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 99. FEBRUARY 2012 Deadline for next issue: Wednesday 14 March 2010

Council Member Guest Editorial

On the day after Boxing Day, I needed to take a vigorous walk to work off the excesses of Christmas so decided to go up Avalanche Peak in Arthur's Pass National Park. As I was leaving my car with my daypack on my back, I ran into a guy also heading off with his daypack on. As we were both walking on our own, we decided to walk together for some company. He is a geotech engineer from the UK, is relatively new to New Zealand, and had come to Christchurch to help with the infrastructure rebuild. After we'd been walking for a while, I saw *Dracophyllum traversii* (mountain nei-nei) ahead by the side of the track. I've always admired the form of this plant and how different it is from anything I'd seen in the eastern USA, where I'm originally from. So I enthusiastically pointed out this strange looking plant that seems to have come straight out of a Dr Suess book. The response—"I'm not interested in plants"—was not at all what I expected! I nearly stuttered, "B-b-but how could anyone not love this plant??" With the wind taken out of my sails, I continued to trudge on up the hill. When we'd made it above treeline, we came across a large group of Mt Cook lilies at the peak of their bloom. I said to my companion, "I know you aren't really interested in plants, but you've got to check out the world's largest buttercup; it's so attractive". There was probably a bit of pleading in my voice. "I've seen alpine flowers before," was the uninterested reply. I must admit I was a bit flabbergasted. How can anyone not find plants interesting or at least appreciate their beauty??? Given how important the attitudes of the general public are to plant conservation, what can we do to capture the interest of people such as my hiking partner? He was certainly interested in showing me evidence of fault lines (and, of course, I was interested), but I kept my botanizing to myself for the rest of the walk.

I went to the movies with some friends a couple days later and they told me of their Boxing Day ritual to walk up the Otira Valley, also in Arthur's Pass, to see the Mt Cook lilies. So 10 days later I went up there, this time with a more botanically inclined friend. First, we ducked over to the edge of the Arthur's Pass viaduct to see whether the southern rata was blooming (no luck this year). Then we proceeded on our walk. The Otira Valley is great for alpine floral displays because, if the blooming is finished at the start of the track, there still is a good chance that as you move farther up the valley the season will be a bit behind. We weren't disappointed; the Mt Cook lilies near the remaining snow patches at the head of the valley were stunning. Best of all, this time I was not alone in exclaiming over them.

Last weekend, I went up to the Mole Tops, near Nelson Lakes. The signs of late summer above treeline were there—alpine flowers dominated by *Gentianella*. Although I appreciate all native alpine flowers, I'm always a bit sad when I see *Gentianella* blooming because they signal to me that the alpine summer is coming to an end. Sigh.

Susan Wiser
Landcare Research

NEW FEATURE ON WEBSITE

A new feature has been added to the Quick Links box on the left hand side of the Home page. Using the link "Send us news" allows members to send relevant news stories for publication in the newsletter and/or publication on the website. We hope that members will make good use of this facility.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *OLEARIA QUINQUEVULNERA*

Olearia quinqevulnera. Photo: Colin Ogle.

Plant of the month for January is *Olearia quinquevulnera*, an endemic daisy found in the North Island in Te Urewera National Park, Erua Forest and Mt Egmont National Park and in the South Island in North West Nelson, and from a single site in North Canterbury. Although naturally uncommon, with very disjunct populations, the majority of known populations appear to be thriving.

Forming a shrub up to 2.2 m tall, with slender, divaricating branchlets, it is usually found in soils that are poorly drained or permanently wet, ranging from montane to subalpine areas, on valley floors, forest margins, below cliffs and on the margins of swamps. Flowers are small with white ray florets and yellow disc florets, appearing in spring and summer. Small, rounded, 2–7 toothed leaves are dull green on the upper surface; the lower surface is creamy and densely hairy.

Although easy to propagate from seed and cuttings, it is rather difficult to maintain in cultivation, being prone to fungal diseases and disliking humidity and drought.

