

Ecological Society

Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITOR

Recent trips overseas have caused me to ponder how well we are doing in protecting our indigenous landscapes and biodiversity contained within them in comparison with other regions and countries. IUCN and UNEP (Chape et al 2003)¹ recently reviewed protected areas on a global scale and using a IUCN classification of protected lands, showed that 11.5% of the land mass of the world has some form of protection (see table below).

Definitions of the IUCN Protected Area Management categories and worldwide area protected in each (From Chape et al 2003)¹

Category	Definition	Worldwide Total Area Protected (millions of km) ²
Ia	Strict Nature Reserve: protected area managed mainly for science	1.0
Ib	Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection	1.0
II	National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation	4.4
III	Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features	0.3
IV	Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention	3.0
V	Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/ seascape conservation and recreation	1.1
VI	Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems	4.3
Not classified		3.6
Total		18.8 (11.5% of all land)

¹ Chape, S.; Blyth, S.; Fish, L.; Fox, P.; Spalding, M. (compilers). 2003: 2003 United Nations list of protected areas. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK, IUCN and UNEP-WCMC.

The Pacific region (the smaller islands) are lagging behind the rest of the world, particularly North and South America (see next table). New Zealand and Australia lumped together fall into the bottom half of the table, but New Zealand at around 30% of land in some form of protection (Craig et al 2000)² is going rather better than our colleagues across the Tasman.

² Craig, J.; Anderson, S.; Clout, M.; Creese, B.; Mitchell, N.; Ogden, J.; Roberts, M.; Ussher, G. 2000: Conservation issues in New Zealand. *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics* 31: 61–78

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Percent of land in protected areas (categories I to VI) (From Chape et al., op. cit.)

Region	% protected	Region	% protected
South America (Hispanic)	24.9%	North Africa and Middle East	9.7%
Central America	24.8%	Australia/NZ	9.6%* ²
Brazil	18.3%	Western and Central Africa	8.7%
North America (includes Greenland and Hawaii)	18.2%	East Asia	8.5%
South East Asia	14.8%	North Eurasia	7.2%
Eastern and Southern Africa	14.6%	South Asia	6.8%
Europe	13.1%	Pacific	2.1%
Caribbean	11.7%	Antarctica	0.0%

*Craig et al (op. cit.) estimate that 30 percent of New Zealand's land is in reserves

However, it is well recognised that New Zealand's reserve system is not at all representative of all ecosystems of New Zealand, and is heavily skewed in favour of alpine and forested systems (Craig et al, op. cit.).

The current round of Tenure Review, following the Crown Pastoral Lands Act 1998, essentially seeks to divide the current 304 pastoral leases into freehold land for farmers, and conservation estate. The exercise will undoubtedly increase the area of New Zealand protected in IUCN categories I and II (and perhaps IV – given that some grasslands preserve biodiversity that would be lost if the cessation of grazing allows a slow progression towards forest or shrubland at the expense of open grassland plant and animal species). These conservation gains, however come at the expense of some loss of public land to freehold, particularly in the lower altitude areas which are currently very under-represented in the reserve system. This point is recognised in the recent report to cabinet on the process from the Offices of the Ministries of Land Information, Conservation, and Agriculture and Rural Affairs who are implementing the review (copies of the report can be obtained at <http://www.linz.govt.nz>

“ENGOS and, less frequently, DoC have expressed concern that SIVs, particularly those that are lowland or valley floor habitats and ecosystems (i.e. below 900m) and landscapes, are not being adequately protected through tenure review. Officials propose to increase their efforts to ensure that completed tenure reviews protect vulnerable lowland SIVs and significant landscape values.

“The protection of lowland or valley floor habitats and ecosystems has been difficult to achieve under tenure review. Lowland areas are generally the most modified parts of pastoral properties and generally have the best potential for alternative or more intensive land uses. They are therefore the places that the lessee wants to freehold unencumbered. Recent tenure reviews in Canterbury, however, have achieved some good lowland protection outcomes through equality of exchange

payments to lessees.

“It has been even more difficult to achieve protection for complete altitudinal sequences from the lowlands to the alpine zone, but has been relatively easy to protect the highest altitude ecosystems. Alternative tools such as whole property purchase are needed for the adequate protection of lowland systems and altitudinal sequences.”

No doubt, the next time IUCN compiles its protected area survey, the figures will show an increase in % of land protected in New Zealand as a result of this process. I wonder however, at what cost these gains have been made. Let's hope that the balance of significant upland and lowland conservation estate is not further skewed by this process and that we can truthfully report a conservation gain.

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CONFERENCE 2004



29 August – 5 September, Invercargill

Programme Outline

29 August: student session

30–31 August: symposia and contributed papers

1 September: 1-day field trips

2 September: symposia and contributed papers

3–5 September: 3-day field trips

Important Dates

Abstracts: deadline for submission is **25 June**

Registration: early bird registration closes **25 June**

Symposia:

1. Monitoring as a tool to inform national and international agreements and policies
2. Human dimensions of ecology—working with indigenous peoples
3. Disturbance ecology
4. Peatland ecology
5. Subantarctic ecology

Details: <http://www.nzes.org.nz/conf2004/index.html>

Registration forms will be inserted in the next issue of the newsletter (109), due out in May. In the meantime, if you want to register straight away—get the forms from the website when they are available.

52ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

As usual, the AGM of NZES will be held during the annual conference on Tuesday 31st August – the time and room will be advertised in a later newsletter and on the conference website <http://www.nzes.org.nz/conf2004/index.html>. All members are urged to attend. The minutes of the 51st AGM can be found in this issue of the newsletter. 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, and preferably in time to be included in the newsletter that precedes the AGM (issue no 109 due out in May). After that time, following the society rules, no new motion may be proposed, discussed, or put to the vote except by consent of more than two-thirds of the members present.

SEVERAL NEW COUNCILLORS AND OFFICE HOLDERS ON NZES FOR 2004

The AGM at Auckland saw quite a few changes to the make-up of the council. Several office holders stood down after finishing their terms, making room for several new faces.

