



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 109. DECEMBER 2012

Deadline for next issue: Tuesday 15 January 2013

President's message

I wish all Network members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year botanising.

Philippa Crisp

Greater Wellington Regional Council

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Metrosideros robusta*



Metrosideros robusta. Photo: John Braggins.

Plant of the month for December is *Metrosideros robusta* (northern rata). Northern rata is an endemic tree that usually begins life as an epiphyte in the branches of another forest tree, sending roots down to the ground and slowly encircling the 'host' tree's trunk. After many years, the roots sent down to the ground grow to be so large they envelop the host tree

forming a pseudo-trunk and the rata grows to be a tree of its own as the host tree dies and rots away. It can also begin life terrestrially and grow to form sizable trees.

Northern rata grows in coastal and lowland forest, sometimes extending higher into montane forest. It was formerly common from Te Pahi to Wellington in the North Island, but is now scarce over large areas. It is abundant in the South Island from Nelson west and south to Greymouth extending down to the Hokitika area. Possums can seriously damage and kill trees and have, in some situations, been directly responsible for the regional loss of northern rata.

It is easily recognised by the small elliptical, ovate-oblong dark green leaves, which possess a prominent apical notch. Young growth is often pink and is finely covered in rust-coloured hairs. Masses of usually dark red flowers appear in summer, although the flower colour can range into pink, orange and yellow. You can see the Network fact sheet for northern rata at:

www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=977

Revered and reviled—2012 annual New Zealand favourite native plant and worst weed vote opens

The annual vote for New Zealand's favourite plant has opened and this year there is a new twist. For the first time, people can cast a vote for their worst weed as well as their favourite native plant.

The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network has run a favourite plant vote since 2002. "The vote is an excellent opportunity for people to share their love of native plants with others," says Network President Philippa Crisp. "A large number of Kiwis are members of conservation and weed busting groups and this year we thought people might like the chance to vent their frustrations about their least favourite plants," says Crisp. "Weeds have a significant impact on our natural and modified ecosystems and it will be interesting to see which species is voted worst weed in 2012," says Crisp. Naturalised exotic plant species now outnumber native species in New Zealand and the ranks of weedy plants are swelling each year.

In the early days of the vote, top ranking species were familiar icons such as kowhai and pohutakawa, but these were quickly replaced by rare and unfamiliar species such as fish guts plant and coral broom. Last year there was a close contest between the beloved kauri and the rare and recently described bamboo rush, *Sporadanthus ferrugineus*. In the end, bamboo rush won, complementing another wetland species, pukeko, which took out 2011 Bird of the Year.



Sporadanthus ferrugineus, 2011 plant of the year. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

People are invited to vote for their favourite native plant and for their worst weed via the NZ Plant Conservation Network's simple online system on the redesigned website on www.nzpcn.org.nz. Voting closes at midday on 31 December, with the results announced on 1 January.

For more information contact: Rewi Elliot, e-mail: Rewi.Elliot@wcc.govt.nz, ph: 04 475 3245, mobile: 021 227 8169.

Network launches new website strategy

The Plant Conservation Network's website is the primary tool used to communicate with Network members and New Zealanders about plant conservation and receives close to half a million visits annually. The new website strategy, which was sponsored by the government's TFBIS (the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System), has four themes and sets 12 targets. These targets highlight priority work for the NZPCN with regard to its online delivery of plant information.

They include:

Content

Improve the website content including:

- Completing species details pages as quickly as possible
- Adding plant distribution data to the flora mapping system
- Illustrating all plant taxa on the website and updating the image library

Engagement

Increase the website audience by providing information in a variety of formats including:

- Using simpler language on the species pages in addition to the existing details and scientific descriptions

- Redesigning the website interface to improve search engine optimization and adopt search engine friendly URLs
- Widening the page format to provide a larger canvas for communicating information and optimizing the homepage to improve interaction
- Through the use of smart phone apps and mobile versions of the website to reach a larger audience
- Through online training courses
- Through an RSS feed of home page news items
- Through collaboration with other providers of plant biodiversity information in New Zealand and Oceania



The new-look website was launched in December 2012.