The Network factsheet for *Olearia quinquevulnera* can be found at www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=292:

NZPCN visioning workshop

We have a Network workshop planned for Friday 9 March (in Wellington) to create a new vision for the Network website / plant information system. This work is funded by TFBIS and various people and organisations have been invited. However, input before the workshop from the general membership is also welcome.

The objective of this one day workshop is to determine how the Network's online plant information system can be developed over the next 5 years. That means we want to hear your ideas on how we could make it more useful for you and others. How do we improve communication about plants to help achieve plant conservation outcomes? This can include big picture ideas or specific suggestions for immediate improvement.

As you will know, the Network's website has become a vital source of information about the flora of New Zealand, and receives more than half a million visits annually. It has:

- Over 6,500 species pages
- 23,000 plant images
- A quiz and shop
- Publications for sale
- A phenology recording system (for observations of flowering and fruiting)
- An automated book maker to allow users to make their own personalised plant books

Please send your queries about this initiative, and any thoughts or comments about how the Network should develop its website to info@nzpcn.org.nz. We look forward to hearing from a wide range of members about this exciting new initiative to set the direction for the Network's plant information management for the next 5 years.

Kauri under threat

Nick Farland, Senior Communications Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Nick.Farland@maf.govt.nz

Our treasured taonga is under threat from kauri dieback disease that has already killed thousands of kauri trees and will spread further unless all forest users take action.

The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network's annual competition for 'New Zealand's favourite native plant' attracted thousands of votes. With over 2350 species to choose from, New Zealanders picked kauri as the second favourite native plant in 2011.

New Zealanders see kauri as playing a huge part of who we are. Its taonga status derives from its mythical origins and present day importance to our biodiversity, ecotourism economics and our innate sense of what New Zealand is. Kauri contributes to our national identity, spiritual wellbeing, economic prosperity from tourism and our overall biodiversity and interconnected forest ecosystems.

Some great quotes left on the voting site give some insights to this:

"Like an old grandfather clock that in some odd way seems to be older than time itself the kauri is ancient and majestic"—Alistair

"Kauri is an extreme plant. It can grow extremely big, extremely old and is extremely beautiful. It also has extreme effects on its environment that allows a suite of allied and unusual species to grow with it"—Bruce

"The majestic presence of Tane Mahuta in the Waipoua Forest is an iconic image for Northland and NZ, standing for over 2000 years and watching over our growth. I like that kauri change over time, growing shoulder to shoulder with others for the first 20 years of its life, then begins to change and stand out from the crowd."—Sue

"Its majesty, its place in the forest community, its beauty and its mana make it stand head and shoulders above the rest—Rachel

Many voters were aware of the threat to kauri that has emerged from kauri dieback disease.

Kauri dieback is a fungus-like disease specific to New Zealand kauri that can kill trees of all ages. Microscopic spores in the soil infect kauri roots and damage the tissues that carry nutrients within the tree. Infected trees show a range of symptoms including yellowing of foliage, loss of leaves, canopy thinning, dead branches and lesions that bleed resin at the base of the trunk. It is believed to have been introduced from overseas.

Spores of kauri dieback were first discovered along with sick kauri on Great Barrier Island in the 1970s. Identification methods at the time led to these samples being misclassified. Kauri Dieback was formally identified in April 2008 as *Phytophthora taxon Agathis (or PTA).* Its closest known relative is a chestnut pathogen from Taiwan.

The disease has killed trees in the Waitakere Ranges, on private land throughout the Auckland region, in the forest plantations of Omahuta, Glenbervie and Russell in Northland, Department of Conservation reserves at Okura, Albany, Pakiri, Great Barrier Island, Trounson Kauri Park and Waipoua Forest in Northland, home of our most iconic kauri—Tane Mahuta. At this stage, the disease has not been detected in many areas of Northland forest, the Hunua Ranges, Hauraki Gulf Islands (excluding Great Barrier) and the Coromandel Peninsula. It's imperative that we protect these uninfected areas.

