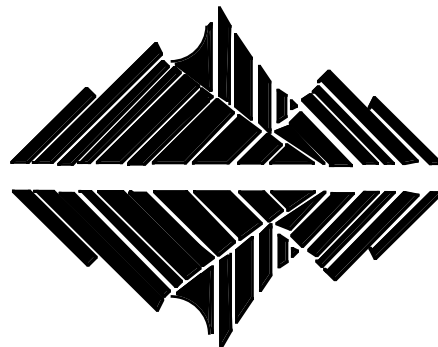


Ecological Society Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to 2003 and another issue of the NZES newsletter. This newsletter is again full of good news. It's my feeling that NZES is currently blooming and that is an exciting society to be involved with at the moment. Membership is as high as it has ever been, the journal is going from strength-to-strength, the webpage is becoming an increasingly important resource for New Zealand ecologists, our conferences seem to be getting more and more successful (and returning a profit while still being relatively cheap to attend), we have been successful in getting funding through *TuiTime*, and now from the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (see below for more details), and perhaps most importantly, we have a vibrant and pro-active council and officers (I can say that 'cos I am not one—I just do the newsletter!).

The Cairns meeting was, I think, a great success. The conference was very well organised and ran smoothly throughout and altogether appeared to be very professionally run. At least 75 New Zealanders were there—one of the opening speakers was impressed by that number and decided that there can't have been any ecologists left in NZ! Perhaps he didn't realise that there is one NZES member amongst every 6000 people in NZ—twice as many per head of population as Australia, and that each of us has only 455 km² of land to look after which is 10x less than the Aussies! The worry that we wouldn't have a quorum for the AGM was not realised—rumour has it that we had more people at our meeting than the Australians did at theirs! For the people that didn't get to Cairns—here's some of my impressions.

Cairns was of course, hot and sticky with almost endlessly blue skies—though it did rain a bit on some people I think. The venue was, in contrast a haven of fossil fuel driven coolness—almost too cool, and was impressively large—big enough in fact to hold another conference simultaneously with ours. Most of the time there were three concurrent sessions running. Normally

this is a curse, as the sessions always get behind and out of synch making session-hopping tedious. Not so at this conference, people kept remarkably well to time and talks actually began and ended pretty much exactly when they were supposed to. I am still not sure how that was achieved—perhaps the chairpeople were especially fearsome, though personally, when I ran one session I didn't need to be—people just stopped talking when they were supposed to—remarkable and refreshing. This conference was dominated by

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PowerPoint presentations, which also came off almost flawlessly. The organisers had a very slick way of getting each session coordinated—people copied their talks onto two master PC's and then CD's of sessions were burnt just before they were needed and once all the speakers had signed the sheet saying that they had loaded their talks. It was all very slick and worked well. The standard of talks was also pretty high and not just amongst the students—some of the professionals actually did quite well too!

Socially, things were seemed pretty well run, though with such a large number of people weren't perhaps quite as friendly as NZES affairs. I didn't go to the dinner but hear that it went pretty well. The field trips were of course a highlight for many of the NZers there. I headed north to the Cape Tribulation canopy crane—which was pretty impressive—great to get a birds eye perspective of the tropical forest. Others headed out to the reef (and yes they all came back again). Some people went on the trip organised for after the conference and saw a bewildering array of birds, mammals, insects and plants in the world heritage wet tropics. Dave Kelly, Andrea Brandon and I organised our own trip—and discovered why you need roo bars if you drive around at dusk, got ourselves hot and dusty, engaged in biodiversity immersion and has a thoroughly good time.

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PAYMENT REMINDER

Payment of subs for the 2003 year were due on 15 February. If at the time this newsletter was printed, you had not paid for this year you will notice that on the mailing label used to post out this newsletter a note "2003 unpaid". If you see this on your copy, and you haven't just sent in your money, you are in arrears and won't get the Journal sent to you, [Vol. 27 (1) is due to come out very soon]. Please send your payment as soon as possible to the Secretariat (address on back page). If you are not sure whether you have paid, drop an e-mail to Susan Sheppard nzecosoc@ihug.co.nz.

AWARDS PRESENTED AT CAIRNS

A number of NZES awards were announced at the closing session of the Cairns meeting.

The student talks and posters were judged along with all the Australian students and competed equally for first place.

Yanbin Deng (School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland) was runner-up for overall best talk and picked up the **NZES best student talk** for her presentation "A palynological record of human impact on vegetation at Whangapoua Estuary, Great Barrier Island, New Zealand" co-authored by John Ogden, Mark Horrocks and Sandra Anderson. Yanbin also won the prize in 2002—the first time that anyone has won this award twice—congratulations Yanbin!

Best Publication by a New Researcher was awarded to **Angela Moles** for her paper: Angela T. Moles and Mark Westoby. 2003. Latitude, seed predation, and seed mass. *Journal of Biogeography* 30(1):105–128.

The **Te Tohu Taiao – Award For Ecological Excellence for 2002** was awarded to **Phil Cowan** (Landcare Research).

Honorary Life Membership was awarded to **John Ogden** (School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland).

I hope to have profiles of Phil and John in the next newsletter. Well done to all these people.

MINUTES OF THE 50TH AGM OF THE NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Held on 3 December 2002 at the Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns, Queensland (during annual conference)

The AGM opened at 12:22 pm.

Present

Janet Wilmshurst (chair), Dave Kelly (secretary), 45 other members, and one observer (see list below).

Apologies

Apologies were received from: Ben Reddiex, Susan Wisner, Richard Duncan, David Norton, Alan Mark.

Minutes of the 49th AGM

Moved they are accepted as a true record: Carol West seconded Mel Galbraith passed

Matters arising

None

Annual reports

Janet spoke to her previously published Presidents Report, as published in Newsletter 103.

Dave spoke to Ben's *Treasurers Report* for the 2001 financial year¹. There was a profit of \$12,881 which was excellent. This takes society reserves to \$55,877 at 31 December 2001. However as Ben's report in Newsletter 103 points out, the 2002 year will see a leaner time due to the lack of any NZ-organised conference to generate a profit. Also, NZES has advanced \$5000 to *Tuitime* which may end up being part of the grant rather than being returned. Therefore we are prudently above the desired level of one year's spending, but not by an unreasonable amount. There was a short discussion of the accounts.

Moved that the Annual Accounts and Annual Reports be accepted, moved Susan Timmins seconded Bruce Burns, passed.

Election of Officers

President: nomination of Janet Wilmshurst, moved Dave Kelly seconded Carol West

Vice President: nomination of Mark Sanders, moved Dave Kelly, seconded Craig Miller

Secretary: nomination of Dave Kelly, moved Susan Timmins, seconded Jenny Steven

Treasurer: nomination of Ben Reddiex, nominated Dave Kelly, seconded Janet Wilmshurst

As there was only one nomination for each position, these officers were declared elected.

Council

Carol West finishes her term as immediate past president. Bruce Burns and Susan Wiser finish their two year terms. Dianne Brunton recently resigned for health reasons. This leaves three vacant positions. Janet thanked those going off council for their contributions.

Nominations for the three vacant positions on council were called for.

Murray Williams nominated by Carol West, seconded Alan Saunders

Jon Sullivan nominated Bruce Burns, seconded Carol West

Alison Evans nominated by Craig Miller, seconded Bruce Burns

Duane Peltzer nominated by Janet Wilmshurst, seconded Rowan Buxton

Mel Galbraith nominated by Bruce Burns, seconded Kath Dickinson

Alan Saunders nominated by Kath Dickinson, seconded Murray Williams

Each of the six spoke briefly before the vote explaining their background and work affiliation. After votes were counted by non-member Andrea Brandon, the three top candidates were Alison Evans, Duane Peltzer and Murray Williams who were declared elected for two year terms.

