIFSB): Seed cleaning on the move again; August cleaning bee in Otaki

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

Building on the success of the seed cleaning bee at Otari Native Botanic Gardens and Wilton's Bush Reserve, Wellington, in July, Anthea McClelland, seed bank volunteer and Manawatu Forest and Bird chair, organised another off-site seed cleaning day; this time in Otaki. Eight members of the Otaki community took part including members of Forest and Bird, Transition Town Otaki and Waitohu Stream and Dune Care. A number in the group had taken part in the seed cleaning in July. The Otaki day was a result of requests to have a cleaning bee in Otaki. Anthea was joined from Massey University by visiting French intern student, H elo ise Colmet-Cartraud. The group, armed with tweezers, sieves, brushes and dexterous fingers, cleaned a range of seeds collected from parts of the North Island to as far south as Southland. The seed cleaned ranged from very demanding, tiny seeds with a lot of debris, to larger, relatively clean seeds such as those from *Phormium*. Depending on the luck of the draw, some volunteers processed several collections whereas others processed just the one collection over four hours. A number in the group were also French-speakers so seed cleaning was combined with a chance to brush up on conversational French.



Otaki seed cleaning team. Photo: Anthea McClelland.

Anthea began the morning by explaining the seed-cleaning process and how this fits in with the overall picture of preparing seeds for the seed bank. Cleaning is just one part of a multi-step process and best practice must be applied at each stage, from collection to the final deposition of the seeds in the seed bank to ensure that seed

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *MICROSORUM SCANDENS*



Microsorium scandens. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

Plant of the month for September is *Microsorium scandens*, mokimoki, a widespread indigenous fern, found in the North, South and Chatham Islands, and also in eastern Australia and on Lord Howe Island. Found in coastal and lowland forest, mokimoki is a common creeping or climbing fern covering rock piles, tree and tree fern trunks and bare ground.

Mokimoki is easily distinguished from the other two New Zealand *Microsorium* species by its thin rhizomes, 2–4 mm diameter, covered in erect dark brown to purple-brown scales, and its membranous, dull green, pleasantly scented fronds, which have narrower and more numerous pinnae. It is also much less drought tolerant so prefers less open, shaded and damper situations. Mokimoki is easily grown from rooted pieces of rhizome. It is excellent in a hanging basket, large pot, or trained to grow over rocks, and logs but requires a shaded site and needs frequent watering.

You can view the NZPCN website factsheet for mokimoki at: http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=2202

reach storage in as good a condition as possible. This will maximise the life span of the seed in storage (along with routine viability testing to make sure the seeds are surviving the banking process).

As in Wellington, the combined efforts of the volunteer cleaners have made a significant dent in the number of collections waiting to be cleaned. Our thanks go to all those involved in both the Wellington and Otaki cleaning days. We look forward to having more cleaning bees in the future.

Anyone with a passion for conservation who would like to become involved in the project either as a volunteer or seed collector should contact Jessica Schnell, NZIFSB Coordinator, email: J.L.Schnell@massey.ac.nz



Otaki seed cleaning team. Photo: Anthea McClelland.

NZIFSB Alexandra Seed Collecting Workshop 30–31 October 2016

The second South Island seed collecting workshop for the New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seed Bank (NZIFSB) for 2016 will be held in conjunction with the Thyme Festival and will be based at Community House, Alexandra, and a field site in Central Otago for population assessment and potential seed collection on the second day. This workshop will cover the appropriate methods and protocols for collecting seed for the New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seed Bank. Attending a workshop is a requirement for anyone wishing to be involved in this project as a collector. Numbers for the workshop are capped at 20. The workshop will be led by the NZIFSB Project Leader, Craig McGill. The first day of training will cover theory and the second day will cover the practical side of collecting through an expedition into the surrounding environment. The details are:

- **Date and time:** Sunday 30 October – Monday 31 October, 2016 (9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. each day).
- **Venue:** Alexandra Community House, 14–20 Centennial Avenue, Alexandra, for Sunday 30 October and a field site in Central Otago for 31 October.
- **Refreshments:** morning and afternoon tea will be provided.
- **Fee:** there is no workshop registration fee but you will need to bring your own lunch for each day.
- **Car parking:** available in the vicinity; specific queries can be directed to COREAP ph: 03 4486115.