Since 2009, MAF, the Department of Conservation, Auckland Council, Northland Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council have joined forces to cover research into the detection and spread of kauri dieback, methods to control it and public awareness

A healthy kauri (left) and dead tree. Photos courtesy of the Kauri dieback programme.

campaigns to help stop its spread. The other programme partner is the Tāngata Whenua Roopū. Since first learning of kauri dieback, tāngata whenua throughout the kauri catchment were keen to be involved in an issue critical to the health and wellbeing of their taonga, the mighty kauri. One of the ways this has happened is through the establishment of a Tāngata Whenua Roopū where interested marae, hapū, iwi and Māori owned Land Blocks can nominate a representative to sit on the TWR. TWR provides advice from a tāngata whenua perspective into all aspects of the long-term management programme and nominates tāngata whenua representatives to all lead and workstream groups. They also receive regular updates from the wider response.

Waitangi Wood (Ngā iwi o Whangaroa), a tāngata whenua representative on the Lead Team says, "We know that our kaitiaki (environmental managers) throughout the kauri catchment are busy and the Tāngata Whenua Roopū is but one way they can be involved in this important kaupapa (issue). The other is through email updates and newsletters, such as Kauri Konnect." She noted that it is critically important that local mana whenua are involved and TWR has worked as part of the response partnership to ensure this occurs wherever possible. TWR also worked with the partnership in the commissioning of a cultural effects assessment, development of a framework to consider cultural health indicators for kauri and kauri forests as well as selecting sites for surveillance.

The surveillance programme is helping to assess and monitor locations of kauri dieback disease. Research is underway to improve detection methods, increase our knowledge of how the disease spreads and develop effective control methods. Trials involving the use of phosphite to treat the disease have shown promising lab results and field tests are about to start. Work is also going into improving track construction, drainage and other man-made influences that will help reduce the spread of the disease.

The programme has focused on limiting the spread of the disease and protecting uninfected locations. Information is being shared with landowners, visitors, community groups, journalists, clubs and event managers to help build awareness, understanding and action around kauri dieback.

The kauri dieback programme has a number of resources like brochures, posters and booklets and has recently employed a dedicated relationship manager to build community awareness and involvement. Ian Mitchell is based in Whangarei but lives in the Hokianga and brings to the programme his varied experience in science, environmental activism and business mentoring.

The key message being driven home is to stop the spread of the disease:

- Make sure shoes, tyres and equipment are cleaned to remove all visible soil and plant material before AND after visiting kauri forest.
- Stay on the track and off kauri roots.

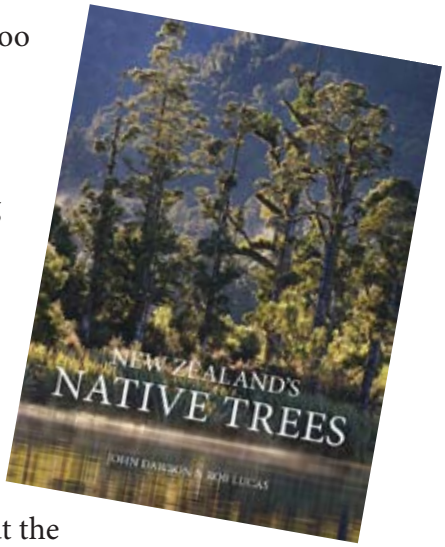
These messages have come from understanding that spores of kauri dieback are found in the soil around affected kauri. Any movement of infected soil can spread the disease. Human activity involving soil movement (on footwear, machinery or equipment) is thought to be the greatest cause of spread.

We all can help—tourists, hunters, trappers, trampers, runners, bikers, walkers. We all need to make it happen, rather than hope 'someone else' will do it. So, to spread the word rather than the disease, you can access more information at the programme's website—www.kauridieback.co.nz

Book review: *New Zealand's native trees* by John Dawson and Rob Lucas

Jason Butt, Waiora Landscapes (jason@waioralandscapes.co.nz)

I have had a copy of Salmon's '*The Native Trees of New Zealand*' on my bookshelf for about 10 years now. It was the first book on native plants I acquired; it was a Christmas gift. Since then, I have formed a serious habit (acquiring and, of course, reading books of a botanical nature) and made a career of working with native plants. Dawson and Lucas's '*New Zealand's Native Trees*' expands on Salmon's (1980) classic volume and I expect it too will be considered a New Zealand classic.



