Ecological Society Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITOR

Fleur Maseyk
E-mail: newsletter@nzes.org

Driving home to the Manawatu from anywhere else in the North Island, the passing kilometres, hours, and geography is marked as much by the collection of signage announcing a new place as by the changing landscape. The proudly provincial—the carrot of Ohakune, or the gumboot of Taihape raise nothing more than a smile. The visions of paradise, however, have a tendency to trip me up. Take for example, the "Rangitikei Unspoilt" claim as you head south of Waiouru.

The Rangitikei District is not alone in this optimistic bold claim, but it seems to me that somewhere along the way 'open pastoral space' for many became interchangeable with perceptions of 'natural clean and green paradise'.

As for the Rangitikei, picture a district shaped by it's waterways, butting up against the Central Volcanic Plateau, and the Ruahine, Kaweka and Kaimanawa Ranges—this is truly a landscape to behold. Perhaps best known for its impressive river terraces, cliffs and gorges, the Rangitikei also has its share of 'paradise lost' stories.

The wider area around Taihape is known for its floristic distinctiveness, and a not so proud accolade, as the original site of infestation of the invasive vine old man's beard. To me this is both a reminder of that which defines this area, and the challenges we collectively face in ensuring the persistence of indigenous biodiversity in the landscape.

The Rangitikei is a unique and special place. The ecological and environmental issues it faces are not. Hooray for the unwarranted optimism offered to the passing motorist. We can do with a little bit of hope.

Congratulations to the 40 members who received NZES grants to attend INTECOL. The momentum is building, for what is shaping up to be a stimulating conference programme and a tremendous opportunity to be amongst ecologists from the world over. Bruce Burns has put in a substantial effort on behalf of NZES to ensure the 10th INTECOL Conference is one to remember, including bringing together three New Zealand based guided field trips which highlight some of the best treasures to be found in the North Island. Bruce has extended the invitation to attend these trips for those not able to make it to INTECOL (details can be found in the newsletter). This is the last newsletter this side of INTECOL—for those of you coming be sure not to forget our AGM on Tuesday 18 August. For everyone else, we'll be sharing the conference highlights and the presentations of the kiwi ecologists with you over the next few newsletters.

FEATURE ARTICLES

REGULAR FEATURES

IN FOCUS: THE NZES JOURNAL

Fleur Maseyk

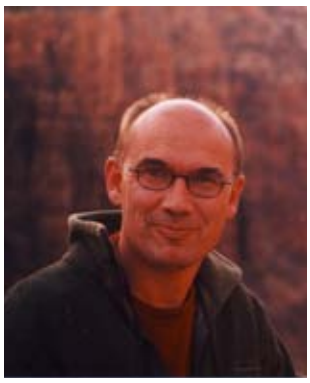
The NZES Journal team has undergone a number of personal changes in recent months. After four successful years, Dr Peter Bellingham has handed on the role of chief editor to Dr Kevin (K.C.) Burns. Peter and K.C. have co-edited the first issue of 2009 together before Peter steps aside and joins the editorial board.

The editorial board has a new line-up as Doug Armstrong, Ian Jamison, Richard Duncan, Duane Peltzer and K.C. Burns step aside after considerable collective time and effort. Joining the editorial board are Sarah Richardson, Phil Lester, Angela Moles, Matt McGlone, and Peter Bellingham. Anne Austin continues as the superb technical editor. The NZES is a journal of high standard and international repute, reflecting the calibre and dedication of the team that produces it as much as those that publish in it.

The NZES Council would like to whole-heartedly thank the past and current journal team.

With many thanks to Peter, a warm welcome to K.C., and to probe into an editor's world view, I posed a few questions to the pair.

Dr Peter Bellingham



Peter at Zion National Park Utah, 2004. Photo: Libby Powell.

1. In the style of a journal article, use keywords to describe your research interests and background.

Keywords: plant ecologist, disturbance, biological invasions, plant community dynamics, ecosystem function, Auckland, Canterbury, Cambridge, and Kyoto Universities, rain forest dynamics, Jamaica, Landcare Research, seabirds, collaborative research

2. As journal editor, what were the highlights for you?

Being the journal editor was a splendid opportunity to gain an overview on the current areas of interest in ecology in New Zealand and to see some of the first publications from emerging young ecologists. I enjoyed working with the editorial board and appointing new members to the board: board members' efforts are essential in maintaining the journal's standards. I took pleasure in seeing some topical and applied issues being debated in the journal, such as the application of the Resource Management Act in protecting biodiversity. I hope that the Forum section will continue to be a venue for debating current ecological issues. I am pleased that there is free online access to everybody to all New Zealand Journal of Ecology articles, including those in press, because I think that accessibility of articles to the widest possible community is critical to the journal's relevance and survival.

3. What do you see as the biggest challenges for the understanding and application of ecological issues in the wider community?

The cost of development given the finite nature of resources is being appreciated more but much remains to be done. Although public consciousness of depleting resources, especially water, has advanced considerably other ecological issues remain under-appreciated, notably the critical state of New Zealand's biodiversity. There is no doubt that New Zealand is still in a chronic state of losing biodiversity but most New Zealanders do not understand how severe is the problem. For most New Zealanders, I fear that biodiversity is principally decorative – something that helps shape our sense of national identity but is inconsequential in tradeoffs made about economic development. The challenge is to offer solutions to the biodiversity crisis and to ensure that ecological perspectives are given appropriate weight in planning for the country's future.

4. With the International Congress of Ecology conference in Brisbane just around the corner, how do you see the role of NZES in the international ecological community?

New Zealand ecologists are viewed widely as "punching above their weight", internationally and not parochial in outlook, and contributing globally to ecological issues. We're seen to have particular strengths in invasion ecology and managing invasive species. This ensures that the NZES and its members are certainly viewed as equal partners in international forums like INTECOL.

