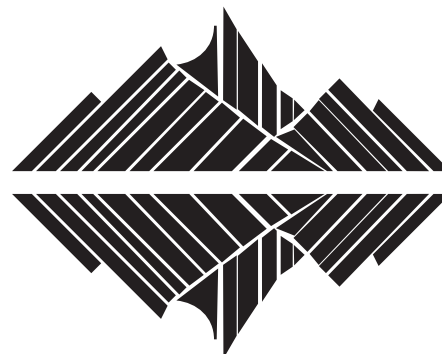


Ecological Society Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITOR

The end of another year is rolling around rapidly and with it we can reflect on yet another successful annual conference. Conference is a valued chance to showcase (and be subjected to) new and exciting ecological science and to capitalise on the synergy of a room full of ecologists. It is also a chance to celebrate the successes and contributions of our members with the presentation of the NZES awards. This issue we detail the award winners, following up with profiles of the recipients next issue.

Of late, the Council has been focussing on improving the promotion of the society, and NZES' role in promoting ecological science. To this end, investigations are ongoing into the redevelopment of the website. Without a doubt, the website has large potential as the information hub of the society and as a gateway to the Journal. A component of this planned revamp is the need to redesign the society's logo to be more representative of the society and ecology in New Zealand. Council are keen for the design to come from within the society and are soliciting design ideas from members. See the noticeboard for details on where to submit your logo design.

Another important vehicle of information dissemination is the newsletter, and many thanks to those of you who filled out the questionnaire and provided feedback. You have confirmed that the newsletter is still perceived as a valuable and interesting piece of mail. There is a particular interest in feature articles, hot science and issues of applied ecology among readers. I also received a number of good ideas about ways to improve the usefulness of the newsletter. Such improvements could easily piggy-back off the redevelopment of the web page.

Looking forward to next year, Intecol 10 is now calling for abstracts and registrations. Intecol 10 will be an exciting opportunity for many, but not a cheap one. In light of this Council have announced a \$500 grant (See the newsletter for application details) to assist members to attend what promises to be a highlight of 2009.

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INSIDE:

Awards	2
Ecology in art	5
Hot science	6
New Zealand Wildlife Management Forum.....	6
From across the Tasman	7
Grants and scholarships.....	8
Ecological observations	9
Noticeboard.....	9
Upcoming meetings	11
News from your Council.....	13
Council minutes	14
NZES Listserver	22

AWARDS

Sir Peter Scott Award

Congratulations to **Prof. Mick Clout**, (School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland) who has been awarded the Sir Peter Scott Award.

“Dr Holly Dublin, Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission for the 2005–2008 Quadrennium, presented Prof Mick Clout with the Sir Peter Scott Award for Conservation Merit at the recent World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain. The Sir Peter Scott Award is the “senior” Species Survival Commission (SSC) award, dating back to 1984, and is presented to individuals in recognition of significant and long term service to conservation through their work with the SSC or associated institutions. The award, a medal with a likeness of the first SSC Chair Sir Peter Scott and a certificate, was presented to Prof Clout in recognition of his unflagging and successful efforts to bring invasive alien species issues to the forefront of IUCN’s work and his dedicated leadership of the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group for 15 years.”

New Zealand Ecology Society Awards 2008

Honorary Life Member

Prof. John Craig (University of Auckland)

Honorary life memberships are conferred to recognise excellence and longstanding service in the study or application of ecological science in New Zealand.

Te Tohu Taiao – Award for Ecological Excellence

Prof. John Ogden (recently retired from the University of Auckland)

This award is presented annually to recognise individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the study and application of ecological science. The award is made to the person who has published the best original research in ecology of New Zealand, and its dependencies (including the Ross Dependency) or person who has made the most outstanding contribution to applied ecology particularly conservation and management.

NZES Ecology in Action Award

Dr Henrik Moller (University of Otago)

This award was established to recognise individuals who are achieving excellence and best practice in the promotion of ecology, including communication, education and transfer of ecological science at the grass roots. The Society would like to recognise work of individuals achieved in promoting ecology and education at a local government level, with landowners, community groups, politicians and councils. This award is for individuals, whose role is primarily the transfer of ecology and research, but who are not necessarily involved in pure ecological research. This award reflects one of the primary aims of the society that includes promotion of the study of ecology and the application of ecological knowledge in all its aspects. The society also recognises that the transfer of ecological knowledge at a community and local government level is important in changing behaviours and achieving practical protection and restoration of biodiversity, particularly of our threatened lowland ecosystems.

Best publication by a new researcher

Cynthia Roberts (for a paper that was from results of her research at the Lincoln University. Cynthia is currently in Tasmania).

The New Zealand Ecological Society awards an annual prize of NZ\$500 for the best published paper of an ecological nature, by a new researcher. This award is targeted at people at the start of their research career.

Roberts C.M, Duncan R.P, Wilson K-J. 2007: Burrowing seabirds affect forest regeneration, Rangatira Island, Chatham Islands, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 31: 208–222.

Abstract: The forests of Rangatira Island (218 ha) in the Chatham Islands are a critical breeding site for a number of rare and threatened forest bird species, but are also home to more than three million seabirds, which could significantly affect forest regeneration processes. We surveyed the forests of Rangatira Island by establishing 40 permanent forest plots, estimated seabird density through burrow counts, and analysed soil properties. To determine if seabirds were impacting on forest regeneration, we established exclosures (0.25 m²) in 30 of the forest plots, and examined the role of canopy gaps in forest regeneration. The tallest current forest (c. 15 m), dominated by *Plagianthus chathamicus*, has mostly regenerated since stock were removed in 1959. Mean burrow density was estimated to be 1.19 per square metre, all soils were highly acidic (pH 3.36–5.18), and burrow density was positively correlated with soil phosphorus. Seedling density of woody species in seabird exclosures measured after 9, 24 and 33 months was significantly higher than in the adjacent non-gap plots, and seedling density was positively associated with reduced canopy cover. Seedling densities were also significantly higher in canopy gaps than in adjacent non-gap plots, but seabird burrow density was significantly lower in gaps. These results suggest that canopy gaps allow forest regeneration despite the negative impacts of seabird burrowing. However, the gap makers, largely senescing *Olearia traversii*, are slowly disappearing from the forests. The cohort of *Plagianthus* that has regenerated following farm abandonment may progressively collapse, allowing regeneration to continue in small openings, but there is also the potential for a catastrophic blowdown. This might have serious implications for forest-dwelling birds, invertebrates, and plants.

Best student NZES conference paper

Winner

Ben Barr (Massey University, Auckland)

Co-authors: Brunton D., Ji W.

Presentation title: Investigating chevron skink (*Oligosoma homalonotum*) ecology, and the impacts of rat control.

Abstract: The chevron skink (*Oligosoma homalonotum*) is one of New Zealand's largest and rarest skinks and is known from c. 300 records from Great Barrier Island and only two records from Little Barrier Island. Unmet goals of the 2002 *Oligosoma* Recovery Plan are to ascertain the status of chevron skink, to see if they are vulnerable to introduced predators, as well as increase the basic knowledge of the species. This paucity of data, and build-up of unmet goals was largely due to poor survey techniques available for this species. However, a recently developed trapping technique has been achieving excellent capture rates of chevron skinks. Accordingly, the focus of this study has been to address these unmet goals using these newly developed trapping methods in concert with radio-tracking. Specifically, the benefits of current rat control methods to chevron skinks have been quantified and basic ecological information about the species (status, population structure, home range, behaviour and habitat selection) has been built upon. Chevron skinks were trapped, measured, and radio-tracked in two catchments in Glenfern sanctuary (rat control treatment) and two catchments in adjacent Port Fitzroy (control). The benefits of rat control were determined by comparing the population structure of chevron skinks, skink condition (incidence of tail loss, weight: length ratio, evidence of predator damage), and population density through the trapping programme. These measures also contribute to basic ecological information and the status of the population at each site. Home range, behaviour and habitat selection have been measured through intensive radio-tracking of adult skinks at each site to build upon knowledge of the species in addition to ascertaining possible differences between control and treatment. Rat-tracking tunnels, calibrated with rat extinction trapping will be used to determine an absolute rate density at each site, which will be used to correlate

with differences observed in the skink population. Fieldwork will be completed in September 2008 and preliminary results will be presented.

