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

E-NEWSLETTER: NO 59. OCTOBER 2008 Deadline for next issue: Friday 14 November 2008

Message from the President

Many thanks to Peter de Lange, Jill Broome, Ed Chignall and Di Carter for contributing to this month's Newsletter. The account by Peter de Lange about the rediscovery of a native hibiscus in New Zealand is quite enthralling as well as being a significant contribution to conservation science. I would suggest that such events should be high profile news in the media. I know how hard it is to have plant and conservation topics accepted by the media—unless the topic is controversial or a disaster. The information about the Percy Scenic Reserve is a splendid example of what we need for the Newsletter. he same applies to Di Carter's notes about rare plants of the Christchurch Port Hills rock outcrops. These articles are valuable contributions to the ongoing discussions about local plant conservation projects. There must be lots more potential articles out there. Please keep them coming in and, in doing so, make a valuable contribution to the Newsletter and the work of the Network. Ed Chignall's piece is very much appreciated and I look forward to a long and productive partnership with Treescape.

As well as sharing experiences from research or field work, it is also good to share views about what you have read recently. There is so much going on in plant conservation in New Zealand and throughout the world that it is impossible for any one person to keep up to date. In my case, I was reading a recent issue of the BGjournal (*Journal of the Botanic Gardens Conservation International*) and was particularly interested to learn more about the valuable role of urban botanic gardens in addressing crises of plant conservation in cities. There are many success stories around the world and, of course, here in New Zealand there are also some excellent examples of how botanic gardens contribute to local plant conservation. Having said that, I wonder to what extent people see urban botanic gardens as part of the mosaic of sites for plant conservation in cities. Reflecting on what I had read, I could not help but also ask myself to what extent do groups responsible for plants in cities collaborate to support not only native plant conservation but also sustainability objectives. I suggest there are many projects that would make excellent projects for students and help to promote greater use of ecological and biogeographical principles in plant conservation.

Finally, spring must be here because the kowhai are dripping with blossom and the cabbage trees appear to be heading for a particularly abundant mass of flower heads. I hope these and other signs of spring amongst our precious flora will remind you all to be ever vigilant in our efforts to collaborate, protect and restore New Zealand's indigenous plant life, their natural habitats and associated species. I do fear that plant conservation will face considerable challenges and threats in the next few years as a result of economic and political pressures.

Ian Spellerberg
Lincoln University

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Myosotis laeta*

Plant of the Month for October is the Range Restricted *Myosotis laeta* (Red Hills Forget-me-not). This is an endemic confined to the Red Hills of South Island. This dark reddish-green perennial herb is probably not threatened. However, the only known population is very small and susceptible to trampling. Wilding pines are a major threat to the whole of the Red Hills. The Network fact sheet for *Myosotis laeta* was written by Peter de Lange from herbarium specimens and may be found at: www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=606

Myosotis laeta. Photo: Alastair Robertson.

Hibiscus richardsonii – the rediscovery of a native hibiscus in New Zealand

Peter J. de Lange, Department of Conservation (pdelange@doc.govt.nz)

In May 1981 while on a field trip to Tuhua (Mayor Island) I saw for the first time the so called "native hibiscus" (*Hibiscus trionum*) in the wild. It wasn't flowering then, so I collected some seed to grow. Later that year my seed-grown plants flowered and I was perplexed to see that unlike the typical form of *H. trionum* then (as now) so widely cultivated in New Zealand, Tuhua plants had smaller paler flowers and, more importantly, the petal bases lacked the distinctive dark maroon-black blotching seen in the garden grown *H. trionum* plants (here after called "blotched"). There were other subtle vegetative differences too, and collectively these led me to write to Bill Sykes (then of DSIR Botany Division) to ask his opinion on the status of Tuhua plants. Bill replied saying that Tuhua plants were not that unusual, that similar plants occurred elsewhere in northern New Zealand, and further that as part of his treatment of the Malvaceae for the upcoming Volume IV of the *New Zealand Flora* series he was going to treat *H. trionum* as naturalised. Well at 14 years of age I was hardly one to argue with the expert though I still thought that the "unblotched" as I came to call it Tuhua plant was very distinct. So for some years I played about with hybridizing it with "blotched". It crossed readily, the progeny was fully fertile and the F_2 and F_3 selfed progeny gave the typical Mendelian pattern suggestive that flower colour and size was a doubly recessive trait. However, beyond lodging vouchers of these dabblings at the University of Waikato Herbarium (WAIK) I soon forgot all about it.

