NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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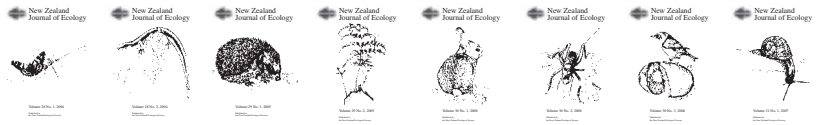
FROM THE EDITOR



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Conversation with an Artist

Liz Grant has illustrated the cover of the New Zealand Journal of Ecology for about twenty-six years now, and her skills as a scientific illustrator are widely acknowledged. Less commonly known is Liz's wealth of talent with bronze sculpture, mostly inspired by the natural world and often reflective of historic and contemporary threats to New Zealand's biodiversity. Ecology and art lend themselves easily to a thought provoking relationship under Liz's hand.

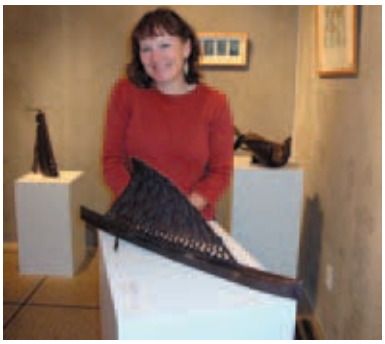
Liz (Ngati Raukawa and Ngati Huri) completed her BSc (Zoology) at Massey University in 1983 and spent 18 years as a biological technician at Massey's Bot Zoo department (now The Ecology Group) during which time she was also the biological illustrator for the department. A published author ('An Illustrated Guide to Some New Zealand Insect Families'), Liz also has a 1st Class Honours degree in Maori Visual Arts from Massey University and is half way through her Masters degree. Aside from her illustrative work, Liz enjoys working in bronze which she says has an inherent sense of quality, and is a strongly tactile medium.

I caught up with Liz at her home and studio on a sunny Pohangina Valley afternoon. Sitting amongst her piles of books, specimen jars, feathers, partly finished works, and no less than five microscopes, I spent a fascinating hour asking Liz about her work.

Firstly, how do you decide which article to feature on the journal covers?

The authorship and content of the papers are irrelevant to this decision. I like to maintain some balance between the covers, so I'm always mindful of what I have done previously – e.g. an invertebrate, a mammal, or a plant and always try to alternate the subject matter. I research all my drawing so it also needs to be something I can source reference material for, either with my own photographs or live material.

A lot of your sculpture focuses on nga tamariki a Tane (the children of Tane), with particular reference to the process of extinction and the impact of colonisation. This takes the art work to a deeper level than purely descriptive, such as we see in the cover illustrations. What motivates you to focus on these themes?



Liz Grant.

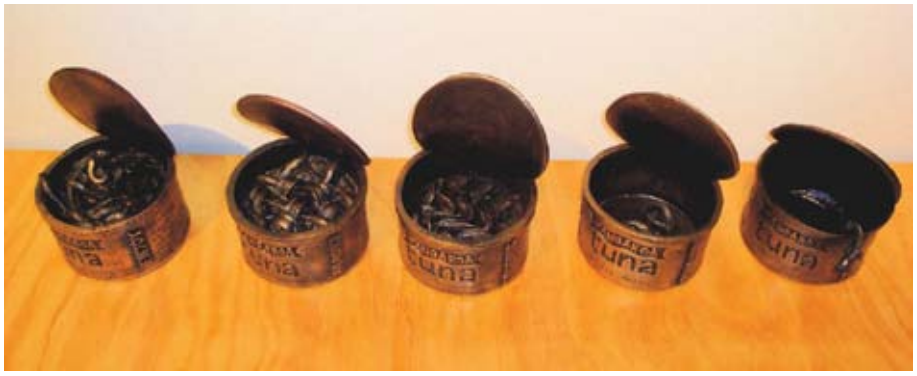
INSIDE:

From a young child I have had a strong, basic fascination for nature. I experience enjoyment from it and therefore feel concerned about it's decline, and about our activities which place it at risk. My scientific research also reflects this, and while I was at Massey I was involved in research on the endangered flax snails (Placostylus species, mostly Placostylus hongii).

How do you see the role of art as a medium for greater understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's ecology, and as a way to raise collective awareness of historic and contemporary threats to our biodiversity?

With biological illustrating I aim to make my drawings scientifically accurate. This form of art can really place a spotlight on detail. It is a great medium for very small organisms. You can ensure your subject is always in focus and focussed on, and bring about an appreciation of the shear beauty of the organisms themselves.

With regards to my bronze work, I have a very strong motivation to bring to light, in an artistic sense, the plight of nga tamariki a Tane and to highlight the great tragedy of not learning from our collective mistakes. Art can carry very strong messages and has the power to invoke questions and bring issues to public awareness.



Catch - 22 *(2009). Cast bronze. Exhibited at the Porirua Art Market in October 2009, 'Catch - 22' tells the story of the decline of the tuna (long-finned eel). A species of great cultural importance, a reliable source of protein and fat, and easily caught, the tuna is in decline due to the misunderstanding of it's life cycle and consequent mismanagement. The warning of extinction is pervasive in this piece, with a caution that tuna could remain "only in glass jars" reminiscent of the Victorian naturalist. Indeed, Liz has followed this concept through in related works – bronze eels in glass jars, entitled 'Only in art and in glass jars'. Catch - 22 is heavily reliant on play on words, from the obvious – tuna (eel) presented as tinned tuna – to detailed manipulation of the label terminology. Tuna in spring water becomes tuna in polluted water. The cleverness of the piece is partially obscured by its simplicity and delivery via a familiar and commonplace object - the ubiquitous tin of tuna.*

The blend of your own whakapapa and study in Maori Visual art with your scientific background seems seamless, with both sides clearly represented in your work. How important is each field of study and experience to your work? Do you experience tension between them or rather a productive balance?

It is definitely for me a tremendously positive blend. Having the science background is fantastic and gives me additional confidence with the plants and animals, especially morphologically. I use my art to convey the science and to interpret the subject more. In doing so it becomes more of a feel rather than a strict approach.

I am mindful that my love for detail which can generate some internal tension between my scientific self and my artist self. My bronze work forces me to push back from the extensive intricate detail, as it is not always needed. In the same way that it is easier to see light in the dark, detail is enhanced by something plain.

Although science and the art are separate disciplines, they can both co-exist in the same person like the harakeke (flax) can exist for both the botanist and the weaver.

Currently Liz is working on a second series of 'Plants in pots' - works inspired by the house Rongopai on the East Coast where symmetrically painted images of plants in pots adorn the walls, reminiscent of the potted plants in the parlour rooms in Victorian times. The symmetry is a connection to kowhaiwhai painting found traditionally on the rafters of the whare.

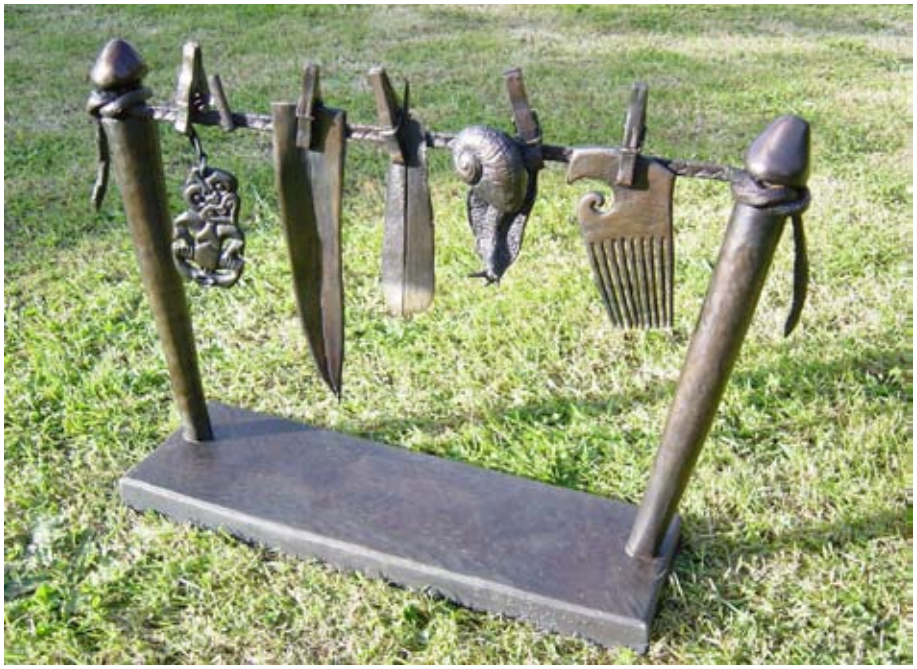
In Maori culture the containing of Papatuanuku (the earth mother) and Tane's children in pots was a strange concept and this practice brought to New Zealand by European settlers invited curiosity in the early days of the two cultures meeting.