As international citizens there is much more that New Zealanders could do to assist our nearest neighbours in the tropical Pacific, threatened acutely by climate change and rising sea levels (e.g. Tuvalu, Tokelau), and by deforestation and consequent degradation of land and marine resources (e.g. Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands). New Zealanders' role in supporting unsustainable practices in the tropical Pacific (especially with respect to timber harvest and imports) needs to be made plain. Biodiversity values are high in many tropical Pacific Islands, yet we do little to train graduate students from these countries in ecology, and have little interchange with their tertiary and management institutions. I believe there is a role for the NZES, perhaps working with the Australian Ecological Society, in addressing some of these problems and in assisting tropical Pacific Islanders to take their place in the international ecological community.

5. Biodiversity protection in New Zealand—dire straits or just about sorted?

I indicated that the parlous trajectory of New Zealand's biodiversity continues: we are far from "sorted" and new threats – especially new invasive species and continuing habitat loss – are likely to make a bad state of affairs worse. We need better information to underpin the sorts of trajectories that are described in documents like State of Environment reports. After many years of management we can say with confidence what effect management has on a few vertebrates but even for many common bird species current populations are a matter of conjecture. We don't know about population trends of many of our most common trees. If we are to convince the public about the state of the country's biodiversity, this can be achieved with convincing statistics and indices of the state of our country's forests, waterways, beaches and rare species, reported as matter-of-factly and regularly as economic indicators. Engaging the public in obtaining these indices will only add to their credibility and help to motivate change where it is needed.

6. What New Zealand species best describes you? Why?

Karaka. A warm temperate tree that tolerates growing south of its natural range in Christchurch but doesn't do well in frost. It travels well but it is a poor stress-tolerator, generally not much of a competitor, and more ruderal than most would imagine.

Dr Kevin (K.C.) Burns

1. In the style of a journal article, use keywords to describe your research interests and background.

Keywords: animal behaviour, plant form and function, plant-animal interactions, island biology, New Zealand natural history, Southern California, physical geography, Berkeley, UCLA, seed dispersing birds, Victoria University, evolutionary ecology

2. What do you see as the biggest challenges for the New Zealand Journal of Ecology?

Well, the journal is meant to serve the society. So ensuring the members are happy with it is the most important challenge. One thing that might help make contributors happier is to reduce review and publishing times, which I hope to promote in the future.

K.C.

3. What do you see as the biggest challenges for the understanding and application of ecological issues in the wider community?
I think we could do a better job teaching people that there's more to ecology than conservation. In my opinion, we often place too much emphasis on issues directly related to management, mainly because we know very little about the natural processes structuring New Zealand ecosystems. If we are to preserve New Zealand's natural history in the future, I think that we need to better understand how the bush operates on its own.

4. With the International Congress of Ecology conference in Brisbane just around the corner, how do you see the role of NZES in the international ecological community?
Promoting New Zealand science and ingenuity on an international stage. In terms of ecology and conservation, I think our strengths are in endangered species management, especially species translocations, and the ecology and management of biological invasions. I see NZES as a world leader in these regards.

5. Biodiversity protection in New Zealand—dire straits or just about sorted?
Nearly half of New Zealand's birds have gone extinct since we arrived and the losses to our avifauna are just the tip of the iceberg. Given that the main cause of these extinctions, invasive species, is unlikely to go away anytime soon, we are far from 'sorted'.

6. What New Zealand species best describes you? Why?
I'm tempted to say that I'm like a rimu, who must always stand tall to endure the elements. But there's absolutely no way that anyone I work with would let me get away with that. They'd probably say that I'm more like a kea, who likes to stir-up trouble and has a hard time taking things seriously.

WHAT QUAIL IS THAT?

Mark Seabrook-Davison
PhD Student
Ecology & Conservation Group
Institute for Natural Sciences

This article has been abridged, the original article previously appeared in Dawn Chorus, *the magazine of the Tiritiri Matangi Supporters.*

It has long been a mystery as to what species of quail is present on Tiritiri Matangi Island, and for the last two years I have been attempting to solve this mystery. My simple question of "what is the species of quail on Tiritiri Matangi?" expanded into a full taxonomic and phylogenetic study of quail species distributed throughout New Zealand, Australia, parts of the Pacific and into Asia that allowed us to speculate on when it was that the New Zealand quail evolved into a distinct species.

*Australian brown quail (*Coturnix ypsilophora*). Photo: Mark Seabrook.*

It was thought the quail on Tiritiri Matangi were Australian or Tasmanian quail. So three species of quail formed the initial focus of my PhD research—two Australian quail species, the brown quail (*Coturnix ypsilophora)* and the stubble quail (*Coturnix pectoralis),* and the extinct New Zealand quail.

Although there are no reliable historical records, early bird collectors and ornithologists such as Walter Buller considered that the New Zealand quail went extinct in the 1870's, while the Australian brown quail and the stubble quail were introduced to New Zealand during the very active period of the Acclimatisation Societies in the mid 19th Century.

To solve the quail mystery, I compared the DNA sequences of samples from quail on Tiritiri Matangi with those from specimens of Australian brown quail, stubble quail from Australian museums, and ancient (greater than 100 years) specimens of the extinct New Zealand quail from New Zealand Museums. The DNA sequences allowed us to construct a phylogenetic tree to show the relatedness between New Zealand and Australian quail species.

The quail on Tiritiri Matangi, thought to be present on the island for over 100 years, is now confirmed as the Australian brown quail. A reasonably good flyer over short distances, we suspect that the Australian brown quail has flown (or been blown) across to the island from the mainland. Australian brown quail are also known from other Hauraki Gulf Islands.

The Australian brown quail on Tiritiri Matangi are well established and the they do not detrimentally interact with the threatened species introduced to the island. I feel that at about 200-300 individuals the population is at saturation. I have not witnessed any interaction with other species and consider they do not compete with other ground birds such as pukeko or takahe. Their diet appears to be omnivorous depending on the availability of foliage, flowers, seeds and invertebrates. Therefore, there may be some overlap in foraging behaviour between quail and North Island saddleback and North Island robin, but there appears to be no detrimental affect on these species. As 'ecological engineers' the quail on Tiritiri Matangi perform an important ecological function. They till the leaf litter and distribute seeds around the island. In essence, they have filled the ecological niche of the extinct New Zealand quail.