Late in 1991, I again found the "unblotched" plant I had first seen at Tuhua, this time on the rocky crags of the Pinnacle, Unuwhao Bush, Te Paki. Interestingly, in discussion with the then Conservation Advisory Scientist for the Wanganui Conservancy, Department of Conservation, Colin Ogle mentioned his dissatisfaction over the status of "unblotched" *H. trionum*. It transpired that at about the same time that I was writing to Bill Sykes, so was Colin, having seen the same form wild near Tom Bowling Bay, Te Paki. Colin too thought that "unblotched" was distinct from "blotched" *H. trionum*. Bill Sykes's Malvaceae treatment had now been published in Flora IV (Webb et al. 1988) and neither of us could reconcile the description offered there for *H. trionum* with the plant we knew from remote northern North Island locations. So I began a worldwide search of *H. trionum* to determine if similar "unblotched" plants occurred elsewhere. Apparently they didn't. As a result, in 1993, both of us successfully put "unblotched" *H. trionum* forward to the New Zealand Threatened Plant Panel, as a potentially new and as yet undescribed endemic *Hibiscus*. It has remained listed as "Taxonomically Indeterminate" in various versions of the New Zealand Threatened Plant list ever since (see Cameron et al. 1993; de Lange et al. 2004).

The next step—determining the taxonomic status of "unblotched" was going to be more complicated. An indigenous status could be inferred from the fact that "unblotched" was the only form present in gatherings older than c.1860, after which "blotched" plants showed up, first—it seems—near Whangarei (where it is still locally common) and much later (1894) near Kaitaia, after which it became the dominant form collected by New Zealand botanists. It seemed safe to assume that "blotched"—which is the form described in Flora IV (see Webb et al. 1988) was naturalised, and "unblotched" wasn't. The next phase involved counting their chromosomes. Worldwide counts had already indicated that *H. trionum* was tetraploid ($2n = 56$) perhaps "unblotched" wasn't (though of course I had forgotten about my early hybridisation experiments). Here I got a surprise—both "blotched" and "unblotched" New Zealand plants were diploid ($2n = 28$) (de Lange & Murray 2002), which, of course, explained why the hybrids could be fully fertile. Perplexed I left the study alone—after all, world literature showed that *H. trionum* was now distributed worldwide, and there was some ambiguity over where the type had actually come from. At this stage a chance meeting in 2003 with Lyn Craven (CSIRO, Australia) revealed that he was actively revising *H. trionum* in Australia, and that he too was most dissatisfied with the Australian view that their plants were all introduced. Lyn had seen the published New Zealand chromosome counts, so he asked if I could do the Australian ones as well, and then perhaps we could work together on a revision of the Australian – New Zealand members of the complex. I agreed and, together with Brian Murray of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland, we worked on the Australian plants. Lyn also asked for representative samples of the New Zealand forms, and when he grew these on I was most surprised to find that the "blotched" plant of New Zealand did not match anything in Australia either. Further, Lyn was surprised to discover that our "unblotched" plant matched one herbarium gathering from New South Wales they held at Canberra (CANB). A quick search of that area revealed the "unblotched" plants were still present, so seed of these were sent back to us in New Zealand. Our chromosome counts revealed that all the Australian material except the "unblotched" plant from New South Wales were tetraploid. "Unblotched" New South Wales plants were, like their New Zealand counterpart, diploid. Further, they were an exact match for New Zealand "unblotched" plants. So at least we now knew that "unblotched" was not endemic but shared with Australia. The results of this investigation have now been published in the *New Zealand Journal of Botany (*Murray et al. 2008).

The indigenous *Hibiscus richardsonii* (left) and the diploid "blotched" form of *H. trionum.*

That left the final stage of this research—the actual revision—to complete. This work depended largely on Lyn's superior expertise of the genus and species. All was progressing well until late 2005 when Lyn was diagnosed with a serious terminal illness. Without his input, Brian Murray and I soon realised that any revision, in isolation, in New Zealand, seemed unlikely to work. However, miracles do happen and Lyn went into remission and he is still working on the complex. In the process, a few weeks ago he found that the Australian and New Zealand "unblotched" plants already have a name—they were described from Australian material in 1825 by John Lindley as *Hibiscus richardsonii*.