Liz's new sculptures depict harakeke, kawakawa and koromiko, species selected for their significance to Maori as a source of weaving fibre and for their medicinal properties. The species are also strongly symmetrical in their architecture providing a link to the form of kowhaiwhai and the painted images in Rongopai. Like all of Liz's work, these pieces are biologically accurate and instantly recognisable, and are enticing in their layers of symbolism and double meaning.

A selection of Liz's latest work is to be exhibited in Wellington this year or you can visit her web page to see more.

Golden Waters and Eel Art *(2009). Cast bronze: A continuation of the tuna stories, this piece, inspired by Gordon Walter's koru painting Tama 1977, was shown at the Porirua Maori Art Market last year.*

Artist's statement:*"My series 'Golden Waters' is a reference to the koru motif work of Gordon Walters. 'Golden Waters' is effectively an anagram of the artist's name, but also describes my 'canvas'. Like Walters, I take a dark horizontal element and use it repeatedly against a contrasting pale background. This repetition also subliminally entices the viewer into encountering different aspects of eel morphology. The eels are placed so that there are approximately equal proportions of negative space (the golden water) to the positive space occupied by the eels. The hard edges of these sculptural forms, contrast with the flat plane of the 'canvas' so that there is a simultaneous interplay between the two-dimension and the three-dimension".*



Hung out to Dry II *(2002). Cast bronze. A collection of taonga (treasures) 'Hung out to Dry' on the weaving thread reminds us of the consequences if we do not act as guardians for them. Already, the sacred bird, the huia, has been lost. The phallic weaving peg represents the potential for life and the desire to bring back to life those elements lost and to energise those that still remain.*

INTECOL 10 SPARKS STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The following statement, prepared mostly by a handful of New Zealand ecologists (lead by Colin Meurk and Frances Forsyth) was presented to the delegates of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) held in Copenhagen last year.

The International Association for Ecology (INTECOL) calls on delegates at the International Conference on Climate Change (COP15) to consider that the continued loss and degradation of the earth's biodiversity will be made worse by climate change.

The 1300 scientists and resource managers from around the world who met at the 2009 International Congress of Ecology in Australia, spoke of a world-wide collapse of habitats, species extinctions, the spread of pests and diseases, and serious threats to even the most common plants and animals. Many of the almost 1000 presentations provided hard scientific evidence of the impacts of climate change on the world's ecosystems.

The evidence that emerged from the INTECOL Congress demonstrates that strong action at Copenhagen will be needed to avoid the disastrous ecological, social and economic consequences of business-as-usual.

In response we call for delegates at Copenhagen to adopt an ecosystem-based approach in their response to climate change—that specifically identifies projected consequences of biological and human activity on the planets natural systems and can generate novel solutions to emerging problems. Adaptation and mitigation strategies must result in tangible and sustained co-benefits for biodiversity, people and poverty reduction.

A TRIP TO THE ENDERBY ISLANDS

Last year Laura Young received a scholarship from the Enderby Trust to travel to the remote and isolated Subantartic Campbell, Auckland and Snares Islands. Here she recounts her experiences.

What a way to wake up to 2010… in the middle of Carnley Harbour on 1 January, ready to step foot onto the Auckland Islands! After enduring two days of rough waters and admiring hundreds of seabirds on the Southern Ocean, we were finally ready to set foot on a piece of land where only 600 people per year are allowed to go.

I was lucky enough to be selected for an Enderby Trust Scholarship through Heritage Expeditions—an award-winning New Zealand expedition travel company. Unless you're lucky enough to get involved with scientific research work down there, there is almost no other way to get to these islands.

I have had a fascination with, and a longing to visit, New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands for as long as I can remember. Not only did the places we visited live up to all my dreams, but gave me so much more insight into what it would really be like to get to know the place well by living and researching there for a significant period of time.

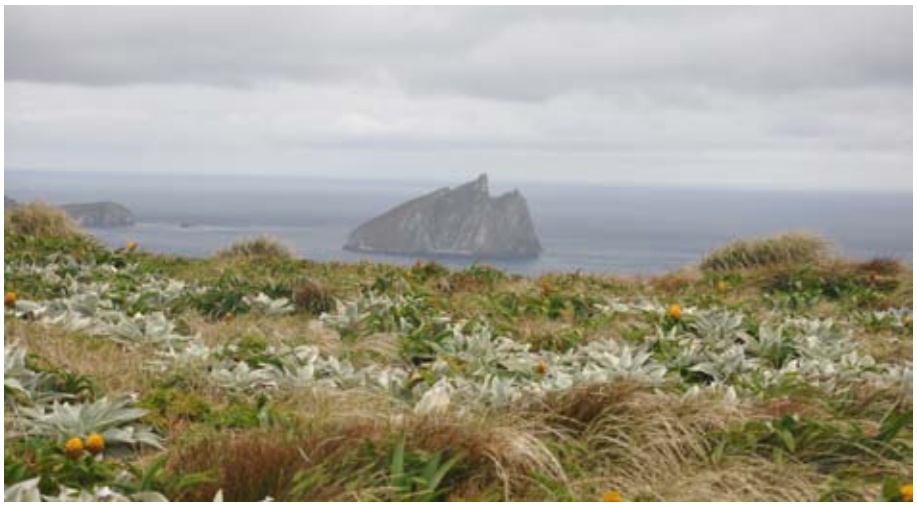
We first visited the Auckland Islands group (50.5° S)—the largest of the New Zealand and Australian Subantarctic Islands, with a total area of over 62,000 ha. From Carnley Harbour at the southern end, we could see the pristine Adams Island to the south as the Zodiacs sped us from our 70 m Russian ship to shore at Tagua Bay.

After a short walk through the moody interior of the rata forest, up a hill to the lookout point, I realised the area is richer in human history than I had thought. As we wandered along in the rain, thunder and lightning, we learned of many tragic tales of shipwrecks, failed attempts at farming, the introduction of mammalian pests and subsequent damage to the existing flora, fauna and natural ecosystem function. When I originally imagined myself visiting these islands, my main interests only involved the natural biota, but now I understand that these are also places of significant human interest and historical value. People have been almost defeated by the inhospitable nature of these islands, which further highlights just how special and hardy the animals and plants that inhabit these islands really are.

Young Anistome latifolia *on northern end of enderby Island.*

Luckily enough we now get to visit at a time when a number of these islands have undergone eradication of certain introduced animals or been declared totally pest free. One of my favourite days of the journey involved visiting Enderby Island, at the northern end of the Auckland group. The island is now free of rabbits and mice and populations of megaherbs such as *Anisotome* and *Stilbocarpa* are recovering.

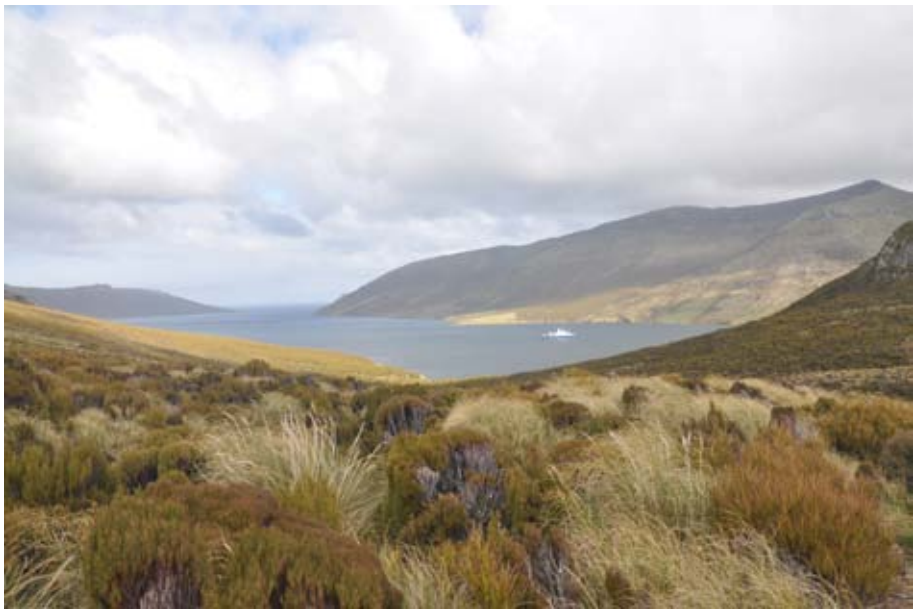
On Enderby Island, I had the chance to sit and watch the wildlife and relish the remarkable beauty and uniqueness of the Subantarctic Islands. I was mesmerized by the flurry of life happening all around me… giant albatross nesting amongst the megaherbs and penguins waddling down sandy dunes, while Auckland Island pipits and banded dotterels were scampering over lush fields of *Bulbinella* looking for insects. The size and outstanding bright colours of the flowers of the various megaherbs was striking and they seemed to yell "look at me!" to the insect pollinators.