View from Flat Top Hill, Central Otago. Photo: Jessica Schnell.

Please register your interest early to avoid disappointment! To register or for further information, please contact the Seed Bank Coordinator, Jessica Schnell, ph: 06 356 9099, ext 83236 or email: J.L.Schnell@massey.ac.nz by **16 October 2016** or register at the Thyme Festival desk.

Lucy Cranwell 2017 student grant for botanical research: call for applications

Applications are invited for the Lucy Cranwell Grant of \$2,500 from the Auckland Botanical Society to assist a student studying for the degree of PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons) or BApplSci at any tertiary institution in New Zealand whose thesis project deals with some aspect of New Zealand's flora and vegetation. Priority will be given to projects relevant to the northern half of the North Island.

The research project to be supported will be chosen on the basis of appropriateness to the objects of the Society, namely to encourage the study of botany, and to stimulate public interest in the plant life of New Zealand and its preservation, conservation and cultivation. The grant will be administered by the student's supervisor as a contribution to expenses associated with the project.

Closing date for applications: **5.00 p.m. Friday 9 December 2016.**

A copy of the Application Form and the Rules of the Award may be downloaded from the Auckland Botanical Society website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/aucklandbotanicalsociety/>

Contact for enquiries: Vijay Soma, Secretary, Auckland Botanical Society, PO Box 26391, Epsom, Auckland 1344.

Conservation Week activity

No doubt throughout the country special activities occurred to mark Conservation Week 2016. One such event was a planting day on 17 September at Travis Wetland's nature heritage park, Christchurch. The planting day attracted over 100 volunteers who worked together to plant over 2000 native plants. The plants were donated by Trees for Canterbury and Christchurch City Council. The plan is to continue to plant an area of 6 ha of mixed podocarp forest that will provide habitat for a range of forest birds and invertebrates.

New species recently described

Nine new native plant species have been described in recent weeks—a fern, a sedge and seven orchids:

- *Asplenium lepidotum* Perrie & Brownsey
Perrie, L.R.; Brownsey P.J., 2016: *Asplenium lepidotum*, a new fern species from New Zealand allied to *Asplenium oblongifolium* and *Asplenium obtusatum*. New Zealand Journal of Botany 54(3): 377–391, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2016.1205108>
- *Carex applanata* Thorsen & de Lange
Thorsen, M.J.; de Lange P.J. 2016: *Carex applanata* (Cyperaceae), a new species from southern New Zealand. New Zealand Journal of Botany, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2016.1167092>
- *Corybas confusus* Lehnebach (formerly known as *Corybas* “round leaf”)
Corybas obscurus Lehnebach (formerly known as *Corybas* “darkie”)
Corybas sanctigeorgianus Lehnebach (formerly known as *Corybas* “trisept”)
Corybas vitreus Lehnebach (formerly known as *Corybas* “eastern hills”)
Corybas walliae Lehnebach (formerly known as *Corybas* “triwhite”)
Lehnebach, C.A.; Zeller, A.J.; Frericks, J.; Ritchie, P. 2016: Five new species of *Corybas* (Diurideae, Orchidaceae) endemic to New Zealand and phylogeny of the *Nematoceras* clade. Phytotaxa 270(1): 1–24, <http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.270.1.1>
- *Gastrodia cooperae* Lehnebach & J.R.Rolfe (formerly known as *Gastrodia* “long column black”)
Gastrodia molloyi Lehnebach & J.R.Rolfe (formerly known as *Gastrodia* “long column”)
Lehnebach, C.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Gibbins, J.; Ritchie, P. 2016: Two new species of *Gastrodia* (Gastrodiae, Orchidaceae) endemic to New Zealand. Phytotaxa 277(3): 237–254, <http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.277.3.2>

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) position

BCGI is inviting applications for a position as Head of Education and Vocational Training. The appointee will be stationed at Kew, UK. Applications close on 9 October 2016. For further details, see: <https://www.bgci.org/joinin/job/0800/>

Be part of the team for Ecofest Kaipatiki 28 October to 6 November

Right now we are busy putting together [Ecofest Kaipatiki](#), a 10-day festival of eco-events involving community organisations and restoration groups around Kaipatiki—this festival is supported by Kaipatiki Local Board. Our next newsletter will have all the details—meantime check the [website](#); we will be adding to the events calendar in the coming weeks.