Alastair spoke about the submission's convenor, explaining the importance of the position. He said they could be on or off council, and called for nominations or volunteers. However, none were forthcoming. (*Murray Williams has subsequently agreed to take on this role for the next 12 months.*)

Janet thanked the other people who contribute to council—David Wardle and Jenny Steven on the journal, Jon Sullivan as webmaster, Alastair Robertson on newsletter, Carol West and Laura Sessions on Education Subcommittee. A vote of thanks to them was moved Craig Miller, seconded Mark Sanders, passed with acclamation.

Kauri Fund

Bruce explained about the background to this project from last year's AGM. Setting up a charitable trust requires a trust deed with trustees and specified purposes. There was some discussion about how much the trustees needed to be constrained from extravagant disposal of the trust assets. Are the trustees to be NZES council? It was agreed that the details should be laid out in the newsletter for input from members before the trust deed is finalised.

See page 5 for draft deed.

General business

Kath Dickinson asked if people thought the joint conferences were a good idea and should be continued with. If so the next one would be in NZ in four years time. There was unanimous support from those in the room, but there was also the comment that we should also ask those who did NOT come, via the newsletter. Kath said the Australians still talk about the value of the Dunedin joint conference. Shona Myers said that getting permission from an overseas conference through work was much more difficult, but she did acknowledge the value of the wider perspectives gained that way. Janet said that getting more sponsorship to help students come would be a big help.

Tarnia Hodges said that the format of the student day on Sunday was excellent and commended it for future conferences.

Larry Burrows responded to comments on Monday morning about carbon emissions created by conference attendees. He said that all Landcare Research staff had

had their emissions mitigated by tree planting organised by Landcare.

Mark Sanders publicised the list server as a good way of getting information circulated. Jo Taylor from Environment Bay of Plenty said she is reluctant to use it for worry about swamping members. She asked if the list could set up subsets for particular interests. Alastair Robertson thought with such low volumes on the list server that subdivisions are not really called for. Susan Timmins said an informative subject heading on messages is the key. This is advised in the most recent update to the instructions for the list. Jon Sullivan said if the human resources departments of DOC etc could use the list server this would be a big help to those members seeking jobs in ecology.

In response to questions about the location of the next NZES conference, Dave Kelly said it is planned for Auckland next year on 11–15 November 2003. Murray Williams expressed a general preference for August. Dave Kelly said this had been the result of feedback about conference timing at the 1999 (Blenheim) AGM as well, but that sometimes local considerations about availability of lecture rooms, student halls etc made this time of year difficult. The August date will continue to be suggested to future organising committees as the best time of year.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1:35 pm.

Present at 2002 AGM of NZ Ecological Society

Members

Suzanne Bassett
Paul Blaschke
Bruce Burns
Larry Burrows
Rowan Buxton
Bev Clarkson
Fiona Dearden
Karen Denyer
Katharine Dickson
Alison Evans
Mel Galbraith
Dianne Gleason
Ingrid Gruner
Roz Heinz
Tarnia Hodges
Avi Holzapfel
John Kean
Dave Kelly
Phil Lester
Richard Maloney
Craig Miller
Bernard Moyersen
Shona Myers
Don Newman

Amelia Pascoe
Duane Peltzer
Steve Rate
Cynthia Roberts
Alastair Robertson
James Russell
Mark Sanders
Alan Saunders
Philip Seddon
Jenny Steven
Ian Stringer
Jon Sullivan
Johanna Taylor
Susan Timmins
Christina Troup
David Wardle
Bruce Waldman
Carol West
Murray Williams
Peter Williams
Janet Wilmshurst
Debra Wotton
Elaine Wright
Observer
Andrea Brandon

NEW LOOK TO NZES COUNCIL

Several changes in the personnel on council took place at the AGM in Cairns, as several councillors had reached the end of their terms or have resigned. All the officers were re-elected into their former positions, with the exception of Carol West who had completed the one year term she is obliged to do as immediate past president of the society.

Three new councillors were elected to replace Diane Gleason, Susan Wiser and Bruce Burns.

Alison Evans tells me that she has been working for the Department of Conservation for two years as an Invertebrate Ecologist. In this role she has been prioritising the conservation needs in the Canterbury and Otago conservancies. She has also been working on biosecurity issues and assessing the threat of 'wilding' conifers on native invertebrates. Her professional interests include developing frameworks for monitoring and restoring invertebrate communities. She is also interested in the assessment of the relationships between environmental variables and invertebrate diversity particularly in forest ecosystems. Alison has also taken on the role of Awards Convenor.

Murray Williams says that he is "old, having held every office in Ecol Soc during the 70s and 80s except Treasurer. He says that his decline towards ecological senescence during the 90s was jolted by the award of Ecol. Soc life membership in 2001 and he returns to champion causes of, and more vociferous roles for, grey-haired ecologists, and to view revolutions of new wheels. His ecological obsessions are with waterfowl and their wetland habitats".

Murray has volunteered to perform the role of Submissions Convenor, at least for the current year.

Duane Peltzer tells me that he "is a plant ecologist with Landcare Research in Lincoln. He was trained in Canada, maintains active research links in North America and is also an active member of the ecological societies there. He looks forward to promoting the NZES within New Zealand and overseas".

Duane currently edits the book reviews for the *NZJE*.

CONFERENCE 2003

Put the following dates in your diary. The 52nd Annual Conference of the NZES "Theory and Practice in Ecology" will be held 16–20 November 2003 at Auckland University. The student day will be the on the 16th, the conference days on the 17th, 18th, 20th, and the field trips on the 19th. In the next newsletter we will have more details of the symposiums, guest speakers along with a call for papers, and preliminary information about registration etc.

DRAFT TRUST DEED – KAURI FUND FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE

As you will probably be aware, NZES has recently been engaged in setting up a trust fund following an inaugural auction to raise funds for it staged at the 2001 conference. Bruce Burns has been championing this since its inception and has drafted a deed document. As promised at the AGM's this draft is included in full in this newsletter to allow comment from members.

NZES council discussed the draft at its last meeting. At that time, the issue that was perhaps the most contentious was the makeup of the trustees. The draft deed suggests that the trust board consist of the "council of the NZES (Inc.) being its elected office holders [Treasurer, Secretary, President and Vice-President], and two trustees separately elected from the membership of the NZES" (See section entitled "Parties" in the trust deed). One suggestion discussed in council was that these two members were found amongst the councillors i.e. the elected non-office holders of the council. Since the deed requires the trustees to meet at least once a year, the cost of this meeting could be reduced if it became part of the agenda of one of the four meetings the council that already has each year. This would offset the possibility

of having to find up to two extra airfares for the other trustees to attend the Kauri Fund meeting. Of course, meetings could be conducted by conference call if the cost of travel was considered significant. One possible advantage of having trustees outside council could be that more long-term continuity may be achieved if long-standing trustees were elected whose terms exceeded those of the office holders.

Another issue raised at council, was that of the possibility of having the ability to setup sub-trusts where funds could be directed at particular projects and not combined into the general pool of funds. It was felt that some benefactors may be keen to earmark their donations for specific purposes and sub-trusts may be needed to facilitate this.

Comments are now invited from the membership. Send your comments directly to Bruce Burns, Landcare Research, Private Bag 3127 Hamilton, E-mail: burnsb@landcareresearch.co.nz, Fax: 07 858 4964. It might be a good idea to copy your letters or e-mails to our secretary Dave Kelly (see back on newsletter for contact details). Please respond by the **31 March 2003 at the latest**.

We hope to have a finalised document ready for the next meeting of the council in May so that we can move to formally establish the trust soon after. The final terms of the Trust will be placed on the web or could be posted to members on request.

TRUST DEED OF KAURI FUND FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Alan S Henry
Solicitor
AUCKLAND

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PARTIES

1. Names of current office holders of the New Zealand Ecological Society as foundation trustees.
2. The Trust Board comprising the Council of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.) being its elected office holders, and two trustees separately elected from the membership of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.) ("the Trustee").