Security

Maintain a secure platform for the website and ensure regular back-up of the web data

Resourcing

Make the Network website self-financing through sponsorship, advertising, donations and increased annual sales from the website shop so that website hosting, annual maintenance and implementation of the actions in this strategy are all resourced adequately.

The strategy gives each action a priority for completion. The strategy identifies 42 Priority 1 actions. These are the most urgent and important and should all be completed by end of 2014.

To read the strategy, follow this link:

- [Network website strategy 2012-2017](#)

Rescheduled Annual General Meeting

The AGM has been rescheduled to Wednesday 13 February at 5.00 p.m. in the Committee Room at the Greater Wellington Regional Council building, 142 Wakefield Street, Wellington. All Wellington members and any others who happen to be in capital are asked to make a special effort to be there so that this important administrative event can take place. Please mark your 2013 diaries now.

The Network awards honour our nation's plant lovers

Botanical greats, hard workers and inspirers of the next generation have all been honoured in the awards announced by the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (NZPCN) at the beginning of December. The awards recognise special people and projects that have captured the interest of local communities. These individuals and groups are the leading guardians of our country's native plants and ecosystems. They include a Kapiti Coast school, a Southland plant nursery, a roading agency and dedicated plant enthusiasts and conservationists. These awards are indicative of the huge effort that is being exerted all around the country by a large number of dedicated individuals, communities, and organisations to protect and enhance our unique native plants.

Individual

In 2012, the award for the 'Individual Involved in Plant Conservation' goes to Alice Shanks. Alice is a long time plant conservation advocate in her local Canterbury community. Both people and plants have benefited from Alice's undying enthusiasm. She has long enthused young Brownies

and Girl Guides about native plants around their local community and has a long association with youth groups, bringing botany and conservation to the next generation. Alice has made a huge contribution to native plant conservation in Canterbury through her roles in the Canterbury Botanical Society and her role as QEII representative for Banks Peninsula. However, her greatest achievement has been her leadership of the “Friends of Ernle Clark Reserve”, a small but significant neighbourhood project on the Heathcote River floodplain. Alice initially wrote submissions to council and lobbied for the natural values along the river. Eventually, this led to the formation of the “Friends of Ernle Clark Reserve” and volunteering to protect and enhance a short section of the river. Alice has successfully managed to save and enhance the botanical values here while still preserving historic exotic plantings. A successful compromise between exotic plants and natives has been achieved, with discreet re-introductions of rare local native species that formerly inhabited the Canterbury floodplains.

Plant nursery

Pukerau Nursery, run by Arne and Jenny Cleland, won the ‘Plant Nursery Involved in Plant Conservation’ award for their enthusiasm for native plants, their ability to communicate with and encourage landowners towards native plantings and their involvement in restoration plantings. The nursery grows a range of native plants from Otago and Southland, with a strong focus on eco-sourced material. The nursery has grown plants for the Department of Conservation, local Landcare groups and Forest and Bird. The owners are particularly knowledgeable about lowland riparian species and small-leaved daisies. Their restoration and garden design work has helped to popularise several endangered plants. Arne’s ability to communicate with people from all backgrounds and stimulate interest in native plants and ecology is apparent. His advocacy has gone a long way towards highlighting the natural values that landowners can protect and enhance on their properties.

School

The ‘School Plant Conservation Project’ award went to Raumati South School on the Kapiti Coast. The school, which has also achieved a Silver Award under the Enviroschools scheme, has planted over 4,000 indigenous plants in the school grounds. The goal of the project was to create a bushwalk for children and visitors to follow around the school without seeing a school building. The result has been an increase in native birds and lizards, leading to research by the children about what makes suitable habitat for these animals. Weta have also been observed and this has also led to a project to increase and enhance weta habitat. The school plans to continue to increase the number of native trees and plants, provide information boards and improve the paths to make it accessible to all. The school is also very active in other community-based conservation projects including a five-year commitment to the Waharemauku Stream, planting a wetland area and planting in Queen Elizabeth Park each year. Throughout the journey, the children have become knowledgeable, excited and empowered to make positive choices for their environment.

