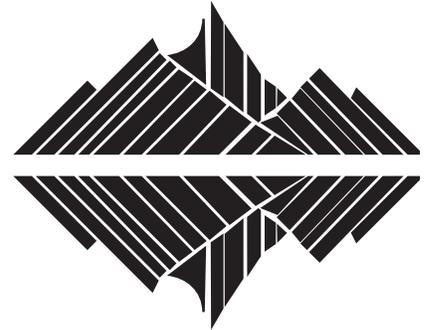


Ecological Society Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2007, we hope that your year is off to a great start.

There have been some changes to the makeup of the NZES council in the past few months. Due to health reasons Susan Timmons has stepped down from the Presidents' position, and Shona Myers, our well-loved secretary has taken up the challenge. We wish Susan a speedy recovery and thank her for her energy she has put into her role on NZES council over the past years and her excellent work as Conference chair for the 2006 joint conference.

In this issue we welcome back 'Ecology Stuck on the Web' after a brief hiatus. We have also reprinted an opinion piece by Rich Leschen, President of The Entomological Society of New Zealand. If you have a suggestion for a topic for an invited article please don't hesitate to contact us.

The 2007 NZES conference committee is seeking feedback on dates for field trips (see "*Feathers to Fur*": the 2007 NZES annual conference). Please e-mail your feedback to Dave Kelly: dave.kelly@canterbury.ac.nz.

All the best for 2007!

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of this newsletter is 28 May.

NZES PRESIDENT POSITION

Dear Ecol Soc members

As some of you may know, I had to take extended sick leave mid October 2006 – January 2007. As a result of working way too hard for too long I came to a complete stop and needed to rest and restore my energy levels. At first my 'flat battery syndrome' meant I had trouble walking and chatting—hard to believe of me I know! But I am now well on the way to recovery, including being back at work part time. However, I am not quite back to my full energetic self. That may take some months. Luckily for me I remained chirpy throughout and I have learnt to be contented with achieving less and smelling the roses more.

So, with some regret I have tendered my resignation as President of Ecological Society. Wonderfully, the very experienced Shona Myers has agreed to take on the role of President until the next AGM.

Susan Timmins

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If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, we encourage you to put it in the form of a letter to the editors.

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As Susan has explained I will be taking on the role of President of NZES following her resignation, at least until the AGM in November 2007. I have been Secretary of NZES since November 2003 and will draw on this knowledge and experience. On behalf of the NZES Council and Society I would like to thank Susan hugely for the contribution she has made to the Society in the last two years, as President, Vice president, and as conference team co-coordinator for the hugely successful 2006 Ecology Across the Tasman Conference. She has made significant contributions to the Ecological Society and Council for many years. I am looking forward to my new role and look forward to continuing the excellent work of the Society. We have a very hard working Council who I am looking forward to working with

Arohanui

Shona Myers
NZES President

CHARLES FLEMING AWARD – FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT

From the Royal Society of New Zealand Website

Background

The award was established in 1988 by the Royal Society of New Zealand to commemorate the life and work of Charles Alexander Fleming KBE FRS FRSNZ to honour those who have achieved distinction in the protection, maintenance, management, improvement or understanding of the environment, in particular the sustainable management of the New Zealand environment.

The recipient is expected to have a demonstrable record of communication with the general public.

The award is made every three years and consists of a medal, a cash grant, and an all expenses paid public lecture tour, visiting selected Royal Society Branches. The lecture tour will take place during 2008.

The Royal Society of New Zealand is now calling for nominations for the **Charles Fleming Award for Environmental Achievement**. The closing date for receipt of nominations is **30 June 2007**.

Additional information, including previous recipients, is available from http://www.rsnz.org/awards/academy_awards/#flemingaward

“FEATHERS TO FUR”: THE 2007 NZES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

19–23 November 2007

1. Dates: when and where?

The 2007 conference of the New Zealand Ecological Society is set for November, to be specific the week of 19–23 November, at the University of Canterbury. This date is later than usual, for two reasons. Firstly there is no single week in August when all the universities are on holiday, whereas this week in November sees them all finished teaching. Secondly the international Evolution conference is to be in Christchurch around 18–22 June, and having two Christchurch conferences close together would have been a problem. The venue will be the Central lecture block at the Ilam campus of the University of Canterbury.

