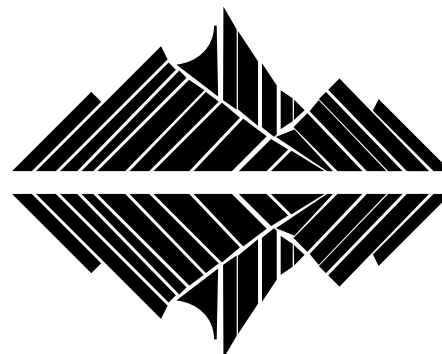


# Ecological Society

# Newsletter

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## FROM THE EDITOR

*To mark the retirement of Prof. John Ogden from the University of Auckland last year, a symposium was held at the September NZES Conference. The symposium theme mirrored John's research passions—forest history and forest ecology—in honour of John and his distinguished and influential career. Here is John's response.*

John Ogden  
*'Retired' Ecologist and Guest Editor*  
Awana, Great Barrier Island

Dear All

This is addressed to all members of the Society, but especially to those who organised, and participated in, the 'Ogden Symposium' at the last Ecology Society Conference. Thank you all for making my 'retirement' from Auckland University such a memorable and pleasant event. I'm not sure exactly who did what, but it was a big effort, with at least a couple of dozen people directly involved. Clearly ecologists are random co-operators; even Shona didn't seem to know who was doing what, but it all got done with apparent calm and efficiency. A good day in an excellent conference.

It was of course particularly enjoyable meeting up with so many old students, including some I had not met for many years. When I came to New Zealand in 1968 (I think) I became a member of the Society. This led to the rapid establishment of a network of close colleagues and friends. This easy collegiate atmosphere remains the great strength of the Society. Grass roots are as essential to an 'academic' Society as they are to any body concerned with education and the furtherance of knowledge.

Thank you also for the Te Tohu Taiao Award. This was a totally unexpected honour, which left me a bit shaken—or perhaps that was the thought of drinking Velutto Rosso. All I can say is that I have enjoyed doing, writing about, and generally participating in, the subject of ecology. Inevitably it broadens one's horizons, but almost equally inevitably it brings you into conflict with others ignorant of ecological cycles and processes, and resistant to our simple teachings. Aldo Leopold said "one of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds". The scars on the landscape, particularly reduced biodiversity, are invisible to persons lacking in ecological training and any sense of history. Individual members, and the Society as a body, wrestle with these sorts of problems daily. I congratulate anyone working at the public front-line on issues relating to ecology, biodiversity and landscape sustainability, where the difficulties are always directly related to the importance of the issue. There is in fact no alternative to involvement - short of retreating into your shell. I was thinking of those snails.

The poster in particular was a wonderful gift, and I will find somewhere to put it where I can occasionally bask in the sunshine and humour

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reflected from it! The *Phebalium nudum* (Nomina Conserva; Awana Wine Society) is planted and looks like doing well, though it will not be big enough to harvest for a year or two. So, thanks again. All was done with much forethought, and I really appreciate it.

Yours aye—John O.

### PETER WARDLE (1931–2008)

Matt McGlone  
Landcare Research  
Lincoln

As many members will already be aware, Peter Wardle, a long-standing member of this society, died on Saturday 6 December 2008 while crossing the Waimakariri River at Klondyke Corner with a group of trampers, including his wife Margaret. The cause of his death has yet to be determined. Peter was President of the society in the years 1970–1972, and was made an Honorary Life Member in 1999. An

obituary is planned for the New Zealand Journal of Ecology focusing in particular on his contribution to environmental science. However, in the meantime, it is appropriate to say a few words outlining his major contribution to the study of ecology in this country.

Peter completed an ecological study of vegetation and climate of the Dunedin District for his MSc in 1953 and then took up a scholarship to study at Cambridge University (1954–1957). On returning to New Zealand in 1957 he joined the Forest Research Institute (New Zealand Forest Service) at Rangiora as an ecologist, transferring to Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, at Lincoln in 1960. He remained with Botany Division, and its successor organisation Landcare Research, and was a Research Associate until his retirement in 1996. Peter was



Photo: Rowan Buxton

still very active in ecological research right up until his death, and in fact had two papers published in international journals in 2008.

Peter made an extraordinary contribution over his 55 year career to the study of plants and their ecology in New Zealand. While his best known work focused on the descriptive ecology of New Zealand (culminating in the 1991 publication of *Vegetation of New Zealand*) this is only a small part of what he achieved. His detailed experimental work on tree lines, and plants and frost, gained him an international reputation. He published over 100 refereed papers on everything from goats on Auckland Island to the climate of the early Tertiary. He also made significant contributions to biogeography, climatology, recent glacial history, the Quaternary, taxonomy, pollination, plant form and function, and fire history. Late in his career, he took a keen interest in southern South America, and undertook extensive field work and wrote a number of outstanding papers on biogeographic and ecological parallels between Chile and New Zealand.

As an ecologist employed by the government, Peter's career was strongly affected by the intensification of destruction of the natural environment after the war, through logging, land clearance, draining, dam and road construction. Environmental activism intensified in response from the late 1960s onwards and public debate about the environment became heated. Peter presided over a marked expansion of the ecological work force within Botany Division in response to a rapidly rising demand for surveys and investigations of sites of ecological

significance. A committed environmentalist, he was frustrated by the way in which development interests often over-rode scientific recommendations. In 1972, in his Presidential Address to the Ecological Society (Wardle 1972. *Ecologists and the environmental crisis. Proceedings of the New Zealand Ecological Society* 19: 1–4) he put the case for broadening the ecological case beyond scientific reasoning alone:

'Worse still, it is even said that we sometimes base our arguments [about preserving biological diversity] on emotion rather than scientific facts. Is this really such a damning accusation? It is surely reasonable to believe that the biological diversity of our environment is a no less precious part of our heritage than the monuments of man. Also, I've never been able to understand why emotion is so suspect in this context. Most scientists have chosen their employment because of the emotional satisfaction it gives them. Even economic arguments boil down to the nice secure feeling that is induced by lots of money.'

On the other hand, he was above all a scientist who insisted that the basis for our public influence rests on sustained, excellent research. As a scientist/manager he had to contend with the impact on science careers of a relentless demand for reports and assessments. He believed that for an ecologist to devote too much of their time to these activities would be to short-change the nation. In part, his commitment to publishing *Vegetation of New Zealand* arose from his feeling that the hard-won ecological knowledge generated by this surge of field work, report writing and assessment in the 1980s and 1990s would be effectively lost.

Many Ecological Society members have benefited over the years from Peter's generosity with his time and willingness to share his unparalleled knowledge of the plant ecology of New Zealand. His colleagues throughout New Zealand and further abroad are going to miss his continuing contributions and good-humoured but always thoughtful responses to a variety of issues, scientific, political and social. Although he said on several occasions recently he had written his last paper, none of us really believed it, and to say that he had more to give is simply to state the facts.