View from Campbell Island to Dent Island across a megaherb field dominated by Pleurophyllum.

The sheer number of seabirds that soared overhead above the rocky coastline was purely magnificent to watch, while in contrast shags flapped around busily collecting nesting materials to take back to their rocky overhangs. Not only was there all this life, but death happening before my very eyes. I stood at Sandy Bay, one of the largest Hookers sea lion colonies in the world, and watched pups being born, while at the same time watched others being squashed by giant territory-seeking males. Opportunistic skuas loomed in the vicinity watching with an eager eye to savagely engulf any meat they could get their beaks into.

Another highlight of the trip for me was to explore the southernmost territory—the Campbell Island group (52.3° S) comprising over 11,000 ha. After another rough night at sea we awoke in Perseverance Harbour which was stunning.



Perservance Harbour, Campbell Island.

Campbell Island is a very recent and outstanding conservation success story. Without rats for the last nine years, our group became the first members of the public to see the Campbell Island snipe, a bird only rediscovered in 1997 on the tiny Jaquemart Island, off the south coast of the main island. They were able to re-establish back onto the main island after the eradication of rats took place in 2001. I was super excited after finding a Campbell Island weta while searching through *Chionochloa* tussocks. During the day I watched dozens of young albatross gamming (practising mating techniques) and calling. I felt alive in the howling wind standing on the cliff tops above the Col-Lyall saddle, looking out at the extensive Southern Ocean and the jagged and eroded ancient volcanic

peaks protruding up from the sea. I felt at home amongst fields of *Pleurophyllum* daises and had a challenge trying to find the less common endemic plants such as *Damnamenia vernicosa* and *Veronica* (*Hebe*) *benthamii*. It was a wonderful day all round, and pure coincidence to arrive there exactly 200 years since the island was discovered!

Our trip was greatly enhanced through having legends on board our expedition like Rod Morris (New Zealand's best known wildlife photographer and natural history film maker), Andris Apse (stunning landscape photographer/book writer), and Martin Cawthorne (original Hookers sea lion researcher/marine mammal expert) along to share stories, knowledge and expertise with us through their many valuable years of experience on the islands. I am tremendously grateful to the Enderby Trust for providing me with this scholarship and to Heritage Expeditions for making this trip possible.

HOT SCIENCE

This article was published in March 2010 in Quaternary Science Reviews 29(5-6): 753-762.

Highly skewed sex ratios and biased fossil deposition of moa: ancient DNA provides new insight on New Zealand's extinct megafauna

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Ancient DNA was isolated from the bones of 267 individuals of the extinct New Zealand moa (Aves: Dinornithiformes) from two late Holocene deposits [Pyramid Valley (PV) and Bell Hill Vineyard (BHV)] located 5.7 km apart in North Canterbury, South Island. The two sites' combined fossil record cover the last 3000 years of pre-human New Zealand and mitochondrial DNA confirmed that four species (*Dinornis robustus*, *Euryapteryx curtus*, *Emeus crassus*, and *Pachyornis elephantopus*) were sympatric in the region. However, the relative species compositions in the two deposits differed significantly with *D. robustus* and *E. crassus* being most abundant at PV while *E. curtus* outnumbered the other three moa taxa combined at BHV. A subsample of 227 individuals had sufficient nuclear DNA preservation to warrant the use of molecular sexing techniques, and the analyses uncovered a remarkable excess of females in both deposits with an overall male to female ratio of 1:5.1. Among juveniles of *E. curtus*, the only species which was represented by a substantial fraction of juveniles, the sex ratio was not skewed (10 ♂, 10 ♀), suggesting that the observed imbalance arose as a result of differential mortality during maturation. Surprisingly, sex ratios proved significantly different between sites with a 1:2.2 ratio at BHV (n = 90) and 1:14.2 at PV (n = 137). Given the mobility of large ratites, and the proximity of the two fossil assemblages in space and time, these differences in taxonomic and gender composition indicate that moa biology and the local environment have affected the fossil representation dramatically and several possible explanations are offered. Apart from adding to our understanding of moa biology, these discoveries reinforce the need for caution when basing interpretation of the fossil record on material from a single site.

Compiled by Bruce Burns

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGISTS

How much deadwood is there in New Zealand forests?

Deadwood has been a largely neglected component of New Zealand forest ecosystems, but its importance for biodiversity and ecosystem function is increasingly being recognised. Now, the first systematic survey of deadwood

in New Zealand forests has been carried out. Sarah Richardson and colleagues found means of 54 $Mgha^{-1}$ (range 0-550) of aboveground biomass and 158 m^3ha^{-1} (range 0-1890) of aboveground volume occurred as deadwood. This represents 16% and 27% of total aboveground biomass and volume respectively. Deadwood was consistently greater in some forest types, e.g., rata-kamahi forest and red beech-broadleaf forest, and the quantity of deadwood was also weakly related to VPD and live tree biomass (though other unmeasured factors were also probably important). The values are comparable to similar forests elsewhere in the world. The authors also highlight our current lack of knowledge of how deadwood abundance and composition affects biodiversity.

Richardson, S.J., Peltzer, D.A., Hurst, J.M., Allen, R.B., Bellingham, P.J., Carswell, F.E., Clinton, P.W., Griffiths, A.D., Wiser, S.K., Wright, E.F. 2009: Deadwood in New Zealand's indigenous forests. *Forest Ecology and Management 258*: 2456–2466.

The next big debates—15 emerging issues in conservation identified

In September 2009, a group of leading researchers met in Cambridge, United Kingdom to identify 15 nascent issues that could affect the conservation of biological diversity in the near future. This was an exercise in 'horizon scanning'—a process that identifies emerging issues early so that necessary research can be conducted to inform policy and practice in time to make the greatest difference. The result is a fascinating mix of issues that offer threats and opportunities for our ability to achieve conservation objectives in the future. Many relate to the impacts and responses to climate change, the impacts of synthetic materials in the environment, and the potential of new technological innovations. The issues are: microplastic pollution, nanosilver in wastewater, synthetic meat, artificial life, stratospheric aerosols, promotion of biochar, mobile-sensing technology, deoxygenation of the oceans, changes in denitrifying bacteria, high latitude volcanism, invasive Indo-Pacific lionfish, trans-Arctic dispersal and colonization, assisted colonisation, possible impact of REDD (www.UN-REDD.org) on non-forested ecosystems, and large-scale international land acquisitions.

Sutherland, W.J., Clout, M., Côté, I.M., Daszak, P.,4, Depledge, M.H., Fellman, L., Fleishman, E., 7, Garthwaite, R., Gibbons, D.W., De Lurio, J., Impey, A.J., Lickorish, F., Lindenmayer, D., Madgwick, J., Margerison, C., Maynard, T., Peck, L.S., Pretty, J., Prior, S., Redford, K.H., Scharlemann, J.P.W., Spalding, M., Watkinson, A.R. 2010. A horizon scan of global conservation issues for 2010. *TREE 25(1)*: 1-7.

How to start your own petrel colony: successful seabird translocations reviewed.

On a global scale, New Zealand is a hotspot of burrow-nesting or surface-nesting petrel diversity with 36 extant species, although 33 of these have suffered population declines and 6 are highly threatened. The habit of petrels to nest in large colonies and import large quantities of marine nutrients means they can have profound effects on terrestrial ecosystems. This has led to a strong conservation objective of re-establishing petrel breeding colonies in New Zealand. A review of translocation attempts between 1997 and 2008 at 19 sites throughout New Zealand involving 8 petrel species has recently been published. It documents development of techniques such as artificial burrows, artificial diets, and acoustic attraction systems which have been successful in effecting these translocations. Across these translocations, a total of 1791 chicks within five weeks of fledging were moved up to 240 km, placed in artificial burrows and hand-fed until they fledged. Of these, 1546 fledged, and so far at least 68 have returned as adults to the translocation sites. This paper records one of the most significant advances in conservation science in New Zealand in recent times.

Miskelly, C.M., Taylor, G.A., Gummer, H., Williams, R. 2009. Translocations of eight species of burrow-nesting seabirds (genera *Pterodroma*, *Pelecanoides*, *Pachyptila* and *Puffinus*: Family Procellariidae). *Biological Conservation 142*: 1965-1980.