This book is a showcase of photography, with over 2300 photos covering 320 spp. The statistics are impressive: 51 families, 85 genera and 320 spp., sub-spp. and varieties, over 559 pages—and large pages at that. Following the brief biographies of the authors and contributors, the preface and acknowledgements, there is an explanation of the book's layout, followed by coloured maps. This leads into an overview of New Zealand's forests. The taxa are arranged into sections on conifers, ferns and flowering trees. The species are listed alphabetically within their divisions. The beginning of each section introduces the reader to details on lifestyle, biology, morphology and more about the division.

This volume may seem a little lean on text in the species descriptions, but the introduction to the sections contains excellent additional detail. On top of that, the quality and range of images is superb, covering details of leaves, bark, form, flowers, fruit and more. You could say they are nearly exhaustive. Perhaps the only image set missing would be seeds (and some more images of the diagnostic stipules of the *Coprosma* spp. would be beneficial)—but when covering over 300 spp., something has to give. I can only imagine the logistical nightmare of collecting so many photographs of trees in their various phenological phases from one end of the country to the other (and including offshore islands). However, one small annoying issue with the images was that in some cases the same photograph appeared more than once. I think that using an alternative image instead of reusing the same one may have resulted in a slightly better effect.

The over 50 information panels add depth that is otherwise missing in the species' stories. In this, there are similarities between Salmon's and this volume, each being a snapshot of the knowledge of the time—some of which is destined to be superseded as time passes. Some of the features I found the most useful explained the differences between, and diagnostic features of, similar species.

The appendix 'sex expression' contains useful information condensed into two pages. It is not always easy to find this information in other literature and was something that I felt was a useful addition to this book.

There are a few minor imperfections. Some of the included species stretch the terms of reference for the definition of a tree, but this is declared in the text. *Solanum* has three species in New Zealand, not two. Although the third is not a tree species, it would have been better to follow the method used for writing the genus *Urtica* description in which non-woody species were included. Confusingly, the *Carpodetus* introduction states that most recently it has been placed in Escalloniaceae, yet it is now placed in Rousseaceae. Surely "most recently" would refer to Rousseaceae. In the description of northern coastal and offshore island forests, conifers are noted as absent due to salt-laden winds, yet two pages on there is an image of rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) forest bordering a beach in South Westland. While the authors state that *Griselinea lucida* grows only as far south as North Canterbury on the east coast of the South Island, the population at Napenape Beach is well known and the scattered population on Banks Peninsula is less well known but it is information that is readily available in Wardle (1991). Some take the view that North Canterbury's southern boundary is the Waimakariri River, but others take a different view; it might be useful to use a more definitive location because there is good evidence that the southern-most naturally occurring specimens on the east coast occur on Banks Peninsula. There was at least one error in the index that I encountered—when I looked up 'karaka' I was directed to pages 27 and 34, but when I look for *Corynocarpus laevigatus* in the index it directs me to 8 more pages; perhaps the index needs a little tidying up. These are, however, insignificant issues for a book of such breadth.

It is difficult to avoid comparing '*New Zealand's native trees*' with the also recently published '*Wardle's Native Trees of New Zealand and their Story*' (Wardle 2011) due to their near simultaneous release and their coverage of the same subject. So I will give a brief comparison. Dawson and Lucas's book is an excellent opener primarily relying on photographs to tell the story and the subject is well covered, compared with Wardle's book, which has a different objective and, for the most part, greater detail about the individual species. An example would be karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*). Lucas and Dawson has three pages devoted to it with perhaps a half page of text the balance being photos and captions. The balance is quite the opposite in Wardle with over a page of text in three pages. I would say they make excellent companion volumes—I find myself flicking from one to the other to find detail that the other may lack.

I expect this volume will inspire future generations to get off the couch and experience what many have described as the cathedral-like forests of New Zealand—and of course to place a high value on our precious natural heritage. A good reason for this expectation is the accessibility of the book. It is easy to read and use and it will be readily available to the people we would most like to influence—the next generation. It will be readily available to that generation due to the generous gesture of providing free copies to schools throughout the country with the financial assistance of the Dick Roberts Community Trust.