Some dates are fixed and we still seek some input on others (see table). The main talks will run for three consecutive days, **Tuesday 20th – Thursday 22nd November**, with the key symposium on Tuesday (see below), so book those days for sure. The reason we have all the talks back to back is to maximise the chances of busy professionals (consultants, Regional Council staff etc) being able to attend all the talks.

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on behalf of the conference
organising committee

Time	Mon 19	Tue 20	Wed 21	Thu 22	Fri 23
Daytime	? field trips?	SYMPOSIUM: Feathers to fur	TALKS	TALKS	?field trips?
Evening	Wine & cheese mixer	AGM, posters	Conference dinner		

What we have not settled on is the dates for the field trips: these could be **before** the conference proper on Monday 19th, or **after** it on Friday 23rd (or even some of both). Advantages of the Monday are that anyone coming to their first conference could meet some folk on a field trip, and thus have people to socialise with through the rest of the conference. Advantages of the Friday are that anyone coming to their first conference could meet folk during the conference, and thus have people to socialise with on the field trips (if you see what we mean). Any strong preference either way? Please email feedback to me (dave.kelly@canterbury.ac.nz). Note that if the field trips are to be on Monday they will be designed so it is possible to fly in Monday morning to go on them, and similarly if they are on Friday we'll aim to finish in time for evening flights home. Depending on the answer on the field trips, we also need to sort out whether the student day is on Sunday or Monday.

Note that the Ecological Society of Australia are meeting in Perth in November but this is in the week after our conference (26–30 November) so it will be possible to attend both if you are keen. Having just had a joint meeting last year with ESAu, and with Perth being expensive to get to from NZ, we do not expect that a large number of people will want to go to both.

B. Topic: what and why?

This year, the conference will return to the theme of its 1986 conference, "Moas, mammals, and climate in the ecological history of New Zealand", by reviewing and synthesizing what we now know about past changes to NZ's fauna and flora. We are planning to start the conference with a full day of talks on this theme, which we are currently calling "Feathers to fur: the causes and consequences of turnover in the New Zealand fauna and flora". Most of the talks on this first day will be invited speakers whom we hope will give exciting reviews of progress since 1986.

As we all know, New Zealand's biota has changed substantially over the past several million years. The recent human-caused upheavals are just the last of many revolutions that have occurred on what Matt McGlone recently dubbed the "flypaper of the Pacific". As in the 1986 conference, we plan to compare and contrast the abiotic (climate, earthquakes, etc.) and biotic (extinction of moa, lost mutualists, invasions, etc.) causes and consequences of biotic change. We anticipate that this conference will provide the state-of-the-art historical context necessary to understand what NZ ecology will look like in the near future.

Below is a draft of what we are planning for the first day. This is still very much a draft and member feedback on the structure of this day would be most welcome. We especially want to hear from anyone keen to offer a talk in this symposium, or from anyone with suggestions for others they think could talk in it.

Morning session: An overview of current understanding of ancient and recent turnovers in the New Zealand fauna and flora, and their causes and consequences.

- Geological context: recent advances in our understanding of changes in New Zealand landforms over the past several million years
- Climate context: recent advances in our understanding of changes in New Zealand climate over the past several million years
- Past and present turnover in the New Zealand flora

- Past and present turnover in the New Zealand terrestrial vertebrate fauna
- Past and present turnover in the New Zealand terrestrial and freshwater invertebrate fauna
- Past and present turnover in the New Zealand marine fauna and flora
- Past and present turnover in New Zealand fungi
- Past and present turnover in New Zealand microbes

Afternoon session: a closer look

- Unique characteristics of the NZ flora: moa, climate, or serendipity?
- Moa ecology and moa impacts on vegetation
- Mammalian herbivore impacts on New Zealand vegetation
- Regeneration gaps and vegetation change in NZ forests: earthquakes and climate
- Changes in frugivory, seed dispersal, and pollination and their consequences
- Known and possible impacts of invasive invertebrates on NZ ecosystems
- Changes on islands: seabirds, rats, climate
- Impacts of habitat fragmentation past and present on NZ invertebrates

We hope all speakers will allow us to post PDF files of their talks on the society website immediately after the conference. We are also hatching plans for the talks on this first day to be podcast to the world for later listening, and, also, potentially to stream video of the conference live to universities around the country using the new, high-speed network called KAREN. Contingent on sponsorship, this will also become a special issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, hopefully including papers based on relevant submitted talks during the rest of the conference.

