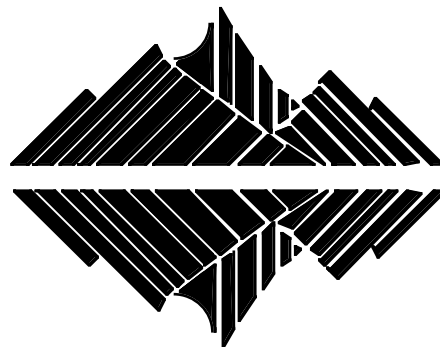


Ecological Society

Newsletter



No. 106, September 2003

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

FROM THE EDITOR

Recently, academic staff around the country's universities underwent a very detailed scrutiny of their scholastic achievements over the period 1997-2002. The data obtained will be used to allocate research funds to each university under the new Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF). This represents money that had previously been part of the government block grant to university earmarked for research. The amount granted has in the past been pro-rata based on the number of full-time students at each university. Now, to be phased in over three years, 60% of the block grant will be subject to evaluation of the aggregate performance of the academic staff on three differently-weighted criteria—research outputs (0.7), peer esteem (0.15), and contributions to the research environment (0.15). Staff will be classified as A (highest ranked researchers), B, C or R (research inactive). The idea is to reward the best performing groups with a bigger share of the research funds allocated directly to universities. A further 25% of the block grant allocation will be based on the completion rates of post-grad students, and the remaining 15% reflecting external research funding.

This is significant new development for universities. For the first time, part of the value of academics to universities is going to be explicitly known. Academics have always had three strands to their work—teaching, research, and service to the university. Now, the research worth of each staff member will be conveyed to section heads. How this might affect the behaviour of academic staff remains to be seen. In an effort to increase their perceived worth to their employer we may see staff less willing to perform administrative roles within the university, and potentially risks less emphasis on the quality of teaching. What does it mean for NZES? Academic staff have always been an important part of the society. They have frequently served on council, organised and participated in the annual conferences, and supported

the journal. The contribution to the research environment acknowledges these roles, but is allocated only 15% of the score. I hope we don't see reticence to become involved with societies like ours as a result of becoming hard-nosed in the pursuit of that big paper in science or nature or the elusive Marsden grant that would lift them into the ranks of A-grade researchers. On page 2, Dave Kelly offers a perspective on PBRF from his recent experience of internally-reviewing, University of Canterbury staff evidence portfolio.

You will find a pull-out section in the middle of this issue containing the registration form for the NZES conference in Auckland. Note that early-bird registration and abstracts closes on 10 October, so be in quick!

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SUBS PAYMENT REMINDER

Payment of subs for the 2003 year were due on 15 February. If at the time this newsletter was printed, you had not paid for this year you will notice that on the mailing label used to post out this newsletter a note "2003 unpaid". If you see this on your copy, and you haven't just sent in your money, you are in arrears. Please send your payment as soon as possible to the Secretariat (address on back page).

NEW COUNCIL OFFICERS NEEDED FOR 2004

At the end of this year, the NZES council will need to find several new office holders and councillors to start the new year. Ben Reddiex (Treasurer), and Dave Kelly (Secretary) are set to take a well-earned rest after holding their office positions for several years. Both positions will need to be filled by election at the AGM in Auckland. In addition, we will need a vice-president and at least one or two new councillors. Nominations can be made at the AGM or by writing prior to the AGM, and must be moved and seconded by current members of the society. The council requests that members think about possible nominations to bring to the meeting or send in by post.

NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY CHANGES EDITOR

Volume 28 (1) is the last issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* that David Wardle will be preparing as sole editor. The following issue will be a joint effort between David and the newly appointed editor, Richard Duncan (Lincoln University). We would like to take this opportunity to announce our new editor and wish him all the best for his upcoming editorial term; and to thank David Wardle for the dedicated and outstanding editorial service he has put into the journal since he took over from Gábor Lövei and John Parkes in 2000.

Since 2000, David Wardle has steered the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* into a higher profile position in the ever-crowded international market place of science journals. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* now receives greater recognition as an important and well-cited ecological journal than it ever has before. It has a Current Journal Science Citation Impact Factor (2002) of 1.146 slightly down from a record high in 2001 of 1.404; which was the first time the journal had ever scored above 1.00. These high figures reflects the fact that the journal is well respected within the New Zealand and wider scientific community; an observation born out by the ever-increasing number of manuscript submissions.

Editing the journal is a totally voluntary position, and one that undoubtedly puts substantial extra demands on an already busy workload. David has been supported in his role with a very capable and efficient team including a technical editor (Jenny Steven) and editorial board. So, a huge thank you David for your time and personal commitment, from Council and the members of the New Ecological Society and all the people who submit and read papers presented so professionally in the journal.

Janet Wilmhurst,
President.