Our sympathy goes out to Margaret and family.

## PROFILES OF THE NZES 2008 AWARD WINNERS

### Professor John Ogden – winner Te Tohu Taiao – Award for Ecological Excellence

I have been asked to write a few paragraphs about some of the ecological highlights of my career. The selection committee, presuming there was one, probably based the award on a hundred plus scientific publications, frequent blathering on at conferences, and my good fortune with numerous post-graduate students, so I thought I could mention a few points they may not have known. Writing about one's self carries the risk of being up one's self or boring, both unacceptable traits. But I have had so much enjoyment from the study of ecology, that I feel an obligation to share it, and it is in this way that I justify what follows.

My first interests in natural history were kindled in the woods and on the moors of west Yorkshire. I learned to recognise birds and plants and read the history of the glaciated landscape, first modified by prehistoric people and later by sheep, wool and industrialisation. These overlapping interests in the history and ecology of the landscape were guided and supported by my parents, by Sidney Jackson, the curator of the Cartwright Memorial Museum in Bradford, and by some committed teachers. They have remained at the core of my research ever since.

I went to University at Bangor in North Wales, majoring in botany. After graduation I enrolled for a masters degree with Paul Richards and Greig-Smith as my supervisors, and went by Shell tanker to Guayana (British Guiana as it was then!) to collect data for a 'Bray & Curtis' ordination study of tropical rain forest.

John Ogden,  
Awana, Great Barrier Island  
27/1/09



Roger Bray, who subsequently became a resident of Nelson, had published his seminal papers on ordination just a few years before. The South American tropical rain forest—the hylea of Humboldt—was then almost monotonous in its vast extent and apparent uniformity. A bit more probing revealed its specific complexity and variation over the landscape. It is here that plant life, linked to insects, birds and mammals, has truly flowered. Botany, a largely temperate subject, has not yet come to grips with the origin of these forests, or the mutual interdependencies they reveal, and may never do so if their destruction continues at its present pace. I count myself very fortunate to have spent some time, often alone, working in primeval rain forest.

I had a further three years in Bangor doing a PhD under John Harper. John allowed me to plan and carry out my research with much encouragement and little interference – an approach I have tried to emulate. Following Cody's work on birds, we had the idea that we could measure the total energy available to a plant over its life cycle, and the proportion of this allocated to reproduction, or other functions. This was the start of the concept of 'life-cycle strategy' as a quantifiable response to natural selection, reflecting the allocation of energy, nutrient resources or time, to different structures and functions. Most of the initial work was done on a pretty yellow composite—*Tussilago farfara*<sup>1</sup>.

So, I arrived at Massey as a lecturer in 1968 with two main themes—field based forest community ecology, and glasshouse based experimentation with weeds! The former saw a research programme started in red beech forest on Mt Colenso in the Ruahine Ranges, while the latter was translated into a long term study of energy allocation in *Typha* stands at Pukepuke Lagoon on the Manawatu coast. Both led to a few publications and presentations at conferences<sup>2</sup>. More importantly perhaps, in those years I learned much about the New Zealand landscape, influenced by friends such as Les Molloy and Geoff Park.

In 1973 I became a research fellow with Donald Walker at the Australian National University in Canberra. Donald ran a very active palynological programme, and at the time Wes Fergusson (of Bristle cone pine fame) was visiting from the tree-ring laboratory in Tucson. So the scene was set to start looking at tree populations through the Holocene. I settled into a study of the dendrochronology of *Athrotaxis* species in Tasmania. This was a steep learning curve, as no dendrochronological research had been done in Australia at that time, and there was neither equipment, computer programs or much expertise to guide me. However, by the time I left Australia—five years later—I knew about pollen and tree-rings.

In 1979 I returned to New Zealand, joining Peter Lovell in the (then) Department of Botany. Those early years at Auckland saw the development of my 'field and experimental' approach to teaching. Neil Mitchell and I ran field courses in the Kauaeranga Valley, which many students recall as a formative experience! I started research on the dendrochronology of kauri and took on some excellent PhD students. Having said that, I must also admit that some of the highlights of my time in New Zealand have been in teaching and research projects done elsewhere—a year in Boston, the Colorado Rockies and Heron Island stand out. For the ecologist, testing observations and concepts against new situations with different biota is surely one of the best ways to gain insights or pose new questions: why are both parrot fish and parrots so brightly coloured?

In the forest ecology/forest history area, which became my main theme, I will mention three highlights—or rather—satisfactory outcomes. The first was the pleasure of writing, on a 17 hour caffeine binge in Colorado, an account of the life histories of the New Zealand beech species<sup>3</sup>. The second was the culmination of many small steps over decades, involving many people, leading to the publication of the 'Lozenge theory'<sup>4</sup>. This deals with regeneration in kauri, and, by inference, many long-lived light-demanding conifers. This essentially (to my mind) answered the long-standing debate over 'the regeneration gap' in New Zealand forests,



and, fitting the growing paradigm of the times, emphasised the importance of disturbance in forest structure and composition. Here I can record my debt to Peter Wardle, who had a lifetime of interest in this topic and was always ready with difficult counter arguments supported by examples!

The last, latest, and probably greatest highlight came a few years ago, almost as a 'Eureka!' moment, though the actual work was not mine, so I eurekaed from afar. Gretel Boswijk and Anthony Fowler succeeded in cross-matching the living kauri master chronology with chronologies from kauri logs in late Holocene sites around Auckland, thus achieving an annually dated chronology of nearly 4000 years<sup>5</sup>. This is the 'best' such chronology in the Southern Hemisphere with many potential uses in palaeoecology and climatology. Although I didn't do this myself, I had been involved, both in the initial work and in supporting those who achieved the breakthrough, and I was eurekaed.

The second buzzer has gone, so I will end by commending the combined study of landscape and history. A good life can come from this, especially if you hear its music, see its colours and feel its moods. And if you also get paid, so much the better.

<sup>1</sup>Harper, J.L. and Ogden, J. 1970. The reproduction strategy of higher plants I. The concept of strategy with special reference to *Senecio vulgaris* L. *Journal of Ecology* **58**: 681-698. Ogden, J. 1974. The reproductive strategy of higher Plants II. The reproductive strategy of *Tussilago farfara* L. *Journal of Ecology* **62**: 291-324.

<sup>2</sup>eg. June, S. R. & Ogden, J. 1975. Studies on the vegetation of Mt. Colenso, New Zealand. 3. The population dynamics of Red Beech seedlings. *Proceedings of the New Zealand Ecological Society* **22**, 61-66. Ogden, J. and Caithness, T.A. 1982. History and present vegetation of the macrophyte swamp at Pukepuke Lagoon. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* **5**: 108-120.

