



NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITOR

Kia ora koutou! Ngā mihi o te Kirihihime me te Tau Hou! Thanks to the '100 Māori words every New Zealander should know' website (<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/culture/maori-language-week/100-maori-words>) for the holiday greeting! I've been using this website to expand my vocabulary and improve my pronunciation. New Year seems to be an excellent time for fresh starts and establishing new habits. This article in The Conversation (<http://theconversation.com/time-for-a-reset-how-to-make-your-new-years-resolutions-work-51806>) explains how to make new year's resolutions work. Doing it with others is one of the key points. Using the calendar can also be effective because it provides an additional goal boosting effect at the beginning of the month. With this in mind, in 2016, I will be seeking out a new Māori word or phrase on the 1st of each month. I will share the first three with you in the March newsletter. Suggestions for words associated with ecology would be warmly received.

I hope you had all had an enjoyable break over the festive season. In this edition of the NZES newsletter we have plenty of news from the annual conference in Christchurch and news from council. I had a stimulating and enjoyable time at the conference in November, mostly thanks to the fantastic effort by the organising team. As always, thank you to all the newsletter contributors and please feel free to send your suggestions and pieces for the next edition in March.

Finally, congratulations to the 2015 award recipients!

Hei konā, Cate Macinnis-Ng

ILLUSTRATE ECOLOGY



Museum specimens, such as this skin of an extinct huia, are important resources for researching long-term ecological change. For example, pollen grains from preserved skins of Northland bellbirds have been analysed to test whether the species once pollinated Adam's mistletoe, and hence whether the regional decline of this bird species may have contributed to the extinction of the plant (<http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/exhuming-adams-2005>). Photo: Jamie Wood.

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The deadline for submissions for the next issue of this newsletter is Friday 11 March 2016.

NZ ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

A warm congratulations to all the award recipients for 2015! Further details about the awards can be found on the NZES website—<http://newzealandecology.org/nz-ecological-society-awards-grants>

Annual society awards

- Jacqueline Beggs (University of Auckland) - Te Tohu Taiao award for Ecological Excellence
- Laura Molles (Lincoln University) – Ecology in Action
- Josie Galbraith (University of Auckland) – Outstanding publication on NZ ecology for Galbraith, J.A., Beggs, J.R., Jones, D.N. and Stanley, M.C., 2015. Supplementary feeding restructures urban bird communities. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(20), pp.E2648-E2657.
- Annette Evans (University of Auckland) – Best Publication by a New Researcher for Evans, A.E., Towns, D.R. and Beggs, J.R., 2015. Relative importance of sugar resources to endemic gecko populations in an isolated island ecosystem. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, 39(2), p.262.

Student conference prizes

Outstanding Student Presentation awards

- Amanda Taylor, Victoria University of Wellington
- Junichi Sugishita, University of Otago
- Ellen Irwin, Victoria University of Wellington
- Olivia Burge, University of Canterbury
- Asher Cook, Victoria University of Wellington

Outstanding Student Poster awards

- Marine Aubert, University of Canterbury
- Kiri Cutting, University of Waikato

Kauri seed scholars

- Natalie de Burgh, University of Auckland
- Roland Eveleens, University of Canterbury
- Rebecca French, University of Otago
- Aaron Heap, Northtec
- Roz Kennedy, Unitec
- Brydie Lauder, Bay of Plenty Polytech
- Tom Rowlands, AUT
- Olivia Taylor-Peebles, SIT



The 2015 Kauri seed scholars.

INTRODUCED SPECIES

Dr. Steerlove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Introduced Species

Dr Jamie Steer, University of Auckland

I wish I could inform you that my recently completed PhD thesis is an entertaining satire aimed at lampooning the motivations and phobias behind New Zealand's war against predators (complete with plans for a doomsday machine lest we are overcome by possums), but it is unfortunately a little more dry and modest than that. It is, all the same, probably a useful conversation piece for New Zealand ecologists who may be forced, over coming years, to consider more nuanced approaches toward introduced species that accept the complex and largely irreversible machinations of global environmental change.

My thesis investigates understandings of introduced wildlife in New Zealand, asking whether species that are currently considered to be pests could come to be reconciled into ideas of acceptable biodiversity. Since its inception in the 1980s, restoration ecology has tended to foster a hostile approach towards introduced species that positions them mostly as threats to former seemingly stable states. However, in recent years this hostility has come into question and less strict approaches toward introductions are gaining ground within the restoration literature. Most notably, approaches that seek to re-create certain historic states or processes through the removal of introduced species now often conflict with understandings that point to the flux and indeterminacy of nature, and the advantages of this dynamism.

Restoration ecologists have also tended to promote a dualistic distinction between nature and culture that positions humans, and the species they have introduced, as outside the frame of legitimate ecological systems. But,

after years of intense scholarly debate, a solidifying consensus is that any rigid delineation between nature and human society must be rejected. This is partly evidenced in the increasing prominence of disciplines such as urban and landscape ecology. In consequence, many of the concepts once considered central to ecology are being revised, and these revisions have important implications for understanding the mechanics and goals of ecological management. These developments should be looked upon with interest by researchers and practitioners in the field of ecology, as they will increasingly challenge, though not necessarily overturn, some common beliefs.



Dr Steer in familiar revelatory mood at a recent knees-up. Image source: James Vaughan on Flickr.

If you've no time for recent popular works such as Emma Marris' *The Rambunctious Garden* (2013) or Fred Pearce's *The New Wild* (2015) look away now. But if you have at least a passing interest in some of the novel approaches (and dilemmas) New Zealand ecologists will need to consider over the next few years, and the thinking behind them, look no further.

A PDF of the thesis can be downloaded from the University of Auckland library using this link: <http://hdl.handle.net/2292/27449>

TWITTER AND CONFERENCES

Olivia Burge

Twitter is like a fridge, according to Bill Murray¹, but ecologists use it for keeping abreast of literature; technical help; and updates from conferences or conference streams they are unable to attend in person², and help the world more generally³. 2015 was the first year NZES had an official 'social media policy', which aimed to make tweeters and non-tweeters alike clear on what could be discussed on social media during the conference. Tim Curran (Lincoln University) helped develop the policy, ran the official (@NZES2015) twitter profile during the NZES2015 conference and taught a 'welcome to twitter' session at the student conference day prior to the conference.

As we (the conference organisers) avoided the quandaries that accompanied tweeting at ESA2015⁴ we thought the social media policy was a success, but decided to do some more analysis. I scraped twitter for all tweets using the official conference hashtag ('#NZES2015', capitalisation insensitive) using the 'twitterR' package and analysed it using R.⁵ There were 4085 total tweets (retweets included, 1989 tweets excluding retweets) about the conference. Three hundred and seventy three unique users tweeted using the NZES2015 hashtag. We had seventeen users tweeting for the first time in November 2015, a number of whom were encouraged to join twitter by the student day. Interest peaked on the first day of the conference (Figure 1). Interest was of course focused on ecological issues (Figure 2) and New Zealand issues, but the reach of the conference extended across the world (Figure 3).

