



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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Message from the President

Over the last few weeks I have been fortunate in being able to visit some native plant projects in the North Island. I am sure that what I saw in terms of both the diversity of projects and the commitment of the people behind the projects is indicative of what is happening throughout the country. All of the projects and all of the people that I met left me in admiration. There was a community action group that after several years, finally won the day to have a very large gravel pit turned into a community reserve—complete with educational and recreational resources. There was an 80 year old retired scientist who, for more than 50 years, had by himself planted two extensive native reserves. Indeed I have recently met several people of about that age who in the 1950s and 1960s set about establishing native plantings. But there was one project in particular that will always be in my mind. This was a group of people who previously knew very little or nothing about native plants. All have been through rough times and all are trying to turn their lives around. As a team of people they have set about to manage and restore a magnificent lowland forest. I felt very humble standing in that forest - partly because of the heavenly silence of the forest, partly because of the giant kahikateas that towered over me - but mostly because of the commitment of that group of people. As I say, what I saw must be but a small relection of what is happening around the Country.

With local communities in mind, this week here in Christchurch we are launching the Te Ara Kakariki Greenway Canterbury Concept. Our vision is a wildlife network across the Canterbury Plains between the mighty Waimakariri and the Rakaia—created by the people for the benefit of all and future generations. The concept is about fostering interest and enthusiasm and finding the resources to restore New Zealand's native plant communities. Te Ara Kakariki is a long-term vision, perhaps hundreds of years, spanning generations. Do have a look at the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation Web site for more details. Finally—have you voted for your favourite native plant? Entries close end of November. Check the NZPCN web site at www.nzpcn.org.nz.

Professor Ian Spellerberg, Lincoln University

Given Collection raises \$23,000 for Network – Wollemi Pine update

The recent auction of Wollemi pines—one of the rarest trees in the world—by Sotheby's in Sydney on Sunday 23 October was a huge success. Over \$1 million was raised for plant conservation. The Given Collection (named after David Given—Network member and world famous plant conservation scientist) eventually sold for \$23,000. Proceeds from this sale will come to the Network to help us to continue to work to protect New Zealand's globally important and unique native plant life.



Plant of the Month



Gentianella scopulorum. Photo: Gillian Crowcroft.

Plant of the month for November is the Nationally Critical *Gentianella scopulorum* (Charleston gentian). This is a tufted perennial plant up to 130 mm tall when flowering and is found in coastal areas, on rock ledges and associated coastal turfs, often within the spray zone. It is endemic to New Zealand and is confined to the west coast of South Island near Charleston. It is threatened by rock climbing, human traffic (trampling), goats, weeds and habitat deterioration.

The Network fact sheet may be found at the following link: http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=2355

Have you used your 5 votes?

This is your last chance to vote for your favourite plant. Voting in the third national Vote for your Favourite Plant competition closes on 30 November 2005. This project is being done in conjunction with the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation. You can vote via the Network website (see www.nzpcn.org.nz). Current voting has kowhai (*Sophora chathamica*) well in the lead. Over 1200 votes have been cast and over 168 species have received votes. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to vote also *and remember to use all of your 5 votes*. Results of this voting will be published in the Network newsletter shortly after.

Can you help provide images for the website?

We are seeking images for the following plant species to plug gaps in the Network website fact sheets. If you can help, please send them through to the Network (info@nzpcn.org.nz) or to John Sawyer (jsawyer@doc.govt.nz).

Anisotome patula (*Gingidia* "patula", *Ligusticium patulum* Kirk)

Calochilis herbaceous (as *C. aff. herbaceous*)

Hebe societatis

Uncinia perplexa

Wahlenbergia pygmaea subsp. *tararua*

Olearia polita

Triglochin striata

Dracophyllum longifolium var. *septentrionale*

D. urvilleanum

Seed banking and the Millennium Seed Bank

The following article was prepared by Steve Alton (of the Millennium Seed Bank) and is an overview of his presentation at the Network conference in August 2005.

***Ex situ* seed storage**

Seed banking takes advantage of the natural ability of many seeds to remain dormant in order to survive periods where environmental conditions are not suitable for germination. The benefits of seed banking are long term and achievable at relatively low cost. Of the 7000 plant species whose seed storage characteristics are known, 89% are thought have desiccation tolerant seeds and many of these are expected to remain viable in storage for at least 200 years. Seed banking has considerable advantages over other methods of *ex situ* conservation, such as ease of storage, economy of space, relatively low labour demands, and consequently the capacity to maintain large samples, each with wide genetic representation, at an economically viable cost.

The Millennium Seed Bank

The Millennium Seed Bank Project (MSBP) is an international plant conservation partnership, catalysed by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG Kew), in the UK. Bilateral research, training and capacity building relationships are supported world-wide in order to advance the conservation of wild plant species.