As the quail have proved over the last 100 years they are not a pest species, I suggest that quail could be used as a surrogate species to replicate the role of the extinct New Zealand quail, and restore an important component in New Zealand ground ecosystems. However, our results show that the extinct New Zealand quail is genetically very similar to the Australian stubble quail. It is probable that some of the individuals of the ancestor were blown across the Tasman in the westerly winds and developed small genetic changes within the last 200,000 years. Both the stubble quail and New Zealand quail are indistinguishable in appearance and have been confused with each other in museum collections.

However, it is the brown quail, not the stubble quail that is already established here, although it is highly unlikely that the stubble quail would be a threat to native species or the brown quail. I consider it is time New Zealand seriously considered the suggestion to use an introduced species as a surrogate. Of all the introduced bird species, the quail is the best candidate to rekindle this debate.

I am very grateful to the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi and Massey University for providing the funding for this research. I thank my Supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dianne Brunton for her encouragement and guidance throughout the project. Advice from Ray & Barbara Walter, Ian Price, Jennifer Haslam and my colleagues at the Ecology & Conservation Group of Massey University has been invaluable. I thank Prof. John Craig for suggesting the idea for this research. Dr Leon Huynen has been a joy to work with and his molecular analytical skills never cease to amaze me. Finally, thank you to the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi for advice, observations of quail, helping with field equipment and the provision of quail samples.

GEOFF PARK (1946–2009)

Shona Myers

Sources: the Park family: S Bartle, Peter Kitchin, The Dominion Post; Peter Williams, and others.

A great kahikatea has fallen—the kereru has flown

It is with great sadness that earlier this year we have seen the passing of Dr Geoffrey Nicholls Park, one of New Zealand's most eminent ecologists. Geoff was one of the most amazing minds in his field, who crossed the worlds of ecology, landscape, Maori and Pakeha history, literature and art. He was an inspiration for many of us and will be very sadly missed. He has left an innovative legacy with his writing, and his scientific thinking. His ability to read the landscape and interpret New Zealand ecology, to challenge and increase our understanding of the complexities of ecosystems, landscape and cultural history was exemplary.

Geoff grew up in Pinehaven and was taken under the wing of the acclaimed botanist Tony Druce and included on Wellington Botanical Society expeditions. Through this he learned how to undertake vegetation classification, as well as the importance of collecting voucher specimens, herbaria and relating plants to soils, geology and other key factors, which should be simultaneously mapped. He graduated from Victoria University in 1969 with a degree in botany and ecology, and soon completed a Masters with Honours (1st class) degree in ecology and soil science. Following a period teaching at Hutt Valley High School, he undertook doctoral studies at the Australian National University, Canberra in forest ecology. His thesis, on nutrient cycling, led him to develop ecological surveys when he returned to New Zealand in 1975.

From 1975 to 1981 he was employed as a botanical scientist with the Botany Division, DSIR. He prepared about 50 vegetation reports that had a major impact on plant and vegetation conservation in the northern South Island. The most important was a survey of remaining lowland forests in Nelson and Marlborough. It led to the protection of numerous lowland forest remnants in the upper South Island and Marlborough, including the Paparoa National Park. During this time Geoff developed innovative methods of rapid ecological survey, the understanding of the importance of the small remaining remnants of New Zealand lowland ecology, and the unique pattern and combination of ecology and landform.

This survey and inventory work inspired Geoff from 1981 to 1986 to set up and lead the New Zealand Biological Resources Centre (BCR), serviced by the DSIR. Under Geoff's leadership the BRC developed the New Zealand Ecological Regions and Districts concept, the New Zealand Protected Natural Area Programme, and the New Zealand Wetland Inventory (WERI). The concept of a national geographically based biological resources information system in New Zealand set the future scene for biodiversity management, particularly at local government level.

Geoff was a great reader and he gained inspiration from the work of other great ecological thinkers, writers, artists and poets from around the world. Among them were works of Aldo Leopold, Wendell Berry, Colin McCahon, and William Wordsworth. He would often share with great enthusiasm his latest readings with us. Working with Geoff was always exciting.

During his time at the BRC, Geoff expanded his interest in landscape ecology and history and was awarded a Stout Fellowship in New Zealand Culture, Society and History at Victoria University. Geoff's powerful book *Nga Uruora, The Groves of Life: Ecology and History in a New Zealand Landscape* (1995) grew out of this work. In this book Geoff explored many of his favourite places, and the cultural history of our vegetation, landscapes and people. In *Nga Uruora* Geoff opened up many eyes to what New Zealand has lost, how quickly, and to the history and cultural values of our landscape and ecology.

Kahikatea is the supreme survivor. The fruit basket of the forest, revered by Maori hunters and modern conservationists for its attractiveness to birds, connects us to a birdless, flowerless world in which ammonites stalked the sea-floor and pterodactyls the air…The plains forest have come to within the final few acres of vanishing point – tragic in one sense, yet magic in another. We may no longer feel insignificant in their shade, but as much as they are evidence of our power over nature, they are reminders that every bit of land…is …never totally ruined, never completely unnatural. Always restorable. (Geoff Park, Nga Uruora)

From 1987 to 1996 Geoff was a senior scientist with Department of Conservation and wrote *New Zealand as Ecosystems*, a significant early work on ecosystem definition, function and viability. He resigned from the department in 1996 to start the consultancy of Geoff Park Landscape, History and Ecology. From 2000 to 2003, he was a concept leader at Te Papa.

*The birds still strive towards the ancient forest, and the pollen and seeds that they don't carry on their flyways still blow out of the trees and away – even though in vain. The water from the mountains still strives towards the sea, as insistently as the dunes strive inland (*Geoff Park, 1993 Lines in the Living Landscape*)*

Since 2003, he had written an ecological history of pre-1840 Bay of Islands, made a film about naturalist and writer William Herbert Guthrie-Smith of Tutira, advised on ecological restoration, and completed *Theatre Country: Essays on Landscape and Whenua*. He was awarded the Forest and Bird Society's prestigious Old Blue award, in recognition of his commitment and dedication to conservation.