<sup>3</sup>Ogden, J. 1988. Forest dynamics and stand-level dieback in New Zealand's *Nothofagus* forests. *GeoJournal* **17**, 225-230.

<sup>4</sup>Ogden, J. and Stewart, G. H. 1995. Community Dynamics of the New Zealand Conifers. In: Enright, N.J. and Hill, R.S.(Eds.) *Evolution and Ecology of the Southern Hemisphere Conifers*. Pp 81 - 119. Melbourne University Press.

<sup>5</sup>Boswijk, G., Fowler, A., Lorrey, A., Palmer, J. & Ogden, J. 2006. Extension of the New Zealand kauri (*Agathis australis*) chronology to 1724 BC. *The Holocene* **16**(2): 1- 12.

### Professor John Craig – Honorary Life Member

John has recently retired as a full-time staff member of the University of Auckland, having been on the staff there for more than 30 years. For much of his career he has been a leading light in New Zealand ecology and conservation. His innovative thinking combined with a technical rigour, prompted many people to re-evaluate how they see the world.

John started his university life at Otago, taking a degree in Botany and Zoology, which he fitted around his active participation in surf lifesaving. He moved to Massey where, for his doctorate, he carried out ground breaking research on pukeko behaviour. John's descriptions of the sex life of pukeko were to become part of the folklore that surrounds him. It was whilst at Massey that he first became involved with takahe, offering behavioural insights, that aided the early captive rearing programme. From Massey he moved to Auckland University, initially as a junior lecturer on the human biology programme of the Medical School. However, he was physically based in the Zoology department and when the opportunity arose, he was able to transfer his appointment and became a lecturer in animal behaviour.

In 1976 John began his long association with Tiritiri Matangi Island. Originally he had intended to study the behaviour of red-crowned parakeets that had been released there; but the research possibilities of the island immediately occurred



Professor John Craig.

Nominated by Neil Mitchell  
University of Auckland

to him. Over the next few years John and his students carried out detailed and original research into red-crowned parakeets, little blue penguin, kiore, bellbirds and tui. Studies of the latter two species often being conducted from a platform way up in a puriri tree. At the same time John's active role in conservation was being developed as he took on the regional council over the shooting of pukeko in a regional park. He won, but realised that you do not make friends when you challenge the existing order. As others have later discovered, this has never deterred John from doing what is right.

In 1977 he involved Neil Mitchell from the Botany Department on Tiritiri Matangi, who along with his students became swept up in the vision created by John of an open sanctuary. Five years later the Working Plan saw the light of day and the rest is history, well almost so. The proposal for the island, was so innovative, especially where the bird translocations were concerned, that the scientific community at the time was aghast by its audacity. However, non-governmental organisations and councils were supportive as at that time, conservation did not happen much in Auckland. For many people it was a vicarious experience via television or the print media. This was where John's understanding of people really came to the fore. He was a prime mover in organising people power behind the project, his inspirational talks to many groups led people to realise they have a vital, *active*, role in conservation. At the same time John was walking the corridors of power and regulation to try and secure rare species for the island. In the end, the authorities relented and the translocation of rare species started, which brought the planting and money raising efforts of the public into sharp focus. This is where John's remarkable skills as an empathic motivator came in. Many others in this situation hang on to the 'power' and leadership roles they have developed. Instead, John gradually slipped into the background, encouraging the supporters group to take over management and understand the skills and role that they can bring to conservation. Today, the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi are one of the leading conservation groups in the country, due in no small part to the early encouragement and support provided by John.

Through all this period of the 1980's John was also a very active and visible, researcher and lecturer in ecology and animal behaviour. His publications were gaining worldwide attention and students from all over the world came to carry out research under his supervision. This resulted in even more foundation research on rare species, much of which is still being carried on around the country. The early 1990s saw a dramatic change in direction, in part brought about by the University's decision to disestablish the different biological departments and form a School of Biological Sciences. It was clear from the outset that this school would have a molecular orientation and that whole organism biology might become marginalised. John successfully applied for the chair of Environmental Management and became the first director of the School of Environmental and Marine Sciences (SEMS).

Staff who were interested in 'environmental' sciences were given an opportunity to leave their current department and join SEMS. John's reputation was such that he gathered around him quite a group of staff wanting to pursue inter-disciplinary research and teaching. For the 10 years of its existence SEMS was the place to be. It was very successful, especially at attracting postgraduate students from all over New Zealand and the world. Much of this was due to John's stature and considerable leadership skills. During this period John was often perceived as having moved away from conservation and ecology, at least as it is commonly thought of. This view was entirely erroneous. Instead of working on yet more university students and academic research, John appreciated that a major group left out were businesses. This was the beginning of his work with 'The Natural Step' (TNS) an international group dedicated to sustainable business, through the involvement of ecological principles in everyday business practice.

John is now internationally recognised (if not always in New Zealand) as a leading thinker on ecological principles for sustainability. He is in demand worldwide to give courses and advice, as well as contribute to workshops. This more recent work in many respects sums up his philosophy on conservation and ecology. They are not topics that are just the preserve of academics and government agencies. These are core attributes of the world we live in and, if we are to have a healthy world, involve all of us and need participation by everybody.

In his 'retirement' John is of course extremely busy. He is in heavy demand as a consultant, but much closer to his heart and his love for New Zealand is his lifetime project. He and Ann manage on behalf of John's daughter a several hundred hectare coastal property in Northland. This property was a classic piece of overgrazed pasture and damaged forest. John has put in place a restoration programme that possibly dwarfs anything else on private property in the country. A full pest eradication programme is in place and being maintained. Extensive wetlands are being re-created through the blocking of drains, tens of thousands of trees are being planted across the old pastures. Birds are already returning to the wetlands. Like so much of John's life and work, this property will be an outstanding example of New Zealand at its best, but also brought about with that classic New Zealand characteristic—'Just do it'. A quality that is sorely needed in so many other areas.

#### **Associate Professor Henrik Moller – winner Ecology in Action award**

Henrik was born in Denmark and immigrated to New Zealand with his parents when one year old. Henrik's parents infused their family with a fierce Danish tradition of respect and awareness for human rights and "to speak truth to authority". As a Auckland University student he was a "preservation activist", serving on the Board of Directors of *Environmental Defence Society* (EDS) and running *Ecology Action* at Auckland University. Henrik's inquiries and retrieval of documents from the Waikato Valley Authority files led EDS to challenging 350 water rights allocated to farmers, freezing works, dairy factories and wool scourers in the Waikato in the early 1970s. Work for Amnesty International, combating sexism and promoting homosexual law reform followed. It is these sorts of actions and sense of community responsibility that stands Henrik out from most of the rest of us.

