



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 20. JULY 2005

Deadline for next issue: Friday 12 August 2005

Message from the President

Any organisation is only as good as the people managing it. This applies just as much to a voluntary society as a commercial company. The Network is no different. For the past two years a dedicated band of people have worked away to implement the vision set in those early days. We have come along way but there is still much to do. The AGM is a time when new people with time, commitment and expertise can step up and get involved. This year is no different.

I am stepping down after two years as President and we need someone to step up and carry on. What do you need to carry out this role?? Apart from the above the key things are:

- A passion for plants and their conservation
- The ability to communicate with a range of people and organisations
- A strategic thinker

Please think about it, call me and put your name up for election. Wouldn't it be great if we had to choose between 2 or 3!!!

Mike Oates

Plant of the Month



Plant of the month for July is the Nationally Endangered *Boehmeria australis* subsp. *dealbata*. It is endemic to the Kermadec Islands, where it is now known only from Raoul Island. It was formerly present on Macauley Island, where it seems to have been eradicated by feral goats sometime in the early part of last century. It is a shrub or small tree up to 8 m tall and is found in coastal forest, cliff faces, recent and semi-stable slips, low scrub. The Network fact sheet may be found at the following link: http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=54

Boehmeria australis subsp. *dealbata*. Photo: Bec Stanley.

Poor Knights spleenwort on the Forty-fours, Chatham Islands group

The Acutely Threatened (National Critical) Poor Knights Spleenwort (*Asplenium pauperequitum*) has just been recognised from a herbarium collection of vascular plants made during February 2005 from the remote Forty-fours, east of the main Chatham Islands. The Forty-fours are so small they are not even figured by the current topographic map for the islands. Prior to this discovery, Poor Knights spleenwort was known only from an old collection made from two island groups in the Hauraki Gulf, off the east coast of Northland: the Mokohinau Islands



Asplenium pauperequitum.
Photo: John Smith-Dodsworth.



The Forty-fours. Photo: DOC.

(where it is probably extinct) and the Poor Knights Islands, where it has a rather precarious existence. The Forty-fours collection was made by Mr Mark Bellingham, and the species identified by New Zealand Department of Conservation Threatened Plants Scientist, Peter J. de Lange. The identification has also been confirmed by the man who named the species in 1984, Dr Patrick Brownsey of the Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa Herbarium (WELT). The discovery has been hailed as the “*Fern find of the year*” by New Zealand Pteridologists

Marae-based plant training course – first hui in Northland

The Network is developing a marae-based plant conservation training course. This was funded by the Government’s Biodiversity Condition and Advice Fund. On the weekend of 16/17 July, the first of a series of hui was held to discuss what aspects of plant conservation iwi would like to have included in the course. This first hui was held at Te Rapunga Marae, Waiomio in Northland and was attended by 25 people and gave good direction for this exciting project. The hui was organised by Marino Tahī, Victoria Owen and Philippa Crisp with considerable help from Kevin Prime. Marino, Philippa and Lisa Forester (of the Department of Conservation) gave presentations outlining the project.



Organisers of the hui, left to right: Marino Tahī, Kevin Prime, Victoria Owen, Lisa Forester and Philippa Crisp.

The hui raised issues such as building trust between the Network and iwi, of how the course would be delivered and its content. Other hui are planned for Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch later in the year. It is intended to begin the development of the course once the hui are finished. For more information about planned hui and the course development contact Philippa Crisp (Philippa.crisp@gw.govt.nz).

***‘Restoring our threatened plant life – empowering our community’*: Network Conference 2005**

The Network conference 2005 is fast approaching. Information, including a registration form, can be obtained from the Network website (look under ‘*Conservation Info*’). Please contact the Network (info@nzpcn.org.nz) if you would like more copies of the registration form. Please let your friends and colleagues know about the conference and encourage them to come, learn and share ideas about the protection and restoration of our threatened plant life. Help with conference organisation is very welcome—please contact David Given: david.given@ccc.govt.nz

Proposal to increase subscriptions for 2005/06

The Network intends to vote at its annual AGM on Saturday 13 August 2005 on a proposal by the Network Council to raise the annual subscriptions for individual and student members (from \$30 to \$35 for individual and from \$10 to \$20 for students). The increase has been proposed due to the success of the Network in obtaining funds to undertake conservation projects that has led to the Network having to become GST registered. The Network therefore has to cover GST payments on subscription. This issue will be discussed in full at the AGM.

