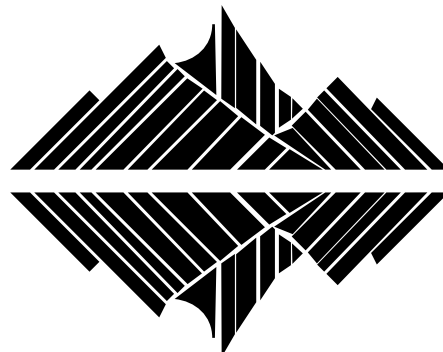


Ecological Society

Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITORS

As you may or may not know, Alistair Robertson, who has been the editor of the newsletter for the past three years, has decided to step down as editor and pass the reins to us. As the new editors, we'd like to thank Alistair for his work over the past few years and for input into this issue. We are very excited to come onboard as the new editors and we look forward to corresponding with ecologists across New Zealand over the coming months.

We plan to maintain the newsletter as the primary source of NZES information and goings on. At the same time we have some new ideas that we'd like to trial. First, *Ecological Miscellany*—featuring useful tools for ecologists. Second, *Current Science*—A profile of new and ongoing projects. The focus will be on work done by up and coming ecologists, novel and interesting ecological events and developments. Third, *Ex Libris*—featuring new books and journals of interest to ecologists. Fourth, we hope to bring you an electronic version of the newsletter at the next issue; this option will be presented in your subscription renewal.

We hope very much that this will be a two-way relationship and that members will feel inspired to contribute in various ways to the content of future newsletters. If you have any ideas or contributions for the newsletter, please e-mail or phone us.

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Ruth Guthrie is a Ph. D. student at Lincoln University working on the invertebrate ecology of cabbage trees. She also works part time for the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation and is editor of the ICNC newsletter. Her

research interests are urban ecology and invertebrate ecology.

Hannah Buckley is a community ecologist and lecturer at Lincoln University. Her research interests are macroecology, community structure, and the analysis of multivariate data.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am sure you will agree that the Society has been effective at achieving one of its key objects—to promote the study of New Zealand ecology – both through its conference and its world class, on-line, journal. What is not so clear is whether we are adequately tackling the second part of that object—to promote the application

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of that research and ecological understanding. While we do have applied papers submitted to the journal and conference, there are perhaps other ways to promote the uptake of that excellent research. TuiTime, the Society's on-line educational resource is just one example. Council met in November and opened discussions on how we could better promote the applications of our collective research. Please contact a council member if you have ideas or would like to have your say, as council discussions will continue on this early next year.

The World Conservation Congress in Thailand run by the IUCN has been and gone Council nominated Wren Green to represent the Society at the meeting and we asked that he vote for us in support of a range of resolutions such as a moratorium on deep sea trawling and another to provide greater protection for the biodiversity of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean. At the Congress David Given, a Society member, was awarded the Sir Peter Scott Medal for his contribution to global species conservation. This is the highest award from the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN and no more than 25 people have ever received this prestigious award worldwide.

Planning for next years conference is already underway with considerable help being provided by our Nelson based members. The conference will be held in conjunction with the New Zealand Limnological Society from 28 August (Student Day) to 1 September 2005 at the Rutherford Hotel in Nelson. No decisions have yet been made about topics for the symposia and Council members would welcome your ideas or suggestions.

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MINUTES FROM THE 52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*Held on 31 August 2004 at Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill
(during annual conference)*

The AGM opened at 5.30pm.

Present

John Sawyer (chair), Shona Myers (secretary), and 35 other members (see list below).

Apologies

Apologies were received from: Peter Wardle, Robert Fordham, Carolyn Mason, Di Robertson, Frances Schmidt, Kath Dickinson, Wren Green, Alan Mark, Mark Sanders.

Minutes of the 51st AGM

Moved they are accepted as a true record: Judith Roper-Lindsay, seconded Mel Galbraith, passed.

Matters arising

None.