MEASURING THE WORTH OF SCIENTISTS: LESSONS FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND CV PRESENTATION FROM THE PBRF PROCESS

Having served on the University of Canterbury Panel reviewing and classifying academics for the internal review phase of the Performance Based Research Funding (PBRF), Dave Kelly prepared a report for University staff where he made some interesting observations and suggestions for presenting future profiles. Although PBRF is used solely for ranking academic staff at the country's universities, the type of information sought by the Tertiary Education Commission may be a signal of the way that the worth of scientists will be assessed in the future. Hence, we offer the report here to members in an abridged form. Please note, the views expressed here are not those of University of Canterbury.

The recent PBRF assessment has been described as being examined on your past performance, using criteria unfairly announced only at the end of the period. These notes draw on the internal University of Canterbury PBRF evaluation experience for four purposes:

- to understand how the PBRF process works
- to suggest ways that people can better fill in forms like PBRF and CVs about their past performance
- to suggest things people can do over the next few years to improve their standing in future
- to suggest things senior colleagues can do to assist junior colleagues improve their standing

1. General principles

First, some general points about what the PBRF wanted and valued in the Evidence Portfolios (EPs). Much of this may also apply to the preparation of any CV. And for those of you who don't have a lot of time, if you are only going to read one paragraph, read the "Keep a log" section below.

1.1 *Quality not quantity*

The PBRF was much more concerned with quality of outputs than with quantity. This is why they focused on four nominated outputs, which are closely examined. They said a relatively small number of truly world class outputs was sufficient to gain a top score for Research Outputs.

1.2 *What is quality-assured?*

There was enormous confusion about this in the EPs, to the extent that the national PBRF panels are likely to ignore the claims for what was (or was not) quality-assured, and make their own evaluation. The key messages here are: firstly explain carefully why a particular item should carry more weight. Secondly, don't "contaminate" your list of "quality assured/refereed" outputs by slipping in a few items which are not truly refereed.

1.3 *What is world class?*

The PBRF did not require outputs to be "international", only that they be "world-class". This recognises that some subjects are most appropriately published in local journals, e.g. by convention native plant taxonomy goes in *NZ Journal of Botany*. If this applies, explain so. Normally, of course, if an output is international this helps to indicate that it is of world class.

1.4 *Pro rata for stage of career*

There was a widespread feeling beforehand that new researchers (starting lecturers, postdocs etc) had no chance of a good score in the PBRF. This turns out to not be true as the Research Outputs evaluation was pro rata for the fraction of the 6 years that the researcher had been in paid fulltime employment as a scientist.

1.5 *Peer Esteem and Research Environment sections were important after all*

Many (including me) thought beforehand that with weightings of only 15% each, the Peer Esteem (PE) and Research Environment (RE) sections were largely irrelevant compared to the Research Outputs (RO). This turned out to not be the case, because of the scoring system used. They were particularly important for senior staff on the A/B boundary, and for new staff.

1.6 *Keep it short, factual, and aimed at a non-specialist*

As in any CV, the key message was keep it short and don't exaggerate. Brevity means your key point is less likely to be missed—horrible as it sounds, most people reading your EP or CV will skim it. For a standard CV, 2 pages should be enough to make the key points (plus attached list of publications). You should include evidence that your work matters, but not as personal assertions. Assume the reader knows academia, but not your field. Explain with objective information the importance of the work, using such information as journal impact factors and rankings in the specialist

field (from Science Citation Index, etc), citation rates to your work, favourable reviews or comments, other authors who have adopted a point you made, and so on.

1.7 *Keep a log*

Since Peer Esteem and contributions to the Research Environment do matter, keep a running tally of what you do. You should keep a log (an Excel or Word file will do fine) with entries under the following headings:

- Publications (with the usual categories)
- Conference talks given (and given by others with you as a co-author); keep track of invited talks, plenary sessions etc.
- Seminars and presentations (at other universities, to societies etc)
- Refereeing for journals
- Assessing grant applications
- Examining theses
- Grants and other funding gained (note your role in getting, it e.g. Principal vs Associate Investigator etc)
- Prizes and favourable reviews
- Collaborations: folk outside your institution you have interacted with or worked with.

2. **What to do different in future?**

This section details what people could do in the next few years to maximise their ratings in the next round of the PBRF in 2006. Of course, the more sceptical among us expect the system's details to have changed by then, but the general principles will probably still be true.

2.1 *Research Outputs*

Publish very important papers in the top journals! Of course, you are already trying to do this, right? The key point here is that RO is 70% of the PBRF formula and also is the single most important thing when evaluating CVs for an academic job, etc. So when considering the secondary things below, never lose sight of the fact that publications are mainly what matters. Moreover, since many of the items under PE and RE derive from others noticing your publications, you should spend <<30% of your time on these secondary activities; 5-10% might be a safe range. Also see the note above about quality vs quantity.

2.2 *Peer Esteem*

A range of different things counted here.

Prizes and awards: these vary depending on career stage. For new staff, examples include getting a competitive scholarship or "best student poster" prizes at a conference. Hence you should be offering talks and posters into conferences. For older staff, such items as medals, elected fellowships (FRSNZ, FRS, etc) carry great weight. Be sure to distinguish between "fellowships" that are elected as a select mark of esteem, and ones you buy by sending in a membership cheque.