Janet Wilmshurst finished her time as president (but remains on council for one year as immediate past president) and is replaced by the former vice-president Mark Sanders, while John Sawyer was elected as the new vice-president. Our secretary and treasurer have also stood down (after several years of dedicated service), and Dave Kelly and Ben Reddiex will be replaced by Shona Meyers and Rachel Keedwell respectively. (Dave will also be on council for a year as he was seconded to help ease the transition). Richard Duncan completed his two-year term as councillor and assumes his new role as editor of *NZJE*. Kate McNutt was elected to fill the vacancy as councillor. Other people not mentioned, keep their roles for 2003/4. Welcome to the new team, I think we have a very exciting and fresh look on council.

I hope to have a brief profile of each of the new people in the next newsletter, so look out for that.

We will be looking for a new editor for this newsletter later this year, as I have decided to give someone else a turn after the AGM in Invercargill after doing the job for three years. So, if you feel inclined to have a go, let Mark or someone else on council know, preferably before the AGM.

HONOURS FOR NZ ECOLOGISTS

Several of our members were honoured recently for their contributions to ecology and society—well done to them all!

John Parkes – RSNZ Bronze medal for science and technology

This award was presented at the NZES meeting in Auckland in November.

Dr John McLennan (Landcare Research) – The Queen's Service Medal For Public Services (Q.S.M.)

Named in the New Year's Honours list.

David Wardle, Landcare Research, Lincoln – Fellow of the Royal Society

From the RSNZ website: "*Dr Wardle is an ecologist who has achieved international recognition for his research on the functional significance of biodiversity for ecosystem processes, advancing the understanding of links between soil and plant ecology.*"

NZES AWARDS – 2003 WINNERS AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2004

Te Tohu Taiao

This award is presented annually to recognise society members who have made an outstanding contribution to ecological science.

Unfortunately in 2003, there were no nominations made for the award and it was therefore decided by council not to make a presentation.

As the conference is earlier this year (August), please get your thinking-caps on and make nominations to the NZES awards convenor (awards@nzes.org.nz) before **31 June, 2004**. Keep a look out for a new nomination form which will be posted on the NZES webpage shortly www.nzes.org.nz. There are many members of the society that deserve to be recognised for their work and it is up to you to nominate them for this award.

Best Student Conference Paper

This award is presented to a student that is judged to have presented the best oral paper at the society's annual conference. Prize winners receive a certificate, a cheque for \$200 and one year of free subscription to the NZES. The award was presented to Harshi Gamage at the conference held in Auckland during November, 2003. Harshi talked about her PhD research "*Leaf anatomy and stomatal conductance: do foliar responses determine the shade-tolerance of homoblastic and heteroblastic seedlings*". The judges were particularly

impressed with the way Harshi clearly articulated her research ideas and the images that formed part of her presentation. Congratulations Harshi! A reminder to students that if they wish to be eligible for this award at the 2004 conference to please make it clear when they submit their abstracts that they wish to be considered for the prize.

Best Student Conference Poster

This award is presented to the student with the best poster at the society's annual conference. This time Jenny Lux from the University of Auckland was awarded the prize consisting of a certificate, a \$100 cheque, and one year of free subscription to the NZES. Jenny's poster summarised her research on Early Polynesian burning and vegetation change at Waipoua Forest, Northland, N.Z.

NZES award for the Best Publication by a New Researcher.

This annual award is presented to new researchers in the field of ecology that have recently published their research findings. Unfortunately very few people nominated their publications for this award last year and it was therefore decided by the NZES council not to present an award for 2003. Please encourage new researchers to submit their publications to the awards convenor (awards@nz.es.org.nz) by the 31 June, 2004 to be eligible for the award this year.

Student Travel Grants

A reminder to all students intending to attend the NZES conference in Invercargill this year that a financial grant is available to assist with travel costs. For more information please check out the NZES webpage on www.nz.es.org.nz.

For more information on awards presented by the society, see the NZES webpage on www.nz.es.org.nz. Or email the Awards Convenor (Alison Evans) at the following address: awards@nz.es.org.nz.

NZES SUBMISSION ON DOC'S "DRAFT GENERAL POLICY" AND "NATIONAL PARKS DRAFT GENERAL POLICY"

Every 15-20 years, the NZ Department of Conservation (DOC) reviews two of its important conservation policy documents, known as statements of General Policy. These cover the Conservation Act 1987 and related legislation, and the National Parks Act 1980. Public submissions on the drafts of these General Policy statements were requested in December 2003. The full NZES submission, coordinated by the Society's Submissions Convenor, Murray Williams, and submitted by Society President, Mark Saunders,

can be downloaded from: <http://www.nz.es.org.nz/submissions/DOCGenPolicy.pdf> (pdf, 116k)

The Society's submission highlights the drafts' statements regarding research in DOC administered reserves. We suggest that DOC should encourage all ecological research in these reserves, rather than just research identified as being directly relevant to conservation management. The submission takes issue with the draft policies stated intention of seeking a high level of "control" over any research conducted on public conservation land, with that "control" extending to how the knowledge is managed (11(d)), the nature of the intellectual property acquired from that research (11(d), 11(f)(iv)) and the distribution of the knowledge (11(h)). The Society argues instead that DOC should advocate for the knowledge to be placed in the public domain.

The Society's submission also makes suggestions for improving public participation in conservation management, monitoring the effects of conservation management, maintaining and developing knowledge of NZ's natural resources, and strengthening DOC's advocacy role.

IUCN: SHOULD WE STAY OR SHOULD WE GO?

Dave Kelly outlines the NZES history of involvement with IUCN and questions our continued membership
NZ Ecological Society has been a member of IUCN (the International Union for the Conservation of Nature) since 1997. Membership costs around NZ\$500 a year. Early in 2003 the NZES Council reviewed this membership and decided in the absence of any obvious ongoing benefits to NZES members that we should resign. However, Council did not publicise this decision as we probably should have, or ask members for feedback. The matter has now been raised by members who support NZES remaining a member of IUCN. Therefore, Council has continued our membership for the current year and resolved to seek wider debate about whether we should remain a member for next year. Below is an outline of the history, and a summary of pros and cons of membership, followed by some information from Wren Green in support of membership.

All members are invited to contribute to the discussion, which will be raised for debate at the 2004 AGM (on 31 August at the Invercargill conference).

Background

The initial suggestion to join IUCN was made to Council in August 1996 by Ian Spellerberg, who was then a councillor. He argued the benefits included:

- showing support for the goals of the IUCN
- good networking opportunities for individuals and the Society
- potential to increase NZES membership

- raising the professional profile of NZES
- giving NZES right of representation on the NZ IUCN Committee
- allowing NZES members to be on specialist lists for consulting etc.