Introduce or encourage someone's interest in the unique flora and wild places of New Zealand by giving them a copy of this book (and don't forget a copy for yourself). But remember, this is a gateway book that may lead to more in-depth literature. I started with something like this and couldn't stop. Feed your book addiction or help kick-start someone else's. As Jane Connor illustrates in her preface, a book like this can be a catalyst to much more.

References

Salmon, J.T. 1980: *The native trees of New Zealand*. Wellington, Reed. 384 pp.

Wardle, John 2011: *Wardle's Native Trees of New Zealand and their Story*. Wellington, New Zealand Farm Forestry Association. 416 pp.

Wardle, P. 1991: *Vegetation of New Zealand*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. 684 pp.

Network website reaches image milestone

Cyathea smithii sori, an image recently added to the website by Jeremy Rolfe.

Thanks to hundreds of photographers nationwide there are now over 23,000 plant images on the Network website. Recent major contributors of images to the website include Jesse Bythell, Jeremy Rolfe, Colin Ogle, Bill Clarkson, Simon Walls and John Smith Dodsworth.

If you have good images of native or exotic plants that you are willing for us to use on the website please send them to us at: info@nzpcn.org.nz

A new resource—Ngā Tipu Whakaoranga

Sue Scheele, Landcare Research (scheeles@landcareresearch.co.nz)

Some of you may have noticed a new yellow tab among the resources listed below species descriptions on the Network website. The link 'Traditional Māori Uses' takes you to Ngā Tipu Whakaoranga (plants that sustain us), part of the Landcare Research suite of databases. The database evolved from a project funded by the Commonwealth Science Council in the late 1980s, which aimed to have the cultural and economic value of plants to indigenous people recorded, recognised and considered in efforts to conserve biodiversity.

The database contains fully referenced, detailed information on how Māori used plants to survive in New Zealand, particularly before the arrival of Europeans. Material relating to later economic uses of native plants is recorded too, though generally not timber uses and the kauri gum trade.

Fungi and seaweeds are included, and there are references to some Pacific plants, such as *Pandanus*, that have links to Māori culture. Also included are pertinent references on traditional resource rights and intellectual property claims relating to plant uses by indigenous peoples.

The information is taken from the written record, mostly published (books, articles, dictionaries, newspapers) and some unpublished (such as manuscripts and letters). Usually information is recorded as written in the source material, without interpretation, although editorial comment is sometimes made for clarification.

Maori names for plants are recorded, though it's not always possible to link them with confidence to particular species. And there are many species for which the names are either no longer known, or which were not recognised as distinct. Conversely, there are species such as *Phormium* spp. where modern botanical classification doesn't do justice to the many important variations determined and named by Maori (there are over 550 records relating to flax!).


Traditional poi made from raupo leaves, with a string of harakeke fibre. Photo: Sue Scheele.

If you are interested in finding out as much as possible about the uses of a particular plant, don't stop at the first linked page you get to. Go into the 'Search' tab and look for the plant again. There are often lots more references with useful information. Browse through the topics in the drop-down list, or search by fields such as "author" or "medicinal". Clicking on the kowhai flower beside the botanical name will take you to the New Zealand Plant Name database (http://nzflora.landcareresearch.co.nz/).

A lot of technical work has been done in the last couple of years to upgrade the formatting of Ngā Tipu Whakaoranga to enable it to be integrated with other databases (it started its life on the VAX storage system, in the days when PCs were only just being used in workplaces, and certainly well before the Internet!). It continues to evolve.