Annual reports

John spoke to Mark Sanders president's report, which was printed in the last newsletter (No. 110). He highlighted key points including the establishment of the Kauri Fund signed by the trustees (i.e. Council), the healthy membership of the society (619 members as at 31/12/03), the healthy state of the journal and the launch of full on-line access to the journal and proceedings.

Moved that the presidents report be accepted John Sawyer, seconded Dave Kelly, carried.

Rachel spoke to her treasurer's report, and discussed options suggested at the Council meeting on 31/8/03 for the societies current healthy surplus. These options included:

1. Transfer to the Kauri fund – e.g. \$10,000
2. Reduce subscription rates
3. Support for small project grants
4. Education projects e.g. Tuitime

Judith suggested that the Council may want to employ a website manager. It was explained that much of the hard work has already been undertaken. The amount of voluntary work required to manage the website will continue to be monitored.

There was a discussion about making the journal cheaper. Les Batchelor described the situation when the journal was first developed from the proceedings—there were attempts to cut costs by lowering the standard and making it cheaper. He is very pleased that the journal was kept alive in its present form and described how the “journal is the society and vice versa”. He recommended that resources be put into rewarding people making the standard and increasing journal pages. Rachel explained that there were cost cuts through changing the layout that could be made and that wouldn't compromise the standard.

Bruce McKinley suggested making access to the journal easier to authors by cutting page costs. Dave explained that the council is investigating this option and pointed out that there has been a steady increase in journal subscriptions in the last year. Shona confirmed that subscriptions have increased by 10%. While increasing the size of the journal is possible it depends on the work of volunteers and there is a limit to what they can do. Options could be to contract out some of the production work, e.g. pay for a proofreader.

Judith suggested that the society allocate funds for other publications, e.g. occasional publications.

John discussed the need for communicating ecological information to a wider audience, including community groups and landowners.

Roger Dungan discussed the need for interpretative ecological information for teachers, e.g. field trips, identification keys etc. Educational information could be put on the web site.

Bill Lee suggested that the society collaborate with teachers on Royal Society fellowships. These teachers are accessible to schools and can produce more relevant information.

John mentioned the possibility for applying for DoC Biodiversity Advice Fund funding.

The low costs of running the Council were noted.

Moved that the treasurer's report be accepted Rachel Keedwell, seconded Dave Kelly, carried.

Election of Officers

President: Dave Kelly nominated John Sawyer, seconded Fran Kell.

Vice President: Jon Sullivan nominated Susan Timmins, seconded by Mel Galbraith.

Secretary: Rachel Keedwell nominated Shona Myers, seconded Judith Roper-Lindsay.

Treasurer: Carol West nominated Rachel Keedwell, seconded Duane Peltzer.

As there were only one nomination for each position, these officers were declared elected.

Council

Three positions were vacant due to Duane Peltzer, Alison Evans finishing their two-year terms and Murray Williams not standing for re-election. Kate McNutt is half way through her 2-year term.

Nominations for councillors

Dave Kelly nominated by Rachel Keedwell, seconded Carol West.

Alison Evans nominated by Carol West, seconded Judith Roper-Lindsay

Ingrid Grunner nominated by Alison Evans, seconded Carol West.

Debra Wotton nominated by Dave Kelly, seconded Roger Dungen

Duane Peltzer nominated by Alison Evans, seconded Rachel Keedwell.

Mel Galbraith nominated by Shona Myers, seconded Jon Sullivan.

An election was conducted and the following councillors were declared elected: Alison Evans, Dave Kelly, and Ingrid Grunner.

Motions for NZES AGM

1. Change to Rules regarding types of members

Motion: that the changes to the rules as outlined in newsletter 110 be made, moved Dave Kelly, seconded Alastair Robertson.

Dave spoke to the motion and explained that the changes would modify the rules to give Council the

power to set up, modify or drop membership categories as they see fit. The changes have been proposed following a request received by NZES for a new type of membership, overseas unaged. Council was inclined to grant this request but under the current Rules, Council does not have the power to create or modify membership categories.