Ben also won a new prize sponsored by the '**Society of Conservation Biology** – Australasia section' for the best presentation with a conservation theme. This award includes membership of this society.

Runner up

Dylan Van Winkel (Massey University, Auckland)

Co-authors: Ji, W., Brunton D.

Presentation title: Monitoring post-translocation responses of cryptic geckos (*Hoplodactylus duvaucelli*) and investigation of avian predation on island lizards

Abstract: New Zealand's native herpetofauna has suffered severe range contractions as a result of habitat fragmentation and introduced mammalian predators. Translocating threatened species to islands, free of introduced predators, may prove a successful tool for conservation management. However, the success of such procedures is often difficult to measure due to the low reproductive rates and poor detectability of native reptiles. Increasing detection may involve intensive post-release monitoring. This study focuses on the translocation of Duvaucel's geckos (*Hoplodactylus duvaucelli*) to two island sanctuaries, within the Hauraki Gulf (Auckland, New Zealand), as part of the islands' ecosystem restoration. *H. duvaucelli* are nocturnal, semi-arboreal geckos that have become extinct on mainland New Zealand. We aimed to monitor the initial establishment of *H. duvaucelli*, evaluate the efficiency of existing monitoring techniques for cryptic lizards, and quantify the rate of avian predation on island lizard populations. Post-release movements and habitat selection were recorded, via radio-telemetry. Three standard reptile monitoring techniques were employed: night spotlighting, artificial refuge use, and ink tracking tunnels. A comparison of these methods may warrant the development of best practice protocols for surveying cryptic species of lizards. Results on initial dispersal movements, habitat selection, success of monitoring techniques, and predation rates will be presented. This study provides invaluable information and recommendations for the future management of Duvaucel's geckos. Additionally, it may aid managers in conserving more threatened reptile species, such as the rarer *Cyclodina* skinks.

Best student NZES conference paper

Amy Whitehead (University of Canterbury)

Co-author: McIntosh A.

Poster title: Population recovery of species with relict distributions: maximizing returns from who conservation efforts.

Abstract: Traditional assumptions that population densities are correlated with habitat quality may be inappropriate for threatened species, which are often restricted to small, fragmented areas of habitat due to the presence of introduced predators or changes in habitat. Significant changes may result in relict distributions, where the current range is not representative of historical habitat. Such areas may contain low quality habitat that results in poor survival rates and low productivity, further reducing their ability to maintain self-sustaining populations. These issues can make the large-scale management of threatened species problematic because it is not always apparent where conservation efforts should be concentrated to maximise returns and ensure long-term persistence. The blue duck (whio – *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*) is an endangered species of riverine duck that has undergone a serious decline due to predation by introduced mammals and loss of forested riverine habitat. Whio conservation is currently dominated by *in situ* predator control in small isolated populations across New Zealand. We evaluate the management options available for whio conservation and suggest ways to increase the effectiveness of conservation efforts. The use of carefully structured management plans that assess both the suitability of habitat and the effectiveness of management techniques is vital for successful conservation management.

ECOLOGY IN ART

In November 2007, a series of 12 photographic images and four graphite drawings were shown at Seed Gallery in Auckland. Titled "Fallen", the exhibition showcased the work of artist John Pusateri as he explored his involvement in a New Zealand biodiversity research project.

The project, funded by an internal Unitec research grant, focussed on Jagers Bush, an area of European privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) that resembles native forest from a distance. European privet is an invasive species that can form dense monocultural strands and suppress native species. During the study, birds were counted and insects trapped. Scientific input was provided by Dan Blanchon and Mel Galbraith (both Senior Lecturers with the School of Natural Sciences, Unitec). Jagers Bush, self-established upon an old city dump site, is being replanted with native species. Another blend of human impact, ecology, and art, the 'Fallen' fragments from the human past found in the dump feature in Pusateri's work.

The natural and native world is a constant influence and stimulus on artists and their art. This project went a step further by integrating a research project with artistic expression, and was concluded by a small but intriguing publication also titled "Fallen". This publication brings together images from the exhibition and essays by John Early (Curator of Entomology, Auckland War Museum), Dan Blanchon, and Mel Galbraith. John Early quotes Albert Einstein "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all art and science" suggesting that with this project John Pusateri brings us to that intersection.

The essays explore biodiversity, biosecurity, the importance of perception, and the beauty and marvel of insects—as animals and as objects of art.

Below are extracts and images taken from "Fallen".

Speakers for the Dead (John Early)

The battles for biological conservation marshal evidence and facts with an undeniable logic, yet this is often insufficient to win the day. It seems that as humans we need more than this, that the cause needs to appeal to faculties other than rationality. In this body of work, the artist has let the dead creatures speak—of beauty, of transience, of fragility and mortality, of fragmentation and isolation—appealing to our hearts as much as to our minds. This message is echoed by the glass and ceramic fragments. The dead creatures are eloquent, and speak powerfully with substance and content beyond their initial aesthetic allure. They are more than just objects of beauty for our private enjoyment, to be forgotten when we have no further use for them. If that were all, it would be to trivialise them. In their deaths they also speak on behalf of others of their kind, prompting us to ask questions and to regard them in a different way.

Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder: *Biodiversity, biosecurity and the importance of perception* (Dan Blanchon and Mel Galbraith)

The study of both biodiversity and biosecurity must access the same disciplines. A strong knowledge of taxonomy is essential in the identification of invading alien species, but also in the documentation of rare native species. Ecology is the study of the relationship of organisms to the physical world and to each other. Thus, ecology is the research pathway available to us for exploring the role that biodiversity components play in the complexities of these relationships, and therefore how ecosystems function.

The difference in the treatment of native vs. non-native species is one of perception. Many non-native plants have an essential role in New Zealand. A range of native and exotic bird species (particularly tui) are known to feed on privet fruits, which appear to provide an important winter food source. Other native birds such as grey warbler and fantail frequent Jagers Bush; native skinks have also been observed. An iconic invertebrate the puriri moth (*Aenetus virescens*), uses around 60 tree species, including the privet, as a host for its caterpillar stage.

One solution to deal with this apparent clash between native and exotic biodiversity would be to remove the privet without negatively impacting on the native fauna that depends upon it for food and shelter.



Week Eleven



Week Twenty-three

Images and words reproduced by permission of the artist and authors.

Fleur Maseyk

HOT SCIENCE

This article was published in March 2008 in *Ecology* 89(2): 380–391.

