



# TRILEPIDEA

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

Please send news items or events to [events@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:events@nzpcn.org.nz)

Postal address: P.O. Box 16-102, Wellington, New Zealand

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Deadline for next issue: Monday 14 July 2008

## Message from the President

It is my pleasure to confirm that we have a new sponsor for the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network and that is Phytomed Medicinal Herbs Ltd. This is an ongoing sponsorship or at least I prefer to say partnership. Many thanks to Emmett Bowker of Phytomed and to Phil Rasmussen, General Manager of Phytomed Medicinal Herbs Ltd. for entering into this partnership in such a positive fashion. Please read on and learn more about Phytomed.

I am sure that the everyone likes a good deal? Well there is an opportunity to have a cheap registration for the Conference—if you register before the end of this month! The closing date for early bird registrations is 30 June. E-mail: [info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz) for a registration form. Why wouldn't you want to register?

This year's conference is a very, very important one for the Network. It marks not only five years of progress but it is also a time to discuss where to from here. What are the next most important priorities for the Network—at a time when there are likely to be even greater threats to our native plants and native plant communities. We need your input at the Conference because you are the Network and because the status of our natural heritage is highly dependent on your commitment.

We also need you to help with nominations of the Network Plant Conservation Awards. You have a school or plant nursery near you. You know of someone (an adult and a young person) who is doing a lot for native plants. Do please have a look at all six of the categories because we do need to have those nominations as soon as possible. Anyone can make a nomination—not just Network members. I have to say that I have been most disappointed at the low number of nominations in previous years—particularly as I know that there are many deserving people and projects out there. Please help to recognise good work and good people. The Awards are a very important way of not only recognising people and organisations but of promoting New Zealand native plants! Please have a look at the web site for more details.

Having people contribute to the Newsletter is, as you will know, something that I do try and encourage. It is hard work trying to persuade people to write something. It is not hard work to write something. For this issue I am most grateful to Barbara Mitcalfe and Chis Home for their piece about the Botanical Trail in Karori Sanctuary and to Sarah Beadel and Kelvin Lloyd for their piece about 'Moawhitu', D'Urville Island. Well done!

*Ian Spellerberg*  
*Lincoln University*

## Introducing Phytomed

Kia Ora *Trilepidea* readers, we would like to take a moment to introduce Phytomed to you and also to thank all those who have worked with us in forging this new relationship.

Phytomed Medicinal Herbs Ltd was established in 1998 by pharmacist and medical herbalist, the esteemed Phil Rasmussen. We are a NZ owned company who produce quality herbal medicine products for qualified healthcare practitioners. We also manufacture the Kiwiherb® range, which is available to the public from various retail outlets. From 1 June 2008, we are contributing 10 cents from the sale of every Kiwiherb® product containing a NZ native plant, directly to NZPCN. The team at Phytomed are very excited about the opportunities the partnership between NZPCN and Phytomed offers. As you might expect, we are passionate about plants, we all work with them either as herbal medicine practitioners or manufacturers and many of us are keen gardeners and bush walkers.

As a forward thinking company, we are deeply concerned with the continued wanton destruction of our planet, particularly with the impact this has on the world's plant life. It could be said that, although plants could well do without human interference in their lives, humans simply cannot exist without plants. We promote the traditional uses of plants as medicine and as such, threats to the future of plant life pose a danger to the future of herbal medicine; it is a logical step for us to assist an organisation that helps to combat this. NZPCN has an admirable objective, which states, "That no indigenous species of plant will become extinct nor be placed at risk of extinction as a result of human action or indifference, and that the rich and unique plant life of New Zealand will be recognised, cherished and restored." This appeals to us and we hope that our assistance will help to bring this vision into reality.

However, we also recognise the importance our own actions have on achieving this goal. We promote the use of native medicinal herbs (rongoa), but only when these have been harvested in an ethical and sustainable manner. By promoting this use of our unique native flora, we hope to create new employment opportunities (especially for rural Maori), promote Maori culture, encourage plant conservation and also help the local economy.

Thanks to Ian Spellerberg, Rebecca Stanley and all of the networks' dedicated team of volunteers for helping to make this happen. We look forward to further strengthening our relationship with NZPCN and working towards a brighter future for our natural environment.