There was a discussion about whether the council should have the power to change membership categories. Carol noted that she agrees with changes to clause 3 but suggests that there will be confusion if clause 4 is removed. Joint members may expect two copies of newsletter and journal. Dave pointed out that the information on this is retained elsewhere, e.g. website and membership slip

Peter Williams felt that there was wisdom in having council deciding categories. The AGM provides opportunity for debate.

Kelvin Lloyd suggested that we elect good people and we need to let them get on with it. John explained that the NZ Plant Conservation Network has similar rules.

Les Batchelor recommended against the council being given such power.

Dave explained that the AGM is the check on council, and that 10 members can call an SGM.

Jenny questioned why membership categories are contentious. Les explained that in the past they had been e.g. subs for field staff vs. scientists.

The motion was put to the vote. The motion was carried: 29 for, 1 against.

2. IUCN

Motion: that NZES resign its membership of IUCN.

Moved: Dave Kelly, seconded Duane Pelzer.

Dave spoke to the motion as outlined in newsletter 110 and his concern about the amount of paper correspondence from IUCN.

Carol West spoke on behalf of Kath Dickinson who supports Wren Green and David Given in NZES retaining membership of IUCN. Kath speaks from her experience of 9 years on the Conservation Authority which has raised similar concerns in the past but has remained a member. Kath believes it gives us an important connection to the international scene and allows Wren and Mick Clout to a vote that we otherwise not have. It gets NZ's views on world stage. It was pointed out that the NZ representatives should be providing feedback so that we know what they are doing on behalf of NZES. Tim Martin asked how much the subs are each year and how many other members. John explained that the NZES subs were approx \$500 per year and that 5 NZ members include DoC, Forest and Bird and ECO. The NZ reps are nominated by IUCN members and represent societies views.

Jon Sullivan suggested that if the problem was about saving paper that we should stay with it but ask to not get paper and for more feedback. John explained that he would open up dialogue with IUCN, being a member gives us the opportunity to change things. He explained that he has great respect for members who are supportive of NZES staying a member.

Rod suggested that it is an important international organisation that occasionally will make important decisions. Peter recommended that we retain membership. Jenny suggested that we should be more proactive and participate rather than be a passive member. The research links and opportunities were pointed out. Debra explained the international agreements IUCN is involved with. John suggested that David McDowell as former IUCN head could be invited to speak to NZES.

The motion was put to the vote. The motion was not carried with 27 against and 7 for.

Fran Kell put forward the following motion: that the NZ representatives of IUCN be asked to report back to the Society via the newsletter and annual conference. Seconded Les Batchelor. Carried.

General Business

Nominations for Life Membership:

Alan Mark nominated by Alison Evans, seconded Dave Kelly, carried.

Alison spoke to the nomination

Les Batchelor nominated by Murray Williams, seconded Peter Williams, carried.

Les responded warmly to his appointment, which came as a great surprise.

Dave moved a vote of thanks for key officer holders president (Mark Sanders), vice president, secretary, treasurer, journal editors, Webmaster. Seconded Judith Roper-Lindsay, carried.

Judith asked about progress with organising next year's conference. John explained that it would be a joint conference with Limnological Society, with the preferred option being Nelson, and another option Palmerston North. The council is in contact with Lim Soc.

John to contact Australian Ecological Society chair and suggest Wellington as option for 2006 joint conference with Australian Ecological Society. This will be confirmed in the next few weeks.

There was discussion about need for support agencies and Universities to host conferences.

The new Newsletter editor was announced to be Ruth Guthrie and Hannah Buckley from Lincoln University.