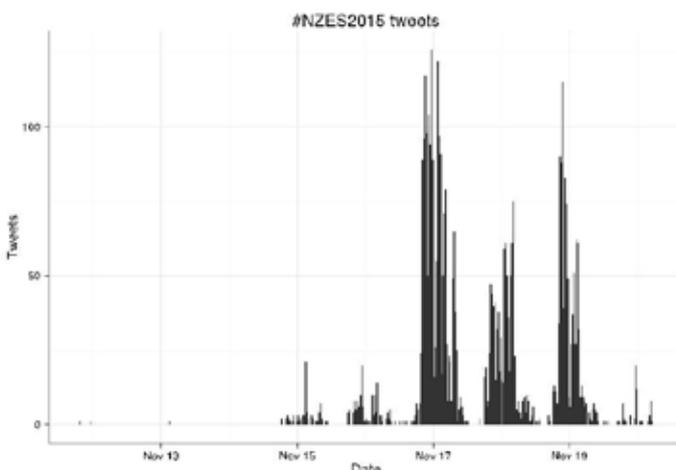


Figure 1: Histogram showing hot 'tweeting times' during the NZES2015 conference. Only those tweets that include the conference hashtag are included



Figure 2: Word cloud created from tweets using the #NZES2015 hashtag.

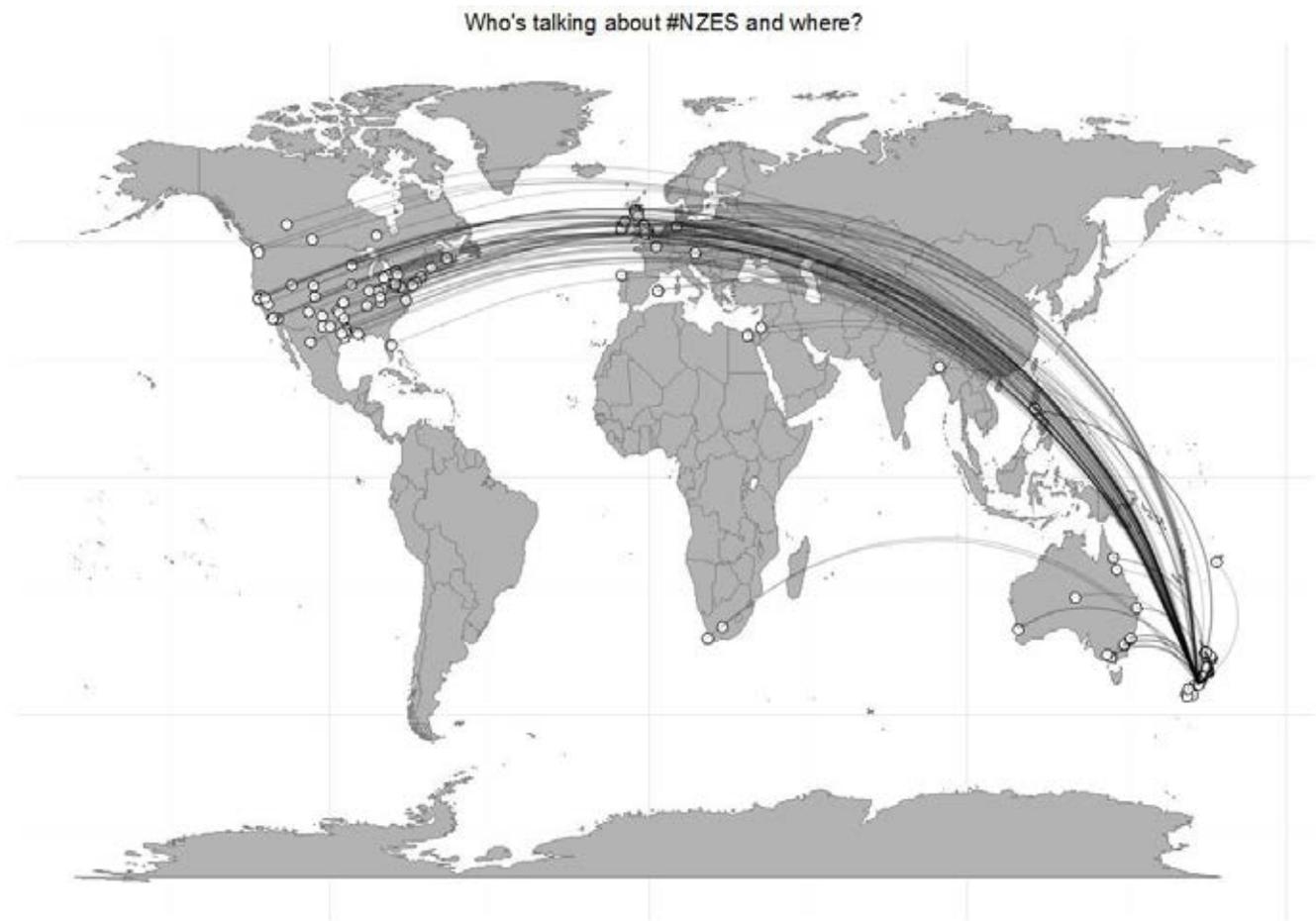


Figure 3: Location of tweeters using the #NZES2015 hashtag. Locations are self-described based on profiles and then geolocated (where possible).

On a personal level, I enjoyed the ‘soundbites’ of presentations I couldn’t attend, engaging in side-chat about ecological issues and seeing those outside the conference get involved. I’d encourage even the “tweet-shy” to get involved by joining up, following some ecologists and observing the interactions. Or for the internet purists, follow #rcatladies.

References

- 1 <https://twitter.com/biiimurray/status/431896156374040576?lang=en>
- 2 <https://dynamicceology.wordpress.com/2012/09/13/why-i-use-twitter/>
- 3 <http://ecology.about.com/od/Research/fl/Ecologists-Use-Twitter-to-Create-More-Accurate-Flood-Maps.htm>
- 4 <http://www.nature.com/news/conference-tweeting-rule-frustrates-ecologists-1.18207>
- 5 Fairly simple, but you need to set up an api. Code for the analysis is available at: http://rpubs.com/orb16/nzes2015_tweets

NZES CONFERENCE REPORT 2015

NZES 2015 CONFERENCE ORGANISERS’ OVERVIEW

NZES 2015 was a huge success with 357 registered delegates, 205 oral presentations, 32 poster presentations, 86 attendees on field trips and 152 attendees at workshops not to forget a number of excellent social events. Photos from the poster session and evening public talk and lively panel discussion can be found on our [facebook](#) page. We must say another huge thanks to our sponsors – the success of this year’s conference would not have been possible without the following support:

Principal sponsors

- The University of Canterbury
- Landcare Research
- Biological Heritage National Science Challenges
- Living Water – Fonterra / DOC partnership

Major sponsors

- Department of Conservation
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Environment Canterbury
- Ngai Tahu Farming
- Transwaste Canterbury

Supporting sponsors

- Wildlands
- Scion
- Beef & Lamb NZ
- Royal Society of NZ
- Lincoln University
- TB Free NZ
- NEXT Foundation
- WWF NZ
- Lowlands Wines

We made a special effort to organise media coverage of NZES2015 to highlight some of the exciting science being undertaken by NZ ecologists and share this with the public. Below are links to some of the stories that have emerged from the conference so far (also on NZES website):

