

Ecological Society Newsletter

No. 125, July 2008

Published by the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.),
P.O. Box 25-178, Christchurch



FROM THE EDITOR

This issue sees the introduction of 'Popular Ecology', a regular column giving popular science articles a space of their own in the newsletter. Facilitating the increased accessibility of ecological science is an aim of the Society's Communication Strategy. Along with 'Hot Science', this column will showcase new and exciting research to a wider audience. NZES currently has over 800 members—a growing audience—some of whom I am sure will be inclined to leave a copy of the newsletter lying on the tea-room table, or pass on interesting articles to friends and colleagues.

The conference for 2008, Ecology On Our Doorstep, is fast approaching. Last newsletter Phil Novis relayed his adventure of cycling from Christchurch to Cambridge to attend a science meeting. Most of us will likely arrive in Auckland by more traditional modes of transport, but perhaps it is time we collectively thought harder about the carbon impacts of our annual gatherings. I note¹ that the Ecological Society of Australia are planning a carbon neutral conference this year, and are currently working through the options and issues, keeping members informed and hoping to stimulate informed debate. As the ESB Bulletin points out, such an initiative demonstrates leadership and innovation by putting environmental science into action, and acts to promote climate change as a national research priority. Thought provoking actions from across the Tasman, but whether you come by plane, train or automobile just get there!

About this time last month (15–21 June 2008) it was Volunteer Awareness Week, a week that has been an annual national event since the 1990s, and which has continued to grow since the International Year of the Volunteer in 2001. Over one million New Zealander's volunteer in some capacity. I would hazard a guess that a good number of the Society's members are well acquainted with the volunteer hour or several, whether weeding, checking traps, planting, providing free advice, informing and advocating through public speaking, submitting on plans and legislation, or mentoring and encouraging the next generations of ecologists. Add to that the hours advising, guiding and supporting volunteer community groups in our professional roles. There is no doubt that these many and varied volunteer hours make a tangible and positive contribution to the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity. The power and effectiveness of the community group in restoration and conservation projects is well recognised—we could all rattle off a number of high profile projects in our respective areas. Without the enthusiasm, passion, energy and tenacity of the countries many volunteers, both in the ecological and wider community, biodiversity would be worse off.

Cheers to you all

Fleur Maseyk
Horizons Regional Council
Private Bag 11025
Palmerston North
Phone: 06 952 2903
E-mail: newsletter@nzes.org

1. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of Australia* 38:2
www.ecolsoc.org.au/bulletin.html

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POPULAR ECOLOGY

M R Goddard and J R Beggs



Dr Mat Goddard is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland. Mat is interested in broad questions and uses natural and experimental yeast populations, especially indigenous yeast communities involved in winemaking, to test ideas in ecology and evolution.



Dr Jacqueline Beggs lectures in entomology and ecology at the School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland. Jacqueline has studied the ecology of kaka and wasps in honeydew beech forests for many years.

Mat and Jacqueline's overlapping interest in New Zealand ecology united them to investigate the microbes associated with honeydew. Kelsey Serjeant is an undergraduate student at Auckland who conducted a summer studentship placement in Mat's lab; Lucia Tang is the technician in Mat's lab, and Nicole Anfang is a PhD student under Mat's supervision.

Hidden Invaders?

What has a glass of wine and honeydew beech forest in common? The answer is not drunken ecologists on a South Island field trip.

The human eye is only able to discern a fraction of the biodiversity present in a particular ecosystem: the vast majority of life on the planet is hidden from view as it is microscopic. These hidden organisms are essential since they play major roles in nutrient turnover and recycling. The only way to really understand what microbes are present in a particular area is to take samples and either directly culture the micro-organisms in the laboratory or to indirectly analyse the DNA of these microbes.

Sticky, sweet and with the aroma of fermentation, honeydew beech forests are an important ecosystem in New Zealand. While many of the macroscopic members of the honeydew ecosystem are characterised, and their ecological roles well

understood, we know very little of the microbes in this ecosystem. The honeydew is a sugary exudate produced by endemic scale insects (*Ultracoelostoma* spp.), and this represents a massive addition of bio-available carbon to the honeydew ecosystem. Kaka, bellbird, tui, lizards and insects (including the notorious *Vespula* wasps) all love feasting on the sugary bonanza, but what of the microbes? Yeasts are unicellular fungi that may specialize on sugar rich sources. Are there any yeasts associated with the honeydew systems in New Zealand?