As for the "blotched" diploid form of *H. trionum*, we still have no idea where it has come from. It is apparently not present in Australia, and the few African forms of *H. trionum* we have seen don't match this plant either. Currently, on chromosomal evidence, one could suggest it is indigenous to New Zealand as well, simply because all other world published counts for the "species" are tetraploid. However, based on its sudden appearance near a port town in the 1860s and subsequent rapid spread through Northland, we suspect that it has come to New Zealand as a cultigen from somewhere else in the world. Further study is needed to resolve this issue.

As for *Hibiscus richardsonii*, because it is the only species present in New Zealand before 1860, and because the collections came from what are even by today's standards still very remote parts of northern New Zealand, we see no reason whatsoever to regard it as naturalised. This view is also supported by the fact that it is this species, not "blotched" *H. trionum* that was mentioned by early New Zealand-based naturalists such as Richard Taylor and William Colenso. It is also the one illustrated in early works of the New Zealand flora—for example Fanny Osborne's painting of it from Great Barrier Island (Goulding 1983).

It is ironic though, that it is the "blotched" form of *H. trionum* that has come to supplant *H. richardsonii* in people's minds as indigenous. For example, it is this plant which is described by Allan (1961) in Flora I, and it is the "blotched" form which is also illustrated by Audrey Eagle (Eagle 1975, 2006) as "native". Matters are also complicated by the fact that it is this plant which is still widely sold by garden centres as our native species (despite the comments that it is a weed in Flora IV (Webb et al. 1988)).

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Colin Ogle who re-activated my interest in the problem of our "native" *Hibiscus*, and both Brian Murray and Lyn Craven for their help, encouragement and comments on a draft of this short note.

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Percy Scenic Reserve news

Jill Broome, Excell Corp (Jill.Broome@excellcorp.co.nz)

Percy Scenic Reserve is located on the side of State Highway 2 at Korokoro, 5 km from Petone Beach at the north end of Wellington harbour. The reserve is 13 ha comprising regenerating coastal broadleaf forest. The reserve was named after Joseph Hewlett Percy, one of the first settlers in the area. He built some of the early structures, bridges and buildings in the Hutt Valley, using felled native timbers from the area.

The Percy brothers (Joseph's sons) were into conservation in the late 1800s and started to plant their bit of bush with NZ native plants. Some of the plantings remain today, such as 100+ year old *Cordyline australis* planted around the duck pond. By chance, the father of New Zealand science, Sir James Hector, lived next door and encouraged the boys to utilise the diverse plants from the NZ botanic region, such as *Nothofagus* spp., *Agathis australis*, *Vitex lucens* and NZ conifer species. By happy coincidence and through hard lobbying, the Wellington Botanical Society and local residents, Gerald Davidson and Kate & Barry Malcolm, brought about annexation of the Hector Estate, which adjoins Percy Scenic Reserve. The Hector Estate was renamed Ratanui Park (after the Hector house) and leased to Hutt City Council from 1 September 2006 for a 5 + 5 year lease from Transit NZ.

At Percy Scenic Reserve we cultivate threatened species in variously themed gardens around the main lawns, duck pond and dam areas including Northland, Fernery, Chatham Is, Mt Burnett, NW Nelson, Offshore Islands and Coastal. In the nursery area, there are several greenhouses and an alpine rockery displaying the Druce Collection and other herbaceous plants and many threatened

plants. Percy Scenic Reserve has for a long time had an association with the Department of Conservation. Seed or cuttings of threatened species are supplied to the nursery for propagation or bulking up, and the plants are grown on and returned to wild areas.

Some of Percy Scenic Reserve work has resulted in:

Muehlenbeckia astonii—contained planting at Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve, and urban street plantings.

Pimelea actea (formerly tagged *P.* "Himatangi")—translocated to new sites and now being grown by Palmerston North locals.

C*elmisia* "Mangaweka"—reinstatement to wild sites in the Rangitikei area.

Brachyglottis turneri—reinstatement to fenced area in the upper reaches of Whanganui River.

Sebaea ovata—new sites at Kaipara Harbour and Farewell Spit, reinstatement to old site at Whitiau Scientific Reserve, Wanganui.

Gentianella scopulorum—reinstatement to the cliffs at Charleston, Buller.

Coastal plants—for Petone and Eastbourne community eco-sourced plantings.

We were honoured to provide the plant display for the 2008 NZPCN conference at Te Papa.