## Plant of the Month

Plant of the Month for June is *Carmichaelia uniflora* or dwarf broom. This is a matted dwarf grass-like shrub which only grows up to 8 cm tall. It grows in a few localised areas of the south island (Nelson, Otago, Canterbury and Southland). It creeps over stones in sparsely vegetated riverbeds and valley floors. Dwarf broom is very palatable and is browsed by rabbits, hares, deer, and goats.



*Carmichaelia uniflora*.

Photo: John Smith-Dodsworth.



Kawakawa, *Macropiper excelsum*.

Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

It is regarded as data deficient a threat category for taxa which are suspected to be threatened but there is not enough data to make an accurate assessment. Whenever data deficient taxa are found, the sighting should be reported on the network website so that an accurate picture of its threat status can be drawn. Go to the 'threatened Species: bar and click "Record your Observation". The Network fact sheet for *Carmichaelia uniflora* may be found at: [www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz\\_threatenedplants/detail.asp?PlantID=1645](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nz_threatenedplants/detail.asp?PlantID=1645)

## **NZPCN Plant Conservation Awards: 2008**

The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network is now accepting nominations for its 2008 plant conservation awards. The purpose of these awards is to acknowledge outstanding contributions to native plant conservation. Please note this year there is a new category of Young Plant Conservationist of the Year (for people under 18 years at 30 June 2008).

The award categories are:

- Individual involved in plant conservation
- Plant nursery involved in plant conservation
- School plant conservation project
- Community plant conservation project
- Local authority protecting native plant life
- Young Plant Conservationist of the Year (under 18 years at 30 June 2008)

Please use the form included in this newsletter to make nominations. More information about the awards scheme is available on the Network website—see [www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz). You can make multiple nominations under different categories. Everyone is eligible to make nominations, not just Network members so please forward the form to friends and colleagues. The awards will be made at the Network conference dinner to be held on Saturday 9 August 2008 at the Wellington Brewery. See the Network website for more information.

## **Botanical Trail in Karori Sanctuary, Wellington**

Karori Sanctuary was the first, urban, mainland island, in New Zealand. It covers 225 hectares in the upper catchment of the Te Mahanga tributary of Kaiwharawhara Stream. The predator fence surrounding the site was completed in 1999. The vegetation in the Sanctuary valley comprises vigorously regenerating, indigenous forest, shrubland, flaxland and wetland, as well as exotic forest and shrubland which are progressively being eliminated.

Several years ago Wellington Botanical Society offered to establish a botanical trail to encourage Sanctuary visitors to pause and study the native plants alongside Lake Road and Te Mahanga Track. This self-guided trail has developed from an idea into a reality, an easy walk from the Visitor Centre. An A3 illustrated brochure, “An introduction to some native plants in Karori Sanctuary”, available at the Visitor Centre for \$1, includes a botanical glossary, and the list of the common, Maori and botanical names of the plants selected. Alongside the trail, numbered posts from 1 to 16, stand beside the plants illustrated and described in the brochure. Wellington Botanical Society volunteers developed the text in consultation with the Sanctuary Marketing Team, and the society contributed to the printing cost. The Botanical Trail was opened in March. May we suggest you walk it, next time you are in Wellington. Your comments are invited.

*Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne for Wellington Botanical Society*

## **“Moawhitu”, D’Urville Island**

*Sarah Beadel and Kelvin Lloyd*

Moawhitu, on D’Urville Island, has recently been vested in DOC. Moawhitu covers about 1,300 ha on the western side of D’Urville Island, contiguous with D’Urville Scenic Reserve. D’Urville Island is located at the top of the South Island, on the western side of the Marlborough Sounds. In October 2008 we were lucky enough to spend two or three days at Moawhitu, studying the vegetation and the botany. Around 370 plant species have been recorded from Moawhitu to date. Two thirds are indigenous and one third exotic. This includes 10 nationally threatened species and 15 regionally important species (from Department of Conservation 2007 and current survey).

This reserve can be accessed from French Pass at the north-western end of the Marlborough Sounds—catching the ferry and then a ride by vehicle to the DOC camp, or by charter flight from Wellington, Picton, Blenheim, or Nelson (the main airstrip on the island is in the middle of Moawhitu), or by boat or kayak from the sea. Apparently a circumnavigation of D’Urville by sea kayak is one of the big sea kayaking voyages in New Zealand. More information on this reserve can be obtained from the DOC office in Picton.