- [Rats hit hard by 1080 drop](#), J Morton, NZ Herald, 16 Nov 2015
- [Potential rat plague threatens native birds](#), G Hutching, Stuff, 17 Nov 2015
- [Rena recap: The tough call that paid off](#), J Morton, NZ Herald, 17 Nov 2015
- [Scientists ponder impact on species after finding singing adjusted to cope with urban din](#), J Morton, NZ Herald, 18 Nov 2015
- [Labrador weapon in battling kauri killer](#), J Morton, NZ Herald, 19 Nov 2015
- [Cat tracking study an eye opener for owners](#), J Morton, NZ Herald, 20 Nov 2015
- [Pests push native birds to brink](#), J Morton, NZ Herald, 23 Nov 2015
- [Weta a winemaker's bugbear](#), J Morton, NZ Herald, 25 Nov 2015
- [Bio lure spells end for redbacks](#), J Morton, NZ Herald, 25 Nov 2015
- Alison Ballance, Radio NZ, put together a [mini NZES2015 "Ecology in Action"](#) featuring several stories from the conference on Our Changing World.

Here are some personal highlights from the organisers' point of view:

- Bringing together the lively panel discussion and public talk on the role of philanthropy, partnerships and non-government conservation initiatives. The discussion could've gone on for hours longer than it did and as moderator Alison Ballance put it, we were only just started to scratch the surface! Forest & Bird's Kevin Hackwell stirred things up a bit, asking some pressing questions to Lou Sanson about DOC, while Nic Toki provided some excellent personal insights into how partnerships can actually work with all her experiences in DOC, Fonterra, Forest & Bird and more. Perhaps this event will stimulate more public discussion on this topical theme. The lecture theatre was packed and the number of non-conference goers that attended was truly impressive!
- Our purposely non-themed conference enabled inclusion of an incredibly diverse range of topics from the alpine ecosystems to biodiversity conservation in production landscapes.
- Conference dinner at the Cardboard Cathedral (certainly something different and representing truly modern Christchurch) and organising our surprise guest speaker - the legendary Matt McGlone - whose tales of humour and life lessons of being a true scientist did not disappoint the unsuspecting crowd!
- Showcasing great local beer and award-winning wine.
- Having successful and real social media engagement for the first time. We "trended" on Twitter for three consecutive days and had thousands of views on some of our facebook posts. What this actually means for those not into social media is that we reached those who couldn't attend the conference in person (here and overseas) and anyone could see what NZ ecologists were talking about!
- Bringing together a sustainability strategy that we stuck to well and that can be used by future NZES conferences. One example was to cut down on international travel and to do this we invited our international plenary speakers to attend by video link. Peter Karieva impressed NZ ecologists with what large conservation NGO's such as The Nature Conservancy can achieve. It was inspiring and will leave a lasting impression with many of us.
- Inviting a range of media (print, radio, TV) to attend some or all of the conference and people who are involved with taking ecology back to schools (teachers, environmental educators and virtual field trip organisers). This certainly helps achieve the goals of NZES and our personal goals of getting ecological and conservation science spread far

more widely. Media and environmental educators can go away bursting with examples and stories after attending NZES2015!

- Working with Kerry South (South Events) as our event organizer – she was truly outstanding and we highly recommend using her for all our future events!
- The exceptional turnout to all aspects of the conference – there was fantastic attendance at all the events including the field trips, workshops, the welcome reception, poster and evening talk, dinner and of course the conference proper.
- Each year a whole new bunch of young (and older) ecologists enter the scene and appear at the conference bringing fresh enthusiasm and novel approaches, invigorating our society. The chance to interact with those further into their careers is an invaluable experience and can have a lasting impression on newbies! It was great seeing the interaction between “young” and “old” at NZES2015.
- The conference vibe was fantastic this year and we engaged people who wouldn't normally attend NZES such as community conservation groups and many others.

Huge thanks to those who organized workshops, field trips, symposia, logistics and other aspects of the conference. Thanks to everyone else for coming, presenting and generally making NZES2015 the huge success it was!

By Laura Young and David Norton

on behalf of the conference organising committee: Olivia Burge, Steve Pawson, Judith Roper-Lindsay, Tim Curran,

Ximena Nelson, Peter Bellingham, Dave Kelly, Karen Adair, Ecki Brockerhoff, Kim Roberts



Laura and David with Kerry South are very pleased about the fantastic support from conference supporters

CYNTHIA ROBERTS REFLECTS

The NZES conference is the yearly gathering of the ‘ecology whanau’. It’s a time to catch up with colleagues, hear what insights and discoveries have been made over the last year and to welcome new ecologists into the fold. NZES does these things well with the right mix of gravitas and humour.

Canterbury University venue, and the local organizers choice in SouthEvents as conference managers for the NZES 2015 conference, provided what all good conferences need: a stimulating and wide ranging programme of field trips and workshops (great idea to put these at the start); talks; posters; excellent food; friendly helpers and close proximity between theatres and spill out areas (including into sunshine) that facilitate discussion over lunch.

No overall theme was set for the conference this year. However, the first day’s plenary symposium on the contribution of **non-governmental initiatives to conservation** became along with **citizen science**, a de facto theme. The challenge for the ecologists was how to work collaboratively with these initiatives for mutual benefit. As Myfanwy Emeny (WCC) found when interviewing those who participated in the Great Kereru Count, citizens don’t want engagement they want to contribute to meaningful scientific research.

It is great when at least one speaker at a conference introduces you to a whole new perspective and the person who came closest to that for me was Peter Kareiva, beamed in from the US via Skype (bravo to the organizers for taking this risk). Peter’s examples of how the Nature Conservancy (40 countries, 1500 scientists) made a difference in changing plans for mining in Mongolia, fishing practices in marine sanctuaries around the US east coast and SNAP (science for nature and people) whereby a group of scientists are brought together to solve a specific urgent problem, lifted my spirits considerably.

Long term data sets are gold: Susan Walker using Birds NZ Atlas data found over 25 years that forests have been emptied of birds and similarly the decline in waders in the inland basins; Jon Sullivan using Brian Patrick’s 45 years of moth collecting also demonstrates significant loss. What a surprise to learn from Jamie Wood that kiore ate moa! Expanded interviews of these and more highlights from the conference are found in Alison Balance’s interviews on *Our Changing World*

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/ourchangingworld/audio/201780396/ecology-in-action>

What I missed in this conference was vigorous debate—could these have been scheduled for plenaries at day's end—topics such as: pest control & 1080 (e.g. after the excellent day devoted to 1080); our water quality crisis; science funding & loss of democracy. This year I've written many environmental submissions and would have loved to hear some controversial issues thrashed out to help with next year's round!

Spreading the word—I was almost tempted to become a *Tweeter* after the great promotion of this in the last NZES newsletter but when I went searching for what was posted during NZES conference I needed help. Ian Lunt (writing after the Australian Ecological Society conference) says that curating tweets is the way to go see <http://smallpondscience.com/2015/12/16/live-tweeting-at-academic-conferences-time-to-move-on/>. Here Storify was used to curate more than 130 tweets from the plenary titled *Gender Equity in Ecology: Because its 2015*. This curated post was viewed nearly 1,400 times and I was one of these viewers!