Following this structured first day will be the regular bevy of submitted talks, posters, and general ecological conviviality. We expect some of the sessions of submitted talks will be on aspects of the same "Feathers to Fur" theme.

We are thinking of closing the conference with one more invited talk, titled something like "Fur back to feathers: the social and technological revolution that is bringing native species back into mainland habitats".

Jot that day down in your calendars now. We reckon it will be a good one.

GENEROUS DONATION TO NZES

Rachel Keedwell
Treasurer

Late last year, a New Zealand Ecological Society member made a generous donation of \$1000 to the NZES. The member wishes to remain anonymous but expressed the desire that the money be used to encourage publication of research or in some way to assist the publication of the society's journal. The Council would like to formally thank this member for their generosity. We are currently discussing ideas of how this money can be used and we'll keep members updated with any developments that are made.

OPINION

Rich Leschen
President,
Entomology Society of New
Zealand

Editors note: This opinion piece from the New Zealand Entomology Society Newsletter, is reprinted with permission from the author.

Hi Folks! It has been a busy few months since the last Newsletter and I thought I would take a few opinionated and off the cuff moments to highlight some interesting New Zealand stuff.

One of the highlights of my year that some, if not all, of you have responded to was the release of the "Review of Level of Protection for Some New Zealand Wildlife, a Public Discussion Document" (PDD) put forth by the Department of Conservation (see: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/Documents/Files/wildlife%20protection%20discussion%20doc.pdf>).

The goal of the document was to promote legislation to protect animals like whalesharks, feral chickens, ALL Carabidae, the rare and endangered huhu beetle,

and much more – what a DoC-ument! It has been a long time since I received so much email traffic, apart from spam that seems to want to improve my anatomy or my economic situation. Anyway, the PDD created a landslide of responses and it was good to see that there was consensus among widely disparate entomologists about insect collecting and how the new legislation could affect the entire community of bug lovers, studiers, or general fanciers. However out of touch it was for entomologists, the document was basically written to address illegal collecting of New Zealand's endemic lucanids, penguins, and, apparently, chickens; which, most of us would agree requires action, succinctly and legally. So now the ball is rolling, and I wish DoC success in moving the process forward. Now, if anybody finds out who actually wrote the document I know some gun-slitting lepidopterists that will pay a good price for this information.

On the flipside, have any of you been involved with Outcome Based Investments, or OBIs? An OBI is the newest lexicon entry for government science funding that affects mostly those folks in Crown Research Institutes (CRI). Well, though I am just a simple-minded country boy, and only a casual observer, I have some insight (right or wrong) into what an OBI is; and let me tell you, I am not sure those politicians near or at the Beehive know what they are doing to the public science sector, apart from creating new-speak that has as much to do with reality as protecting feral chickens or the Huhu beetle from space invaders. Many government funded CRI programs and their collaborators are under the aegis of an OBI which is a schema dreamed up by some good-intentioned and possibly well-paid policy beatnik clones. Who these body snatchers are working for it's very hard to tell, but they are involved somehow with the two mega-government clone-shops ForST and MoRST, who I think are somehow interrelated or at least interbreed to produce some very bizarre offspring. After speaking to some of my connections at The Hague I am informed that there is a take-over of the government by aliens and they are slowly supplanting various ministry personnel with plastic wind-up toys.