In short, this area is a botanist’s paradise. The diverse range of habitats, all with scenic outlooks, within easy walking distance from the camp site makes for a very memorable stay. Some of the botanical highlights are described below.

The exposed coastal sea cliffs along the western side support coastal herbfields. These are often dominated by native ice plant, with frequent *Selliera radicans*, *Samolus repens*, *Spergularia media*, *Senecio lautus*, and *Puccinellia stricta*, as well as scattered *Lobelia anceps*, *Einadia triandra*, shore celery (*Apium prostratum*), club rush, and local *Lachnagrostis billardierei*. The exotic species narrow-leaved plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), prickly sow thistle, perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), and hawkbit are also present.



Close-up of cliff vegetation, with *Melicytus* aff. *obovatus* in foreground.

Rocky cliffs in coastal locations and smaller rock outcrops elsewhere provide habitat for a distinctive plant community in which *Hebe stenophylla* is almost always present. *Hebe stricta* is also present on inland rocky outcrops, while *Melicytus* aff. *obovatus* and taupata (*Coprosma repens*) are frequent on coastal cliffs. Other species typical of coastal cliff vegetation include *Einadia triandra*, *Cheilanthes distans*, *Muehlenbeckia complexa*, *Dichondra brevifolia*, *Linum monogynum* (flowering October 2007), and prickly sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*).

Also on the dry north-western coastal slopes, trees of ngaio, akeake, akiraho, kanuka, and more rarely cabbage tree, occur as scattered individuals or in small groves. In one of these groves we found a large population of *Tupeia antarctica*, mainly parasitic on the akeake.

Kanuka-dominant forest, treeland, and scrub covers large parts of the block. Within one of these stands near the main access route to the northern end of the block there is a small stand of *Pimelea longifolia*, which was in full flower when we were on D’Urville in October 2007.



*Tupeia antarctica*.



*Pimelea longifolia*.

An extensive dune system occurs at Moawhitu Bay, Greville Harbour. These dunes are largely covered in marram but lupin (*Lupinus arboreus*) is locally abundant. Indigenous species are scarce, but there are occasional kanuka trees in rear dune areas, akeake on foredunes, a patch of spinifex

(*Spinifex sericeus*) at the northern end of the foredunes, and scattered occurrences of *Lachnagrostis billardierei*. A range of exotic herbs and grasses also occur on the dunes, with ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), catchfly, spotted bur medick (*Medicago arabica*), King Island melilot (*Melilotus indicus*), and fleabane (*Conyza albida*) among the most prominent. On the foredune, as well as adventives, the native species *Lachnagrostis billardierei* and *Calystegia soldanella* are occasionally present.

A gravel flat occurs behind the foredune in the southern part of the dune system. Sparse marram is present on this gravel flat, above frequent mats of *Raoulia* aff. *hookeri*. *Crassula sieberiana* is also present.

Large expanses of swamp and marshland occur behind the southern part of the Moawhitu dunes. These areas have been extensively drained and grazed in the past. Exotic rushes, herbs, and grasses are common. Again, indigenous species are fairly sparse with local *Juncus edgariae*, *Juncus sarophorus*, and *Carex virgata*.

Two small ephemeral wetlands occur near the DOC campsite at the northern end of the Moawhitu dunes. Sharp spike sedge (*Eleocharis acuta*), creeping bent, *Ranunculus sardous*, narrow-leaved plantain, water forget-me-not (*Myosotis laxa* subsp. *caespitosa*), and curly pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) are present in and on the margins of these wetlands, along with the rushes *Juncus australis*, *J. effusus*, and *J. pallidus*.

There is a moderate-sized (c. 35 ha) unnamed lake inland from the DOC campsite. The margins of the lake provide habitat for a range of submerged and emergent wetland plants. The most striking of these is a stand of *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*, which occurs near the lake margin in the vicinity of the residential house.

Common aquatic species include water forget-me-not, *Myriophyllum propinquum*, *Glossostigma elatinoides*, starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*), and *Lilaeopsis novae-zelandiae*, while creeping bent, jointed rush (*Juncus articulatus*), *J. pallidus*, *Cyperus ustulatus*, pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*) and *Euchiton involucratus* were common in wet ground on the lake margins.