Geoff's legacy includes the books he has written, his ecological studies and surveys, the development of innovative survey techniques, his huge understanding of the ecology, history and extensive loss of New Zealand's lowland forests and wetlands, and on the ground conservation achievements. The ecological survey concepts and practices developed now embody the focus of ecological management and biodiversity strategy in New Zealand. Geoff was also an artist, a writer, who loved life, his family and the environment around him.

Geoff was very generous with his time and shared a lot with those he worked and conversed with. Through his children and grandchildren, the next two generations of Parks, Geoff's work and legacy will continue. Arohanui.

It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to live it. While you can. ***While its still there.*** (Edward Abbey)

JOHN HARPER (1925–2009)

Professor John Harper (CBE, F.R.S), the father of plant population ecology, died peacefully at home on 22 March 2009 aged 83.

Prof. Harper was the President of British Ecological Society (1967) and the European Society for Evolutionary Biology (1993 – 1995), a recipient of the Darwin Medal in 1990, and a member of the British Humanist Association.

Colin Townsend pays tribute to his colleague

I had a twenty-five-year collaboration with John in publishing ecology textbooks. The books are littered with John's wonderful and thought-provoking contributions and I recall that none of my ideas, or those of co-author Mike Begon, ever escaped John's insightful challenge. We had many a discussion about the place of ecosystems in ecology and in a draft outline of one of the books I made mention of 'stress to ecosystem structure and function'. Referring to this, John said " I am very happy with the outline until I reach this point when my hackles rise, my blood curdles and stress overwhelms my functioning." Needless to say I modified the wording. And on finishing a book "Now we must wait for the reviewers to pour honeyed words or show their spleen." Fortunately, they mostly poured the honey and John's contribution to the books' success cannot be overestimated.

John made an inestimable contribution to ecology in general and plant population ecology in particular. He was one of the truly great ecological scientists.

John Ogden remembers his PhD supervisor

John Harper supervised my PhD at Bangor back in the 1960's. It was perhaps the heyday of his work in population biology. I remember one particular PhD seminar session with a crowd including Phil Putwain, Janis Antonovics, Tony Bradshaw, Geoff Sagar and "JLH" all arguing about the role of selection vs. gene-flow in ecotypic differentiation. That day largely determined my current attitude to the politically correct dogma of "eco-sourcing": gene-flow and selection will soon sort out what genotypes survive in any location no-matter whence they come! In this, as in many other aspects of ecology, my approach was strongly influenced by John Harper and his team at Bangor. Field observation, backed by "agricultural" style experiments and Analysis of Variance, was then the way forwards. Once the approach and outline were determined, you let the student get on with it!

Although the Department of Agricultural Botany at Bangor was in those days a very "academic" group, it never-the-less maintained very strong practical links with agriculture and horticulture. For example, John ran a course on agricultural plants and another on dealing with pasture maintenance. Always he stressed the fundamental concepts underpinning agricultural activities, and pointed out flaws in reasoning or gaps in understanding. He never presented science as a set of facts, rather as a series of questions.

There are many who will say, correctly I think, that John Harper was one of the leading ecologists of the twentieth century. He influenced many of us by his writings, which are models of clarity, perception and enthusiasm for his subject. I was fortunate to be also influenced by the person - John was a quietly supportive supervisor. He made sure I was properly supported with the technical staff and equipment needed, then left me to get on with it for a couple of years. Whenever I saw him he flashed a big grin and asked about the work, quickly absorbing how it was going. I recall once, in the corridor, he became so engrossed in discussing my results that he gradually slid down the wall until he was sitting on the floor. I sat on the opposite window-sill, and the discussion continued for 20 minutes while people passed to-and-fro between us!

He liked and respected his students and the feeling was mutual. Although he frequently asked difficult questions, I never heard him 'put down' a student

or embarrass one in public. He was clearly a great intellect, but also I think, a gentleman in the true sense. Years later he told me that, as he got older, he was really more interested in people than in plants! This, and his bow ties, set him apart from the general run of departmental heads, then and now.

GEOFF MOON (1915–2009)

Rich Seaton

Geoff Moon (OBE), naturalist, photographer, conservationist, vet surgeon and author of over 25 books died on the 13 March 2009, aged 93.

Geoff, a wildlife photographer who set the benchmark that following photographers have aspired to reach since, was a humble, generous man whose understanding of the wildlife he photographed paralleled his skills as a photographer.

Geoff was a Honorary Fellow and Patron of the Photographic Society of New Zealand, Associate of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, a Honorary Life Member of the New Zealand Veterinary Society and Distinguished Life Member of the Royal Forest and Bird Society of New Zealand. But it was through his role as Patron of the Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust that I met and came to appreciate Geoff. Geoff refused to let age dampen the zeal with which he embraced his passion for our wildlife and wild places. His boundless enthusiasm for New Zealand's birds of prey was contagious and a constant inspiration during my PhD research on the New Zealand falcon.

Wingspan and New Zealand will be the poorer for the loss of this charismatic advocate of our wildlife.

HOT SCIENCE

Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand (2008 revision)

This paper was published in 2009 in *New Zealand Journal of Botany Vol. 47*:61–96.

P.J. DELANGE*, D.A. NORTON, S.P. COURTNEY, P.B. HEENAN, J.W. BARKLA, E.K. CAMERON, R HITCHMOUGH AND A.J. TOWNSEND

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A reappraisal of the conservation status of the indigenous New Zealand vascular plant flora is presented using the 2008 version of the threat classification system developed for the New Zealand Department of Conservation. The list comprises 897 taxa (38% of New Zealand's total indigenous vascular flora) in the following categories: Extinct—6 taxa, Threatened—180 taxa (comprising 91 Nationally Critical taxa, 45 Nationally endangered, and 44 Nationally Vulnerable), At Risk—651 taxa (comprising 83 Declining, 6 Recovering, 20 Relict, and 542 Naturally Uncommon taxa), 25 taxa listed as either Vagrant (12) or Coloniser (13), and 35 as Data Deficient. a further 171 plants are listed as taxonomically indeterminate, being those which might warrant further conservation attention once their taxonomic status is clarified. Forty-four recognised taxa and 26 plants rated as taxonomically indeterminate, and previously considered to be threatened and/or uncommon, are removed from this updated listing. a brief analysis of the patterns of rarity exhibited by the listed taxa is presented. overall, the conservation status of the New Zealand indigenous vascular plant flora is worsening, with 7.6% of this flora now regarded as threatened with extinction. a concordance of plants names from the 2004 listing is provided.