Well, I can't even pretend to say that I fully understand the OBI, but in a nutshell, it is an organizational system that facilitates the advancement of research, making NZ science better than it ever was profit-wise (or perhaps quality-wise) via checks and balances and something called devolution. So, if the government hasn't whimsically cut your happy program, then the funded OBI is led by a Team Leader, advised by an Advisory Board, and then boarded by a Governing Board, all set in motion by an iterative process of priority setting, where the research is either accepted, ignored, rejected, or dejected: I suppose this is what is meant by devolution, and I imagine most people involved in the process will eventually form sagittal crests and speak to each other in low or high grunts: two grunts means "yes," and three grunts in rapid succession means "there is a leak in your building." I attended some of these OBI meetings over the past few months and they may seem like a harrowing experience for some. If you are a psychopath, I think there will be a few positions available. On one hand I feel, like what must be close to 100% of the scientists in the country would feel if asked, that the OBI system/process is a financial waste that taxes already severely under-funded programs. The advisory/board meetings are funded from the OBI allotments and support an entourage of assorted representatives from self-interest groups who meet periodically when there is a crisis, a paper needs to be signed or there is a free lunch. In some ways, the OBI may facilitate partnerships among unrelated organizations, but mostly all these guys are from similar pools of tight-pocketed institutions and so I can't decide if meetings achieve anything other than the production of piles of paperwork to be deployed strategically into the political ether.

Meanwhile, I know several folks who serve on OBI Advisory Boards and all, to most extent, just say to the OBI servants, "you guys should get on doing what you do best; we trust you scientists to make the right decision." I am optimistic, and

suppose something good could happen in the OBI system, like resolving conflict in working groups, forcing people to hug each other, and generating a few more airpoints. For me an added bonus was meeting so many nice people who are embroiled in the same science situation and are eager to share a warm cup of commiseration. But, one wonders if DoC should produce a Public Discussion Document for the protection of CRI scientists who appear to be over-collected and becoming increasingly extinct in the public science system.

So, for the next Newsletter I will promote the building of a new Insectarium on the Auckland waterfront that will double as an All Blacks stadium.

ECOLOGY STUCK ON THE WEB

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7: More New Zealand ecology journals available online

I heard on National Radio recently that ukuleles are the new black. Ukuleles are replacing recorders as the new favourite in New Zealand schools. Apparently they're hip, they're stringed, and they sound tolerable when played out of tune.

If you will permit me to butcher a segue, electronic journals have now become the new white. I no longer have to walk over to the university library to get my fix of New Zealand ecological science. I can get it at any internet-connected computer, anywhere. Don't get me wrong. I do like being in libraries. They're quiet and scholarly and time seems to move slower in libraries. Also, now that university classes have started again, the library will likely be a good place to escape the ukulele strumming undergrads I expect will soon appear in the hallways and on the campus lawns.

I had reason recently to sit down and calculate just how well-used our *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* website has been since all the back issues of the journal were made available in September 2004 (<http://www.newzealandecology.org/nzje/>, as if you'd forgotten). We have had over 213,000 unique visitors visit over 600,000 webpages and download approximately 132,000 PDF files of journal articles. These numbers well illustrate just how valuable these electronic back issue projects can be.

In recent months all the back issues of three more important New Zealand ecology journals have become available online: *Notornis* (1939–present), the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* (1925–present), and the *Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand* (1868–1961). This is a marvelous thing, arguably even more marvelous than an in tune ukulele orchestra playing the national anthem. Yes, that's enough now about ukuleles.

Notornis, <http://www.notornis.org.nz/>

Notornis, the peer-reviewed journal of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand, has long been the premier place for publishing ecological discoveries about New Zealand birds, both native and naturalised. The publication was originally called *New Zealand Bird Notes*. It was renamed *Notornis* in 1950 after the takahe miraculously returned from 50 years of apparent extinction. Bird taxonomists have subsequently subsumed the genus *Notornis* into *Porphyrio*, in recognition that the New Zealand takahe are not much more than big, flightless pukeko. *Notornis* still walks proudly in the name of this journal, and all of its foot prints, right back to the first issue, are now available in full text on the website for searching, reading, and downloading. There is some fantastic ecology for the taking,

New Zealand Journal of Forestry, <http://www.nzjf.org/> (note no .nz at the end of their web address)

Like *Notornis*, the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* is long time repository of New Zealand ecology and natural history. It began in 1925 as *Te Kura Ngahere* (which I translate as "the precious forest"), and was replaced by the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* in 1937. I must admit that I had traditionally overlooked this journal, and have been excited to discover that it contains a lot more than how to grow pines.

