NOTES FROM COUNCIL

Council met on August 29. It was confirmed that the 1997 Conference will be held at Victoria University in conjunction with Systanz and The New Zealand Entomological Society. The 1998 conference will be held in Dunedin in conjunction with the Australian Ecological Society. Council thanks Glenn Stewart and Richard Duncan for organising the 1996 conference. Approximately 245 people attended the conference and many people, especially students, took advantage of the reduced conference fees offered to EcoSoc members and joined the society.

Discussion at this council meeting ranged over topics such as finances, the Royal Society, the potential to join the IUCN, a proposal for the introduction of Unit Standards in Ecology, and the possibility of a professional institute for ecologists and environmental managers.

A proposal was presented at the AGM that the Society should review its document “An ecological approach to New Zealand’s future” and put questions to candidates in the upcoming elections. The decision was deferred to the next council meeting. It was decided that the document is due for review but no questions would be formulated for politicians.

Next council meetings are scheduled for 28 November 1996, 13 February 1997, 1 May and the AGM on 30 June.

EX OFFICIO COUNCIL MEMBERS

Gábor Lövei has taken over as the editor of the New Zealand Journal of Ecology. He has fulfilled the editorial role since July this year. John Parkes has looked after Volume 20; both issues are at different stages with the printer and should be out shortly.

Mary McEwen has retired from the position of newsletter editor and the new editor is Astrid Dijkgraaf from Auckland.

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Jason Roxburgh is now the submissions convenor. Submissions sent to EcoSoc will be redirected to Jason.

There are also some potentially new council members. EcoSoc president Caroline Mason had a baby boy on 13 August and the wife of Vice-president Craig Miller delivered a baby boy on the 7th of July. Congratulations to both families.
LAST NOTES FROM MARY MCEWEN, RETIRING NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I took over the job of coordinating the production of the Newsletter in late 1991, while it was being put together and edited by Kim Pritchard at Land Resources, DSIR in Taita. Duncan Cunningham organised the mailing and we used the internal mail of the Department of Conservation to save the Society some postage. By June 1992 I had taken over the editing and Jeremy Rolfe was setting the newsletter up ready for printing. This arrangement has continued since then and Jeremy will continue his role even though our new editor is based in Auckland.

I enjoyed being involved with the newsletter because I kept up to date with activities of the Society, and attended several Council meetings each year. The most difficult part of the editor’s job is obtaining enough interesting copy for (usually) four newsletters each year. I tried an arrangement whereby regional people were asked to send in reports of what was happening in their part of the country. It worked for a while. I think the modern way of employment does not leave much time for extras; nobody has time for anything any more!

For the interest of people who might be wondering, I now work from home by choice. Most of my time is spent researching my father’s life (Charles Fleming), and I also work as a consultant ecologist doing a wide variety of jobs. Any members who would like to send me reminiscences about my father are very welcome to do so. I am also a grandmother and a gardener and these two things are really more important to me than ecology!

I wish Astrid every success as she takes on the Newsletter and encourage any members who have got the time to write something for her to put it into it.
Mary McEwen
12 Tisdall Street, Karori, Wellington
Phone/Fax 0-4-476 6163; Email: mmeewen@central.co.nz

NEW EDITOR FOR THE NEWSLETTER: ASTRID DIJKGRAAF

Mary McEwen has decided to hand over the red editors pen after 5 years of editing this Newsletter. I would like to thank Mary, on behalf of the Council and members of the Ecological Society, for all the hard work she has put in over these years.

As Mary mentions, the most difficult task was chasing people to obtain ecological news and issues to fill these pages. I took on the job fully aware that I would have to sharpen my hunting skills, both to sniff out stories and to hunt people down around the deadlines. I hope to maintain the high standards that Mary achieved and to encourage more participation by EcolSoc members in the production of this Newsletter.

For those of you who do not know me, I am a PhD student at the University of Auckland. Officially I am part of the School of Biological Sciences on the City Campus, but in reality I spend most of my time at the School of Environmental and Marine Sciences on the Tamaki campus. My office is at Tamaki and so are two of my supervisors (Mick Clout and John Ogden). Bill Lee, my third supervisor is part of Landcare Dunedin.