At that time, other IUCN members in NZ included DOC, MfE, NZ Conservation Authority, Centre for Resource Management, Forest and Bird, World Wildlife Fund NZ, and ECO. There was discussion about whether it was appropriate for NZES, which is not by charter a “conservation” group, to become a member of a conservation organisation. However, Council finally decided to make an application for membership.

This council decision was advertised in the NZES newsletter (issue 82 page 5, October 1996), where the objectives of the IUCN were spelt out as:

- to ensure the conservation of nature, especially biological diversity
- to ensure that where the earth’s natural resources are used, this is done wisely in an equitable and sustainable way
- to guide the development of human communities towards ways of life that are both of good quality and in enduring harmony with other components in the biosphere

It was also pointed out in the newsletter that joining is a slow and complicated process that takes 12–18 months.

At the next council meeting (November 1996) the relative benefits and costs of joining were raised; some councillors felt that there were more effective ways to raise the profile of the society. Council decided to continue with the application, but set up a subcommittee (including Craig Miller, who was then vice-president) to produce a formal strategy for how IUCN membership could be made to benefit NZES members, and allow members to capitalise on opportunities created.

The proposal to join was put to the 1997 AGM at Victoria University for ratification (by this time, the application process was well advanced but not complete). In favour, Wren Green argued that this would allow NZES members to join various commissions such as the Species Survival Commission, and that the IUCN was in a unique position to bring together governmental organisations with non-governmental organisations. Kath Dickinson said that there would be opportunities for networking once on such commissions. In opposition, John Parkes asked what members would gain that they could not gain on an individual level; Wren replied that commission members do not have speaking rights at the World Congress, only representatives of member organisations do.

The AGM voted in favour of joining, and NZES officially became a member of IUCN on 26 April 1999.

For the next few years, occasional reports from

IUCN meetings etc were provided for Council and the Newsletter by Wren Green, who was NZES Vice-President in 1997/98 and 1998/99. In 2000, Wren and Mick Clout attended the World Congress in Jordan as NZES reps (at no cost to the society). However, after that, little was heard.

By late 2002, Council was becoming concerned that all that we saw of IUCN membership was an annual bill for \$500, and occasional paperwork which seemed to be weighty but rather bureaucratic and of no particular interest to conservation or to NZES. Craig Miller had promised to produce a summary of benefits to NZES members of IUCN membership, but this never eventuated.

This led to the January 2003 Council decision to withdraw from IUCN, which was described in Newsletter 104 (February 2003) but buried on page 17 without any highlighting. It would have been better to raise this explicitly at the time, as we are now doing!

When the January decision was actioned in October 2003, Wren Green was alerted and raised the issue of whether this is in the society’s best interests. Therefore, the Council decided to maintain membership for the time being, pending the outcome of a discussion about its value to NZES. A summary of points by Wren follows. Here is a brief list of pros and cons as seen by me, as NZES secretary through much of this time.

Pros of IUCN membership by NZES

- IUCN is probably the premier conservation body worldwide
- various subgroups of the IUCN (eg Invasive Species Specialist Group) do a very good job and some have NZ’ers on them
- it is a slow process to join, so it is much easier to remain a member than to resign and have to rejoin later

Cons of IUCN membership by NZES

- IUCN is a conservation body, whereas NZES is a professional scientific society
- it costs around \$500 per year (from a total NZES budget of c \$50,000 per year, i.e. 1% of expenditure)
- most of the paperwork coming to NZES since we joined seemed to indicate a bureaucracy talking to itself rather than anything to do with actual conservation
- some of the important work done by subgroups of the IUCN seems to function without financial support from IUCN head office
- the important work done by NZES members on IUCN subgroups does not seem to depend on NZES being a member
- most of the putative benefits of IUCN membership seem to be rather ethereal

- it has been hard to get anyone to produce any information for NZES members generally about the value of being in IUCN

However, the above is no doubt a partial, and perhaps skewed, view of IUCN as seen from the position of secretary of NZES. How about some feedback from members – how many of you value the IUCN? How many of you value NZES’s membership of it? I thank Wren Green for taking the time to outline below his view of why NZES should remain a member. Please let Council know what the rest of you think.

Dave Kelly
18 February, 2004

Comments by Wren Green to NZES Council on why NZES should stay in IUCN

Notes on background

Dave’s article include the fact that Mick Clout and myself were the delegates from NZ Ecol. Soc. to the 2nd World Conservation Congress in Jordan (2000). Carol West signed the supporting letters as agreed by Council. This gave Mick and myself voting rights for IUCN elections and speaking rights for all plenary discussions on the IUCN Programme (for 2000–2004) and other matters. This included considerable involvement we had on resolutions on invasive species issues that were passed and have had valuable long term influence on IUCN activities internationally on this major global issue.

It was Dr Lance McCaskill, as inaugural Director of the Tussock Grasslands and Mountain Lands Institute, who first recognised the international significance of working with IUCN and who persuaded the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society to become the first institutional member of IUCN in 1949. He also persuaded the NZ Conservation Authority to join as a ‘government agency’ member, and this was followed by the NZ Government (through Lands and Survey) joining IUCN as a State Member in 1974 to work to support its ideals and objectives.

Some members of Council may not be aware that Lincoln University remains a member of IUCN and, during 23–25 February 1997, hosted the first national meeting of IUCN members in New Zealand. Ian Spellberg wrote the Preface to the 138 page report that I compiled on that very successful meeting. About one hundred people attended, the keynote speaker was the IUCN Director-General, David McDowell, followed by Minister of Conservation, Dr Nick Smith, and Bing Lucas who played a leading role in IUCN nationally and internationally, for three decades.

In addition to my position on the IUCN Council since 1996 there are many other NZ ecologists connected to the work of IUCN. I have already mentioned in earlier e-mails the current input of David Given, who, as a senior member of the Steering Committee

of the SSC (Species Survival Commission) has played an instrumental role in developing the international strategy now in place for plant conservation. I also mentioned the work of Mick Clout as Chair of the ISSG (Invasive Species Specialist Group) of the SSC. Mick chairs an expanding network of international experts who are making a significant contribution to invasive species issues regionally and internationally. It was the ISSG of SSC that hosted a very successful international conference “Turning the Tide: the Eradication of Invasive Species” at the University of Auckland in February 2001. The 414 pages of proceedings of that conference were published by IUCN. All the papers were peer-reviewed and many are of relevance and value to our work as ecologists in NZ.