Context matters: matrix vegetation influences native and exotic species composition on habitat islands

SUSAN K. WISER AND ROWAN P. BUXTON

Landcare Research, PO Box 40, Lincoln 7640, New Zealand

The extensive research on plant communities of natural habitat islands has primarily focused on the “islands”. The “island” analogy, however, potentially limits understanding of processes influencing composition on habitat islands because the nature of their matrix is overlooked. We determine how plant community structure of the surrounding matrix influences vegetation on volcanic outcrops in the modified landscape of Banks Peninsula, New Zealand. Our primary purpose is to address whether the matrix is more important for recently established exotic species than it is for well-established native species and whether such invasion by exotics has led to homogenization of the outcrop flora. To test this, we examined our data at three spatial scales: that of the entire outcrop flora, between individual outcrops and their immediate surrounding matrix, and between individual outcrop faces and the individual relevés of the immediate surrounding matrix. We found that 81% of the native flora and 90% of the exotic flora also occur in the matrix. This high level of species shared between the outcrop and matrix persists at the scale of individual outcrop faces (68% of the total flora of individual faces is shared with the matrix). We predicted floras from different outcrops would vary in their distinctiveness from their immediate matrix. We found Bray-Curtis distance coefficient values to range from 0.26 to 0.64; these were even higher at the outcrop-face scale. Variability in outcrop distinctiveness relates primarily to the outcrop face properties of area, vegetation height and soil depth and matrix properties of vegetation structure and vegetation heterogeneity. The effect of the vegetation structure of the matrix is more pronounced on the exotic than the native outcrop flora. The component of composition and structure of the matrix that was independent of outcrop properties and local environment accounts for similar levels of explainable variation in total and native composition (29–31%), but considerably more (40%) in composition of exotic species. Our results support our prediction that as the surrounding matrix becomes more modified, invasion by exotics makes outcrop vegetation less distinct from its matrix.

NEW ZEALAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT FORUM

Bruce McKinlay
Dave Houston
*Department of
Conservation*

The New Zealand Wildlife Management forum is a recently established tool to promote conversations and communication between wildlife managers throughout New Zealand.

Like other similar tools the aim of this site is to provide a mechanism for getting and providing advice and best practice on wildlife management to the entire New Zealand conservation community—DOC, Regional Councils, Trusts, Societies and individual experts.

Email is (spam excluded) considered to be quick and efficient. However each of us struggles with server limits and occasional system crashes which enforce a clean out of emails. Email is also restricted to those on the email address list. In an organisation such as DOC or Landcare Research there are extensive mailing lists of people with ‘common’ interests but if you are not on a specific list then you miss out on the threads and more importantly the corporate or institutional knowledge which is exchanged on an email list.

The New Zealand Wildlife Management Forum is available to all and is already a repository for information on topics as diverse as bird transfers, falcon and chicken interactions and whale stranding’s.

Web based forum are increasingly becoming available to overcome the problems with emails and list server message services. As these are web based

they avoid issues about access between institutions. Again being web based they are not subject to the needs of system administrators with limits on server capacity. But most importantly, posts do not get lost like email but are retained for all time and are searchable by keyword.

The only cost though is that registrants need to actively participate and remember to post threads and initiate discussions. Joining is simple and straightforward and can be done at www.wildlifemanagement.net.nz/index.php



FROM ACROSS THE TASMAN

The latest (September) issue of the Ecological Society of Australia Bulletin has the usual wrap-up of from around Australia, plus a good review of United Kingdom and United States ecological society news. Selected highlights follow or you can read more at www.ecolsoc.org.au/documents/ESA/BullSept08.doc

CSIRO study shows frequency of exceptionally high temperatures increasing

A CSIRO study has analysed changes in the areal extent and frequency of exceptionally high temperatures, low rainfall and low soil moisture for seven Australian regions, finding that the frequency of exceptionally high temperatures has been increasing rapidly over recent decades, and the trend is expected to continue.

The analysis uses observed and simulated data covering varying periods from 1900 to 2040. Low, mean and high projections are given for future years.

Over the past 40 years (1968–2007), exceptionally hot years are typically occurring over 10–12% of the area in each region, i.e. about twice the expected long-term average of 5%. By 2010–2040, the mean area is likely to increase to 60–80%, with a low scenario of 40–60% and a high scenario of 80–95%. On average, exceptionally high temperatures are likely to occur every one to two years.

Observed trends in exceptionally low rainfall years are highly dependent on the period of analysis due to large variability between decades. If rainfall were the sole trigger for exceptional circumstances (EC) declarations, then the mean projections for 2010–2040 indicate that more declarations would be likely, and over larger areas, in the SW, SWWA and Victoria & Tasmanian Regions, with little detectable change in the other regions.

Projected increases in the areal extent and frequency of exceptionally low soil moisture years are slightly clearer than those for rainfall.

The report is available at www.bom.gov.au/climate/droughtec/

Garnaut Climate Change Review

The Garnaut Climate Change Review was commissioned by Australia's Commonwealth, state and territory governments to examine the impacts, challenges and opportunities of climate change for Australia. A Draft Report was released in July 2008, and the Final Report was released on the 30 September 2008. The review is comprehensive and papers and submissions covers many topics. On the site below, you will find all materials released by the Review to date.

www.garnautreview.org.au/domino/Web_Notes/Garnaut/garnautweb.nsf

Carbon pollution reduction scheme—Green Paper

The Rudd Government has released proposals for a new plan to tackle climate change by reducing carbon pollution. The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Green Paper canvasses options and preferred approaches on issues, such as which industry sectors will be covered and how emission caps will be set. It also includes ways to address the impacts on Australian households, emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries and other strongly affected sectors. More at

www.climatechange.gov.au/greenpaper/index.html

Platypus genome secrets revealed

The platypus has had its genome sequenced. Published in the journal Nature, the platypus genome has shown ancient links with birds and reptiles. The platypus is the first Australian animal to have its genome sequenced.

‘Glennie’, a female platypus collected at the Upper Barnard River on Glen Rock Station in New South Wales, had her DNA sequenced. Scientists have been surprised by some aspects of the platypus gene sequence. For example they compared its genome with the human, mouse, dog, opossum and chicken and found that it shares 82% of its genes with these creatures.

Professor Jenny Graves from the Australian National University, one of the co-authors of the research, said one of the biggest surprises was how different the platypus sex genes were to those of other mammals. ‘In humans and other mammals we have an X and a Y chromosome and it’s the Y chromosome that has a gene which makes you a male. And we expected that platypuses would be basically the same—but they’re absolutely not.’

www.aussmc.org/Platypus_genome.php

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

INTECOL 10, Brisbane, Australia, 16–21 August 2009

Application for New Zealand Ecological Society Assistance Grant to attend

The New Zealand Ecological Society is offering **40 grants of \$500** each to support attendance at INTECOL 10. Criteria for these grants are:

- The applicant must be a financial member of the New Zealand Ecological Society.
- The applicant must be presenting a scientific paper (oral or poster) presentation at the conference.
- The applicant must attend the AGM of the New Zealand Ecological Society during the INTECOL 10 conference.

Priority will be given to applicants based on the scientific quality of the presentation offered and the financial need of the applicant as judged by a panel appointed by the New Zealand Ecological Society council.

Applications close 4 March 2009 (also the closing date for abstract submission). Awardees will be notified by 31 March 2009. Grants will be paid to awardees on receipt of evidence that their talk/poster abstract has been accepted (expected by mid-April). Note that early-bird registrations close on 16 May 2009.

1. Name:	
2. Organisation:	
3. Mailing address:	
4. Email address:	
5. How long have you been a member of the NZES?	
6. How many NZES conferences have you attended in the last five years?	
7. How many NZES AGM's have you attended in the last five years?	
8. Please include a copy of the abstract you have submitted to INTECOL 10 and a brief statement (2–3 sentences) of the potential importance of this grant on your ability to attend the INTECOL 10 conference.	