Mice shown to quickly develop aversion to 1080

In developing techniques for multi-species mammal control in New Zealand, eliminating or reducing mouse populations in natural ecosystems is proving difficult. Whereas reducing populations of pests such as brushtail possums and ship rats is consistently possible with aerial applications of baits containing 1080, reducing mouse populations by the same means has proven highly variable. New research on the bait acceptance of mice exposed to bait with 1080 suggest that mice can rapidly identify food containing 1080 and will subsequently avoid it. To circumvent this characteristic in mice, the authors suggest distributing lethal doses of 1080 in microsamples within the bait (rather than being distributed evenly throughout the bait), or using toxins with a delayed onset of action such as anticoagulants.

Fisher, P., Airey, A., Brown, S. 2009. Effect of pre-feeding and sodium fluoroacetate (1080) concentration on bait acceptance by house mice. *Wildlife Research 36*: 627-636.

Increased mortality of an endangered raptor from wind farms in Spain

Wind-farms are rapidly becoming established in New Zealand as a source of 'green' energy but their effects on wildlife are poorly known. In particular, evidence from overseas suggests that birds and bats can suffer enhanced mortality through collisions with rotor blades. A new study from Spain, the world's third largest wind-power producer, has evaluated the consequences of wind-farm development on the population dynamics of an endangered long-lived raptor, the Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus*. This study found small but significant increases in mortality rates occurred in vultures associated with wind-farms, and this was enough to increase the probability of extinction for these populations. This highlights the need to consider wildlife impacts of wind-farms including effects on the long-term population viability of resident species.

Carrete, M., Sánchez-Zapata, J.A., Benítez, J.R., Lobón, M., Donázar, J.A. 2009. Large scale risk-assessment of wind-farms on population viability of a globally endangered long-lived raptor. *Biological Conservation 142*: 2954–2961

Compiled by Fleur Maseyk

IN THE NEWS

A lost tribe of kiwi

(*The Dominion Post* 7-Dec-09)

A group of 29 (16 males and 13 females) previously undetected North Island brown kiwi were heard "singing, screeching and growling" among the red beech and red cedar in isolated bush by volunteers trapping stoats at the northern tip of the Ruahine Range, near Taihape. This population of North Island brown kiwi is the southernmost of the species, and the last remaining group in the Ruahine Ranges. A joint programme by the Department of Conservation and Taihape based Awarua Aorangi Trust targeted stoats in the Ruahine Corner, east of Taihape. Over the last four years, the kiwi population has increased from four birds. Darren Peters, nest predator control officer with the Department of Conservation notes that "it's a huge number and a great result from four years ago. It proves that, once you get on top of the stoats, things move pretty quickly."

Unravelling the relationship between climate and sea level

(TVNZ 5-Jan-2010)

A New Zealand expedition of scientists seeking to recover the 10 million year record of sea level cycles across the Canterbury Basin have drilled a hole that hit limestone thought to have been laid down 35 million years ago. Data yet to be extracted from the core samples is expected to reveal relationships between climate and sea level, and how the ocean currents and sediment deposits from the Southern Alps have changed over millions of years.

Takahe chick brings hope for species survival

(*The Dominion Post* 12-Jan-2010)

"Everyone is ecstatic," ecologist Chris Smuts-Kennedy said. The birth of a healthy chick—the first on the North Island mainland in hundreds of years—has thrilled staff at Maungatautari Ecological Island in Waikato. The takahe, thought to be extinct till its rediscovery in Fiordland in 1948, remains one of New Zealand's rarest birds with a population estimated at just 230 individuals.

The first takahe chick to hatch on the North Island in hundreds of years hides in vegetation at Maungatautari Ecological Island.

And there is more good news for the takahe (Yahoo 23-Feb 2010) with reports that the critically endangered species is slowly moving towards recovery with a record number of chicks born this summer. Takahe recovery manager Phil Tisch said the increased numbers were a result of work to increase the number of functional breeding pairs at various sites, predator free island sanctuaries, and Maungatautari Ecological Island. The takahe population is estimated at just 230, with an estimated 100 birds in the Murchison Mountains, and the remainder on Maud Island, Mana and Kapiti Islands, Tiritiri Matangi Island and at Maungatautari Ecological Island.

New Zealand joins Copenhagen climate change accord

(Yahoo News 1-Feb-2010)

New Zealand confirmed Monday it was joining the Copenhagen Accord on climate change and was submitting its existing conditional 2020 target for reducing carbon emissions. The Copenhagen conference last December failed to achieve a binding global agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and instead asked countries to commit themselves to individual targets. Climate Change Minister Nick Smith said New Zealand had submitted its original conditional target range of 10 percent to 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. The target is conditional on a global agreement being reached that sets the world on a path to limit global temperature rises to not more than 2^0C, other countries making comparable efforts to New Zealand, and there being effective rules governing land use and forestry.

Sirocco the kakapo continues to gain international fame

(*The Southland Times* 29-Jan-2010)

Sirocco, one of only 124 kakapo remaining in the world, was catapulted into stardom after featuring in the BBC's Last Chance to See programme, and has now been named a conservation ambassador by Prime Minister John Key. The cheeky kakapo became a worldwide phenomenon after his attempt to mate with zoologist Mark Carwardine's head on the BBC's programme. Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson said Sirocco was an obvious choice for the ambassador role "we have so much unique native wildlife in every nook and cranny across the country. This is our biodiversity to protect and Sirocco can help spread that message''.

Rat found on Motuora Island

(NZPA 3-Feb-2010)

Motuora Island in the Hauraki Gulf near Warkworth, is a 80 ha safe-haven for endangered species and home to an estimated 60 kiwis. However, a rat has been caught in one of the "sentry stations" set up to trap invading pests. It had been dead for roughly two weeks. Biodiversity programme manager Rory Renwick said Motuora was too far for rats to swim and it was most likely the rat had arrived after stowing away on a visitor's boat, kayak or in a bag. "The implications of a rat on the island are huge".

The question of killing one native species to benefit another

(TVNZ 20-Feb-2010)

Up to 70 weka on the Open Bay Islands off Haast on the South Island's West Coast could be killed to save from extinction an endemic skink, gecko and leech. Weka were believed to have been introduced on different occasions to the islands in the early 1900s but killing one native species to benefit another is believed to be almost without precedent, and is dividing Maori and conservationists.

New Zealand gains a species

(Voxy 16-Feb-2010)

A bird not known to exist until 1997 has finally been named. The critically endangered Campbell Island snipe has been named *Coenocorypha aucklandica perseverance* after Captain Frederick Hasselburgh's sealing brig *Perseverance*. The *Perseverance* is believed to have brought Norway rats to the island when it was wrecked in 1828, and consequently nearly wiped out the Campbell Island snipe. No one knew the bird existed until a small population was found on 19 ha Jacquemart Island, off Campbell Island, by a survey team in 1997. The Department of Conservation's Dr Colin Miskelly, points out that "ironically, by seeking refuge on predator free Jacquemart Island, the Campbell Island snipe have outlasted the rats which were eradicated from Campbell Island in 2001. Their new name acknowledges their perseverance in the face of adversity".

Tuatara breed on Matiu/Somes Island

(*The Dominion Post* 28-Jan-2010)

Conservation Department biodiversity programme manager Brent Tandy said an 8 cm-long tuatara was photographed by visitors earlier this month, confirming rangers' suspicions that the rare reptiles were breeding on the island.

The celebrity tuatara, estimated to be a few months old, proved for the first time that tuatara were being born on Matiu/Somes Island.

Photo sourced from stuff.co.nz

Australian study uses cat food in war on cane toad

(Associated Press 19-Feb-2010)

Researchers with the University of Sydney found that a few tablespoons of cat food left next to ponds in the Northern Territory attracts fierce Australian meat ants, which then attack baby cane toads as they emerge from the water. It is the latest weapon in Australia's seemingly endless battle against the cane toad, which was introduced from Hawaii in 1935 in an unsuccessful attempt to control beetles on sugarcane plantations. The toads bred rapidly, and their millions-strong population now threatens many species across Australia. Cane toads emit a poison that attacks the heart of would-be predators. But the University of Sydney researchers found that meat ants are impervious to the toads' poison, said Rick Shine, a professor of evolutionary biology at the University of Sydney who supervised the research.

RECENT STUDENT RESEARCH

This column highlights the abundance and variety of post-graduate ecological research coming out of the country's research institutes.
This issue: Massey University.

MASSEY UNIVERSITY

Auckland

MASTER OF SCIENCE

2009

Jodi Smith. A study of the relationships between the behaviour of cetaceans and vessel traffic using two case studies : Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) and Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae).*

Benjamin Barr. Spatial ecology, habitat use, and the impacts of rats on chevron skinks (*Oligosoma homalonotum*) on Great Barrier Island.