Henrik received his BSc with Zoology and Botany Majors from University of Auckland in 1975. His MSc (First Class Honours) was about kiore on Tiritiri Matangi island (1976 & 1977). He describes it as "a completely hypothesis-free quest to find out everything you could about a kiore that was stupid enough to be caught in a rat-trap – it wasn't the best bit of science". Graeme Caughley, the external examiner, described it as having "brilliant bits buried amongst indeterminable verbage and the student should be made to rewrite it under 100 pages" (as opposed the 368 pages it was). Henrik then went abroad to conduct his PhD on squirrel optimal foraging theory from the University of Aberdeen. His standing record for time spent up trees during his PhD (to sample pine cones actually) would be the envy of any hardened Greenpeace activist. However, he also holds the record for the fastest descent out of a tree when the trunk snapped (where a squirrel had fed on it years earlier) and he fell 50 ft and broke his pelvis—that contributed to a somewhat delayed submission, and a shorter thesis this time round!

Back in New Zealand with a doctorate, Henrik rejoined DSIR Ecology Division in Nelson in 1983. Henrik was voted by his boss to attend a media training session to "make scientists more relevant to society"—something which Henrik resented like hell at the time. However, a few weeks later he put his new found media skills to work. After going on national TV news and inviting the public to send in wasps to DSIR to track the invasion of common wasps, a deluge ensued. Altogether 98,000 specimens (many live and irate) were sent in over the next six years! The phone and media went berserk each wasp season and his colleagues in DSIR



Associate Professor Henrik Moller.

Nominated by Dr Phil Lyver  
*Manaaki Whenua, Landcare  
Research*

right round the country cursed his name. One person phoned from Whangarei at midnight wanting to go to the toilet—could Henrik please come and get rid of the wasp nest in the john—“now would be good”. Amidst the 7,000 letters exchanged for that wasp programme came donations from the general public and thanks for giving them a chance to get involved and help a science for conservation project. Henrik’s commitment to community conservation research locked into place and has kept him and team members busy ever since.

In 1990 Henrik was appointed to the Zoology Department of the University of Otago where he spent the first three years rebuilding the Post-graduate Diploma in Wildlife Management. Henrik instigated an additional stakeholder evaluation of the course. Dr Ken Hughey, the first reviewer, described the course “*as excellent course but one which represented a white, middle class, Forest and Bird approach to conservation*”. The nature of this critique struck deep at the core of Henrik’s Danish sense of community fairness and equality. From then on Henrik set about redefining the under-lying principles of his own research and teaching, building models of involvement of Māori communities in ecology, and shifting his formal research from ecological systems to more of a social-ecological systems focus.

Henrik’s first test came in 1993/94 when he found himself to be one of the few scientists lobbying for the return of Crown Titi Islands to Rakiura Māori as part of the Ngāi Tahu settlement. He quickly became acutely aware of the general opposition to Māori controlling or managing New Zealand’s conservation interests. It was from these exchanges that the *Kia Mau Te Titi Mo Ake Tōnu Atu* (Keep the Titi Forever) research programme between Rakiura and the University of Otago emerged. For the past 14 years this programme has investigated the sustainability of titi (sooty shearwater) harvest by Rakiura Māori. Along the way the study has investigated what is involved in *kaitiakitanga* (Māori environmental stewardship) and *mātauranga* (traditional ecological knowledge) and how they might partner with science to get the best of both worlds. Working under the directorship and guidance of Rakiura Māori and a “Cultural Safety Contract” meant the science had to adapt to a different set of cultural protocols. Throughout, Henrik has always remained true to the science excellence and ethics by ensuring scientific freedom to release findings, no matter what they predicted about the sustainability, or otherwise, of the titi harvesting.

Henrik currently co-directs the University of Otago’s Centre for Study of Agriculture Food & Environment (CSAFE) where he leads the *Te Tiaki Mahinga Kai* (Guarding customary food gathering) research programme ([www.mahingakai.org.nz](http://www.mahingakai.org.nz)). This new project involves eight iwi and over 100 community representatives which have created a national network of kaitiaki, policy makers and researchers to apply mātauranga and science for sustainable customary fishing. The main goal is to empower mātaihai and taiāpure (Māori community-led reserves on coasts, estuaries and inland waters) as participatory ways of achieving conservation that complement marine reserve approaches.

Henrik now leads the environment team for the Agriculture Research Group on Sustainability (ARGOS; [www.argos.org.nz](http://www.argos.org.nz)). This transdisciplinary research group involves around 30 researchers (sociologists, economists, ecologists and farm management consultants) working directly with 108 farming families and related community and industry groups from the lowland sheep/beef, high country sheep, and kiwifruit sectors, and Māori community-owned farm land. Henrik states his involvement “*is motivated by my belief that change in individual farming families and their land use down at the whole farm enterprise level are the main ways that high level New Zealand government goals of economic prosperity, sustainability and identity can be realised.*”

In a “publish or perish” environment, working within a Participatory Action Research framework and devoting large amounts of time to develop and maintain community relationships does not enhance your peer-reviewed publication record. Even so, Henrik has still found time to publish over 120 formal science



papers, including around 35 from the titi project. He has also written over 350 popular articles and community reports to keep the interactions going with his community research participants – the science needs to stand the test both in the international literature and on the local marae. Henrik has also supervised over 70 PhD, MSc, Honours and Post-graduate student dissertations and theses.

There are few Pākehā scientists in New Zealand who have reached out to Māoridom and the community in the way that Henrik has, and fewer still who are held in the highest regard by Tangata Whenua and Pākehā alike. Henrik has come a long way from the young scientist who resented the hell out of justifying the scientist's role in society! Henrik Moller's scientific excellence was recognised by NZES awarding him their *Te Tohu Taiao* - Award for Ecological Excellence in its inaugural year (1990). It is therefore fitting to now recognise his contribution to community empowerment by awarding him the 2008 prize for "Ecology in Action".

## HOT SCIENCE

### **Breeding season diet and prey selection of the New Zealand Falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) in a plantation forest**

RICHARD SEATON<sup>1</sup>, NOEL HYDE<sup>2</sup>, JOHN D. HOLLAND<sup>1</sup>, EDWARD O. MINOT<sup>1</sup>, AND BRIAN P. SPRINGETT<sup>1</sup>

*1 Institute of Natural Resources, Massey University, Private Bag 11-222, Palmerston North, New Zealand*

*2 Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust, P.O. Box 993, Rotorua, New Zealand*

We studied the diet of the endemic New Zealand falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) in a pine plantation forest by identifying species occurring in pellets and prey remains collected from 37 nest sites during the 2003 and 2004 breeding seasons. We assessed bird species abundance along transects in different-aged pine stands and along stand edges. Diet and prey abundance were compared to determine whether birds were taken disproportionately or in proportion to their abundance in the environment. Birds composed the greatest proportion of the diet, 84% by frequency and 74% by biomass. Common chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*) were taken most frequently, but Eurasian blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) and European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) contributed more by biomass, although rabbits were not recorded at every nest site. Bird density increased significantly with stand age but was highest along stand edges. Chaffinches were the most abundant species and taken in proportion to their availability. Species that occurred in open habitat (e.g., yellowhammers [*Emberiza citrinella*]) or were of medium size (e.g., blackbirds) were taken more than expected based on their availability. Very small species (e.g., Grey gerygone [*Gerygone igata*]) were taken in lower proportions than expected from their abundance. Proportions of bird species preyed upon were correlated most closely with bird species abundance in young pine stands ( $P = 0.02$ ,  $r^2 = 0.52$ ). In a pine plantation habitat, New Zealand falcons took primarily the more abundant species, those intermediate in size (16–160 g), and those frequenting open habitat.