Serjeant et al., (2008) were intrigued by this question, so gathered some samples from Pelorus Bridge (Marlborough) and headed to their lab for some detective work. Molecular genetic analyses revealed at least four different species of yeast: *Hanseniaspora osmophila*, *Candida railenensis*, *Zygosaccharomyces cidri* and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*. Interestingly, among other places, *Candida railenensis* has been isolated from beech trees in South America—perhaps this yeast is adapted to inhabit niches afforded by beech trees generally? While the other three species of yeast have been isolated



Droplets of sugary honeydew produced by endemic scale insects are a key feature of some *Nothofagus* forests. Photo: Landcare Research



Four species of yeasts were found associated with honeydew, and there may be many others. This shows the yeast best adapted to high sugar niches - *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (these cells are ~4µm long).

from a number of different environments, they tend to be associated with fruits and/or wine fermentation. It is possible that these yeasts are indigenous to New Zealand, alternatively they may have been introduced by humans along with the advent of winemaking in New Zealand, and then radiated into indigenous sugar rich niches to which they are adapted. Whether these yeasts represent microbial examples of invasive species or endemic members of the honeydew system requires further investigation.

Serjeant, K.; Tang, R.; Anfang, N.; Beggs, J.R.; Goddard, M.R. In Press. Yeasts associated with the New Zealand Nothofagus honeydew system. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 32(2).

Contributions to this column are solicited from authors who have recently published scientific ecology articles, with particular emphasis on those published in the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*. Please submit articles (as a word document) in the following format to the newsletter editor for consideration.

- Title
- Authors of the popular article
- Approx. 1 page of text written in popular article style
- Photos and diagrams (2-3)
- Full citation of published scientific article
- Brief article author biographies (including photos)

HOT SCIENCE

Translocations: providing outcomes for wildlife, resource managers, scientists and the human community

KEVIN A. PARKER

The Ecology and Conservation Group, Institute of Natural Resources, Massey University, Private Bag 102904, North Shore Mail Centre, Auckland, New Zealand.

The World Conservation Union (1987) defines a translocation as a release of animals with the intention of establishing, re-establishing or augmenting an existing population. Despite frequent use as a tool for the management of threatened and endangered wildlife, the full benefits of translocations often go unrealised. Here I demonstrate how translocations can achieve outputs for conservation management, conservation science and the wider human community, using North Island saddleback or tieke (*Philesturnus rufusater*) as an illustrative example. From a conservation management perspective North Island saddleback have been salvaged from a relic population of <500 birds on 484 ha Hen Island to a metapopulation of approximately 6000 birds on 13 offshore islands and at two mainland New Zealand sites. These translocations have reduced the risk of global extinction for this species and helped restore the ecosystems involved. All of these translocations have occurred in the last 42 years from known source populations and with known numbers of birds released. The resulting replicated serial population bottlenecks provide numerous scientific opportunities for conservation and biological research. While the first saddleback translocations were to reserves closed to the public, subsequent translocations have been to open reserves providing the wider human community with an opportunity to see, and be actively involved, in the management of a threatened endemic species. This has raised the profile of both North Island saddleback and other species, and has provided wider community conservation benefits. These three outputs illustrate the value of translocations for resource management, conservation science and for increasing community interest, participation and investment in biological conservation.

This article was published in June 2008, in Restoration Ecology 16: 204-209.

NZES AND IUCN

Wren Green
Consultant

The road to Barcelona

I'd better start with a correction to my first article on 'NZES and IUCN' in Newsletter No. 124. Turns out I incorrectly called IUCN the "World Conservation Union". After sending my copy off to the Editor I visited the IUCN website and discovered, to my chagrin, that the IUCN Council had dropped the "World Conservation Union" label a week before and had reverted to the full-blown name "International Union for Conservation of Nature". So now the acronym accurately matches the name. Whew!

Before Barcelona

My first involvement with the big international IUCN events was with the 15th General Assembly, hosted by New Zealand in Christchurch in 1981. It was held here thanks to the initiative and drive of the late Bing Lucas, then Director-General of Lands and Survey Department. I found the week-long event quite bewildering. There were people holding animated discussions in the corridors, formal meetings in side rooms, while a full plenary session was also underway in the main auditorium. Was anyone in charge? And there seemed to be at least 300 people participating. I wasn't at the General Assembly in Madrid in 1984, where Dr Swaminathan, a world-famous Indian plant geneticist, was elected President. A short time later, he issued a 'personal manifesto' that included two views that came to have far-reaching effects on IUCN in later decades. He emphasised that *"IUCN must change from a Euro-centric to an Earth-centric organisation"* and also, *"...to save the panda and the penguin, it is equally important to pay attention to the poor and the hungry..."* That conservation initiatives needed to consider the wider social, political and economic contexts was not always common practice in conservation in those times, certainly less so in the developed countries where national parks and people tended to occur in different places.

By 1988, when the 17th General Assembly was held in Costa Rica, the number of delegates had grown to about 1,000 and Spanish was added to English and French as the third official language. By Bangkok, in 2004, the number of delegates had swelled to four thousand. As we head back to Europe for the first time in 24 years I expect numbers will probably double. Not only has IUCN grown considerably, but the emphasis has steadily widened well beyond the original narrow focus on species conservation—as Swaminathan had urged.

