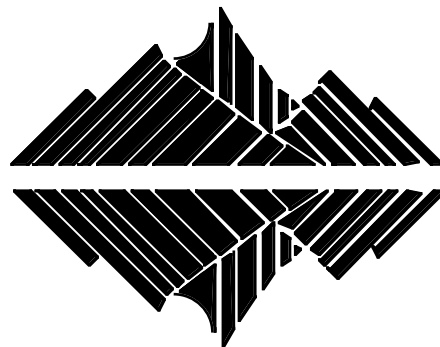


# Ecological Society

# Newsletter



No. 100, December 2001

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## FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the newsletter is a special one. It is special for several reasons – it is my first issue as editor, taking over the after the sterling efforts of James Ross who is now concentrating on web design for NZES. I don't expect to change much with the newsletter – it will still largely be a communication device for the society, though I am interested it spicing it up a bit with interesting ecological facts. Member's contributions would be welcome here.

This issue is also special since it is issue number 100 and is the last one for the 50th Jubilee. I have included quite a large amount of material relating to the Jubilee and the Jubilee conference. It is a good time to reflect on the society and its role. Inside, you will find some history of the society and data on the growth of the society over its 50-year life. Over the years the society has done a wonderful job of communicating ecology and ecological applications through the Proceedings and the Journal and, importantly, by lobbying government on ecological issues. We can be very proud of the achievements that we have made together as a society.

It is also a time to evaluate again how we can continue to be effective as ecologists. We have been debating what direction the journal should take – Gabor Lövei continues that discussion on page 14. In addition, we will have to decide how we work in an increasingly electronic world – I suspect that printed paper will not be the best way to deliver our science to readers in 5 or 10 years time.

The society is now the largest it has ever been, and should have a loud voice. In the past we have been effective lobbyists at local and national levels. The society has always been active in making submissions on a wide variety of matters – you will find some of that history inside. The members through the AGM and the NZES council have endorsed the idea that we should continue this role. It may be time for you to help out here – there are

some key government policy areas that we have identified as important to our members. Please consider helping formulate a submission – together we can continue to make a difference.

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## 50th JUBILEE CONFERENCE OF NZ ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### 27–30 August 2001

This year's conference was a special one for the Society as it was the 50 years since its inception. In addition to the usual conference activities there were some special events during the course of the week.

We were privileged to have many past office holders of the Society present to share their reminiscences of earlier days in the Society. Chief amongst the early members of the Society were Kay Allen, the first President, and Ken Lee, the first Secretary (see photo). Both of these gentlemen came over from Australia to help us celebrate the Jubilee. We thank them for their deep and ongoing interest in the Society and for the contributions they both made to the success of the event.



Kay Allen and Ken Lee at the past Presidents' lunch.

A brief outline of the special events at the Conference follows:

### NZES 50th Jubilee Session

The first session of the conference included presentations from past Presidents (Morgan Williams, Peter Wardle and Ian Atkinson) speaking on topics of their choice. Hugh-Tindale Biscoe was the overseas invited speaker in this session. This was followed by a presentation on changes and trends in *NZ Journal of Ecology* over 50 years, by Richard Duncan and 12 co-authors. The session culminated with a paper by Dave Kelly, the recipient of last year's NZ Ecological Society award. Dave's excellent presentation demonstrated clearly how to break all the rules about PowerPoint presentations.

### Past President's lunch

On Monday 27 August, eleven past Presidents and some spouses plus the current President met for lunch at the Canterbury University staff club. This was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and for stories to be told of the early days of the

Society. A toast was made to absent friends and apologies and notes were read out from some who could not be present. Those present at this event are shown in the accompanying photo.



Past Presidents John Parkes, Ian Atkinson, Geoff Baylis, Ken Lee, Kay Allen, Morgan Williams, Caroline Mason, John Warham, Peter Wardle, Craig Miller and Les Batcheler. Current President, Carol West, between Geoff Baylis and Caroline Mason.

### 50th AGM

The AGM was held from 6.00-7.15 p.m. on Monday evening. New officers were elected and some existing ones were retained. Janet Wilmshurst is the new President.

I am convinced that this AGM was the 50<sup>th</sup> one although it will be recorded as the 49<sup>th</sup>. I believe the AGM minutes must have been incorrectly numbered at some point – the number from the year before having been copied, and the error never rectified. Someone needs to sit down and go through the records to discover where the error is and correct it.

### Kauri Fund Auction

The Kauri Fund was the brainchild of Bruce Burns and the Jubilee conference was seen as the ideal opportunity to launch this fund. So, on Monday evening we held an auction, cobbled together at short notice, and everyone had a great time. Matt McGlone was the auctioneer and, ably supported by Bruce Burns, Peter Williams and Mark Sanders, he did a brilliant job. A total of 43 lots were donated by members and auctioned on the night, realising \$2635.00 for the Kauri fund. The Society is particularly indebted to Mary McEwen for some key items of Charles Fleming's – his hat, hand lens and some of his art work. John Parkes also donated an original Sam Mahon artwork which, unfortunately, did not fetch the price it should have (see photo). Contrary to this there were some very ordinary objects donated which fetched rather high prices. Thanks to all the members who came along, bid for and bought items. And thanks to all those members who donated items.



Auctioneer Matt McGlone holding aloft the Sam Mahon original artwork.

There was a high degree of interest among members to have another auction one day. Council will keep this in mind and now that members know what's involved we can expect heaps of interesting items to be donated.

### Conference dinner

In addition to the usual fare at conference dinners we had a large cake which was ceremoniously cut by Kay Allen and Ken Lee (see photo). Kay Allen gave a brief speech and this was followed by the announcement of the recipient of this year's premier award – Te Tohu Taiao award for ecological excellence. David Wardle was the recipient and his uncle, Peter Wardle accepted the award on David's behalf.



Kay Allen and Ken Lee cut the 50th Jubilee cake at the conference dinner, closely watched by Carol West.

Two new life members were also announced: Ian Atkinson and Murray Williams. Both men were humble in their acceptance of the award. Their contributions to the Society have been considerable. Ian Atkinson has served the Society officially for 13 years in the role of President, Vice President, Secretary and Councillor. Murray Williams has held the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Journal Editor (11 years for these ones) and Councillor for a total length of concurrent service of 11 years.

### History of NZES

The Jubilee conference booklet opens with an informative article by John Parkes outlining the history of the Society. The article contains lots of good information. Some of this information and much more was included in an interesting display on the history of NZES put together by Susan Wisser and Rowan Buxton. Many members were impressed with the range of activities undertaken by the Society. Thanks to those people for gathering together the information and presenting it. (*Editor's note – some of this information appears elsewhere in this newsletter*)

### Photographic record

During the conference Wren Green and Chris Rance took many photos of people at different events. On the last day of the Conference a group photo of all attendees was taken, for the record. This photo, and others taken during the course of the conference will be added to the Society archives. One of the difficulties that people faced when preparing material on the history of the Society for this Jubilee was the thinness of the records in our archives. There are very few photos and some of the early minutes are very patchy. Councillors, being aware of these difficulties, resolved to provide more information for the organisers of the centenary celebrations of the Society!

Carol West  
Retiring President, NZ Ecological Society

## A HISTORY OF THE NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*(Editor's Note: this appeared originally in the Jubilee Conference Abstract Book. I thought it worthwhile adding to the Newsletter for those that couldn't get to the conference and to record it for posterity)*

The New Zealand Ecological Society began at a special meeting chaired by Prof. B.J. Marples and held during the Science Congress held in May 1951 at Christchurch, when the decision to form a professional society was mooted. Dr K.R. Allen and Prof. V.J. Chapman seconded a motion that 'a society be formed for the promotion of the study of ecology in all its aspects'.