Favourable reviews: this is best if you can quote the juicy bits, not just saying that there are nice comments about you by person X or in specified place Y. Think like what you see on the jacket of a paperback book.

Invited talks: for young staff, even a talk to a nearby institution in their seminar series could be mentioned. So get out there and offer, but don't go crazy, a few is enough to be going on with. For older staff, it is talks at large international conferences, and invitations to present keynote talks at conferences, etc that carry most weight.

PhD examining: this counts under the PBRF so don't turn them down, and keep a note.

Editorial Boards: this is both a sign of Peer Esteem, and a contribution to the Research Environment. That you are accepted as good enough to be on a board is the PE bit. But there is no harm in offering even if you are young, the work is best spread around! The more prestigious the journal is, the better, so senior staff could try to get on international journals, while even brand new staff could find their CVs benefit from helping on a local journal.

Citations to your work: this takes a while to build up, and yes it is not perfect, but it is the second most sincere form of flattery in science. (The first being trying to pass your idea off as their own.) It is worth tabulating this regularly and giving the information in CVs etc unless it looks dreadful. Some people go through and exclude "self-citations" but this is not often done and is probably not worth the bother. Work on the results from the UK version of the PBRF found a c 90% correlation between the average ratings for 38 Psychology departments from excruciatingly detailed EPs of their individual staff, and the simple average number of total citations per staff member for a single year (1998)! Their conclusion was that citations are measuring, much more easily and objectively, the same sorts of things that the UK PBRF exercise measures (see Smith & Eysenck, www.pc.rhbnc.ac.uk/citations.pdf).

Collaborations: interacting with other staff in NZ and (especially) overseas brings brownie points, so keep a list of these and cultivate them.

Attracting good students: note if you have brought any research students in from outside (rest of NZ or overseas). Also worth mentioning is if any of your students have gone on to PhDs at good overseas outfits, or taken up important positions.

2.3 Research Environment

This is the PBRF version of good karma: you get credit for selflessly greasing the wheels of science. So note that it is now in your best interests to help run societies, journals, and conferences.

The most impressive items here are probably around getting *grants*. List grants gained (separately if few, or aggregated if many), and give special prominence to any especially large, competitive (e.g. Marsden, NSF), long duration or highly collaborative grants. Even small grants count here if you are just starting out.

Refereeing helps too, especially for high-ranking and overseas journals. Note that it takes a while for new staff to come to the attention of editors and be asked to referee. Senior staff can help shorten this process a lot if, when asked to referee, they pass the MS on (with the permission of the editor) to a junior colleague who has relevant expertise.

Contributions to societies and conferences help your CV. Volunteer. There are journals, and roles in conferences, for everyone. At one end senior staff could be on the editorial boards of famous overseas journals, and play major roles hosting large international conferences. At the other end, new staff can help on smaller local journals, and with countless smaller but important jobs in societies and in conferences (e.g. running the AV).

Helping *supervise students* counts, and even new staff can probably claim to have assisted some PhD students somewhere.

3. Conclusions

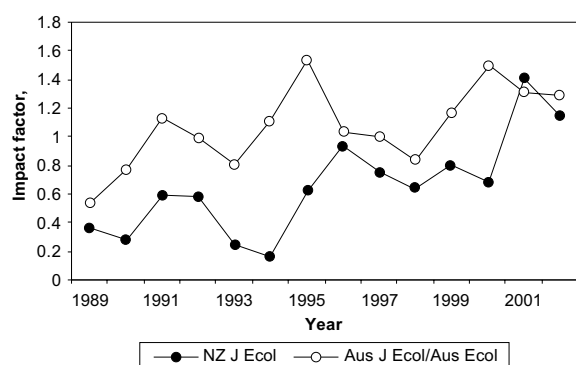
None of these favoured activities are radically different from how science has always run. What has changed is that for the first time, someone wants to see a detailed list of your publishing and non-publishing activities. So keep a log, and volunteer for stuff. The PBRF is going to be great for scientific societies and conference organising—volunteers should be easier to find! But in the end, to paraphrase Bob Jones, it is really "publication, publication, publication" that counts most. So ration the amount of time devoted to these extra activities, and give them up completely while you are struggling to get a major piece of work submitted. Review your log from time to time, and fill gaps with a bit of judicious work on the right kind of activity. This will make you a well rounded personality, at least in CV land.

Dave Kelly
University of Canterbury

FINAL WORD ON AUSTRAL ECOLOGY, AUST. J. ECOL. & NZ J. ECOL. COMPARISONS

In my earlier note (*NZES Newsletter*, February 2003) I warned that the relative citation indices of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* vs. *Australian Journal of Ecology* published by the Institute of Scientific Information could be an anomaly resulting from the name change of the *Australian Journal of Ecology*. David Wardle (*NZES Newsletter*, June 2003) calculated the citation index if the two journals did not have a name change. His mathematics is correct, but it does not follow that my assertion cannot be justified—it cannot be quantified (which I did not do, either). The justification comes from the repeated experience that citation statistics behave oddly in years around a name change in the life of a journal.