I am studying fruiting and flowering patterns of some of our native tree species, and the effects of possum and rodent control on these species. This means that I spend one week every month in bush remnants around Auckland, and the remainder of the time at home sorting out leaf litter samples. Post or email are probably the most reliable methods of contacting me, otherwise ring me at home (I am hardly ever in the office) and I will return your call.

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE 1996 ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY.

Three awards were presented this year at the recently held ecological society conference.

The prize for the best student talk went to Shona Lamoureux, Lincoln University for her paper on ‘Space invaders: a field study and model of Hieracium pilosella’. Runner-up was S. Schreiber of Monash University who presented a paper on ‘Abiotic factors related to the distribution of a New Zealand freshwater snail in southern Victoria, Australia.’ As usual the standard of the talks was excellent and the choice a difficult one – one judge suggested replacing my bland 1 to 5 scale for judging with OK, good, very good, excellent and stunning when he realised that nearly everyone was scoring 4.5 or 5 on my scale! Thanks to the judges and Fran Kell who stood in for me in announcing the awards.

This year for the first time, an award was made for the best professional, i.e. non-student talk. The winner of the award went to Dave Kelly of Canterbury University for the joint paper co-authored by Jenny Ladley and Alastair Robertson on ‘Impact of introduced birds and insects on pollination and
dispersal in endemic mistletoes'. This award, which carries no prize other than the honour of winning, is judged by a panel of postgraduate students and is an attempt to promote good standards of speaking amongst the professional ecologists. In recent years it is noticeable that the students have been giving talks of exceptionally high standard – I hope that this new award may stimulate the rest of us to come up to their level!

Nigel Barlow of AgResearch, Lincoln was the recipient of the 1996 Ecological Society Award. Nigel is a long standing member of the society and is a current member of the editorial board for the New Zealand Journal of Ecology and served for six years as editor in chief. The author of over 70 scientific publications and one book, Nigel is a rare kind of ecologist, the sort who can successfully apply models to solving ecological problems particularly in biological control, population biology and epidemiology. Currently, amongst other things, he is working on models on the spread of bovine tuberculosis in possums and on predicting the effects of RCD in rabbits. He was successful last year in obtaining an elusive Marsden grant in the inaugural year on metapopulation dynamics.

Nigel's university education was in the UK at the universities of Edinburgh and East Anglia before a post-doc at Massey University lured him to New Zealand in 1979. In 1980, he joined the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries until his appointment as a senior scientist at AgResearch in 1992. Nigel is a keen mountaineer and even managed to apply his skills for modelling to his favourite hobby when he fulfilled a contract for the Department of Conservation on relief models of mountains!

Nigel's contribution to applied ecology in New Zealand is unsurpassed and he is a thoroughly deserving recipient of this year's award.

SEMS OFFICIAL OPENING

The University of Auckland School of Environmental and Marine Science was officially opened over the weekend of 24-26 August. SEMS is situated on the Tamaki Campus in Auckland and also includes the academic staff of the marine laboratory facilities at Leigh.

The three day opening included a day of student oral and poster presentations, an open day of the Leigh laboratory and a full day symposium to advocate the importance of environmental and marine science and to ascertain community and industrial priorities for these areas. This symposium was well attended by science and industry representatives from throughout New Zealand.

SEMS offers programmes both at the undergraduate level (BSc) and at postgraduate levels (diploma, masters, and doctoral) and is particularly interested in increasing its mini-modules programme designed to allow busy professionals to partake in postgraduate environmental science and environmental management studies. The central philosophy of the programmes is to add interdisciplinary knowledge and skills to strengths in traditional disciplines. SEMS has the highest ratio of postgraduate to undergraduates students for any school or department at Auckland University.

Contacts:

SEMS
Tamaki Campus
The University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland
New Zealand
Telephone +64 (0)9 373 7599 ext 6825
Fax +64 (0)9 373 7042
email sems@auckland.ac.nz

See further on in this issue for lists of postgraduates currently researching ecology related topics at SEMS, and of academic staff at SEMS.

ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ROADS ON BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS: SEARCH FOR LITERATURE

I am establishing a literature database on the ecological effects of roads. In particular I am looking for publications which report results of qualitative and quantitative effects of roads on species, communities and ecosystems.

The aim of the research is to establish a literature database to help:

1. Assess the impacts of the impacts of roads (during construction and use) on the natural environment, species, habitats and protected areas;
2. Assess the effects of roads on "conservation values";
3. Review methods of mitigating and buffering the effects;
4. Identify future research agendas.

This research is for the Department of Conservation.

Please send any references or any items of interest to Ian Spellerberg, Department of Resource Management, Box 56, Lincoln University
Canterbury, New Zealand
Email Spelleri@lincoln.ac.nz
TRIANGULATION WITH TELEMETRY

Studying secretive and nocturnal species is difficult. How do you find animals without disturbing them?

If you are in this position you might want to pay $5.00 (for copying and postage) to get the useful little handout on how to get started with telemetry. (Telemetry means "measuring from afar". Radio tracking equipment is used to locate an animal from a distance.) This small booklet briefly discusses ethics, basic telemetry and triangulation and some of the errors with this technique. Also included is a list of important contacts, a transmitter ordering guide and a bibliography of references that have used telemetry.

The language is simple (non-scientific) and easy to understand with many diagrams to show just what is meant.

Write to
Sibilla Girardet
School of Environmental and Marine Science
Tamaki Campus
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland

SETTING UNIT STANDARDS IN ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS

Recently the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee was invited to nominate a representative to participate in the standards development for the public training sector (an ITO) and the development of unit standards in the area of ecological and environmental management.

The first task of the project is to determine its scope, but it is expected that it will cover public sector interest in ecology management, environmental education, species control and management, natural resource use, environmental management, conservation, heritage and site management and parks management.

Ian Spellerberg

ECOLSOC MEMBERSHIP

The following are lists the newly subscribed and retiring members.

- A total of 71 new members subscribed.

New members: unwaged.
- Penny Aspin
- Jonathan Banks
- Mandy Barron
- Lisa Berndt
- Christopher Berry
- Cameron Bibby
- Kerry Bodmin
- Rhys Buckingham
- Louise Cullen
- Julia Davey
- Astrid Dijkgraaf
- Matt Easterbrook
- Priscia Esser
- Sarah-Jane Evans
- Lisa Farrand-Collins
- Philip Grove
- Sonke Hardersen
- Michael Heads
- Deborah Hewett
- Mark Jarrett
- Kristian Jones
- Emmanuelle Jousselin
- Michael Joy
- John M Kean
- Maxine Lawrence
- Fleur Maseyk
- Angela Moles
- Kim Morland
- Craig Morley
- Alison Perfect
- Matthew Prebble
- Rachael Price
- Fiona Proffitt
- James Rea
- Lloyd Robbins
- James Ross
- Lionel Sally
- Hazel Speed
- Rebecca Stanley
- Chris Stowe
- Gina Straker
- Andrew Styche
- Jason Taylor
- Andrea Thom
- Olwen Thomson
- Karen Tutt
- Stephen Ulrich
- Melanie Voyce
- Susan Walker
- Tamsin Ward-Smith
- Anni Watkins
- Ji Wihong
- John Willmer
- Shaun Wooffindin

New members: waged
- Laurence Barea
- Simon Beale
- Ngaire Burley
- Bryan Cas Coinbase
- Joy Comrie
- Gavin Daly
- Jamie Day
- Malcolm Douglas
- Donald Drake
- Richard Gordon
- Helen Harman
- Graeme Jane
- Gerry Kessels
- John Millard
- Michael Moffat
- Jason Roxburgh
- Jane Shearer
- Mike Slater

It has come to our attention that not all new members have made it on to this list. If you paid your dues at the conference but are unable to find your name on the above lists please notify the secretary by mail.