A provisional committee was formed in 1951 consisting of K.R. Allen, B.M. Bary, R.K. dell, V. Dellow, L.B. Moore, S.H. Saxby and K. Wodzicki. The first formal meeting was held the following year at the Society's first conference held at Victoria

University, by the end of which over 150 people had become members. The first AGM elected K. Radway Allen as President, Lucy Moore and Val Chapman as Vice-presidents, Ken Lee as Secretary/Treasurer, and G.A. Knox, B.J. Marples, R.V. Williams, G.B. Rawlings, R.V. Mirams, S.H. Saxby, and J.S. Watson as Councillors and R.M. Allen as the honorary auditor. The proceedings of this first conference were published in volume 10 of *New Zealand Science Review*, the journal of the New Zealand Association of Scientific Workers.

It is interesting to see that the issues exercising the ecologists of 1952 would not be out of place in today's conference. Symposia were held on methods of estimating populations, the ecology of restricted areas and islands, and the ecology of western Taupo, an area about "succumb to the onward march of farming" to quote A.C.S. Wright's summing up of the symposium.

The founding President, Radway Allen, touched on the role of ecologists in his address to the 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Conference in 1976 (*Proceedings of the NZ Ecological Society* 24: 4–7). He saw four roles for ecologists: (a) as investigators and scientists, (b) as assessors and advisors for decision-makers, (c) as managers and decision-makers, and (d) as advocates. An ongoing tension within the Society has been the relative strengths of these roles. Peter Bull in his Presidential address at the 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, reflected on this and warned the Society against equating the science of ecology (and the function of the Society) with conservation and the environmental lobby. He thought the Society was in danger of being seen by government decision-makers as "just another protest group" with a consequent perception of our views as worth no more than the form letters that inundate public consultation processes. A year later in his Presidential address, Les Batcheler also reflected on these roles and how we might get the balance right between science and advocacy. One of Les's points was that we should not say anything as advocates unless we had something to say about the science of an issue.

The broad aims of the Society have generally meant that the focus of interest of the Society has been the sum of the interest of the members, and these interests have leant towards the 'ecologist as scientist' role. However, even within this role, the interests of the Society have changed. In the early days, members' interests were probably wider than they are now, but many specialist areas of ecology have subsequently formed their own societies and the current focus of the Ecological Society is probably back to its core of conservation sciences. This is both a strength (it allows us to be more

influential in some areas) and a weakness (we ignore important areas of ecology), but not really a worry providing we do not narrow the aims of the Society to exclude areas of interest or a refocus of our roles as the New Zealand Ecological Society and the society it serves evolves.

### Annual Conference

The Society has held conferences and its AGM every year since 1952 (Table 1).

Table 1. Annual Conferences of the New Zealand Ecological Society 1952–2001

Conference venues	Years
Wellington	1952, 1953, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1963, 1971, 1980, 1997
Christchurch	1955, 1966, 1977, 1981, 1992, 2001
Auckland	1954, 1959, 1968, 1976, 1983, 1993
Palmerston North	1957, 1965, 1972, 1978, 1985, 1995
Dunedin	1961, 1969, 1988, 1998
Lincoln	1964, 1970, 1986, 1996
Nelson	1967, 1975, 1984, 1991
Hamilton	1974, 1990, 2000
Rotorua	1962, 1982
Blenheim	1979, 1999
Upper Hutt	1989
Invercargill	1973
Turangi	1987
Hokitika	1994

Most papers presented at these early conferences were published in the *Proceedings of the New Zealand Ecological Society vol. 1–24*, either as full papers or as resumes. Resumes of conference papers continued to be published in the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* (which replaced the *Proceedings* in 1978) until 1989. However, there has been no obligation on people presenting papers at the conferences to publish in the *Journal* and authors may submit papers not presented at conferences resulting in a decreasing number of conference papers being published in the *NZ Journal of Ecology*.



## Presidents of the Society

The Society has elected 25 Presidents, usually for a two-year term of office (Table 2).

Table 2. Presidents and terms of office of the New Zealand Ecological Society

Years	President	Years	President
1952-53	K.R. Allen	1978	J. Warham
1954-55	R.A. Falla	1979-80	M.C. Crawley
1956-57	S.H. Saxby	1981-82	T.A. Caithness
1958-59	C.M. Smith	1983-84	M.R. Rudge
1960-61	A.L. Poole	1985-86	I.A.E. Atkinson
1962-63	K.E. Lee	1987-88	M. Williams
1964-65	G.T.S. Bayliss	1989-90	J. Roper-Lindsay
1966-67	J.A. Gibb	1991-92	J.P. Parkes
1968-69	K.H. Miers	1993-94	J.M. Williams
1970-71	P. Wardle	1995-96	C. Mason
1972-73	G.R. Williams	1997-98	C. Miller
1974-75	P.C. Bull	1999-00	C. West
1976-77	C.L. Batcheler		

## Life members

Members of the Society who have given significant service to the Society and ecology may be nominated by Council as Life Members. Eleven people have been made Life Members (Table 3).

Table 3. Life Members of the New Zealand Ecological Society

Member	Year honoured	Member	Year honoured
K. Radway Allen	1964	John Gibb	1985
Ken E. Lee	1965	John Nicholls	1985
Norm Elder	1971	Mike Rudge	1988
Ruth Mason	1974	John Parkes	1997
Gordon Williams	1978	Peter Wardle	1999
Kaz Wodzicki	1984		

## New Zealand Ecological Society Award

In 1990, the Society instituted an award to recognise members who had made an outstanding contribution to the study and application of ecological science. To date, 11 members have received the honour (Table 4).

Table 4. Recipients of the New Zealand Ecological Society Awards

Recipient	Year	Recipient	Year
Henrik Moller	1990	John McLennan	1997
Colin Burrows	1991	John Innes	1998
Graeme White	1992	Kim King	1999
Bill Lee	1995	Dave Kelly	2000
Nigel Barlow	1996		

## The Journal

The *Proceedings of the NZ Ecological Society* was published annually from 1953 to 1977 (Volumes 1–24). Its successor, the *NZ Journal of Ecology* has been published annually between 1978 and 1988, and twice yearly since 1989.

## Editors

The first proceedings appeared in the *New Zealand Science Review* (edited by V.J. Wilson), and the first seven volumes of the Proceedings were edited by the Council. The Society resolved at the 8th AGM that from volume 8 the Proceedings should be developed into a research journal and include suitable papers not presented at the conference. An editor has been subsequently appointed by Council (Table 5).

With the move to two issues per year in 1989, the editor's job has grown. Since 1985, the Editor has had an editorial board (currently with 11 members) to assist with the peer review process, and in 2001, a technical editor was appointed to assist the Editor.

Table 5. Editors of the Proceedings of the NZ Ecological Society and the NZ Journal of Ecology.

Proceedings		Journal	
Vols.	Editors	Vols.	Editor
1–7	Council	1–2	M.C. Crawley
8–11	K.R. Allen	3–4	E.B. Spurr
12	J.A. Gibb	5–7	M.J. Williams
13–17	G.R. Williams	8–14	N.D. Barlow
18–21	I.G. Crook	12 (supplement)	M.R. Rudge
22–24	A.H.C. Christie	15–19(1)	J. Rapson
		20(1)	C. Veltman
		20(2)	J.P. Parkes
		21–23(1)	G. Lovei
		23(2)	C. Eason & C. Veltman
		24 -	D. Wardle

### Other Publications

The Society has often run special symposia at its annual conferences, and occasionally special workshops on issues of interest to members. Three conference symposia have been published as special issues of the journal. The first, published as a supplement to volume 12, was edited by Mike Rudge and published 16 of the papers given the 1986 conference in a symposium on the impact of introduced herbivores on a flora that had evolved only with avian herbivores—the biggest of which being extinct for centuries. The second special symposium to take up an entire issue of the journal, volume 20(1) edited by Clare Veltman with 11 papers, was on the causes of the decline of native plants and animals. The third special symposium to which an issue, 23(2) edited by Charlie Eason and Clare Veltman, was devoted was held at the 1998 conference. The theme was on the ecological consequences of poisons used for mammalian pest control, and published 22 of the 25 papers presented.