At Barcelona

No World Conservation Congress is a 2-day wonder—they are 10-day 'happenings'. But now they are very much happenings of two halves. Most participants will find that the first half is the most interesting and stimulating. That's when the membership and Secretariat turn on an amazing number of events over a 4-day period. This year the total stands at an exhausting 800 events at last count. They will be exploring sustainable development challenges via debates, 'learning opportunities', workshops, art and film, exhibitions, keynote speakers and round table discussions. These events will be channelled into three streams: a new climate for change; healthy environments—healthy people; safeguarding the diversity of life. I'm expecting the first stream on climate issues to have more focus on adaptation strategies, the benefits or otherwise of ecological corridors, and the role of protected areas networks than we have yet seen in New Zealand. The second stream will have lots to say about ecosystem goods and services, environmental security, impacts of over-use and lessons from different regions on approaches to sustainable management. The third stream will be more mainstream conservation topics, including explorations on new governance and management structures and monitoring methods.

All in all it will be a unique and exciting opportunity to find out what is happening around the world at the conservation-development interface before the hardy stayers turn their attentions to considering the 100+ motions that have been received and to the business end of guiding the future of the world's largest conservation organisation.

NZES ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

Ecology on our doorstep



New Zealand Ecological Society Conference Auckland 2008

28 September – 2 October 2008

Don't delay! Early bird registration for Ecology On Our Doorstep closes on 31 July.

You can get the full details of the:

- scientific programme
- field trips
- accommodation
- social events

and register on-line by visiting the conference web page ([Ecology On Our Doorstep](#)).

NOTICE OF THE NZES AGM 2008

The AGM of NZES will be held during the annual conference on **Tuesday 30 September 2008, 5.15 pm, Red lecture Room, Unitec Campus, Auckland.**

All members are urged to attend. The minutes of the 55th AGM can be found in the June 2007 issue of the newsletter ([Newsletter No.121](#)).

Members are reminded that notices of significant motions that are to be put by members need to be submitted to Council at least 28 days prior to the AGM. After that time, following the Society rules, no new motions may be proposed, discussed, or put to vote except by consent of more than two-thirds of the members present.

Please note there are several Council positions vacant. If you would like to contribute to the New Zealand Ecological Society at a Council level please consider standing for one of these positions.

EIANZ ECOLOGY GROUP

A new Ecology Special Interest Section (EIANZ Ecology) has been established for members of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand. Its aim is to develop and/or raise awareness of appropriate standards of ecological practice on both sides of the Tasman. The aim is to do this through:

- Complementing existing groups such as the New Zealand Ecological Society and the Ecological Society of Australia;
- Networking with these and other appropriate groups, to develop joint forums and events;
- Communicating outcomes to professional ecologists; and
- Producing a regular bulletin to update ecologists on best practice from around the world.

Currently the Group is web-based. The two components are:

1. A noticeboard: eianzecology.blogspot.com/
2. A fully moderated email alert group: groups.google.com/group/eianzecology

NOTICEBOARD

*NZES AGM 2008
EIANZ ecology group
Kereru discovery project
Stoneflies website
Kauri Fund appeal*

Simon Mustoe (Ecology Solutions, Melbourne) is leading this at the moment and there is a small group of active members in Victoria, New South Wales and New Zealand. Current projects are the preparation of draft Ecological Assessment Guidelines and development of a 'Biodiversity Management' discussion paper for the Institute. The Group will be involved with the INTECOL conference in Brisbane, and is running an afternoon workshop on ecology practice at the EIANZ Conference in Melbourne (October this year).

Ian Spellerberg and Judith Roper-Lindsay are the main ecologists involved from New Zealand, and the Group is keen to have more involvement from New Zealand ecologists. There will be a presentation and discussion of issues at the New Zealand Ecological Society Conference in Auckland, but if you would like to know more about EIANZ or EIANZ Ecology do visit the web-sites or contact Ian (spelleri@lincoln.ac.nz) or Judith (judithrl@boffamiskell.co.nz)

KERERU DISCOVERY PROJECT



The Kereru Discovery Project recently launched a web-site (www.kererudiscovery.org.nz) designed to investigate ecological relationships between Kereru and Cityscapes. The web site has two databases:

1. where people can report the ecological characters of their properties (www.kererudiscovery.org.nz/Registration.aspx) and
2. where they can report their sightings of Kereru (www.kererudiscovery.org.nz/Login.aspx) both on their property and wherever they happen to be.

We invite individuals to participate and to add the Kereru Discovery page as a link on their own related web pages.