There are probably about 100 New Zealand scientists who are members of one or more of the six IUCN Commissions. The majority belong to the SSC, which is by far the largest Commission with over 7,000 members world-wide. Some members of Ecol. Soc. also belong to the World Commission on Protected Areas—instrumental in protected areas management initiatives. These commissions and the other diverse activities of the IUCN organisation as a whole are fully detailed on the IUCN web-site at www.iucn.org. In the late 1980s Prof. Carolyn Burns, now a member of the Academy of the Royal Society, was an IUCN regional councillor from NZ.

Two years ago, IUCN was granted official observer status to the UN General Assembly—the only conservation organisation to have this status. This gives IUCN the right to attend all the meetings and conferences of all UN agencies and to speak as an observer. It already plays a significant role as an advisor to the Conference of the Parties (COP) who are signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The IUCN website currently has daily stories relating to its input to the February 2004 COP for this Convention.

Benefits of IUCN membership

I suggest that your request to just detail the benefits of IUCN membership is to take too narrow a view of the question.

At the Feb 1997 NZ IUCN Conference Nick Smith said: “I want to leave this conference with a challenge, that in the next three days you can build a bridge between New Zealand and the international community through IUCN. I want it to be a busy bridge and I want it to be a two way bridge with traffic flowing in both directions.”

At the 1997 Conference Bing Lucas said: “I believe that New Zealand’s participation in IUCN has brought us much benefit. It keeps us in touch with innovative thinking in conservation to which we also contribute. IUCN opened our eyes to the concept of representativeness and helped lay the foundation for a positive

response to the challenge of conserving biodiversity. IUCN enables New Zealand to contribute to global thinking and to influence international action as was done in moving Antarctic policies away from exploitation to a sustainable approach. The challenge is to convert IUCN ideals into action and that can only be done if membership of IUCN is expanded and all work in a committed way to confront the conservation challenge of our country and our wider region.”

At the 1997 Conference the IUCN Director-General said: What IUCN can do for New Zealand is:

- Connect. Provide New Zealand with valuable linkages into global debates that are shaping the future options for planetary management. Considerable progress has been made in developing indicators and measures of sustainability which could be of benefit to New Zealand.
- Network. The six IUCN Commissions offer New Zealand scientists a unique opportunity to network with peer groups of experts around the world. These voluntary networks can be extremely beneficial in keeping like groups of experts in touch while contributing to specific conservation initiatives.
- Globalise. Because IUCN operates globally as well as locally it is able to put national actions and problems in an international context.
- Inform. IUCN produces 200-300 (often technical) publications every year. Members get access to these at cheaper rates.

He went on to ask - what can New Zealand do for IUCN?

- Share. There is much good NZ technical competence and methods in species and invasives, management that could be shared internationally.
- Support. There are various IUCN initiatives that would benefit from NZ input, e.g. Antarctica, marine protected areas, invasive species, restoration techniques.
- South Pacific Assistance. To various conservation and over-use issues in the island countries of the Pacific.

I have quoted these people since I strongly believe Council has an obligation not only to look at “what is in it for us”, given the global environmental issues that you are all aware of. Issues such as invasive species problems are particularly relevant in this regard—as I have outlined above. The links through Mick and myself have brought benefits to NZ ecologists that are not routed through the information you receive from the Membership Unit of the Secretariat. Having the leading professional ecological society of NZ a member of IUCN should be seen as an integral part of contributing to global and regional solutions to ecological problems. That NZES is not currently playing a more active role should be a cause for concern and warrants some positive

remedial discussions at the Council level, rather than terminating its membership.

My eight years on the IUCN Council will end in November 2004 at the Third World Conservation Congress in Bangkok (see the IUCN website for details as they are posted). Along with Mick Clout I will be among the New Zealanders attending. We would like to be able to represent the NZ Ecological Society at that Congress and make a positive New Zealand contribution to the global debates on global conservation issues. Our speaking rights (or of anyone else nominated by Council) will depend on continued IUCN membership by the Society. Any self interest aside, I sincerely hope that there will continue to be New Zealand ecologists representing NZES on this important world stage long after my departure.

I appreciate that the workings of IUCN may seem rather distant to you as individuals in your work places. My input to IUCN as an IUCN Councillor since 1997 has been in a voluntary capacity without any financial support from an employer, which has meant that I have not been able to engage NZES on IUCN matters as much as I would have liked. Pam Williams has been the Society’s representative on the IUCN National Committee that meets in Wellington four times a year. There may be cost-effective, time-effective ways of putting arrangements in place to make these connections more beneficial to Council and NZES members. I’d like to think Council is open to exploring them in the near future.

My thanks to Dave Kelly for providing his thoughts on the pros and cons of IUCN membership from his perspective. A couple of brief points of clarification will be helpful to members interested in this debate.

1. Yes, most of IUCN’s membership is conservation organisations (including 100 Government agencies and 75 States), but the members also include the British Ecological Society (since 1973), Royal Entomological Society, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, American Society of Mammalogists, Smithsonian Institution and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. It needs more such professional scientific organisations as members.
2. Yes, our ecologists can participate in Commission work (what Dave refers to as “IUCN subgroups”) without the NZES being a member. It is only members, however, who set the policy for IUCN, elect its Council, and approve the 4-yearly IUCN Programme at the Congress. This year we hope to get a specific Programme operating in Oceania for the first time, for the 2005-2008 period. Something we have only achieved through the members and the hard work of the regional IUCN committee. I hope that will open up opportunities for IUCN members and Commission members, including NZ

ecologists, to get involved in important conservation work in the Pacific island countries.

3. Dave's perception that IUCN "seems to be a bureaucracy talking to itself" is a wake-up call for your rep. on the National Committee and myself as NZ councillor to make better connections with Council and Ecol Soc members about the huge range of activities that are underway by IUCN to benefit conservation and sustainable development world-wide. IUCN's profile has been too low in New Zealand and membership engagement needs to be a higher priority.

I look forward to hearing the views of other members through the pages of the newsletter in the coming issues.