Access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is determined to honour the letter and spirit of the CBD, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and other international, regional, national and sub-national laws and policies concerning biodiversity. In support of the CBD, *the MSBP recognises the sovereign rights of states over their own biological resources and the authority of national governments to determine access to genetic resources subject to national legislation.* The interests of other stakeholders and rights holders, including indigenous and local communities and farmers, in biological resources and associated information are also acknowledged.

Collaboration

The MSBP currently works with over 40 partners in 17 countries, from the USA and South America to Africa, Madagascar and Australia. These major partnerships are formalised through long-term Access and Benefit-sharing Agreements. In addition to these major partnerships, the MSBP is actively pursuing collaborations with a range of other organisations engaged in wild-species seed conservation.

Following a successful visit by Steve Alton earlier this year, during which he attended the NZPCN Annual Conference, plans are being developed for a New Zealand native seed conservation programme. Christchurch Botanic Garden, Auckland Regional Botanic Garden and Oratia Native Plant Nurseries have already expressed an interest in participating, and funding is currently being sought to support this initiative. For further information, or to offer your support, please contact: Steve Alton – s.alton@rbgkew.org.uk

Plant conservationists gather for ‘crisis talks’ on the global strategy

At the end of October the world’s biodiversity experts gathered in Ireland to have “crisis talks” on how to halt plant extinction at The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation Conference. The implementation of the Global Strategy was discussed, particularly that while 188 governments worldwide have endorsed the Strategy only three (the UK, Columbia and the Seychelles), have

published government-backed national strategies to implement it. The conference implored the other 185 governments, who have failed to demonstrate how they intend to achieve these targets, to respond to this issue before it is too late. The New Zealand Government has signed up to the Global Strategy but has not yet developed an implementation plan or any national response to the strategy.

QE II Trust protecting threatened plants

Summary provided by Brian Molloy based on his talk at the Network conference

At the annual meeting and conference of the NZ Plant Conservation Network (NZPCN) in Christchurch in August, I gave a presentation on behalf of the QEII Trust on the Acutely Threatened Plants of New Zealand (the top 129) that are protected and managed within the Trusts network of registered Open Space Covenants. A summary of the numbers of plants involved, and their names, together with notes, are attached for your information and future reference. In my opinion, the protection of so many of our most threatened plants is an incredible achievement of the QEII family after a mere 28 years in operation. The overall picture is even better if threatened plants in other categories found in our covenants are included, together with the extraordinary range of habitats, plants, animals, landscapes, cultural values, etc, protected and managed within the Trust network. I encourage you to explore your covenants with the help of local experts and enthusiasts. You never know what rarities and plant novelties will emerge.



Lepidium matau—Nationally Critical plant that occurs in QEII covenants. Photo: John Barkla.

Acutely Threatened Plants Protected By QEII Covenants

| | Total No. of named and described species etc in each category | Total No. species etc found mostly on private land (excluding those confined to Crown conservation lands) | Total No. species etc protected in registered QE2 covenants (August 2005) | Percentages protected on private land |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Nationally Critical | 54 | 35 | 12 | 34 |
| Nationally Endangered | 54 | 42 | 11 | 26 |
| Nationally Vulnerable | 21 | 14 | 8 | 57 |
| Total | 129 | 91 | 31 | 34 |

Notes: Plants classified as Chronically Threatened or At Risk, and those still to be named and described and fully assessed have not been included in this survey. Acutely Threatened Plants that occur in approved but not registered Open Space Covenants on private land are not included. Also a few that occur in approved Open Space Covenants on Crown leasehold land are also excluded.

Acutely Threatened Plants in Registered QEII Covenants

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Nationally Critical | <i>Anisotome patula</i> <i>Carmichaelia hollowayi</i> <i>Christella dentata</i> <i>Gentianella calcis</i> subsp. <i>calcis</i> <i>Gentianella calcis</i> subsp. <i>taiko</i> <i>Gentianella calcis</i> subsp. <i>waipara</i> <i>Lepidium matau</i> <i>Mazus novaeseelandiae</i> subsp. <i>impolitus</i> f. <i>hirta</i> <i>Pachycladon exilis</i> <i>Poa spania</i> <i>Puccinellia raroflorens</i> <i>Sicyos australis</i> |
| Nationally Endangered | <i>Carex inopinata</i> <i>Carmichaelia kirkii</i> <i>Crassula peduncularis</i> <i>Heliohebe raoulii</i> subsp. <i>maccaskillii</i> <i>Olearia polita</i> <i>Pittosporum obcordatum</i> <i>Pittosporum patulum</i> <i>Pittosporum turneri</i> <i>Senecio scaberulus</i> <i>Simplicia laxa</i> <i>Todea barbara</i> |
| Nationally Vulnerable | <i>Australopyrum calcis</i> subsp. <i>optatum</i> <i>Dracophyllum urvilleanum</i> <i>Leptinella rotundata</i> <i>Muehlenbeckia astonii</i> <i>Olearia hectorii</i> <i>Ranunculus ternatifolius</i> <i>Scutellaria novae-zelandiae</i> |