Kaipatiki Project is organising some exciting events for families on both festival weekends and we would love some extra hands to help them go smoothly. If you feel you could volunteer for a few hours please fill in this super-quick form to [register your interest](#).

The two events we need the most help to run are:

- **Saturday 29 October, 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon: Discovery Day in Eskdale Reserve**

Chaperone small groups through the bush behind the Kaipatiki Project Centre as they meet native fauna and flora experts, followed by a BBQ lunch.

- **Sunday 6 November, 1.00 to 4.00 p.m.: Little Shoal Bay Beach Clean Up**

Help us set up and pack down gazebos near the Sea Scout Den and assist the Clean Up Co-ordinator as volunteers remove rubbish from the beach and reserve.

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):

11th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference

Melbourne: 14–18 November 2016. [La Trobe University](#) and the [Australian Network for Plant Conservation](#) (ANPC) are pleased to present the [11th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference](#) (APCC11) to be held in at the [Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria](#).

The organising committee formally invites NZPCN members to attend the APCC11 conference and submit an abstract for a presentation on one of the six following conference themes:

- Assisted colonisation as a practical tool for climate change mitigation.
- Conservation for people and nature: how do we maximise the benefits for both?
- Rethinking landscape restoration: seed production, provenance, conservation planning.
- Holistic conservation: the role of mutualisms in ensuring functional ecosystem recovery (eg. pollinators, soils).
- Rescuing small populations from extinction.
- New challenges, emerging ideas.

Following the conference, many conference papers will be published in two issues of [Australasian Plant Conservation](#).

Registration and more information: [conference website](#)

Auckland Botanical Society

Meeting: Wednesday 5 October at 7.30 p.m. for a talk by Dan Blanchon titled '*Parmotrema*'. **Venue:** Unitec Room 115-2017.

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

Field trip: Saturday 15 October to Otata Island, Noises. **Leader:** Ewen Cameron.

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

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field trip: Sunday 9 October to Maungaongaonga Scenic Reserve, near Waiotapu. **Meet:** the car park, Rotorua, at 8.30 a.m. or 9.00 a.m. at Benny Bee Tearooms, Waiotapu 27 km south of Rotorua. **Grade:** medium-hard.

Leader: Martin Pearce,
ph: 07 349 1929;
email: mpearce21@xtra.co.nz.

Field trip: Saturday 15 October to Okareka Mistletoe Restoration Project Weed Control/Plant Releasing Work Day. **Meet:** corner Summit and Loop Rds, Okareka (lake end) at 8:45 a.m. **Grade:** medium-hard; activities suitable for all ages and abilities will be provided.

Leader: Paul Cashmore,
ph: 07 349 7432 (wk) or
027 650 7264,
email: pcashmore@doc.govt.nz

Field trip: Friday 28 – Saturday 29 October (Sunday 30 October optional); East Cape revisited #10. **Meet:** for those coming on Friday meet at Tim's bach on Friday night; for those coming on Saturday morning, meet at DOC Opotiki (Information Centre, Bridge Street) (check with Tim for time). **Cost:** \$10 donation for accommodation for those staying Saturday night. **Bring:** 4WD if you have one.

Leader: Tim Senior,
ph: 0800 884 881 ext 6010 or
07 315 7371 (hm);
email: tim.senior@boprc.govt.nz.

Whanganui Museum Botanical Group

Field trip: Sunday 2 October to Whitiua Scientific Reserve, Whangaehu River mouth. **Meet:** at the Police Station at 9.00 a.m., with your lunch and footwear suitable for possible paddling in wet dune hollows.