To conclude the Canterbury group deserves accolades for a wonderful conference and I loved 'the lure' of the Waikato group when describing next year's gathering. I came away appreciating anew the fellowship and skills of my 'ecology whanau' and inspired to keep recording and noticing nature while speaking out about environmental concerns—viva nzes!

Cynthia Roberts recently retired as Science and Technical Adviser for DOC, moved to Christchurch and now enjoys the role of the Roaming Ecologist nzecologist.com

NZES2015 WRITERS RETREAT

The magic of writers retreat: what attracts a bunch of ecologists to dedicate a weekend to writing

Ronny Groenteman, Landcare Research

For some it is the fresh air and surrounding mountains, for others it is the imposed disconnection from electronic distractions, or it could simply be the opportunity to discuss ideas with other ecologists you have met for the first time—there is something for everyone in dedicating a block of time for writing in a writing-oriented environment.

Post-conference writers retreat runs at the back end of the conference and continues to provide a valuable add-on to NZES annual conference. The aim is in line with NZES goals to foster the publication of ecological research and to support emerging ecologists (NZES Strategy Document 2012). The concept is simple and clever: First, on the Friday morning a half-day session is held, with 3–4 seminars on writing strategies given by high-standing experienced ecologists. Topics this year covered: Getting the pitch right—what makes a good (or bad!) paper, and how to make your point of difference stand out in the cover letter, so that the manuscript makes it past the editor into review (Jason Tylanakis); Embracing the shitty first draft (Tammy Steeves) was about overcoming writing blocks and finding the little tricks that make YOU get on with it, but remember: that rough draft is for your eyes only!; Publishing with impact (Paul Gardner) navigated us through the ever-growing number of means to maximise exposure of our manuscripts pre- and post-publication, including pitfalls and advantages of pre-publication repositories; and finally, we got down to some nitty gritty of editing our own writing and making our prose clear, succinct, and easy to read (Matt McGlone). Our brains wired into writing mode with Matt's practical techniques—perfect send-off to the retreat.



In the thick of it: writers hard at work at Cass Field Station.

Speakers' stimulating contributions throughout the morning generated lively discussion.

Then, following the seminars, retreat-goers pack into vans and make their way to a remote location, preferably with no internet and cell phone reception. There, writers have the weekend to write ecological prose. This year's retreat was held at the University of Canterbury's Cass Field Station, situated not far from Arthur's Pass.

There were 14 of us, a large enough group to contain diversity, and small enough to generate great group dynamics. The two-hour drive to Cass provided an ice-breaker, and by the time we got to our destination it was obvious we were in great company. On arrival we brewed a pot of coffee, declared our individual writing goals for the weekend, and got in the thick of it!

About half of us have been on writing retreats in the past and are already converted. All first-time retreat-goers among us agreed the concept simply works! As one participant, an experienced writer put it, "I have never been 'foolish' enough to go on a writers retreat before, after all writing is part of the job of being a scientist—I should be

able to write at work, I should not need a special place to write. What I learnt is that it does help to be away from your regular distractions. I got a surprising amount of usable text written." (Steve Higgins, Otago University)

What's the magic of writing retreats? A few quotes from participants tell it all!

"In addition to having good blocks of time dedicated towards writing, I found that my thought process was much more clear and creative in the quiet Cass environment. The people participating in the retreat were helpful sounding boards for writing ideas and also hilarious hiking mates in our non-writing time. At the end of the retreat, I had a first draft for a manuscript completed, along with a beautiful figure that was inspired from conversations with my fellow retreat writers.



Dinner, jokes, and fresh mountain air at the end of a full day of writing.

chance to exchange ideas with other ecologists I've never met." (Kiri Cutting, University of Waikato).

"The flexibility worked well—being able to have a nap or go for a walk or have a snack when required was great. Loved the location, being able to take a break and explore somewhere interesting outside was excellent. I enjoyed the mix of people, had many interesting conversations, yet was able to get lots of work done too. I would've loved a day longer, it felt like I was just getting into the zone properly on Saturday night.

It definitely stood up to expectations, the pre-retreat seminars were even more useful than I expected." (Esther Dale, University of Otago/Landcare Research).

"Best part about the retreat was freedom from internet and multi-tasking. I usually spend considerable effort trying to make sure all my time is accounted for constantly. If I'm stuck on something I switch to a new task to continue making progress. The retreat made me stop doing that, rather just focus on one task for 2 days uninterrupted... it also made me realise how little time I spend thinking... purely thinking about the next sentence or how my results fit into ecological/life history theory. It was refreshing to find that when I got stuck on a sentence or needed a break I could stroll outside and sit in the sun surrounded by mountains for a few minutes. This slowing down led to some of the most productive writing I've done since my PhD thesis write-up.

The talks at the start were great and motivated me to sink my teeth into the writing process." (Fiona Thomson, Landcare Research).

"The writers retreat definitely stood up to expectations and was of great benefit. The seminars beforehand were good and each from a sufficiently different aspect to be useful; the timing—ie. immediately after the conference—works well; the location was perfect—great environment when you need to take some air but not too much downtime getting there; the facilities were excellent; the mix of people worked well and about the right sized group." (Sandra Anderson, University of Auckland).

Post-conference writers' retreats were introduced by the Society in 2012, and the first two retreats were organised by Ellen Cieraad, who also started organising this year's retreat before moving overseas prior to the conference. Thanks Ellen, for championing the retreat organising, and thanks Laura Young & Olivia Burge for organising the excellent line-up of speakers this year! This year's retreat was subsidised by NZES2015 conference, with additional sponsorship from the University of Canterbury (transport and accommodation at Cass Field Station).

The 2015 conference organisers are very grateful to Ronny for stepping in to help out with the writers' retreat at short notice. Thank you Ronny for all the hard work you put in to make this a successful event!

The pre-retreat seminars were incredibly diverse and useful. These four seminars gave me the confidence to get started on my first draft without feeling the pressures of perfectionism." (Stephanie Galla, University of Canterbury)

"I would highly recommend the retreat to anyone, student or professional, who needs time to focus on a piece of work. No matter what your work habits are, you can use the time productively—there's no schedule as such. A major draw card is being able to head out for walks to clear your head, order your thoughts or just enjoy conversing with other participants." (Monica Peters, University of Waikato).

"Even though it certainly was a great opportunity to write, I think my favourite aspect of the retreat was a chance to exchange ideas with other ecologists I've never met." (Kiri Cutting, University of Waikato).



Streaming blood back to the brain: a pre-lunch yoga session.

NZES CONFERENCE 2016

In 2016, the NZES will be joining with the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia for a joint conference entitled, Ecology and Restoration, Australasia. The conference will be held in Hamilton on 19–23 November with a diverse range of symposia and community engagement opportunities.

Field trips offered will include: Maungatautari Ecological Island (predator proof fenced reserve enclosing 2500 ha of indigenous temperate rainforest); Tongariro National Park (central North Island volcanoes); Waitomo (karst and cave ecosystems); Waikato wetlands (bogs, swamps and fens); Urban restoration in Hamilton City; and Hobbiton (Lord of the Rings).

Please see the conference website www.ERA2016.com for further details and to register your interest.