One of the interesting places to explore is the steep coastal slopes on the western side of the site and at the tip of Two Bay Point. In these locations scattered manuka, tauhinu, heketara (*Olearia rani*), wharariki (mountain flax; *Phormium cookianum*), club rush (*Ficinia nodosa*), and silver tussock (*Poa cita*) occur above exotic grasses and herbs together with native herbs such as ice plant (*Disphyma australe*), *Senecio lautus*, *Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum*, and *Einadia triandra*. On the slopes on the eastern side of Two Bay Point there is a small population of *Hebe elliptica*.

On lower elevation hillslopes there is often kohekohe forest and treeland. The size of these patches varies from relatively extensive forests and treelands to very small stands. Kaikomako is a common associate species, along with mahoe, hinau, titoki, pigeonwood, occasional emergent nikau, and karaka, and ngaio in coastal sites.

On the middle and lower slopes of forested hills inland from the coast, elements of several different forest types are represented. Beech forest extends down rocky spurs but it is mixed with matai and totara, while more moist sites between spurs and lower elevation slopes support a broadleaved canopy dominated by kohekohe with scattered emergent kahikatea, rimu, miro, nikau and pukatea. Last time I (SMB) was on the island (in May 2008), in the absence of possums, the kohekohe was in full flower, and the midday bird song of bellbird was truly amazing. Although I was standing on a grassy hillslope several hundred metres away from the nearest kohekohe, the dominant sound was the melodic calls of bellbirds.

If you want to wander further afield, there is beech/kamaha forest prominent at higher elevations. The predominant species are hard beech and black beech but some mountain beech is also present and occasional individuals of miro and Hall's totara (*Podocarpus cunninghamii*). Kamahi is the

predominant subcanopy tree but lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*), mapou, broadleaf, and heketara are also frequent.

Montane broadleaved forest occurs where beech forest is absent on the upper slopes of the ridge between Mt Woora and Mt Jackson. The canopy is diverse, including broadleaf, tawa, mapou, kamahi, hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*), mahoe, putaputaweta (*Carpodetus serratus*), pigeonwood (*Hedycarya arborea*) and occasional raukawa (*Raukaua edgerleyi*). Occasional miro trees are emergent above the canopy. Ramarama (*Lophomyrtus bullata*) and kaikomako are common subcanopy trees, while these species as well as *Raukaua anomalus*, *Coprosma areolata*, *C. rhamnoides*, and ongaonga (*Urtica ferox*) are frequent in the understory.

At the northern end of the site there is cabbage tree/*Carex virgata* swamp with local *Cyperus ustulatus*, harakeke, and manuka. Also up this end are some tall dunes extending up from Opu Bay. The vegetation here comprises scattered groups of shrubs (e.g. *Coprosma propinqua*) with local *Coprosma acerosa*. Native spinach (*Tetragonia implexicoma*) and *Muehlenbeckia complexa* scramble through and over these shrubs. *Ficinia nodosa*, and exotic grasses and herbs, e.g., ratstail, white clover (*Trifolium repens*), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), and sweet vernal, make up most of the ground cover, with local *Carex pumila* occurring between the shrubs. Marram occurs locally, particularly on the lower slopes.

Beaches on the north-western coast support mainly exotic grasses and herbs including barley grass, kikuyu, horned poppy, prickly sow thistle, and King Island melilot. However, the native daisy *Senecio lautus* is also present, along with the native shore bindweed *Calystegia soldanella*.

This place is a special part of New Zealand and I (SMB) am already planning my next trip back, with our whole family, no doubt to continue the family tradition of "we spend all our holidays looking at plants", as I recently overheard my daughter telling her rowing coach. The diverse range of habitats present, all within easy walking distance, make this area a botanist's idea of heaven!

A similar version of this article was published in the Rotorua Botanical Society Newsletter in May 2008.

### **Acknowledgments**

We would like to acknowledge the following organisations and people. The information contained in this article was collected whilst undertaking work for the Ministry for the Environment. Stephen Rate (Wildland Consultants Ltd) provided comments on a draft of this article. We would like to thank Department of Conservation staff for providing logistical support and/or field assistance whilst we were on the Island — Pete Brady, Joseph Araund and Harry Maher; Shannel Courtney (DOC, Nelson) for useful discussion about flora; and Bernie Coggan and Brenda Hatfield for welcoming us into the DOC accommodation on the island.