I am just beginning to explore the back issues. One example of an old paper I uncovered is an excellent article on the history of logging Canterbury native forest in early European settlement (Clark, A. F. 1926. Canterbury's native bush. *Te Kura Ngahere*, 2(1): 15–22). Try typing in the name of your favourite native tree into the full text search engine and you may be surprised at how much you uncover.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand, <http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/>

As the main publication of the Royal Society of New Zealand (which was the New Zealand Institute until 1933) this classic journal contains many articles by the early greats of New Zealand ecology and natural history. It has undergone a more elaborate (and expensive) conversion for the web than *Notornis* or the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry*, involving full-text proof-reading of all text, unlike the computer-read text of the *Notornis* and the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* PDF files (more on that below). In addition to functioning like a regular journal website, I've also had a lot of fun exploring the website's picture gallery. You can browse and download all the magnificent full page illustrations in each issue. As with all the online New Zealand journals, finding new things in old issues is as easy as typing a word or phrase into a search engine. This brings old knowledge to life in ways that all the dusty volumes on library shelves and carefully compiled indices could never do.

The layout and functioning of the *Notornis* and the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* websites may seem eerily familiar to you. This is because both were built using modifications of the website structure I built for the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*. This same structure is also used by the *New Zealand Entomologist* (<http://www.ento.org.nz/nzentomologist/>). Having all these journals websites built in the same way using the same technologies should hopefully lead to some new, combined features in the future.

I should add a word of caution here, as *Notornis* and the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* rely on automated computer-reading of the text in scanned pages of their back issues. Computers are only OK, not good, at reading text unaided. This leads to some inaccuracies behind the scenes in reading small fonts and italics, especially in older publications with imprecise typesetting. The citation information (title, authors, abstract, keywords) in both of these journals have been corrected by real brains, but the rest of the full text that their search engines run on is what was read by a computer during the creation of the PDF files. It is worth being aware of this when you use the search engines on these websites. I suggest you try searching in a few different ways for what you're after, especially if you are after papers where your word or phrase won't be commonly used. Below are some notable computer-read mistakes in the citation information of old *Notornis* PDF files (these have been corrected but other similar errors will still exist).

- "South Island Kokako (Callaeas dnerm dnerm)"
- "The Laughing Owl Sccloulaualbifades"
- "A pigeon among the hags"
- "Foo, of a Morepork"
- "the Gmunon Starling"
- "Birds in field, Manapouri-Mossbum mad"
- "Notes on the heights reached by some birds in the eastern ranges of the North bland"
- "Accidental dispersal of the Welcome Swallow hugh "hitch-hiking" on ships"
- "Comparative biology of the bumwing petrels of the Crozet Islands"

Keep these in mind when you are using these search engines, so you don't go Manapouri-Mossbum mad. And don't forget to make the time to stop by your local library for some peace and quiet.

Enjoy.

UPCOMING MEETING



Purpose

The purpose of the conference is to celebrate the past 20 years of integrated conservation management in New Zealand, and to chart options for the future.

A key objective is to share New Zealand experience and models of conservation with people from other nations and to learn from other countries ways to address such issues as protection and restoration of biodiversity, appreciation of natural and cultural heritage and conservation philosophy and politics

We hope to bring together scientists, practitioners and conservation enthusiasts to discuss what can be learned from the past to put into practice for the future.

Keynote Speakers include:

- Jeffrey A. McNeely, IUCN Chief Scientist
- Vandana Shiva, winner of UNEP [Global 500 Award](#) and the UN [Earth Day International Award](#), advocate of community involvement in conservation of biodiversity;
- Daniel Simberloff, PhD (Harvard) Professor of Environmental Science, The University of Tennessee (specialist in invasive species ecology)
- Geoff Park, PhD (ANU) Wellington ecologist and author of *Nga Uruora* and *Theatre Country*.
- David Young, author of *Our Islands, Our Selves, A History of Conservation in New Zealand* Ross Cullen PhD (Otago), Professor of Resource Economics, Lincoln University.