ACROSS THE TASMAN

NEWS FROM THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (ESA)

Those following along on Twitter will know that the ESA conference was held in Adelaide 29 November to 3 December 2015. A staggering 1100 tweeters contributed to the #ESA15 hashtag with close to 10 000 tweets from or about the conference during the conference week. For some innovative science communication, check out #ESA15comic. Luke O’Laughlin produced some fabulous cartoons about conference sessions. Another highlight was a plenary by Emma Johnston and Mark Burgman on #EquityInEcology. Subtitled, ‘Because it’s 2015’, the talk presented statistics on the ongoing gender bias in ecology with suggestions on how to improve the current situation. The negative impact of unconscious bias is something that all scientists need to be more aware of. Details of the session can be found here https://storify.com/EcolSocAus/equityinecology?utm_content=buffer3ba8a&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

In other news, the ESA has a dazzling 2016 calendar available for purchase. It was inspired by the many beautiful images that are submitted each year for their photographic competition. More details are available here. <https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/shop>

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

Minutes of the NZ Ecological Society 63rd AGM, 23 November 2015, Canterbury University, Christchurch

Apologies – None

Matters Arising – None

President’s report – tabled and read by Chris Bycroft (current President);

It is an honour to present the annual report for the 63rd Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Ecological Society. This report covers the period between the annual conference at Massey University in Palmerston North in November 2014, and the current conference at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers of this year’s excellent conference, particularly Laura Young and David Norton. I also acknowledge Jill Rapson, Phil Battley, and Paul Barrett and the team behind the 2014 conference in Palmerston North for a very successful conference and field trip programme.

I would also like to thank everyone on the Council for the work put into the running of various aspects of the Society in the last year. Several Councillors are moving on after excellent service to the Society: Deb Wilson (Vice-President), Ellen Cieraad (Council), and Olivia Burge (Council). Deb has been a great help to me in supporting various aspects of my role as President and other members on Council with sound advice, and helping out when I have been away in the field. Deb will continue as an Associate Editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*. Ellen’s major contribution to the Society has been redevelopment of the website, along with Laura Young. Olivia has always been willing to help on any matter at short notice, and has taken the role of organising the Kauri Seed Programme. George Perry will also be moving on from an “elected person” on Council, and over the next year will take the role of Editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*. George has continued to develop the awards programme, which seems to be generating an ever increasing workload. Others on Council team—such as Debra Wotton (Council), Laura Young (Website), Shona Myers (INTECOL representative), and Sandra Anderson (Secretary)—continue to provide great advice and are heavily involved in Council activities, and supporting the work of others on Council as part of what has been a great team. All have given a great deal of time to various aspects of the Society, all on a volunteer basis. Many Councillors have young families and some even had new babies in the last year. I would particularly like to acknowledge the service provided by Clayson Howell as the NZES Treasurer for eight years, which is the longest serving Treasurer in the history of the Society.

In 2015 the Council held two face-to-face meetings in Wellington, and this week in Christchurch. In July, the council trialled a new way to run a meeting. Those based in Auckland met at the University of Auckland, while those based outside Auckland joined by Skype. Only the President travelled from outside Auckland, to chair the meeting. This was to reduce costs and the carbon footprint of each meeting. As well as these meetings, we had five Skype meetings during the year. These are a good way to address the many issues that occur at short notice throughout the year.

Jo Monks has continued to produce the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* at a high standard and is moving on from the role of editor after four years of service. I would like to thank all who have contributed to the Journal, particularly the editorial board and the early career mentor reviewer scheme. The journal, continues to present high quality research, with a strong New Zealand perspective. A special acknowledgement is given to Landcare Research, and specifically both Anne Austin and Christine Bezar, for providing a high quality service as Technical Editor for the journal for over a decade.

This year we had a change of newsletter Editor. Jane Gosden edited three newsletters but, due to a new job, was unable to continue in this role. Cate Macinnis-Ng has continued to produce excellent newsletters since the March 2015 edition.

A new website was designed and implemented in the last two years, with the past year primarily one of updating content. Ellen Cieraad and Laura Young continued to improve the functionality of the website and have shared news from the Society.

The annual conference is, to me and many others, the highlight of the NZES year. We continue to have an excellent attendance rate, and looking forward we have an exciting programme planned with a meeting at Waikato University, Hamilton (with the Society of Ecological Restoration – Australasia) in November 2016, and with the Australian Ecological Society in 2017.

Several years ago the Council, led by the then Vice-President Fleur Maseyk, compiled a five-year strategic plan for 2013 to 2018. Considerable progress has been made in most areas. Special mention should be made to the team organising the current conference for addressing many items in this plan, e.g. development of a sustainability best practice guide, a social media policy, increasing the number of workshops, and increasing the role of the Press and other media at the annual conference. I have cherry-picked other areas where progress has been made:

- A major redevelopment of the website.
- Development of the capability to join the Society on the website, and with online banking.
- Increasing our links with other ecological societies,
- Development of social networking, particularly the publishing of relevant news on our Facebook page.
- Increasing the participation of tangata whenua at conferences.
- Recording aspects of the history of our society.

There are other things that we could do in the future:

- Develop student grants beyond Kauri Seed grants (Kauri Ricker for post-graduate students).
- Encourage and support members to attend international conferences (two early career researcher received grants were available for early career researchers to help them attend the Southern Connection conference in Chile in 2016, thanks to the profit from the previous Southern Connection conference in Dunedin).
- Create and develop the following roles on Council:
 - a submissions officer;
 - a student representative; and
 - a formal media liaison and/or science communication role.
- Connecting with local high schools and inviting and supporting top students and at least one high school teacher to attend the annual conference.
- Further website development

A lot of financial resources have been used over the last several years to progress many of the Society's tasks, particularly the redevelopment of the website. This has been very worthwhile as now the website is more easily managed by the Council to implement the key objectives of the Society. In terms of increasing the financial resources of the Society, the highest priority is to increase our membership. Please maintain your memberships and encourage your ecological colleagues who are not members to join, and to participate. Donations and bequests to the Society will also help the Society to better meet some of its key objectives.

The Council this year reviewed the 'Objects' of the Society. The Council considers that one of the key reasons we exist is to promote discussion, the exchange of ideas, communication and collaboration among New Zealand ecologists, and the international ecological community. This is a major role for our annual conference, newsletter, and other activities. We have suggested an additional object: to "foster collaboration and communication amongst ecologists", and this will be discussed later in this meeting.

Our Society has an important history, and Dave Kelly deserves considerable thanks for his role in maintaining a record of that history. A summary of some of the information he has compiled is now on the NZES website, including the dates of service of members on the Council and other roles. Dave has maintained this over many years and without

his work some material would have been lost, or it would have taken a great deal of time for the current Council to research.

One of the privileges of my role as President this year was to be invited to the Ecological Society of America (ESA) conference in Baltimore, which was also a celebration of Centennial of the American Ecological Society. Shona Myers, President of INTECOL, was also present. It was a great opportunity meet with other leaders of national ecological societies. During the meeting a letter was prepared on behalf of the societies represented to urge parties present in Paris for the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to agree to decisive steps urgently needed to prevent a 2°C rise in average global temperatures, as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The New Zealand Ecological Society was a signatory of this letter, along with all the other ecological societies present, including INTECOL. This letter signed by INTECOL and NZES has been sent to relevant politicians in New Zealand and can be read in the September newsletter.