Resignations
- L D Bascand no reason
- R Buick no reason
- Andrew Harrison Minimal participation in Ecological research
- I G Jamieson Away on study leave
- Ross Lake No reason
- Yvonne Marjot Leaving New Zealand
- R H Mattlin No reason given
- Brian Molloy Retired
- Brian Patrick Changing emphasis in personal science direction
- C H Wearing No reason
**IUCN MEMBERSHIP**

It was proposed at the council meeting of 29 August that the New Zealand Ecology Society should apply for membership to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The IUCN, often referred to simply as the World Conservation Union, was founded in 1948 and is the only conservation organisation that brings together nations, government and non-government organisations in a single partnership.

The Union’s objectives are:

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

One of the Union’s primary roles is to provide a forum for government and non-government members to discuss conservation issues. Unlike other more narrowly focussed organisations, the Union considers the scientific, educational, legal economic, social, cultural and political dimensions of conservation issues.

The Union has established six commissions which are global networks of scientists and other professionals. These commissions cover Education and Communication, Environmental Law, Environmental Strategy and Planning, National Parks and Protected Areas and Special Survival and Ecosystem Management.

Some potential benefits could be increased job opportunities in the Pacific and worldwide for EcolSoc members, participation in global conferences and networking via the above mentioned commissions. It was thought that IUCN membership might also increase membership in NZ EcolSoc from overseas and assist in reinforcing the professional status of EcolSoc.

Ian Spellerberg, who proposed joining the IUCN, mentioned that it might take as long as 18 months before EcolSoc becomes a full member.

Council decided to apply for membership and, in the mean time, set up a sub-commission to investigate what benefits this will accrue for EcolSoc.

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**PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ECOLOGISTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGERS**

Council discussed the proposal to set up a professional institute for ecologists and environmental managers in order to uphold professional standards in New Zealand. Overseas various ecologically affiliated organisations have jointly created such institutes but there is currently no such institute in New Zealand.

Council agreed that the possibility of such an institute should be investigated but felt that it should not be an institute run solely by the NZ EcolSoc. Ian Spellerberg was designated as the NZ EcolSoc representative to initiate discussions on this topic with other ecologically related societies in NZ.

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**PROPOSED REGULAR FEATURES IN UPCOMING ISSUES**

Henceforth, I would like to list the ecological research topics undertaken by postgraduate students for two academic institutions in each issue. By including two institutions in each issue all students will be listed at some point throughout the year.

Similarly, I would like to include lists of staff, their interests and research areas, for each of the various academic institutions. If one institution is included in each issue then all institutions will be included on a bi-annual rotation.

Please feel free to advertise research suggestions and topics that are available (whether funded or not) in this Newsletter. This will give upcoming postgraduate students ideas for research areas and will stimulate discussion and research amongst professionals.

Ecologically relevant email addresses will be listed in each issue, and reports and journals received by the NZ EcolSoc will be listed as available.

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**POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TOPICS**

(MSc students unless stated otherwise)

**Otago postgraduate students**

- James Bibby: A PNA survey of Macraes Ecological District.
- Chris Bycroft: The ecology and management of red tussock grassland (PhD)
- Heather Darrow: An investigation into the development of some NZ native woody plants. (PhD)
• Joseph Dougherty: Germination and establishment requirements for coastal natives.

• Philip Grove: Ecology of non-forest ecosystems with respect to management for nature conservation. (PhD)

• Neil Harris: Edaphic adaptation of *Rytidosperma* to calcareous soils (PhD)

• Warren King: Native and exotic plant guilds of the upper Clutha catchment, Central Otago (PhD, completed)

• Amelia McQueen: Ecology of Borland Bog.

• Simon Moore: Seed ecology of *Gaudhiera* species.

• Liz Rodriguez: A PNA survey of the Southland Ecological District.

• Ben Smith: Comparative texture of *Nothofagus* forests (PhD completed)

• Lionel Solly: Grazing impacts on alpine snow tussock grassland (PhD)

• John Steel: Ecotonal variation comparisons across vegetational boundaries on limestone and gneiss in Takahe Valley.

• Graham Strong: Point to point variation in ecophysiological parameters across an ecological ecotone.