Wayne L. Linklater
*Centre for Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology
 School of Biological Sciences
 Kirk Building - Room KK617
 Kelburn Parade
 Wellington 6140
 NEW ZEALAND
 Tel: +64-(0)4 463 5233
 Fax: +64 (0)4 463 5331*

STONEFLIES WEBSITE

*Stephen Pawson
 & Ian McLellan*

www.stoneflies.org.nz

This highly anticipated web resource (www.stoneflies.org.nz) is the most comprehensive source of information on New Zealand stoneflies. The site was designed to incorporate information that is directly relevant to researchers, consultants, students and the general public. It includes multi-access taxonomic keys, descriptions, distributions, photographs and more.

The website is separated into six key areas of information:

1. Comprehensive key to adults*
2. Comprehensive key to larvae (those that can currently be determined)*
3. Individual keys to species for each stonefly genera, both adult and larval
4. Fact sheets summarising available information: includes distribution maps and tables, descriptions, ecological notes and photos where available
5. A species checklist
6. Full text access to all non-copyright publications

*Comprehensive keys begin with a key to genera and then link directly to appropriate individual generic keys. This two tiered approach allows more experienced users to skip directly to individual generic keys.

The website is considered to be in a beta test phase and we encourage users to report any difficulties, errors or omissions. We are aware that some people have problems loading the java virtual machine that is required to run lucid web-based keys. Full instructions on installing this free software and an explanation on how to get the most from a lucid based key are given in online help files.

If you have any trouble accessing the site, or have any feedback, suggestions, or images to contribute to the fact sheets please contact Steve Pawson (Steve.Pawson@gmail.com).

This project was made possible by generous funding by the Department of Conservation-administered Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (TFBIS).

ANNUAL APPEAL FOR KAURI FUND FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Help send students to INTECOL 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

OBTUARY

Kenneth Radway Allen 1911–2008

K. Radway Allen, the inaugural president of the New Zealand Ecology Society, passed away earlier this year. *Mr Allen generously left the Society a bequest which has been invested in the Kauri Fund.*

Founding President of the New Zealand Ecological Society, fisheries biologist K. Radway Allen, died recently in Sydney. Apart from his founding role in NZES, his influence on freshwater fisheries ecology in New Zealand and globally, was firmly imprinted through the publication in 1951 of "The Horokiwi Stream – a study of a trout population". Even though this large bulletin (238 pages) was published more than half a century ago, and though Allen has been gone from New Zealand since 1964, his work is still referred to and is a part of our freshwater fisheries heritage. Copies of "The Horokiwi Stream..." are still sought and are rarities in second-hand bookshops.



Photo courtesy of Bryony Bennett .

Allen was an indefatigable scientist who studied insect, mammal and fish populations in streams, lakes and oceans, and headed laboratories in New Zealand, Canada and Australia. Allen died, age 97 years still with a lively interest in fisheries ecology, having worked well past official retirement, banking his last consulting cheque at the age of 90.

I (McDowell) remember him well, as he first employed me in the old Marine Department Fisheries Laboratory, tucked away in a little back street in Thorndon, the street itself long gone, overtaken by high rise offices and apartments. Allen was a jolly, jovial man with a warm chuckle and full of enthusiasm and, as far as I could tell, carried his very strong 'Cambridge English' accent to the end, despite having left the United Kingdom for New Zealand in 1938. In a way his jovial manner was his downfall – he was just too nice to handle the obdurate, dull, stubborn, bureaucrats in 'Head Office'. I remember well knocking on his door one day in early 1963, seeking a job, and can rather recall him leaning back in his large, brown, sprung, leatherette office chair, rubbing his ample stomach and responding with enthusiasm.

Allen came to New Zealand to be New Zealand's first well-trained fisheries ecologist, with a Master's degree from Cambridge University and a few years as a biologist working for the Freshwater Biological Association, at Windermere, in the Lakes District of northern England. So his academic 'pedigree' was as good as it gets. Allen would have rapidly have been initiated into the difficulties of weaving a safe path between politicians, Government fisheries bureaucrats, and the acclimatisation societies which beset freshwater fisheries here for decades. He joined Derisely Hobbs, who had been working for the acclimatisation societies' "Research Committee" and eventually became another member of the staff of the Fisheries Laboratory (Hobbs had no scientific training). Allen went to work on the "Horokiwi Stream" and there are stories of Allen and his English wife Rosa (nee Bullen), wader-clad, hauling seine nets through the pools of the stream, there being no electric fishing machines in those days. Just getting to the Horokiwi would have been something of a logistical exercise, as the Marine Department probably had no vehicles, and they may well have had to hire trucks from the Post Office – no Landrovers then. The Horokiwi study became an international landmark, as Allen sought to generate an energy 'balance sheet' for the stream, to work out what the invertebrate production was and how this was translated into trout growth. Allen found that there was scarcely enough food energy in the stream to drive the population, something that a more recent stream ecologist, Alex Huryn, dubbed as "Allen's paradox".