Threatened fungi go “live” on Network website

The Terrestrial Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (TFBIS) sponsored the Network to develop fact sheets for all New Zealand’s acutely threatened fungi. This work has now been completed by Landcare research (Peter Buchanan and Eric McKenzie). The fact sheets and images of these species will be added to the website over the next month. For more information go to the Network website (www.nzpcn.org.nz) and click on “Search for a Threatened Fungus” on the left hand side of the Home page.

75% of the native vascular plants of New Zealand now illustrated

Thanks to recent contributions from botanists and photographers (John Smith-Dodsworth, John Barkla, Bec Stanley, Colin Ogle, Jeremy Rolfe and Heidi Meudt) we now have photographs for over 75% of the native vascular plants of New Zealand on the Network website. This is a significant milestone but we are now keen to plug remaining gaps and obtain additional images for each species. Do you think you can improve on what we have already? If you can help with this job please send your images as jpg files to the network at info@nzpcn.org.nz or to John Sawyer (jsawyer@doc.govt.nz).

New names for the Kermadec nikau palm and Three Kings cabbage tree

The Kermadec nikau, hitherto known as *Rhopalostylis cheesemanii* Beccari or *R. baueri* var. *cheesemanii* (Beccari) Sykes, and long believed endemic to Raoul Island, has been relegated to



Rhopalostylis baueri.
Photo: Bec Stanley.

synonymy with the Norfolk Island *R. baueri* (Seem.) H.Wendl. et Drude (de Lange et al. 2005). *Rhopalostylis cheesemanii* had been distinguished for the New Zealand *R. sapida* H.Wendl. et Drude and *R. baueri*, primarily by its globose fruits (those of *R. baueri* are ovoid) and larger size (which distinguished it from *R. sapida* but not *R. baueri*). Field work on both Raoul and Norfolk over the last twenty years has shown that there is significant overlap in fruit shape, and dimensions, thus, plants matching the description of *R. baueri* can be found on Raoul, and vice versa. Accordingly, as there are no other significant distinguishing characters, the authors refer the Raoul Island plants to the earlier named *R. baueri*. In addition to this name change, the typification of both palms is now finally resolved.

From a conservation perspective, there is little change to the status of the Raoul Island palm (“At Risk/Range Restricted”), beyond that, it should now receive the qualifier “SO (Secure Overseas)”, as

R. baueri is one of the few Norfolk Island indigenous plants to be secure on that island. On Raoul Island, though always abundant, the palm has, following the successful eradication of rats four years ago, greatly expanded its range. On Norfolk, which is still infested with rodents, *R. baueri* is still regenerating, and at times locally abundant, but it cannot be doubted that it, and many other Norfolk plants and animals, would greatly benefit from rodent eradication, something that could be achieved on that island if the local people wished.

The so called “Three Kings” cabbage tree (*Cordyline kaspar* W.R.B.Oliv.) was described in 1956 by RWB Oliver using a cultivated Three Kings Islands specimen, still growing at the former DSIR Research Station (now Hort Research) Mt, Albert, Auckland. Oliver was at pains to distinguish his new species from the New Zealand endemic *C. australis* (G.Forst.) Endl., because that was where past workers had placed the Three Kings plant. Oliver did not, however, critically compare *C. kaspar* with the Norfolk Island endemic *C. obtecta* (Graham) Baker. In their paper de Lange et al. (2005) note that Oliver may not have considered this until the following year, when he collected *C. obtecta* on Norfolk Island, and when, based on herbarium evidence, he seemed to take an interest in their relationships. Unfortunately he died before his views (if any) could be made known.



Cordyline oblecta.
Photo: Peter de Lange.

Subsequent field workers have shown that in New Zealand *C. kaspar* is not endemic to the Three Kings but that it also occurs locally at North Cape, at Murimotu Island and on the Poor Knights Islands, where it is locally common. On the taxonomic front several botanists have in the past advocated the need to critically compare *C. kaspar* with *C. oblecta*, so de Lange et al. (2005) have done this, and they report that they can find no significant differences, and so they refer *C. kaspar* to the earlier named *C. oblecta*. Again from a conservation perspective there is little change in the conservation status within the New Zealand part of this species range (“At Risk/Range Restricted”), though the qualifier “TO (Threatened Overseas)” is now appropriate, as many *C. oblecta* populations are threatened outside the Norfolk Island National Park.

Reference

de Lange, P.J.; Gardner, R.O.; Crowcroft, G.M.; Stalker, F.; Cameron, E.K.; Braggins, J.E; Christian, M.L. 2005: Vascular flora of Norfolk Island: some additions and taxonomic notes. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 43: 563-596.