Community group

The NZPCN’s ‘Community Plant Conservation Project’ award went to the Nelson Branch of Royal Forest and Bird for its efforts in restoring a delta floodplain, an estuarine ecosystem at Paremata Flat (Whangamoia River Mouth) just north of Nelson. Over 10,000 eco-sourced trees have been planted in 2012 alone. Driven by Ian Price and Julie McLintock, a team of tireless volunteers has planted numerous native trees, trapped pest animals, sprayed weeds and fundraised for the project. Plans are underway to double the planting effort for 2013.

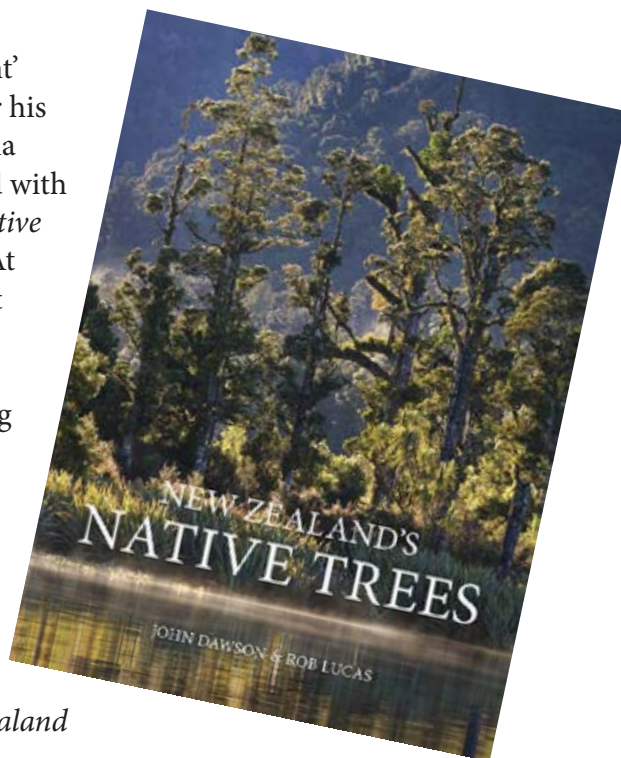
Local authority

The Local Authority Protecting Native Plant Life award goes to Hutt City Council this year. In 2011, Hutt City Council purchased a block of land that council staff had identified as being of high conservation value that should be purchased for the public good. The land is on Baring Head on

the Wellington South Coast and has high botanical values with several threatened and uncommon species present. The council continues to support the Baring Head and the Friends of Baring Head group that works to enhance and promote the area. Hutt City Council has a long history of promoting indigenous flora through its support of local groups and its commitment to a nationally important plant collection at Percy's Reserve.

Lifetime achievement

John Dawson has been awarded a 'Life Time Achievement' award by the Network for his contribution to botany over his lifetime. A former associate professor of botany at Victoria University, John is best known for his books, co-authored with his friend Rob Lucas. Their latest book, *New Zealand's native trees*, recently won the NZ Post Book of the Year award. At 84 years old, John and the younger Rob (a mere 72) spent seven years hiking around New Zealand's bush gathering material for the book. The book is relevant to a wide audience, from a reference for those involved in nurturing and replanting our forests, to those who just love the forests and want to get to know them better. John has guided many students into a career in botany, still runs extension courses on New Zealand's native plant and guides groups around the native botanical gardens in Wellington. He is the author of many papers on the New Zealand flora and several books, including the seminal *Forest vines to snow tussocks: The story of New Zealand plants*. John is a well-deserved recipient of this award.



Special award

A special award this year goes to the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) for its commitment to planting roadways in native species. Motorways, particularly islands in the middle of the highways, are excellent places to grow rare species, especially those that are very vulnerable to browsing animals, as they are pest free giving the plants a chance to survive. Fumes are not a problem so long as there is regular rainfall to give the plants a wash. Kaka-beak is one such plant being given a fighting chance for survival on highway islands. The NZTA has carried out a number of major highway projects where native trees have been planted on road completion. This includes winning an environmental award for the effort on the Cape Reinga highway development that saw the planting over half a million eco-sourced trees. Though some may complain about new road building, at least native corridors are being established throughout New Zealand via our road network.