Virginia Puig. Conservation issues for Hochstetter's frog (*Leiopelma hochstetteri*) : Monitoring techniques and chytridiomycosis prevalence in the Auckland region, New Zealand

Sarah Whitwell. The impact of isolation from mammalian predators on the anti-predator behaviours of the North Island robin (*Petroica longipes*).

2008

Dylan van Winkel. Efficiency of techniques for post-translocation monitoring of the Duvaucel's gecko (*Hoplodactylus duvaucelii*) and evidence of native avian predation on lizards.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

2009

Laureline Meynier. Feeding ecology of the New Zealand sea lion (*Phocarctos hookeri*).

2008

Karen Stockin. The New Zealand common dolphin (*Delphinus* sp.) : identity, ecology and conservation.

Palmerston North

MASTER OF SCIENCE

2009

Louisa Robertson. Anthelmintic treatment and digestive organ morphology of captive-reared kakī (*Himantopus novaezelandiae*) released to the wild.

2008

Carol Nicholson. Diversity, distribution patterns and recruitment of fish in the Lake Kohangatera catchment and the implications of breaching to sea.

Karen Plamer. An evaluation of the ecology and riparian management of the south branch of the Whareroa Stream, Paekakariki.

Nicola Atkinson. 'Rites of passage' : biotic and abiotic influences on freshwater fish migration.

Manas Chakraborty. Spatial pattern in macroinvertebrate communities in headwater streams of New Zealand and a multivariate river classification system.

Danielle Middleton. The prevalence of Salmonella and the spatial distribution of its serovars amongst New Zealand's native lizards.

Andrew Thomas. The behaviour and development of New Zealand falcons (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) nesting in a plantation forest.

Esta Chappell. Morphology, phylogeography and drumming behaviour of a New Zealand ground weta, *Hemiandrus pallitarsis*.

Laura Donaldson. The distribution of fatty acids and presence of environmental contaminants in the blubber of the New Zealand sea lion (*Phocarctos hookeri*).

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

2008

Alexander Wilfried. The impacts of reduced flow on instream habitat condition and macroinvertebrate behaviour.

Renae Pratt. Patterns and processes in animal evolution : molecular phylogenetics of Southern Hemisphere fauna.

ACROSS THE TASMAN

The Ecological Society of Australia is currently busy preparing for their 50th Anniversary this year and their annual conference in December which have been brought together through both the conference logo and theme. The logo for the 2010 annual conference depicts *Acacia pycnantha*, the golden wattle. The 'golden' wattle symbolises the 50th anniversary of the Society. The ESA originated in the Australian Capital Territory so it is fitting that the December conference is to be held in Canberra.

Another milestone for the ESA is the ten year anniversary of the journal Ecological Management and Restoration celebrated last year. This anniversary was marked by launching the Top 25' restoration projects and 18 'highly commended' (as listed on the Global Restoration Network website) at the Society for Ecological Restoration International conference in Perth in August. A review of the journal was also conducted and a new contract with Wiley-Blackwell signed which includes the increasingly topical option for members to move to an "on-line only" option for journal articles.

Discussion within the bulletin once again has a strong climate and water focus. ESA president (Carla Catterall) provides a thought provoking piece and asks "ecological scientists in Australia: leaders or lackeys?"
ESA Bulletin December 2010

GOING GLOBAL : INTRODUCING SOCIETIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Ecological Society for Eastern Africa ECSEA

A relatively young society, the ESEA was founded in 2007, at the inaugural conference that was held at the National Museums of Kenya. The society aims to bridge the ecological information gaps between ecologists in the region, provide a platform for networking and mentoring, build capacity in ecological issues, and lobby for ecological paradigms in regional and national policy.

The ESEA is holding their third annual conference in Nairobi this year—"Climate Change and Natural Resource Use" (19–21 May 2010).

Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland GfÖ

The GfÖ is an independent, non-profit scientific organisation founded in 1970 with aims that seem very similar to those of the NZES. The GfÖ has about 1400 members from around the world. The society supports 13 specialist groups (Agroecology, Ecology of Deserts, Ecological Theory, Ecosystem Research, Environmental Education, Experimental Ecology, Genetics and Ecology, Landscape Ecology, Macroecology, Population Ecology of Plants, Restoration Ecology, Soil Ecology, Urban Ecology).

The GfÖ publishes the international journal *Basic and Applied Ecology*, (Elsevier) the twice-yearly Bulletin (Nachrichten der Gesellschaft für Ökologie) which is written in German, and the Annual Conference Proceedings ('Verhandlungen der GfÖ') written in English.

The GfÖ's annual conference will this year be held at Giessen University (30 August – 3 September). The conference theme is The Future of Biodiversity - Genes, Species, Ecosystems, very topical for the International Year of Biodiversity.

Ecological Society of China ESC

The Ecological Society of China (ESC), founded in December of 1979, is a national and non-profit academic organisation. It is affiliated to the Chinese Association for Science and Technology and is one of the most important social forces to promote ecological research and practices in China.

Although some of the societies objectives appear to have a much stronger political focus than those of NZES, (e.g. to stand by the National Constitution and promote the high morality of Socialism), the main tasks of ESC seem closely aligned to the NZES objectives. Important to the society is to "seek truth from facts" and to bring ecologists together by "letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend".

The ESC's journal Acta Ecologica Sinica (published by Elsevier) aims to publish recent theories and novel experimental results in ecology, and facilitate academic exchange and discussions both domestically and abroad.

GUIDE TO NEW ZEALAND'S INVERTEBRATES PUBLISHED

The first volume in one of the largest and most comprehensive guides to New Zealand's marine invertebrate species has been published by Canterbury University Press.

New Zealand Coastal Marine Invertebrates Volume 1, edited by freelance taxonomist and ecologist Dr Steve Cook, is the first in what will be a two volume identification and reference guide offering information on 1500 marine invertebrate species found in the coastal waters of New Zealand.

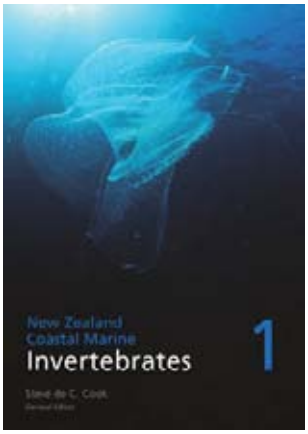
The two books will feature the work of 38 specialist contributors from around the world, with the first volume containing more than 1700 illustrations including colour images from over 80 underwater photographers and hundreds of line drawings by artist Danielle Archer. Each volume provides, in plain language, descriptions of each animal's morphology, habitat, abundance, distribution and depth range.

For further information visit Canterbury University Press or contact:
Stacey Doornenbal
Publicist
Canterbury University Press
Ph: (03) 364 2984
stacey.doornenbal@canterbury.ac.nz

A NEW OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL FOR PLANT BIOLOGISTS

Authors are turning in increasing numbers to open access journals to publish their work. The attractions of doing so are several. They include having greater control over copyright, the appeal and flexibility of the latest publishing technologies and, above all, having papers made available without charge worldwide and thus freely available to anyone who wishes to read them as soon as they are published.

NOTICEBOARD



The newly launched journal *AoB PLANTS* offers these and other attractive features. It covers all aspects of plant biology, is owned and managed by plant scientists on a not-for-profit basis and is published by Oxford University Press. *AoB PLANTS* publishes 'Research Articles', 'Points of View', 'Reviews', 'Mini-reviews' and 'Technical Articles'. Submitted papers are evaluated against published minimum criteria for acceptability using a double-blind refereeing system. Papers will appear online within 3-5 days of acceptance and benefit from a full typesetting and proofing service. For an introductory period, there will be NO CHARGE to publish in *AoB PLANTS*. This creates the ideal opportunity for authors to try the new journal and enjoy the benefits of open access publishing at no cost.

For further information contact:

Mike Jackson,
Chief Editor
AoB PLANTS
E-mail: mike.jackson@bristol.ac.uk web: http://aobpla.oxfordjournals.org/.

DONATE NOW! KAURI FUND FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE

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.

Please consider a contribution, whether $10, $20 or $50, to the Kauri Fund now or at the time you renew your subscription.