These special issues of the Journal have the advantage of making peer-reviewed information on a topic of moment available to a wide audience, but the disadvantage of disrupting the normal publication timetable of other contributed papers. Council has decided not to produce further such issues within the normal two-issue per year publication of the Journal, but that any future thematic special issues should be extra and so require their own funding base.

An alternative that the Society experimented with is to publish workshop proceedings in special publications. The first of these workshops, on the management of New Zealand's natural estate, was held at Dunedin in 1988. David Norton organised it and published 24 papers and the summaries of workshops in NZ Ecological Society Occasional Publication No. 1. Issues discussed included single species versus community management, how to prioritise and allocate funds for pest and weed control—all still topics exercising managers' minds as DOC grapples with optimising its biodiversity outcomes when it only has limited funds.

The second of these special workshops was organised by Caroline Mason, Grant Hunter and Chris Kerr in 1991 at Cass Field Station on the theme of vegetation change in tussock grasslands with emphasis on hawkweeds. Twenty-seven papers and some key recommendations for further research were published in NZ Ecological Society Occasional Publication No. 2. These were the days when scientists and managers were less constrained by the contestable funding regimes of later times!

A third workshop organised by Morgan Williams and Caroline Mason was held at Flock House in 1999 on the theme of the ecological impacts of intensive farming. This workshop was never published but the topic is again on the national agenda as intensive dairy farming in particular is on the increase and having impacts on the environment.

### The Newsletter

The first Newsletter was produced in 1973 and has been produced quarterly since then. It started life as a stapled A4 document (No. 1–15), then reduced to a smaller bulletin size (No. 16–51), and is now in an A4 booklet format (No. 52 onward).

Apart from the necessary Society news of conferences, AGMs, annual reports and budgets, the contents of the Newsletter have largely depended on the tastes and enthusiasms of the Newsletter Editor and on members' willingness to contribute items. Occasionally, issues have even been debated.

### Submissions

The Society has a long history, going back to 1953, of identifying indigenous communities that were not represented in the formally protected estate, and advocating their reservation. This was the role of the Conservation Sub-Committee which took over the role of commenting on conservation issues from a formal sub-committee of the Royal Society in 1965. In 1958, the Society identified 36 communities that it thought would disappear with 10 years. Cases for protection were made to the Government agencies responsible for this process and a review in 1968 showed that 16 of the areas had been reserved or were about to be protected, two were in fact not in urgent need of protection, and 18 remained unprotected.

Some notable areas for which the Society successfully advocated protection during this period included Kerr Point at North Cape, the Moana Tuatua bog in Waikato, Awarua Bog Reserve and a Red Tussock Reserve in Southland, two areas of native grassland on the Canterbury plains, part of the raised beaches at Cape Turakirae, a low altitude snow tussock reserve at Lake Mahinerangi, the Lindis Pass reserve, Black Rock Reserve near Dunedin, Mana Island, part of Pitt Island, and Plimmerton swamp. Ian Atkinson, Alan Mark, David Scott, Peter Wardle, Ruth Mason, Peter Williams and many others were prominent in this process.

### Major submissions

The Society has made numerous submissions to Government over the years, and published a few of the major ones (Table 6).

Table 6. Submissions made by the Society that have been published

Year	Submission	Reference
1973	Report on the utilisation of South Island beech forests	<i>Proceedings of the NZ Ecological Society 20</i>
1974	An ecological approach to New Zealand's future	<i>Proceedings of the NZ Ecological Society 21</i>
1978	The future of the West Coast forests and forest industries	<i>NZ Journal of Ecology 1</i>
1980	The National Development Bill	<i>NZ Journal of Ecology 3</i>
1985	The environmental consequences to NZ of nuclear warfare in the northern hemisphere	<i>NZ Journal of Ecology 8</i>
1991	Statement on sustainability	Supplement to the Newsletter
1994	Review of South Island high country land management issues	<i>NZ Journal of Ecology 18</i>
1995	Maori customary use of native birds, plants and other traditional materials. Customary management of indigenous species: a Maori perspective	<i>NZ Journal of Ecology 19</i>

Finally, we should not overlook the social role of a Society such as ours. The annual conference is often the only way we get to meet, and the traditional format of conferences, with dinners, teas, poster sessions and a field trip appears to have stood the test of time in meeting this role. So, welcome to the latest of these.

John Parkes  
*Landcare Research*

## 50 YEARS OF SUBMISSIONS

### Editor's Note

*Susan Wisser and Rowan Buxton compiled the following list when they were preparing a display for the jubilee conference. I don't think the full list was actually displayed but I thought that it indicated the society's long-standing commitment to public advocacy and was worthwhile including in its entirety. There is no doubt that the influence of the society on local and national governmental policy and procedures has always been substantial. The council and the members have indicated recently that NZES should maintain this outputs as a major goal in addition to its other main activities – namely the journal and the annual conference. There is more on submissions later in this newsletter.*

- Chatham Island Reserves (1955)
- Kanuka Community – Lismore Soils, Canterbury (1963)
- Scenic and Allied Reserves Survey (1964)
- Rivers and lakes in national reserves (1965)
- Proposed reserve of Seaward Moss (1966)
- Tourism in the Sub-Antarctic Islands (1967)
- Manapouri Commission of Inquiry (1970)
- Invercargill Estuary (1973-75)
- Purchase of the 'Glory Block' on Pitt Island (1973)
- Beech forest utilisation (1973)
- Mana Island (1974)
- Red Mountain (1974-76)
- Mount Cook (1974-75)
- King Country (1974-75)
- Mount Maunganui (1974-75)
- Dismal Swamp (1976)
- Sewerage Treatment and Disposal for the New Plymouth Areas (1975)
- Harbours Amendment Act (1976)
- Reuse and recycling of beverage containers (1976)
- the goats on Arapawa Island (1977)
- the future of the Antarctic Treaty (1977)
- spread of *Pinus contorta* in Tongariro National Park (1977)
- hydro-electric proposals on Upper Clutha River (1977)
- Pesticides Bill (1978)
- Committee on Official Information Act (1979)
- National Development Bill (1979)
- Whirinaki State Forest Management Plan Proposals (1979)
- National Parks Bill (1980)
- Leasing of Waimangu Scenic Reserve (1981)
- Guidelines for collecting within National Parks and Reserves (1981)
- Buller Regional Management Plan (1982)
- Deer hunting in the Wapiti area (1982)
- Proposed merger of the Dept. of Lands and Survey and the New Zealand Forest Service (1983)
- Grant of a permit to moor fishing boats at Snares Island (1983)
- Myxomatosis environmental impact assessment (1983)
- Possums on Great Barrier Island (1983)
- Egmont National Park Draft Management Plan (1984)
- Introduction of Chinchillas for fur farming (1984)
- Campbell Island Management Plan (1985)
- On document "Environment 1986" about restructuring of environmental administration in

- NZ (1986)
- Tahr management policy (1986)
- Future use of Maui gas (1986)
- Environment Bill (1987)
- Conservation Bill (1987)
- Proposed Environmental Assessment Procedures (1987)
- Implications of new State-owned enterprises (1987)
- Resource Management Law Reform (1989)
- Draft Maori Fisheries Bill (1989)
- To DoC on management of Hector's dolphin around Banks Peninsula (1989)
- Responding to climate change: a discussion of options for New Zealand (1990)
- Resource Management Bill (1990)
- Minerals convention and management of Antarctic generally (1990)
- Ozone protection bill (1990)
- Environmental Research in the Southwest Pacific Region (1990)
- Reorganisation of three of four main government employers of ecologists into Crown Research Institutes (1991)
- Supplementary Order Paper to the RMA (1991)
- Sustainable Agriculture: a Policy Proposal (1991)
- Organic Agriculture (1991)
- Myxomatosis (1991)
- Animal Pests in Canterbury Region (1991)
- Setting Priorities for Conservation of Native Biota (1991)
- Fisheries Legislation Review (1992)
- Environment 2010 Strategy (1994)
- DoC's Strategy Discussion Document (1994)
- MAF application to harvest seaweed (1995)
- MAF Discussion Document – Future control of five important weeds (1995)
- Establishing Priorities for the Public Good Science Fund (1995)
- Fisheries Bill (1995)
- Maori customary use of native birds, plants and other traditional materials (1995)
- Visitors on Conservation Estate (1995)
- Maritime accidents and marine pollution (1995)
- Ecological Research Priorities (1995)
- Sustainable land management research (1996)
- Research strategy on Output 15 (Land and Freshwater Ecosystems) (1996)
- Merits of a National Science Strategy on Biodiversity (1996)
- Introduction of rabbit calici-virus disease into NZ (1997)
- NZ Biodiversity Strategy (1997)
- NZ Policy on CO<sub>2</sub> and Climate Change