BACKGROUND

- A. The New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.) wishes to establish a trust fund to promote, carry out and assist the charitable purposes set forth in this deed.
- B. Money will be raised by public appeal and other activities as the Trustees may deem appropriate for the purpose of furthering the charitable purposes contained in this deed.
- C. The Trustees have consented to become the trustees of the trusts created by this deed with and subject to the powers and provisions in this deed

THIS DEED WITNESSES:

I. INTERPRETATION

- 1.01 In this deed unless the context otherwise requires:

"charitable purposes" shall have the meaning as is given to that phrase by the Income Tax Act 1994 or any amendment thereof or any Act in substitution thereof PROVIDED HOWEVER that if by any reason of any alteration in the law relating to income tax it is at any time or times necessary to restrict such purposes to preserve the right to exemption from income tax of the kind referred to in the said Act, such purposes shall thereupon be deemed restricted to the extent so necessary

"property" includes real and personal property, and any estate, share, and interest in any property, real or personal, any debt, anything in action, and any other right or interest, whether in possession or not;

"Trustee" includes the trustee or trustees for the time being of the trusts evidenced by this deed whether original, additional or substituted;

"Trust Fund" means any property which may from time to time be received by or vested in the Trustee for the charitable purposes of the trusts evidenced by this deed and shall include all moneys and investments from time to time representing such property and the income therefrom

2. NAME

- 2.01 The name of the trust created by this deed shall be **Kauri Fund for Ecological Science**.

3. DECLARATION OF TRUST

- 3.01 The Trustee acknowledges and declares that the Trustee shall stand possessed of the Trust Fund and shall apply the same for charitable purposes within New Zealand for the benefit of the community and in accordance with the law of New Zealand including the following charitable purposes:

- (a) to promote ecological science by improving communications among ecologists and other specialists;
- (b) to foster ecological research and applications of ecological knowledge; and
- (c) to improve ecological education at all levels.

4. POWERS OF TRUSTEE

4.01

The Trustee shall have power to do all or any of the following things either alone or in common with any other person provided all actions of the Trustee is in accordance with the charitable purposes set out in this deed:

Investments

- (a) To invest the Trust Fund in any manner, whether at the time in a state of investment or not. Any such investments may be varied in any manner from time to time;

Donations

- (b) To solicit donations, legacies, devises, bequests, financial support gifts and grants of all kinds from the public or institutions;

Subsidies and Grants

- (c) To apply for and accept any subsidy, grant, donation or suspensory loan from any source calculated directly or indirectly to benefit the charitable purposes of the Trust;

Fund Raising

- (d) To take such steps to publicise the charitable purposes and activities of the Trust and to secure the assistance, co-operation, support and encouragement of any institutions, organisations and persons involved in the fund raising and publicity activities;

Property

- (e) To purchase, acquire and obtain and to sell, exchange, partition or otherwise dispose of or deal with any property or any part thereof or any interest therein;

Expenses

- (f) To pay all costs, expenses and outgoings in any way related to the Trust Fund and its charitable purposes;

Employment

- (g) To employ and remove or suspend and pay such officers, specialists, employees, agents, contractors, or other persons for any services rendered as the Trustee may from time to time deem necessary and to determine the duties and powers of such persons and fix their salaries and remuneration;

Receive Applications for Grants

- (h) To receive applications for grants or other payments from the Trust Fund and to deal with the same in accordance with the objects of the Trust and otherwise upon such terms and conditions as the Trustee shall determine.

Support of Other Charities

- (i) To establish and support or aid in the establishment and support of any associations, societies, trusts, institutions and other organisations so as to further the charitable purposes contained in this deed PROVIDED THAT such associations, societies, trusts, institutions and other organisations are established exclusively for charitable purposes within New Zealand;

5.	<u>APPLICATION OF TRUST FUND</u>	8.02	The Trustee may resolve to have the financial statements including the balance sheet and books of accounts and other records audited. In such event the Trustee shall appoint one or more chartered accountant(s) to be auditor or auditors and where the Trustee resolves to have the financial statements, balance sheet, books of accounts and other records audited the same shall be open to inspection by the auditor or auditors at all times and the auditor or auditors shall within 30 days before the annual meeting of Trust audit and report to the Trustees upon the financial affairs of the Trust and the Trust Fund.
6.	<u>MANAGEMENT</u>	9.0	<u>VACANCY OF TRUSTEE</u>
6.01	The management and control of the Trust Fund and the affairs of the Trust shall be vested in the Trustee with full power and authority at their discretion at any time to appoint or make provision for the appointment of any persons as a committee or committees or otherwise and to delegate any of their powers, duties and authorities for the purpose of the administration of the Trust in such manner and subject to such terms, conditions and rules as the Trustee may determine.	9.01	The office of Trustee shall be vacated if a Trustee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Being a company goes into receivership or liquidation; or (b) Being an individual; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with creditors generally; or (ii) Is convicted of any offence against the law of New Zealand for which the Trustee may be liable on conviction to imprisonment; or (iii) Becomes of unsound mind or becomes a protected person; or (iv) Resigns office by notice in writing to the secretary or chairperson for the time being; or (v) Fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the Trust without having first obtained the leave of the chairperson for the time being. (vi) Ceases to be an office holder of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.)
6.02	The Trustee may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Appoint separate trustees to hold any property, moneys or any funds or other securities or investments of the Trust Fund subject to such charitable purposes and such terms, conditions and rules as the Trustees may from time to time think fit; (b) Appoint advisory trustees not exceeding six (6) in number to assist the Trust in its ideals, objectives and operations. An advisory trustee shall hold office until he or she resigns such position or until his or her appointment shall be terminated by notice in writing by the Trustee. (c) Appoint such specialist advisors as the Trustee thinks fit and to act on the advice of any such specialist advisors. 	9.02	Upon ceasing to be a Trustee pursuant to clause 9.01 the vacating Trustee shall if and when required by the remaining Trustees execute and do all such deeds, acts, matters and things as may be necessary for the purpose of vesting any property held by the Trustees in the Trustees for the time being or as they shall direct.
7.	<u>MEETINGS</u>	10	<u>APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES</u>
7.01	(a) An annual meeting of the Trust shall be held within the first 4 months of each year;	10.1	The power of appointing a new Trustee or Trustees shall be vested in the membership of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.). Office holders of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.) elected at the Annual General Meeting of that Society will become Trustees, and will remain Trustees for the duration of their term of office or pursuant to clause 9.01. In addition, two financial members of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.), who are not elected office holders of that Society, will be elected as Trustees at the Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.) for a term of one year.
7.02	The Trustee may appoint a secretary and a treasurer or such like officers as the Trustee thinks fit.	10.2	A minimum of six (6) trustees are required for the Trust. If the number of trustees falls below this number, a special election will be held within the membership of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.) to appoint new trustees until six (6) are found.
8.	<u>ACCOUNTS</u>		
8.01	The Trustee shall cause true and fair books of accounts to be kept in respect of the Trust and the Trust Fund including all sums of money received and expended by the Trustee, the matters to which such receipts and expenditure relate and the assets and liabilities of the Trust. The books of accounts of the Trust shall be kept at the office of the secretary or such other place as the Trustee shall think fit.		

11. REMOVAL OF TRUSTEES

A. Members of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.) will have the power to call a Special General Meeting of the Society at which a trustee may be removed from office by consensus of two-thirds of the quorum of that special general meeting.

B. A trustee may also be removed as a trustee by the unanimous vote of all other trustees

12. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

12.01 The Trustee shall be entitled to act and exercise all of the powers conferred upon it under this deed notwithstanding that the Trustee may be aware of any act known by it to be a breach of trust and in particular no Trustee shall be bound to take any proceedings against a co-trustee for any breach or alleged breach of trust committed by such co-trustee.

12.02 In exercising any powers of investment under this deed the Trustee, may in its absolute and uncontrolled discretion take into account whatever matters the Trustee considers fit and shall be under a duty to:

- (a) Exercise the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person of business, or a prudent person engaged in any profession, employment, or business which includes acting as a trustee or investing money on behalf of others, would be required to exercise in managing the affairs of others;
- (b) Diversify the investments of the Trust Fund or have regard to any other matters referred to in section 13E of the Trustee Act 1956 or any other statutory provisions governing or relating to the manner in which trust funds shall be invested or managed;
- (c) Develop and formulate an investment strategy.