Instead of splitting hairs further, let us look at the relative citation statistics of the two journals since 1989 (Figure 1).



This shows that although in some years, *NZJE* Impact Factor approached that of *AJE/AE* but in most years, the *NZJE* Impact Factor has been lower throughout the period. In the meantime, the 2002 statistics became available, and this again indicates a higher IF for *Austral Ecology*. *NZJE* may have had a “greater impact on the global scientific audience”—if we accept the logic behind this statement, but for one year in the last 14. This may change, and I hope it does, but the record cannot be changed.

This brings us back to the discussion on the pages of the *Newsletter* about the future direction *NZJE* should take. I firmly believe that only making the journal more international could provide us with long-term viability. Otherwise we cannot compete with the already international authorship of *Austral Ecology*. Further, the Australian Ecological Society, also in 2000, started another journal, *Environmental Management and Restoration*—with an Australasian focus. This may foreclose a potential growth path suggested earlier.

There is no need to panic, though. Ecology in New Zealand has numerous links with the rest of the world, and findings in New Zealand could and should contribute to questions of interest by ecologists worldwide. We could and should find ways of making our journal also more international.

Gábor Lövei

NZJE Editorial Board Member

What I see when I look at Gábor's useful graph, is a growing impact of Australasian ecology. In the time shown, both journals (treating AJE/AE as one for the purposes), have approximately doubled their citation rates since 1989 and are now both ahead of e.g. Biotropica. Ecology downunder is in a healthy state as reflected by the growing impact of both journals—Ed.

SUBMISSIONS

NZ Ecological Society Submissions Policy

At its last meeting, NZES council adopted the following policy on submission. Thanks to Murray Williams for drafting the document. It will be posted on the NZES website.

Preamble

The New Zealand Ecological Society seeks to promote the study of ecology and the application of ecological knowledge in all its aspects. Through its activities, the society attempts to increase awareness and understanding of ecological principles and to promote sound ecological planning and management of New Zealand's natural and human environment. A means of achieving these aims is for members of the Society, individually and/or collectively, to contribute ecological knowledge and perspectives to debates, policy formulation, and decision-making activities that relate to the management of New Zealand's natural environment.

This policy seeks to encourage NZES members to become involved in these processes and provide them with a mechanism whereby their contributions can be made with the support and endorsement of the Society's council. This policy also seeks to restate the role of the Society, as a collective body, in making public submissions on ecological matters of national or regional importance.

Policy

- I. Any member of NZES, making submission(s) on matters related to ecological planning or management of New Zealand's natural and human environment, may seek support from the Society by
 - (i) seeking from the secretariat the names/contact addresses of members with stated expertise relevant to their submission and solicit from

these members help in compiling their submission
(ii) request from council an endorsement of their submission and, if given, convey that endorsement as part of their submission

II. Any member of NZES may request the Society's council to initiate and deliver a submission on any ecological matter of national or regional importance provided that

- (i) the member has adequately scoped and summarised the issues of the matter
- (ii) the member has identified the expertise required to contribute to the submission
- (iii) the member has declared a willingness to be involved in the compilation of the submission
- (iv) there is a minimum 3-month timeline for the delivery of the submission

The council shall decide on advice, including that of its submissions convenor, whether to prepare that submission as one of its formal actions (see policy III. below), or whether to encourage the member to prepare a submission under policy I. above.

III. Council of NZES may itself, initiate and deliver a submission on any ecological matter of national or regional importance and do so in the name of NZES.

Implementation

A member of council shall serve as submissions convenor for the purpose of implementing this policy. The submissions convenor is:

- the person-of-contact for members seeking council endorsement of their submissions (policy I.)
- the person-of-contact for members requesting council initiation of any submission
- the co-ordinator of council-initiated submissions.

Under policy I., the submissions convenor shall circulate to all councillors a copy of a member's submission and shall receive councillors responses. The submissions convenor shall then advise councillors of the collective response. If a majority of councillors are willing to endorse the member's submission, the submissions convenor shall communicate this to the member. A copy of the submission, as formally submitted by the member, shall be tabled at the next meeting of council.

Under policy II., the submissions convenor shall receive the member's request and examine supporting documentation to ensure appropriate scoping and evaluation has been undertaken. If satisfied, the submissions convenor shall circulate to members of council a copy of the member's request together with all supporting documentation provided and shall receive councillors responses. The submissions convenor shall then advise councillors of the collective response. If a majority of councillors agree to the

member's request, the submissions convenor shall proceed and coordinate the drafting of the submission. Council would be required to see and approve the final draft of the submission before it is submitted. If council does not support the member's request, the submissions convenor would communicate this to the member and encourage their compilation of a submission under policy I.