The Meeting closed 7.13pm

Present at 52nd AGM of Ecological Society

Members

Kathrin Affeld, Les Batchelor, Chris Bycroft, Roger Dungan, Vicky Froude, Mel Galbraith, Ingrid Gruner, Rod Hitchmough, Melissa Hutchison, Ian Jamieson, Rachel Keedwell, Fran Kell, Dave Kelly, Bill Lee, Kelvin Lloyd, Jenny Lux, Tim Martin, Bruce McKinley, Marilyn Merritt, Linda Meustrom, Shona Myers, Shaun Ogilvie, Duane Peltzer, Geoff Rogers, Cynthia Roberts, Judith Roper-Lindsay, John Sawyer, Theo Stephens, Jenny Steven, Jon Sullivan, Susan Walker, Carol West, Peter Williams, Susan Wisser, Debra Wotton, Kathryn Whaley, Elaine Wright.

COUNCIL PROFILES

Two new NZES councillors have come on board following election at the 2004 AGM: Ingrid Gruner has come on board as a councillor, and Susan Timmins has taken over the role of Vice President following the elevation of John Sawyer to President. Ingrid and Susan have taken the opportunity to introduce themselves to members. A warm welcome to them!

Susan Timmins – Vice President

I am a long-time member of Ecological Society (23 years), and way back secretary for 5 years and a councillor for 2 years. I am a weedo with the Department of Conservation—I do research on weed ecology and control in protected natural areas, often in association with Peter Williams (past vice president), Jon Sullivan (councillor) and other ecol-soccers. This can involve some scratchy bush bashing as well as looking over people's garden fences at their gardens—the source of so many of our weeds of conservation concern. I also let contracts to other research agencies for weed research which has brought me into contact with many of you, at least the plant ecology types. In my spare time I am involved with my local community in various volunteer capacities—part of the territory of being a mother of two children.

Ingrid Gruner – Councillor

I am originally from Germany, and came to New Zealand 6 years ago to do a PhD at Canterbury University. My background is in plant and vegetation ecology, and for my PhD, I studied the ecology and conservation of native broom, *Carmichaelia*. I then moved to remote sensing and GIS, working as ecologist with the New Zealand Land Cover Database. Since March this year, I have worked as a Conservancy Scientist for the West Coast Conservancy of the Department of Conservation in Hokitika. One of my main interests here is to enhance the exchange between ecological science and conservation management. I enjoy tramping and people, and am very much looking forward to working with and for the Ecological Society.

THE KAURI FUND FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

In the last newsletter (No. 110, August 2004), Mark Sanders reported that The Kauri Fund for Ecological Science and Education had become official, having been signed by the NZES council on 13 February, 2004. The latest news is that the account for the fund has been established and it is now open for business. This means we can now accept donations from members or organisations for the fund. Once we have sufficient capital base we can use the interest to fund initiatives that promote the development of ecology and ecologists (e.g. to support education or research projects, or fund travel to conferences). Details on how to contribute to the fund will be included in your subscription renewal.

The Kauri Fund was established to foster and promote ecology and ecologists and to leave a legacy of resources for future ecologists. The name Kauri Fund (in the words of Bruce Burns—one of the main instigators of the fund) “refers to the iconic New Zealand native tree *Agathis australis* which is renowned for its ability to accumulate large quantities of biomass (capital), live a long time, and influence its surrounding community”. The Fund is not intended to provide funds specifically for kauri but for ecology in general!

THE ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Chapter of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) has now been established for over a year. The EIANZ was established after much discussion and consultation throughout New Zealand and in Australia. The Environment Institute of Australia (EIA) is a long established organisation and it was timely that the EIA became the EIANZ.

The EIANZ publishes the Australasian Journal of Environmental Management. The first EIANZ Conference to be held in New Zealand takes place in 2005 (see ‘Upcoming meetings’, this newsletter).

The establishment of the EIANZ New Zealand Chapter fills a gap for three reasons: it is an environmental institute; it is interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary; and the EIANZ has recently launched a Certification Programme for environmental practitioners.

The Certification Programme has been welcomed by the Minister for the Environment, Marion Hobbs who said; “Environmental Professionals are important providers of advice on environmental practice in the public and private sectors. It is important that such advice is based on high standards of practice. I therefore support the EIANZ Professional Certification Programme as a mean of underpinning and advancing high and higher standards of practice” (October 2004).