Please post or email applications to:

Ruth Guthrie
Secretary New Zealand Ecological Society
686 Takaka Valley Highway
Urewhenua
R D 1, TAKAKA
secretary@nzes.org.nz

David Given recognised with new native plant research scholarship

The late David Given was recognised in August 2008 at a ceremony in Wellington with the launch of a new threatened plant research scholarship in his name. The scholarship was launched by Ian Spellerberg, President of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, and David's wife, Karina Given.

"This scholarship is named after David in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the protection of New Zealand's globally important native plants" Ian Spellerberg said. The scholarship will be granted for research that assists the protection and recovery of New Zealand's threatened plant species and communities. Applicants must be New Zealand residents or citizens but the work could involve overseas researchers who collaborate with the principal researcher.

Applications for the scholarship close 30 November 2008.

Contact the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network for more information about the scholarship: (info@nzpcn.org.nz)

OR use the attached application form.

Dr David Given FLS (1943–2005) was well known to New Zealanders for his pioneering work in the arena of indigenous plant conservation. He was Christchurch City Council Botanical Services curator until his death in November 2005. David was also member of the Royal Society Biodiversity Committee from 1994.

ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

An American party game: bring out your budgie.

"...alcoholic intoxication is not uncommon, especially in budgerigars. They very readily learn to sit on the rim of a beverage glass and imbibe freely of the contents. Intoxication occurs frequently at parties where the pet bird is encouraged in the practice.

Janzen, D. 1977. Why fruits rot, seeds mould, and meat spoils *The American Naturalist*, Vol. 111, No. 980, pp. 691–713.

Peter Williams
Landcare Research, Nelson



DESIGN A LOGO COMPETITION



The society needs a new logo and members are asked for their ideas and feedback. The winning idea will be representative of the society and ecology in New Zealand. The winning idea will be reworked by a professional designer and the new logo launched at the next years AGM. On top of the ensuing glory the creator of the winning idea will receive a years membership.

Submit your ideas (by design or in writing) by **18 December 2008**.

Please post or email or applications to:

Ruth Guthrie
Secretary New Zealand Ecological Society
686 Takaka Valley Highway
Urewhenua
R D 1, TAKAKA
secretary@nzes.org.nz

NOTICEBOARD

Design a logo competition
EIANZ: Ecologists Needed
Radio NZ environment
producer
Kauri Fund appeal

EIANZ: NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGISTS URGENTLY NEEDED

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) needs contributions from at least two New Zealand based ecologists. It is imperative that New Zealand ecologists help shape the direction of the institute and so these volunteers will contribute to discussions on a monthly basis about a wide range of topics which include:

1. **Best practice in ecology:** The EIANZ has established a special interest section in ecology. This group will address important topics such as best practice in ecology and standards for ecological impact assessment. Many Australian ecologists have contributed to these discussions but it is important that there be a New Zealand perspective.
2. **Ecological criteria in the Certified Environmental Practitioner Programme:** The EIANZ has developed a Certified Environmental Practitioner Programme which has generic criteria similar to other professional certification programmes. A discussion has begun about the possibility of adding specific ecological criteria and if this happens there will be implications for ecological consultants in Australia and New Zealand. New Zealand input is therefore required.
3. **Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclIA):** EIANZ Ecology is developing a set of "Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclIA)" based on the very successful United Kingdom model prepared by Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM). In the first instance these will be generic, for use across a range of countries, states and regulatory frameworks, but eventually versions will be developed for New Zealand, Australia and other places. The Working Group would welcome input from New Zealand ecologists working in impact assessments here for both the generic and local guidelines. This topic will feature at the EIANZ Conference in Melbourne in October and the Working Group will meet again (by conference call) in November.

If you are interested in volunteering for this role please contact Professor Ian Spellerberg (EIANZ Vice President – email: spelleri@lincoln.ac.New Zealand) as soon as possible.

NEW ENVIRONMENT PRODUCER AT RADIO NEW ZEALAND

Alison Ballance has just taken up the position of environment producer at Radio New Zealand. With co-host Veronika Meduna she will be co-producing and co-presenting the science and environment show 'Our Changing World', a one hour show which goes to air each Thursday night. Each show contains four 12-minute long interviews about New Zealand research and issues.

If you have ideas about possible stories, Alison would love to hear from you, so please get in touch: Alison.Ballance@radionz.co.nz

Podcasts of previous episodes of 'Our Changing World' can be downloaded at: www.radionz.co.nz/podcasts/ourchangingworld.rss

ANNUAL APPEAL FOR KAURI FUND FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Help send students to INTECOL 2009

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.

In its initial phase, the Fund has simply been accumulating capital but the Council now wish to start using this resource. A fast approaching need is to assist graduate student travel to the 10th International Congress of Ecology (<http://www.intecol10.org/>) to be held in Brisbane, Australia, 16–21 August 2009. This will double as the NZES annual conference for next year. The Council wish to use interest generated from the Kauri Fund over the next year to support students to attend this important event.

Please consider a contribution, whether \$10, \$20 or \$50, to the Kauri Fund now to help send our students to Brisbane.

You can make your contribution to the Kauri Fund in two ways:

Send a cheque made out to the "NZES Kauri Fund" to the New Zealand Ecological Society, P.O. Box 25 178, Christchurch 8144.

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

10th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions

Anyone interested in the ecology and management of invasive alien plants is cordially invited to attend the:

10th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions (EMAPI 10)

Stellenbosch, South Africa,

23–27 August 2009.

The EMAPI conference series started in April 1992 with the 1st International Workshop on the Ecology and Management of Invasive Riparian and Aquatic Plants at Loughborough University in the U.K. EMAPI 2 was held in the Czech Republic in 1993. Since then, EMAPI conferences have been held every two years (in Arizona, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Florida, Poland, and Australia). They are now well established as the premier international forum for researchers working on all aspects relating to the ecology and management of alien plant invasions. After a very successful EMAPI 9 in Perth, Australia, in September 2003, EMAPI stays in the Southern Hemisphere, but moves to Africa for the first time.

The conference is being hosted by the Centre for Invasion Biology at Stellenbosch University, and will be held just outside Stellenbosch in the picturesque Cape winelands, within the famous Cape Floristic Region. The world-class conference facilities at the Spier Estate will facilitate exciting keynote addresses and dynamic discussion on all topics related to the ecology and management of plant invasions.

South Africa has been particularly severely impacted by invasive alien plants, and provides a unique snap shot of the human dimensions of invasions as well as some heartening stories of successful management. These issues set against a breathtaking backdrop will create opportunities for memorable field trips.

Chairman of the organising committee Dave Richardson invites you to attend this conference. Please feel free to contact Dave (rich@sun.ac.za) for further information.

www.emapi2009.co.za/,

Ecological Society of Australia Conference 2008

ESA 08
Sydney 1-5 December 2008



Interactions in Science, Interactions in Nature

33rd Annual ESA Conference

Interactions in science, interactions in nature

University of Sydney, New South Wales

1–5 December 2008

The organising committee now welcome suggestions for symposia topics from NZES members, please send these to Clare McArthur at claremc@usyd.edu.au

www.ecolsoc.org.au/2008SydneyConference.htm

Fourth Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society

Fourth Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society

Mérida, México

8 – 12 January 2009

Invited symposia will feature talks on the biogeography of disease, patterns and processes in biotic transition zones, disjunct distributions in Asia and America, and the biogeography of species extinction. Attendees are invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations. The conference will also include workshops, field excursions, and social events.

Registration, contact, and additional information may be found at:

www.biogeography.org.

The 23rd annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology

Conservation: Harmony for Nature and Society

11–16 July in Beijing, China.

More information on the web site

www.conbio.org/,

or by emailing 2009@conbio.org.

Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) Conference

The World Conference on Ecological Restoration: Making Change in a Changing World

Perth, Western Australia, Australia

23 – 27 August 2009.

Scientific Programme

The three-day scientific programme will feature topics of global interest with debate on “Our restoration capabilities within a changing world”. Topics that are relevant, of high focus, and contemporary in Australia will also be highlighted during the scientific programme.

Field Trips and Social Programme

Given Perth’s stunning location in a global biodiversity hotspot, the pre- and post- conference multi-day field trips are guaranteed to be conference highlights, showcasing some of Western Australia’s unique flora and fauna, ancient landscapes and striking coastline. One-day field trips will highlight Western Australia’s biodiversity conservation issues and forest, woodland, coastal, wetland, and mining restoration programmes; while the social programme will include a welcome cocktail party, sunset drinks and conference dinner, with special evening speakers and entertainment.

Preliminary themes and general conference information can be found at:

seri2009@bgpa.wa.gov.au.

INTECOL downunder 2009

Ecology in a Changing Climate: Two Hemispheres – One Globe

The 10th International Congress of Ecology (INTECOL) will be held in Brisbane in August 2009. [INTECOL](#) is an international society founded in 1967 which has organised major scientific meetings, in particular the International Congresses of Ecology.

The Brisbane meeting will be the first INTECOL congress to be held in the Southern Hemisphere. The bid was fully supported by the [Ecological Society of Australia](#) and the New Zealand Ecological Society. It will include fieldtrips in New Zealand as well as Australia.

INTECOL promises to be a great opportunity for NZ ecologists to attend a major international conference.

Registration and abstract submission is now open

For more information on INTECOL 2009, visit: www.intecol10.org.

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCIL

Membership and subscription report, September 2008

The membership report published in the last newsletter had an inflated total membership due to a typo. My apologies! As at 26 September 2008 the total membership of the Society is **685**. This is an increase from 599 members since August 2007. However, the total count of members includes those in arrears for this year with 158 members still to pay their subs at the time these statistics were generated. The unwaged fraction of membership has increased by 60 to 171 members since August 2007; representing an increase in student membership since the Christchurch conference. Overseas and joint subscriptions have remained about the same.

Journal subscriptions totalled 109 for 2008, which is up four from 2007 and bucks the trend of a drop in journal subscriptions since 2004 (see membership report, NZES Newsletter 122 September 2007). This includes 78 paid-up subscribers and 18 complimentary subscribers.

Membership of the New Zealand Ecological Society as at 26 September 2008 (data from August 2007 in brackets provided as a comparison)

Category	Paid	Arrears this year	Total
Full *	329 (313)	87 (77)	416 (390)
Joint	46 (46)	7 (4)	53 (50)
Unwaged	124 (82)	47 (29)	171 (111)
Overseas **	15 (24)	17 (7)	32 (31)
Honorary	9 (12)		9 (12)
Newsletter only	4 (5)		4 (5)
Total	527 (479)	158 (117)	685 (599)

*Includes 4 complimentary memberships

**Includes waged and unwaged overseas subs

Ruth Guthrie
Secretary

COUNCIL MINUTES

These minutes have been edited and abridged.

Council Meeting 13 August 2008

Held at: Department of Conservation, Christchurch.

Present: Shona Myers, Clayson Howell, Chris Bycroft, Fleur Maseyk, John Sawyer, Mel Galbraith (minutes), Jacqueline Beggs, Peter Bellingham.

Apologies: Bruce Burns, Ruth Guthrie

Minutes from last meeting and matters arising

NZES grants for members going to Intecol Conference. The following criteria were agreed: full members priority, attendance at AGM, contribution of newsletter article; grant offered subject to paper/poster accepted. A decision process will be developed if oversubscribed. Final grant amount will be \$400 to \$500 dependent on demand.

Website information stops at 2005 so updating needed.

A 'job description' for webmaster is needed. To be discussed and developed with Jon.

It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record (Shona/Jacqueline).

Membership report

New members list unavailable for approval at meeting. Need to approve by email.

The membership data accuracy also needs checking, report from secretariat to be circulated.

Treasurer's report

The signatures issue has been resolved.

Clayton presented the account balances.

Annual treasurers report is being collated by the secretariat and will then be sent to the auditor.

Peter B questioned investment ethics. Clayton will raise at the AGM and get feedback from members.

Mel raised the issue of registration of the society as a charitable trust in order to retain tax benefits. Jacqueline and John will investigate and report to AGM.

The Treasurers report was accepted (Clayson/John).

Newsletter report

Feedback on newsletter content will be sought at the AGM

The merits of hardcopy vs. electronic copy of newsletter were discussed. This is linked to the need to update the webpage.

Popular articles for the newsletter could be sought from journal articles, with topical issues rewritten for a more popular audience.

Communication is to be increased with Ecological Society of Australia with newsletter inclusions.

Journal editor's report

Peter Bellingham presented his report:

- The first issue of *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* for 2008, Volume 32, No. 1, was published in June 2008 and contained eight Research Articles, four Short Communications and five Forum Articles.
- Drs Doug Armstrong and Ian Jamieson resigned from the editorial board of the journal during 2007–08. New members of the journal's editorial board appointed during 2007–08 are Drs Jacqueline Beggs, Kevin Burns, Isabel Castro and Jason Tylanakis.
- Issue 32 (2) is a normal issue for which nine papers have been accepted (including four Research Articles, two Short Communications and three Forum

Articles). None are yet available online. Anne Austin, Christine Bezar (technical editors for the journal) and Peter Bellingham are working with authors to ensure that 32(2) will appear in print c. November 2008. This is part of our goal to bring publication dates for normal annual issues of the journal to appear earlier in the year.

- In 2007, 51 manuscripts were submitted to *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* of which 18 have been either published or are in press and decisions are pending on three manuscripts. Between 2003 and 2007, on average 44% of manuscripts submitted to the journal each year have been declined for publication.
- There have been 43 submissions so far in 2008, considerably more than at the same time in the last two years. Submissions include significant Review Papers and prospective Forum Articles. Although submission numbers continue to increase, a high proportion of submissions this year (43%) have been unsuitable or of a poor standard and were not considered other than by the scientific editor.
- Anne Austin and Peter Bellingham prepared new guidelines for authors about journal style, etc., which appeared in Volume 31, No. 1 (2007) and are on the journal's web site.
- Professor Dave Kelly is the guest editor, assisted by Jenny Ladley, of a special issue of *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* in Volume 33 (2009) which includes papers from the symposium session "Feathers to Fur" at the 2007 New Zealand Ecological Society conference. Landcare Research and the Department of Conservation have agreed to fund production jointly of the special issue.
- A special issue of *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* is planned for papers from the Tiritiri M tangi symposium at the September 2008 New Zealand Ecological Society conference.
- Council approval is sought for the scientific editor to invite Dr John Parkes to coordinate a special issue of *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* on "Search and Detection: theory and applications". The contents would be >10 papers based on contributions to a symposium held in November 2008. The special issue would be edited by John Parkes and Dr Graham Nugent. The intention is that the special issue would be published in 2010. All costs of producing the special issue would be met by sponsors. It was agreed that John Parkes be the scientific editor of the special issue (moved Shona Myers; seconded John Sawyer)

The citation rates of the journal were discussed, which are currently increasing. The general identity of the journal was discussed, including the need to advertise in international journals. Search engines prioritise big publishers.

The website currently still gives free access to all journal articles and this has not had an impact on membership or subscription rates. There was agreement to continue free on line access to the journal, but to communicate with overseas Ecological Societies regarding access to journal online.