Under policy III., the submissions convenor would proceed to organise and coordinate the drafting of the submission. Council must approve the final draft of the submission before it is submitted.

New strategic directions for conservation management in New Zealand. A key submission—action needed and help sought

The Minister of Conservation is inviting public comments on proposed new strategic directions for conservation management in New Zealand. He has released two draft "general policy statements", one covering the Conservation Act 1987 and related legislation, and another covering the National Parks Act 1980. These draft documents may be downloaded from the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz along with a "fact sheet" explaining the background and the importance of these statements. In brief, these documents, when finalised, will become the guiding template for conservation management by government agencies for the foreseeable future.

The Department of Conservation is to organise a national round of briefings during September–November and written public submissions are invited by **19 December 2003**.

These documents are of special interest to NZES members and your Council urges members to contribute to the submission process. Members are encouraged to prepare submissions in their own names, or to join with like-minded colleagues and contribute joint submissions.

Council is considering preparing a submission in the name of the NZES. To do this, a working party of those willing to contribute needs to be established. Members willing to assist please contact Council's submissions convenor Murray Williams submissions@nzes.org.nz

HOT SCIENCE!

Here is the latest instalment of international papers, books and book chapters from New Zealand researchers. We want to have this list as complete as possible for items published internationally after 2000 so don't be shy—if your paper has not yet been listed let me know about it—the rules for submission are at the end of the listing and are on the website : <http://www.nzes.org.nz/hotscience/rules.html>. The list on the

website is now fully searchable and is now easier to navigate around thanks to our wonderful Webmaster. This will make the list, a valuable place to search for New Zealand ecological papers, chapters and books—but will be stronger if it is complete. So, please send your summaries to me. Send them in anytime, I will accumulate them for the next listing.

Gill, B. J. (2003). Osteometry and systematics of the extinct New Zealand ravens (Aves: Corvidae: Corvus). *Journal of Systematic Palaeontology* 1: 43-58.

Measurements of Holocene raven bones show that birds from the Chatham Islands were significantly larger than those from the South Island, which were in turn larger than North Island birds. Three taxa are recognised: the Chatham Islands raven *Corvus moriorum*, the North Island raven *C. antipodum antipodum*, and the South Island raven *C. a. pycrafti*. New Zealand ravens were the largest crows in the Australasian region, and the Chatham Islands raven was probably the world's fourth- or fifth-largest passerine. New Zealand ravens were strong fliers with no reduction in flying ability compared to weak-flying New Zealand birds like the kokako.

Husheer, S.W.; Coomes, D.A.; Robertson, A.W. 2003. Long-term influences of introduced deer on the composition and structure of New Zealand *Nothofagus* forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* 181: 99-117.

This study uses data from ninety-two 20 m x 20 m permanent plots and three pairs of enclosure plots monitored for two decades in Kaimanawa Forest Park. Mountain beech forest composition has shifted towards browse-resistant shrub species, while intense deer browsing may have led to the development of turf-forming communities. In red and silver beech forests there was an increase in the stem densities of small trees that are unpalatable to deer. This is the first time in New Zealand that observed deer impacts in the understorey have been clearly related to changes in overstorey composition on a landscape scale.

FUNDING & RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Help with Kaikoura Island, Hauraki Gulf

The NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust is promoting the concept of purchasing Kaikoura Island in the Hauraki Gulf to establish a nature sanctuary. We would very much appreciate any assistance you as individuals or as a society can give us.

The official view is that it is an island of low conservation values. Undeniably neglected and abused, it has great potential. Once the pests fallow deer, pigs, cats, ship rats, kiore and mice are removed, there should be a rapid resurgence of native flora. The existing vegetation has largely passed through the gorse/scrub stage and is now at the advanced manuka/kanuka growth. The major weed species are *Pinus radiata* and

P. maritimus. They are still spreading but control should be relatively easy, although eradication will be a slow process. The advantage there is the food source available in the pine's cones for kaka. As native species become a major food source, the pines can be ring-barked to provide resources for insects which inhabit decaying wood. Once control is gained the assistance and reintroduction of species can proceed rapidly.

Ideally as soon as the island is purchased we would like some base line data to measure changes. We would ask if any of your members could assist voluntarily, albeit some funding may be available.

Alternatively any lobbying of the authorities would also be useful—DoC, Auckland Regional Council, Auckland City Council etc.

Geoff Davidson

Tel 09 8130229 hm, 09 818 6467 wk

MEETINGS DIARY

New entries are marked with an asterisk.

28 September – 3 October 2003

Invertebrates and Environmental Change, combining the Australian Entomological Society annual conference and the 6th Invertebrate Biodiversity & Conservation conference, Hobart, Australia

<http://www.cdesign.com.au/entomology/>

28 September – 1 October 2003

SETAC Asia/Pacific-ASE Conference: Solutions to Pollution. Convention Centre, Christchurch.

<http://www.ecotox.org.au/nz2003>

* 3–4 October 2003

NZ Biosecurity Summit at Te Papa, Wellington.