Notes: Several Acutely Threatened Plants occur in more than one covenant, e.g., *Olearia hectorii* and *Pittosporum obcordatum*. And several covenants have more than one Acutely Threatened Plant, e.g., Foley's Northland with 3 and Awahokomo, north Otago with 4 and more to come as they are described and assessed. The largest numbers of these plants occur in covenants in Otago, Canterbury, Northland and Nelson in that order. Cliff, especially limestone, forest and coastal covenants provide the main habitats. Most if not all of these plants are entered in the Trust's covenant data base, and a great deal of information, illustrations etc about them is available on the NZ Plant Conservation Network web site www.nzpcn.org.nz

Call for articles for Australasian Plant Conservation

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation is now inviting articles (fewer than 1200 words) for the next issue (Dec–Feb). The theme is Threatened Ecological Communities: their conservation, management and restoration. Deadline for the Dec–Feb issue is **Mon 28 November**. They also welcome book reviews, titles of interesting recent publications or resources and where they can be found, conference, workshop, courses and fieldwork announcements, details of relevant publications, information resources and websites. Please send submissions to the ANPC National Office by fax, mail, email or on a diskette (The Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc (ANPC), GPO Box 1777, Canberra ACT 2601, email: anpc@deh.gov.au). If sending articles electronically, please send as a Microsoft Word or rich text format. Electronic images need to be at least 300 dpi resolution, submitted in at least the size that they are to be published, in tif, jpg or gif format.

IUCN joins Alcoa Foundation in launching fellowship programme

20 fellowships offered for conservation and sustainability research

Gland, Switzerland, 11 October 2005 (IUCN) – The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has been chosen as one of three leading Sustainability Institutes for the newly launched Alcoa Foundation's Conservation and Sustainability Fellowship Programme. The Fellowship Programme is designed to provide a non-degree opportunity for qualified mid-career sustainable development practitioners from NGOs to conduct intensive applied research in the field of conservation and sustainability.

In cooperation with the International Institute for Education (IIE), IUCN will assist in reviewing and selecting three to five practitioner fellows per year, for the five years of the program, to conduct research in the following areas:

1. The linkages of the cultural and spiritual values of indigenous peoples and protected area objectives;
2. Biodiversity conservation or sustainable use of biological resources;
3. The implications for conservation of major demographic trends, including ageing, urbanization and population movements;
4. The implications for biodiversity of alternative new forms of energy;
5. Corporate biodiversity management and reporting systems (including indicators) and the potential for synergy between corporate social responsibility (CSR) investment in social development and conservation outcomes.

Experts from the IUCN will be assigned as mentors for the fellows working on these research projects and will also participate in various worldwide networking events. Academic partners such as the London School of Economics or the University of São Paulo will host the fellows.

“The Alcoa Foundation's Conservation and Sustainability Fellowship Program offers a great opportunity for people with good ideas to take some time to think through their ideas, nurture them to a stage where they can be implemented, and then put them into practice. IUCN is looking forward to support the fellows in their work and hopes that they will be able to bring new knowledge into the conservation field and stimulate others to conserve,” said Jeffrey A. McNeely, IUCN Chief Scientist at the launch of the fellowship programme.

The Alcoa Foundation will support each fellow with a substantial annual stipend plus funding for a yearly meeting of the fellows.

Alcoa is the world's leading producer of primary aluminium, fabricated alumina. Alcoa Foundation actively invests in sources of positive community change as well as supporting national and international organizations to promote Areas of Excellence. By bringing together academic, NGO and business communities, the Fellowship Program will be a “new model of effective private philanthropic action to address urgent problems of global concern”.

If you are interested in more information about this programme please contact:

Institute of International Education, 1400 K Street, NW, Suite 650, Washington, D.C. 20005
affellows@iie.org, Fax: +202-326-7642

For more information contact:

Carolin Wahnbaeck, Media Relations Officer, Tel. +41 22 999 0127; Fax: +41 22 999 0020; carolin.wahnbaeck@iucn.org; Web: <http://iucn.org>

Jeffrey A. McNeely, IUCN Chief Scientist, Tel. +41 22 999 0284; Fax: +41 22 999 0020; jam@iucn.org; Web: <http://iucn.org>

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):