*This article was published in 2008 in Journal of Raptor Research 42(4): 256–264.*

## INTECOL 2009

INTECOL is just six months away and preparations are progressing well. The programme is coming together and includes:

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

Members need to be aware that their planning for INTECOL must be earlier than for a normal NZES conference and are reminded that if they wish to apply for the NZES grant to attend the conference, applications have to be in by **4 March 2009**.

### Symposia include:

- Climate Change Challenges for Protected Areas
- The Ecology of Bioprospecting
- Uncertainty in Ecological Modelling and Planning
- Climate Change, Biodiversity and Adaptation
- Comparative demography of plants: the effects of space, time and phylogeny on population dynamics of plants
- Theoretical scaffolding for empirical fire ecologists
- Australian extinctions- Patterns, Processes and Prevention
- Pollination – The Ecology of Ecosystem Services, Pollinator Declines and Monitoring
- Bioclimatic and niche-based models of species distributions: now and in the future
- Harnessing the benefits of biodiversity for biological control
- Amphibian response to climate change
- New Approaches to Restoration Ecology in a Changing World
- Marine Ecology
- Climate change impact on rural areas in the temperate zone
- Adaptive management of protected areas for biodiversity conservation
- Hot and salty; the challenge of increasing salinity under climate change
- Blitzing Beta Diversity: The IBISCA Approach to Biodiversity Assessment
- Black and white or shades of grey? Adding value to mapped ecological classifications for improved science-based policy making
- Ecosystems services in a changing climate: research and applications
- Interactions between nutrient enrichment and climate change in coastal wetlands
- Ecological Functions of Riparian Systems and Other Buffers in Managed Landscapes
- Detritus based food webs: state of the art and some memos for a millennium running warm
- Plant functional diversity in human-modified landscapes: the state of knowledge across ecosystems and disturbance types
- Climate Change, Changing Opportunities – Effects on Southern Temperate Coastal Ecosystems
- Social networks and parasite transmission
- Monitoring and adaptive approaches to conservation management in a changing world
- Communicating climate change science with government and business
- Marrying ecology and economy through designer incentives
- Species invasions, environmental change and the future biogeography of freshwater fishes

- Advances in Palaeoecology: the past as a key for understanding present and predicting future
- Dynamics of disturbed and undisturbed forests
- International Long Term Ecological Research Network
- Maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem function in expanding urban habitats
- Quantifying the ecological impacts of invasive species
- Landscape Ecology: The role it can play in a changing world
- Austral migration – a world of difference or the global model?
- Microbial ecology and Rhizosphere biology
- Marine conservation management: current challenges and emerging solutions
- Ecology on the edge: The ecosystems of political boundaries
- Ecosystem resilience: How to measure it, how to conserve it
- Potential impacts of global climate change on terrestrial insects
- The power of time: what do long term ecological studies tell us about climate change?
- Transitional Water ecosystems: do they have common functional properties?
- Plants from Genes to Geoscience
- Protecting Biodiversity: adapting to global climate change
- Ecological networks and global change
- Markets for Biodiversity Conservation: lessons from theory and practice

**Deadline for abstracts: 4 March 2009.**

**Early bird registrations: close on 16 May 2009**

**Details: [www.intecol10.org](http://www.intecol10.org)**

## IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

### **Barcelona October 2008**

To report on the significant outcomes from an eight day event involving 7,500 registered participants from 155 countries is a challenge. One I won't even attempt! As with previous Congresses, it was split into the World Conservation Forum and the Members' Assembly; each lasted four days. Other New Zealand Ecological Society members, Phil Cowan and Mick Clout were also there, but only for the Forum. It was fantastic to see Mick awarded the Sir Peter Scott Award, one of International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) most prestigious awards recognising a person's outstanding contribution to the work of the Species Survival Commission (SSC). Another New Zealand ecologist, the late David Given, received this award in 2004 at the previous IUCN Congress. Given the number of countries involved in IUCN, one such award is significant; for scientists from a small country to receive it in successive Congresses is remarkable.

### **Forum programme**

The majority of participants (and the 800+ media) were there for the Conservation Forum. With over 700 'events' in four days sampling what is on offer was, by necessity, very selective and at times frustrating given the number of options. This was billed as "the planet's biggest marketplace of sustainability knowledge, ideas and solutions". Events were organised around three 'streams' within the overall theme of "A diverse and sustainable world". As well as plenary sessions there were workshops, knowledge cafes, poster sessions, films, and 'learning circles'. I will cover a few of the highlights of the three 'streams':

- A new climate for change
- Healthy environments healthy people
- Safeguarding the diversity of life

Wren Green

The major concern dominating much of the Forum discussions was poverty and the relevance of conservation agendas in helping to alleviate it. The Director-General of IUCN, Julia Marton-Lefevre, declared in the opening session: *"Healthy ecosystems are the only way to feed the world."*

Mutual finger-pointing featured in some keynote addresses. Achim Steiner, Director General of the United Nations Environment Programme: *"The challenge is not a lack of knowledge or a lack of ethics. Our response to the current economic and financial crisis is guided by an economic paradigm that requires fundamental change. Governments can find trillions overnight to save the financial system from collapse, but seem unwilling to find the billions needed to save global environmental systems from collapse."*

Steiner went on to argue that improvements are needed in how business does business, that new and innovative technologies are not getting the support from business they need.

The response from Bjorn Stigson, President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development was that it is up to governments to set the frameworks and rules so that businesses know what the parameters are within which to operate. *"But they are not doing it. Governments are not making the political tradeoffs to get the frameworks."* Stronger engagement by both governments and private sector would help.

There was a sense of urgency around the need to recognise the state of the planet as a global issue transcending geo-political boundaries and the implications for all countries and peoples. Sir David Attenborough noted how the focus has expanded: first it was saving species, which led to the realisation we needed to save habitats, and then ecosystems and then threatened global systems. Threats from climate change pulled a lot of these concerns together. Systems-thinking ecologists will not be surprised, but how much do we address issues of environment, economics and social equity in the holistic way in New Zealand?