Conference themes include

- Biodiversity conservation
- Coastal and marine protection
- Conservation by community and indigenous groups
- Politics, policies & philosophy
- Visitor management
- Cultural heritage

Registration fees

(The deadline for Early-Bird registrations is 30th April)

Early bird student:	\$100
Standard student:	\$150
One day registration:	\$150 (no discount for Early bird)
Early bird full registration:	\$450
Standard full registration:	\$550

Further information

Check <http://www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/Conserv-Vision/contacts.shtml>

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NEWS FROM COUNCIL

Editors note: Edited and abridged minutes

Minutes of NZ Ecological Society Council Meeting, 16 February 2007, 9.30am, Department of Conservation office, Christchurch

Present: Shona Myers, John Sawyer, Rachel Keedwell, Mel Galbraith, Bruce Burns, Karen Denyer, Kate McNutt

Apologies: Peter Bellingham, Jacqueline Beggs, Ruth Guthrie, Susan Timmins

Treasurer's report (Rachel)

NZES is on target although the accounts are not fully completed yet because of some outstanding monies from 2005. NZES stands to make approximately 4k in interest. The audited accounts are in the newsletter.

Rachel is keen to empty out storage of NZES stock at the 2007 Conference 2007 in Christchurch to save some money in storage costs. Old journals could be prizes for students

President's position:

Susan has stepped down due to health reasons and we need to give her as much support as possible and limit pressure on her. Susan contacted Rachel, Bruce and Shona about stepping down and Shona has offered to fill the Presidency position until the next AGM. John moved that Shona is appointed as interim president, seconded by Bruce.

Karen motioned for a vote of thanks for Shona who is filling President's position.

Several positions on council are up for nomination in November including Treasurer, Presidency, two Council positions and Secretary. Also we need to fill vacancies for Awards Convenor and liaison person with ESA.

Mel Galbraith agreed to undertake liaison with ESA and will respond to their latest request by thanking for coming over for the 2006 conference etc.

Bruce offered to pick up some of the correspondence that Shona as Secretary currently deals with and Kate offered to take the minutes for the next couple of meetings (to take pressure off Shona).

John offered to fill media liaison role.

Kate will contact Peter Bellingham to get Roger Dungan's new contact email address (has he moved to Wellington Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and forward details to Rachel so she can discuss with him if he can investigate journal formats.

Journal report: (submitted by Peter Bellingham)

John suggested that the journal could be emailed, with links to pdf of each article. Subscribers could request the journal by email only if they wished, similar to the newsletter. This probably would not reduce the costs of print but for ethical reasons it is a good option. However, we need to know what the baseline threshold for printing the journal is.

Rachel has had 2 students ask for page chargers to be waived. Bruce suggested that each could be presented to the Council case by case and the page chargers taken from the kauri fund. The Council wants to support publishing within the journal but it is not difficult to decide who and why to have page chargers waived. Council decided that the standard policy should be that there is no waiver for page chargers. In the short term submitters could put a case to the Council to apply to the kauri fund, they can apply to get it reimbursed for the charge. We need to have some criteria for assessing these applications.

Action: Rachel will ask Roger if look at costs if 50% of journal volume reduced to look at different quotes if print run was reduced.

Conferences:

Wellington 2006 (John): NZES made a profit of \$28599.78 exl GST, sponsorship made the major difference. A small report has been written up about the conference.

A number of tee shirts are left over. John will send t-shirts to Rachel who will put a note in the newsletter stating they can be purchased from here for \$10 with a self address envelope. Any profits from late t-shirt sales will go directly into the kauri fund.

Karen suggested we use the profits to hire a journalist for the next conference.

\$2.5k was agreed as the float for the Christchurch conference, \$2k for a journalist, \$12k to go to the kauri fund and the balance to the current account.

Shona move that profits from 2006 conference are distributed as above, and thanks to the effort of the organising committee and Susan. Seconded by John.

INTECOL

Next teleconference is on the 7 March and Kate will forward minutes from this to the Council. Shona needs to become the company co-director as Susan is no longer on the Council. Council pre-approved expenditure up to \$2k in expenses associated with travel/meetings needed INTECOL.