For more information contact halln@maf.govt.nz

22–24 October 2003

Greening the City: Bringing Biodiversity Back into the Urban Environment. Conference of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (in association with the CCC, ECan, Landcare Research and PGG). Chateau on the Park, Christchurch.

<http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/conference2003.htm>

Email: d&amoyle@xtra.co.nz

23–26 October 2003

EIANZ Outback Summit "Earth Fire Water Spirit". Broken Hill, NSW.

<http://www.eianz.org/2003conference/2003conference.htm>

13–14 November 2003

"Fresh Water New Zealand: Problems, Processes and Priorities." Royal Society of New Zealand Conference, AUT, Auckland

<http://www.rsnz.org/secure/events/freshwater.php>

Email: gill.sutherland@rsnz.org

16–20 November 2003

“Theory and Practice in Ecology,” Annual conference of the New Zealand Ecological Society, University of Auckland, Auckland.

<http://www.sbs.auckland.ac.nz/ecolsoc2003/>

18–21 November 2003

New Zealand Hydrological Society Annual Conference, Taupo.

<http://www.hydrologynz.org.nz/society-conferences.html>

*** 24–28 November 2003**

DNA Technology workshop, Massey University, Palmerston North. An introduction to the theory and practice of DNA technology.

For information and enrolment see

<http://imbs.massey.ac.nz/workshop.htm>

*** 26–28 November 2003**

The Meteorological Society of New Zealand (Inc) 24th Annual Conference, Christchurch.

Contact r.turner@niwa.co.nz or visit

<http://www.metsoc.rsnz.org>

*** 27–29 November 2003**

Deep-Sea Chondrichthyan Fish Conservation and Management Meeting at the University of Otago.

<http://www.deepsea.govt.nz/legal/pre-conference.asp>

*** 1–4 December 2003**

Geological Society Conference.

<http://www.gsnz.org.nz>

*** 1–5 December 2003**

Joint New Zealand Limnological Society and Australian Society for Limnology Conference, Deakin University, Warrnambool, Australia.

<http://limsoc.rsnz.org/Limsoc%20conference2002.htm>

1–5 Dec 2003

3rd International Wildlife Management Congress, University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

<http://www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/wildlife2003/>

8–10 December 2003

Ecological Society of Australia Annual Conference. University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia.

<http://www.ecolsoc.org.au/conferences.html>

19–23 January 2004

Southern Connections IV, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa.

<http://www.uct.ac.za/conferences/sc2004>

*** 5–8 April 2004**

Entomological Society of NZ Conference, Nelson.

The organisers are calling for papers and posters for presentations. Contact Richard Harris

(harrisr@landcareresearch.co.nz) for further information or check www.ento.org.nz

19–23 April 2004

4th International Conference on “Applications of Stable Isotope Techniques to Ecological Studies”, Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.

<http://207.195.94.13/isoecol>

*** 7–9 July 2004**

A conference on Sustainability, Engineering and Science, Auckland.

For more information, contact Vicky Adin, Conference Manager, Conference SES, PO Box 272.1460, Papakura, Auckland, (09) 299 7538, vicky@kiwilink.co.nz, <http://www.nzsses.org.nz>

*** 19–22 July 2004**

“Estimating Animal Abundance” University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

<http://www.creem.st-and.ac.uk/conferences.php> or contact Ian Westbrooke iwestbrooke@doc.govt.nz

10–13 August 2004

“Forest diversity and resistance to native and exotic pest insects”, The International Union of Forestry Research Organisations (IUFRO) Conference, Hanmer Springs, Canterbury.

<http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/iufro.net/d7/wu70307/nz/>

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

Editor’s Note (Edited and abridged minutes)

Minutes of New Zealand Ecological Society Council meeting held 29 August 2003

Matters arising from previous meeting

Kauri fund: Bruce has passed over the latest version which needs to be checked by a lawyer. Murray to take this over, arrange to register with IRD and formally set up the trust.

Correspondence

Membership (as at 25 August 2003)

	Total	Comp	Unpaid			GNA
			2003	2002	Hold	
Full	358		15	17	6	7
Joint	51		3	2	1	1
Overseas	24		2	3		1
Unwaged	127		13	15	5	2
Hon/Hon Life	10	10				
Newsletter	10	5				
Other*	2	2				
TOTAL	582	17	33	37	12	11

*Other = legal deposit office, NZES archive; GNA = gone, no address

Membership changes

18 new, 15 resignations.

Seven new unwaged members: Miss Joanne Peace, Mr Jay McCartney, Miss Pascale Michel, Ms Sabrina Taylor, Ms Danielle Shanahan, Mr Yussuf Saleh Kombo, Ms Adriana Aleksa. Eleven new full members: Ms Lisa McFarland, Ms Jenny Rodgers, Mr Murray Hudson, Slaven Kljucanin, Mr Stuart Nicholson, Ms

LA Hardy, Ms Jo Ritchie, Dr Matthew Turnbull, Ms Helen Ranson, Dr Madan Gautam, Mr Ryan Young.