13. INCORPORATION AND COMMON SEAL

13.01 The Trustee may at any time resolve to apply for the incorporation of the Trustee as a Board under Part II of the Charitable Trust Act 1957.

13.02 If the Trustee becomes incorporated it shall provide a common seal for the Board which shall always be deposited with the chairperson or secretary for the Trustees for the time being.

13.03 The common seal shall only be affixed to any document requiring execution by the Trustee by the authority of the Trustee previously given at a meeting of the Trustee. Every such affixing of the common seal shall be performed in the presence of and accompanied by the signatures of two persons so authorised by the Trustee which shall be sufficient evidence of the authority to affix the common seal. No person dealing with the Trustee shall be bound or concerned to see or inquire as to the authority under which any document is sealed and in whose presence.

14. VARIATION

14.01 The Trustee may by resolution passed at a duly convened meeting of the Trustee revoke, vary or add to any of the provisions of this deed so long as such revocation, variation or addition is not inconsistent with the charitable intention of this deed.

15. DISSOLUTION

15.01 If:

- (a) In the event of it becoming impossible, impractical or inexpedient to carry out the charitable purposes of the Trust; or

(b) In the opinion of the Trustees the charitable purposes become sufficiently effected or accomplished by any other associations, societies, trusts, institutions, organisations, persons or agents (whether governmental or otherwise) other than by the Trust; or

(c) For any other reason,

it shall be lawful for the Trustee to dissolve and wind up the Trust in which case the net assets of the Trust Fund, being the surplus of assets remaining after payment of all liabilities and expenses, shall be disposed of to the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.) in the first instance, or, if that Society no longer exists, in the discretion of the Trustee to or among such charitable objects and charitable purposes within New Zealand which most nearly resemble the charitable purposes of the trust in this deed.

Dated this

Signed by

Signed by

Signed by

Signed by

day of

PROFILES OF IAN ATKINSON & MURRAY WILLIAMS, NEW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

At the 2001 conference in Christchurch, NZES announced the awards of life memberships to Ian Atkinson and Murray Williams. Mike Rudge kindly wrote up these profiles for the newsletter.

The primary purpose of this award is to recognise outstanding service to NZES. Often it is supported by the contribution that the recipients have made to both scientific knowledge and the wider community, which is certainly the case with each of these two scientists.

Dr Ian Atkinson

Ian Atkinson served in various roles in the management of the Society, on and off from 1961 until 1988. In the sixties, he was a Councillor for four years and secretary for one. In 1975 he returned to the Council for a year but was to make his most continuous contribution in the eighties as a Councillor and then as vice-President and President (1985–1987). Over these three decades, Ian also contributed ideas, information, and a critical eye to many Society activities ranging from peer-review of papers to environmental comment. He has also given many papers of his own on a wide variety of topics at annual conferences.

Ian's scientific work, demonstrated in about 100 formal publications, covers a spectrum that includes soil mapping, vegetation change, bird conservation, plant co-evolution and the history and impacts of introduced mammals. A feature of it all has been the concept of process and change, whether by ecological succession or the intrusion of humans and their camp followers. Throughout that career, Ian has put his science at the service of practical ecological management and policy, through many commissioned reports and his service on statutory advisory Boards and Committees. This country's international reputation for conservation owes much to the scientific underpinning of Ian's work and his continued collaboration with conservation managers.

Dr Murray Williams

Murray Williams began contributing to the work of the Society's Council in the mid-seventies as its Secretary and he then served from time to time through to the early nineties in various ways. From 1981 to 1984, he was editor of the Journal. In that challenging role, he was often as much a mentor as an Editor when giving patient guidance to aspiring young authors. From 1985 to 1989, he served successively as vice-President, President and Royal Society Member Bodies Representative. Murray has always been an active scientific contributor to Conferences and a valued saviour of many an AGM debate.

The core of Murray's scientific career has been the ecology of waterfowl. His early work on fundamental population dynamics now guides the seasons and bag limits for thousands of game shooters. Subsequent studies of ecology and behaviour of paradise shelduck overturned accepted management practices, transforming the rare bird of the seventies into the abundant one we see today. Later, the captive breeding programme of native teal owed its success to replicating the behavioural environment that Murray had observed in their sub-Antarctic home. Similar detailed work on the endangered, native blue duck has defined much of the current strategy for management and conservation of the species in its threatened habitat of torrential streams.

Mike Rudge

Murray Williams was elected to serve again on the NZES council at the AGM in Cairns last month (see page 4).

DAVE KELLY ELECTED FELLOW OF NEW ZEALAND ROYAL SOCIETY

Very hearty congratulations must go to our secretary Dave Kelly for his recent election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Here's what RSNZ said about our Dave:

"Associate Professor Kelly is an innovative plant ecologist who is challenging accepted theory and providing new insights. His work is firmly placing New Zealand's plant communities on the international stage in several areas. He is particularly well-known for his work on "masting", the production of huge seed masses in "erratic" years which intersperse longer periods of low seed output. His study of the New Zealand grass *Chionochloa*, has been especially important and has led to evidence concerning recent climate change. David Kelly's papers are about ideas, tested against observations based on careful long-term studies. His research is bold and imaginative, with high international impact."

Well done indeed!

J.S. WATSON CONSERVATION TRUST APPLICATIONS INVITED

This trust is administered by *Forest and Bird*. Applications are invited from individuals or conservation groups for financial assistance for conservation projects over the 2003–2004 year. The criteria for assistance are:

- The conservation of plants and animals and natural features of New Zealand;

- The advancement of knowledge in these matters by way of research, literary contribution, essay or articles, or other effort;
- General education of the public to give them an understanding and love of the world in which they live.

A total of around \$20,000 is available for distribution. Individual applications should be limited to a maximum of \$4,000.

You are invited to request a preliminary one-page application form by writing or e-mailing:

JS Watson Trust
Forest and Bird
PO Box 631
Wellington

Attn: Hayley Meehan (h.meehan@wn.forest-bird.org.nz)

Or download a form from Forest and Bird's website: www.forest-bird.org.nz

A BIT OF CAUTION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY CITATION INDEX

Recent good news about the increase in *NZJE*'s Impact Factor was accompanied by some boasting how *NZJE* has surpassed the *Australian Journal of Ecology* and has become the ecology journal with the highest impact factor in the Southern Hemisphere (Ecol. Soc. Newsletter No.103, p.10). The increase in the Impact Factor indeed indicates that the journal is more widely read and cited by peers world-wide. About the relative position with the Australian journal, it seems to have escaped attention that some years ago the *Australian Journal of Ecology* had a name change. For a few years now it has been published under its new name of *Austral Ecology*. ISI's evaluation system cannot cope with this change, and in the transitional years there are two Impact Factors for this journal: one under its old name, *Australian Journal of Ecology* (the 2001 IF=1.323) and one under the new name, *Austral Ecology* (IF=0.658). The Impact Factor for *NZJE* of 1.404 should be seen considering these circumstances.

This should not cause us not to rejoice about the increase in the citation index, but I think the *NZJE* position relative to the Australian journal, for the moment, is only due to this anomaly. May this change in future years!

Gábor Lövei
NZJE Editorial Board Member

NEW WEBPAGE PROVES POPULAR....

At the last NZES council meeting, our webmaster, Jon Sullivan provided some web stats on the revamped NZES website (<http://www.nzes.org.nz>). Since 28 May 2002, we have had 19,319 page views from about 500–600 different people per month, from a total of 61 countries. Only 54% of visitors are from NZ and the rest from overseas. Top pages apart from home page are *Links*, *Journal*, *Meetings*, and *Publications*. *Education*, *Hot Science*, *Newsletter* are in the second rank of popularity. We had abstracts of the latest *NZJE* issue (26/2) put on for the first time and these were also popular.