“Those honoured are leading the way in plant conservation in New Zealand, and set an example to us all to strive for”, said Philippa Crisp. The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network congratulates all the award winners.

Loder Cup presented to Dunedin ecologist

Dr Ralph Allen was presented with the Loder Cup at a function in Dunedin on 10 December by Associate Professor Abby Smith, Chair of the Otago Conservation Board, on behalf of the Minister of Conservation, the Hon Kate Wilkinson. A professional plant ecologist for 30 years with the former DSIR and then Landcare Research, Dr Allen has been pivotal in protecting thousands of hectares of native forest, shrublands, and coastal vegetation throughout Otago, Southland and the Kapiti Coast.

“Dr Allen's efforts have inspired others to cherish the native plants and ecosystems around them,”

Ms Wilkinson says. “He has been instrumental in the establishment of several groups that promote the protection of indigenous vegetation, including Ecology Action Otago and the Otago Branch of Beech Forests Action Committee. Dr Allen was also the driving force behind the efforts of the Otago Natural History Trust to establish Orokonui Eco Sanctuary, a fenced area of 307 hectares near Dunedin, which is now a secure habitat for native plants and animals.”

Dr Allen was nominated by the Otago Conservation Board. Board chairperson Abby Smith said that Dr Allen’s many contributions to the protection, cultivation and enjoyment of New Zealand’s indigenous flora deserved recognition. Dr Allen has published three books and over 50 scientific papers.

The Loder Cup was first awarded in 1926 to encourage and honour New Zealanders who work to investigate, promote, retain and cherish our indigenous flora. It is the highest plant conservation award in the country.



Dr Ralph Allan receives his certificate and the Loder Cup from Professor Abby Smith, Chair of the Otago Conservation Board. Photo: Department of Conservation.

Editor’s Note: The following report was prepared for the AGM in Christchurch that, unfortunately, through lack of a quorum, could not be held. It is therefore printed here subject to being received and approved at an AGM in the New Year.

President’s Report for 2011–2012

Introduction

Each year when I write the President’s message, I am amazed at the progress that has been made by the Network. NZPCN has a goal of providing and disseminating information about our indigenous plant species and plant conservation. Our ability to deliver on this goal continues to improve, with the increasing use of our website and the NZPCN resources such as species lists, books and plant images. We are about to launch a newly developed website and look forward to reaching even more people who are interested New Zealand’s indigenous plants.

There is an increasing interest in how ecosystem services are related to ecological conservation. Plants are often undervalued by the general population, but the services they provide, such as protecting water catchments, conserving soils, preventing floods, sequestering carbon and sheltering wildlife are of great importance to humanity. The theme of the AGM talks, “Bring natives back to the city” highlights some more services provided by our flora, such as providing a sense of place and the human connection with nature.

We cannot let up on our efforts—we still have close to 200 threatened plant species and all of our efforts are needed to reverse this serious decline. I was very proud to be able to represent New Zealand this year in signing the agreement with the Millenium Seed Bank. Though seed banking is only one mechanism to safeguard our species, it is an important one. Hopefully, the work involved to make sure all of our seeds are securely stored will gain more impetus in the coming years.

I am stepping down from the Presidency this year, but am honoured to have been able to play such a role in this dynamic organisation. It has been very satisfying to have been part the tremendous work that NZPCN has achieved and I’m sure that these achievements will continue to grow in the future.

Council meetings

Two Council meetings have been held during the year. The first was held in Wellington on 30 March 2012 and the second was held today, 29 November, in Christchurch.

Officers

The officers of Council for the last year were as follows:

Philippa Crisp (President)

Rewi Elliot (Secretary)

Nicky Oliver-Smith (Treasurer)

Sarah Beadel

Susan Wisser

John Sawyer

Owen Spearpoint

Kerry Gillbanks

Jesse Bythell

Matt Ward (co-opted)

Astrid van Meeuwen-Dijkgraaf (co-opted)

Shannel Courtney (co-opted)

Erik van Eyndhoven (co-opted)

Our Membership Secretary and Administrator was Eric Scott.

Our two Patrons are Peri Drysdale (Untouched World) and Rob Fenwick (The Living Earth Co.)