Editor's Note – NZES council would very much like to hear the views of members on this. E-mail, letters to the newsletter, or phone calls to council members are all ways that views can be expressed. We will make a final decision on this at the AGM in Invercargill

MINUTES OF THE AGM

Minutes of the 51st AGM of the New Zealand Ecological Society

Held on 18 November 2003 in room 439, Engineering School, University of Auckland (during annual conference)

The AGM opened at 6:16 pm.

Present: Janet Wilmshurst (chair), Dave Kelly (secretary), 31 other members, and 1 observer (see list below).

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Ben Reddiex, Jon Sullivan, Murray Williams, Di Robertson, Charlie Palmer.

2. Minutes of the 50th AGM

Moved they are accepted as a true record: Mel Galbraith, seconded Shona Myers, **passed**

3. Matters arising

Mel Galbraith asked if the next joint conference with the Australian Ecol Soc was going to be in Auckland in 2006 as he had heard. Dave K said that Auckland has been discussed informally as one possibility but there was nothing definite. The joint conference will be in NZ but the location depends on negotiations closer to the time and finding volunteers happy to take the task on. The first joint conference was in Dunedin so the best place from the point of view of the Australians would probably be a northern North Island venue, such as Rotorua, Auckland or Northland, as this would let them see northern forests, visit Tiritiri Matangi Island etc. Auckland has the advantage of an easy point of entry from Australia, but of course the fact that this

year's conference is there means it would be hard to have another in the same place in only three years time. Rotorua would have obvious other attractions to overseas visitors. Judith Roper-Lindsay asked if we could start planning it soon as there is more notice needed for international conferences. Agreed that this would be a good idea.

Kauri Fund: Mel Galbraith asked about progress. Janet said the final double-checked trust deed now needs to be signed off by IRD as suitable for charitable trust, and once this is done we should be able to formally sign the trust deed in early 2004. We will announce this in the newsletter when it happens.

Editor's Note – see page 12 for progress on this, and look for a push in profile of the fund at this year's conference.

4. Annual reports

Janet spoke to her annual report which was printed in the last newsletter (107). She called attention to the healthy state of the Society and the Journal, with a good financial position, good citation rates on the journal which is being published on time, and historically high membership numbers.

Dave spoke to the treasurer's report, and explained our position and profits. The reserves (\$58K) are a little over the prudent level identified at the Blenheim AGM of one year's spending (\$45K). The main uses proposed for this by the current council are a small increase in spending on education (through continued support for Tuitime), and an increase in the journal production budget from \$26K in 2002, and \$28K in 2003, to a proposed \$30K in 2004. The incoming council will review this in the new year in setting a draft 2004 budget but the level of reserves means we can be confident of covering this at least in 2004. The increase should allow an increase in the number of pages from c 100 per issue to c 140 per issue (280 per year). Dave also said the council felt a cautious strategy was sensible at present as the electronic journal publishing issue was causing great uncertainty about the direction for all scientific journals, not just *NZJ Ecol*, and it was not clear what the best course would be.

Judith Roper-Lindsay agreed education and the journal were a good use of money, and said the journal was very important. Ian Jamieson asked if the increased page limits meant that standards might come down. Dave said that his understanding was that David Wardle had always maintained the standard of articles as the first criterion, so that an issue would be printed on time but thinner if not enough papers were received. However as highlighted in the Journal Editor's report in newsletter 107, *NZJ Ecol* has had a record number of submissions this year (52 by last week, cf 34 in the previous record year) so at present there are a lot of extra papers to choose from.

There was discussion about the implications of fatter issues on the Technical Editor, currently Jenny Steven. This is an arduous job which would increase in direct proportion to the increase in pages. Finding more people to share the load might be helpful. Sarah Flynn suggested that information could be put in the Newsletter to see if any volunteers can be found.

Editor's note – any offers of assistance?

Bruce McKinley said the general accounting and other information coming out through the newsletter was excellent and the direction taken by council was prudent.

Helmut Janssen asked about the back issues on the internet and whether we could learn from other journals. Janet said the council was very actively considering this but that the whole area was so new that no one knew what was going to be a viable model and what wasn't.

Motion that the **annual reports and annual accounts be accepted**, moved Bruce McLennan, seconded Judith Roper-Lindsay, **passed**.

5. Election of officers

Nominations for President: Mark Sanders nominated Dave Kelly, seconded Rachel Keedwell. As there were no other nominations, Mark was declared elected.

Nominations Vice President: John Sawyer nominated Carol West, seconded Jenny Steven. Declared elected.

Secretary: Shona Myers nominated by Dave Kelly, seconded Mel Galbraith. Declared elected.

Treasurer: Rachel Keedwell nominated by Mark Sanders, seconded Cees Beevers. Declared elected.

Councillors: one position was vacant due to Richard Duncan finishing his two year term. Duane Peltzer, Alison Evans and Murray Williams roll over (half way through 2 year term). Nomination of Kate McNutt from Carol West, seconded Alastair Robertson. No other nominations, so Kate was declared elected.

Ex officio appointments: Richard Duncan is to take over as NZJE Scientific Editor in mid 2004 from David Wardle. Jenny Steven has agreed to carry on as Technical Editor, Alastair Robertson will continue as Newsletter Editor until the next AGM, and Jon Sullivan will carry on at Webmaster. Carol West and Laura Sessions are continuing as Education convenors. Janet expressed the thanks of the society to all these members whose voluntary efforts keep things running.

Editor's note – Dave Kelly was co-opted to council to advise the new secretaries and treasurer until the next AGM at the last council meeting in February. Three cheers to Dave (again!).

6. General business

The next conference will be in Invercargill, 29 August – 3 September 2004. Carol spoke briefly to this. First two days at Ascot Hotel, last day at the Working Men's Club, but they are all close together. There are a lot of field trips possible in the area, including a 3 day trip to Stewart Island, Catlins or Fiordland. Dunedin members have agreed to help with the organisation. Judith R-L asked if the program could be more focused so that people who can only attend for 1 or 2 days can come for the days that are most important to them; i.e. have all the stuff on a particular theme on the same day. Also she said having the field trip day in the middle of the talks does make this harder. Rachel said this was also an issue for Palmerston North people. There was general support for having the field trips before the start, though this clashes with the student day, not clear if this would be a problem. Ian Jamieson said this decision would be best left finally up to the people actually doing the organising, which Dave K said was always the way things worked.