... AND NZES GETS FUNDING FOR GETTING NZJE ON WEB, AND FOR BEEFING UP HOTSCIENCE

At short notice, Jon Sullivan put in an application to the *Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System* (TFBIS) administered by the Department of Conservation. This fund seeks to "support projects that improve the efficient and effective use of data and information that helps to halt the decline in New Zealand's unique variety of indigenous plants, animals and ecosystems. The (TFBIS) Programme is one of a suite of new programmes that reflect the Government's commitment to achieving the goals of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy."

We asked for money to convert all past issues of *NZJE* and the *Proceedings of the NZEcol. Soc.* into pdf files to place on our website, and to try and broaden the coverage of HotScience by filling in gaps where authors have not yet volunteered their own summaries. In January, we were notified that we were successful though at this stage we aren't sure whether we have secured the full amount of money that we had requested. We will provide an update in the next issue of the newsletter. Well done Jon!

SUBMISSIONS

Things have again remained fairly quiet on the submissions front, due largely I suspect to the lack of a convenor for NZES. I am pleased that Murray Williams has agreed to perform this role for the next 12 months at least. The issues that we are keeping an eye on are:

Biosecurity Strategy

The revised Biosecurity strategy (<http://www.biostrategy.govt.nz/library/draft-strategy>) is now out and seeking submissions by 28 February 2003.

Peter Bellingham wrote a submission for the society on the first draft, and will be asked by council to see if a further NZES submission is required. Please contact Peter, or Murray straight away if you have views on the revised strategy.

National Policy Statement on Biodiversity on Private Land

As far as we can tell, the draft policy statement that was to be developed by MfE has not yet come out. NZES council has asked Murray to find out timetable for its development.

Sustainable Development Strategy

The government has released a Programme of Action on this rather than a strategy (I'm not sure what the difference is) <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/sus-dev/sus-dev-programme-of-action-jan03.html> which it says that it plans to update.

The programme is centred on four "issues":

- water quality and allocation,
- energy,
- sustainable cities and
- child and youth development

They say "the timing of the next programme of action is dependent on the development of indicators and reporting against these, as outlined in section 3.5. The updated programme of action will also build on consultation and on the government's relationships with key stakeholders and other sectors. And, most importantly, it will draw on the lessons learned from this first programme of action"

Along these lines, NZES recently resolved to re-visit the statement about sustainability it made quite a few years ago and investigate the possibility of updating and re-issuing the statement. As a first step, council is going to try and mount the old statement on the NZES website. See Murray if you are interested in helping out with redrafting the statement.

HOT SCIENCE!

Here is the latest instalment of international papers, books and book chapters from New Zealand researchers. We want to have this list as complete as possible for items published internationally after 2000 so don't be shy—if your paper has not yet been listed let me know about it—the rules for submission are at the end of the listing and are on the website <http://www.nzes.org.nz/hotscience/rules.html> The list on the website is now fully searchable and is now easier to navigate around thanks to our wonderful Webmaster. This will make the list, a valuable place to search for New Zealand ecological papers, chapters and books—but will be stronger if it is complete. So, please send your summaries to me. Send them in anytime, I will accumulate them for the next listing.

Gillman, L.N., Wright, S.D., & Ogden, J. 2002. Use of artificial seedlings to estimate damage of forest seedlings due to litterfall and animals. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 13: 635–640.

Artificial seedlings are often used to estimate seedling mortality due to non-trophic micro-disturbance such as litterfall and up-rooting. This study evaluated the use of artificial seedlings in five New Zealand forests. It was concluded that artificial seedlings could not be used to estimate mortality, and were vulnerable to a novelty response by animals. The value, however, of artificial seedlings is that they provide a good measure of litterfall disturbance potential that is independent of natural seedling clumping within litterfall safe-sites, and independent of species specific resistance to damage. Thus, they can be used to compare litterfall damage risk among microsites and forests.

Joy, M. K.; Death, R. G. 2002. Predictive modelling of freshwater fish as a biomonitoring tool in New Zealand. *Freshwater Biology* 47: 2261–2275.

The paper describes the first application of a regional predictive model using freshwater fish for bioassessment in New Zealand. Fish assemblages were surveyed at 200 reference sites in the Manawatu–Wanganui region. These "reference sites" represent the best available conditions covering the full range of stream types in the region. They were used to predict the fish assemblages to be expected in the absence of impacts using multivariate analysis based on environmental variables. Test site fish assemblages were compared with expected assemblages using weighted probabilities from reference sites using an observed over expected (O/E) ratio.

Kelly, D.; Sork, V. L. 2002. Mast seeding in perennial plants: why, how, where? *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics* 33:427–447.

This paper firstly reviews the possible causes of mast seeding. It tests the null hypothesis (variable weather causes variable seeding) and finds few convincing cases, then reviews the main selective hypotheses (predator satiation, enhanced pollination, animal dispersal). The second part analyses 570 masting datasets worldwide. Interestingly, 17 of the 26 datasets >24 yrs were from New Zealand. The analysis shows that masting is more pronounced in mid latitudes, in the southern hemisphere, in wind pollinated and abiotically dispersed plants, and in plants dispersed by seed predators. Masting is predicted to be rare in the tropics, but more pronounced at unproductive sites.

O'Donnell, C. F. J. 2000. Cryptic local populations in a temperate rainforest bat *Chalinobus tuberculatus* in New Zealand. *Animal Conservation* 3: 287–297.

Long-tailed bats form long term non-random associations among individuals. Three distinct social groups (72–132 bats) were cryptic because foraging ranges overlapped, bats belonging to each group spread over many roosts each day, and these roost sites changed from day to day. Bats moved infrequently between groups (1.6% of recaptures), potentially linking the local population assemblages. Population structure did not conform to traditional metapopulation models because groups occurred in homogeneous habitat extending over a large area. Conservation of bat populations should entail protecting representative sub-groups, but development of models for predicting minimum number of effective local populations is still required.

O'Donnell, C. F. J. 2000. Conservation status and causes of decline of the threatened New Zealand Long-tailed Bat *Chalinolobus tuberculatus* (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae). *Mammal Review* 30: 89–106.

Historical anecdotes and monitoring since 1990, indicate that long-tailed bats are now rare or absent at many sites where formerly they were common. Assertions in the literature that they are “common” and that the conservation status is “secure” are incorrect and the species should be classed as “Vulnerable”. Possible causes of decline include clearance and logging of lowland forests, predation by introduced mammals and owls, competition for roost sites by introduced mammals, birds and wasps, and human interference and disturbance at roosting sites.

O'Donnell, C. F. J. 2001. Home range and use of space by *Chalinolobus tuberculatus*, a temperate rainforest bat from New Zealand. *Journal of Zoology (London)* 253: 253–264.

Home range sizes in long-tailed bats were among the largest published for Microchiroptera. These bats were highly mobile. One colony ranged over 100 km² and range size varied among age and sex classes (medians = 237–2,006 ha; max 5629 ha). A prediction that these bats have large ranges to minimise overlap between foraging bats, reflecting scarcity of food, requires testing. Large range size and the degree of individual spacing implies that conservation areas designed for bats should be large.

O'Donnell, C. F. J. 2002. Influence of sex and reproductive status on nocturnal activity and night roosting by the New Zealand long-tailed bat *Chalinolobus tuberculatus*. *Journal of Mammalogy* 83: 794–803.

This paper tests the hypothesis that reproductive long-tailed bats should forage for longer than other classes. Length of active periods did not differ among reproductive females, non-reproductive females, and adult males. Reproductive females were active for significantly longer during lactation than during pregnancy but not post-lactation. I predict few differences between reproductive classes because: energy demands are high throughout the reproductive cycle; females have different mechanisms, such as increasing foraging efficiency, using torpor, and selecting thermally beneficial roosts, for balancing high energy requirements; and energy demands limit all classes in the cold temperate climate when food is in short supply.