We're always happy to receive new information, comments and corrections. Please contact Sue Scheele, Landcare Research: scheeles@landcareresearch.co.nz

Editor's note: Last month we reported that the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust had celebrated its 10th anniversary. As part of the efforts to mark the occasion a book entitled Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust *edited by Naylor Hillary has been produced. The following item is an excerpt from that book.*

Banks Peninsula's distinctive plants

Rachel Barker, Coordinator, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust (rachel.barker@bpct.org.nz)

Banks Peninsula vegetation reflects the area's remarkable geology and geography, and its origins as an island for nearly 20 million years. The peninsula has a wide range of environmental gradients as it extends from sea level, through lower and upper cool temperate climatic zones, to subalpine areas. There are reminders of once extensive ancient low altitude podocarp forests (such as the Hay Reserve in Pigeon Bay and sites in Prices Valley near Kaituna), and small pockets of red beech forest such as in Hinewai Reserve via Long Bay above Akaroa. Remnants of higher altitude podocarp forest are rather more extensive. Much of the landscape today is modified, and the dominant vegetation is pasture, tussock, fern, and open shrubland.

In spite of the extensive loss of indigenous flora and fauna, the peninsula is making a comeback through natural regeneration. In each of the vegetation types, there are indigenous plants, which botanists have defined in different categories according to the level of threat, largely from browsing animals or habitat loss.

There are five or six flowering plants and a fork fern that are endemic (for example, *Heliohebe lavaudiana*); they are found nowhere else other than Banks Peninsula. Each of these plants is highly attractive and makes a delightful addition to any native garden. Botanists have ranked these as nationally uncommon, declining, or critical. This means they are vulnerable to browsing or other damage in the wild. The BPCT can put landowners in touch with an ecologist to help identify endemic, and threatened native plants, and to find ways to protect them for the future.

Heliohebe lavaudiana. Photo: Melissa Hutchinson.

Banks Peninsula has 66 vascular natives (flowering plants, conifers, ferns and fern allies) that are threatened, or at risk of extinction. There are 547 native vascular plant species, and at least 450 bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) currently recorded on Banks Peninsula. Although scientifically speaking fungi are not plants, most people think of them as part of the vegetation. Banks Peninsula has a particularly rich and diverse array of fungi.

One estimate is that there have been at least 20 plant extinctions on the peninsula, mainly since the time of European settlement (see Wilson 2009). The trust has made protection of plants and habitat one of its foremost priorities.

Acknowledgement: with many thanks to Hugh Wilson for writing much of this text—written while having a cuppa on his cycle journey back to Hinewai Reserve from a Beethoven concert in Christchurch.

References

Hillary, N. (ed.) 2011: *Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust.* Christchurch, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust. 110 pp.
Wilson, H.D. 2009: *Natural History of Banks Peninsula.* Christchurch, Canterbury University Press. 144 pp.

Reproduced with permission from Hillary (2011)

A new fund to protect plants

Plants provide the foundation for the world's ecosystems and are vital for providing food, clean water and soil, medicine and regulating our climate, yet more than 20% of plants are threatened with extinction. The MSBP-BGCI Fieldwork Fund aims to tackle this crisis by enabling organisations to undertake fieldwork resulting in high quality seed collections.

The Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP) and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) are delighted to announce the first call for the MSBP-BGCI Fieldwork Fund.

Key objectives

Both the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership and Botanic Gardens Conservation International are working to implement the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, in particular Target 8, which aims to conserve at least 75% of threatened plant species in *ex situ* collections, and make at least 20% available for recovery and restoration programmes, by 2020. A key objective of the Fieldwork Fund is to make a substantial contribution to Target 8 of the GSPC by bringing into *ex situ* conservation those plant species that have not already been conserved, particularly threatened species. The Fund will also contribute to the MSBP target to conserve seed from 25% of the world's flora by 2020.

Benefits of participation

The MSBP-BGCI Fieldwork Fund enables plant conservation organisations to undertake fieldwork resulting in high quality conservation seed collections. The fieldwork, and the resulting collections, complement on-going plant conservation activities. Part of each seed collection is stored at Kew's Millennium Seed Bank (MSB), based at Wakehurst, West Sussex. Kew's MSB provides free, long-term storage to international standards, assessments of quality of the collections and germination testing to ensure collections can be used in the future to grow living plants. The other part of each seed collection can be kept in the country of origin and used for any aspect of plant conservation, species re-introduction, habitat restoration, sustainable use or research.

(Editor's note: Because of New Zealand's involvement with MSBP, no New Zealand organisations are eligible to apply but I thought members should be aware this fund is available.)