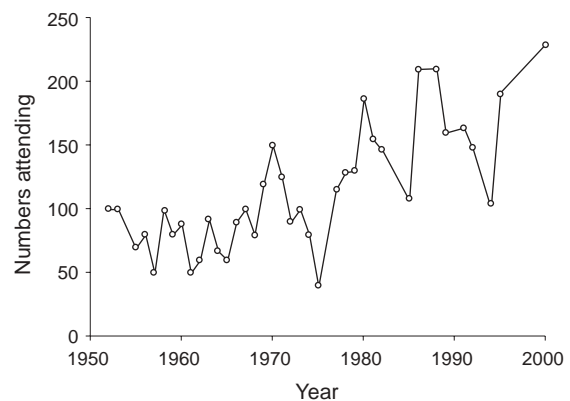
- World Heritage Application for the NZ Sub-Antarctic Islands (1997)
- Closure of the scallop fishery at Spirits Bay, Cape Reinga (1997/98)
- Proposed regulations regarding RCD, after its illegal importation (1997/98)
- Proposed beech scheme (1997/98)
- NZ Biodiversity strategy

## NZES IS GROWING!

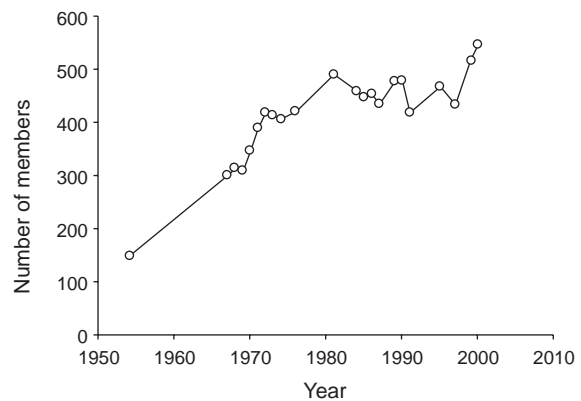
### Editor's Note

*Susan Wiser and Rowan Buxton produced the following graphs for the display at the jubilee conference. They show very nicely the growth of the society in 50 years. Since these graphs were prepared, we have passed the 600 member mark and the conference attendance is now 200 plus (these graphs do not include the 1997 Wellington joint Systanz/Entomological Society/NZES meeting which had 348 attendees, the 1998 Dunedin joint ESA/NZES meeting which attracted 430, and the 2001 Christchurch meeting with approx. 305).*

**Attendance at annual conferences**



**Membership**





## UPCOMING SUBMISSIONS

### Editor's Note

*The following item is a note from Paul Blaschke and Wren Green outlining the upcoming issues that NZES or its members might wish to make submissions on. Council discussed these at the last council meeting and is trying to facilitate a process for the society to follow in order to have our collective voice heard. We would welcome contributions from members and offers to help. The Biosecurity one needs to be done ASAP, the others are a little further away. Expect some more developments in this area in the next few months and a report in the next newsletter.*

As I think at least some of you know, Wren Green and I agreed at the conference that we would try to do our bit towards helping with a Society submissions process, in light of the apparently renewed interest in beefing up the Society's activities in this area. We have agreed to meet periodically (every month or two) to give whatever advice and assistance we could to Council on priority submissions issues; especially to try and give a "Wellington perspective".

Accordingly we had our first (brief) meeting last week and talked about priority issues coming up in the near future. We agreed on the following were priorities for NZES input (national issues only)

#### **Immediate: Biosecurity Strategy**

Submissions are being sought now (see [www.biosecurity.org.nz](http://www.biosecurity.org.nz); esp Issues paper and research summary). The society doesn't need to make a comprehensive submission, but has always had an interest in ecological implications of biosecurity issues. Merely pointing to past submissions in this area would be useful.

#### **Early next year: National Policy Statement on Biodiversity on private land**

Area of great interest to many members. NZES contributed strongly to Criteria for Ecological Significance under s 6c of the RMA and individual members were involved in the *BioWhat* process. A summary of priority ecological issues that have to be addressed through the NPS and/or accompanying guidelines or other material would be a helpful start, and not a huge task (doesn't even necessarily have to be comprehensive).

#### **Later next year: Sustainable development Strategy**

This could be the big one in terms of the Society's interest in sustainability (and Morgan Williams' comments at conference). It could provide a suitable

context in which to launch or pitch the revised sustainability statement. With its past experience in the area and coordination with the work planned on the sustainability revision, the Society could make a significant contribution to this in a manageable way if it starts planning to do so now. MFE and MFAT are coordinating the national work in this area, check MFE's website for more info: [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz)

Paul Blaschke  
Boffa Miskell, Wellington

## CONFERENCE 2002

### 2002 conference in Australia

In the mid 1990s the Ecological Society of Australia and the New Zealand Ecological Society agreed to hold joint conferences every 3–5 years, alternating between New Zealand and the east coast of Australia. The inaugural joint conference was held in Dunedin in November 1998 and was highly successful. The next joint conference will be held

**Where?** Cairns

**When?** Week beginning 2 December 2002

As planning progresses, further details will be posted on the Ecological Society of Australia website (<http://life.csu.edu.au/esa/>) and in future issues of the newsletter.

### Call for symposium proposals

The organising committee invites proposals for symposia for the joint ESA & NZES conference to be held from 2–6 December 2002, in Cairns. There will be opportunities for 1.5 hour and 3 hour symposia consisting of presentations in multiples of 15 minutes. Timing is constrained by the need to coordinate between concurrent sessions.

Convenors are responsible for organising the speakers for their session. Convenors are encouraged to invite potential speakers to submit abstracts addressing issues of particular relevance to the symposium theme. However, the final list of speakers must be chosen on merit, from all relevant abstracts submitted in response to a general call made by the organising committee. All convenors and speakers must be registered participants in the conference.

Symposium proposals should be as brief as possible (1-2 pages) and include:

1. Convenors' names and complete contact details
2. Symposium title
3. Preferred duration (1.5 or 3 hours)
4. Goal or purpose of the symposium
5. A case for why it would be of special relevance to the meeting, e.g:
  - a) Is it of interest to ecologists from both

Australia and New Zealand?

- b) Does it relate to the region of far north Queensland, which encompasses rainforest, reef and savanna environments?
  - c) Does it relate to users of these environments, which include urban dwellers, primary producers, commercial and recreational fishers, tourist operators, national park managers and indigenous communities?
  - d) Does it address newly emerging issues or significant syntheses that are exciting and relevant to the discipline of ecology?
6. An indication of potential speakers who will be invited to submit abstracts
  7. An indication of whether publication of symposium papers will be sought, for example, as a special issue of an appropriate journal (name the target journal if so)
  8. Sponsorship possibilities, if any. Proposals will not be judged on their ability to attract sponsorship, but an indication of potential sponsors will assist the Committee to attract funding for the meeting.

Proposals may be sent as email attachments (to [Jill.Landsberg@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Jill.Landsberg@jcu.edu.au)) or by fax (to Jill Landsberg, James Cook University Cairns, 07-4042-1284).