O'Donnell, C. F. J. 2002. Timing of breeding, productivity and survival of long-tailed bats *Chalinolobus tuberculatus* (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae) in cold-temperate rainforest in New Zealand. *Journal of Zoology (London)* 257: 311–323.

This paper reports on breeding of long-tailed bats for the first time. Most births occurred over 10 days in mid-December. Young began flying at 5–6 weeks. Lactation coincided with highest temperatures and peak abundance of insects. Annual survival of juveniles varied from 0.26–0.88. The short, highly synchronous breeding season, birth of single young, early mating, and late age of sexual maturity compared to similar-sized bats, may be related to low food availability and unpredictable cold-temperate weather conditions. Poor productivity in 1996 coincided with an irruption of stoats, implying that predation may cause population crashes.

Sedgeley, J. A. 2001. Quality of cavity micro-climate as a factor influencing maternity roost selection by a tree-dwelling bat, *Chalinolobus tuberculatus*, in New Zealand. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 38: 425–438.

Building on recent work that showed that long-tailed bats were highly selective of trees and cavities for roosting (*Biological Conservation* 88:261–276; *J. Zoology London* 249:437–446), this paper shows that these bats selected cavities on the basis of their thermoregulatory quality. Cavities used conveyed significant thermoregulatory advantages to roost occupants, especially reproductive females during the day and non-volant young, which were left alone for most of the night. Bat roosts had stable microclimates, displaying small ranges in temperature and humidity compared with external ambient conditions and available cavities that were not used by bats.

Sedgeley, J. A. 2001. Winter activity in the tree-roosting lesser short-tailed bat, *Mystacina tuberculata*, in cold-temperate climate in New Zealand. *Acta Chiropterologica* 3: 179–195

Unusually high levels of activity compared to other small bats in temperate forests were detected in the short-tailed bats during winter on Codfish Island. Radio-tagged bats flew on >50% of nights including those where minimum temperatures were <0°C. Large levels of activity were recorded at roosts (max. = 1443 bats). Periods of activity were associated with feeding, social displays and changing roosts. Winter activity may not be as energetically expensive for short-tailed bats as other cold-temperate bat species. Their ability to forage on terrestrial invertebrates and to select different roost sites, allow them to be active more frequently and for longer.

Wardle, D. A.; Barker, G. M.; Yeates, G. W.; Bonner, K. I.; Ghani, A. 2001. Introduced browsing mammals in natural New Zealand forests: aboveground and belowground consequences. *Ecological Monographs* 71: 587–614.

The effects of browsing mammals (deer and goats) on plant and soil microbial and invertebrate communities was assessed for each of 30 long term enclosure plots in forests located throughout New Zealand. While browse layer vegetation density and diversity was consistently adversely affected by herbivores, the soil biota showed varied responses, and only invertebrates with larger body sizes were consistently adversely affected. There were also several instances in which browsers affected decomposer diversity, key soil processes and soil carbon and nitrogen sequestration. Frequently below-ground effects of these mammals were more severe than we would predict based on the response of vegetation.

Wardle, D. A.; Bonner, K. I.; Barker, G. M. 2002. Linkages between plant litter decomposition, litter quality, and vegetation responses to herbivores. *Functional Ecology* 16: 585–595.

To predict possible effects of deer and goats on the decomposer subsystem, litter from several understorey plant species were collected from 28 forested locations throughout New Zealand. At each location enclosure plots were used to determine effects of browsing mammals on each plant species. Litters from those species which were reduced by browsers decomposed more rapidly, and had lower concentrations of phenolics, tannins, lignin and fibre than those promoted by browsers; litter N and P concentrations did not differ between these two types of plants. This suggests that browsing results in understorey domination by plant species that impair decomposer processes.

NEW ONLINE PUBLICATION

ECOLOGY.INFO is a new, online publication with professional quality, state-of-the-art reviews about ecology. These reviews are updated online, as soon as results of new scientific research become available, and so are never out-of-date. *ECOLOGY.INFO* invites professionally-trained ornithologists and ecologists from New Zealand and the Pacific Region to publish reviews on its free website. Manuscripts may be submitted in English, Spanish or Portuguese.

Submit your reviews to Paul D. Haemig, Editor, *ECOLOGY.INFO*, haemig@ecology.info

BOOK REVIEWERS NEEDED

Anyone interested in reviewing any of the following books for the New Zealand Journal of Ecology, contact Duane Peltzer (PeltzerD@landcareresearch.co.nz, or via contact information below).

Peat, N. and Patrick, B. *Wild rivers: discovering the natural history of the central South Island*. Otago University Press.

Odum, H.T. and Odum, E.C. *Modelling for all scales: an introduction to system simulation*. Academic Press.

Michener, W.K. and Brunt, J.W. *Ecological data: design, management and processing*. Methods in Ecology. Lawton, J.H. and Likens, G.E. (Eds.). Blackwell.

Roy, J., Saugier, B. and Mooney, H.A. 2001. *Terrestrial global productivity*. Physiological Ecology Series. Academic Press.

Mooney, H. and Hobbs, R.J. *Invasive species in a changing world*. Island press.

White, E.G. *New Zealand tussock grassland moths*. Caxton Press.

Gunderson, L. and Holling, C.S. *Panarchy: understanding transformations in human and natural systems*. Island Press.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Greening the City: Bringing Biodiversity Back into the Urban Environment

22-24 October 2003, Chateau on the Park, Christchurch

Conference of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (in association with the CCC, ECan, Landcare Research and PGG).

The important role of cities as a repository for biodiversity is increasingly recognised within New Zealand and overseas, along with the need to focus on sustainable development, triple bottom-line accounting, and the function of green environments in maintaining community health and cohesion. In New Zealand, recent reports by the Parliamentary Commission for the Environment and the Ministry of the Environment have drawn attention to these issues. The conference will be based on these and other themes, with an emphasis on practical outcomes.

The conference will be held in the Garden City of Christchurch, where there is much collective expertise on urban biodiversity. Complementing our local experts will be several world authorities on the Greening of Cities, Landscape Architecture, and Town Planning to act as keynote speakers.

These topics are very timely as the Christchurch City Council puts into place its Biodiversity Strategy, which will be unveiled at the conference.

Keynote speakers include:

- Dr Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Wellington, New Zealand
- Professor Chris Bains, one of the UK's leading environmental campaigners, and an award-winning author and broadcaster
- Mason Tan, Landscape Architect and Director of Mace Studio, Singapore

Who will attend?

- Local and Regional Councillors
- Town Planners
- Landscape and Building Architects
- Horticulturists
- Educationalists
- Researchers
- Conservation Groups
- Others interested in Urban Biodiversity

For more information see;

<http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/conference2003.htm>
or contact d&amoyle@xtra.co.nz.

The 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress (with the 16th Australasian Wildlife Management Society Conference)

1–5 December 2003, Christchurch, New Zealand

This Congress will be hosted by Landcare Research (New Zealand) and The Wildlife Society (USA) and will be the largest gathering of wildlife managers ever to be held in the Southern Hemisphere.

The deadline for submission of abstracts for paper and poster presentations at the 3rd IWMC is 28 February 2003. Details on abstract submission can be found on the Congress website: <http://www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/wildlife2003/>

Please contact the Conference Office, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, New Zealand, or e-mail wildlife@cont.canterbury.ac.nz if you need further information.

IV Southern Connections Conference, "Southern Temperate Ecosystems & Biota: Contributions Towards a Global Synthesis"

19–23 Jan 2004, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Southern Connections is a large group of scientists from all continents who study aspects of biology and earth history of the Southern Continents.

The fourth Southern Connections Conference will take place in Cape Town from 19–23 January 2004 and will be hosted by the University of Cape Town and affiliated scientists and institutes. Previous meetings have taken place in Australia, New Zealand and Chile. This will be a chance for scientists to experience the other major Southern Connector, southern Africa, and to continue and build on their interactions, discussions and collaborations concerning this bit of Godwana. This is the first time that the conference will be held in South Africa, and in the beautiful city of Cape Town.