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

Ecological Society of Australia

Annual Conference

Sustaining biodiversity – the next 50 years

6–10 December 2010

The 50th anniversary of the founding of the Ecological Society of Australia provides a timely platform for retrospective and prospective considerations of ecology in Australia. A series of themes will focus on the challenges that will be faced by Australian ecosystems over the next 50 years, and the way that our science will need to adapt to meet these challenges. We will take a long term perspective of ecology in Australia and engender a sense of urgency to consider how ecologists can provide solutions to those problems with which we are now familiar, and those on the horizon.

http://www.esa2010.org.au/

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCIL

Changes to the Best Publication by a New Researcher

The New Zealand Ecology Society Council have made some changes to the award for Best Publication of a new Researcher:

1. only papers published in the New Zealand Journal of Ecology will be eligible, and
2. the amount of the award has been increased.

The NZES awards an annual prize of **NZ$1,000** for the best published paper of an ecological nature, by a new researcher **in the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology***. 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
- Provide a short statement identifying the contribution of each of the authors 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 this years award the applicant must have graduated after 30 June 2007), and be at the start of their research career
- The paper must be published in the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*
- Only one paper per eligible author.

All applicants should supply:

- Four copies of their publication
- A summary to confirm they meet all the criteria for this award
- A contact email and postal address

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.

Send applications no later than the 30 June 2010 to:

Chris Bycroft
c/- Wildland Consultants
PO Box 7137
Te Ngae
Rotorua

A warm welcome to new members

New members as confirmed by Council on 13 November 2009:

Samantha Hill
Stuart Bennett
Melanie Dixon
Ingrid Stirnemann
Amber McEwan
Hazel Broadbent
Nancy Willems
Shannon Dundas
Katherine De Silva
Katherine Akers

There have been no **resignations** since the last report.

Minutes of the 57th AGM, 18 August 2009

These minutes have been edited and abridged.

Held at Plaza Room 3, Brisbane Conference and Convention Centre, Brisbane. The meeting opened at 17:35.

Present

Shona Myers (chair), Bruce Burns, Chris Bycroft, Clayson Howell (treasurer), John Sawyer, Fleur Maseyk, Mel Galbraith, K.C. Burns, and 49 other members (see list below).

1. Apologies

Ruth Guthrie, Jim Crush, Tim Park, Ben Bell, James Lambie, Cara Prankerd, Stephen Hartley, Maxine Hartley

2. Minutes of 56th AGM

Shona Myers moved that they be accepted as a true record of last year's meeting, Seconded John Sawyer. Carried.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Annual reports

1. President

Shona Myers

This is Shona's final report as president, and she briefly reflected on her time as president over the last three years, and acknowledged the hard work of Council members over the past three years, and Bruce Burns and Kate McNutt for their substantial efforts with the organisation of INTECOL10, and Jon Sullivan for his time looking after the web page, and the Journal editors for all their hard and consistent work.

Tena koutou

This has been my last year as President of the New Zealand Ecological Society. It has been a huge pleasure to have filled this position for the last three years and to have the support of members and council in this role. I wish the society well into the future. Of importance will be ensuring ecological research continues to be fostered and supported; giving young ecologists the support and encouragement needed to excel; communicating our messages effectively with the wider public, land managers, and decision makers; and to future generations.

It is hugely exciting to be hosting the Intecol conference this year jointly with the Ecological Society of Australia. The theme for this year's conference is Ecology in a Changing Climate. Climate change is a key challenge going forward for ecology and biodiversity. The resilience and long term viability of our species and ecosystems will be impacted by changing climatic conditions. The importance of a holistic ecosystem approach to managing the environment is even more important, including protecting and restoring our fragmented and depleted dunelands and lowland and coastal ecosystems. Rules and regulations regarding land use, and voluntary incentives to encourage and support landowners to protect and restore lowland remnants, and the connections and linkages between coastal and inland ecosystems will be a key.

New Zealand's lowland ecosystems, wetlands, dunelands and marine ecosystems are under significant pressure and have been significantly depleted from their former extent. Most of our threatened plants and animals, and threatened environments occur in these areas, many on private land. In order to turn the tide of loss we need to work with landowners and communities to restore and protect these ecosystems. Working in these ecosystems is a key role for regional and local councils. Empowering, encouraging and supporting community restoration groups and landowners continues to be important.

Challenges for ecologists continue to be making ecology mean something for public and decision makers. In a global recession environmental issues are harder to argue against economic arguments. The perceived good news stories about some of our high profile endangered fauna also give a false sense of security. In a recent survey of public perceptions New Zealanders rated the state of New Zealand's biodiversity as being in a very healthy state. The reality is quite different as New Zealand has among the highest number of threatened and endangered species of any country. At a national level, biodiversity as a main environmental topic also seems to be loosing traction with other environmental issues. Again it is important that land managers and researchers take an ecosystem approach

to developing solutions to environmental problems. Protection and restoration of the intrinsic values of ecosystems and biodiversity is critical to maintaining and improving the quality of the environment. Making the link between healthy biodiversity and ecosystems to New Zealand's economy is also useful.

Over the last three to five years the NZES Council has concentrated on ensuring the objectives of the society are being met in all ways. This has included supporting and promoting the publication of the journal and opening up its availability on the website. The annual conferences continue to be a great success. The objective of promoting the application of ecological knowledge in all its aspects has been a particular focus for the council. A communications strategy has been developed. Recommended actions include increasing the profile of the society, revamping the logo and encouraging attendance by restoration groups at conferences. The Council has commenced work on redesigning of the logo to better reflect the work of the Society. The NZES website is also being upgraded to keep up to date with current technology. The Barlow Fund and the Kauri Fund have been wisely invested and investigated for use.

The 2008 conference was based at Unitec in Auckland with the theme of Ecology on our Doorstep. This conference explored the challenges of urban restoration projects, the value of protecting biodiversity in urban ecosystems, mainland islands, stepping stones and corridors, and island sanctuaries. Symposiums focussed on 25 years of island restoration on Tiritiri Matangi Island, urban ecology, and a symposium to honour the retirement of John Ogden and the contribution he has made to ecological research, inspiring students, and conservation in New Zealand. The 2010 conference will be held in Dunedin, and an exciting programme is being developed.

This year's conference theme "Ecology in a Changing Climate—two hemispheres one globe" will give delegates thought provoking and intriguing insights into topics of interest to a changing global environment. Fieldtrips throughout Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia will offer further opportunities to explore biodiversity and natural and social histories that are unique to this part of the world. This is the first INTECOL to be held in the Southern Hemisphere and we eagerly look forward to co-hosting this wealth of international knowledge.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by Council members over the last year. Collectively and individually they are a wonderful committee. Clayson Howell continued in the role of Treasurer, and Ruth Guthrie as secretary, and both have provided great support. John Sawyer has continued to provide significant support particularly with the redesign of the web site and communication of ecology. Bruce Burns as Vice president has worked with the Ecological Society of Australia in organising the INTECOL conference in 2009, including running three New Zealand field trips at the end of the conference. These will be excellent in showcasing New Zealand ecology to participants and delegates. Jon Sullivan has continued his excellent work of managing the website. Mel Galbraith put huge effort into organising the 2008 conference. Chris Bycroft has continued to work on the yearly council awards. Isobel Castro joined the committee in 2008 and has provided wise advice and a new perspective which is always appreciated. Fleur Maseyk continued with the huge task as editor of the newsletter. Thanks to you all!

Peter Bellingham retired this year as journal editor and was replaced by K.C. Burns who had big shoes to fill and has done a wonderful job. Peter continues to provide us with wise advice. I would also like to thank the technical editor Anne Austin. Collectively their high attention to detail and professionalism is outstanding and continues to produce a competitive journal which showcases ecological research in New Zealand.

This last year has also seen the passing of several very special ecologists and biologists: Geoff Park, Geoff Moon and Peter Wardle. Arohanui. Haere Haere Haere.

Plant a native tree (or more), and take care.

E koekoe te tūī, e ketekete te kūkā, e kūkū te kererū.
The tūī chatters, the parrot gabbles, the wood pigeon coos.

Nga mihi nui

2. Treasurer

Clayson spoke to his report. Financially, it has been another good year for the Society:

Statement of financial performance for the 12 months ended 31 December 2008.
Not yet Audited.

Income	**2008**	**2007**
Membership	31,397.11	31,168.58
Interest	6,615.41	7,916.24
Publications	685.33	978.70
Journal subscriptions	9,966.22	10,711.36
Page Charges	7,336.00	810.27
Conference	41,768.63	2,705.75
Sundry income	19,685.41	1528.83
	117,454.11	48,787.69
Expenditure		
Journal production	23,400.61	11,208.64
Newsletters	876.70	653.50
Secretariat	9,011.28	9,178.04
Subscriptions	2,383.55	1,321.96
Council expenses	2,976.49	5,164.56
Administration	2,654.12	2,974.91
Audit	–	750.00
Awards	3,130.00	–
Web site	59.94	34.95
Tui time	59.96	59.95
Conference	17,904.36	3,305.83
	62,457.00	34,652.34
	54,997.11	**14,135.35**

The society made a profit of $54,997.11 in the 2008 year. The major reasons for this profit are the success of the 2007 conference in Christchurch. It should be noted that the total received from the conference organisers includes sponsorship for the upcoming Special Issue of the journal. The sundry income was significant this year thanks to a significant bequest from the estate of Kenneth Allan, this was added to the Kauri Fund. It should also be noted that the expenditure for Conferences this year included seed finding for the 2009 INTECOL conference in Brisbane.