Life in the Marine Department was difficult, and as Allen moved into a position managing fisheries researchers, he found that relationships with Head Office were nearly impossible. He had to argue with stores clerks for materials ordered by the research staff, in the days when stores clerks were amongst the most powerful people in the Public Service, and liked to exercise their power by only agreeing to buy one of an item when three were needed, and always being able to find a cheaper (but often unsuitable) alternative to the brand ordered. Allen would go through all the requisitions and sign them off and send them to Head Office. His staff knew that he didn't peruse the requisitions carefully, and on one occasion one of the staff inserted a requisition for the interisland ferry Rangatira, which was for sale, and this was duly signed and went down to Head Office with the rest.

In the 1960s, Allen was one of four scientists invited to provide a new perspective on the assessment of whale stocks for the International Whaling Commission. He chaired the commission's scientific assessment of whale stocks, which led to the eventual ban on commercial whaling. He later published the book *Conservation And Management Of Whales*.

Allen tried to separate research staff from fisheries management staff, to allow the research staff to get on with some longer-term studies, but in the end, he gave up in frustration, and left for Canada in mid 1964. No sooner had he gone, than

Head Office found that they agreed with him, and so Fisheries Research Division and Fisheries Management Division of the Marine Department were formed – in a way, Allen's 'epitaph'.

Allen went on to a rewarding career in fisheries science, first at the fisheries research station in St Andrews, in eastern Canada, soon afterwards moving to the much bigger station at Nanaimo, on Vancouver Islands, where he became director. In 1972, he shifted to become Director of the CSIRO Division of Fisheries and Oceanography at Cronulla, south of Sydney, Australia, from which he retired in 1977. In 1973 the University of Cambridge awarded Allen a doctorate of science in recognition of his exceptional research career. After his retirement Allen continued to work as an honorary research fellow at CSIRO until 1985, before becoming a consultant.

During his "retirement" Allen joined his wife Rosa in her volunteer work for the Cronulla Community. Together they worked with the Twilight Committee, raising money for the Sutherland Hospital rehabilitation unit. They also helped out at the Cronulla community arts theatre. After Rosa's death in 1995, Allen found new love with an old friend, Kay Barrett, and gradually became part of her family.

Allen served with the New Zealand army from 1942 to 1946 and as in addition to being the inaugural president of the New Zealand Ecological Society, was a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand (elected in 1961), a golden member of the American Fisheries Society, and an honorary life member of the Australian Marine Sciences Association and the Australian Society for Fish Biology. This latter society named its senior award for excellence in science in Allen's honour. Allen is recorded as a member of Limnological Society in the 1970 newsletter and retained membership until 1997 (when he would have been 86).

K. Radway Allen had a affinity for numbers and natural systems that led him to a long career in fisheries science spanning 70 years and three continents, and marked by a generosity of spirit treasured by his colleagues, family and friends.

*Bob McDowell, NIWA,
Bryony Bennett, CSIR, Australia*

This obituary has been adapted with permission from a similar tribute being submitted to the NZFFS newsletter by Bob McDowell, and from Bryony Bennett's obituary that appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on the 13 March 2008.

Allen, K.R. (1951). The Horokiwi Stream – a study of a trout population. New Zealand Marine Department. *Fisheries Bulletin* 10. 231 p.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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

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

Stellenbosch, South Africa,

23-27 August 2009.

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

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

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

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

www.emapi2009.co.za/,

Ecological Society of Australia Conference 2008

ESA 08
Sydney 1-5 December 2008



Interactions in Science, interactions in Nature

33rd Annual ESA Conference

Interactions in science, interactions in nature

University of Sydney, New South Wales

1-5 December 2008

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

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

Fourth Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society

Fourth Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society

Mérida, México,

8-12 January 2009

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

Registration, contact, and additional information may be found at: www.biogeography.org.

Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) Conference

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

Perth, Western Australia, Australia,

23-27 August 2009.

Scientific Programme

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

Field Trips and Social Programme

Given Perth's stunning location in a global biodiversity hotspot, the pre- and post- conference multi-day field trips are guaranteed to be conference highlights, showcasing some of Western Australia's unique flora and fauna, ancient

landscapes and striking coastline. One-day field trips will highlight Western Australia's biodiversity conservation issues and forest, woodland, coastal, wetland, and mining restoration programs; while the social program will include a welcome cocktail party, sunset drinks and conference dinner, with special evening speakers and entertainment.

Preliminary themes and general conference information can be found at: seri2009@bgpa.wa.gov.au.