Subscribers

Paid-up Subscribers for 2003: 112 (out of a total of 117)
Complimentary Subscribers: 19

New Subscribers since 15 May 2003

Tauranga District Library, Tauranga; Bibliothek Central, Germany; The Natural History Museum, England (Complimentary)

Treasurer's report

The 2002 Financial Statements have been completed, and are currently with the auditors (they should be completed in plenty of time for inclusion in the newsletter prior to the conference and AGM). The account balances are currently in a very healthy position, though we are still waiting on payment of c.\$23k for the TuiTime project.

Murray thought we should table a budget at Council for the coming year before it starts. Ask Ben if he can do one for 2004, to consider in November, when considering possible changes to journal etc (see below).

Journal editor's report

David Wardle sent a report via Janet. Next issue (27/2) is almost out, and we are only 3 manuscripts away from finalising 28/1 for early 2004.

Already 38 manuscripts received so far this year (already more than the previous record for a whole year of 34), and 12 in July (previous monthly record was 7). Council discussed the potential problem of more manuscripts than we can handle, and recommended that we investigate the cost of increasing the number of pages of the next couple of issues.

Richard introduced a report from the journal subcommittee which considered risks of lower membership from providing electronic access to libraries. Difficult to anticipate member reactions, but council discussed the possibility of fewer members as a result of the change. Marketing the journal to libraries once we have electronic copy of current and back-issues should be a focus for the next year.

In the interim, while we work through the issues with going electronic, it was **decided to keep 2004 rates unchanged**, and consider changes for 2005 when electronic access is in place.

Webmaster report

In July we had 749 unique visitors making 3020 page hits; slightly over July last year. We now know how to run a secure site for Visa payments etc (running through a commercial secure site, so there is some charge). This would probably be handy for overseas members.

Moved by Dave **seconded** Mark that we introduce this for renewals in 2004 provided Jon has the time to put it in place. **Passed**.

Conferences

2003 Auckland

Murray has a report from Dianne, Mark spoke to her too. She said all is fine, they are using the AKL Univ management group to run it (costs \$30 per registrant). They have a budget and proposed registration fee. Break-even is 180 attendees (with 40% students). Marine Society conference is held about the same time, she is piggybacking on their organisation. Stuart Parsons is writing up the whole process to guide future teams and can be incorporated into a guide for organising a conference document now exists, c 7 pages long, excellent. Dianne is working on more detail including a costing spreadsheet which will be merged. Council could edit and add to this once it is merged.

Field trips: Miranda, Tiritiri, and Tawharanui. Conference dinner is booked for Viaduct Basin.

Richard will come off council end of this year, because he will take over as editor (and therefore stay on). We will need nominations for secretary, vice-president, treasurer etc.

2004 Conference

Carol West reported: *Conference 2004: Janet wrote and asked if we would be prepared to run next year's conference in Invercargill. I put this proposition to the biodiversity section here in the conservancy and there was considerable enthusiasm for being involved in organising the conference. Therefore, I can report that, if Council wishes to pursue Invercargill as the venue, we will undertake to organise the conference. In terms of programme content I would be looking for support from Landcare Research and University staff in Dunedin. You might want to keep Dunedin representation on Council in mind at this year's AGM.*

Education Subcommittee

Dave tabled an update for TuiTime from Carol West: *The TuiTime upgrade, funded by the Sustainable Management Fund of MfE, has been completed. Go to www.tuitime.org.nz for lots of new activities with varying degrees of difficulty. The game has been renamed Tiaki's Life: Te ora o Tiaki and now represents the history of recent change in our forests. In the first stage, Tiaki lives in a prehuman forest with just her natural predators and competitors, and life is pretty easy. In the second stage she has to compete with many introduced animals as well as her ancient competitors and she has to avoid predation by mammalian predators—a new game for her. Finally, in the third stage of the game, bait stations and traps are set in the forest to reduce the biomass of predators and competitors and give Tiaki a chance. Play the game and be rewarded with a clutch of eggs that hatch then fledge, thanks to Tiaki's ability to survive and forage. The site has been reconstructed to make it much easier for teachers to use.*

TuiTime will soon be available on CD for those who do not have ready access to the internet. The price, including GST plus postage and packaging will be \$15.00. If you are interested in obtaining a CD, contact the Secretariat of the Society—address on the inside back page of this newsletter.

At the Biolive 2003 conference in Hamilton in July, TuiTime was presented to biology and primary/intermediate school teachers. It was very well received as a teaching resource and the main message from teachers was, tell us about it, promote TuiTime to schools. The Education Subcommittee is doing their best to do this and has produced a bookmark and a poster as promotional tools, but we really need all members to spread the word. Please tell school teachers and children about the site. Promote it more widely by including a reference to the site in your email signature. Use any other methods you can think of and send us

suggestions about the site. We want TuiTime to stay current, be accurate and inform.