Wren Green raised a question about the Kauri and Barlow Funds in regards to growing the capital to ensure the base amount retains its value in line with inflation. Clayson assured this was the case.

Shona reminded the meeting about the Trust associated with the Kauri Fund and the spending priorities for the fund, including the Kauri Seed Program. It is anticipated that funds will be able to be granted to students to attend Conference 2010.

Dave Kelly raised the issue of free access on the web to the journal especially in regards the revenue the Society receives from library subscriptions, and the risk to this income in the current environment when libraries are making cuts and the journal can be accessed anyway.

The intention is to keep the journal free-access on the web until membership numbers are shown to drop.

Dave Kelly moved that the Society continues to charge for membership and library subs but retain the right to block access to the journal (perhaps the last three years), but leave it as is at the moment. Seconded Debra Wotton. Carried.

Clayson moved that his report be accepted as a true and accurate record. Seconded Carol West. Carried.

3. Journal editor

K.C. spoke to his report (copies made available during the meeting)

K.C. raised the issue of switching to an on-line format centred on an email alert with web-link facilities. The current journal format (small, glossy paper) is the most expensive format to produce the journal.

Two quotes for reduced numbers of printed journals were circulated.

Discussion followed:

- Where do the costs lay - printing or lay-out?
- Clarification on quotes
- Suggestion that A4 would be preferable to keep PDF and journal lay-out in line, include more text etc. on page.
- Continue to charge libraries and charge members more to receive a hard copy.

Dave Kelly moved to congratulate K.C. for progressing this issue, support move to cheaper, and electronic format and support Council decision making on this issue. Carried.

4. Newsletter report

Members who presented at INTECOL were reminded to send material into the editor to feature over the next few issues of the newsletter.

5. Website report

John Sawyer spoke about the revamping of the website. The website is now being built by Wellington based company Modica and will be launched in the next four to six weeks. Feedback is invited.

The link to the journal is out of scope for this work, but it will be addressed in the future.

Carol West raised questions of annual costs and setup costs for running the website.

- No annual costs with the exception of the need for annual security check.

6. Membership report

Ruth sent the following annual report:

As at 15 May 2009 the total membership of the Society is 614. This is a slight drop in numbers from 632 members since May 2008. This total count of members includes those in arrears for this year with 32% of members still to pay their subs at the time these statistics were generated. Unwaged memberships and overseas memberships have decreased over the past year; however this has been largely balanced by an increase in full membership subscriptions. We expect there has been an increase in both unwaged and full membership subscriptions since May, because of the reduced registration offered to members at the upcoming INTECOL conference. An updated version of this membership report will appear in a newsletter after INTECOL.

Journal subscriptions currently total 103 for 2009, which includes 18 complimentary subscribers.

Membership of the New Zealand Ecological Society as at 15 May 2009 (data from May 2008 in brackets provided as a comparison)

Category	Paid	Arrears this year	Total
Full	269 (188)	107 (109)	376 (297)
Joint	37 (51)	15 (11)	51 (62)
Unwaged	79 (134)	62 (66)	141 (200)
Overseas *	15 (32)	13 (18)	28 (50)
Honorary	10 (11)		10 (11)
Newsletter only	8 (8)		8 (8)
Total	**418 (424)**	**197 (204)**	**614 (628)**

*Includes waged and unwaged overseas subs

5. Election of Officers

President
Nominated: Bruce Burns (Shona Myers/John Sawyer). Carried.

Vice President
Nominated: Mel Galbraith (Bruce Burns/Carol West) Carried.

Secretary
Nominated: Ruth Guthrie (Shona Myers/Dave Kelly) Carried.

Treasurer
Nominated: Clayson Howell (Shona Myers/Fleur Maseyk). Carried.

Councillors
John Sawyer (Wren Green/Colin Muerk). Carried
Chris Bycroft (Wren Green/Colin Muerk. Carried.
Susan Wiser (Bruce Burns/Carol West).
Laura Young (Dave Kelly/Mel Galbraith) Carried.
A vote was held.

Trustees for Kauri Fund
There are two positions available as trustees. Jacqueline Beggs and Mick Clout are the current trustees.
Nominated: Jacqueline Beggs (Shona Myers/Mel Galbraith)
Nominated: Mick Clout (Shona Myers/Mel Galbraith)

6. General business

1. Nomination for Te Tohu Taio award
- Katherine Dickinson.

Carol West spoke to the nomination.

2. Nomination for Ecology in Action Award
- Mike Joy.

Russell Death spoke to the nomination.

3. Best publication by new researcher
- Michelle Greenwood.

Conferences

2010 Dunedin (November)

2011 Rotorua

2012 INTECOL11, London
Carol West suggested that the incoming Council invests some thought into promoting the Society to other ecologists at events such as INTECOL11 in London,

and requested that the Council consider this, especially in light of the request of others for our presence.

There is a need to develop promotional material if the Society is to pursue this seriously.

Wren Green asked if organising committee of INTECOL10 for a public statement to come out of INTECOL10 on the consequences of climate change and its effect on the planet, (given the presentations presented this week). This is particularly relevant in light of governments meeting in a few months in Coppenhagen on climate change.

Bruce outlined the media plans for INTECOL10, will take the request to the organising committee daily meetings, and Mel Galbraith suggested raising it at INTECOL General Assembly to which anyone can attend. Jacqueline Beggs suggested taking a motion from NZES to the INTECOL congress. Colin Meurk suggested a pre-prepared statement to table at the General Assembly.

Dave Kelly moved a motion of thanks to all the volunteer effort big and little that keeps the Society going.

Bruce Burns moved a motion of thanks to Shona Myers for the last three years.

The meeting closed at 19:05.

Present at 57th AGM

Members

Sam Jamieson, Konnie Gebauer, Annika Korsten, Mike Cripps, Wren Green, Stefanie Ismar, Kerry Borkin, Jenny Steven, Cynthia Roberts, Carol West, Gesine Pufal, Monica Awasthy, Jessica Costall, Melissa Jacobson, Russell Death, Alastair Robertson, Paul Blaschke, P. Berggren, Moidnuddin Ahmed, Mike Joy, Amber McEwan, Frances Forsyth, Sara Moykim, Mick Clout, Jacqueline Beggs, Ian Dickie, Dave Kelly, Debra Wotton, Alwyn Williams, Laura Young, Deborah Wilson, Angus McIntosh, Kath Dickinson, Amy Whitehead, Kohwei Kadouaki, Laura Molles, Liza Storey, Neil Mitchell, Robin Gardner-Gee, Gaius Wilson, Melanie Harsch, Kate McNutt, Glenda Wardle, Laura Fagan, Raphael Didham, Kelly Booth, Colin Meurk, Ray Blick, Richard Duncan.

Minutes of Council meeting, 13 November 2009

Present: Shona Myers, Bruce Burns, Clayson Howell, Chris Bycroft, John Sawyer, Mel Galbraith, K.C. Burns, Fleur Maseyk, Laura Young, Ruth Guthrie (minutes).
Apologies: Isobel Castro

Minutes from last meeting (Skype, September 2009) – matters arising:

- Pricing of journal will remain status quo (was discussed at AGM), Ruth to let Susan know.
- Ruth to find out which libraries subscribe to the Journal so that we can monitor subscription changes in this area. If we start to lose income we will restrict access to the most recent issues of the journal.
- Amendments to subscription form—Ruth to do prior to 2010 subscription forms going out. 1. The ability to directly donate to the Kauri Fund, 2. The option to receive the journal in digital format. The choice will be hard copy or digital copy only, the benefit of checking the digital copy box will allow more funds to go towards society projects, like the Kauri Fund. 3. Affiliation for new members.

Mel moved that the minutes are a true and accurate record, seconded by K.C.. Moved.

Membership report

The Secretariat provided the membership numbers and new members (there were no new resignations, see table.

Susan indicated there are a few memberships on hold (some for more than 2 years). Susan to write to people on hold and let them know that "on hold" is no longer an option and to give them the option to rejoin, otherwise they will be struck off.