Wellington Botanical Society – Field trip: Saturday–Sunday 3/4 December

Overnight to Eastern Tararua Range, Wairarapa. Day 1: Botanise along Waiohine Valley track, Tararua Forest Park. See large rata, rimu. Hunt for orchids in flower. Meet: 9.00 a.m. opposite Wild Oats Café, north end of Carterton shops, corner of Belvedere Rd and SH2. Map S26 Carterton. Accommodation indoors and out. Potluck dinner Saturday. Day 2: Botanise private forest in the Tararua foothills at Te Pamu bush and another site. See tawa, beech, totara, kamahi-dominant forest and regenerating plant communities. Leader: Pat McLean ph 021 148 0259, e-mail: [mojomclean\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:mojomclean(at)hotmail.com). Wellington contact: Mick Parsons 473 1142 for transport offers/share.

Waikato Botanical Society – End of year picnic. Sunday 4 December 2005.

Joint event with Rotorua Botanical Society. We will meet at the Gudex Memorial Reserve on Sanatorium Hill (Pukemako). Our mission will include a search for the elusive mistletoe *Trilepidia adamsii* and you may be offered a botanical quiz (with prizes of course!). This will be a potluck picnic so bring something yummy to share, a picnic rug and the family if you wish. Contact: Liz Grove ph 07 846 0965 or eg3@waikato.ac.nz. Meet: at the Landcare carpark, Gate 10 Silverdale Rd, Hamilton at 10.30 a.m. or at the Gudex Memorial obelisk at the reserve at 11 a.m. For further queries or information please contact Waikato Botanical Society at bot_soc@waikato.ac.nz or by post: c/- Biology Department, University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton

Botanical Society of Otago – A journey southwards to the subantarctic islands. Wednesday 7 December, 2005.

Start time: 5:20 PM. A talk by Adrienne Markey. The flora of the sub-antarctic islands, and its affinities to the flora of New Zealand has always held the interest of botanists, starting from Joseph Dalton Hooker on the Antarctic voyages of the H.M. Discovery Ships Erebus and Terror (1839 – 1843), to recent research using molecular markers to track the dispersal and evolution of plants in these regions. So, with great boldness and audacity, I found myself able to also make a direct comparison of these regions. Yes, the origins and evolution of the Sub-Antarctic plants fascinate me, and it offered a chance to collect both *Coprosma perpusilla* ssp. *subantarctica* and *Nertera depressa* from their southernmost distributions and to complement current studies that I and fellow researchers had in progress. This talk will cover a week-long trip with Heritage Expeditions that Alex Fergus and I took part in earlier this year, and will show some of the glamorous megaphyllous herbs as well as a token seabird or two. 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. Followed by BSO End of year Dinner, 7 pm - see [more details](#). Contact [Allison Knight](#), phone: (03) 479 7577.

Botanical Society of Otago – End of year Dinner. Wednesday 7 December, 2005

Start time: 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to celebrate another great botanical year at an end-of-year dinner at the Nanking Palace Restaurant, 198-204 King Edward St, South Dunedin, Ph 455 4218. It will be a banquet-style dinner which will cost \$21.50 per head (drinks extra). This restaurant is fully licenced and BYO wine. To RSVP, either contact Lyn Bentley (details below), send a note to the BSO, PO Box 6214 Dunedin North, or drop a note into the BSO pigeon hole in the Department of Botany. Please RSVP by Tuesday 29 November.

Contact [Lyn Bentley](#), phone: 03 467 9616.

Wellington Botanical Society Field trip – Saturday 17 December: Hutt City flowering rata walk – Crimson Trail.

See up to forty northern rata, *Metrosideros robusta*, and some southern rata, *M. umbellata*, in flower, as you walk through Lower Hutt city and suburbs! – an 11 km (4 hour) walk or shorter to suit yourself. Map supplied. Meet at 9 a.m. Hutt City i-SITE Visitor Centre, The Pavilion, 25 Laings Road, Lower Hutt. Bring lunch and a drink. Leader is Dave Holey, ph 566 3124. Transport: Stagecoach Flyer bus: 8.05 a.m. from Courtenay Place, Wellington. 8.25 a.m. from Upper Hutt. Alight: Bunny Street, Lower Hutt. Walk south along Bunny Street, turn right onto Knights Road, then second left onto Laings Road. The i-SITE Visitor Centre is on your left, next to The Dowse, and opposite the Horticultural Hall. Have a read of Dave Holey's article, Rata in the lower Hutt Valley published in a previous newsletter in which he explained his interest in northern rata, *Metrosideros robusta* and southern rata, *M. umbellata*, and gave the locations of trees he has found in Lower Hutt's suburbs. Dave will share his interest again on Saturday 17 December when he will lead this year's walk to visit up to forty rata. Plan to join us for this special addition to our programme, timed to coincide with the spectacle of the rata in flower!