If you were at the conference and procured some of the *Lepidium banksii* (Totaranui, Abel Tasman National Park) seedlings provided, please e-mail Shannel Courtney at DOC Nelson (scourtney@doc.govt.nz) with your details. Please collect seed from the plants and send them to Shannel at the DOC area office so that the DOC rangers Simon Walls and Roger Gaskell can redistribute to the wild.

Percy S.R. is maintained by Excell Corporation (now sold to Downer EDI Works as at 1 October 2008) under contract to Hutt City Council.

For information or tours (by appointment) please contact me at: e-mail Jill.Broome@excellcorp.co.nz; ph: 04 570 6505; fax: 04 5706506; mobile: 021 541 879.

Treescape sponsors NZPCN website

Ed Chignell CEO, Treescape (ed@treescape.co.nz)

Earlier this year, Ed Chignell (Treescape CEO) and Jo Ritchie (Treescape ecologist) met with Professor Ian Spellerberg. Prof. Spellerberg introduced NZPCN and stated that one of the issues with maintaining and expanding the network is resourcing, particularly as it relates to the website. As a result of this conversation, Treescape has agreed to sponsor the costs of running the website on an annual basis.

Treescape is a wholly NZ owned company specialising in commercial arboricultural work. Treescape operates throughout New Zealand and more recently in Brisbane, Australia. The company specialises in tree and vegetation management. This includes a range of contracts for utility companies and territorial local authorities. It also includes more specialised work such as the vegetation management contract for ONTRACK, which covers the rail network throughout NZ.

In order to create a more environmentally sustainable system for managing vegetation along the rail corridor, Treescape and ONTRACK have been jointly trialling the use of low growing native species. The project known as Greenway's was partly inspired by the Te Ara Kakariki initiative developed by a group of Canterbury locals including Prof. Spellerberg. Like Te Ara Kakariki, the Greenway's project wants to create corridors and stepping stones of native vegetation. The project also aims to reduce the prevalence of noxious weeds and, in so doing, reduce maintenance commitments and particularly the use of agrichemicals.

The first trials are underway now with plantings in the Auckland and Wellington metro areas around Greenlane, Ngauranga and Plimmerton. It is hoped that the success of these plantings will inspire ONTRACK and regional and local councils to expand this initiative.

Treescape has been in business for 27 years. Its continued success in the competitive environment of vegetation management is largely a result of implementing business principles where innovation and diversification into new areas are key drivers. The desire to expand the business into the field of ecological restoration reflects these principles. Carbon monitoring and sequestration are a part of this new work area.

Treescape's CEO is committed to reducing the company's carbon footprint and aims to be at the forefront of carbon management in New Zealand and integrate this knowledge into the vital area of biodiversity/ecological restoration. To date, this has involved considerable research and knowledge building, the employment of an ecologist and the forging of relationships and collaborative partnerships with others working in this field. The sponsorship of the NZPCN website is seen as one of a number of ways in which Treescape can demonstrate its commitment to environmental sustainability.

Rare plants of the Christchurch Port Hills rock outcrops

Di Carter, Christchurch City Council

In 2006, a series of annual vegetation surveys to cover the extent of the Port Hills rock outcrops was commissioned by the Port Hills Ranger Service to identify the locations and abundance of a number of threatened plant species known to be present on the Port Hills, and to identify the threats and management needs of these populations. The surveys have proved fruitful in the discovery of some new records of threatened plant species.

Grassy mat sedge (*Carex inopinata*)

This *Carex* species is endemic to the eastern South Island and had not been recorded on Banks Peninsula until 2006 when discovered in the Port Hills survey. Its status is Nationally Endangered. However, the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network has defined the status as Data Poor in the interim because new sites found in Otago and Southland suggest the species is more widespread. On the Port Hills, this small *Carex* is vulnerable to grazing and trampling because it occurs in light shade under large boulders, broadleaf trees or gullies where sheep tend to shelter. The largest and most vulnerable population has been fenced to exclude sheep from camping under the broadleaf. A longer term option of fencing the entire bluff area to allow for limited and controlled grazing is currently being pursued, to protect not only the *Carex* but a superb collection of regenerating small-leaved shrubs.