### **Healthy environments healthy people**

The theme of this 'stream' was that looking after the health of ecosystems is fundamental to sustaining the health of people, especially those most directly dependent on local habitats and resources for their livelihoods and survival. The message was that the capacity of ecosystems to deliver vital ecosystem goods and services continues to decrease—from climate change, pollution, over-use, inequitable access and pest species.

I attended a 'sustainability dialogue' titled "Environment and human health". Medical doctors stressed the fundamental reliance of people on nature and an anthropologist spoke of indigenous peoples in Colombia who see their job as caring for sacred places *"If this heart of the world becomes ill, the world will become ill also."* Eric Chivian, Director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment (Harvard Medical School) launched a book "Sustaining Life. How human health depends on biodiversity" (Oxford University Press 2008). It is an impressive publication, detailing how seven groups of organisms, some of which are highly endangered, have great value to human medicine.

### **A new climate for change**

Workshops and knowledge cafes discussed mitigation and adaptation to climate change, growing energy demands, the nexus between conservation and development, and the roles of local people and indigenous people in conservation and ecosystem management. Adaptation issues included how to coordinate local, regional, and global approaches to integrated ecosystem management and reducing vulnerability. Important underlying considerations included climate risk assessment techniques, appropriate funding, implementation of national adaptation plans, links between mitigation and adaptation strategies, defining the role of indigenous leadership, and how to support more effective community based management. My impression was that much is going on that we could learn from, if one is able to keep up with it all.



The nexus between conservation and development in a changing world was widely discussed. A range of workshops focused on urban agriculture, watershed management, energy, gender, and security. There was a strong presence at the Forum of indigenous peoples, more so than at previous Congresses.

### **Safeguarding the diversity of life**

This stream was 'core business' for many participants. The 300+ events on this stream were grouped around major themes including species, marine, forests, protected areas, business, islands, water. Once again, one was struck by the interweaving of themes of how to cope with human demands including food security, how to reduce biodiversity loss, environmental ethics, better use of knowledge and technology, role of the private sector, how to get biodiversity losses more attention in policy debates. IUCN has moved quite a distance from its initial focus on the science of conservation and species.

### **Members' Assembly**

The Assembly elected a new IUCN Council, adopted a new global four-year programme and debated over 130 motions proposed by members. By now, attendance had shrunk to about 1,500 delegates, but there were still too many parallel activities of working groups to discuss the wording of the contentious motions. Several from the New Zealand delegation (the Department of Conservation was well represented as a State member) were heavily involved in discussions on a badly worded motion that sought to ban the use of poisons for predator control. Sanity finally prevailed, and an acceptable motion emerged. Several motions relating to marine conservation and the Antarctica were adopted. The full list of motions can be read on the IUCN website ([www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)).

As a member of the Congress Governance Committee I had limited time to contribute to these discussions. This Committee was responsible for reporting to Plenary on the governance implications of the 12 motions that related to governance of the Union. The big issue that emerged for governance was a move by French and Spanish members to create a new membership category for regional government organisations. There are numerous risks in this proposal and it will be further considered by the new Council during the next four years. Ms Diana Shand from New Zealand was re-elected for a second term on Council and Ms Aroha Mead (Victoria University) was elected as Chair of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy.

Overall impressions? Once again Congress was too big, at times frustrating, a remarkable mix of people and perspectives, clashes over solutions, stimulating and occasionally inspiring. A good reflection of our world.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR NZES AWARDS 2009**

### **Te Tohu Taiao – Award for Ecological Excellence**

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

**NB.** Non-members are eligible for this award.

### **Honorary Life Membership**

Honorary life memberships are conferred from time to time to recognise excellence and longstanding service in the study or application of ecological science in New Zealand. Nominations should be presented to council, seconded and must include statements of support. The selection committee will consider candidates' eminence in the scientific field and contribution to original research

*Please e-mail nominations for **Te Tohu Taiao** and **Honorary Life Membership** to Chris Bycroft ([chris@wildlands.co.nz](mailto:chris@wildlands.co.nz)) by **30 June 2009**. Nominations should also include a statement of support.*

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

or the application of such research in New Zealand and the extent of their association with the Society. This award is often presented at the Annual General Meeting during the conference.

### **NZES Award for Best Publication by a New Researcher**

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

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

Authors wishing to be considered for this award should:

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

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

### **New Zealand Ecological Society Ecology in Action Award**

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

The Society offers recipients with:

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

### **Student Awards**

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

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

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

**Student Grants**

Student grants to attend the 2009 conference will not be awarded in the normal manner. Students may apply for funding on the "Application for New Zealand Ecological Society Assistance Grant to attend" and will be assessed with all other applicants. Students should state what other funding they have approved to attend the conference. The application closing date in **4 March 2009**.

**GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

**INTECOL 10, Brisbane, Australia, 16–21 August 2009**

**Application for New Zealand Ecological Society Assistance Grant to attend**

The New Zealand Ecological Society is offering **40 grants of \$500** each to support attendance at INTECOL 10. Criteria for these grants are:

- The applicant must be a financial member of the New Zealand Ecological Society.
- The applicant must be presenting a scientific paper (oral or poster) presentation at the conference.
- The applicant must attend the AGM of the New Zealand Ecological Society during the INTECOL 10 conference.

Priority will be given to applicants based on the scientific quality of the presentation offered and the financial need of the applicant as judged by a panel appointed by the New Zealand Ecological Society council.

Applications close 4 March 2009 (also the closing date for abstract submission). Awardees will be notified by 31 March 2009. Grants will be paid to awardees on receipt of evidence that their talk/poster abstract has been accepted (expected by mid-April). Note that early-bird registrations close on 16 May 2009.

1. Name:	
2. Organisation:	
3. Mailing address:	
4. Email address:	
5. How long have you been a member of the NZES?	
6. How many NZES conferences have you attended in the last five years?	
7. How many NZES AGM's have you attended in the last five years?	
8. Please include a copy of the abstract you have submitted to INTECOL 10 and a brief statement (2–3 sentences) of the potential importance of this grant on your ability to attend the INTECOL 10 conference.	

Please post or email applications to:

Ruth Guthrie  
 Secretary New Zealand Ecological Society  
 686 Takaka Valley Highway  
 Urewhenua  
 R D 1, TAKAKA  
[secretary@nzecol.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzecol.org.nz)

## NOTICEBOARD

*Insect fact sheet  
Kereru Discovery project  
Targeted conservation  
research  
Wildlife research: seeking  
new editors  
Plant-SyNZ database  
Kauri Fund appeal*

*Please contact Nicholas  
Martin for more information:  
Plant & Food Research,  
Auckland  
Ph: 0-9-8459019  
[martinn@crop.cri.nz](mailto:martinn@crop.cri.nz)*

## INSECT FACT SHEETS : TFBIS PROJECT 2009

Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (TFBIS) has funded a project for the production of fact sheets on insects (and mites). This project is linked with a Landcare Research project that will create a database to store the components of each fact sheet. The database can generate computer screen and printable versions of the fact sheets. This allows for the updating of information from other databases such as distribution and host plant name changes.