To be considered by the Committee proposals must be received by 31st January 2002.

Mark Sanders  
Department of Conservation  
Twizel  
Tel: 03 4350 256  
E-mail: [msanders@doc.govt.nz](mailto:msanders@doc.govt.nz)

#### Editor's Note

*The council discussed the implication of having next year's meeting in Australia. There will undoubtedly be financial consequences—the society has in recent years received significant income from our annual meetings in the past (see Treasurer's report in Notes from Council below). We also were concerned about the loss of a local meeting for postgraduate students to present their findings or to attend the "student session" that have been a feature of all our recent meetings. The council are currently considering a conference/workshop in NZ to compensate. We could also run a student conference in NZ (or two) to let them have a chance to present a talk, like the Buzz group and/or Behavioural Ecology workshop (or combine them). Keep a look out for developments here in the newsletter or on the NZES website.*

## PUBLISHING PROBLEM VOLUME 25 OF NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY

The technical editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, Jenny Steven reports that an unfortunate problem occurred with the production of Volume 25, No. 2, 2001. Issue 2 accidentally started from page 1 instead of having page numbers following on from Issue 1.

When directing readers to the most recent issue, if you can, refer to the volume number AND the issue number (eg.

*New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 25:2, 1-17). A sticker may be included in the next issue to place on cover of 25(1) advising readers that if the article they are seeking is not where they thought in 25(1), to check 25(2).

Jenny Steven

*Technical Editor, New Zealand Journal of Ecology*

## OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS

### International Year of the Mountains: 2002

Next year, 2002 has been declared **The International Year of the Mountains** and is being promoted internationally by FAO and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). It has received considerable publicity and promotion, particularly in the Mountain Research and Development Journal (see Vol. 21; pp89-91, Feb. 2001) and many countries are organising mountain land conferences to mark the occasion.

The Hellaby Indigenous Grasslands Research Trust, in collaboration with the University of Otago and the Federated Mountain Clubs are organising a conference to celebrate this event for New Zealand. It will be held at Otago University over the weekend of **March 8–10 next year**, with the general theme of mountain land values and issues.

Two overseas speakers, Professor Wu Ning, a well-known rangeland ecologist from the Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chengdu, P. R. China and Professor Vladimir Onipchenko, from Moscow State University's Geobotany Department, an authority on the ecology of the highly diverse Caucasus Mountains, will be contributing, together with a range of local speakers who will cover a wide range of New Zealand topics from high country farming and other uses, to tangata whenua, scientific, conservation and recreation values and management.

Saturday evening is being organised by the NZ Alpine Club and will be devoted to presentations by our best known kiwi climbers, featuring both New

Zealand and the Himalayas. Sir Edmond Hillary will introduce the evening programme as a special guest. Displays and competitions of art and photography with a mountain theme, will also feature.

A field trip will be held on the Sunday, March 10, to the Lammerlaw Range, some 50 km west of Dunedin, to visit a major collaborative research project (Landcare Research-Department of Conservation-Forest Research-AgResearch) on the short- and long-term effects of burning and grazing upland snow tussock grasslands. Project co-ordinators will be present to discuss the project. The multiple values of these uplands and the tenure review exercise, currently under way in the South Island high country, will also feature. Private cars can be used but transport will also be provided (\$20 pp) and will return via Dunedin Airport in time for the 5.20 pm NZ Flight (NZ5314) to Christchurch and beyond.

The conference will be open to the general public (no registration required: a gold coin donation at the door) and the organisers are hoping to fill the University's largest theatre for this important event. Further details from

Alan Mark  
*Hellaby Trust & Botany Department*  
*University of Otago*  
*Box 56, Dunedin*  
*Ph. 03 479 7573; Fax 03 479 7583*  
*email amark@otago.ac.nz*

### **3rd International Wildlife Management Congress**

*Christchurch, 1-5 December 2003*

Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research, The Wildlife Society (USA), AWMS (the Australasian Wildlife Management Society), Ngai Tahu, and the Department of Conservation are co-hosting the 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress.

The previous two Congresses were held in Costa Rica (1993) and Hungary (1999). This will be the first time a wildlife management meeting of this magnitude has been held in the southern hemisphere, and we plan to run it jointly with the AWMS conference in 2003. Within the theme of the Congress "Ki te raki, ki te tonga-Ki uta, ki tai" ("from the north to the south, from mountains to sea"), there will be plenty of scope to hear about Australasian perspectives on wildlife management, and to contrast these perspectives with wildlife management in Asia, Europe, Africa, and North and South America.

Planned topics for symposia at 3IWMC include: management of overabundant populations, wildlife diseases, wildlife toxicology, indigenous wildlife

management, ecosystem consequences of wildlife management, animal welfare and ethics, and wildlife management in polar areas. We welcome international input on the content of symposia for 3IWMC—please feel free to E-mail the address below with your ideas. We also welcome any help planning for the Congress, so email us if you would like to be involved in the organisation.

The venue for 3IWMC will be the University of Canterbury.

For information about 3IWMC contact:

The Conference Office  
 Centre for Continuing Education  
 University of Canterbury  
 Private Bag 4800  
 Christchurch  
 Tel.: 64 3 364 2915 Fax: 64 3 364 2057  
 Email: [wildlife@cont.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:wildlife@cont.canterbury.ac.nz)  
 Website: [www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/wildlife2003](http://www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/wildlife2003)

Dr Andrea Byrom  
*Landcare Research*  
*PO Box 69, Lincoln, New Zealand.*  
*E-mail: [ByromA@landcare.cri.nz](mailto:ByromA@landcare.cri.nz)*

## **CHARLES FLEMING AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT**

### **Editor's Note**

*Extracted from Science Alert. Congratulations, John.*

### **Professor John Craig MRSNZ, University of Auckland**

Professor Craig has provided the opportunity to assist thousands of New Zealanders to increase their understanding of the natural environment, working with a wide range of educational and business organisations. He has participated in species recovery programmes for takahe, kakapo and stitchbird and his involvement in the captive breeding programme at Mt. Bruce in the early 1970s resulted in the first ever takahe chicks bred in captivity.

Professor Craig was a pioneer in the field of ecological restoration in New Zealand. Particularly noteworthy has been the successful restoration of Tiritirimatangi Island in the Hauraki Gulf, which he initiated at a time when such activities were rare internationally. He has been involved in other restoration initiatives such as Motuora, Motutapu and Motoihe, has assisted in restoration initiatives from the Bay of Islands to Otago and is actively involved in the design of restoration and environmental management programmes within Auckland.

## MEETING REPORT

### Meeting of Royal Society of New Zealand Constituent Organisations, Branches, and Affiliate Organisations,

19 July 2001, at Science House, RSNZ, Wellington  
Fifty-five delegates attended this meeting, representing nearly all of the organisations and branches that have links with RSNZ (some people represented more than one). Fran Kell attended on behalf of NZES (which is a Constituent Organisation) and provided the following report.

**Dr Steve Thompson**, CEO of RSNZ, welcomed delegates and provided a strategic overview. He summarised the requirements of the Royal Society of New Zealand Act, 1997 and what the Society is doing to meet those requirements. Since Steve became CEO in August 2000, a Strategic Plan has been developed. Each delegate was given a copy, and it is on the RSNZ website ([www.rsnz.govt.nz](http://www.rsnz.govt.nz)). The current operating budget is \$4.96M. The structural organisation of the 35 staff and the supporting councils and committees is shown on a chart given to all delegates. Managers of the various sections of staff were introduced through the day. RSNZ is currently revising the Code of Ethics, and items for discussion can be seen on the website. RSNZ hosts overseas guests, puts out the weekly Science Alert (online newsletter), and runs workshops on topical issues. For the size of the country, RSNZ is the most active Royal Society in the world.