Communication Strategy (Karen Denyer)

What is the key outcome the NZES wants out of a communication strategy? There was a lot of discussion about this.

Karen received a lot of feedback that appeared similarly stressing that we need good decision making especially with policy makers.

Other discussion points were about how NZES needs to show that ecology is relevant and useful in research, teaching and target this towards funding organisations. The general public need to increase their knowledge of ecology.

A problem is that the NZES publishes ecological research but this does not necessarily communicate with people to change their practise; research is not necessarily linking with good decision making.

- We should promote the successes of the application of ecology from the journal.
- NZES are expert advisers, fact based, scientifically robust and have a role to promote the latest ecological findings.
- NZES also needs to predict future the issues needing to be addressed.
- NZES is not a lobby group.

What do we get proactive about?

1. Issues must be prioritised because we cannot tackle all of them. Prioritisation could be based according to their Urgency, Importance, Relevance and Need.
2. Issues we choose could have a NZES fact sheet.
3. Identify where the level of influence is. High levels of influence would be a high priority for NZES to produce a fact sheet etc
4. Other issues of high priority are those with a lot of misinformation.
5. Constraints are time, research and the skills of NZES members.
6. We aren't necessarily issue driven. We should highlight good research that has occurred (eg papers in Nature) to raise NZES profile and promote papers we think contribute to ecology.

Council pre-approved \$500 for a news release on an article on the press release for next article for journal in the May 2007 issue.

Nigel Barlow Bursary

Nigel Barlow: the Barlow family have set aside \$50k to be administered by the NZES for international student study. Council decided it would be allocated every 2 years and we need criteria for the selection process. First round would be allocated in mid 2008 so applications would be requested in 2008. It will be called the Nigel Barlow Ecological Research Scholarship and will be placed in a separate high interest account.

Editor's report—New Zealand Journal of Ecology (Peter Bellingham, Scientific editor)

2006 news

- Issue 30(3) published January 2007.
- Three issues published in for the 2006 volume (No. 30): 30(1) was a the special issue arising from the symposium in honour of Nigel Barlow (12 papers and Introduction); 30(2) and 30(3) as standard issues containing 2 Reviews, 16 Research Articles, 7 Short Communications and 1 Forum Article.
- 53 manuscripts were submitted in 2006 of which 19 were declined (36%), 12 have been accepted (23%; 5 appeared in volume 30, and 7 are accepted for publication in volume 31) and the remainder are either in review or are back with authors for revision.
- Dr David Coomes resigned from the editorial board and Dr Grant Edwards was appointed to the editorial board.

2007 news

- Dr Roger Dungan resigned as Technical Editor for the journal in January 2007 before taking up a new job at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He ensured that 30(3) was at the printer before completing his tenure. I would like to suggest the President write Roger a letter of thanks for the 3 years of high-quality, voluntary work he contributed as Technical Editor.
- With support from senior management at Landcare Research, two of its staff editors, Anne Austin and Christine Bezar have shared the role of Technical Editor for the journal since January 2007. I would like to suggest the President write to Dr Warren Parker (CEO of Landcare Research) a letter of thanks for the support this Crown Research Institute will contribute for the staff time entailed Technical Editor.
- Anne Austin and Christine Bezar have already moved to improve the style guide for the journal. From 31(1) style (e.g. of references) will conform to standards employed in the Royal Society of New Zealand journals. I believe this will make life easier for ecologists seeking to publish across a range of New Zealand journals.
- Issue 31 (1) is a normal issue for which 9 papers have been accepted (including 6 Research Articles and 3 Short Communications). None are yet available online because of the transition in the role of Technical Editor. I expect we can expect 31(1) to be filled by March and to appear in print c. June.
- A rapid start for submissions in 2007: 11 so far cf. only 2 by this stage last year.
- Interest is expressed in at least 2 special issues; one may forthcoming from this year's Society conference and another is mooted to review achievements in conservation on Tiritiri Matangi (see Mel Galbraith).

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For information on the listserv contact me:

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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:

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