I would like to make a special tribute to six significant New Zealand ecologists who passed away in the last year: John Sawyer, Ian Jamieson, Bastow Wilson, David Galloway, Dave Choquenot, and Hazel Broadbent. I will make special mention of two in particular, both were very active members of NZES. Ian Jamieson was a regular attender of our annual conference, his research on the genetics of our wildlife was outstanding, and he was a great lecturer. He was the 2012 recipient of the Te Tohu Taiao Award. John Sawyer passed away at an even younger age, and his contribution to our Society, and our friends in the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, showed remarkable dedication and service. John was a President of the NZES between 2004 and 2006 and received the Ecology in Action Award in 2011.

I will conclude with some comments on the future of the NZES and our role in society. The importance of ecological science to both solving both environmental problems and biodiversity losses is going to be at least as important in the foreseeable future as it is now. At the Ecological Society of America conference I was impressed with the drive to increase the representation of ethnic and other minority groups. With the changing demographics of New Zealand society, what can we do to help make ecological science relevant a wider ethnic diversity, and encourage them to become members and to attend our conferences?

At the start of the ESA conference there was talk by Rush Holt, a physicist who is CEO of the American Association of the Advancement of Science, and who was in Congress for 16 years. He described a pattern in the United States where, over the last 50 years or so, the public has lost a reverence for evidence. He suggested that in the past most Americans used to look for evidence on how the World works. Various changes to the education system promoted messages of “you are not a scientist” and “you cannot answer that question because you are not a scientist”. This led many people becoming sceptical of science with views such as “you don’t need to teach evolution”, a fear of vaccinations, and climate change scepticism. The context in New Zealand is somewhat different, and we have different views on issues such as 1080, but some of these views have not been led by evidence from ecological science. Other extreme views include prominent people in the New Zealand media stating they don’t care about the environment, indicating an element of society that is disinterested in ecological science.

A key message from the talk by Rush Holt was the importance of people being engaged, and encouraging them to be interested in how the World works around them. We need an engaged society that wants to know how our ecosystems work, based on evidenced-based science. The ongoing development of community-led projects in biodiversity and ecosystem management, and keen amateurs adding to our ecological knowledge, are important to build engagement in ecological science, and trust of our science. An engaged society will make our science, the roles of professional ecologists, and the New Zealand Ecological Society stronger, and more relevant into the future.

Moved report accepted, Chris Bycroft, seconded Deb Wilson, carried.

Minutes of 62nd AGM—Minutes taken by Sandra Anderson

Shona Myers moved that the minutes of the 2014 AGM be accepted, seconded James Russell, carried.

Election of officers

1. President – Clayson Howell. Nominated, Debra Wotton; seconded Susan Timmins
2. Vice president - Laura Young. Nominated, Deb Wilson; seconded George Perry
3. Secretary - Sandra Anderson. Nominated Dave Kelly; seconded Mick Clout
4. Treasurer - Chris Bycroft. Nominated Debra Wotton; seconded Shona Myers
5. Council members (4)

Debra Wotton (eligible for re-election) – nominated, Frances Schmechel; seconded, Deb Wilson

Tim Curran – nominated, George Perry; seconded, Bruce Burns

Jamie Wood – nominated, Chris Bycroft; seconded, Carol West

Fleur Maseyk – nominated, Debra Wotton; seconded, Shona Myers

Gretchen Brownstein – nominated, Deb Wilson; seconded, Chris Bycroft

Council votes counted: Jamie, Tim, Fleur and Debra elected as councillors.

Destroy votes – moved Judith Roper-Lindsay, seconded Susan Timmins

Election of Kauri Fund trustees

Mick Clout and Jacqueline Beggs (no change) – moved Carol West, seconded Bruce Burns.

Len Gilman also registered interest in the position. Suggestion that his nomination be reconsidered at the next AGM and the Trust Deed be made available at this time to clarify roles.

Treasurers report—tabled and read by Clayson Howell (current Treasurer)

The society made a loss of \$25,935 for the 12 months ended Dec 31st 2014.

Membership and Journal subscriptions are up on the previous year.

Council travel is down after conscious efforts to minimise costs by running meetings via Skype

The society made an unavoidable loss at the Auckland conference, despite huge efforts by the organisers to minimise.

Depreciation of website redevelopments are taking into account.

The society remains in a good position, with total equity as at 31 Dec 2014 of \$183,135.

A discussion was had about the apparent reduction in Kauri Fund capital when intent to spend interest only.

Usual practice to spend only interest but current situation (total NZES equity down after losses and depreciation) meant decision by council to use some capital in current year to pay for scholars. Agreed to discuss future transactions with trustees.

Query re journal special issue cost.

Issue self-funding but money received and spent in separate years.

Moved report accepted, Clayson; seconded Frances Schmechel, carried

Journal editor report—tabled and read by Jo Monks (current Journal Editor)

2015 issues

- We produced two regular issues of the journal in 2015 (Volume 39). Issue 1 contained 16 articles; issue 2 contained 20 articles (the most in a single issue for some time).

2016 issues

- The first issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* for 2016, Volume 40, No. 1, contains 21 articles. 20 of the 21 articles are already available on the website as online earlyies.
- Issue 40 (2) for 2016 is a special issue on rat eradications based on a symposium “50th anniversary of NZ rodent eradications” held in September 2014 (<http://www.science.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/our-research/rateradication.html>) coordinated by guest editors James Russell and Keith Broome. These articles will be uploaded onto the website as online earlyies in the near future and the issue will be published in January.
- Issue 40 (3) for 2016 is a regular issue for which 2 papers have already been accepted.

Submissions

- So far in 2015, 39 manuscripts have been submitted to *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*. Submission numbers are lower this year than in the immediate past, but more on par with those of a few years ago.

Editorial board changes

- Since the last AGM, Chris Lusk and Craig Barnett resigned from the editorial board.
- George Perry (University of Auckland) and Tim Curran (Lincoln University) have joined the editorial board.

Journal impact factor

- The 2014 journal impact factor (published in 2015) is 1.057, which is similar to the previous year. We need another high impact special issue to increase it again. Any volunteers for organising one?!

Mentor scheme

- Our early career researcher and mentor scheme (launched in 2013) is proving successful. Thanks to those who have signed up, and thanks to those who have taken up opportunities to review articles already (if you haven't been asked yet, don't worry, it's just a matter of a paper that matches your specialist knowledge turning up!).
- Information on the scheme and signing up is at <http://newzealandecology.org/nzje/nzje-reviewer-mentoring-scheme>. Please sign up if you are interested!

Science editing

I will be resigning as scientific editor of the journal at the end of February 2016 after 4 years in the role. I've enjoyed the challenges of the role and getting to know New Zealand's ecological community better. George Perry has kindly agreed to take over the position and we are currently co-editing the June 2016 issue of the journal. George has invited me to remain on the editorial board as an associate editor and I have accepted this role effective from March 2016.

