

Threatened species that the understorey seed orchards will help include black chinned honeyeater, brown tree creeper, bush stone-curlew, squirrel gliders, barking owl, regent honeyeater, diamond firetail and pink tailed worm lizards. They will also take the pressure off threatened plant species like *Caladenia concolor* and *Senecio garlandii*, which are possibly threatened by wild seed collection.

White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum Woodland is an endangered ecological community in NSW, and Grassy White Box Woodland (*Eucalyptus albens*) is a nationally endangered ecological community. Much of the Albury region's remnant vegetation falls within these categories. This project aims to manage this remnant vegetation for conservation of both flora and fauna by providing the seed to restore these remnants to their former complement of species. It will also help prevent over harvesting of remnant vegetation areas. For example, Nail Can Hill is one of the few remaining local areas for many of our understorey species to be collected from and collecting in the wild may cause damage to threatened plant species through trampling by enthusiastic volunteers.

It is envisaged that the seed orchards will be created this year and the first seed will be collected in November 2004. The Murray Indigenous Seed Service, which runs four seedbanks in the catchment, will be able to access the seed for local farmers, nurseries, contractors and landcare groups. Albury City and nursery staff will gather information from many sources to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved.

This project will provide employment and training for indigenous staff in land management, and will also create business opportunities for Wandoo Nursery in sourcing seeds and providing native trees and shrubs.

Reference

DLWC. 2003. *Integrated Catchment Management Plan for the Murray Catchment 2002*. Dept. Land and Water Conservation, NSW.

<http://www.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/care/cmb/blueprints/pdf/murray.html>

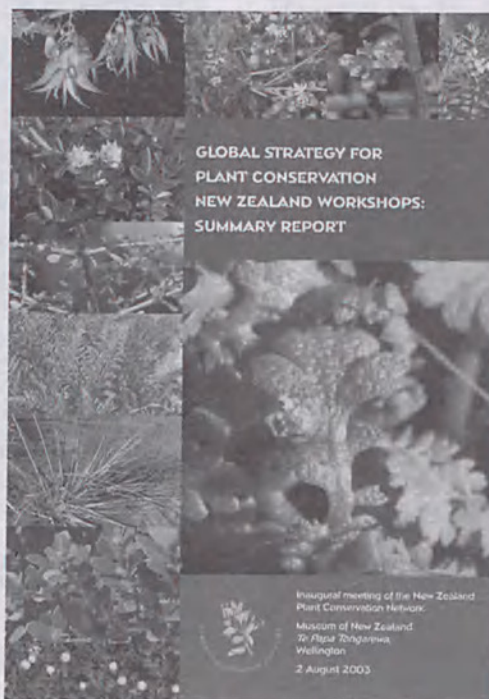
Update from the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

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The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network has continued to grow since its inaugural meeting in Wellington, New Zealand in August 2003. The Network now numbers approximately 150 members from five countries. Members include landowners and professional and amateur botanists, plus representatives of botanic gardens, zoos, universities, local councils and government departments.

A document summarising the results of workshops on implementing the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in New Zealand is now published (see photo) and has been distributed by email to network members. Please contact the network if you want a copy emailed to you (hard copies cost NZ\$10).



We continue to develop the network's website (www.nzpcn.org.nz) in the knowledge that over 1,000 people visit the site each month.

We have submitted funding bids to develop an internet-based Fungal Conservation Information System and to prepare a plant conservation training course for *iwi* (Maori tribes) to be delivered at *marae* (a place where Maori gather) throughout New Zealand.

We will put in further bids for money for implementing projects identified by network members at the inaugural meeting. Those projects include a stocktake of plant conservation education programs in New Zealand and a review of legal protection mechanisms for indigenous plants.



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