Finances

NZPCN finances are in a good state. Membership income is up again and donation income has increased. Operating costs are being covered and reserves remain stable, as does grant money for projects over the 2012-2013 financial year.

Sponsors

We are indebted to Treescape New Zealand and Phytomed Medicinal Herbs Ltd for their continued sponsorship of the Network. Their generosity is greatly appreciated. Royalties are received from the book, *Living with Natives: New Zealanders talk about their love of native plants* by Ian Spellerberg and Michelle Frey. We are very grateful to these authors for their contribution.

Network Membership (as of November 2011)

Eric Scott has continued to run the administrative aspects of the Network in a very competent and enthusiastic manner. The following table presents the membership totals as at 24 November 2012; the figures in brackets are the corresponding figures as at 1 November 2011.

Corporate (\$500)	2 (2)	51 (32) Individuals
Corporate (\$250)	27 (26)	184 (157) Individuals
NGO	19 (16)	70 (72) Individuals
Individual	236 (231)	236 (231) Individuals
Student/Unwaged	85 (79)	85 (79) Individuals
Honorary	2 (4)	2 (4) Individuals
Special category	1 (0)	Unknown number
TOTAL	372 (363)	628 (571) Individuals

During the year, one Honorary member, Audrey Eagle, asked to be removed from membership for personal reasons and another, Sir John Smith-Dodsworth, died, hence the reduction in the number of Honorary members. Also during the year a special membership category was created for the Victoria University Library and it is that membership which gives rise to the “unknown number” in the statistics.

Highlights from the past year

1. Website management, development and use

The use of the NZPCN website continues to grow at a phenomenal rate. The site now receives close to 1400 visits per day, which equates to over 500,000 visits annually. This is an increase of over 20% on last year's usage. More than 800 documents and 20,000 images are downloaded from the website daily. Ninety-four per cent of the native vascular flora is now illustrated on the website and our online images library now has 23,000 images. Marine algae have been added to the website thanks to NIWA and Te Papa. The Network has launched a flora mapping system and an online library where website users can store books that they have made on the website. A new five year web strategy has been developed in conjunction with Enviroschools, Landcare Trust, Te Papa, NIWA, Landcare Research and the Department of Conservation (sponsored by TFBIS). The website is being redeveloped and the new layout will be launched before Christmas 2012 (in conjunction with Cerulean and Propel).

2. Flora mapping system

The Network launched its flora mapping system this year with more than 1.4 million plant records online. The system took two years to build and was sponsored by the Department of Conservation. Graham Jane provided his national plant list database and Network members have recorded thousands of phenology observations. Since the launch, close to 10,000 plant observations have been loaded by people on to the website. These observations will help our understanding of the distribution and conservation status of native plant species, as well as aiding seed collection for restoration projects. It is another example of the way in which the Network is leading the way in providing plant information, a key goal in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.



3. Marae-based training courses

The final in the series of four marae-based plant training course modules has been completed. “Wetlands and riverbank ecosystems” has been written by Nick Singers and will be released in the next few weeks. Two marae-based courses on *Introduction to New Zealand's plant life* were delivered during the year; one at Otara and the final of the three TFBIS funded courses at Pairirau Marae with Te Uri O Hau Settlement Trust.

4. Millennium Seed Bank

NZPCN has signed an agreement with Kew Gardens to become a partner to its Millennium Seed Bank. This international seed bank provides partner countries with advice about state-of-the-art seed banking practices and access to funding assistance. This work is part of NZPCN's vision that no indigenous plants will become extinct and ex-situ collections are needed to safeguard this genetic diversity for the future.

5. Linkages with other websites/agencies

This year NZPCN provided news items and worked with the Department of Conservation to encourage members of the botanical community to submit on the new threatened plant listing. The network has highlighted a new key to flowering plant genera developed by David Glenny, while links

on species descriptions have been made to the Landcare Research database, Nga Tipu Whakaoranga for Traditional Maori Uses. We have made website linkages to the Te Papa Herbarium site and to Landcare Research's Flora site in previous years.