Murray Williams sent a note which was circulated about submissions currently open for DOC Policy Statements on National Parks and other DOC land, with several suggestions for a Council submission, and calling for individual submissions too. The handout he prepared was discussed. John Ogden said this was an excellent idea as the fees for permits for research have been increased arbitrarily and constitute an important barrier to student research. This policy will be in place for a long time so it is important to get this right. John has also found different conservancies to handle things very differently. Sarah Flynn said the time taken to issue permits was a major problem. Bruce as a DOC person agreed that the charging and variation among conservancies should be dealt with, so that research could be facilitated. However, Bruce said the delays were due to statutory obligations to consult, including with iwi, so there are limits to how much this can be expedited. Judith R-L said this could also be raised through the RSNZ, and through science representatives on Conservation Boards. Mel said there were different levels of discretion in the DOC drafts: WILL, SHOULD and MAY, which are the key words. Carol asked that submissions should be specific and give examples of problems that have occurred.

Editor's Note – see page 4 for details of our submission

Bruce asked about the Sustainability review mentioned in past AGMs. Dave said that this had basically lapsed due to lack of interest, after several attempts by Bruce Burns and Judith Roper-Lindsay to initiate the review.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7:14 pm.

7. Present at 51st AGM

Members:

Doug Armstrong, Cees Beevers, Chris Bycroft, Isabel Castro, Richard Duncan, Alison Evans, Sarah Flynn, Robin Fordham, Tad Fukami, Mel Galbraith, Stephen Hartley, Jennifer Hurst, Ian Jamieson, Helmut Janssen, Rachel Keedwell, Dave Kelly, Bill Lee, Bruce McKinley, Linda Newstrom, John Ogden, Duane Peltzer, Cynthia Roberts, Alastair Robertson, Judith Roper-Lindsay, Daniel Rutledge, Mark Sanders, Margaret Stanley, Jenny Steven, Susan Walker, Darren Ward, Carol West, Janet Wilmshurst, Debra Wotton

Observers:

Maria Minor

HOT SCIENCE!

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

Brockerhoff, E.G., Ecroyd, C.E., Leckie, A.C., and Kimberley M.O. 2003. Diversity and succession of vascular understorey plants in exotic *Pinus radiata* plantation forests in New Zealand. *Forest Ecology and Management* 185: 307–326.

The loss of natural forests is a global threat for biodiversity. By contrast, the area of plantation forests is increasing but their role in conservation is controversial. We studied chronosequences of *Pinus radiata* stands to describe the succession of vascular understorey plant communities in this novel habitat. This succession is driven by a decrease in light-demanding pioneers and an increase in shade-tolerant, later seral species. The sheltered forest environment of older stands, with their mostly indigenous forest understorey community, can have conservation benefits in regions with little remaining natural forests, but the spread of wildings needs to be managed.

Gillman, L.N., Wright, S.D. & Ogden, J. 2003. Response of forest tree seedlings to simulated litterfall damage. *Plant Ecology* 169: 53-60.

Litterfall has been recognised as an important cause of seedling mortality in many forests. However, this is the first study to demonstrate differences in resilience to litterfall among seedling species. Seedling pairs of seven species were selected and one of each pair was pinned to the ground to simulate litterfall damage. Surprisingly, pinned *Nothofagus menziesii* and *Hedycarya arborea* suffered few mortalities and grew much faster than unpinned seedlings, whereas pinned *Nestegis cunninghamii* and *Prumnopitys ferruginea* suffered high mortalities and survivors grew little. Other species demonstrated intermediate resilience. This variable resilience combined with variability in microsite litterfall risk may contribute to regeneration niche differentiation.

Moore, S.J. & Battley, P.F. 2003. Cackle-opening by a dabbling duck, the Brown Teal. *Waterbirds* 26: 331-334.

Many birds feed on bivalves, but only oystercatchers (*Haematopus* spp.) are known to prise open the shells. Brown Teal (*Anas chlorotis*), a dabbling duck endemic to New Zealand, were observed opening Common Cockles (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*) on Great Barrier Island. The teal jack-hammered into the open shells of feeding cockles and quickly scooped out the flesh. Despite having the bill morphology of a typical dabbling duck, they were adept at this feeding method.

Standish, R.J. 2004. Impact of an invasive clonal herb on epigeic invertebrates in forest remnants in New Zealand. *Biological Conservation* 116: 49–58.

Tradescantia fluminensis is widespread throughout northern New Zealand and can become the dominant ground cover of forest remnants that it invades. Epigeic invertebrates were sampled within three *Tradescantia*-infested plots and three non-infested plots at each of three sites using pitfall traps. Impacts of *Tradescantia* were apparent despite large differences in invertebrate assemblages among sites. The impact of *Tradescantia* could be a result of the weed's tall, dense vegetation structure and associated microclimate, relative to native ground covers.

Standish, R.J., Williams, P.A., Robertson, A.W., Scott, N.A. and Hedderley, D.I. 2004. Invasion by a perennial herb increases decomposition rate and alters nutrient availability in warm temperate lowland forest remnants. *Biological Invasions* 6: 71–82.

While the impacts of invasive weeds on community processes are well studied, comparatively little is known about the impacts of weeds on ecosystem processes. We determined the impact of *Tradescantia fluminensis* on litter decomposition and nutrient availability in a remnant of New Zealand lowland podocarp-broadleaf forest. We used multiple approaches to demonstrate that *Tradescantia* increases litter decomposition and alters nutrient availability, effects which could influence the long-term viability of a majority of podocarp-broadleaf forest remnants affected with *Tradescantia* in New Zealand.

BIODIVERSITY WEBSITE

<http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/resources/index.html>

Good information underpins effective and efficient biodiversity conservation and management. The purpose of the 'Information Resources' section of this website is to provide a handy reference to established and new information resources to support biodiversity conservation planners, surveyors and scientists. We've provided links to information resources where they exist, and brief descriptions about how to access other resources.

A series of meetings and workshops were held in 2001 and 2002 to identify information issues affecting terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity management

contributors in New Zealand, and ways to resolve the issues. A website portal was widely endorsed as a practical and effective way of improving awareness of and access to fundamental information resources. The inter-agency government team that initiated Biodiversity Information Online (this website) subsequently endorsed a proposal that the portal should also cover marine information resources.