### **References**

Department of Conservation 2007: Moawhitu: D'Urville Island Scenic Reserve, D'Urville Island operational plan. Comprehensive DOC version. 39 pp. plus photographs.

### **Complete list of environmental weeds**

A 'Consolidated List' of over 300 environmental weeds in New Zealand has been compiled by DOC to improve consistency for what have been loosely referred to as 'DOC weeds'. The report notes that two-thirds of environmental weeds had been deliberately introduced as ornamental plants. Ominously it predicts that the rate of new naturalisations shows no indication of abating, and it is expected that the list will continue to grow. The report has been written by Clayson Howell and can be downloaded from the DOC website: [www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/science-and-technical/drds292.pdf](http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/science-and-technical/drds292.pdf)

## 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](mailto:events@nzpcn.org.nz)):

### New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Conference

The Network conference will be held 8–9 August with field trip options on Sunday 10 August. Registration forms are now available (please contact the Network to obtain a copy, email: [info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz)). More information about our conference can be found at: [www.nzpcn.org.nz/news\\_events/conference.asp](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/news_events/conference.asp)

### NZ Ecological Society Conference

This year's annual conference of the New Zealand Ecological Society will be held on the Unitec New Zealand campus, Auckland, hosted by the School of Natural Sciences. The conference runs from 29 September to 2 October 2008, with a student day on Sunday 28 September. The conference will include three symposia – Urban Ecology recognising an emerging element within the discipline of ecology; island restoration celebrating the success of the Tiritiri Matangi project; and a symposium recognising the contribution of Assoc. Prof. John Ogden to the discipline of ecology. See [www.newzealandecology.org/conf2008/](http://www.newzealandecology.org/conf2008/) for more information.

### NETS (NZ Biosecurity Institute Conference)

NETS2008 – Biosecurity Connections: Touch, Pause, Engage is in Hamilton on the 23rd–25<sup>th</sup> July 2008. N.E.T.S is the annual education and training seminar held by the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute. Each N.E.T.S is attended by people from all facets of the Biosecurity field and features workshops and presentations on many different aspects of invasive species management. Keynote speakers include Dr Rachel MacFadyen from Australia's Cooperative Research Centre, and Dr Mick Clout from the international Global Invasive Species Programme. For further information see: [www.biosecurity.org.nz/](http://www.biosecurity.org.nz/)

### Auckland Botanical Society

**Meeting:** 2 July 2008 Dan Blanchon (Unitec) will talk about Lichens in Auckland. Meeting venue: Unitec School of Natural Sciences Gate 3, Building 023 Room 1018

**Field trip:** 19 July 2008 Maungaroa Lookout Track and Nikau Grove Track (Waitakere Ranegs) Piha. Contact Maureen Young [youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:youngmaureen@xtra.co.nz)

**Lucy Cranwell Lecture:** 1 October 2008. Advance notice of the annual lecture where George Gibbs will present “The origin of New Zealand's flora: how much do we really know?”

### Rotorua Botanical Society

**Annual General Meeting:** Monday 30 June. Venue: DOC BOP Conservancy Office, 99 Sala St, Rotorua, go in Scion (Forest Research) north entrance and turn left before the locked gates. Time: 7.30 pm. Following the AGM members will show images of recent expeditions so bring photos of recent expeditions on memory stick or CD. 10 images or 10 minutes please.

**Field Trip:** Saturday 5 July–(Sunday 6 July optional) Tablelands QEII covenant, Opotiki. Leader: Tim Senior ph 0800 368 288 ext 6010 or 07 315 7371 a/h or e-mail [tim.senior@envbop.govt.nz](mailto:tim.senior@envbop.govt.nz)  
Meet: The carpark between conference centre and police station at 8:00 am or Opotiki DOC Area Office (Cnr Elliot & St John Street) 9.45 a.m. (note there is the option of staying the weekend (tents) for those interested). Wayne O'Keefes privately owned QE 2 covenant block consists of mature 20 ha coastal forest with puriri/tawa common. Other species include hard beech and *Pimelea tomentosa*.