This article was published in 2009 in *Annales Zoologici Fennici Vol. 46(2)*:158–164.

Preparing a paper for publication: an action plan for rapid composition and completion

J. A. HARVEY

An important challenge for scientists, especially those early in their careers, is preparing an effective article for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. Here, I present a number of suggestions on how it could be accomplished. This action plan addresses (1) how to approach a topic by developing a story line connected with what is already known in the field, (2) how to most efficiently organize and sequence one's efforts by starting with the descriptive parts of the manuscript and subsequently moving to the more interpretive parts, and (3) the advantages of using bibliographic software to facilitate quick and accurate referencing. I suggest that authors should aim to produce a story that does not overcomplicate the topic under investigation while at the same time presenting a full and accurate coverage and interpretation of the data. Importantly, the preparation of manuscripts becomes easier with time and practice, as individuals hone their own style and approach to this task

INTECOL 2009

Ecology in a Changing Climate:

Two Hemispheres – One Globe

The INTECOL 10 Scientific Programme Committee have arranged what promises to be a stimulating scientific program discussing topics relevant to the Congress theme; Ecology in a Changing Climate, Two Hemispheres – One Globe. The programme for INTECOL is coming together and includes:

- 48 themed symposia,
- a special session where last year's Ecological Society of Australia and New Zealand Ecological Society award winners will speak,
- an Asian Ecology session, and
- an excellent line up of keynote speakers, workshops and field trips.

Details at: www.intecol10.org

Participation in Post-intecol Field Trips In New Zealand

The Society is organising three post-INTECOL field trips for those attending the conference. There are still some places left on these field trips so we are opening up participation to NZES members or others who may be interested. Here's an opportunity for an ecological field trip accompanied by an experienced ecologist and other ecological professionals from a range of different countries.

The three field trips are:

1. Island Conservation in New Zealand

Invasive mammals are the biggest threat to much of New Zealand's wildlife that evolved in the virtual absence of mammals. The use of mammal pest-free islands and 'mainland islands' is a major conservation strategy for many of the most vulnerable New Zealand endemics. Visit two cutting-edge conservation projects—Tiritiri Matangi Island and the Maungatautari Ecological Island—with local ecologists to meet some of New Zealand's most endangered wildlife and to discuss their ecological challenges and opportunities.

Participants make their way to Auckland on the evening of Friday 21 August staying overnight at 'The Base', Auckland. The group will gather in the morning and walk to the Ferry terminal (half kilometre) to take a ferry to Tiritiri Matangi Island for the day (depart 9 a.m., return 4.30 p.m.). You will need walking shoes and a raincoat; lunch will be provided. Stay overnight on Saturday 22 August at the Base in Auckland - the evening meal is not included in the price. On Sunday 23 August, we will travel by minibus to Maungatautari Ecological Island. This is an island of habitat rather than a real island, but the ecological situation is similar. Here we will stay at the 'Out-in-the-Styx' guesthouse and take in a night walk to look for kiwi. On Monday 24 August we will return to Auckland via the Miranda Seabird Centre arriving back in Auckland around 4 p.m. (although this could be revised to meet participants' needs). Here the trip ends. An experienced ecologist will accompany the party throughout. The only meal not included in the cost is the evening meal on Saturday 22 August in Auckland.

Dates: 21–24 August 2009
Trip begins: Auckland, New Zealand
Trip Concludes: Auckland, New Zealand
Minimum No.: 10 **Maximum No.:** 30
Cost (per person): NZ$390
Includes: Most meals and backpacker style accommodation
Enquiries to: Bruce Burns, b.burns@auckland.ac.nz

2. New Zealand Volcanic Ecosystems

New Zealand sits astride the Pacific 'Ring of Fire' and volcanism has shaped both the landforms and the biota. Take a tour through three indigenous ecosystems determined by past and present volcanic activity with local ecologists. In Auckland, visit the island of Rangitoto where *Metrosideros* dominant forest invades relatively recent a'a lava; in Rotorua visit ecosystems shaped by continuing geothermal activity; and at Tongariro visit ecological successions occurring on an active volcano.

Participants make their way to Auckland on the evening of Friday 21 August staying overnight at 'The Base', Auckland. The group will gather on Saturday morning (22 August) and walk to the Ferry terminal (half kilometre) to take a ferry to Rangitoto Island a shield volcano that erupted 600 years ago for the day (depart 9.15 a.m., return 3.30 p.m.). You will need walking shoes and a raincoat; lunch will be provided. Upon returning to Auckland, you will be picked up by a minivan and transported to Rotorua where you will spend the night at the Hot Rock backpackers. The evening meal on the Saturday 22 August is your own responsibility. On Sunday 23 August, we will visit the Whakarewarewa and Waimangu geothermal areas to see active geothermal ecosystems. At the end of this day we will travel to Turangi, staying overnight at Club Habitat. Again, the evening meal is not included in the tour cost. On Monday 24 August, we will travel to Mt Ruapehu, an andesite volcano that last had a minor eruption in the 1990s, visiting the National Park headquarters and taking a short walk. You will need warm clothing for this walk as it is at higher altitude in the New Zealand winter. In the afternoon, we will travel back to Auckland where the trip will end. We should arrive back in Auckland at approximately 5 p.m. (although this could be revised to meet participants needs). Accommodation on the night of Monday 24 August is not included in the price. An experienced ecologist will accompany the party throughout.

Dates: 21-24 Aug 2009
Trip begins: Auckland, New Zealand
Trip Concludes: Auckland, New Zealand
Minimum Number: 10 **Maximum Number:** 30
Cost (per person): NZ$390
Includes: Most meals and backpacker style accommodation
Enquiries to: Bruce Burns, b.burns@auckland.ac.nz

3. Forest Ecosystems and Conservation in New Zealand

New Zealand indigenous forests are dominated by endemic species of Gondwanan ancestry. Take a tour through the three major old-growth forest formations in New Zealand with a leading forest ecologist, and discuss the composition, dynamics, history, and conservation of these forests full of ancient conifers, southern beech, and subtropical angiosperms.