Membership (as at 11 November 2009)

	TOTAL	COMP	PAID TO DATE (due 20 Feb)	July 2009 UNPAID	HOLD	GNA
FULL	393	6	321	72	4	3
JOINT	52		43	9	1	0
OVERSEAS FULL	17		11	6	0	0
OVERSEAS UNWAGED	11		5	6	0	0
UNWAGED	142		90	52	7	1
HON/HON LIFE	9	9	9			
NEWSLETTER	8	3	5			
TOTAL	632	19	(76.5%) 484	145	12	4
TOTAL 9 Nov 2005	597	21	(92%) 552	45	13	8
TOTAL -14 Feb 2006	602	17	(48%) 291	45	9	14
TOTAL – 2 May 2006	579	20	(76%) 439	30	1	1
TOTAL – 22 Aug 2006	593	17	(85%) 503	25	7	5
TOTAL – 13 Nov 2006	604	20	(87%)528	16	10	7
TOTAL - Feb 2007	591	21	(41%) 240	(2006) 43	20	5
TOTAL – May 2007	596	21	(70%) 421	175	11	5
TOTAL – Aug 2007	599	21	(80%) 479	117	11	5
TOTAL – Nov 2007	625	21	(82%) 511	114	11	0
TOTAL – Feb 2008	630	21	(34%) 216	427	12	14
TOTAL – May 2008	632	20	(67%) 424	204	12	19
TOTAL – Aug 2008	677	20	(73%) 494	204	12	19
TOTAL – Sept 2008	689	16	(76%) 527	158	13	19
TOTAL – March 2009	613	16	(52%) 318	211	12	5
TOTAL – July 2009	614	19	(67.5%) 415	197	12	4

Ruth moved that new members be approved, seconded, Chris. Moved.

How can we improve membership? John commented that the new website will be up and running soon. K.C. commented that there are many societies that require people to be members in order to publish in their journal. This could perhaps be built into the page charges by charging a differential for members and non-members.

John suggested that promoting the society via the journal is a better way to generate new members, rather than penalise people who want to publish. K.C. to consider how differential page charges could be implemented.

Shona gave feedback that the feeling from the AGM was that people were really endorsing us to move towards an electronic journal. Clayson suggested that we don't need to incentivise the option, because if people feel passionately about it they will choose the electronic option.

Subscription rate will remain the same, and the annual subscription form (coming out in January) will give the option for electronic or hard copy. With electronic copy members will receive an email with links to papers—this will need to be done professionally and this cost could be covered by savings from printing.

Journal editor's report

K.C. presented his report:

- So far in 2009, 56 manuscripts have been submitted to the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*. There are currently 27 papers in review and 26 have been turned away. Six papers have been accepted for the first issue of 2010, Volume 34, No. 2.
- The second issue for 2009, Volume 33, No. 2 was posted two months ago.
- The special issue of *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* entitled "Feathers to Fur" 34 (1) is complete.

"Feathers to Fur" special issue of NZJE

Laura presented the feathers to fur papers and a letter from Dave Kelly and reiterated Dave's acknowledgement of the hard work and great help provided by Jenny Ladley and Jon Sullivan as co-editors, Jenny Steven as Tech editor, K.C.

Burns, Anne Austin and Christine Bezar for helping with numerous questions, and the folk at Fisher Print who have laid out huge tables without complaint.

Council decided a the half rate page charge for Feathers to Fur was appropriate, and for Dave to set the cost of the extra journals at his discretion.

John suggested that this is a very important document in New Zealand, and that the society should keep 20 copies for specific people who should receive it, and we should use it for a press release.

Media release – A release should be done with the publication of Feathers to Fur and pitched as a 'state of the environment' by New Zealand ecologists.

Laura moved that the council thank Dave, Jon & Jenny for their efforts with Feathers to Fur.

Mel moved that council to provide up to $1k (if needed) for a media release around the Feathers to Fur issue, seconded Fleur. Moved.

Newsletter report

The latest issue is on track to come out before the end of the year. Will feature lots of INTECOL articles.

Fleur asked all council members to promote writing articles for the newsletter to colleagues. Fleur is happy to keep going on newsletter for this year, but we will be looking for a new newsletter editor at Dunedin conference.

Treasurer's report

Clayson presented his report:

Account balances 12/11/2009

Cheque	2,697.01
Cash fund	83,875.97
Barlow	56,077.62
Kauri	61,126.02
Westpac Trust	approx 15,000.00

Changes to note:

Two transfers made between Cash fund and Cheque account
16/10/09 $6000.00
20/10/09 $7000.00
$14,000 has been transferred from the Westpac account to the Cheque account
The latest journal printing costs paid to Fisher Print: $11, 371.39
Recommend changing cash fund to National Bank call fund. The call fund currently offers 2.5% interest with easy access to the funds. Clayson also presented the current rates for term deposits.

Mel moved that John be added as signatory to the National Bank accounts, seconded Chris. Moved. (this will help facilitate setting up accounts, because two signatories need to be there in person)
Clayson moved that treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded by Shona. Moved.

Website report

John reported on website redevelopment.

Laura has volunteered to take over the editing of the web site and adding content to the news section etc.

Conferences

Awards

Judges would like a paragraph about the researcher's role in the paper for reward for best publication. Also wanting a set of criteria for judging papers, will be added to the website with the award description.

K.C. suggested it would be good to have an award for the best paper in the New Zealand journal of ecology. Chris pointed out the many overseas journals have the awards application can take place at the time of the paper submission—

in this way if the award is won it can be published with the award notification. This needs to be advertised on the journal to help promote publication in NZJE.

Chris moved that the award be changed to the best publication by a new researcher in NZJE and that the value of the award be increased to $1k. Seconded, K.C.. Moved.

The recipient will also be encouraged to present at the following conference, and part of the application will be a paragraph describing their contribution to the paper.

INTECOL

Bruce had a debriefing meeting. We will get back the seed money and possibly some profit from the conference. Shona and Bruce are directors of the INTECOL company set up as a risk strategy, once finances are settled that company can be closed down. 1355-1370 people attended the conference.

Thanks to Bruce for the huge amount of work over the last 2 years, and Kate McNutt on the conference.

Conference 2010 – Dunedin

Deb Wilson is leading the organisation committee for the Dunedin conference.

Theme – 2010 is UN International Year of Biodiversity, therefore the theme will be based around this. The council favours the theme – "Biodiversity 2010 and Beyond"

Bruce will suggest to Deb a symposium on agro-ecology (was approached by Mike Clearwater for a joint conference with Plant physiologists, symposium might be better approach)

Bruce will ask Jon about the facilities for paying conference fees online.

General business

Charitable trust status

Mel to hand over to Bruce for signatories and submission.

Banners (Mel)

At INTECOL it was clear that we would benefit from some promotional material, the rebranding is a good time to do this. Opportunity exists in the design to promote a message or the society. Mel will get the details of what a banner will cost and come up with some designs for the next meeting.

Kauri Seed Fund Programme

Feedback on the KSF document—needs to be distributed in January if we are going to implement it in Dunedin in 2010. Applications will need to close by the end of July for a decision to be made by September. We need to define the package we are offering the recipients. The award will be $600 with the addition of the conference registration and dinner, for up to four students.

INTECOL climate change statement (Shona)

A number of people got together at the conference to try to make a statement to be sent to the Copenhagen decisions on climate change from a large number of ecologists. A press release was put together and taken to the INTECOL board, with the plan to edit and send out post conference. Shona wants to know if this should be pursued because the congress is in December; looking for direction on where to take this. Feeling is that we can't continue to represent INTECOL, and too late to get endorsement from the INTECOL board at this point before the congress. John suggested that sending something to Copenhagen from NZES probably misses the appropriate audience, whereas we could join together with other New Zealand organisations to lobby the government (work within our sphere of influence). Shona will work with Colin to rework the statement and circulate via email.

Meeting closed 2.10 p.m.

NZES LISTSERVER

Dave Kelly
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 following text in the body of the e-mail:

SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
END

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. 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) 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 18 August 2009)

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This Newsletter was produced by Fleur Maseyk and Jeremy Rolfe.

Contributions for the newsletter—news, views, letters, cartoons, etc.—are welcomed. Please e-mail to editors (newsletter@nzes.org.nz) with document attached (Word formatted for Windows) or post. If posting, if possible, please send articles for the newsletter both on disk and in hard copy. Please do not use complex formatting; capital letters, italics, bold, and hard returns only, no spacing between paragraphs. Send disk and hard copy to:

Fleur Maseyk
Horizons Regional Council
P.O. Box 11025, Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North

Next deadline for the newsletter is Friday 30 April 2010.

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 (2009)

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.

For more details on membership please write to:

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or e-mail: info@nzes.org.nz

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