Meeting: Tuesday 4 October for a talk by Colin and Robyn Ogle titled 'Some plants in western Europe'.

Venue: Museum's Davis Lecture Theatre.

Wellington Botanical Society

Meeting: Monday 17 October at 7.30 p.m. for two talks. First, Barbara Hampton will give a talk titled 'Otari-Wilton's Bush – Part 2: The Forest, Stan Reid, and the Call for a National Botanic Garden then Maren Preuss will give a talk on red algal parasites.

Venue: Victoria University 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 5 November to Rimutaka Forest Park. Meet: at 10.00 a.m. at the car park at the start of the Orongorongo Track.

Leaders: Ian & Jill Goodwin; please ph: 04 475 7248, or 021 519 461, with your email address so they can send you a plant list and phone them if you would like a lift.

Nelson Botanical Society

Field Trip: Sunday 16 October to Atua Stream Reserve and Moss Reserve. Meet: at the Church Steps at 8.00 a.m.

Register: with David Grinsted, ph: 03 542 4384 by Friday 14 October in case of cancellation.

Field trip: Friday 21 – Monday 24 October for Labour Weekend camp at Seddonville.

Register: with Elaine Marshall asap, ph: 021 2569073 or email: elaine3jems@gmail.com.
Leader: Shannel Courtney.

Canterbury Botanical Society

Meeting: Monday 3 October at 7.30 p.m. for a talk by Dr Philippe Gerbeaux titled 'The status of wetlands in Oceania'. **Venue:** Upper Riccarton Library community meeting room, 71 Main South Road.

Contact: Alice Shanks, ph: 03 337 1256, email: alice@caverock.net.nz.

Field Trip: Saturday 8 October to Tawhai Bush Covenant. **Meet:** 9.00 a.m. at the Belfast Hotel car park for carpooling from Christchurch (cost to passengers, \$12). **Bring:** food and drink for a full day, warm clothes and sunhats.

Contacts: Miles and Gillian Giller, ph: 03 313 5315.

Field Trip: Saturday 15 October to the Gun Club, West Melton. **Meet:** at 9.00 a.m. at the Yaldhurst Hotel car park. Bring: your lunch and clothing for cold or warm weather; a hand lens will be useful.

Leader: Brian Patrick, ph: 021 751250.

University of Canterbury summer course: Practical Field Botany

Practical Field Botany (BIOL305): an intensive, short summer course designed to meet the need for training in the collection, preparation, and identification of botanical specimens. **Venue:** University of Canterbury Cass Mountain Research Area, Canterbury. **Dates:** 19–27 January 2017.

This course will be of interest to amateur botanists, members of the workforce (e.g., Crown Research Institutes, Department of Conservation, local and regional councils, botanic gardens, horticulturists and teachers) and biology students who need to acquire or upgrade taxonomic skills and are interested in field ecology, conservation, biodiversity and biosystematics. The course is targeted at participants with various entry levels: from students with a limited plant knowledge to experienced career professionals. **Enrolment:** starts 4 October 2017.

More information:

Dr Pieter Pelsler, email: pieter.pelsler@canterbury.ac.nz;
ph: 03 364 2987, ext 45605.

Otago Botanical Society

Meeting: Wednesday 12 October at 5.20 p.m. for members' botanical show and tell. Prizes will be presented to the winners of the Audrey Eagle Botanical Drawing Competition; their drawings will be on display (some may be for sale); members are welcome to bring other botanical art for display and/or sale. Other items of interest may be plants, books, photos or other printed material, a brief PowerPoint presentation or anything with a botanical theme. So turn up with your treasures, trophies, experiences and questions and share them with fellow BSO members for an entertaining and lively evening.

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 29 October to Knights Bush, Tuapeka West (rain date, 30 October). **Meet:** Botany Department car park at 8.30 a.m. Bring: boots with a good grip and a 4WD if you have one.

Contact: Allison Knight,
ph: 03 487 8265 or 027 487 8265.