Participants make their way to Auckland on the evening of Friday 21 August staying overnight at 'The Base', Auckland. The group will gather in the morning of Saturday 22 August and be transported by minivan to visit kauri forest within the Waitakere Ranges west of Auckland. You will need walking shoes and a raincoat; lunch will be provided. We will visit kauri (*Agathis australis*) forest within the Cascades area which includes old-growth stands. In the afternoon, the group will travel by minivan to 'Out-in-the-Styx' guesthouse located in the Waikato Region and adjacent to the Maungatautari Ecological Island to stay overnight (night of Saturday 22 August). We will have time for a short walk to examine tawa dominant forest, and perhaps look for kiwi. On Sunday 23 August, we will travel by minibus to Pureora Forest Park for walks in dense podocarp forest there. In the afternoon, we will travel on to our overnight stop at Turangi Club Habitat. The evening meal here is your own responsibility. The next day (Monday 24 August) we travel to the Tongariro National Park to examine beech (*Nothofagus* spp) dominated forests (e.g., Lake Rotokura walk. You will need warm clothing for this walk as it is at higher altitude in the New Zealand winter. We will be staying overnight at National Park Backpackers. On Tuesday 25 August, you will be transported by minibus back to Auckland arriving in early afternoon (1–2 p.m.) where the trip will end. There would be an option to visit the limestone caves at Waitomo on the return should participants wish to do this, although this would delay arrival in Auckland. An experienced ecologist will accompany the party throughout.

Dates: 21-25 Aug 2009
Trip begins: Auckland, New Zealand
Trip Concludes: Auckland, New Zealand
Minimum Number: 10 **Maximum Number:** 30
Cost (per person): NZ$450
Includes: Most meals and accommodation
Enquiries to: Bruce Burns, b.burns@auckland.ac.nz

IUCN NEWS

Wren Green
www.iucn.org/

The big news for us here is that the Director-General of IUCN, Julia Marton-Lefevre, will be visiting New Zealand in June as part of her visit to the Oceania region. The last (and only) time a current Director-General has visited New Zealand was in the 1990s when David McDowell attended a national IUCN meeting at Lincoln University. Julia will fly into Christchurch from Australia, arriving on Wednesday 3 June, and will be leaving Auckland for Fiji on Sunday 7 June. The New Zealand IUCN Committee is busy organising her visit during which Julia is very keen to meet with members. Her schedule includes meetings in Christchurch, a visit to the Antarctic Centre, and then onto Wellington where planning is underway for meetings with Ministers. I'm hoping that Shona Myers and Bruce Burns will be able to meet Julia as Society representatives during her Auckland visit (which will include a trip to Tiritiri Matangi) on Saturday 6 June.

Keep an ear out for media interviews with Julia during her visit. The IUCN President, Ashok Khosla, and other senior IUCN people have been busy lately at various international events spelling out their perspectives on the current financial meltdown, which differ from most Ministers of Finance. In an April news story on the IUCN website Ashok concluded with these thoughts:

"So, if we try to become profligate again, going back to our defunct models of development, economic forces will automatically kick in to limit demand

and ecological forces will automatically limit supply. And we will face another "meltdown", only more quickly and with greater severity. Obviously, we need new models.

Let's also hope that the need to re-start the economy, which we must, will not be used to restore wasteful and damaging habits that are no longer viable. We need to invest in restoring the health of the natural resource base, including particularly all aspects of biodiversity, and in creating sustainable livelihoods and jobs through redesign of our technologies, market systems, and financial institutions. And we need to spend a great deal of time, effort and resource to create a different and common understanding of what constitutes a good life."

CERTIFICATION FOR ECOLOGISTS: THE NEED FOR INPUT FROM NEW ZEALAND

I am writing this as Vice President (New Zealand) of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ). I believe this issue is of utmost importance to ecology practitioners and the ecology profession. In my opinion it is urgent that some ecologists from New Zealand contribute to this discussion.

The EIANZ has a well established Certification Programme for environmental practitioners (CEnvP). Both practitioners and employers are showing considerable interest in this Programme - and the number of people applying is increasing year by year. You do not need to be a member of the EIANZ to apply for certification. Ecologists (as environmental practitioners) may already apply for CEnvP. A growing number of ecologists from New Zealand and Australia have successfully applied for CEnvP.

The Criteria for the CEnvP are fairly generic and do not refer to any specific discipline within environmental practice. That was a deliberate decision by the Certification Board when the Board was first established. However, there was always the intent that at some stage, the criteria for the CEnvP could be modified and/or extended for specific areas of practice (such as ecology or environmental impact assessment).

The EIANZ has recently established a Special Interest Section (SIS) in ecology. Amongst other topics, the Ecology SIS (in liaison with the Certification Board) is currently discussing how to modify the CEnvP to meet the needs of the ecology profession. The discussion has commenced and almost certainly there will be a CEnvP for ecology practitioners. I believe that this will happen sooner rather than later!

This is a very important development that has serious implications for the ecology profession, ecology practitioners and standards of practice. I strongly believe that ecologists from New Zealand must contribute to the discussion. It is for this reason that I have been communicating with the Council of the New Zealand Ecological Society with the aim of encouraging some of you to take part in this discussion. I invite anyone to let me know of you would like to contribute to the discussion and help shape the Certification for ecologists. This could be as individuals and/or representatives of the New Zealand Ecological Society. Surely it is better that we in New Zealand help in the process rather than a model for certification being introduced without our input.

This is an urgent matter. I suspect that much progress will take place at the next EIANZ Conference to be held this year in Canberra in October (20th-21st).

I urge you to respond and I look forward very much to hearing from you.

Professor Ian Spellerberg, FEIANZ, CEnvP
Director, Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation

NOTICEBOARD

Photo: New Zealand Garden Bird Survey web page

WHO'S IN YOUR GARDEN?

New Zealand / Aotearoa
GARDEN BIRD SURVEY 2009
27 June – 5 July

The *New Zealand Garden Bird Surveys* seek to answer the question, "Are common bird populations increasing or decreasing?"