Banks Peninsula forget-me-not (*Myosotis australis* var. *lytteltonensis*)

A tiny forget-me-not once found in the North and South Islands in the early part of last century is now known to be present only on Banks Peninsula. Its status is Nationally Critically Threatened and, in 1999, it was known in only three locations. Five new locations of *Myosotis* populations have been discovered over the past two years of the Port Hills survey. The Department of Conservation has a replanting programme for *Myosotis* that is proving successful on Port Hills roadsides and reserves.

Blanket fern (*Pleurosorus rutifolius*)

Blanket fern was studied on the Port Hills by the late David Given in the early 1970s (Given, 1972) in one of the accessible bluff systems. At this site, he found 116 plants growing in distinct groups of 1 to 11 individuals. Resurvey of the bluffs in 2007 revealed a considerable decline; within the same estimated area David Given had studied there were only four scattered plants. However, the 2007 and 2008 surveys highlighted other locations of blanket fern in other bluff systems but also with sparse numbers of 2–10 plants in each population. The greatest threats are weeds such as polypodium fern (*Polypodium vulgare*), spur valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), pig's ear (*Cotyledon orbiculata*), pinwheel aeonium (*Aeonium haworthii*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) and wallflower (*Cheiranthus cheiri*).

Spur valerian is currently being controlled in the Heathcote Bluffs to prevent further spread, and trials are in progress to find a control for polypodium fern. Funding for research to monitor impacts of weeds on threatened plant populations, particularly for the apparently declining blanket fern, is being sought.

Small leaved shrub communities

The small leaved shrub communities around the rock outcrops are generally healthy, vigorous and regenerating well, except where stock pressure is high and shrubs are grazed. Again these regenerating remnants of dry shrublands would benefit from exclusion of grazing, particularly the Heathcote Bluffs.

Localised threatened plant hot spots

One of the intriguing results from the three years of surveys is that each rock outcrop seems to be a hotspot for either Enys aniseed (*Gingidia enysii*), white fuzzweed (*Vittadinia australis*), fan-leaved mat daisy (*Raoulia monroi*), annual jersey fern (*Annogramma leptophylla*) or grassy mat sedge (*Carex inopinata*) and blanket fern (*Pleurosorus rutifolius*), or for unique combinations of threatened and less common species.

Each of these outcrops will be resurveyed on a five year rotation to search for missed or new populations and to ensure populations found in the initial surveys are clear of threatening weed species, at least to within a 0.5 m radius.

Given, D.R. 1972: *Pleurosorus rutifolius* (R.Br.) Fee (Aspleniaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 10*: 495-506.

Dr Patrick Brownsey awarded 2008 Allan Mere

In early August, it was announced by Wellington Botanical Society President, Dr Carol West, that Dr Patrick Brownsey had been awarded the 2008 Allan Mere by the New Zealand Botanical Society. The Allan Mere, a piece of nephrite/pounamu carved in the form of a mere or patu (a traditional hand club weapon of the Maori), was gifted to the former DSIR Botany Division by the late Dr Lucy Moore. It was Moore's intention that the mere be awarded to DSIR staff that had made an outstanding contribution to New Zealand botany. The epithet "Allan" was chosen by Moore to honour Dr Harry Allan, the lead author of Volume 1 of the New Zealand Flora series and the first Director of the DSIR Botany Division. Following the "dismemberment" of the DSIR Botany Division during the late 1980s and early 1990s the annual gifting of the Allan Mere was, at the suggestion of Dr Peter Wardle, taken over by the New Zealand Botanical Society.

Dr Brownsey has (and continues to have) a distinguished career in New Zealand pteridology. He is probably best known to New Zealanders for his revision of *Asplenium* (a genus that has been his life-long passion) and senior authorship of the seminal "*New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants*", a book that was co-written with Sir John Smith-Dodsworth in 1989 and is now into its second edition. However, Patrick has made a much greater contribution than this, both as an internationally respected biosystematist, herbarium curator (Patrick manages the herbarium WELT at Te Papa—Museum of New Zealand); moss expert and even "Curator of Stamps" at Te Papa. Author of over 100 papers, Patrick has long been respected as the expert in this country on all things fern related. In his later years, he managed the FRST-funded *Hebe* monograph that was completed in 2006 by Drs Mike Bayly and Ali Kellow, and he is now a major contributing member to the FRST-funded Outcome Based Investment "Defining New Zealand's Biodiversity". Patrick is a well respected and important mentor of young New Zealand botanists. However, Patrick's other roles in New Zealand botany have often gone—as he would greatly prefer it—unrecognised. With the 2008 Allan Mere award, it is pleasing to see that all these contributions have indeed been appreciated by the myriad people who supported his nomination by the Wellington Botanical Society. Congratulations, Patrick!