**Field Trip:** Saturday 19 July Okareka Mistletoe Restoration Project Weed Control/Site Prep Work Day Leader: Paul Cashmore 07 348 4421 (hm), 349 7432 (wk) [pcashmore@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pcashmore@doc.govt.nz). Meet: Cnr Summit and Loop Rds @ 8:45 a.m. Grade: Medium-Hard – Activities suitable for all ages and abilities will be provided (see advert in this newsletter). This workday will focus on any site preparation required for our September planting.

### **Wellington Botanical Society**

**Field trip:** Saturday 5 July. Ngaio reserves. Botanise Heke Reserve, Huntleigh Park, and Trelissick Park. See kohekohe forest in flower, podocarps, kamahi, tall kanuka, hinau and tawa, lianes and ferns; also revegetation plantings. Beginners especially welcome. Map R27 Wellington, and street map. Plant list and park pamphlets supplied. Catch 9.02 a.m. train on Johnsonville line from Wellington to Ngaio. Finish at Kaiwharawhara, or if you would like a shorter trip, finish at Crofton Downs Station. Co-leaders: Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149, Chris Horne 475 7025.

**Evening meeting:** Monday 21 July. Otari-Wilton's Bush - BioBlitz and the previous century Rodney Lewington will summarise the floristic results of the March 2007 BioBlitz, and in doing so look at the previous 100 years of botany in the natural area of Otari.

### **Canterbury Botanical Society**

**Meeting:** Friday 4 July at 7.30 p.m., Room A5 University of Canterbury a talk titled "Invasive Plants" by Professor Phil Hulme of Lincoln University. **Contact:** Margaret Geerkens, ph: 352 7922, email: [bert.marg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bert.marg@xtra.co.nz).

**Field trip:** Saturday 5 July a visit to the insectivorous plants in Christchurch Botanic Gardens. **Contact:** Margaret Geerkens –ph: 352 7922 e-mail: [bert.marg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bert.marg@xtra.co.nz).

### **Botanical Society of Otago**

**Meeting:** Flora of the Fourties and Fifties: Subantarctic Plants. Wednesday 16 July, 2008. Start time: 5.20 p.m. An illustrated talk by Lorna Little. Lorna voyaged with Heritage expeditions to the Subantarctic Islands in February this year, coming across many interesting plants, only some of which were recognisable. This talk portrays some of the fascinating flora that can be found in these, technically, South Pacific islands. It will begin, like her trip, with the plants on the furthest island, Campbell Island. Auckland and Enderby Islands will follow, finishing up with a sampling of the flora of the Snares Islands. 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 Robyn Bridges, phone: (03) 479 8372.

**Field trip:** Varleys Hill Sunday 22 June, 2008. Meet at 9 a.m. The QEII covenant at Varleys Hill on the Otago Peninsula includes a small salt meadow, lowland broadleaf forest, large areas of kanuka, and a hill top shrubland. Since farm stock were excluded 15 years ago, the broadleaf understorey has recovered rapidly and a variety of ferns are present under the kanuka canopy. Moira Parker will show us around the covenant and we may also visit a second nearby covenant. Contact Moira Parker, phone: (03) 478 0214.

**Meeting:** Canadian Arctic Wednesday 20 August, 2008 Start time: 5:20 p.m. A talk by Audrey Eagle. A surprising variety of plants are in flower in the areas surrounding Bathurst Inlet during the short Arctic summer. Photographs of these together with some reference to geological features, animals and Inuit culture will be shown by Audrey Eagle. 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.



## NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

### **PLANT CONSERVATION AWARDS: 2008**

The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network is now accepting nominations for the 2008 awards. The purpose of these awards is to acknowledge outstanding contributions to native plant conservation. Please note the new category of Young Plant Conservationist of the Year.

The award categories are:

- Individual involved in plant conservation
- Plant nursery involved in plant conservation
- School plant conservation project
- Community plant conservation project
- Local authority protecting native plant life
- Young Plant Conservationist of the Year (under 18 years at 30 June 2008)

More information about the awards scheme and additional nomination forms are available on the Network website—[www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz). You can make multiple nominations under different categories. Anyone is eligible to make nominations, not just Network members. The awards will be presented at the Network conference dinner to be held on Saturday 9 August 2008. See the Network newsletter or website for more information.

#### **NOMINATION FORM**

Category (please circle):

Individual	Plant	Nursery	School
Community	Local Authority	Young Plant Conservationist	

NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details for person, school, nursery, community group or local authority:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_