Be a part of the *New Zealand Garden Bird Survey 2009*. Simply spend one hour during 27 June and 5 July 2009 watching birds in your garden, park or school grounds and record the largest number of species of each bird you see. When repeated over a number of years this will provide valuable information on changes in distribution and population trends of birds in our urban environment. If enough rural gardens are sampled, the survey will also provide information on birds in the rural environment as well.

For more details and to download a recording form go to:
www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biocons/gardenbird/

THE "TOP 25" AUSTRALASIAN ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS ANNOUNCED

Recently, the selection of the 'Top 25' ecological restoration projects in Australia and New Zealand was made by a panel set up by the Ecological Management and Restoration journal with support from the Ecological Society of Australia. The aim was to highlight projects that might inspire and encourage restorationists throughout Australasia and elsewhere across the globe. The following eight New Zealand projects were selected as 'Top 25' projects:

- Tiritiri Matangi Island
- Maungatautari Ecological Island
- Te Urewera Mainland Island
- Bushy Park Sanctuary
- Mana Island Scientific Reserve
- ZEALANDIA-Karori Sanctuary
- Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project
- Fiordland Island Restoration

The Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park was also 'highly commended'.

More detail at: www.globalrestorationnetwork.org/countries/australianew-zealand

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 New Zealand Ecological Society, bank account 06 0729 0465881 00, identifying the payment as "Kauri Fund".

FROM ACROSS THE TASMAN

The latest (December) issue of the Ecological Society of Australia Bulletin has the usual wrap-up of from around Australia, plus a good review of United Kingdom and United States ecological society news. Selected highlights follow or you can read more at ESABulldec08.pdf

Ecological Society of Australia Awards

The winner of the 2008 Australian Ecology Research Award (AERA) is Professor B R Pressey. The AERA recognises excellence in recent research in Australian ecology, for a program of work by a mid-career researcher. It is an annual award, being bestowed for the first time in 2008. For more information visit www.ecolsoc.org.au/prizes.html. As part of the Award process, Professor Pressey delivered a lecture at the SA08 E conference in Sydney, entitled "Conservation planning in a changing world". Bob Pressey is widely credited with establishing the important and emerging field of systematic conservation planning and he continues to be recognised internationally as its leading proponent and innovator. His journal papers include some of the classic and most widely cited papers in his field. His work leads a global shift towards translating the concepts and techniques of systematic conservation planning into actual conservation decisions on the ground.

Survey of Australian wetlands underway

The largest ever survey of the health of Australia's wetlands has been commenced, with University of New South Wales researchers conducting an aerial survey of waterbirds across the entire continent. The team, led by Professor Richard Kingsford of the UNSW School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, will visit every possible significant wetland in Australia. The team will use low altitude flights to count the number and species of waterbirds living in the wetlands. Information will be available from:
www.wetrivers.unsw.edu.au/docs/rp_nws_home.html

Soil management issues discussion paper

The importance of sustainable soil management in relation to issues such as climate change, food production, and the carbon and water cycles is canvassed in a discussion paper. The Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council's National Committee on Soils and Terrain has prepared the paper in order to highlight soil management issues, encourage public debate ,and provide a way for the community and stakeholders to have input to policy discussions on soil management. The discussion paper highlights a lack of recognition of the connection between soil management and environmental issues such as climate change and water availability, or between soil management and food security as the major problems with present soil management practices and policies. Committee Chair, Noel Schoknecht from Western Australia's Department of Agriculture and Food, says Australia will struggle To meet its greenhouse objectives, manage water supply crises, ensure security of its food supply and maintain the resilience and profitability of farming systems without a renewed focus on improving soil management. 'Funding for soils has been overshadowed by seemingly more urgent problems such as salinity, weeds, water quality and

climate change. They are all important, but healthy soil underpins them all,' says Mr Schoknecht. The discussion paper canvasses specific ideas that could be implemented to improve soil management on a national basis, and suggests a number of ways to rebuild knowledge about soils so that it can be used to inform management and policy decisions.

www.clw.csiro.au/aclep/SoilDiscussionPaper.htm

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Conservation Biology Oceania Section meeting

Managing Biodiversity in a Time of Global Change
Hobart, Tasmania
30 November 3 December
www.cdesign.com.au/scboceania2009
meredith@cdesign.com.au

The meeting will address this theme across a full range of Oceanian terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems as well as Antarctic ecosystems. The meeting is expected to attract 300 or more delegates, including scientists, managers, policy-makers, NGO's and students in all areas of conservation biology.

Important Dates
Abstracts due: *Friday 31 July 2009*

Registration opens: *April 2009*

Early Bird Registration closes: *Friday 2 October 2009*

Australasian Wildlife Management Society Conference
November 30 - 2 December 2009.
Napier, New Zealand.
www.awms.org.nz

Workshop: Urban Ecology and Ecological Design: Perspectives on Integration and Future Directions
5 November 2009

Glenn Stewart, Maria Ignatieva, Colin Meurk

For more details please contact Glenn Stewart (stewartg@lincoln.ac.nz).

This workshop will be held in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the Landscape Architecture Programme at Lincoln University, New Zealand (6-8 November). The workshop is the annual Flock Hill workshop for 2009 and is sponsored by the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation (ICNC). On the evening of 5 November immediately after the workshop, Dr Diane Menzies, the President of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) will deliver the annual ICNC State of the Environment address. The topic of this presentation will also focus on urban ecology and design.

The main goal of the proposed workshop is to emphasise urban ecology and design research as one of the main directions of the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation and Landscape Architecture School in the Faculty of Environment, Society and Design. The objectives of this workshop are to:

- Identify new directions for teaching and research in urban ecology and ecological design.
- Exchange leading concepts from specialists in the field.
- Increase the research profile of urban ecology and design at Lincoln University.
- Increase the global visibility of Lincoln University as a potential institution for Masters and PhD research in urban ecology and ecological design.

It will be a one day workshop with presentations and discussions including a short 2-3 hour field trip in Christchurch. Two outstanding international specialists will deliver keynote addresses (yet to be finalised). We envisage participation from academics, students, practitioners and representatives from local bodies.