• Susan Walker: Biodiversity and stability of semi-arid grasslands (PhD)

**SEMS Auckland, postgraduate students** (MSc students unless stated otherwise)

• Rosemary Barraclough: Selection and management of mainland islands. (PhD)

• Andrew Berry: Aquaculture of the New Zealand spiny rock lobster (*Jaunos edwardsi*).

• Calum Bonnington: Near-surface current patterns of Little Omaha Bay, North-eastern New Zealand.


• Lisa Clark: Aspects of cockle (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*) populations in the Tamaki Estuary.

• Sharon De Luca: Effects of septic tank leachate on marine bivalves.

• Astrid Dijkgraaf: Fruiting and flowering of native trees in relation to possum and rodent control. SBS/SEMS (PhD).

• Libby Doak: Characteristics and effects of vessel generated waves, Torpedo Bay, Auckland.

• Lisa Eve: Vegetation corridors of Waitakere City: Their importance and function.

• Mairie Fromont: Palynological investigations into the Quaternary history of vegetation and climate of the Auckland region. (PhD)

• Graig Gillies: The fate of introduced mammalian predators (feral cats, stoats and ferrets) throughout a 1080 poison operation.

• Sibilla Giradet, CR Veitch & JL Craig: Bird counts on Hauturu (Little Barrier Island) 1975–1989 (poster)

• Sibilla Giradet: 1) Tools for saving endangered species. 2) The fate of translocated little spotted kiwi. (PhD, writing up)

• Tim Haggitt: Demographics of the kelp *Ecklonia radiata* following stand level dieback.

• Emmanuelle Jousselin: Possums and their devastating effect on our native Kohekohe – Ecole Superieure Agronomique De Montpellier. (Undergraduate study)

• Dom Keuskamp: The recruitment patterns of kina (*Evechinus chloroticus*).

• Cheryl MacKenzie: South Island Oystercatcher behaviour: airport’s nightmare or birdlover’s dream?

• Janet McDonald: The assessment and management of urban forest fragment restoration.

• Marea Neill: Aspects of reproduction in two abalone (paua) species (*Haliotis iris* and *H. australis*) from North-eastern New Zealand.

• Lesley Stone: Environmental education; identifying motivators for change (PhD)

• Graham Ussher: Modified habitats: hostile environments or hidden resources for threatened species recovery? Looking at translocation of tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*) (PhD).

• Ingrid Visser: *Orcinus orca* (killer whales) in New Zealand waters (PhD).

• Ji Weihong: 1) Study on rodent monitoring efficiency (MSc, finished). 2) Reinvasion of possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) (PhD).

• Yvette Wharton: The ecology of the introduced mussel, *Mytilus senhousia*.

• Lynette Wilson: Successful translocation management of the stitchbird or hihi: the potential problem of competition from other honeyeaters.

See article on SEMS opening for contact addresses.
ACADEMIC STAFF AND THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS

SEMS Auckland
Dave Kelly made the suggestion to include lists of current staff members and their research interests at the various academic institutes in the ecology newsletter. I think that this is an excellent idea as it will facilitate both staff communication and gives students the opportunity to select potential supervisors in their area of interest.

To start the ball rolling here is a list of staff at the School of Environmental and Marine Science at the University of Auckland. (Please don’t think that I am biased towards including SEMS, it was just that the material was readily to hand and required no chasing of individuals for information.)

(Research interests are indicated in brackets)

