



NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

E-NEWSLETTER: NO 3. FEBRUARY 2004

Please send news items or events to events@nzpcn.org.nz

Message from the President

The year has begun with a flurry of plant conservation activity. The Network's workshop summary document has been well received in New Zealand and abroad and is forming the basis for our on-going programme. New members have been joining the Network including local councils and people from overseas.

The Council has been working with contractors to develop the website to make it easier to obtain information about threatened plants. Announcements about this will be made as and when new additions are made. The website is receiving over 1000 visitors each month so we are making it a priority to fill the many gaps in the species information.

The Council of the Network has also been busy preparing bids for funding future initiatives including a bid to enhance the web site and include information about threatened fungi. The Network has also bid for resources to prepare a marae-based Plant Conservation Training Course. We will report back about whether they are successful in future editions.

I encourage you to let us know about events of exciting discoveries or successes in plant conservation so that we may spread the good news to members nationwide.

New Threatened Plant Classification

A new threat classification system for flora, fauna and fungi has been developed by the Department of Conservation in conjunction with experts throughout New Zealand. Threatened plant listings are determined by a set of criteria that may be found in the document at the following web link: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Publications/004~Science-and-Research/Biodiversity-Recovery-Unit/PDF/TSOP23pre.pdf>

The new threat categories are split into three groups: Acutely Threatened (Nationally Critical, Nationally Endangered and Nationally Vulnerable); Chronically Threatened (Serious Decline and Gradual Decline) and At Risk (Range Restricted and Sparse). For definitions of all these terms go to the glossary of the Network's website (www.nzpcn.org.nz).

Plant of the month

Atriplex hollowayi or Holloway's crystalwort is Nationally Critical and is known only from the far north of New Zealand in Northland. It is an annual, succulent herb, forming circular 1 × 1 m mounds on sandy beaches just above mean annual high water tide mark. It is conservation dependent and subject to extreme fluctuations. The species factsheet may be obtained by following this link: http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz_threatenedplants/detail.asp?PlantID=4. More information about this species can be found in the New Zealand Journal of Botany (no.38: 551–567) in a paper written in 2000 by P.J. de Lange, D.A. Norton and G.M. Crowcroft entitled 'Taxonomy, ecology and conservation of *Atriplex billardierei* and *A. hollowayi* sp. nov. (Chenopodiaceae) in Australasia'.

Opportunity to represent the Network

The Network has been invited to attend an OECD Expert Meeting on Farm Management Indicators and the Environment, Palmerston North, New Zealand 8–12 March, 2004. The main purpose of the meeting is to:

- *Develop policy-relevant and feasible indicators* that can track the current state and trends in farm management practices and approaches important from an environmental perspective; and
- *Examine the impediments, incentives and research needs for the uptake of environmentally sound farm management practices*

If you would like to attend the meeting on behalf of the Network please contact us as soon as possible. We would like to have the message delivered to the meeting that a key indicator in the management of the New Zealand landscape is the status of threatened native plants, many of which occur on privately owned land. Please tell us if you are willing to take this message to the meeting.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the Network you can contact Council members directly (contacts are listed in the 'Key People' section of the website: www.nzpcn.org.nz). Our postal address is P.O. Box 16-102, Wellington, e-mail: info@nzpcn.org.nz

Membership

We now have well over 140 members from five countries and the number is increasing rapidly. Please encourage your local council, school, plant nursery, neighbour or university to join the Network.

Help needed with improving the website?

We are very keen to hear from anyone interested in helping us fill the blanks in the species information on the website. This may include entering data onto the site or may involve writing new descriptions for species or investigating habitats, flowering and fruiting times and where species are in cultivation. If you are able to help with this work please contact us at info@nzpcn.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).

Sounds 'N Nature concert

Nga Manu Nature Reserve on Ngarara Road in Waikanae is holding a Sounds 'N Nature concert on SATURDAY 6 MARCH 2004 from 4.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. Many of the region's threatened native plants are grown on Preservation Island at Nga Manu as part of the Network's ex-situ programme of threatened species protection./captive . For more information go to <http://www.ngamanu.co.nz/concert/concert.htm>

Weed Ecology and Biocontrol of Weeds Workshops

Landcare Research is running another weed ecology workshop on 23 February 2004, and a biocontrol of weeds workshop the following day (24 February 2004). For more information contact Lynley Hayes (E-mail: hayesl@landcareresearch.co.nz, Ph 03 3256 701 ext 3808 Fax 03 3252 418). Both workshops will be held at Auckland University's Tamaki Campus and are free of charge. Lunch will be available both days at the cost of \$10 per head, or you can make your own arrangements.

Wetland Symposium - Restoring Wetlands – a practical forum, Wellington, 27–28 February 2004

Optional field trip 29 February 2004. Registration forms available from wetlands@gw.govt.nz. Please complete form and return to: Restoring Wetlands, c/o Greater Wellington, P O Box 11-646, Wellington or fax to 04 385 6960. Deadline for registration: Friday 13 February 2004.

Coastal Dune Vegetation Network – conference 2004

To be held in Wellington 10–13 March. For programme and registration details see <http://www.forestresearch.co.nz/topic.asp?topic=2004%20Coastal%20Dune%20Vegetation%20Network%20Conference&title=10%20%2D%2013%20March%202004>

2nd World Botanic Gardens Congress, Barcelona, Spain, 17–22 April 2004

The congress is an essential event for all involved in plant conservation, with a comprehensive programme of lectures, symposia, roundtable discussions, workshops, debates and posters developed around the congress themes, which include biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, environmental education, botanic research and heritage. Full details of the congress programme – including information on special events, pre-and post-congress tours, excursions and social events are on the congress website: <http://www.bcn.es/medciencies/botanicgardens2004>.