Participants are encouraged to stay on after the workshop (6-8 November) to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Landscape Architecture School and the grand opening of the new purpose built Landscape Architecture building. Activities include a research colloquium on 6 November and further celebrations to follow.

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

Stellenbosch, South Africa, 23–27 August 2009.

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/,

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).

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.

The 23rd annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology

Conservation: Harmony for Nature and Society

11–16 July 2009 in Beijing, China.

More information on the web site www.conbio.org/,
or by emailing 2009@conbio.org.

Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) Conference

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

Perth, Western Australia, Australia

23 – 27 August 2009.

Scientific Programme

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

Field Trips and Social Programme

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

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

INTECOL downunder 2009

Ecology in a Changing Climate:

Two Hemispheres – One Globe

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

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

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

Standard Registration applies till 13 August!

For more information on INTECOL 2009, visit:

www.intecol10.org.

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCIL

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2009

The Annual General Meeting will be held on:
Tuesday 18 August
5:30 – 7:00 pm
INTECOL, Brisbane
Room to be confirmed

All recipients of a NZES grant to attend INTECOL are required to be present.

Call for Nominations for NZES Awards 2009

Te Tohu Taiao – Award for Ecological Excellence

Nominations are invited for the Te Tohu Taiao Award (formerly the New Zealand Ecological Society Award). This award is presented annually to recognise individuals who have made outstanding contribution to the study and application of ecological science. The award is made to the person(s) who have published the best original research in ecology of New Zealand, and its dependencies (including the Ross Dependency) or person(s) who have made the most outstanding contribution to applied ecology particularly conservation and management.
NB. Non-members are eligible for this award.

Honorary Life Membership

Honorary life memberships are conferred from time to time to recognise excellence and longstanding service in the study or application of ecological science in New Zealand. Nominations should be presented to council, seconded and must include statements of support. The selection committee will consider candidates' eminence in the scientific field and contribution to original research or the application of such research in New Zealand and the extent of their association with the Society. This award is often presented at the Annual General Meeting during the conference.

NZES Award for Best Publication by a New Researcher

The NZES awards an annual prize of NZ$500 for the best published paper of an ecological nature, by a new researcher. This award is targeted at people at the start of their research career. The award will be announced at the Ecological Society's annual conference, and reported in the NZES newsletter as well as being posted on the NZES website. Authors wishing to be considered must meet the following criteria:

- Be the senior author or sole author of the paper
- Be a current member of the New Zealand Ecological Society
- Either currently be a student or have graduated within the last three years (for the 2009 award the applicant must have graduated after 30 June 2006), and be at the start of their research career.
- The paper should be published in an ecological journal (not restricted to *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*).
- Only one paper per eligible author.

Authors wishing to be considered for this award should:

- provide four copies of their publication,
- supply a contact email and postal address, and
- supply a summary to confirm they meet all the criteria for this award.

All publications will be reviewed by a committee nominated by the NZES Council. At the discretion of the nominated committee no award may be made in any given year.

Please post nominations for ***Best Publication by a New Researcher*** *to Chris Bycroft c/- Wildland Consultants, P O Box 7137, Te Ngae, Rotorua by* ***30 June 2009****.*

*Please e-mail nominations for the **Ecology in Action Award** to Chris Bycroft (chris@wildlands.co.nz) by **30 June 2009**. Nomination should also include a statement of support.*

New Zealand Ecological Society Ecology in Action Award

This award was established in 2005 to recognise individuals who are achieving excellence and best practice in the promotion of ecology, including communication, education and transfer of ecological science at the grass roots. The Society would like to recognise work of individuals achieved in promoting ecology and education at a local government level, with landowners, community groups, politicians and councils. This award is for individuals, whose role is primarily the transfer of ecology and research, but who are not necessarily involved in pure ecological research. This award reflects one of the primary aims of the Society that includes promotion of the study of ecology and the application of ecological knowledge in all its aspects. The society also recognises that the transfer of ecological knowledge at a community and local government level is important in changing behaviours and achieving practical protection and restoration of biodiversity, particularly of our threatened lowland ecosystems.

The Society offers recipients with:

1. $500 contribution towards attending the next New Zealand Ecological Society Conference, and
2. $500 contribution to a local restoration project of your choice. Recipients of the award are invited to present a paper at the next annual New Zealand Ecological Society Conference. The work can also be given profile via a media item, or highlighted in the New Zealand Ecological Society newsletter.

Student Awards

- The New Zealand Ecological Society Best Student Presentation Award
- The New Zealand Ecological Society Best Student Poster Award

Unfortunately, it is not going to be feasible to have the two student awards usually presented at conference presented at the INTECOL conference this year in Brisbane.

Welcome to new members

New members as confirmed by Council on 6 March 2009:

Leigh Honnor *Whangarei District Council*
David Brittain
Frances Forsyth
Kieran Whelan *Golder Associates Ltd.*
Graham Ussher *Tonkin & Taylor Ltd*
Andrew Lamason
Mark Hamilton *MBC Contracting*
Mags Ramsay
Tanya Blakely *Biolgical Sciences, University of Canterbury*
Moinuddin Ahmed *Botany Dept, Urdu University, India*
Russell Death *Natural Resources & Ecology, Massey University*
Cory Anderson
Thomas Donovan
Donald Drake
Stephane Boyer *Lincoln University*

The resignation of the following members was also accepted:

Prof. Peter Bannister
Dr C.J. Burrows
Mrs Louise Clark
Mr Malcolm Douglas
Ms Claire Graeme
Dr G. Harper
Mr Murray Hudson
Ms Rachel Johnson
Dr Fran Kell
Miss Christine Lee
Mr Geoff Lewis
Dr Bruce Miller
Dr Eric Spurr
Ms Pauline Syrett
Dr J. M. & P.M. Williams

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 2008/2009

(Effective from 30 September 2008)

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This Newsletter was produced by Fleur Maseyk and Jeremy Rolfe.

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

Fleur Maseyk
Horizons Regional Council
P.O. Box 11025,
Manawatu Mail Centre,
Palmerston North

Next deadline for the newsletter is 2 September 2009.

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