#### Activities

- SIR Publishing

The Royal Society publishes six national science journals, as well as RSNZ's own journal, RSNZ bulletins, RSNZ miscellaneous series, year books and annual reports of the Academy Council and RSNZ, plus production work on Alpha (a school resource) and Marsden Update (newsletter of the Marsden Fund).

*Science Alert* is free to anyone who wants to receive it. It currently goes to presidents and secretaries of all constituent societies, and societies need to keep RSNZ up to date with changes in those office holders.

- Membership

There are currently eight categories of membership. There are 53 Constituent Organisations, who have professional members. Affiliate Organisations are those with an interest in science and the activities of RSNZ but whose members are not professional scientists. Constituent

Organisations pay an annual levy to RSNZ of \$5 per member, with a minimum annual payment of \$500 and a maximum of \$1500, all plus GST.

- Education

The Society's maintains several science programmes in and related to schools: science fairs, CREST, BP Challenge, the Waterways Project, the teacher fellowship scheme, publishing of Alpha and Gamma (school resources) and Science Teacher (magazine of the NZ Association of Science Educators), and TENZ (supporting teachers of technology).

- Research Strategies and Funding

The society administers several science and technology research schemes: Technology Advisory Group, TENZ (Technology Educators of New Zealand), and the CREST award scheme in schools (Creativity in Science and Technology), the Marsden Fund and since early August, the Centres of Research Excellence (CoRE).

#### Group Discussion 1: How can the role of COs, Branches, and AOs be enhanced and what can we do together?

In summary, communication, in various ways, was a key issue. The following are the main points or suggestions.

- There could be some standard wording that all societies could use in their journals and newsletters to say that the society is a constituent organisation, and maybe societies could use the RSNZ "baskets of knowledge" emblem
- Constituent societies are very hidden on the RSNZ website; front page links to constituent societies, with names and address of presidents, secretaries, and other contacts, were seen as desirable
- RSNZ needs to go to constituent societies for expert opinion, not just to the Fellows
- More interaction is required between Councillors and constituent societies. Constituent societies (as well as individual members) are classed by discipline into electoral colleges and vote for a member of the RSNZ Council to represent them. Councillors need to make and maintain contact with the societies that they represent, and societies can bring issues to the attention of RSNZ and the Council through their Councillor.
- Council decides the categories of the electoral colleges and who is in them. NZES is in the Biological Sciences Electoral College, for which the current Councillor is Ian Boothroyd. The next elections for RSNZ Council are in March 2002. Nominations will be called for candidates towards the end of 2001. NZES may wish to nominate its own candidate.



- When information from RSNZ reaches societies, those societies should make sure that the information reaches their members.

### **Attracting conferences and congresses to NZ (Alan Trotter, CEO, Conventions Association of NZ)**

Conventions Association of NZ is a group of professional conference and congress marketers and organisers. They help NZ societies that are affiliated to international societies to prepare bids to hold international conferences or congresses in New Zealand, and then to organise the conference if the bid is successful. The organisation will fund a financial feasibility study of a NZ bid and will provide the necessary bid documents. Generally 300–1000 people is the size of conference they manage, but they can deal with up to 2500 people. As part of the project, they can also arrange satellite meetings and touring of big-name speakers in NZ and Australia.

### **Group Discussion 2: Structural relationships of COs and Branches**

The relationships between constituent organisation subs, their per capita levy to RSNZ, and individual membership subs of RSNZ was discussed. There could be some reduction of individual RSNZ membership subs for people belonging to several constituent organisations (as there was in the past). It was noted that access to the daily news service is available only to individual members, not to all members of constituent organisations. Suggestions:

- Branches should be nested, in rather than satellites of RSNZ.
- Constituent societies need to be linked through the RSNZ website.
- Most constituent society websites are hosted by RSNZ free of charge, but societies must do their own maintenance. Greater visibility of society websites is needed on the RSNZ website.

### **Code of Ethics**

Steve Thompson talked a little more about the Code of Ethics. The present one was worked out two years ago and is on the RSNZ website. Although regarded as sound it is very wordy, and it is currently being revised to make it sharper. All constituent societies are asked to follow this revision process through Science Alert and the website.

### **Wrap-up**

Steve Thompson made a plea for history, for people to record the memories of today's older scientists. RSNZ and the constituent societies/organisations need to work together for science. Societies should not wait for RSNZ to come to them, but should approach RSNZ about concerns and issues. Societies

should email Gill Sutherland, the Memberships Officer ([sutherland.g@rsnz.govt.nz](mailto:sutherland.g@rsnz.govt.nz)), and she will pass things on to the appropriate person.

Dr Frances Kell  
Scientific Editor

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## **DOC ATTEMPTS LARGEST EVER RAT ERADICATION AND PONDERES SOME ETHICAL QUESTIONS**

New Zealand's Department of Conservation, Te Papa Atawhai, is currently undertaking the technically demanding eradication of Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) off Campbell Island. Situated 600 m off the southeastern coast of New Zealand, buffeted by the southern ocean storms, Campbell Island at 11,000 ha is the largest island pest eradication ever attempted. The technology of species eradication has come a long way in a short time. Already, Te Papa Atawhai has accomplished gutsy and difficult island pest eradications with startling results, that give the Campbell Island attempt a better than even chance of success. Prolific plant, invertebrate, and native bird regeneration following the successful eradication of rodents and possums in the 1990s on Kapiti Island, near Wellington, offers hope to the seabird and megaherbs of Campbell Island to return as close as possible to their pre-human contact state.

When the history of large-scale island pest eradications has its 50th birthday in the 2020s, Campbell Island may well be the largest successful pest eradication undertaken by conventional mechanical and chemical methods, such as trapping, shooting and/or poisoning. At present, as island scale increases, total species eradications generally have not taken place on islands with large human populations. It is difficult to see communities agreeing to large quantities of poisons or multitudes of traps spread amongst suburban environments. This suggests that we are fast coming to a philosophical junction with two paths to explore each with different ramifications: these are the landscape path and the biotechnological avenue. With the landscape path, conservation managers accept that some pests are here to stay on large populated islands, and respond accordingly by focussing on the development of landscape management. The aim is to a balance between

ecologically sustainable productive environments, with more traditional extensive conservation areas. This balance is underpinned by landscape ecological principles and implemented through audited production certification standards. The expression of this approach is less emphasis on intense mass production and monocultures, and a focus on higher quality production with healthy riparian vegetation, species-diverse hedgerows and shelter-belts, wetlands fenced with a filtering buffer of native plants.

The second philosophical avenue is to keep focusing on developing pest eradication techniques for application on large populated islands. This probably means reducing use and research into conventional pest control techniques and up the arms race into biochemical and transgenic experiments on how to eradicate a total species. This has serious ethical questions attached. To put this debate into a wider perspective, Daniel Simberloff in a recent TREE article offers a useful ethical insight into the increasing tone of martial language of pest eradications: "Perhaps the key to remember that the enemy is the invasive population and that the component individuals are not morally responsible for their presence and pest status" (2001: 274).

If the biotechnological philosophical avenue is pursued, several risks are apparent with the successful outcome of transgenic experiments or modification of viruses, bacteria or invertebrates to destroy a species. There are potentially lethal consequences to home populations, which are invasive pests or weeds in other biogeographical areas, from chaotic or deliberate introductions of such species destroying mechanisms. The risks include the fundamental ethical question of why we would ever want to hold the power to deliberately and completely destroy a species. The application of this approach to ecosystem management is unclear, because ultimately targeting a species for destruction is underpinned by inconsistent subjectivity and value judgements about the worth or desirability of one species versus another. These judgements are often rooted in short-term unsustainable economic practices. Therefore it is questionable as to what moral basis we decide to unleash the means to destroy a species, and whether we have the knowledge of what the ecosystem effects are likely to include, such as trophic cascades and food web dynamics.

Clearly, then the biotechnological avenue is a threat to biodiversity. Conventional control means, whilst imperfect, are still the best options for control and eradication of pests from small and medium sized islands of the scale of Campbell Island.