Submissions

Murray tabled a draft policy statement for submissions.

With small **modification to the decision making process, moved** Dave that we approve this now, publicise in newsletter, and consider modifying it if councillors not present today or members raise any significant issues. **Seconded** Janet, **passed**. (see page 5 for details of the new policy).

In addition to the “New strategic directions for conservation management in New Zealand” (see page 6), we are also looking out for the “National Policy Statement on indigenous biodiversity” which the Minister of Environment will release soon.

Dates for next meetings for 2003

16 November (2–6pm in Auckland the day before the conference).

NZES LISTSERVER

NZES has an automated email listserver that can broadcast messages to all those on the list. There is not a huge amount of traffic (a handful of messages a month) but it can be useful for job adverts, information about conferences, requests for help or information about particular topics, etc.

Only those on the list can send messages.

How to subscribe

You can subscribe (and unsubscribe) yourself using the commands below.

To subscribe, send a message to nzecosoc-request@it.canterbury.ac.nz and in the message have two lines:

SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
END

To unsubscribe, send a message to the same address, with these lines:

UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
END

If you change your email address

If you change your email address, you have to unsubscribe from the old one, and subscribe from the new one. If you changed address but forgot to tell the server, I start getting error messages from your old address and have to unsubscribe you manually, so make my life easier and do this yourself. If your email address has problems (eg messages rejected because your inbox is full) for more than a few weeks I will also unsubscribe you. If you are not getting any messages and wonder if you are still on the list, just send another subscribe command.

How to send messages

Note that due to a (single) spam message which was sent through the list in August 2002, we have changed the system so that only those registered on the list are able to send messages to everyone. If you want to send a message and think you are on the list but the server says you are not, it is probably because you changed your email address and didn't tell the server (see above). If you are not on the list and don't want to subscribe and want to send a message, send it to me to forward on.

Messages on the list should follow these simple rules:

- NO ATTACHMENTS!!!
- put the info in plain text in the message
- if there is bulky or graphic material some people may want, put a web address in the message that people can click on if they want, or give a contact email address where people can ask for it
- only send stuff that is likely to be of general interest to NZ ecologists

To send a message, e-mail it to:

nzecosoc@it.canterbury.ac.nz (assuming you are a member of the list).

Replying to list messages

If you get a message on the listserver and want to reply to the person who sent it, please be careful that your reply goes to the person, and not to the list (to be bounced out to everyone!).

For more information, contact Dave Kelly:

d.kelly@botn.canterbury.ac.nz

Web page

To obtain additional details contact the NZ Ecological Society website: <http://www.nzes.org.nz>. This site has membership details, information on awards and prizes, information on submitting papers to the journal and links to overseas ecological organisations.

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This Newsletter was produced by Alastair Robertson and Jeremy Rolfe.

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

Alastair Robertson
Ecology, Institute of Natural Resources
Private Bag 11222
Massey University

Ph: 06-350-5799 extn 7965
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E-mail: newsletter@nzes.org.nz

Next deadline for the newsletter is 10 October 2003.

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

This issue is printed on 100% recycled paper

Pull-Out Section

fold here

Centre for Continuing Education
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland, New Zealand
Fax: ++64-9-3737 419

C 2735

fold here

**The Annual Conference of the New Zealand Ecological Society
16–20 November 2003**

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return to:
Centre for Continuing Education
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland,
NEW ZEALAND
Fax: ++64-9-3737 419 **C 2735**

Deadline for early registration: 10 October 2003

Title _____

First Name _____ Surname _____

Institution _____

Postal Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Preferred name for name badge _____

I wish to present a:

Student paper (16 November)

Conference paper (17–20 November)

Poster

I am currently a student and wish to be considered for the student prize for paper or poster presented during the open session of the conference.

A list of participants including organisations and email addresses will be included in the conference abstract booklet.

If you DO NOT want to appear in this booklet please tick this box.

All costs are in NZ\$

A: Conference registration fees

(Includes welcome function, morning and afternoon teas, satchel, abstract booklet)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member | \$175 (\$200 after 10 October) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member | \$245 (\$270 after 10 October) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged (Student Member) | \$80 (\$100 after 10 October) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged (Other) | \$175 (\$200 after 10 October) |

Total A: \$ _____

B: Banquet and Wine & Cheese Evening

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet at \$55/person | \$ _____ |
|---|----------|

Total B: \$ _____

C: Field Trips

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trip 1 (TiriTiri Matangi) at \$55/person | \$ _____ |
|---|----------|

or

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trip 2 (Tawharanui) at \$30/person | \$ _____ |
|---|----------|

or

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trip 3 (Miranda) at \$35/person | \$ _____ |
|--|----------|

Total C: \$ _____

Total Payment A, B and C: \$ _____

Payment (Tick as appropriate)

- Cheque (payable to The University of Auckland)

Or debit Visa MasterCard

Account Number:

Expiry Date: ____ / ____ Name on Card: _____