6. Awards

The NZPCN awards recognise the remarkable efforts of special individuals and groups who act as guardians of our country's native plants and ecosystems. Last year's awards recognized a Wanganui school (Wanganui Intermediate School), plant nursery (Southland Community Nursery) and community group (Motuihe Trust). The Local Authority award went to Greater Wellington Regional Council, while the outstanding individual recognized was Anne Fraser (a dedicated orchidologist). Corey Meister of Wellington won the Young Conservationist of the Year award for his restoration work at Island Bay. A Special Award was made to Graeme Hill, New Zealand broadcaster and weekend host for Radio Live. Graeme has been a strong advocate for conservation in his role in the media. A Lifetime Achievement award was given to Sir John Smith-Dodsworth who has made major contributions to botany, including providing close to 4,000 images to the NZPCN website. Sir John passed away this year and will be sadly missed by the botanical community. This year's awards will be made at the NZPCN AGM event.

7. David Given Scholarship Award

The second David Given Scholarship Award was made to Esther Dale, an Auckland University masters student. The scholarship is granted every two years and encourages research that assists in the protection and recovery of New Zealand's threatened plant species and communities. Esther provided an article about her research on the ecology of Cook's scurvy grass (*Lepidium oleraceum*) in relation to seabirds, in the July 2012 issue of the NZPCN newsletter.

8. Vote for New Zealand's favourite plant

Sporadanthus ferrineus was voted New Zealand's favourite plant for 2011-2012, with kauri, New Zealand calceolaria, beach morning glory and Kirk's kohukohu making up the top five. Thousands of votes were cast in this popular competition, which will be run again this year (10th year of the poll). One lucky voter won a copy of the book "*Native by design*" in the 2011-2012 competition.

9. The Newsletter

The newsletter celebrated its 100th edition this year with contributions from past Presidents of NZPCN. That the Network is able to generate such an informative newsletter every month for the past 10 years is a feat in itself and credit goes to the people who have made this happen behind the scenes (Eric Scott, Jeremy Rolfe, Rewi Elliot and John Sawyer). The many contributors make this newsletter worthwhile and we encourage you all to keep sending those stories in.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the excellent work and on-going commitment of our Council and co-opted members. All of the members have taken on important roles to assist the development of the Network. Nicky Oliver-Smith has ably taken on the role of Treasurer for us this year and Rewi continues to take on numerous tasks on top of his Secretary role. Thanks again to Jesse Bythell for the extra work she has put in this year.

Philippa Crisp, October 2012

Survey for a plant nursery in the Central North Island

A central North Island iwi is planning to establish a plant nursery to supply native species for restoration projects, and possibly high-value, specialty species for commercial forestry. The iwi is doing this primarily to supply native plants for restoration of an extensive area of its own land back into podocarp/hardwood forest in the Whirinaki Valley. The iwi is also interested in commercial sales of native plants to other parties, to help fund its conservation project. APR Consultants Ltd has been contracted by the iwi to undertake a feasibility study for the nursery. If you are involved

in either conservation (revegetation) plantings or forestry growing, or have knowledge of issues affecting conservation plantings or forestry, please assist with the survey. You may complete as much of the survey as you want, depending on your knowledge and involvement in these issues – this will assist with the research for the iwi.

The questionnaire can either be completed online (using the link below), emailed (pdf file), or posted to interested parties. The link to the online version of the survey is: <http://aprconsultants.co.nz/nurserysurvey/>

If you have any questions, APR can be contacted either by e-mail: plantnursery@apr.co.nz or telephone Tatiana on 0800 APR YES (277 937).

Successful 2012 Canterbury ‘Plantout’

The Canterbury Plantout is an opportunity for Te Ara Kakariki Greenway Canterbury Trust, Waihora Ellesmere Trust, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council and Ngai Tahu to hold collaborate planting days in the upper and lower Selwyn River/Waikirikiriri. With less than 0.5% of original native vegetation remaining in the Selwyn District, it is all hands on deck to try to reinstate native corridors and ‘greendots’. The Canterbury Plantout is a unique, collaborative, landscape-scale approach to the reintroduction of native vegetation and plant communities.



Participants in the 2012 Canterbury Plantout. Photo: Greenway Canterbury Trust.