INTECOL downunder 2009



Ecology in a Changing Climate:

Two Hemispheres – One Globe

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

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

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

Call for symposia proposals is now open

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

THE BOOKSHELF

Ants of New Zealand

Warwick Don

Foreword by Edward O. Wilson

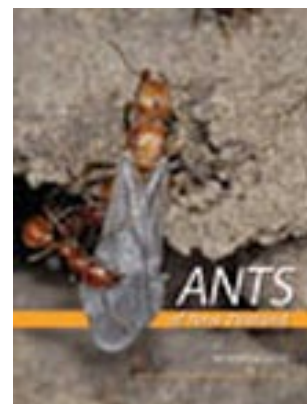
Published January 2008

The first book on the subject by the acknowledged expert, this book is the outcome of a lifetime's research. The author reveals that there are 37 established species of ants in New Zealand, 11 of which are considered to be endemic. This leaves 26 that are exotic or introduced, 2 of which are recent arrivals. Three of 4 additional recent arrivals pose serious threats to New Zealand's invertebrate fauna and economy if they ever become established.

New Zealand's endemic ant fauna comprises a mixture of 'primitive' and 'advanced' species. Like spiders, ants can tell us something about New Zealand's Gondwanan past.

Questions about the identification of ants are frequently fielded by museums. The illustrations and photographs in this volume will greatly assist this task. For would-be students of ants, there is also a useful chapter on collecting and studying the fauna.

For more information and to purchase, visit: www.otago.ac.nz/press/booksauthors/index.html



NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCIL

Annual Reports

Shona Myers
President

President's Report
Tena koutou

As usual this year has gone fast with a huge amount of effort put in to the running of the New Zealand Ecological Society by a number of people. The Society depends on the energy of individuals, the commitment of their voluntary time and the support of the agencies they work for. I am always amazed by the passion that ecologists have for ecology whether they are working for research agencies, for local government, for consultancies, for DoC, or for NGOs. They all strongly believe in what they are doing, are passionate about the environment and the advancement of science and our understanding of ecology. They are also passionate about ensuring that the science of ecology continues to be strong, and that young ecologists are supported and encouraged. This has been evident in the growth and development of funds such as the Barlow Fund, the Kauri Fund and the generous donations that have been received by the Society.

Challenges for ecologists into the future in New Zealand include ensuring ecological issues are addressed in major decision making and that decisions are backed up by robust ecological science and advice. Educating the wider public about the value of biodiversity and the threats is important. For example, many people do not understand the hidden impacts of pests such as rodents and mustelids on our ecosystems. The continuing pressures from introduced pests and weeds are a significant threat to sustaining and maintaining New Zealand's biodiversity into the future and turning the tide of loss. Managing the development and growth pressures in both urban and rural areas is also a major challenge. Impacts on ecology also include the conversion of land to dairy, the degradation of freshwater and marine resources, the pressure on energy resources, impacts on our coastal landscapes and ecosystems, and the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. New Zealand's lowland ecosystems, wetlands, dunelands and marine ecosystems are under significant pressure. Most of our threatened plants and animals, and threatened environments occur in these areas, many on private land, and order to turn the tide we need to work with landowners and communities to restore and protect these ecosystems. Empowering, encouraging and supporting community restoration groups and landowners are a key to this.

The highlight for the society's work for the year is the annual conference. This year's conference will be based at Unitec in Auckland with the theme of Ecology on our Doorstep. The challenges of urban restoration projects, the value of protecting biodiversity in urban ecosystems, mainland islands, stepping stones and corridors, and island sanctuaries will be discussed. Symposiums will focus on 25 years of island restoration on Tiritiri Matangi Island, urban ecology, and a symposium to honour the retirement of John Ogden and the contribution he has made to ecological research, inspiring students, and conservation in NZ.

The 10th International Congress of Ecology (INTECOL) is looming fast and will be held in Brisbane in August 2009 and is being jointly organized by the Australian and New Zealand Ecological Societies. This will be a fantastic opportunity to network globally as well as showcase New Zealand ecology and biodiversity to an international audience. So start planning for it now!

The objectives of the NZES include promoting the study of ecology; the publication of the journal; as well as promoting the application of ecological knowledge in all its aspects. The latter objective continues to be the focus of a significant part of the councils work. A communications study has been developed and has been placed on the NZES website for comment and discussion. Recommended actions include increasing the profile of the society, revamping

the logo and encouraging attendance by restoration groups at conferences. The Council will be investigating redesigning of the logo to better reflect the work of the Society.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by Council members over the last year. We have had a number of new members joining the Council at the AGM in November 2007. Collectively and individually they are a wonderful committee. Clayson Howell took over the role of Treasurer and Ruth Guthrie the role of secretary, and both have provided great support. John Sawyer has continued to provide significant support particularly with the communication of ecology to public and decision makers. Bruce Burns as Vice president has taken over the role in working with the Ecological Society of Australia in organising the INTECOL conference in 2009. Jon Sullivan has continued his excellent work of managing the website. Mel Galbraith has put huge effort into organising the 2008 conference. Chris Bycroft has continued to work on the yearly council awards. Jacqueline Beggs has provided wise advice and assisted with conference organisation. Fleur Maseyk took over the huge task as editor of the newsletter. Thanks to you all!