The proposed amalgamation of the RSNZ journals was discussed. This may benefit NZJE. No urgency to consider changes, but a watching brief was recommended.

Journal printing costs

The options researched by Rachel Keedwell were revisited.

It was agreed that new quotes would be sought, with samples that embed figures within the text. Particular emphasis would be put on accurate typesetting costs and timeliness details.

Webmaster's report

There was no report.

John reported on advice on the home page from a web professional, need for a revamp confirmed, ball park costs for 35 hr min = c.\$3000; potentially much higher with more pages and content management.

It was agreed that Jon Sullivan's input is required.

The possibility of funding bids to cover a revamp (e.g. TFBIS) was discussed. Urgent updating needed for awards, newsletters, security, etc.

NZES Logo – John reported on advice received from a professional graphic artist that accurate costings are impossible without a detailed brief. It was agreed that a competition for redesign of the logo would be opened to NZES members first. Competition to be launched at the AGM.

Conferences

Intecol – there was no update from Bruce for this meeting. Shona reported that the Conference Company Trustees have been changed to Shona and Bruce.

Mel provided a report on the 2008 Conference. There have been good numbers of registrations and the conference is on track to make a small profit. The timing of the AGM was discussed and it was decided to hold it over lunchtime.

Awards

The recipients of the awards were decided.

There have been four applications for student travel grants. It was decided that a voting system as per 2007 would be used for the student awards. There was a discussion on biased voting – science merit vs. communication skills. It was agreed that the voting form would need to be clear on criteria.

Funds

Kauri Fund: To fulfil the requirements of the trust deed, two non-council trustees would need to be elected from membership at the AGM, with a trustee meeting organised early in each year. This meeting could be associated with the Council meeting and utilise conference calls for non-council members. The management of the trust and criteria/eligibility for funding to be developed at the first meeting. Documents for the David Given Threatened Plant Scholarship could be used as a potential model

Barlow Fund: The David Given scholarship could be a potential model. The Barlow family would be included in the loop for comment and approval of the process. There was discussion regarding the usefulness of a large grant used sparingly vs. more frequent small grants.

IUCN

A request from Wren Green regarding representation of NZES at the IUCN Congress in October, and support for attendance was discussed. It was agreed that support for funding would set a precedent and couldn't be supported. The need to approach all three NZES attendees to represent NZES at Members Assembly was discussed. It was decided NZES Council was not well enough informed to decide on representation.

EIANZ

Criteria for certification for environmental accreditation were discussed. New Zealand ecologists need to develop criteria for New Zealand. It was agreed to raise this at AGM as general business.

AGM

There will be one vacancy on council, with Jacqueline's two year term coming to an end. President, vice president, secretary and treasurer all intend to stand again.

Council Meeting 28 September 2008

Held at: Monsoon Poon, Auckland

Present: Shona Myers, Bruce Burns, Clayson Howell, Chris Bycroft, Fleur Maseyk, John Sawyer, Mel Galbraith, Jacqueline Beggs, Peter Bellingham, Ruth Guthrie (minutes).

Apologies: Jon Sullivan.

Website report

Discussions are ongoing regarding the potential redevelopment of the Society website. Jon raised some reservations about potential cost, but is willing to be part of the project team for rebranding and redoing the front interface. John has been in contact with Alan White from TIFBIS. Alan has indicated that we should apply to the discretionary fund for previously supported projects.

The revamped NZES logo needs to go ahead prior to the website redesign; this will be brought up at the AGM and members suggestions or designs invited.

John also spoke about the need for a new content management system to make uploading of information to the website easier. Jon indicated that this sort of system may cost a lot, but we could put out a tender to get a benchmark figure. Peter pointed out that as a council made up of volunteers that in essence we are creating a false economy, and that tendering out for work is not unreasonable.

John moved that 1. We seek tenders for the front interface redesign and for the content management/system redesign. 2. We set up a web team that takes care of all facets that need redevelopment, and take care of uploading new content. Jon Sullivan will be an integral part of this team. Seconded, Peter. Carried.

INTECOL

Bruce gave an update. The brochure is nearly ready to go out. Key dates: Abstract submission closes on the 4 March 2009. Approximately 1200–1500 people have registered interest in the conference on the website. Currently \$120K AUD in sponsorship has been received, of a targeted \$150k. Most of this has come from Australian sources.

The number of oral presentations is likely to be around 900, of which around half are reserved for symposium slots. This means only a small percentage of abstracts will be accepted for oral presentations and they will consequently be very competitive. Abstracts not accepted for oral presentation will be accepted as a poster.

The cost for earlybird registration is AUD\$785 for members. The council will be offering forty \$500 subsidies for members presenting, to be announced at the AGM. Discussion around the criteria for the grants was discussed. Suggested options included an application essay, a ballot system, judging the quality of science, or what other means of funding an applicant has available to them. A sub-committee of Aucklanders will be formed to make up an application form and decide on criteria for application.

Craig James from Australia is putting together a virtual tour of Australian and New Zealand ecology. How this will be run is a work in progress, Bruce is involved with this workshop and may be looking for help.

Bruce will be attending a face to face meeting in December in Sydney paid for by the conference.

Matters arising

Kauri Fund

We need two members who sit outside of council to be on the board of trustees for the Kauri fund. A call for nominations will be made at the AGM.

Ethical investments

Clayson brought up the question of the Society funds being put into ethical investments, and the safety of the money in accounts given the world financial

turmoil. Bruce is on the board of the WWF who have been advised to split their term investment funds across multiple banks. We discussed what the society would define as "ethical investment" as there are both global and local ethical problems. Clayson will bring this up at the AGM and ask for members feedback.

Charitable trust status

It has been suggested that, for tax reasons the Society becomes a charitable trust. Jacqueline has the papers that we need to fill in; by adding charitable status we avoid new taxation policies which are coming into law. We need to investigate if the Societies rules need changing before this can happen.

John moved a vote of thanks to Jacqueline for her hard work on council and the 2008 conference organising committee.

56th Annual General Meeting, 30 September 2008

Held at: Unitec, Auckland (during annual conference)

Present: Shona Myers (chair), Ruth Guthrie (secretary), and 45 other members (see list below).

Apologies: Judith Roper-Lindsey, Caroline Mason, Cathie Brumley.

Meeting opened: 11.50 am.

Minutes of 55th AGM

Dave Kelly moved that they be accepted as a true record of last year's meeting, Seconded Carol West. Carried.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Annual reports

President

Shona Myers drew attention to her full report printed in the last newsletter. Shona presented her President's report beginning by thanking a wide range of people that have assisted with the society over the last year; the Society depends on the energy of individuals, the commitment of their voluntary time and the support of the agencies for which they work. Highlights of the society's work for the past year are the annual conference, Ecology on our Doorstep, the 2007 conference Feathers to Fur held in Christchurch, and the huge amount of work going on around the INTECOL conference. The council have been working on promotion of the society in terms of promoting ecological knowledge and all its aspects; and developing communications strategy put together by Karen Denyer. As part of this work, we are announcing the redevelopment of the Societies logo as it needs to be more representative of the Society and ecology in this country. The Council has put in a lot of thought and discussion on this issue, and we invite members to put forward their ideas, either in a design or in writing, by the end of November. We can then take ideas and have a professional put together a new logo which will be presented at the next AGM. Please give us your feedback. Information around where to send ideas will be available in the Newsletter, List-server and on the website.