In 2012, we had a massive 550 volunteers plant 7700 native plants at 11 different sites over four separate events. A big thanks to our amazing volunteers for pulling off a massive effort. We hope to see you all for the 2013 Canterbury Plantout. For further information see: www.kakariki.org.nz

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):

Dune Restoration Trust conference

Conference: Tuesday 5 March to Thursday 7 March; optional Golden Bay/Farewell Spit field trip 8-9 March. **Venue:** Tahuna Beach Holiday Park, Nelson. **Early registration date:** 8 February, final registration 28 February.

More information: <http://www.dunetrust.org.nz/news-and-events/conference-2013/>

New Zealand Epiphyte workshop

Workshop: Thursday 21 to Saturday 23 February. Venue: Brian Bellringer Pavilion, New Plymouth. Abstract submission: 19 January. Registration: by 1 February, space limited.

More information: www.waikato.ac.nz/eri/epiphyte or e-mail: epiphytes@waikato.ac.nz

Auckland Botanical Society

Field trip: Friday 25 to Monday 28 January, Anniversary Weekend Camp at Lake Waikaremoana.

Contact: Leslie Haines.

Kaipatiki Project - Registrations open for EcoFest & EcoWest 2013

Eco-festivals: March 2013. Community organisations and businesses with an eye for environmental action and sustainable living are invited to take part in two eco-festivals taking place throughout March next year.

To register an event, contribute a talk or display, or offer sponsorship or donations: www.ecofest.org.nz (from 14 January 2013) or contact: Louisa Chase, Festival Manager (EcoFest North), Kaipatiki Project Environment Centre, e-mail: festival@kaipatiki.org.nz, ph: 09 482 1172 or Leanne Roche or Anna Fomison, Festival Managers (EcoWest), Ecomatters Environment Trust, e-mail: ecowest@ecomatters.org.nz, ph: 09 826 4276.

Wellington Botanical Society

Annual field camp: Saturday 29 December 2012 to Monday 7 January 2013 at Arthur's Pass Outdoor Education Centre.

Accommodation: in bunk rooms at \$20 per night; the centre can sleep 44 people in 7 separate rooms. Bring your own pillows and bedding; for further information see www.apoec.org.nz.

Contact: booking ESSENTIAL, Chris Moore, ph: 04 479 3924, mobile: 027 431 3789, e-mail: moore.c@xtra.co.nz, to register. A deposit of \$300 per person is required with registration; the balance will be invoiced at the end of the trip.

Nelson Botanical Society

Field trip: Sunday 20 January to Inwoods Lookout and Gordons Knob ridge.

Leader: Marie Firth, ph: 027 227 4959.

Field trip: Friday 1 to Monday 4 February, Anniversary Weekend camp. **Venue:** Hanmer.

Contact and Leader: Cathy Jones, ph: 03 546 9499

Canterbury Botanical Society

Summer Camp: Lake Tekapo area. The first night of camp will be 4 January and we will depart on the morning 11 January (thus field activities will be on 5–10 January inclusive). We will be based at the Tekapo Military Camp near the Tekapo township. Cost: \$10/night per person.

Bookings, contact: Gillian Giller e-mail: ggillerma1@actrix.gen.nz.

University of Canterbury summer course

Practical Field Botany (BIOL305): an intensive, short summer course designed to meet the need for training in the collection, preparation, and identification of botanical specimens. Venue: Mountain Biological Field Station at Cass, Canterbury. Dates: 15 January – 23 January 2013.

More information: Dr Pieter Pelser, e-mail: pieter.pelser@canterbury.ac.nz; ph: 03 364 2987 ext. 45605.

Otago Botanical Society

Field camp: Wellington Botanical Society invites BSO members to join them at its annual camp at the Arthur's Pass Outdoor Education Centre, see above for details.

Contact: [Allison Knight](mailto:Allison.Knight@otago.ac.nz), ph: 03 487 8265.

Ongaonga
(*Urtica ferox*)

PHOTO: MIKE THORSEN

“ It has
potential
military
applications,
and yet is
essential for the
gentle Red Admiral
butterfly ”

—GRAEME



VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE

NATIVE PLANT

www.nzpcn.org.nz

VOTING CLOSES MIDNIGHT 31 DECEMBER 2012