I would like to thank the hard working journal editor Peter Bellingham and technical editor Anne Austin. Their high attention to detail and professionalism is outstanding and continues to produce a competitive journal which showcases ecological research in New Zealand.

Enjoy the next few months, plant a native tree (or more), and I will see you at the conference in September!

Nga mihi nui

Treasurer's Report

The annual figures were unable to be audited prior to this issue of the newsletter going to press. The full treasurer's report will be available at the AGM on 30 September 2008 in Auckland. My apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Clayson Howell
Treasurer

Journal Editor's Report

The second issue for 2007, Volume 31, No. 2, was published in December 2007 and contained 3 Review Articles, 10 Research Articles, and one Short Communication.

Peter Bellingham
Scientific editor

The first issue for 2008, Volume 32, No. 1, was published in June 2008 and contained 8 Research Articles, 4 Short Communications and 5 Forum Articles.

Drs Doug Armstrong and Ian Jamieson resigned from the editorial board of the journal during 2007–08. New members of the journal's editorial board appointed during 2007–08 are Drs Jacqueline Beggs, Kevin Burns, Isabel Castro and Jason Tylanakis.

Issue 32 (2) is a normal issue for which 5 papers have been accepted (including 1 Research Article, 2 Short Communications and 2 Forum Articles). None are yet available online. Anne, Christine and Peter Bellingham are working with authors to ensure that 32(2) will appear in print c. November 2008. This is part of our goal to bring publication dates for normal annual issues of the journal to appear earlier in the year.

In 2007, 51 manuscripts were submitted to *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* of which 16 have been either published or are in press and decisions are pending on 6 manuscripts. Between 2003–07, on average 44% of manuscripts submitted to the journal each year have been declined for publication.

Although there have been 33 submissions so far in 2008, 20 of these have been either unsuitable or of a poor standard and were not considered other than by the scientific editor.

Anne Austin with assistance from Christine Bezar (both of Landcare Research) are technical editors for the journal. Anne and Peter Bellingham prepared new guidelines for authors about journal style, etc., which appeared in Volume 31, No. 1 (2007) and are on the journal's web site.

Professor Dave Kelly is the guest editor, assisted by Jenny Ladley, of a special issue of *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* in Volume 33 (2009) which includes papers from the symposium session "Feathers to Fur" at the 2007 New Zealand Ecological Society conference. Landcare Research and the Department of Conservation have agreed to fund production jointly of the special issue.

A special issue of the journal is planned for papers from the Tiritiri Matangi symposium at the September 2008 New Zealand Ecological Society conference.

Ruth Guthrie
Secretary

Membership and subscription report 2008

As at 21 May 2008 the total membership of the Society is 836. This is a large increase from 599 members since August 2007. However, the total count of members includes those in arrears for this year. There are 24% of members who are still to pay their subs at the time these statistics were generated. The unwaged fraction of membership has increased to 134 members since August 2007, representing a 38% increase in student membership. Overseas and joint subscriptions have also increased in the same period.

Journal subscriptions totalled 207 for 2008, which is up two from 2007 and bucks the trend of a drop in journal subscriptions since 2004 (see membership report, NZES newsletter 122, Sep 07). This includes 76 paid-up subscribers and 18 complimentary subscribers.

Membership of the New Zealand Ecological Society as at 21st May 2008 (data from August 2007 in brackets provided as a comparison)

Category	Paid	Arrears this year	Total
Full *	396 (313)	109 (77)	505 (390)
Joint	51 (46)	11 (4)	62 (50)
Unwaged	134 (82)	66 (29)	200 (111)
Overseas **	32 (24)	18 (7)	50 (31)
Honorary	11 (12)		11 (12)
Newsletter only	8 (5)		8 (5)
Total	632 (479)	204 (117)	836 (599)

*Includes 6 complimentary memberships

**Includes waged and unwaged overseas subs

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The NZES Council is currently assessing how best to communicate with members, and to maximise the value of the newsletter. Now the newsletter is electronic, and in combination with the valuable function of the Society web page, there is a lot of potential for a new approach to the newsletter format. But first, we would like to hear from you! Please email your replies to the following questions to newsletter@nzes.org and help us improve the newsletter.