Shona thanked members of the council and acknowledged the work undertaken over the past year. Clayson, for the enormous job of taking on the Treasurers role. Ruth for taking on Secretary duties from a remote location. John Sawyer has continued to provide significant support particularly with the communication of ecology to the public and decision makers. Bruce Burns as Vice President has taken over the role in working with the Ecological Society of Australia in organising the INCECOL conference in 2009. Jon Sullivan has continued his excellent work of managing the website. Mel Galbraith has put huge effort into organising the 2008 conference. Chris Bycroft has continued to work on the yearly council awards. Jacqueline Beggs has provided wise advice and assisted with conference organisation. Fleur Maseyk took over the huge task as editor of the newsletter. Thank you to the hard working journal editor Peter

Bellingham and technical editor Anne Austin, their high attention to detail and high standards continues to produce a great publication.

Treasurer

Clayson Howell presented the annual Treasurers report (unaudited). Clayson apologised for this not being available in the newsletter, currently he is working through a few issues with the auditor and the audited reports will be available in an upcoming newsletter issue. The society accounts showed good performance in 2007, with a good profit due to conference profit, with the biggest difference to 2006 being one less edition of the journal produced. The Society accounts are healthy, with accounts remaining in the same banks since Clayson's take-over of the treasurer role.

Due to a generous bequest from the estate of Dr Kenneth Allan to the society, the Kauri Fund has now increased to the point where we can start to make decisions about how grants are to be allocated. Two more trustees are required for the Kauri Fund, as we are required to have two society members who sit outside of council on the board of trustees.

The issue of ethical investments of the Society, Kauri and Barlow funds was raised. If anyone has strong opinions on where money should or should not be invested please see Clayson to discuss this.

Dave Kelly asked about the Barlow bequest, and if it is sitting in a different account or will it become part of the Kauri Fund. Clayson explained that the Barlow fund is a different account that will not go into the Kauri Fund, and it will eventually have its own trust document. John Sawyer spoke about the fund, as he has been looking into the use and administration of trust funds. The Barlow bequest was made with the intention to sponsor foreign students to come to New Zealand and do ecological research at a New Zealand institution. Council is unsure about when this will be awarded, but it will potentially be offered next year as a fund to which students can apply. The exact details will be cleared with the Barlow family, and a trust document drawn up once the exact use, grant amount and application criteria have been decided on.

Clayson moved that his report be accepted as a true and accurate record. Seconded,

Marie Bradley. Carried.

Journal editor

Peter Bellingham presented his annual report, directing people to his full report in the last issue of the newsletter. Updating his report, Peter spoke about the final, regular issue for 2008 number 32(2), which closed off last Friday. The special issue of the journal from the Feathers to Fur symposium from the 2007 conference has 12 submitted articles, all in review. This issue will be edited by Jon Sullivan and Dave Kelly. The journal impact factor has been tracking up due to pulling back the dates of publication. The journal has had 51 manuscripts submitted this year, with currently a one in three rejection rate. Ian Jamison and Doug Armstrong retired from the editorial board after years of excellent work. Jacqueline Beggs and Isabel Castro and KC Burns have been added to the editorial board due to the large number of articles being received.

Shona provided a journal costing update. Rachel Keedwell put a lot of work into this, and Anne Austin is currently working on getting some more accurate costing around typesetting and timeliness of publications. We want to be sure we receive the same standards if we go to another company. They hope to report with a final decision soon.

Newsletter editor

Fleur Maseyk circulated a questionnaire about what members think of the newsletter, and thanked members for filling it out. The newsletter remains an important tool for the society, and has a lot of potential for communicating new research and popular articles. However there is a need for members to submit more articles.

Webmaster

John Sawyer spoke about plans for development of the website and media issues. Media releases have been sent out following the publication of new issues of the journal and the conference. This, along with the website provides a good vehicle for the Society to communicate a wide range of issues. Council is investigating tendering out for the redesign of the front page, and content management system to make sure that new information is updated quickly. The timing of the front page redesign will coincide with the new Society logo. Matt McGlone pointed out that instead of pizzazz, the new design must integrate an easily usable interface that allows quick navigation. Dave Kelly highlighted the importance of a fast loading website.

Membership

Ruth presented an updated and revised membership report, apologising for a typo that inflated membership in the annual membership report in the newsletter. The correct and up to date data will be presented in the next newsletter.

*Election of Officers***President**

Shona Myers nominated as President by Fleur Maseyk, Seconded John Sawyer. Carried.

Susan Timmons spoke about Shona's huge contribution to the society as both president and secretary, and she questioned if we as a society are being responsible by taking advantage of Shona's generosity by allowing her to be president for three years? Shona spoke about being willing to stay on for one more year given the commitment Bruce has to INTECOL.

Vice President

Shona nominated Bruce Burns as Vice President, seconded Susan Timmins. Carried

Secretary

Frances Schmechel nominated Ruth Guthrie as Secretary, seconded Carol West. Carried.

Treasurer

Shona nominated Clayson Howell as treasurer, seconded Chris Bycroft. Carried.

Councillors

One position has become available on council with Jacqueline Beggs ending her term. Shona moved a vote of thanks to Jacqueline for her hard work on council and her contribution to the organisation of this year's conference. Shona also moved a vote of thanks to Mel for the huge effort put into this year's conference, seconded Ruth. Carried.

Peter Bellingham nominated Isabel Castro, seconded Frances Schmechel. Carried.

Trustees for Kauri Fund

There are two positions available as trustees. Shona nominated Mick Clout, seconded Mel. Carried.

Shona nominated Jacqueline Beggs, seconded: Clayson. Carried.

*General Business***Nomination for life membership**

Shona invited Neil Mitchell to introduce this award, for which John Craig was nominated.

John thanked the society for the honour, and thanked Neil for his words. John's nomination will be published in the newsletter.

Intecol

Bruce spoke about INTECOL, in particular the cost to attend which will be quite expensive. However, the likelihood of the Society making a profit from this conference is high, so the council has decided to support society members attending the meeting. Forty, \$500 assistance grants were announced, where the

intention is to encourage as many members as possible to attend, speaking or presenting posters and profiling New Zealand ecology to the world. Bruce asked for questions from members.

Matt McGlone asked about the criteria for grants. At present, applicants will need to be Society members, be presenting a talk or poster, and have need for funding. Bruce highlighted that while students will be eligible to apply for the grant, often they have other funding opportunities open to them, therefore we are looking to support ordinary members as much as possible. The criteria have not been set yet, and council needs to make a decision around this, Bruce invited ideas for the criteria. Carol West pointed out that for people to apply for a grant was a bit chicken and egg, as they will need to know if they are accepted to present before they can apply. Bruce reminded members that oral presentations will be limited, but anyone will be able to give a poster. He encouraged members to go ahead with abstract submission and grant applications. John Ogden questioned the expense of the grant in a year where we do not have income from a local conference. Bruce pointed out that as joint partners we will receive 30% of the profit from INTECOL; and the aim of the grant is to offset that profit to allow members to go. Frances Schemchel suggested that in the least applicants should be members, and successful applicants should be required to attend the AGM. She suggested that grants could be made available to members who will apply knowledge from INTECOL, rather than exclusively to members presenting.

Bruce also pointed out there is a AUD\$100 cost upfront for abstract submission, deductible from the registration fee. This has been set up to avoid abstracts being printed in the proceedings for presenters who then don't show up, but use the record in their CV.

Bruce reminded that abstracts due on 4 March next year. The theme for the conference is "climate and a changing world" with the overall theme around global change, but all topics in ecology will be covered.

Other business

Dave Kelly moved a vote of thanks to everyone on council. The society is going really well, and it does so because of volunteer labour. We need to appreciate that the society has increased in members, conference size and money in the past few years. Seconded, Carol West.