Exotic carnivorous plants – new fact sheet

The Department of Conservation’s Auckland Conservancy has recently published a fact sheet to draw attention to exotic carnivorous plant species in New Zealand. The purpose of the fact sheet is raise awareness of the species so that people will record new sightings and locations. The fact sheet may also result in occurrences of the rare New Zealand native carnivorous plants being made which would be a good thing. The fact sheet can be found on the Network website under publications (Factsheets).

Moving plants around in Auckland – workshop announcement

The Auckland region has lost 33 species over the last 100 years. All these extinctions have resulted from damage to the species habitats and ecosystems. 80 more species are regionally critical i.e. at only a few sites or at many sites but facing very serious threats. Can we give these species a helping hand and return them to sites where we can manage the threats to them? What implications does this have? What do you think?

The Department of Conservation is running 2 workshops on threatened plant translocations in this Region. More and more community groups want threatened plants to be part of their restoration projects. Department of Conservation recovery plans often recommend translocations. What is the best way we approach this? A report will be compiled as a result of the workshops. **HAVE YOUR SAY!**

Topics to be covered are: What is translocation? What are the reasons for translocation? Threatened plant translocation history. Ecological considerations (including genetics). Management and ethical considerations. Technical issues. Where to go for more guidance.

The workshops will be held on Thursday 4 August 2 – 5 p.m. (sorry - Thursday workshop booked out) and Saturday 6th August 1 - 4pm.

The Garden Room, Grey Lynn Community Centre

510 Richmond Rd Grey Lynn (near corner of Edwards Rd, near the West Lynn Shops).

FREE PARKING. RSVP essential by 15 July to:

Bec Stanley: rstanley@doc.govt.nz or ph 09 3079 279

See also the Networks form to be used when proposing a threatened plant translocation available from the Network website: <http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/Documents/Translocation-form.pdf>

www.wildlands.co.nz



New position – SENIOR RESTORATION ECOLOGIST

Wildland Consultants is a progressive consultancy specialising in ecology, biodiversity, and ecological restoration with offices throughout New Zealand and a nation-wide client base. We currently require a senior restoration ecologist, based in our Whakatane office. The preferred applicant will have a post-graduate degree in ecology and a minimum of 5-10 years relevant work experience, a very good working knowledge of New Zealand vegetation, plants, and other biota, excellent writing and personal communication/presentation skills, supervision skills, be suited to working in teams, and competent with relevant computer software.

Please apply to: Willie Shaw, Wildland Consultants Ltd, P.O. Box 7137, Te Ngae, ROTORUA, Phone: 07-343-9017, Email: willie@wildlands.co.nz, Applications close 20 July 2005.

Chatham Plant Advisory Group meeting

The Chatham plant advisory group was formed in 2001 by the Department of Conservation to further initiatives to protect and restore the indigenous plant life of the Chatham Island archipelago. The next meeting is to be held in late July 2005 on the Chathams to discuss the future programme for the threatened plants.

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, Monday 18 July: Evening meeting – Wellington Botanic Garden native forest. Speakers: Chris Horne and Barbara Mitcalfe. In 1875 John Buchanan listed 203 native plant species in the area now occupied by Wellington Botanic Garden. In 2002, Barbara and Chris were contracted by Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden to do a botanical survey and report on the condition of these 6 ha of native forest. Hear which species have survived and which have disappeared since 1875, and what is planned to help restore these heritage remnants to full health. To be held at Victoria University, Wellington, Lecturer Theatre M101, ground floor Murphy Building, west side of Kelburn Parade.

Botanical Society of Otago - Otago in the time of the moa - Wednesday 20 July, 2005.

Start time: 5.20 p.m. A talk by Geoff Rogers. A look at how we might paint a picture of Otago's prehistoric landscapes using all the investigative tools used by landscape ecologists and archaeologists. 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. Contact Allison Knight, phone: (03) 479 7577.

Plant tranlocation workshop – Auckland - Saturday 6th August 1–4pm.

The Garden Room, Grey Lynn Community Centre, 510 Richmond Rd Grey Lynn (near corner of Edwards Rd, near the West Lynn Shops). FREE PARKING. RSVP essential by 15th July to: Bec Stanley: rstanley@doc.govt.nz or ph 09 3079 279

Wellington Botanical Society Field trip - Saturday 6 August: Wellington Botanic Garden

native forest. Botanise the 5 areas of native forest remaining from the original forest cover John Buchanan studied in 1875. Meet: 9 30 a.m. Founders Entrance, Glenmore Street. Co-leaders: Chris Horne 475 7025 and Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149.