1. Do you read the newsletter?

Always Sometimes Hardly ever Never

2. How much of the newsletter do you read?

All of it Selected bits Anything that looks interesting Just the events

3. What do you/would you find most interesting (choose as many as apply)

Feature articles	Hot Science	Upcoming Events	Book reviews
Council News	Ecological Observations	Popular science articles	Applied ecology
Resource Management	Current environmental issues	Council Minutes	Other

4. What do you/would you find least interesting (choose as many as apply)

Feature articles	Hot Science	Upcoming Events	Book reviews
Council News	Ecological Observations	Popular science articles	Applied ecology
Resource Management	Current environmental issues	Council Minutes	Other

5. What would you like to see in your newsletter?

NZES LISTSERVER

Dave Kelly

Dave.Kelly@canterbury.ac.nz

RULES FOR THE NZES LISTSERVER

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

The list has three key guidelines:

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

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

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

SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC

END

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

UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC

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

TO SEND A MESSAGE

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

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

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

Office Holders of the New Zealand Ecological Society 2007/2008

(Effective from December 2007)

In the first instance, please send postal or e-mail correspondence to:

Secretariat (society office – Susan Sheppard)

NZ Ecological Society Secretariat
PO Box 25 178
CHRISTCHURCH 8144
Physical Address:
46 Genesis Drive
Edendale, RD 1
CHRISTCHURCH 7671
P: 64 3 318 1056
F: 64 3 318 1061
E: nzecosoc@paradise.net.nz
W: www.nzes.org.nz

President

Shona Myers

Auckland Regional Council
Private Bag 92012
AUCKLAND
P: 64 9 366 2000 ex 8233
F: 64 9 366 2155
M: 021 708042
E: shona.myers@arc.govt.nz

Vice President

Bruce Burns

Landcare Research
Private Bag 3127
HAMILTON
P: 64 7 859 3700
F: 64 7 859 3701
M: 027 280 8332
E: burnsb@landcarereserach.co.nz

Secretary

Ruth Guthrie

Bio-Protection & Ecology Division
PO Box 84
Lincoln University
LINCOLN
P: 64 3 325 2811
M: 027 248 5944
E: guthrie@lincoln.ac.nz

Treasurer

Clayton Howell

Department of Conservation
PO Box 10-420, WELLINGTON
P: 64 4 471 3113
M: 021 973 181
E: chowell@doc.govt.nz

Councillors (4)

Mel Galbraith

School of Natural Sciences
Unitec New Zealand
Private Bag 92025
Carrington Road, Mt Albert
AUCKLAND
P: 64 9 815 4321 ex 7296
M: 025-6948139
E: mgalbraith@unitec.ac.nz

Jacqueline Beggs

School of Biological Sciences
University of Auckland
AUCKLAND
P: 64 9 3737599 ex 86823
E: j.beggs@auckland.ac.nz

John Sawyer

Department of Conservation
PO Box 5086, WELLINGTON
P: 64 4 472 5821
F: 64 4 499 0077
M: 021 0583894
E: jsawyer@doc.govt.nz

Chris Bycroft

Wildland Consultants
PO Box 7137
Te Ngae, ROTORUA 3042
P: 64 7 343 9017
E: chris@wildlands.co.nz

Journal scientific editors

Peter Bellingham

Landcare Research
PO Box 69, LINCOLN 7640
P: 64 3 325 6701
F: 64 3 325 2418
E: bellingham@landcareresearch.co.nz

Journal technical editors

Anne Austin

Landcare Research
Private Bag 11052
Manawatu Mail Centre
PALMERSTON NORTH 4442
E: techeditor@nzes.org.nz
E: austina@landcareresearch.co.nz

with assistance from:

Christine Bezar

Landcare Research
PO Box 69
LINCOLN 7640

Newsletter editor

Fleur Maseyk

Horizons Regional Council
Private Bag 11025
Manawatu Mail Centre
PALMERSTON NORTH
P: 64 6 952 2903
M: 021 2277 188
E: newsletter@nzes.org.nz

Webmaster

Jon Sullivan

Ecology
Lincoln University
PO Box 84
LINCOLN 7640,
P: 64 3 325-2811
F: 64 3 325-3844
E: sullivaj@lincoln.ac.nz
E: webmaster@nzes.org.nz

2008 Conference Organiser

Mel Galbraith

School of Natural Sciences
Unitec New Zealand
Private Bag 92025
Carrington Road, Mt Albert
AUCKLAND
P: 64 9 815 4321 ex 7296
M: 025-6948139
E: mgalbraith@unitec.ac.nz

This Newsletter was produced by Fleur Maseyk and Jeremy Rolfe.

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

Fleur Maseyk

Horizons Regional Council

P.O. Box 11025, Manawatu Mail Centre,

Palmerston North

Next deadline for the newsletter is 10 October 2008.

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Types of Membership and Subscription Rates (2008)

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

Unwaged (with journal) \$45* per annum

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

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

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

Overseas Full \$95* per annum

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

School..... \$12 per annum

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

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

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

For more details on membership please write to:

NZ Ecological Society
PO Box 25 178
Christchurch
NEW ZEALAND

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

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