- John Craig: Head of SEMS, Professor of Environmental Management (Restoration, ecology, conservation, environmental management).
- Malcolm Bowman: Professor of Marine Science (Coastal oceanography, coastal zone management fisheries, marine environment).
- John Hay: Woodward–Clyde Chair in Environmental Science (Environmental science, assessment and monitoring, global and regional environmental change, climate variability and change).
- John Ogden: Associate professor (Plant ecology, conservation, palynology, dendrochronology, vegetation and climate history).
- Brent Alloway: Senior lecturer (Volcanic deposits and volcanic hazard assessment, paleoenvironmental reconstructions, soil-landscape relationships).
- Bill Ballantine: Senior lecturer (Variation of marine habitats with spatial scales, the design of marine reserve networks, time series analysis on rocky shores, population dynamics of limpets).
- Mick Clout: Senior lecturer (Frugivory and seed dispersal, ecology of introduced vertebrates).
- Robert (Bob) Creese: Senior lecturer (Biology and aquaculture of marine invertebrates, ecology of estuaries and rocky shores, marine conservation).
- Gillian Lewis: Senior lecturer (Health-related microbial aspects of water quality).
- Alwyn Rees: Senior lecturer (Ecophysiology and biochemistry of marine phytoplankton and seaweeds).
- David Shooter: Senior lecturer (Chemistry of atmospheric trace gases and aerosols, photochemistry of halogenated organic compounds, indoor air quality).
- Willie Smith: Senior lecturer (Natural resources, rural systems, public policy).
- Russ Babcock: Lecturer (Population biology of marine organisms, reproductive ecology, marine ecological surveys and monitoring, ecology of coral reefs, larval behaviour).
- Philip Osborne: Lecturer (Coastal geomorphology, hydrodynamics, sediment transport).
- Carol Stewart: Lecturer (Chemical contaminants of marine sediments, water quality, environmental chemistry).
- Lesley Stone: Programme manager for Diploma in environmental management (Sustainable production and consumption, educational programmes that promote sustainability).
- Norman Thom: Honorary senior lecturer (Air quality, waste management, chemical safety).
- Morgan Williams: Honorary senior lecturer (Sustainable land management, ecological and land management processes).
- Simon Hooker: Post doctoral fellow (Biology, ecology and aquaculture of marine species).
- Fiona Stewart: Post doctoral fellow (Biototoxicity of heavy metals in seabirds).
- A further 5 positions at SEMS are currently being appointed.

CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESSES

NZ EcolSoc email list server started
Some members may be subscribers to automated email list servers for overseas ecological societies such as the Ecological Society of Australia. These are a useful, fast, cheap way of spreading or requesting information among email-enabled members. We have now taken the step of setting one up for the NZ EcolSoc.

Operation is pretty simple. You can add yourself to the list (or take yourself off it) by sending a message – NOT to the email list itself but to the list controller. Once on the list you get sent a copy of all messages sent to the central server. To send a message, or reply to it, you simply mail the message to the server.
The list server aims to promote the rapid flow of information between society members, particularly on:

- conferences and new publications
- submissions (requested and proposed) on ecological issues
- job vacancies and scholarship opportunities
- requests for information on techniques or obscure topics

We will try to limit "self-advertising" (broadly interpreted) to be brief and on items of likely interest to society members.

Please note that we don’t promise that messages will be frequent, or gripping; this is a means of communication, not a promise of enlightenment! It will work if ecologists here use it (well).

To subscribe send a message to the automatic Mailserv processor at:

nzecosoc-request@csc.canterbury.ac.nz

The recommended way to subscribe is to send a message with two lines:

SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
END

Explanation of the various possible instructions you can send as messages to nzecosoc-request is given below.

HELP
Sends a help file. This command takes no parameters.

SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
An optional second parameter, the address to subscribe (eg my.name@wherever), may be specified with this command, otherwise the sender’s email address is added. NB if your email system adds a signature you must include a second line, see END below.

cct145@csc.canterbury.ac.nz

END
Terminates MAILSERV processing; subsequent message contents are ignored. This command is useful when signatures are automatically appended to messages that will cause errors if MAILSERV sees them.

UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
This is the command you should use if you want to stop receiving mail from this list.

LISTS
Sends a file containing a list of the mailing lists maintained by this server. The file normally includes an explanation of what each list is for. This command takes no parameters.

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

For information on the listserv contact the newsletter editor (a.dijkgraaf@auckland.ac.nz or myself at d.kelly@botn.canterbury.ac.nz. For information on the Australian listserv contact me or Kath Dickinson (eolkjmd@matei.vuw.ac.nz). Happy emailing

Dave Kelly
19 September, 1996

Phenology@auckland.ac.nz

For those of you interested in phenological events (fruiting and flowering of species and pollination and dispersal by animals) there is an email address to discuss these matters and swap stories. The list is called phenology@auckland.ac.nz. Any messages send to phenology@auckland will be passed on to those people that have subscribed to the list.