Botanical Society of Otago – Field trip to Okia Reserve – Sunday 7th August, 2005. Start time: 9:15 AM. The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust and Save The Otago Peninsula have invited BSO to join them on a Conservation Week walk. Okia Reserve has a particularly high level of endemism and botanist Peter Johnson will be there to point out some of the rare plants hiding in the dune hollows and in the crevices of the basalt rock pyramids. It's a flat 20 min walk out to the Pyramids and there's a well-marked track on out through the dunes to Victory Beach. Meet at the Botany Dept Car Park at 9.15 to car pool, or go straight to the car park at the end of Dick Rd by 10 am. Contact person Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Office 479 0011; email yept@clear.net.nz or Lala Frazer 478 0339 evenings. Contact [Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust](http://www.yelloweyedpenguintrust.org.nz), phone: (03) 479 0011.

Biosecurity: Technologies for Pest Eradication Workshop – Mon 8 August 2005, 9.15 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ilot Theatre, Wellington Town Hall, Wellington (adjacent to the Michael Fowler Centre). Monday 8 August 2005, 9.15 am to 6 pm. Convenors: Toni Withers, Ian Popay, Pip Stevens, Ian Harvey. This workshop, held the day before the NZPPS Annual Conference, brings together scientists involved in the planning and conduct of attempted or successful eradications of insects, mammals and plants from mainland New Zealand or its off-shore islands. It will involve discussion of making decisions on the feasibility of eradications, when an organism is considered 'new' to New Zealand, and what we can learn from overseas eradication attempts. Taking part will be key players in the eradication industry and biosecurity research in New Zealand – Biosecurity NZ, Department of Conservation, CRIs, ERMA and industry. We shall also hear Australian perspectives on eradications. The workshop emphasis will be the science of eradication technologies, and what important lessons have been learnt in past eradication attempts, but will be of interest to all whose concern is with national or localised (island) eradications. The workshop cost will be \$120 (GST incl). This includes a copy of the extended abstracts of presentations, plus lunch and refreshments during the day. A detailed programme of the workshop will be available from June on the NZPPS website (www.nzpps.org.nz). For further information please contact Toni Withers (toni.withers@forestresearch.co.nz) or Ian Popay (ipopay@doc.govt.nz)

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network conference 2005: Fri 12 – Sun 14 August 2005

- *'Restoring our threatened plant life – empowering our community'*. For more details see article above or visit the Network website www.nzpcn.org.nz and look under Conservation Info/Events.

Wellington Botanical Society - Monday 15 August: Evening meeting – AGM and AP Druce

Memorial Lecture. Annual General Meeting and AP Druce Memorial Lecture – “The view from Tony’s shoulders”. **Speaker: John Sawyer, Biodiversity – Technical Support Officer, Department of Conservation.** This presentation will describe aspects of Tony’s legacy to plant conservation. The talk will also describe possible futures for New Zealand plant conservation that Tony may have imagined but that are only now becoming a reality through the continuation of his life’s work. To be held at Victoria University, Wellington, Lecturer Theatre M101, ground floor Murphy Building, west side of Kelburn Parade.

Meaning and design of nature for the urban built environment” conference: 24–26 August 2005

This conference is taking place at the Christchurch Art Gallery, from 24 to 26 August 2005. Earlybird registration ends on 31 July, so register now to benefit from the discounted rate. There has been a lot of interest expressed by people and numbers will be limited to 170 registrations. If you require a registration form, please contact me or download a form from the website, see <http://events.lincoln.ac.nz/urban>.

National Conference of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation - Plant Conservation: the challenges of change. 26 September – 1 October 2005. Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia. The Australian Network for Plant Conservation and the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage invite you to Adelaide to exchange ideas and to participate in discussions on the challenges that currently face us all in plant conservation. Whether these challenges be of changing climates, environmental conditions, government and policy focus, or confronting scientific information, this conference will stimulate consideration and participation. The conference will appeal to all those involved in plant conservation from on-ground practitioners to researchers and policy makers. The Conference will include the following themes:

1. Extreme policy changes
2. Urban ecology
3. Revegetation & rehabilitation
4. Partnerships - partnering for plant conservation
5. Indigenous agendas and conservation

Further information will be posted on the conference website (address below) regarding the conference, associated workshops and a call for workshop topics. For further information contact:

PLEVIN AND ASSOCIATES PTY LTD, PO Box 54, BURNSIDE SA 5066, Ph: +61 8 8379 8222

Fax: +61 8 8379 8177, Email: events@plevin.com.au, Website: www.plevin.com.au/ANPC2005

International conference on the implementation of the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: 22–25 October 2005.

To be held at the National Botanical Gardens of Ireland at Glasnevin (near Dublin, Ireland). To find out more please click the on the link: <http://www.plants2010.org>. (and follow 'registration'). Formal registration through the web should be available on Thursday 16 June.