The theme in 2004 will be "Towards a Southern Perspective". The literature in most fields of biology is dominated by a northern perspective. One of the main aims of Southern Connections is to develop and emphasise differences between North and South. Africa, for example, with its long history of hominids and its relatively well preserved megafauna, is a stark contrast to most of the Northern Hemisphere. Besides this theme there will be several other more specific themes relating to, for example, ecology, biogeography, phylogeny, phylogeography, history and utilization.

During the conference, overseas and local experts will present lectures, workshops and posters, covering various aspects of disciplines pertaining to Southern Connections. We are in the process of selecting keynote speakers from international destinations as well as South Africa and Africa.

Contact Mrs Elizabeth Danckwerts (Secretariat), at pim2002@uwc.ac.za or SC2004@botzoo.uct.ac.za or P O Box 2760, Clareinch, 7740, South Africa. More information can be obtained by visiting our web site: <http://www.uct.ac.za/conferences/sc2004>

MEETINGS DIARY

7th International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography

24–28 March 2003 Wellington.

Annual symposium of the British Ecological Society, "Biological Diversity and Function in Soils"

25–27 March 2003

Lancaster University, United Kingdom.

See Newsletter Issue 103 and <http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/meetings/2003/annualsymposium/index> for details.

"Beyond Borders – Linking Landscapes", U.S. Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (US-IALE) 18th Annual Symposium

2–6 April 2003 Banff, Alberta, Canada.

http://www.zoo.utoronto.ca/US-IALE_2003.

Entomological Conference

14–16 April 2003 Victoria University.

E-mail: George.Gibbs@vuw.ac.nz.

Fourth Oamaru Penguin Symposium

19–20 June 2003

E-mail: agh@ihug.co.nz

22nd conference of the New Zealand Geographical Society

6–11 July 2003 Auckland University.

E-mail: NZGS2003@geog.auckland.ac.nz

The 18th International Radiocarbon Conference

1–5 September 2003 Te Papa, Wellington.

<http://www.14Conference2003.co.nz>.

Greening the City: Bringing Biodiversity Back into the Urban Environment.

22–24 October 2003

Chateau on the Park, Christchurch

For more information see <http://www.rmzih.org.nz/pages/conference2003.htm>

E-mail: d&amoyle@xtra.co.nz1

NZ Ecological Society Annual Conference "Theory and Practice in Ecology"

16–20 November 2003

University of Auckland

3rd International Wildlife Management Congress

1–5 December 2003

University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

<http://www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/wildlife2003/>

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

Editor's Note (Edited and abridged minutes)

Minutes of NZES council meeting, 2 December 2002, Cairns Convention Centre, Queensland.

Journal

David Wardle reported: Vol. 27(1) and half the 27(2) are full already. This is not too concerning as we tend to get droughts of submissions in the second half of the year. The issues are each aiming for 100 pages or so (8–12 papers). There have been two enquiries about special issues (one from Ecki Brockerhoff for one associated with the International Union of Forest Research Organisations conference in NZ in August 2004). Need own funding etc, still overview by editor and normal reviewing. Need to be sure it is up to scratch in terms of quality as the primary criterion. Al pointed out the special issues have good citation rates (moa and causes of decline are high), though David W said ecotoxicology is not. Need \$10–13K for a single extra issue.

David is due to finish his 5 year term at the end of 2003, we should start to think about replacements. DW thought 5 years was about right for being editor.

PDFs of NZJEcol articles: Jenny asked printers for a quote (*Swiftprint* has a new owner so need a new quote). Two weeks ago they apologised, haven't done the quote yet. For the last three issues the company say they are keeping the PDFs, so we are not falling behind. Jenny got the last set for issue 26(2), but 2 papers were at low resolution for the figures. Jon says get the highest quality PDF possible as we can always make smaller versions from them but not vice versa.

RSNZ journal price increases, we got no prior notice. Fran Kell said most societies have written to CEO of RSNZ, and Minister of Science, pointing out the govt grant to RSNZ has not increased in 10 years. Janet to write one like this for NZES.

Putting editorial board member names on the end of each paper: DW and Jenny happy with this. To insert from August issue. Should we also list referees over the year? Journal is small, this might compromise confidentiality, so agreed not to.

Web

Jon pointed out the TFBIS programme administered by DOC is calling for projects submitted by 11 December on helping to get information widely disseminated about conservation. Council endorsed a proposal from Jon to apply for money to put all the back issues of *NZJE* (and *Proc NZES*) on the web and someone to make *Hot Science* more complete, by shortening abstracts from the journal original to 100 words, and backdate this to previous years? We would need money

to scan the back issues, and pay costs of mounting on the web. Jon says we also need full text searching for the archive to be most useful, which means we need some software to run OCR on the scanned images.

A successful application was submitted—see page 10.

Conference 2003

Still planned for Auckland on 11–15 November 2003 but no details beyond that, no recent info offered or sought. Mel Galbraith (Auckland member) is assisting Dianne Brunton on the conference. Bruce offered to help (having recently run the Hamilton conference). The council will seek regular reports for council meetings.

See minutes of the meeting of 31 January for an update

Education

Carol reported that our application for funds from the Sustainable Management Fund for extending *TuiTime* has been approved. We will receive up to a total of \$29,300 over 2 years but we need to make some additions to the project to satisfy the requirements of SMF administrators.

Other business

Biosecurity review by Peter Bellingham done, Bruce & Richard to continue their watching briefs re biodiversity on private land, but no action at present.

Minutes of NZES Council Meeting, Friday 31 January 2003, University of Canterbury

Kauri fund

Council discussed the draft deed of the Kauri Fund drawn up by Bruce Burns, and decided to include the draft in the newsletter for comment.

See page 5.

Membership

As at 29 January 2003 our membership was as follows:

- Paid Up Members: 134 out of a total of 583 (includes 10 Hon or Hon Life);
- Gone No Addresses: 11 (included in 583);
- Members on Hold: 6 (included in 583).
- Paid Up Subscribers 21 out of a total of 113.
- Complimentary Subscribers 18

Changes since 26 November 2002

- 4 new members: Mr Kane Stafford (full), Mr Manfred Von Tippelskirch (full), Ms Furhana Ahmad (full), Mr Murray Williams (hon. life); 3 resignations
- 2 new subscribers: Swets Blackwell Ltd, Australia; Inst. de Inv. en Recursos Cinegeticos, Spain

Clearly, there are a lot of members who have not yet paid for 2003. Council discussed best procedure for reminding members who haven't paid and what members in arrears should be entitled to. At present the secretariat do not send anything including newsletters. We agreed to investigate the possibility of sending

newsletters to everyone all year but hold the journals till payment is received, but have a field on the address label which identifies that they are in arrears.

Treasurer's report

We have \$41,700 in current account, \$30,000 on term deposit, which means more interest than in the past thanks to the term deposit. Ben plans to move a bit more money into term deposit. Ben reminded everyone that airfares should be booked early, and reimbursement claimed direct from secretariat, with a "tax invoice" receipt.

Budget for 2002, definitely expecting a loss from \$5K *TuiTime* top-up and from lack of conference profit. Need to check with Carol West about why the \$5K doesn't come back in the latest grant. Ben presented a proposed budget for 2003 which shows a proposed profit of \$4500. Council expenses may be smaller than the \$3000 allowed (since few councillors are out of Christchurch now), but web site will also have some small expenses (<\$500).

Journal editor's report

David Wardle sent a report. All is going very well. Volume 27(1) should be out in the next month, and six papers accepted for 27(2) due in August. There were 30 mss received in 2002 which is average, and already got 6 mss in January, which is a record. Hard to tell if this is the beginning of a trend with the good impact factors and perceived success to the journal making it more popular with authors.