"Information Resources" is brought to you by the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (TFBIS) Programme of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

IUFRO conference, "Forest Diversity and Resistance to Native and Exotic Pest Insects"

10–13 August 2004

Hamner Springs. This conference will be a satellite meeting of the XXII International Congress of Entomology which will take place the following week in Brisbane, Australia. The principal topics of the meeting are 1. The role of forest (plant) diversity in pest dynamics, 2. Invasions of alien insect pests There

are several registration options (all include registration, transfer from Christchurch, a welcome reception, wine and cheese, a one-day field trip, lunches, the conference dinner, a copy of the proceedings, and tax (GST)): early-bird special (available until 30 April 2004) NZ\$360; student early-bird (until 30 April 2004) at NZ\$260.

For details and further instructions see <http://www.forestresearch.co.nz/iufro2004> or contact Eckehard Brockerhoff, e-mail eckehard.brockerhoff@forestresearch.co.nz.

MEETINGS DIARY

New entries are marked with an asterisk (*).

* 27 March 2004

Friends of Geoff Baylis (FRSNZ) University of Otago
Contact Alan Mark (amark@otago.ac.nz) for more details

5–8 April 2004

Entomological Society of NZ Conference, Nelson.
The organisers are calling for papers and posters for presentations. Contact Richard Harris (harrisr@landcareresearch.co.nz) for further information or check <http://www.ento.org.nz/conf04.htm>

19–23 April 2004

4th International Conference on "Applications of Stable Isotope Techniques to Ecological Studies"
Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington. <http://207.195.94.13/isoecol>

* 29 April – 4 May 2004

Seed Ecology 2004, an international meeting on seeds and the environment
Rhodes Island, Greece. <http://www.biology.uoa.gr/SeedEcology2004.htm/>

7–9 July 2004

A conference on Sustainability, Engineering and Science
Auckland. For more information, contact Vicky Adin, Conference Manager, Conference SES, PO Box 272.1460, Papakura, Auckland, (09) 299 7538, vickya@kiwilink.co.nz, <http://www.nzsses.org.nz>

19–22 July 2004

Estimating Animal Abundance
University of Canterbury, Christchurch. <http://www.ruwpa.st-and.ac.uk/aecourseNZ/> or contact Ian Westbrooke iwestbrooke@doc.govt.nz

* 26–28 July 2004

"Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in the Global System"
A conference in Bremen, Germany. Further information can be obtained from SCAR at <http://www.scar28.org>

10–13 August 2004

"Forest diversity and resistance to native and exotic pest insects", The International Union of Forestry Research Organisations (IUFRO) Conference
Hanmer Springs, Canterbury. <http://www.forestresearch.co.nz/iufro2004>

* 15–21 August 2004

XXII International Congress of Entomology – "Strength in Diversity"
Brisbane. <http://www.ccm.com.au/icoe/home/default.htm>

* 4–9 September 2004

8th International Global Atmospheric Chemistry (IGAC) Conference
Christchurch. Contact Trish Scott trish@conference.co.nz, <http://www.IGACConference2004.co.nz>

* 19–21 October 2004

New Zealand Grassland Association Annual Conference
Methven. Contact Mick Calder mail@grassland.org.nz, <http://www.grassland.org.nz>

* 28 November – 1 December 2004

"Molecular Mechanisms in Cell Biology" 14th annual Queenstown Molecular Biology meeting combined with NZSBMB
Queenstown. Contact Julian Eaton julian.eaton-rye@stonebow.otago.ac.nz, or <http://www.qmb.org.nz>.

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

Editor's Note (Edited and abridged minutes)

Minutes of NZES council meeting, 16 November 2003.

Matters arising from previous meeting

Kauri fund deed

Murray W emailed: *The amended Trust deed now before you is ready for the next phase....submission to IRD for the "charitable purposes" status. It is possible that IRD may request some wording changes before it grants "charitable" status so it would be wise not to rush into any formal signing of the deed until IRD deliberation has been received.*

If Council agrees, I am happy to "drive" the submission to IRD and see the trust deed to its final stage for signing. With a bit of luck we could formally do the signing of the trust deed at our first Council meeting in '04. Tradition has it that the President breaks out the bubbly at that point!!

Council authorised me spending up to \$400 for the legal review of the deed. The lawyer hasn't nominated his fee... merely said that Ecol.Soc. could pay him "whatever it deemed appropriate". My recommendation is that we send a cheque for \$225 to Mr. David G. Medway, 25a Norman St., New Plymouth. ACTION TREASURER

All approved by council. We can describe this all to members at the AGM.

Treasurers report

Membership increase/forms etc, date for discount to end on. Has been 15 February in the past, is this late enough? Yes, stick with this. Dave also failed to get the revised rates (where the previous \$10 late fee is built into the rates and then offered as a discount for prompt payment)

onto the membership/information leaflet, suggested it be passed on to someone else. Mark volunteered to update the leaflet and prepare a printing.

Journal editor's report

David reported that things continue to go well. Issue 28(1) is now full and being prepared to appear in early 2004. This will be a fatter issue (14 papers), due to the flood of manuscripts that have been coming in since late last year. DW will process all accepted mss that arrive before 31 December, and then transfer everything over to Richard Duncan. The flood of mss continues: we just received our 52nd ms for the year, already well ahead of our previous record for a whole year of 34. Most of this increase is in plant ecology, and more appointments to the board in this area are needed. DW to discuss this with Richard. As this was his last editor's report, David thanked everyone on council for their help and support over the past five years.

Jenny Steven had emailed re quote for 27(2) which is 150 pages and will cost \$15000 compared to \$11500 approx for the last issue. By email this was approved previously.

Janet raised RSNZ journal issues, Fytton Roland (sp?) report (which Murray circulated to us all) etc. Various recommendations, she said it was interesting reading. Dave reported about RSNZ AGM where Steve Thompson said the RSNZ was only an agent producing the journals for the Govt but this ran at \$40K less than govt grant plus subs, and can't go on, Steve thinks they will have to shift to author-pays model and give away the journal on the web. Dave thought this was wrong and that \$40K was a good use of RSNZ money in supporting science generally.

Richard said the main reason we survive on NZJE is that we get free time, postage, email, office space etc. However RSNZ changes may be contributing to the recent flood of (especially plant ecology) mss sent to NZJE this year, so we will need to print fatter issues.