Properly applied, these techniques can, and have, made enormous gains for ecosystem and species recovery on populated islands such as in New Zealand, particularly in national parks and mainland islands in conservation areas. The exciting part of the landscape philosophical path for biodiversity enhancement and protection, is the challenge of combining sustainable productive land and water use with conventional integrated pest control for long-term biogeographical site management.

Dr Steve Ulrich  
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*Department of Conservation*  
*PO Box 569 KAITAIA*  
*Ph: (09) 408 6014*

### BOOKS FOR SALE

The Canterbury Botanical Society still has some copies of two of its recent publications, and is offering them for sale at a reduced price. They can be obtained by writing to the Treasurer at PO. Box 8212 Riccarton, Christchurch, enclosing payment + postage (please make cheques payable to the Canterbury Botanical Society).

- *Etienne Raoul and Canterbury Botany 1840-1996*. Editor Colin Burrows. \$20. This includes historical material relating to botany in early Canterbury, as well as taxonomic contributions, e.g. a new key to *Raoulia*.
- *Naturalised Vascular Plants of Banks Peninsula* by Hugh Wilson. \$2.50

### ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON THE JOURNAL

I follow with great interest the discussion about the possible future direction of our NZJE. The contributions by Linklater (2001), Linklater and Camerton (2001), and Wardle (2001) certainly give food for thought. I would like first to add to this discussion a few correcting shades as I think Wardle (2001) was a little too brutal in his assessment of the international journals.

Wardle (2001) claims that "a whole raft of second-tier journals" are not worth much because to these "people direct their weakest manuscripts", or those manuscripts that are "unlikely to ever become published in a major journal". I suggest a bit more careful evaluation is needed here. First, the prime journals inevitably have high rejection rates. The evidence that they not only reject rubbish is two-fold: reports of editors' activities in society reports regularly complain about the difficulty of deciding what to reject of the potentially good and publishable

manuscripts. Second, that these journals periodically increase their volumes because there is simply too much good material that cannot be accommodated for limits on pages per year. This adjustment is not immediate, and consequently many good manuscripts just go elsewhere. It is too hasty to brand all the not-primary journals as ones that “have minimal impact”. There are many more reasons why a journal is not a large, international one.

Face reality: NZJE is what many would call a “second-tier ecology journal”. One can debate what impact it has but I believe the material published is worth publishing and reading.

I would also like to raise the additional point of economy. This journal is produced and sold by our Society. Maintaining the journal is therefore a scientific as well as an economic question. The two should not be considered against each other, but both have to be considered.

Good journals are considered good because they publish good papers. For the same reason, on the long run, good journals are also profitable as many scientists want access to them, so subscriptions are high. For example, the wealth of the British Ecological Society comes, to a large degree, from the profit of its journals.

However, the problem for many smaller societies, publishers and journals is also short-term. Their future not only depends on good quality papers, but also to find money to print them. During my tenure as Editor (and immediately before), this has been a returning concern for the Society. An important reason that I resigned from the editorship when I took a job overseas was that the Editor’s job was to oversee the scientific as well as the technical editing. This latter could not be reasonably done from overseas. Now that the Society has decided to separate the two positions, the technical and the scientific editor’s, producing the journal will become more expensive. I suspect the question of money will rise again soon. Overseas subscriptions are small and efforts need to be made to increase this.

My opinion is that the case of *Austral Ecology* is not as suggested by Wardle (2001). The publisher’s (Blackwell) aim of transforming the *Australian Journal of Ecology* into *Austral Ecology* was not aimed at our journal. It is a wider strategy, realising that there was no high-standard ecology journal for the Southern Hemisphere, while more and more good research is being done in those parts of the world. This will not bring fruit in 3 years, so it is early to judge its success. When *Functional Ecology* was launched by the British Ecological Society, the Council set the goal of breaking even in the 5th year of publication. This was just achieved and it took about 7 years before the journal became well known.

Mark my words: *Austral Ecology*’s impact will continue to surpass *NZJE*’s, with or without contributions from New Zealand.

While I agree with specific points in Wardle (2001) on the weaknesses in Linklater’s analysis, I believe the suggestion of “no need to consider change, continue to send us manuscripts and cite *NZJE* whenever possible” is a simplistic advice that will not in itself secure the future viability of *NZJE*. One way or another, we need to increase circulation, possibly overseas circulation, and make the journal more internationally read.

## References

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- Wardle, D. 2001. The future of the New Zealand Journal of Ecology—an alternative perspective. *Ecol.Soc. Newsletter no. 98*, 4-7.

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## NOTES FROM COUNCIL

### Editor’s Note

*Abridged minutes only*

### Minutes of NZ Ecological Society Council meeting, Sunday 26 August 2001, 6 Beveridge St Christchurch.

#### *Treasurer’s report*

Ben circulated a summary of yearly profit/loss back to 1989 year. Essentially the conference profits were what kept us afloat. This is important for next year where there is no NZ conference. Also we are still in essentially the same place for total \$ reserves we were in 1989 (in fact, worse off if we allow for inflation).

Accounts have been audited VERY thoroughly, these will be copied off for the AGM audience. Net profit is \$9773 which gets reserves to \$42, 996 (excellent). We have \$30K invested on term deposit for 3 months.

#### *Journal editors report*

David reported: “Things continue to go well with the journal. There has been a small drop in submissions over the past few months, although no more than is explicable in terms of normal temporal fluctuations. Volume 25 issue 2 of the journal will be available

soon, and the first two papers have been accepted for Volume 26 issue 1 which will be issued early next year. Ian McLean's term on the Editorial Board has ended and Richard Holdaway has resigned from the board on the basis of other commitments. I have asked Ian Jamieson (Department of Zoology, University of Otago) to join the Board and he has agreed to do so. Robert Poulin has resigned as Book Reviews Editor and Duane Peltzer (Landcare, Lincoln) has agreed to take over. I would be most pleased if Council could approve the appointments of Ian and Duane to the Board."

#### *Membership report*

New members: 22 including 8 full (Fiona Bancroft, Martin Cleland, Monique Doevendans, Lynell Greer, Rachel Helson, Keri Neilson, Derek Newton, Rosalie Stamp), 12 unwaged (Michael Anderson, Samantha Brown, Scott Davidson, Ruth Goldsmith, Gary Houlston, Paul Leisnam, Norman Mason, Christie McDonald, Rachel Smith, Chris Stowe, Ross Thompson, Michael Watson), and 2 joint (Katherine Dixon/Robin Mitchell).

Resigned members: 5.

Also had 3 new subscribers (DOC Southland library; University of Georgia, Athens USA; and Swets Blackwell, Melbourne) and 3 resigned subs (DOC Dunedin; DOC Auckland; University of Canberra) so no net change.

Currently have 490 paid members out of c 547 (at 26-4-01) and 109 paid subs out of 117.

#### **Minutes of NZ Ecological Society Council meeting, Friday 9 November 2001, University of Canterbury, Christchurch.**

##### *PDF files, Electronic Journals*

No action yet about getting the latest issue on PDF from Swiftprint. But the University of Queensland have sent us 5 back issues (23/1 to 25/1) that they have scanned into PDFs (total space 310 Mb). So what do we do with these? Can we put back issues on the web, or even current issues? Restricted to members only? We can put a single password on a section of the web page? Are we happy with authors putting new PDFs on their websites etc?

Alastair thought the future was in electronic versions of journals, especially through a consortium such as Blackwells. Susan said large, expensive, for-profit journals were squeezing the independent ones, and there may be a move to get independents to band together. She also grumbled about impact factors—which are imperfect but increasingly important. Putting older journals on the web as PDFs (see above) should help. We need to keep the impact factors up so libraries will continue to subscribe. Richard said electronically-available journals are

now attracting higher citation rates.

Should we put the newsletters on the web site as PDFs? This could be a service to members (and council). James has all the recent back issues on disk already. An issue is typically <150Kb.