Fleur moved a vote of thanks to Jeremy Rolfe who does the technical editing of the newsletter. Seconded, Ruth.

Meeting closed: 1 pm.

Present: Sarah Beadel, Jacqueline Beggs, Peter Bellingham, Marie Bradley, Gary Bramley, Bruce Burns, Chris Bycroft, Isabel Castro, John Clark, John Craig, Sue Crawshay, Katharina Doehring, Mike Fitzgerald, Mel Galbraith, Robin Gardner-Gee, Madan Gautam, Chrissen Gemmill, Michael Greenwood, David Hawke, Clayson Howell, James Lambie, Matt McGlone, Kate McNutt, Fleur Maseyk, Astrid van Meeuwen-Dijkgraaf, Neil Mitchell, Simon Moore, Colin O'Donnell, John Ogden, Tim Park, Vincenzo Petrella, Richard Romjin, John Sawyer, Frances Schmechel, Willie Shaw, Elise Smith, Lynette Smith, Jenny Steven, Susan Timmons, Chris Ward, Carol West, Amy Whitehead, Janet Wilmshurst, Peter Wilson, Laura Young.

NZES LISTSERVER

Dave Kelly

Dave.Kelly@canterbury.ac.nz

RULES FOR THE NZES LISTSERVER

This listserver is for “issues of general interest” to NZ ecologists (conferences, jobs, etc).

The list has three key guidelines:

1. Only messages of genuine general interest. No ads for things being sold (this does not include job ads which are OK) and no fringe interests. If in doubt check with me first.
2. If you want to reply to a posting, the default is for you to reply only to the sender. Do not reply to the whole list unless you are sure your point will be of “general interest”, which most replies are not. Please check what “To” field you have set before pressing “Send”. Remember this listserver is primarily for announcements, not discussions.
3. No attachments—put your message in plain text, with if necessary a link to a pdf on a web page.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

To subscribe to this server, e-mail a message to the automatic Mailserv processor at: nzecosoc-request@it.canterbury.ac.nz following text in the body of the e-mail:

SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC

END

To unsubscribe from the listserv, send this message to the same address above:

UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC

Once subscribed, you will receive instructions on how to send messages, unsubscribe etc. PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM.

TO SEND A MESSAGE

To send a message to everybody on the list, use the address, nzecosoc@it.canterbury.ac.nz. Only people subscribed to the list are able to post to it. If you are not on the list and don't want to subscribe, but want a message, send it to me (Dave.Kelly@canterbury.ac.nz) to forward on.

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

If you change your e-mail address, you have to unsubscribe from the old one, and subscribe from the new address. The easiest way to unsubscribe your old email address is to send a message while you are logged on at the old address; if the old e-mail address is dead you will not be able to unsubscribe it because the system sees you as someone else. In that case e-mail me and I can do it for you.

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(Effective from 30 September 2008)

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This Newsletter was produced by Fleur Maseyk and Jeremy Rolfe.

Contributions for the newsletter—news, views, letters, cartoons, etc.—are welcomed. Please e-mail to editors (newsletter@nzes.org.nz) with document attached (Word formatted for Windows) or post. If posting, if possible, please send articles for the newsletter both on disk and in hard copy. Please do not use complex formatting; capital letters, italics, bold, and hard returns only, no spacing between paragraphs. Send disk and hard copy to:

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Next deadline for the newsletter is 2 February 2009.

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Types of Membership and Subscription Rates (2008)

Full (receive journal and newsletter) . \$75* per annum

Unwaged (with journal) \$45* per annum

Unwaged membership is available only on application to Council for full-time students, retired persons etc. Unwaged members may receive the journal but must specifically request it.

Joint..... \$75* per annum

Joint members get one copy of the journal and newsletter to one address.

Overseas Full \$95* per annum

Overseas Unwaged..... \$65* per annum

School..... \$12 per annum

Educational institutions may receive the newsletter at the cost of production to stay in touch with Society activities. By application to Council.

There are also Institutional Rates for libraries, government departments etc.

Overseas members may send personal cheques for their local equivalent of the NZ\$ amount at current exchange rates, for most major overseas currencies.

For more details on membership please write to:

NZ Ecological Society
PO Box 25 178
Christchurch
NEW ZEALAND

or e-mail: info@nzes.org.nz

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



David Given Threatened Plant Scholarship

To fund research into the biosystematics and conservation management, protection and recovery of New Zealand's threatened plant and fungi species¹ and their communities.

Objective

The scholarship will be granted for research that assists the protection and recovery of New Zealand's threatened plant species and communities.

Eligibility and conditions

Applicants must be New Zealand residents or citizens but the work could involve overseas researchers who collaborate with the principal researcher.

Threatened species and communities can be either nationally or regionally threatened.

Plant species include vascular plants, ferns, cryptogams. Fungi are also covered by this scholarship.

Application

Please address the following areas in any written application for the scholarship.

Issue: Outline the issue to be investigated and why it is important to study this.

Research methods: Outline the approach you intend to take.

Impact: How will your research contribute to the better conservation of the threatened species or community?

Uptake: How will your research be used by your or other organisations?

Researchers: Outline the skills the researchers involved in the project have to ensure it can be successfully completed? Include current CVs of applicants.

Funding: Do you have other funding that is contributing to this project?

Budget: Outline the main items in your budget including equipment, laboratory and field expenses, and personnel.

Risks: Are there any factors that you consider could limit the success of your proposal? How will you mitigate these?

Referees: List 2 referees who can be consulted for their opinion on the proposed research.

Scholarship rules

1. One scholarship shall be awarded every 2 years and provide up to \$5000 towards the cost of the research project
2. The scholarship is to be awarded by a selection committee, which shall comprise
 - a. The President of the NZ Plant Conservation Network (NZPCN)
 - b. One other member of the NZPCN Council
 - c. An independent person appointed by the NZPCN Council
3. The selection committee may refrain from making an award if, in their opinion, there is no applicant of sufficient merit
4. There are no application forms for this scholarship. Written applications addressing each of the above subject areas should be sent to the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, Box 16 102, Wellington (info@nzpcn.co.nz) and marked "David Given Scholarship".
5. Referee forms (see below) should be sent to the two nominated referees for completion and posting or email to the Network.
6. Applications close 30 November 2008.

1. "Species" is used here collectively to encompass all named ranks (species, subspecies, variety and forma) and also includes those entities believed to be threatened and as yet without formal rank.

David Given Threatened Plant Scholarship

Referee form

The applicant must send this form electronically to each of two referees nominated in the scholarship application. These referees should be familiar with the applicant's recent work.

The referee is requested to complete (continue on a separate sheet if necessary), print and sign this form and send to: New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, PO Box 16-102, Wellington. E: info@nzpcn.org.nz

Applicant: Family name: First name:

Referee: Name: Position/Title:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

1. How long have you known the applicant: Years Months
2. Describe briefly the extent of your knowledge of the applicant's work including publications/papers/other relevant research:

3. Please rate the applicant's performance in the areas named below by placing a tick in the appropriate box using your knowledge of the applicant.

	No opportunity to observe	Below average	Average	Above average	Very good	Excellent
Knowledge of own discipline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to express ideas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Command of research techniques	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Critical and/or analytical ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initiative and motivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perseverance in pursuing aims	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teaching or tutoring ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Please rate the applicant's aptitude for research (select from the drop down menu):

Please comment on reasons for gradings in Section 3, and other matters relevant to the applicant including academic integrity:

Signature of referee: Date:

Reports relating to this scholarship application must reach the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network on or before 30 November 2008.

Click green box to submit form