At present it is envisaged that the 12 month project will use eight insects or mites on which to develop the concept for the fact sheets and produce up to 20 fact sheets in the 12 month period. After this other people will be able to use templates for writing their own fact sheets. The project will require help with:

- suggestions for the first eight (and 20) fact sheets,
- feedback on the format and content of the fact sheets (more than one version may be possible), and
- feedback on the templates for creating fact sheets.

### **Suggested invertebrates for the first 20 fact sheets are:**

Cabbage tree moth\*  
Cabbage white butterfly  
Chinese wax scale  
Cineraria leaf mining fly (pest of native *Senecio* and *Sonchus*)\*  
Common hebe leaf mining fly  
Coprosmia domatia gall  
*Coprosmia erineum* mite\*  
Coprosmia leaf mining moth\*  
Cottony cushion scale  
Fern whitefly\*  
Fergusonina gall fly\*  
Fig wasp  
Flocculent flax scale  
Green shrub bug (Pentatomidae)\*  
Kakabeak gall mite  
Kakabeak leaf miner  
Kanuka margarodid  
Kauri leaf miner (moth)  
Lace bark callous gall  
Lancewood psyllid\*  
Leaf feeding beetle e.g. on *Brachyglottis kirki* and olearia species  
Lemon tree borer  
Melicytis whitefly  
*Melicytus ramiflorus* leaf miner (fly)  
Ngaio mirid  
New Zealand flower thrips  
Olearia bud gall fly  
Passion vine hopper  
Pittosporum psyllid\*  
Pohutukawa leaf miner (beetle that makes holes in leaves)\*  
Poroporo fruit borer (moth)\*  
Puriri moth  
*Rastrococcus namartini*\*  
Red or yellow admiral butterfly  
Rossi's black scale  
Six penny scale\*  
Tephritid fly (*Senecio* gall fly)  
Toetoe plant hopper  
Totara aphid



**Natural enemies**

Brown lace wing\*  
 Cryptolaemus (mealybug feeding ladybird)  
 European Scaptomyza leafminer  
 Meteorus, exotic parasitoid of caterpillars  
 Native hoverfly

\* Proposed for first 8 fact sheets - we have good photos of these or should be able to get them

## KERERU DISCOVERY PROJECT



The Kereru Discovery Project has launched its new web page: [www.kererudiscovery.org.nz](http://www.kererudiscovery.org.nz)

You can log on to the site, register what is in your garden, and report your sightings of kereru. We have over 500 reports to date.

Our objective is to understand how kereru use urban and rural landscapes by compiling a sample of gardens and kereru observations from throughout the country.

We look forward to receiving your reports!

## TARGETED CONSERVATION RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Conservation's North Island Skink Recovery Group has put together a list of research priorities for North Island skinks. The Recovery Group encourages lizard researchers and other interested ecologists to check out this list at [www.doc.govt.nz/lizardresearch](http://www.doc.govt.nz/lizardresearch). There are currently 33 described native skink species in New Zealand and their future conservation depends on good research with an applied focus. There is still much to learn about the basic ecology, distribution, population dynamics, threats, monitoring methods and management requirements of native skinks which can help to direct conservation management.

## WILDLIFE RESEARCH: SEEKING NEW EDITORS

A new editorial structure is being set up for the journal *Wildlife Research* in order to expand the journal into new areas and improve its standing internationally. As a result, CSIRO Publishing is seeking to appoint a team of three regional Editors (in Europe, North America and Australasia), and potentially one Editor-in-Chief, from the international community of ecologists and wildlife scientists.

This is an exciting opportunity to influence the direction and growth of an important ecology and wildlife management journal.

*Please direct inquiries to:*  
 Wayne Linklater  
 Centre for Biodiversity  
 and Restoration Ecology,  
 School of Biological  
 Sciences,  
 Victoria University of  
 Wellington,  
 P.O. Box 600,  
 Wellington 6140,  
 New Zealand.  
<mailto:wayne.linklater@vuw.ac.nz>

*For further details and how to apply, visit the Wildlife Research website: or contact Camilla Myers.*  
[www.publish.csiro.au/journals/wr](http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/wr)  
[camilla.myers@csiro.au](mailto:camilla.myers@csiro.au)

Nicholas Martin  
Crop & Food Research

Go to [www.crop.cri.nz/home/plant-synz/index.php](http://www.crop.cri.nz/home/plant-synz/index.php) and follow the left hand margin links to the database and the search page.

## PLANT-SYNZ DATABASE: AN UPDATE

The Plant-SyNZ database links New Zealand plants and their herbivores. The database now contains over 8000 host associations for 2800 herbivores and 1830 plants, and now grasshoppers, stick insects and wetas have been added to the database.

The database is a wealth of information e.g.:

- Alpine grasshoppers appear to eat almost any plant they find - try searching for *Brachaspis*, *Paprides*, or *Sigaus*. [Much of this information was in a remarkable thesis by Richard Watson].
- So far I have found relatively little information about the host plants of wetas, though they appear to eat anything - Try searching for *Deinacrida* or *Hemideina*.
- Many stick insects appear to have a preference to plant in the family Myrtaceae, but a wide range of plant species are eaten - Search for *Acanthoxyla*, *Clitarchus* or *Tectarchus*.
- The New Zealand insect with most host plants is still the long horn beetle, *Oemona hirta*, (lemon tree borer) with over 180 host plant species.

## ANNUAL APPEAL FOR KAURI FUND FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE

### Help send students to INTECOL 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Workshop: Urban Ecology and Ecological Design: Perspectives on Integration and Future Directions

5 November 2009

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

Glenn Stewart, Maria Ignatieva, Colin Meurk

For more details please contact Glenn Stewart ([stewartg@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:stewartg@lincoln.ac.nz)).

ICNC State of the Environment address. The topic of this presentation will also focus on urban ecology and design.

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

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

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

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

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

*Stellenbosch, South Africa, 23–27 August 2009.*

Anyone interested in the ecology and management of invasive alien plants is cordially invited to attend the: 10th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions (EMAPI 10).

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

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

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

### **The 23rd annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology**

*Conservation: Harmony for Nature and Society*

*11–16 July 2009 in Beijing, China.*

More information on the web site [www.conbio.org/](http://www.conbio.org/), or by emailing [2009@conbio.org](mailto:2009@conbio.org).

*Chairman of the organising committee Dave Richardson invites you to attend this conference. Please feel free to contact Dave ([rich@sun.ac.za](mailto:rich@sun.ac.za)) for further information. [www.emapi2009.co.za/](http://www.emapi2009.co.za/)*

**Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) Conference**

*The World Conference on Ecological Restoration: Making Change in a Changing World*  
Perth, Western Australia, Australia

23 – 27 August 2009.