New stamps feature plants

Wellington member, Chris Horne, points out that New Zealand native plants feature on some of our latest stamps:

1. pohutukawa—60 cents
2. cabbage tree—$1.20
3. kowhai—$1.90
4. nikau—$2.40
5. manuka—$2.90

Free "Make your own book" posters available

Please contact the Network if you would like a free poster to promote the new online book making system on the Network website. The Network would like to ensure these new posters are used to promote the new book making system on school, university and office walls.

If you would like a copy of the poster to put up at work, or would like several copies to send to colleagues or your local school or community restoration groups, then please email the request to the Network (info@nzpcn.org.nz) providing a postal address and an indication of how many posters you want.

New Zealand Threatened Indigenous Vascular Plant Relisting—a call for submissions

P.J. de Lange, Ecosystems & Species Unit, C/o Auckland Conservancy, Department of Conservation, Private Bag 68908, Newton, Auckland (pdelange@doc.govt.nz)

Under the terms and conditions set out by the New Zealand Threat Classification System (see Townsend et al. 2008) the last threat listing of New Zealand Indigenous Vascular Plants (de Lange et al. 2009) is now due for revision, and a call for submissions has now been posted on the New Zealand Department of Conservation Website (http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/). As part of that process, the New Zealand Indigenous Vascular Plant Panel will be convening some time in late April or early May 2012 on the Lincoln campus of Landcare Research to undertake this task. Accordingly, the panel now seeks contributions from the botanical community to assist with this process. The role of the wider botanical community in threat listing is important. To that end, panel members encourage those of you who have an interest in the threat status of our vascular flora to prepare submissions (see form attached to end of newsletter). An electronic copy of this form may be obtained from the panel chair (Peter J. de Lange—see email address above) if you wish to make submissions in that way. However, handwritten or emailed submissions outlining the candidate taxa and providing supporting comments and data are also quite acceptable. These may be mailed or emailed to any of the panel members (see below).

Submissions may include support for existing threat listings, suggested changes to these or proposals for new taxa that may not yet have been listed by the panel. Submissions for informally recognised plant entities may also be provided. This is on the understanding that any such entity proposed is supported by an accessible herbarium voucher specimen lodged within an officially recognised herbarium (see Holmgren et al. 1990), which, for New Zealand, includes the following herbaria: AK, CANU, CHR, LINC, MPN , NZFRI, OTA, WAIK, WELT, WELTU.

We strongly encourage botanists to be part of this process.

Submissions will NOT be accepted after 10 April 2012.

The 2012 New Zealand Indigenous Vascular Plant Panel

Chair: Peter J. de Lange (pdelange@doc.govt.nz or pj.delange@xtra.co.nz)
Facilitator: Rod Hitchmough (rhitchmough@doc.govt.nz)
Panel (North to South)
Ewen Cameron—Auckland Museum Herbarium (ecameron@aucklandmuseum.com)
Jeremy Rolfe—Wellington/Hawke's Bay Conservancy, Department of Conservation (jrrolfe@actrix.co.nz)
Shannel Courtney—Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, Department of Conservation (scourtney@doc.govt.nz)
David Norton—School of Forestry, University of Canterbury (David.norton@canterbury.ac.nz)
Peter Heenan—Allan Herbarium, Landcare Research (heenanp@landcareresearch.co.nz)
John Barkla—Otago Conservancy, Department of Conservation (jbarkla@doc.govt.nz)

References

de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A.; Courtney, S.P.; Heenan, P.B.; Barkla, J.W.; Cameron, E.K.; Hitchmough, R.; Townsend, A.J. 2009: Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand (1998 revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 61–96.

Holmgren, P.K.; Holmgren, N.L.; Barnett, L.C. 1990: Index Herbariorum Part I: The herbaria of the world (8th ed.). Regnum Vegetabile, New York Botanical Gardens, New York.

Townsend, A.J.; de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A.; Molloy, J.; Miskelly, C.; Duffy, C. 2008: The New Zealand Threat Classification System manual. Wellington, Department of Conservation.