Technical editing

After supporting the journal for 8 years through the provision of technical editing services free of charge, Landcare Research will be unable to provide this service as of the start of 2016. We are working to implement a new solution to technical editing of the journal. Thank you so much to Anne Austin and Christine Bezar, and more recently to Leah Kearns, for providing such high quality technical editing over the years and to Landcare Research for supporting the journal in this way for so long.

I also wish to thank the journal's editorial board, reviewers and authors for their energy and commitment to producing a high quality journal for New Zealand ecologists.

Webmaster report—prepared by Ellen Cieraad; tabled and read by Debra Wotton (current Councillor)*Newzealandecology.org website analytics for 2015 AGM*

We have data on visits to the website and pages from 14 February 2015 onwards (google analytics)

Stats from 14 Feb – 13 Nov 2015

- 69,754 visits to newzealandecology.org
 - ~ 54,793 unique page views.
 - 21,500 users
 - of which NZJE 36,170 visits (27,649 unique)
- Visits
 - 56% NZ
 - 12% USA
 - 4% Oz
 - 3% UK
 - 2.5% not set
 - rest other.
- Most visited pages:
 - Home page 22%
 - NZJE 52%
 - upcoming meetings 5%
 - ecology jobs 3%
 - links 2%
- 3 most viewed NZJE articles:
 - Topping & Lovei 1997. Spider density and diversity in relation to disturbance in agroecosystems in New Zealand, with a comparison to England (308 page views, 299 unique page views)
 - <http://newzealandecology.org/nzje/2020>
 - Presumably because it was cited in: The response of spider (Araneae) assemblages to structural heterogeneity and prey abundance in sub-montane vegetation modified by conservation grazing. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, available online March 2015 – spike of views on our website in March/April 2015.
 - Peters et al 2015 Action on the ground: A review of community environmental groups' restoration objectives, activities and partnerships in New Zealand (301 page views, 239 unique page views)
 - <http://newzealandecology.org/nzje/3234>
 - Cieraad et al 2015 An updated assessment of indigenous cover remaining and legal protection in New Zealand's land environments (219 page views, 166 unique page views)
 - <http://newzealandecology.org/nzje/3235>

Membership report—tabled and read by Sandra Anderson (current Secretary)

Membership remains steady with 595 members as at 12th November 2015 (82% paid to date), compared with 594 (78% paid to date) for the same time last year. Unwaged comprise 28% of members.

Newsletter report—tabled and read by Cate McInnes-Ng (current Newsletter editor)

Reported contribution level to the newsletter is good, and encouraged ongoing contributions.

INTECOL—update from Shona Myers (current NZ representative for INTECOL).

Encouraged members to join (free) to increase NZ membership. Next Congress is in Beijing in 2017

MOTION: To add to the Objects of the Society in the New Zealand Ecological Society rules

The council has prepared a motion to add an object to the rules of the society.

The existing objects of the society are:

- "2. OBJECTS The objects of the Society shall be to;

1. promote the study of ecology and the application of ecological knowledge in all its aspects.
2. publish the New Zealand Journal of Ecology"

The council considers that one of the key reasons we exist is to promote discussion, the exchange of ideas, communication and collaboration among New Zealand ecologists, and the international ecological community. This is a major role for our annual conference, newsletter and other aspects of our society.

We suggest the following third object:

3. foster collaboration and communication amongst ecologists.

Moved Chris Bycroft, seconded Dave Kelly, carried

General business

Thanks extended to outgoing council members Ellen Cierrard, Deb Wilson and Olivia Burge for their invaluable work on council– moved Chris Bycroft, seconded Debra Wotton

Thanks also extended to Chris for his term as President

Attendance

NZES Members Present (48): Mandy Barron, Frances Schmechel, Judith Roper-Lindsay, Weihong Ji, Dianne Brunton, James Brock, Stephen Hartley, Clayson Howell, Colin O'Donnell, Susan Timmins, Rebecca Teele, KC Burns, Jamie Wood, Kate McAlpine, Fleur Maseyk, Fiona Thomson, Tim Curran, Cate McInnes-Ng, James Russell, George Perry, Mick Clout, Bruce Burns, Dave Kelly, Jon Terry, Carol West, Olivia Burge, Deb Wilson, Laura Young, Shona Myers, Debra Wotton, Jo Monks, Robert Holdaway, Ross Carter-Brown, Peter Bellingham, Yanbin Deng, Lisa Denmead, Bill Lee, Bruce Clarkson, Jon Sullivan, Tim Park, Jane Gosden, David Norton, Chris Bycroft, Sandra Anderson, Clayson Howell, Cilla Wehi, Daniel Taylor

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Three new councillors were elected at the 2015 AGM.

Tim Curran

Tim is a senior lecturer in ecology at Lincoln University. His research interests lie mainly in the field of plant functional ecology and in using functional traits to understand plant responses to disturbances, such as drought, fire, frost and cyclones. A recent research focus has been to compare the flammability of a range of species by burning samples of them on his 'plant BBQ' (see photo). The aims are to assess whether some plants have evolved to be more flammable, and also provide advice to farmers and fire managers as to which plants might promote or reduce fire spread across the landscape.



Tim Curran. Photo: David Hollander, Lincoln University.

Fleur Maseyk

Fleur is currently straddling the Tasman as the Practice Leader – Ecology with The



Catalyst Group based in Palmerston North, and as a PhD candidate with the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environment Decisions at the Centre of Biodiversity and Conservation Science, University of Queensland. Currently based in Brisbane, Fleur frequently spends time in New Zealand and hasn't managed to relinquish her passion for New Zealand ecology. Her work and research areas include conservation science and natural resource management using a natural capital approach, ecosystem services, biodiversity offsetting, and biodiversity strategy and policy.

Jamie Wood

Jamie is a palaeoecologist/molecular ecologist at Landcare Research in Lincoln. He specialises in the use of ancient DNA from bones, sediments and coprolites to study the phylogenetics and ecology of extinct species, and to reconstruct ancient biotic communities. He also dabbles in neoecology, and is currently working on developing molecular tools for biodiversity monitoring using DNA from soils.



THE NOTICEBOARD

NEW LURE, DETERRENT AND BAIT TECHNOLOGIES

From science to development, formulation and market

Thursday 4 February 2016

Wellington

The symposium is being convened by the Centre for Biodiversity & Restoration Ecology at Victoria University and will be held at the Cliftons, downtown Wellington, Willis Street conference centre—www.cliftons.com. Lunch and refreshments will be available during the day.

Two plenary speakers, Dr. Stephen Lapidge—specialist in science commercialisation (currently Director of Agibusiness, South Australian Research & Development Institute), and Dr. Craig Bunt—formulation specialist (Animal Science at Lincoln University) will begin the morning and afternoon sessions. They will be speaking about how research groups prepare for proof-of-concept success and what can be done during early stages to speed new product development and adoption.

During morning and afternoon sessions there will also be an opportunity for 12–15 minute presentations from at least 10 other people conducting important and interesting research on new lure, deterrent and bait technologies for pest animals across New Zealand.

You can register your interest in attending this symposium by writing to Charlotte.Ansell@vuw.ac.nz. Places are limited and not everyone may be accommodated.

If you would also like to be considered for one of the 12–15 minute presentation times, please also include a title and <150 word abstract of your presentation.