##### *Kauri Fund*

*(Editor's Note: Comment is sought from membership on this)*

Bruce found a lawyer, Alan Henry, who knows about environmental charitable trusts and tax angles. Henry thought a charitable trust should be set up (effectively an endowment fund). We need three things: a name, the function, and how trustees are voted on. The function could be general (eg "promote the study and application of ecology in NZ"). For trustees, this could be the NZES Council, or some subset or other stipulated group. First question: should we set this up? Advantages are more security for how the money is spent, and the tax breaks for donors. Disadvantages: more complex to set up and run. Cost to set up a standard trust would be a few hundred dollars.

Bruce **moved** that we set up a charitable trust, **seconded** Carol. Alastair thought it should be presented to the membership for approval (either overall or the details of the functions) through the newsletter before it is finally set up. Passed unanimously.

The name: debate about the simplicity of the "kauri" moniker, versus it being confusing (people may think it is only for work on kauri, or plants only, etc). How about Ecological Science Fund? Boring but clear. Or Kauri Fund for Ecological Science? To ask for comment in the newsletter.

The function: suggested "to promote the study of ecology and the application of ecological knowledge"? Have an NZ emphasis as a rule not part of the overall function, that would leave it broader? Then we need some concrete priorities, though these need not be in the trust document.

The trustees: could be President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, and the 4 councillors. Doesn't have much longevity, though there is a reasonable amount of institutional memory in NZES.

Need some restrictions on winding up and how much of the fund can be spent in any one year. Bruce to prepare some info on this along with the previous discussions about provisional uses for the money, including supporting students, helping people write up ecological work where they have no institutional support, bringing in overseas speakers, funding publications, well focused regular scholarships with a national competition (could be tied to Bright Futures matching funding), and/or funding small research grants.



Raised \$2635 from the auction, plus \$1000 from Bolivean trust, towards this fund.

#### *Submissions*

- Sustainability review

Bruce said this was moving along with a number of people involved (including Peter Wardle, Dave Scott, Judith Roper-Lindsay, Alan Mark, Kath Dickinson). Should aim to have a draft out for comment in newsletter, and have final version by March, to be launched at a proposed workshop on Sustainability.

Submissions were identified by the AGM as an important thing to beef up. Paul Blaschke emailed about important issues coming up soon that we should think about, after meeting with Wren Green. We should thank Paul for the summary which is really useful, Dave to do. The three big ones imminent are:

- Biosecurity strategy: out for comment until 31 Dec.

Paul suggested John Parkes and/or Mick Clout or Jeff Hicks (DOC Wellington) could be interested. Janet to ask John if he is interested; we could offer some money (c \$1000) to pay for a bit of help in collating it, or airfares to get several people together?

- Sustainable development strategy:

Our sustainability workshop will feed into this.

Bruce to stay in touch.

- National Policy statement on Biodiversity on private land.

Richard to keep an eye on this one.

#### *Correspondence and Membership report*

Membership—we have 556 paid up members of 601 currently on the books, and all 112 remaining subscribers are paid up. This may be the highest membership ever. (*Editor's note – see graph earlier in newsletter for historical trends in membership*)

New unwaged members: Marleen Baling, Paul Barnett, David Clarke, Yanbin Deng, Melissa Farrimond, Kylie Galway, Daniel Godoy, Joshua Guilbert, Ruth Guthrie, Melinda Habgood, Charlotte Hardy, James Haw, Tarnia Hodges, Scott Hopson, Shelley Joyce, Emma Marks, Adrienne Meys, Carol Middleditch, Alice Miller, Dai Morgan, Prof Kevin O'Connor, Kevin Parker, David Pattermore, Steven Pawson, Rachel Peach, Lora Peacock, Matthew Scott, Lynne Sheldon-Sayer, Derek Smith, Ilka Sohle, Terry Thomsen, Christina Troup.

New waged: Dr Rochelle Christian, Christopher Devine, Peter Dilks, Reuben Ferguson, Jane Frohlich, Elizabeth Grove, Lisa Langer, Lisa Maria, Margaret McFarlane, Dr B Moyersoan, Oliver Overdyck, Timothy Park, Dr Daneiel Rutledge, Leonie Sands, Dr Kevin Simon, Lindsay Smith,

Geoff Stone, Michael Thorsen, Mike Tubbs, Geoff Walls, Susan Warner, Ian Westbrooke, Gareth Wilson.

New joint: Dr Philip Seddon & Dr M van Heezik.

Resigned members 2. Eleven members have been struck off for non-payment. Five subscribers have been struck off for non-payment.

#### *Treasurer's report*

We have \$17,000 in the current account and \$47,000 on term deposit. Ben has written to ask to change the GST filing dates to align with new financial year.

Secretariat has asked for a review of their fees, currently \$6800 per yr since 1996 (up from \$6100 in 1993-96). Adjusted for 11.5% inflation over the last 3 years, and 136 extra members (from 464 to 600, at \$5.75 per extra member) this would lead to an increase to \$8454 total per year. They have reviewed the number of hours spent on the NZES and think the increase in subs is fair. The extra \$1600 will dent conference profits somewhat, but given the high number of members now, should be bearable. Ben to check if it was \$5.75 or \$5.50, and if 11.5% is the true CPI, otherwise seems fine. They do a sterling job for the society.

#### *Journal editors report*

David Wardle reports: "Everything is going smoothly with the journal. All the manuscripts for Volume 26 issue 1, to be published next February, have been accepted; the first manuscript for issue 2 has also been accepted. So far this year there has been about a 25% drop in manuscripts received, compared by the same time last year. There appear to be two reasons for this. First, we did not get the mid-winter pulse of CRI-sourced manuscripts from folk trying to satisfy June 30 deadlines in the way that we have in previous years. Secondly, we have received few very weak manuscripts compared with earlier years; perhaps the message has been getting out that our standards have been getting tougher. As a result of the generally higher quality of manuscripts we are attracting, I have only rejected (without right of resubmission) two manuscripts so far this year compared with about 8 or 9 in previous years. In any case, there is no evidence of a sharp drop of *publishable* manuscripts received by the journal."

#### *Tuitime*

The meeting spent some time discussing the rather slow progress on Tuitime the interactive children's electronic resource the society is developing using a grant from the royal society. The delays are regrettable but mostly not of society members doing. A new strategy has been formulated to try and ensure more rapid progress is made.

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## ECOLSOC EMAIL LIST SERVER AND WEB PAGE

### Ecolsoc E-mail

To subscribe to this server, send a message to the automatic Mailserv processor at:

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The recommended way to subscribe is to send a message with two lines:

```
SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC  
END
```

The command line to stop receiving mail from this list is:

```
UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
```

Once subscribed, you will receive instructions on how to send messages, unsubscribe etc.

PLEASE KEEP THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM.

To send a message to anybody on the list, even if you are not a subscriber, use the address:

[nzecosoc@its.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:nzecosoc@its.canterbury.ac.nz)

To reply you have two options. You can either hit reply and this will reply to **everybody**, or you can reply to the author only (e.g., a new e-mail with the author's personal e-mail address).

For information on the listserv contact the newsletter editor ([rossj1@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:rossj1@lincoln.ac.nz)) or myself at [d.kelly@botn.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:d.kelly@botn.canterbury.ac.nz). For information on the Australian listserv contact Dave Kelly.

### Web page

To obtain additional conference details contact the NZ Ecological Society website: [www.nzes.org.nz](http://www.nzes.org.nz). This site also has membership details, information on awards and prizes, information on submitting papers to the journal and links to overseas ecological organisations.

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Contributions for the newsletter – news, views, letters, cartoons, etc. – are welcomed. If possible, please send articles for the newsletter both on disk and in hard copy. 3.5" disks are preferred; MS Word, Word Perfect or ASCII file text, formatted for Macintosh or MS-DOS. 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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**Types of Membership and Subscription Rates (2001/2002)**

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- Unwaged (with journal) ..... \$35 per annum
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- 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.

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