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):

5th National Wetlands Restoration Symposium

Symposium: Wednesday 21 – Friday 23 March, at Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill. **Theme:** Wetlands--Are we getting it right?	**Programme, registration forms and conference information:** www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/symposia.html

8th Asia Pacific Conference on Algae Biotechnology for the Asia Pacific Society for Applied Phycology

Conference: Adelaide, Australia, 9–12 July (www.sapmea.asn.au/apcab2012).

Contact: Conference Secretariat: ph: +61 8 8274 6048; fax: +61 8 8274 6000; email: apcab2012@sapmea.asn.au

Auckland Botanical Society

Meeting: Wednesday 7 March at 7.30 p.m. the AGM followed by a talk by Sarah Wyse, the 2011 Lucy Cranwell Award recipient. **Venue:** Unitec School of Health Sciences, Gate 4, Building 115. Room 2005.	**Contact:** Maureen Young, email: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz
Field trip: Saturday 17 March to Awhitu Dune Lakes: Otamatearoa and Parkinsons Lakes.	**Contact:** Maureen Young, email: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz
Field trip: Sunday 18 – Friday 30 March, the trip to Tasmania.	**Contact:** Maureen Young, email: youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz

Waikato Botanical Society

Field trip: Saturday 3 March, Threatened Plant Collection working bee. Meet: 11.00 a.m. at Waikato University Gate 8, Hillcrest Rd, outside Science and Engineering main entrance (E–F link stairway). Please bring gloves, old clothes and boots for weeding, planting and propagating activities.	**Contact:** Liz Overdyck, ph: 07 825 9743, email: eg3@waikato.ac.nz

Rotorua Botanical Society

Field trip: Sunday 4 March to Te Ananui Falls, Woodlands Road, Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park. **Meet:** car park, Rotorua, at 8.00 a.m. or Katikati town centre at 9.30 a.m. **Grade:** moderate, two creek crossings.	**Leader:** Graeme Jane, ph: 07 570 3123, email: gtjane@clear.net.nz
Field trip: Saturday 24 March to Little Waihi Estuary and Islands. **Meet:** car park Rotorua 8.00 a.m. or corner of Wharere Road and SH2, Pongakawa, at 9.00 a.m. **Grade:** Easy but could be muddy, bring gumboots or sandshoes.	**Leaders:** Paul Cashmore, ph: 07 348 4421 (hm), 07 349 7432 (wk), email: pcashmore@doc.govt.nz and Graeme Jane, ph: 07 570 3123 email: gtjane@clear.net.nz

Wellington Botanical Society

Meeting: Monday 19 March a talk by Dr Peter de Lange, Departyment of Conservation, titled 'There and back again—a botanist's tale of a visit to the islands of the Kermadec Archipelago'. **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 3 March to Makara Hill, Karori. **Meet:** Karori Park bus terminus 9.30 a.m.	**Leaders:** Mick Parsons, ph: 04 972 1148, mob: 027 249 9663; Chris Horne, ph: 04 475 7025.

Nelson Botanical Society

Field trip: Sunday 18 March to the Brook Sanctuary. **Meet:** the Church steps in Selwyn Place at 8.00 a.m.	**Leader:** Sue Hallas, ph: 03 545 0294.
Field trip: Thursday 5 to Monday 9 April Easter Camp at Seddonville on the West Coast.	**Leader:** Diana Pittham, ph: 03 545 1985.

Canterbury Botanical Society

Meeting: Friday 2 March the Student meeting, a soup and bread roll meal followed by a talk by Dr Colin Merck, Landcare Research, about Campbell Island.	**Contact:** Gillian Giller, ph: 03 313 5315, email: ggillerma1@actrix.gen.nz.
Field trip: Saturday 10 March to Mt Grey – Onepunga.	**Contact:** Gillian Giller, ph: 03 313 5315, email: ggillerma1@actrix.gen.nz.

Botanical Society of Otago

Meeting: Friday 2 March at 12.00 noon the free BSO BBQ to welcome new botany/ecology students and new BSO members. Venue: the front lawn, Botany House Annex, Great King Street (across the road from the main Botany building).	**Contact:** David Orlovich, ph: 03 479 9060.