Alastair wanted to know whether we will be creating a backlog if we don't increase the journal page limits; we don't really have that information to hand. Dave said if the council could set a budget for 2004 it could allocate some specific increased amount to the journal, eg increase it from last year's \$26K to say \$30K. This could be done short term as we have about \$13K more in the bank than we need to cover one year's expenditure, so could carry the loss. Extra costs of going electronic are trivial (a few hundred for PDFs and extra web space at RSNZ). Richard said the editor needs a good steer on this from council. **Agreed** to allow interim budget of \$30K for journal next year.

Richard doesn't know how big 28(1) will be – that is David's last one, then 28(2) is joint. Richard will try and bring a list of how big the mss queue is to the next meeting, and also info about the size of 28(1).

Webmaster report

Making the PDFs is under way, but it is tedious and slow. A student Sean Fergus is doing it for 10 weeks, then two Phd students will finish it off. The text-only PDFs have now had the figures inserted (back to about volume 19). Alastair wants to get them onto the Hot Science stuff; Al to send details to Sean. Jon to report at next meeting. When should we make these available? Jon thinks wait till mid 2004 when they are all ready for a big release. Seems OK though Dave was impatient.

Making PDFs available to all members – see previous discussions. Richard thinks we have to make current PDFs available to paid-up members; only problem is how this is done technically. Therefore there are no major decisions to ask members about at the AGM, but we can inform members about this.

Newsletter editor's report

Newsletter is going OK. Very little content comes in from members. Will there be complaints about late notification of AGM, late notification of early bird registration, late notice of timetable, etc? The latter two could be grumbles, but won't be legal problems. Most of this stuff was on the web in advance. Richard said Al was doing a great job on the newsletter. Al said thanks but he'll hand over at 2004 AGM.

Conference 2004

Seems OK for Invercargill, Sunday 29 August – Thurs 2 September 2004. It actually changes venues for the final day but this was thought to be OK.

Correspondence

RSNZ awards night and AGM, see previous minutes about our offer to be in on this. It happened last week and seemed to go OK according to RSNZ emails.

Membership

(figures taken as at 11 November 2003)

	Total	Comp	2003 Unpaid	2002 Unpaid	Hold	GNA
Full	364		11	14	6	7
Joint	50		2	1	1	
Overseas	25		1	3		1
Unwaged	157		8	14	5	3
Hon/Hon Life	10	10				
Newsletter	10	5				
Other	2	2				
Total	618	17	22	32	12	11

Membership Changes since 25 August 2003

New members: welcomed 43 new members—10 Full members: Miss Julia Chen, Ian Fraser, Dr Tadashi Fukami, Barbara Hammonds, Tushara Kodikara, Ms Jane MacGibbon, Ms Suzi Phillips, Marion Riddle, Dr David Slaney, Mrs Lynette M Smith. Two joint members: Dr Phil Battley & Ms Suzanne Moore. One overseas member: Ms Nichollette Brown. Thirty unwaged

members: Mr Jaroz Adams, Miss Clare Browne, Mr Phillip Dawson, Dorothee Durpoix, Catherine Duthie, Mr Joshua Fyfe, Ms Robin Gardner-Gee, Kelly Gravuer, Ms Elizabeth Grove, Ms Hye Ha, Mr Mark Hamer, Mr Ian Johnston, Miss Emily King, Miss Rebecca Lewis, Ms Xun Li, Ms Jenny Lux, Miss Mylene Mariette, Mr Timothy Martin, Miss Stephanie May, Mr Paul McHardy, Mr Sam McKechnie, Sarah McLean, Mr Ralf Ohlemueller, Mr Michael Perry, Miss Nicola Pindur, Miss Sarah Robbins, Arun Siva, Mr Adam Smith, Ms Sarah Withers, Mr Kevin Woo.

Resignations were accepted from four Full members, and two Joint members.

Subscribers

Paid up Subscribers for 2003: 113 (out of a total of 116), complimentary Subscribers 19. No New Subscribers since 25 August 2003 (Bibliotheque Central, shown to be new last month was not a new subscriber but a change of subscription agent hence the total subscribers above dropping back to 116).

Submissions

Murray Williams suggested by email that NZES make a submission on "DOC draft general policy" and "National Parks draft general policy" These documents outline DOC's policy intentions with respect to management and use of public land administered by DOC and to National Parks. The draft policies are essentially the same for both lands.

It was considered that there were two issues that NZES may be concerned over.

(i) there are 3 levels of discretion portrayed. There are policies that state something **MUST** be done, others that **MAY** be done and others "where appropriate". It would make a sensible point of focus to consider whether, on key issues, there is too much discretion being left in the paws of zealous bureaucrats.

(ii) "Research and information" are highlighted as specific uses of public land....they are actually separated out from recreational uses and "other uses" and are subjected to a specific set of policies wherein pre-eminence is given to activities that advance the conservation and management of those lands. I feel pretty uncomfortable about policies that establish research priority on public land and furthermore, give a lot of local discretion to DoC functionaries in local offices to decide what can or cannot be researched on public land. I think this is a legitimate target for an Ecol. Soc. submission.

General business

Contacting members by email: Dianne would have liked to be able to do this. Would members regard this as spam? We would be able to arrange by region (Canterbury, etc); could raise the issue in the newsletter. Before agreeing members will want to know how many emails a year? We could assure them it would be only as authorised

by council. Would email addresses be up to date? Could ask for annual updating on the renewal forms. Give people the option to opt out through newsletter, and/or put on renewal form (need self-explanatory text) including checking that email address. Would we use this to notify about new issue of the newsletter and journal as PDFs? Dave to correspond with Secretariat to find the best way of implementing this for impending renewal letters.

Someone to check if abstracting services want PDFs instead of paper etc? Need to write to each asking if they want paper copies as now, electronic versions (PDFs of full paper, of title page, of bibliographic information plus abstracts, or some combination of the above). Do we get the abstracts text from Swiftprint along with the PDFs and contents page? Need a volunteer to follow this up.

Dates for next meeting:

13 February, 21 May, 29 August (conference), 19 November.

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This Newsletter was produced by Alastair Robertson and Jeremy Rolfe.

Contributions for the newsletter – news, views, letters, cartoons, etc. – are welcomed. If possible, please send articles for the newsletter both on disk and in hard copy. 3.5" disks are preferred; MS Word, Word Perfect or ASCII file text, formatted for Macintosh or MS-DOS. Please do not use complex formatting; capital letters, italics, bold, and hard returns only, no spacing between paragraphs. Send disk and hard copy to:

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Next deadline for the newsletter is 30 April 2004.

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

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