**Scientific Programme**

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

**Field Trips and Social Programme**

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

Preliminary themes and general conference information can be found at: [seri2009@bgpa.wa.gov.au](mailto:seri2009@bgpa.wa.gov.au).

**INTECOL downunder 2009**

## Ecology in a Changing Climate: Two Hemispheres – One Globe

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

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

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

**Registration and abstract submission is now open**

For more information on INTECOL 2009, visit: [www.intecol10.org](http://www.intecol10.org).



## COUNCIL MINUTES

These minutes have been edited and abridged.

### **Council meeting 5 December 2008**

*Held at:* Department of Conservation, Wellington.

*Present:* Shona Myers, Clayson Howell, Chris Bycroft (minutes), John Sawyer, Mel Galbraith

*Apologies:* Peter Bellingham, Ruth Guthrie, Bruce Burns, Isabel Castro, Fleur Maseyk

### **Matters arising (including 13 August)**

#### *Kauri Trust*

Update that Jacqueline Beggs and Mick Clout are the Trustees for the Kauri Fund (non-Council members).

#### *Ethical investments*

Only have feedback from one person so far.

#### *NZES as a charitable Trust*

Still ongoing.

### **Membership Report**

List of new members for approval is still in progress.

### **Treasurers Report**

2007 End of Year report will be available soon.

### **Newsletter**

A printed Newsletter Report was presented from Fleur in her absence. It was suggested that:

- We could approach people who have received sponsorship to Intecol to present a summary of their work/research to the newsletter.
- We should have a special edition of the newsletter on Intecol.

### **Journal**

A printed report from Peter was presented in his absence.

- *Journal Editor:* Peter is standing down as Journal Editor after four years. Peter suggested that the new Journal editor should be K.C. Burns, this appointment was accepted by Council.
- *Journal Referees:* Richard Duncan and Duane Peltzer have resigned as Journal Referees. Thanks are extended to both Richard and Duane for their work, and this will be formalised via letter.
- *Volume 2 for 2008:* is at the printers.
- *Update for "Feathers to Fur" issue:* the likely date of publication is October 2009. While most of the cost of this is covered by sponsorship, the Society will have some costs to cover that need to be determined.
- *Tiritiri Matangi Special issue:* A discussion was had on what the cost is to produce a special issue. It was decided that the Council needs to work out the cost per special issue so we know where we are going for future volumes.
- *Printer:* Anne Austin (technical editor) is presenting examples of journal articles to several potential printers to get price of printing and to assess the quality of their work.

### **Website**

- John Sawyer has had some discussion with Wellington based web design companies and is awaiting a cost to update the management system (separate from updating the front page). It is likely that this would take a web design company up to three months.
- A discussion was had on what features should be updated most urgently (e.g. news, awards, events. Journal, newsletter, What is NZES?), and the future directions of the website.

## Conferences

### *Intecol 2009*

Bruce is at a meeting for Intecol in Australia, but presented a printed report in his absence.

- NZES booth at conference - options discussed included the following:
  - Having a roll up stand with information about NZES.
  - Membership opportunities.
  - Powerpoint display.
  - Stuffed toys as examples of New Zealand flora and fauna.
  - Large quotes on New Zealand ecology (e.g. Tim Flannery plus others).
  - NZES posters.
  - Promotion of the journal.
  - Postcards of the NZES website and journal for delegates to take away with them.
- Roster for the booths—it was suggested that people being sponsored to attend the conference could be encouraged to front the booth for a session.
- We need to ensure that Bruce (as NZES conference Contact for INTECOL, and fundamental in the organisation of the conference), Shona (as President) and John Ogden (winner of the Te Tohu Taiao – Award for Ecological Excellence whom is encouraged to present at conference) all have the funds to attend INTECOL either by their own organisations or with help from the Society.
- Students need to apply for student grants following the same procedure as other applicants and they will need to include what funding they have already got.

### *2008 Conference*

- An interim update was provided by Mel.
- A final update will be given in the February meeting.
- The conference company used for the 2008 meeting would like to bid to organise other conferences, even if the meetings are in other parts of the country. They are interested in putting more sustainability into the conference management.

### *2010 Conference*

- It was suggested that the next conference should be in Dunedin: A letter will be sent to a group of Dunedin ecologists to discuss if a group of them are willing to organise the conference in either August or November 2010, they will need to let the Council know by the end of January 2009 if they are prepared to do this.
- Other options in the immediate future were Rotorua in either 2010 if Dunedin was not an option or 2011. Chris will follow up this by discussing options with Rotorua ecologists. The date of the 2011 conference should not conflict with the Rugby World Cup.

### *Other conference matters*

- A discussion was had on options of having conferences at locations that are bit different than usual, but have the right facilities to run a conference. Options that came up were: Central Otago, Pahia, Whangarei, Tauranga, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, Wanganui, New Plymouth, and Te Anau.
- There was also the options to have some NZES run workshops: e.g. Dryland ecology in Central Otago, Riparian workshop in Christchurch, and other issues such as for example, 1080, forests.

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**Awards**

- Chris discussed options for awards for 2009 as some awards will not be presented in 2009 and the management of others will need to be different.
- *Student posters and talks in Intecol 2009*: It was decided it would be too difficult to run a presentation or poster prize at the 2009 conference.
- All other awards could be presented either at AGM or at a special slot at the conference.

**Funds**

*Kauri Fund*

There will be a Trustees meeting (Council + two Trustees) between 9-10 am at the next Council meeting.

*Barlow Fund*

Need to formulate criteria. Options for INTECOL were discussed. We still need to identify what is a minimal amount that would be worthwhile to give out for a grant for it to be effective. Should we let the funds grow, or give out a grant in 2009?

**Other Business**

IUCN: Wren Green to provide an update from meeting earlier this year. Wren is working for MAF and requested some NZES expertise for animal and plant issues respectively. Jon Sullivan (plants) and Dave Choquenot (animals) will represent their specialty areas.

## NZES LISTSERVER

Dave Kelly

[Dave.Kelly@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:Dave.Kelly@canterbury.ac.nz)

### RULES FOR THE NZES LISTSERVER

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

The list has three key guidelines:

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

### HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

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

```
SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC  
END
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To unsubscribe from the listserv, send this message to the same address above:

```
UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
```

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

### TO SEND A MESSAGE

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

### IF YOU CHANGE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

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



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(Effective from 30 September 2008)

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**Next deadline for the newsletter is 4 May 2009.**

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

## MEMBERSHIP

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

### **Types of Membership and Subscription Rates (2008)**

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

Unwaged (with journal) ..... \$45\* per annum

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

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

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

Overseas Full ..... \$95\* per annum

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

School..... \$12 per annum

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

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

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

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