To subscribe send an email message to Majordomo@auckland.ac.nz with the message "SUBSCRIBE PHENOLOGY your.name@your.email.address" and you will be added to the list. To remove yourself from the list just send the same message but change "subscribe to UNSUBSCRIBE".

This fileserver understands the following commands.

WHO PHENOLOGY
Find out who is on the named phenology list.

HELP
Receive the help message.

END
Stop processing commands (useful if your mailer adds a signature).

Commands should be sent in the body of an email message to "Majordomo@auckland.ac.nz".
Commands in the "Subject:" line NOT processed.
If you have any questions or problems, please contact "Majordomo-Owner@auckland.ac.nz" or Astrid on a.dijkgraaf@auckland.ac.nz.
UPCOMING CONFERENCES

1997 EcolSoc conference and AGM
The 1997 Conference of the New Zealand Ecological Society, combined with the Systematics Society of New Zealand (SYSTANZ) and the NZ Entomological Society, will be held at Victoria University, Wellington, from Sun 29 June to Thurs 3 July 1997.

- Sunday: Student session
- Mon - Wed: Symposium and contributed papers
- Thursday: Field trip(s)

AGMs of all three societies will be included in the programme.
Conference organiser is Fran Kell (see inside back page for contact details).

INTECOL
Theme: "New tasks for ecologists after Rio 1992".
The International Association for Ecology (INTECOL) is an international non-government organisation that represents ecologists worldwide.

INTECOL is part of the Section of the Environment of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). Formed in 1967, INTECOL has 1000 individual members and 35 affiliated national ecological societies.

INTECOL works to:
- promote the development of the science of ecology and the application of ecological principles to global needs, particularly through international cooperation;
- collect, evaluate, and disseminate information about ecology;
- arrange conferences, workshops and symposia.

A major activity of INTECOL is the organisation of the International Congresses of Ecology.

For further information write to:
Alma Farina, Vice-President INTECOL
Secretariat VII International Congress of Ecology
c/o Lunigiana Museum of Natural History
Fortezza della Brunella
54011 AULLA, Italy

Deadline (already past) July 31 1996

Nature conservation 5
Conservation in production environments: managing the matrix, 30 November - 5 December 1997,
Taupo, New Zealand.

This workshop is a continuation of the nature conservation oriented workshops held in Western Australia with themes such as:
- The role of remnants of native vegetation;
- The role of corridors;
- Reconstruction of fragmented ecosystems, global and regional perspectives;
- The role of networks.

This conference recognises that sustainable development by people includes the need for extensive extractive production from land and sea. The processes to attain and maintain these levels of production affect environments outside of the immediate production area, including conservation estates.

Increasingly, companies, landowners, community groups and local authorities are realising their responsibilities to sustainably use the environment.

Conservation is an integral part of sustainability.

This conference will address conservation problems, opportunities and actions associated with the productive use of land, water and sea.

Abstracts will be required by May 31, 1997
For further information write to:
School of Environmental and Marine Sciences
The University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland, New Zealand
Phone +64 (0)9 373 7599 ext 6825
Fax +64 (0)9 373 7042
email sems@auckland.ac.nz

REPORTS AND JOURNALS RECEIVED BY NZ ECOLSOC

The following journals and reports were received by the secretary of NZ EcolSoc; Gillian Vaughan.
Please feel free to contact her if you would like to read or provide a home any of these documents. Any which have not been distributed by the occasion of the next AGM are likely to be "auctioned off" or something similar.

Ecological Research Vol 11 No2 (August 1996) (The ecological Society of Japan)

Two documents comprising RS&T:2010 - the Government's Strategy for Research, Science and Technology to the Year 2010,
1) The Strategic Overview
2) Action agenda and investment framework.