New Zealand lichen flora author awarded prestigious Acharius medal

Dr David Galloway FRSNZ, FLS (Hon. Research Associate, Landcare Research, Dunedin and member of the NZPCN) was recently awarded the Acharius Medal by the International Association for Lichenology, at their Sixth Congress (IAL 6) held this year at Asilomar on the Monterey Peninsula, California. The medal is awarded every four years, for "outstanding contributions to lichenology" and this is only the second time the award has been made to a Southern Hemisphere lichenologist. Dr Galloway, who joins some 25 Acharius Medallists worldwide, has studied lichens of the temperate Southern Hemisphere for the past 45 years, and is the author of *Flora of New Zealand Lichens*, the revised 2nd edition of which was published last December by Manaaki Whenua Press (Lincoln), both as a two-volume set and also on-line.

The Acharius medal, which is the IAL's premier award, commemorates the Swedish lichenologist, Erik Acharius (1757–1819). Acharius was educated in Uppsala (he was Linnaeus's last pupil), Stockholm and Lund, from where he graduated MD in 1782. In 1789, he was appointed provincial health officer of the Vadstena district and later he became the chief physician of the sanatorim there. It was in Vadstena that he undertook his long and significant researches into systematic lichenology, leading to his segregation of the old collective genus Lichen into more closely defined, smaller, independent genera, thereby laying the foundations of modern lichen taxonomy. Acharius is rightly regarded as the Father of Lichenology. In 1846, a silver medal was struck in his honour by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and the die of this medal was discovered in 1992 in the Swedish Mint, which subsequently allowed the IAL to use it for their award. Thirteen foundation Acharius Medals were awarded in 1992 by the IAL at the Second IAL Congress (IAL 2) at Hemmesloev, Sweden, and since then a further 16 medals have been awarded, usually at 4-yearly Congresses of the IAL. Congratulations David!

New York Times article

On September 9, an article appeared in the New York Times. It was brought to our attention by a Network member, Professor Dennis Woodland. Some of you may have seen the article or even the original paper by Sax and Gaines in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in August on which the newspaper article was based. The newspaper report was headed "Friendly Invaders". Features of New Zealand's flora were cited in the opening paragraphs of the newspaper report. That report says that the authors contend that predators rather than competitors lead to extinctions of endemic organisms. After an approach by John Sawyer, one of the co-authors, Dr Dov Sax, who is also a member of the Network, has agreed to submit an article for publication in Trilepidea. I am sure we look forward to this contribution.

Network website issues

The on-line form to join the Network and the seed bank collector form are not working at present. If you would like to join the Network (or know of anyone else who does), please e-mail details through to the Network at info@nzpcn.org.nz or else download a hard copy of the joining form. If you wish to register as a seed collector, then please e-mail the Network indicating why you want to register and what experience you have working with threatened plants. We hope to have the problems resolved soon.

Council meeting

The Network Council will meet in Wellington on Thursday 23 October. If you have any issues that you would like the Council to discuss, please contact the secretary, John Sawyer (jsawyer@doc.govt.nz) before the meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have important events or news that you would like publicised via this newsletter please e-mail the Network (events@nzpcn.org.nz):

Auckland Botanical Society

Field trip: 24–27 October, Labour Weekend Camp on Waiheke Island.	**Contact:** Maureen Young (e-mail: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz).
Meeting: Wednesday 5 November, two talks: one titled "Galapagos Gallivanting" by Alison Wesley, and the second titled "Wild Flowers of Italy" by Mike Wilcox. **Venue:** Unitec School of Natural Sciences Gate 3, Building 023, Room 1018.	**Contact:** Maureen Young (e-mail: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz)
Field trip: Saturday 15 November to Waiuku Forest.	**Contact:** Maureen Young (e-mail: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz)
Dinner: Saturday 6 December an end-of-year pot luck dinner, with a workshop on wetland plants taken by Paul Champion.	**Contact:** Maureen Young (e-mail: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz)
Field trip: 3–10 January to Chatham Island.	**Contact:** Maureen Young (e-mail: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz)
Field trip: 16–20 January the Ruahine Camp, Sixtus Lodge.	**Contact:** Maureen Young (e-mail: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz)