Replacement editor: David Wardle is now in his fifth and final year, and contacted Richard Duncan, who is happy to take over from mid 2004 (David and Richard to work jointly on second issue of 2004 i.e. 28(2) for a five year term. Council unanimously supported Richard's appointment—as David pointed out, Richard is both an experienced and conscientious current Editorial Board member, and has very wide research interests, so is extremely well suited to the post.

Murray asked how the journal budget is managed. The editor has a budget which means there is a de facto page limit, and keeps to that. There have been major efforts in the past to reduce costs so it is probably pretty economically run. The major decision might be in future if submission rates go up, then we would have to decide if we wanted to increase the budget, increase the rejection rate, or build up a publication delay?

Newsletter editor's report

Al reported on the newsletter which is going fine, though delays on some of the newsletters, which may mean we only get 3 out rather than 4 in a year. Al said that the ES America no longer send their bulletin out on paper, it is online/e-mail only. Should we do this? Could we make it an option for people to say they don't

want it? But then secretariat would have to have a separate category for not printing newsletter labels out, and we would need to e-mail those members to say the new issue was now on the web. What about flyers included in the newsletter? Could scan these and put with the PDF. Dave said it might be a fair bit of work maintaining the e-mail address list; Jon said he could send the PDF out when he puts it on the web. Murray said we should make sure it is going to be cost neutral and time neutral. Maybe for 2004 when we send the sub renewals out we have boxes to tick if people want only to get it electronically. Printing was \$2700 for a year's newsletters and postage was \$1000, so saving might be \$200–700. Ben to contact secretariat and sort out how the cost would work out cf the time required.

Janet said the newsletter could be a venue for more substantial articles eg from DOC, private firms etc. about technical matters or whatever. Al said he encourages any content. Richard said the book reviews could be moved from the journal to save the expensive printing there. Janet has one or two possible articles lined up (go in 2nd issue from now) which may kick things off.

Webmaster report

Jon presented some pleasing stats on the use of the NZES website (*see page 10*). Council decided to accept a cheap offer from RSNZ for 300 Mb of space necessary to store online text of the *NZJE*. The exact access arrangements are still to be determined, though the current plan is to have three years of the journal available for free viewing to subscribing institutions. We may also release special theme issues on CD for purchase. There are a number of arrangements to be confirmed with Swiftprint regarding the PDF's on recent issues before we can proceed with any of this.

The web is already big, and getting bigger, could be hard for one person to manage it. Within 6–12 months it would be good to delegate responsibility for updating various parts of the web, eg Awards, Conference, Newsletter, etc sections. Jon could put them on if he was sent the updated text, or these other people could put stuff on directly. Al suggested we can put conference abstracts on the web. Dave to e-mail Canterbury one, Jon to contact Bruce for Hamilton, and Glenn Stewart for Lincoln files if available.

Conference 2003 – Auckland

Update from Dianne Gleason was tabled. Venue, Auckland University, Maths/Physics lecture theatres, dates: 16–20 November 2003 (Student day 16th, Conference days 17th, 18th 20th, Field Trips 19th). The Title: Theory and Practice in Ecology. Suggested symposiums (depending on interest): Research techniques in ecology, Hypothesis testing in ecology, Habitat evaluation: measuring use and importance,

Monitoring populations; Ecology and conservation, Ecotourism and sustainable development, Approaches for conserving endangered and sensitive species, Relevance of conservation research to land managers, Conservation in urban landscapes/impacts of people. Possible field trips include: Tiritiri Matangi Island, Tawharanui Regional Park, Miranda Shorebirds/Hunua Ranges, Dolphin Explorer.

Council discussed ways of assisting Dianne with organising the conference. Diane will need assistance from a local Auckland committee make the job feasible. Volunteers can contact Diane directly at Auckland University.

Judith Roper-Lindsay and Di Robertson suggested attaching a workshop to the conference for private consultants etc on “what is ecological significance?”. Sounds OK so Janet get Judith to contact Dianne.

There may be lower attendance because it is close to the 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress in Christchurch 1–5 December. May be able to get an overseas guest speaker to NZES who is coming for the latter conference. Janet to get Andrea Byrom (Landcare) in contact with Dianne about that.

Education Subcommittee (Carol West)

Carol West reported “we are currently finalising contract for \$29300 (incl. GST) from Sustainable Management Fund, with MfE. The money will contribute to promotion of *TuiTime*, development of additional activities for the website, further development of the game “*A day in the life of Tiaki tui*”, updating the website design, producing CDs and attending the *BioLive* conference in Hamilton to present *TuiTime* to teachers. We have to spend \$28,500 before end of June this year—\$5,000 from DOC and the rest from SMF.

“Basic statistics on *TuiTime* site hits are available for all to see—it was not going to be possible for Landcare Research to provide stats for us. So far the site has been accessed 408 times since 8 Nov when the stats package was applied. The busiest day was 15 Nov with 24 hits. People from 10 countries, at least, have accessed the site, most from NZ. All bar one of the small posters on *TuiTime* were taken at the Cairns conference and since then there have been 2 site hits from Australia, none recorded before then. Did the promotion at Cairns make the difference? Who knows, but at 2 hits since then it’s negligible and I suspect not very significant in any terms!”

General business

Murray asked about making better use of the older members who are close to retirement (there was a boom of recruitment in the 1960s) but could still have a lot to offer. The RSNZ don’t really do much for this group. Could we suggest to RSNZ that they provide in say 3

locations (Akl, Wlg, Chch), an office with a few desks, a few PCs, and a link through to their librarian in Wellington, that retired members could use to write up papers, write submissions, or whatever?

Considered IUCN membership, we decided not to continue membership. It costs \$510 a year and what we get for that is a load of paperwork. Passed.

NZES Concil meeting dates for 2003: 23 May, 29 August, 16 November.

NZES LISTSERVER

NZES has an automated email listserver that can broadcast messages to all those on the list. There is not a huge amount of traffic (a handful of messages a month) but it can be useful for job adverts, information about conferences, requests for help or information about particular topics, etc.

Only those on the list can send messages.

How to subscribe

You can subscribe (and unsubscribe) yourself using the commands below.

To subscribe, send a message to nzecosoc-request@it.canterbury.ac.nz and in the message have two lines:

```
SUBSCRIBENZECOSOC  
END
```

To unsubscribe, send a message to the same address, with these lines:

```
UNSUBSCRIBENZECOSOC  
END
```

If you change your email address

If you change your email address, you have to unsubscribe from the old one, and subscribe from the new one. If you changed address but forgot to tell the server, I start getting error messages from your old address and have to unsubscribe you manually, so make my life easier and do this yourself. If your email address has problems (eg messages rejected because your inbox is full) for more than a few weeks I will also unsubscribe you. If you are not getting any messages and wonder if you are still on the list, just send another subscribe command.

How to send messages

Note that due to a (single) spam message which was sent through the list in August 2002, we have changed the system so that only those registered on the list are able to send messages to everyone. If you want to send a message and think you are on the list but the server says you are not, it is probably because you changed your email address and didn't tell the server (see above). If you are not on the list and don't want to subscribe and want to send a message, send it to me to forward on.

Messages on the list should follow these simple rules:

- NO ATTACHMENTS!!!
- put the info in plain text in the message
- if there is bulky or graphic material some people may want, put a web address in the message that people can click on if they want, or give a contact email address where people can ask for it
- only send stuff that is likely to be of general interest to NZ ecologists

To send a message, e-mail it to:

nzecosoc@it.canterbury.ac.nz (assuming you are a member of the list).

Replying to list messages

If you get a message on the listserver and want to reply to the person who sent it, please be careful that your reply goes to the person, and not to the list (to be bounced out to everyone!).

For more information, contact Dave Kelly:

d.kelly@botn.canterbury.ac.nz.

Web page

To obtain additional details contact the NZ Ecological Society website: <http://www.nzes.org.nz> This site 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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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 (2001/2002)

Full (receive journal and newsletter) \$65 per annum
 Unwaged (with journal) \$35 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 \$65 per annum
 Overseas \$85 per annum
 Joint members get one copy of the journal and newsletter to one address.
 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
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