A series of Press Releases from Labour and a copy of their conservation and energy policies

The Dept of Conservation Visitor Strategy
Ekologia polska (The Polish Journal of Ecology in English) Vol XLII, No 1-4

The BP conservation Programme: a programme which gives grants to undergraduate projects that are investigating conservation issues of international importance
Factors contributing to the irruption of mouse populations in *Nothofagus* forests.

**Alley J, Fitzgerald BM, Berben PH, Knightbridge PI and Dugdale JS, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, Massey University Campus, Private Bag 11052, Palmerston North, New Zealand.**

Mast seeding is a prominent feature of *Nothofagus* and a positive correlation between seedfall and mouse abundance has been recorded previously. However, the general assumption that beech seed is the food source responsible for the prolific breeding of wild mouse populations has not yet been proven. Research has shown that arthropods are an important component of the diet of mice and it has been proposed that arthropods contribute significantly to the irruption of the mouse population.

This paper presents results from a five year study carried out in the Orongorongo valley to investigate in detail the ecological processes underlying the mast seeding event. The focus is to determine how changes in quantity and composition of beech litter fall relates to the abundance of litter-dwelling invertebrates.

An increase in litter-dwelling caterpillars coincided with a dramatic change in litter production, this included a sudden shedding of leaves by *Nothofagus truncata* immediately prior to its prolific flowering.

In conclusion, this study supports the hypothesis that arthropods respond to changes in litter composition and contributes to the irruption of mice in *Nothofagus* forests of New Zealand.

The logic of follow-up translocations

**Armstrong DP and Ewen JG, Department of Ecology, Massey University, Private Bag 11222, Palmerston North, New Zealand.**

Recovery programmes for New Zealand animals frequently involve translocations to new areas, particularly islands. It is also common, following an initial translocation, for additional animals to be released in the same location about a year later. The logic behind these follow-up translocations is often unclear, being based on vague notions such as "giving the population a boost". We argue that follow-up translocations are warranted only in special circumstances, and should not be done routinely. With an initial translocation, there's no data on how the species will perform at the release site, so it's very hard to make predictions. In contrast, with follow-up translocations, there are at least some data available to estimate population parameters. These data can be used, in combination with population viability analysis, to predict whether it will be beneficial to release further animals. These benefits need to be weighed against the cost to source population(s). We review cases of two bird species recently translocated to Tiritiri Matangi — toutouwai, for which a follow-up translocation took place, and hibi, for which a follow-up translocation is currently being contemplated.

An Ecological Restoration Monitoring Programme for the Karori Sanctuary, Wellington, New Zealand

**Bartholomew R, School of Biological Sciences, Victoria University, PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand.**

An integrated ecological management system is being established in the proposed Karori Wildlife Sanctuary. Supported by coordinated research, systematic monitoring and a comprehensive ecological database, this system aims to provide reliable relevant ecological information needed for effective management of the Sanctuary. Monitoring is targeted at key indicators of ecosystem health, processes that establish resource supply for fauna, and at indicators of succession within the valley.

Initial work has focused on development of common protocols, methodologies and *pro forma* for baseline ornithological, edaphic and floristic studies. This will facilitate the coordination of research done by a variety of agencies; and optimise the inclusion of research data into a comprehensive database. This database will be linked to a digitized base map through a geographic information system (GIS) at a later date.

Currently bird count data are being collated (OSNZ), a 1:5,000 base map has been produced and a soil survey conducted (author and VUW Research School of Earth Sciences). Vegetation monitoring now underway (author and VUW School of Biological Sciences) includes studies of phenology, vegetation unit mapping, seed-rain and seed-bank, establishment, basal area, canopy crown condition, vertical structure and plant distribution.

A species list linked to a voucher herbarium will provide a validated archival reference for monitoring species diversity and composition. Permanent photopoints and rapid inventory surveys will monitor gross changes to physiognomy and phenology. A network of permanent quadrats will provide detailed information on succession, structure and plant demography.
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This Newsletter was produced by Astrid Dijkgraaf 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: Astrid Dijkgraaf SEMS, Tamaki Campus The University of Auckland phone (home) 09-483-9334 Private Bag 92019, fax 09-373-7042 Auckland email: adijkgraaf@auckland.ac.nz

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