MONITORING INVERTEBRATE BIODIVERSITY UPDATE

The demonstration identification guides for flax and cabbage trees are now available, [//plant-synz.landcareresearch.co.nz/index.asp](http://plant-synz.landcareresearch.co.nz/index.asp).

I am thinking about identification guides for other plants and would appreciate your thoughts about the choice of plant species. My current preference is for plants with fewer associated organisms, such as the fern, *Asplenium oblongifolium*, and two shrubs that have important herbivores; Kawakawa, *Piper excelsum*, host of the kawakawa moth that makes all the holes in the kawakawa leaves, and Hangehange, *Geniostoma ligustrifolium*, that is an important host of a New Zealand thrips. Other possible plants are Karo, *Pittosporum crassifolium*, and Pohutukawa, *Metrosideros excels*, but I am open to other suggestions.

Nicholas Martin, Landcare Research, martinn@landcareresearch.co.nz

DONATE NOW!

KAURI FUND FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE

We invite you to help grow the science of ecology in New Zealand by contributing to the NZES Kauri Fund. This fund was established in 2001 to provide resources for initiatives that assist the development of ecology and ecologists in New Zealand. As the Fund grows, it will play an increasingly critical role in advancing the Society's goals and fund exciting new initiatives for New Zealand ecology.

Please consider a contribution, whether \$10, \$20 or \$50, to the Kauri Fund now or at the time you renew your subscription. You can make your contribution to the Kauri Fund in two ways:

Send a cheque made out to: "NZES Kauri Fund" to the New Zealand Ecological Society, PO Box 5075, Papanui, Christchurch 8542.

Use internet banking to credit your donation to New Zealand Ecological Society, bank account 06 0729 0465881 00, identifying the payment as "Kauri Fund".

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Southern Connection Congress 2016

18–23 January, 2016

Punta Arenas, southern Chile

<https://www.umag.cl/southernconnection2016/>

Wetland Restoration Symposium

The National Wetland Trust of NZ are holding their biannual symposium.

10–12 February 2016

Nelson

The symposium programme and other details are available on the NWT website www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/Site/Wetland_Events/Restoration_Symposia.ashx

Freshwater Management and Infrastructure Forum

A conference for freshwater decision-makers

22–23 February 2016

Wellington

A 20% discount is available for NZES members. See the NZES Events website for the discount code. See the conference website here: www.conferenz.co.nz/conferences/freshwater-management-infrastructure-forum

2nd International Conference on Urban Tree Diversity

22–24 February 2016

Melbourne, Australia

This interdisciplinary conference brings together leading researchers and practitioners from all over the world to discuss all aspects of urban tree diversity. Plenary speakers are five global leaders in urban forest research and practice. Conference website: <http://urbantreediversity.org/>

National Seed Science Forum

14–16 March 2016

Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan, NSW

The National Seed Science Forum will bring together botanical and agricultural institutions, seed scientists, and conservation and restoration experts to share ideas that showcase the importance of seed science to the future of plant conservation and food security in Australia.

9th Australian Conference on Grassland Invertebrate Ecology

Biology, ecology and management of pest and beneficial invertebrates.

4–9 April 2016

Western Sydney University

www.grassbugs.com.au

Society for Conservation Biology 4th Oceania Congress

Hosted by University of Queensland Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science (CBCS).

6–8 July 2016

Brisbane, Australia.

<http://brisbane2016.scboceania.org/>

Island Biology 2016

An international conference on island evolution, ecology and conservation.

18–22 July 2016

University of Azores, Terceira, Azores

<http://www.islandbiology2016.uac.pt>

Combined Australian Entomological Society 47th AGM and Entomological Society of New Zealand Conference

27–30 November 2016

Rydges on Swastan, Melbourne, Victoria

More details <http://www.aesconferences.com.au/>

Office Holders of the New Zealand Ecological Society 2015/2016

(Effective from November 2015)

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SUBMISSIONS TO THE NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Contributions from NZES members are sought in the form of:

- **Feature articles** on topics of interest to NZES members
- **Event announcements**, for listing on the Noticeboard
- **Conference reports**, on conferences of ecological relevance
- **Images**, for *Illustrate Ecology* on the newsletter cover
- **Ecology news from overseas**
- **Book reviews**
- **Post graduate profiles**

Feature articles can be up to 1,000 words accompanied by up to four images.

Conference reports should be around 600–800 words with up to three images.

Illustrate Ecology images should be accompanied by a short title and a caption explaining the ecological concept illustrated.

Book reviews of up to 1,000 words are now published in the newsletter. If you would like to review a book of interest to NZES members, please contact the newsletter editor.

Postgraduate profiles of current or recent PhD, MSc, or Honours students should be no more than 200–300 words and include a 2-sentence blurb about yourself, a summary of your thesis written for a general scientific audience, and a photo and caption related to your research.

Please do not use complex formatting—capital letters, italics, bold, and hard returns only, no spacing between paragraphs. All photos should be emailed as high resolution (300 dpi) jpg files. All contributions and enquiries can be emailed to Cate Macinnis-Ng, the Newsletter Editor: newsletter@newzealandecology.org

Unless indicated otherwise, the views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the New Zealand Ecological Society or its Council.

Content for the March 2016 issue of the NZES Newsletter is due by Friday 11 March 2016.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS AND EMAIL OR POST TO THE ADDRESS BELOW

A PERSONAL DETAILS

Circle Title: Prof Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss	Last Name:	First Name(s):
Mailing Address:		Post Code:
E-Mail:		
Phone Bus:	Fax Bus:	Phone Private:

B MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Occupation/Expertise:
Name of Employer:

C TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION RATES (2015)

(please tick the class for which you qualify)

Membership is open to any person interested in ecology and includes botanists, zoologists, teachers, students, soil scientists, conservation managers, amateurs and professionals

	Full	Receive journal and newsletter	\$90.00* p.a.
	Unwaged Member	Is available only on application to Council for full-time students, unwaged or retired persons. Unwaged members may receive the journal but must specifically request it.	\$55.00* p.a.
	Overseas Full	Receive journal and newsletter	\$115.00* p.a.
	Overseas Unwaged	Is available only on application to Council for full-time students, unwaged or retired persons. Unwaged members may receive the journal but must specifically request it.	\$75.00* p.a.
	Tasman Linkage	Available only to members of the Ecological Society of Australia. Tasman Linkage members may receive the journal but must specifically request it.	\$55.00* p.a.

* There is a \$10 rebate for members who renew before 15 February each year and for new members

Make cheques payable to: NZ Ecological Society

Bank account details for direct payment: 060729 0465881 00 (make sure your name is included)

Other membership and payment options are available online <http://newzealandecology.org/join>

- Tick if you wish to make a donation to the Kauri Fund (see NZ Ecological Society website for details)
- Tick if you wish to make a donation to the Barlow Fund (see NZ Ecological Society website for details)
- Tick if you don't have an email address to receive the newsletter which is sent out electronically

The New Zealand Journal of Ecology is printed digitally and in hard copy. Please indicate which option you prefer. Receiving the journal digitally will allow more funds to go towards Society projects like the Kauri Fund.

Digital Hard copy

Signature of Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____