Waikato Botanical Society

Field trip: Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November to Pokaiora clearing, Waihaha, Pureora Forest Park and *Teucridium* survey, Mapara Scenic Reserve. **Meet:** Saturday 10.00 a.m., Waihaha Track car park, Western Bays Road. Sunday, 10.00 a.m. Mapara Scenic Reserve, Mapara Road (take SH4, then turn right onto Tikitiki Road, Mapara Road is the first on the right). **Accommodation:** Please let Thomas know if you are interested in overnight accommodation for these trips.	**Contact:** Thomas Emmitt ph (wk): 07 878 1055 ph: (hm): 07 878 3437 e-mail: temmitt@doc.govt.nz
Field trip: Saturday 6 December to Te Tapui Scenic Reserve, near Matamata (combined trip with Rotorua Botanical Society). **Grade**: easy. **Meet:** 10.00 a.m. at the Matamata Information Centre, 45 Broadway, Matamata or 10.15 a.m. at the track entrance on Piakonui Road.	**Contact:** Kerry Jones ph (hm): 07 855 9700, ph (wk): 07 858 1055, ph (mob): 027 747 0733 e-mail: kmjones@doc.govt.nz

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field trip: Saturday 1 November to Lake Rotokawa wetland. **Grade:** hard. **Meet:** 9.00 a.m. at Rotorua District Council car park on Fenton St.	**Leader:** Sarah Beadel ph: 07 362 4315; 021 924 476, e-mail: Sarah@wildlands.co.nz
Field trip: Saturday 15 November to Okareka Mistletoe Restoration Project Weed Control/Plant Releasing Work Day. **Grade:** Medium-hard – activities suitable for all ages and abilities will be provided. The work will include releasing our September plantings from weed growth.	**Meet:** ex Okareka store 8.45 a.m. **Leader:** Paul Cashmore ph (hm): 07 348 4421 ph (wk): 349 7432

Wellington Botanical Society

Meeting: Monday 17 November Phil Garnock-Jones's research students will present aspects of their work.	**Venue:** Victoria University, Wellington, Lecture Theatre 101, Murphy Building, Kelburn Parade.
Field trip: Saturday 1 November to the Eastern Hutt catchment. **Meet:** 9.00 a.m. at Kaitoke Ranger Station, Waterworks Rd, off SH2 at Kaitoke. We will drive to end of 4WD road in Greater Wellington Regional Council vehicles. **Transport:** Catch 7.35 a.m. train from Wellington to Upper Hutt—ask leader to meet you.	**Leader:** Owen Spearpoint, GWRC, ph (wk): 04 526 4133 ph (hm): 04 562 8780 Booking is essential because numbers strictly limited.

Canterbury Botanical Society

Meeting: Friday 7 November, a talk titled 'Brooklands Lagoon and its salt marshes – ecological trends' by Graeme Worner, Royal Society Teaching Fellow, and Trevor Partridge, Christchurch City Botanist.	**Venue:** Room A5 University of Canterbury
Field trip: Saturday 8 November 2008 to Paul and Ruth Maurice's Covenant, Western Valley Road, Little River. Parking is *very* restricted at the Covenant entrance.	**Meet:** at 8.45 a.m. at Halswell Domain for car pooling and departure at 9.00 a.m.
Field trip: 13–16 November, Show Weekend camp at Kaikoura.	**Contact:** Trevor Blogg, ph: (03) 338 4697, e-mail: tblogg@xtra.co.nz
Summer Camp: Friday 9 January – Friday 16 January 2009 **Venue:** Totaranui Homestead, Abel Tasman National Park. Please provide your name(s) to Margaret Geerkens and send a deposit of $40 per person to **Canterbury Botanical Society, Summer Camp – Totaranui, P.O Box 8212, Riccarton, Christchurch 8440.** Please make your cheque payable to the Canterbury Botanical Society.	**Contact:** Margaret Geerkens ph: 03 352 7922 e-mail: bert.marg@xtra.co.nz

Botanical Society of Otago

Meeting: Wednesday 22 October 5.10 pm an illustrated talk tilted 'Ecosystem diversity in Bolivia' by Robin Mitchell. **Venue:** Zoology Benham Building, 346 Great King Street, behind the Zoology car park by the Captain Cook Hotel Benham Seminar Room, Rm. 215, 2nd floor. Please be prompt as we have to hold the door open.	**Contact:** Allison Knight ph: (03) 479 7577