The EIANZ website provides information about applying for membership to the Institute. Applications from New Zealand should be sent to Mike O’Connell, Secretary EIANZ New Zealand Chapter, c/o BRANZ Ltd., Private Bag 50908, Porirua City, New Zealand.

There is also information about the Certification on the website. It is hoped that ecologists will be amongst the environmental practitioners who seek professional certification.

Ian Spellerberg
EIANZ

New Zealand Chapter Executive Committee.

IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS – A GREAT SUCCESS

“The best congress ever!” was the judgement of one Australian delegate who had been to every preceding IUCN Congress and the earlier General Assemblies since 1981. Indeed, by the end of the 10-day event there were few delegates who disagreed.

This Third World Conservation Congress, smoothly hosted by Thailand and held in Bangkok (16–25 November), was IUCN’s 4-yearly showpiece for global conservation and state-of-the-art assessments. It started with 2 days of meetings for the six IUCN commissions. These are the IUCN knowledge networks of experts ranging from ecologists, species scientists, to environmental lawyers, protected areas managers, educators and social policy people who contribute voluntarily to the IUCN Programme. There are about 11,000 people in the six Commissions; the majority are in the Species Survival Commission (SSC) as members of its many specialist groups.

A highlight of these two days was being present when David Given was awarded one of the prestigious SSC medals for his contributions over many years on the SSC Steering Committee and Executive and for his role in the global Plant Conservation Strategy which has since been taken up by the Parties to the CBD. David is the first New Zealander to receive this award.

The Congress was officially opened on the 18th by Queen Sirikit in the 3,000 seat plenary hall of the Queen Sirikit Centre, a massive convention centre that held all the Congress events. Initial projections of 3,000 participants for the 3-day World Conservation Forum that followed turned out to be a major underestimate. Almost 6,000 people registered, including 2,000 Thais. Participants had the difficult task of deciding which of the Forum’s 350 events, from press conferences, Futures Dialogues, workshops and seminars to attend. There was wide media coverage by over 500 journalists—how much made the NZ papers?

A lot of media attention was paid to the launch of the 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species publication “A Global Species Assessment”. This is a well illus-

trated book with maps, graphs and tables documenting the parlous state of plant and animal taxonomic groups throughout the world. (Copies available from the IUCN Bookstore – www.iucn.org/bookstore)

The Forum included four major workshop streams, the two with strong ecological themes were:

1. Ecosystem management – bridging sustainability and productivity
2. Biodiversity loss and species extinction – managing risk in a changing world.

The second had theme sessions titled: Invasive alien species and biodiversity – coping with aliens that was well attended. As part of the Forum focus on invasives, the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG), led by Mick Clout, University of Auckland, set up an interactive demonstration of their Global Invasive Species Database. (The ISSG is one of over 150 specialist groups that make up the Species Survival Commission.)

We also heard the preliminary results of the Millennium Assessment (MA). The completed results of the MA are due out early in 2005 and will be well worth following. The MA should do for species and ecosystems what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has done for climate change policy – provide robust data on what is happening to global environments and the trends (mostly negative) that will have major impacts on ecosystems and development in coming decades.

After the successful 3-day Forum, there was the 5-day Members' Business Assembly, including a 'rest day' in the middle. This was when Members, including the NZ Ecological Society, elected the new Council, debated and voted on about 120 motions put forward by Members, and adopted the IUCN Programme 2005-2008. Only members, such as NZES, are able to propose and vote on motions. Commissions members may attend as observers. This is a particular value that membership of IUCN holds for NZES. It was a motion on invasive species issues that was developed by the NZES, and passed at the Second Congress in 2000, that provided the policy 'push' the Secretariat is now pursuing for an expanded IUCN effort on invasive species.

There are two types of motions. One group become "Resolutions" that call on IUCN itself to do things, such as considering the impact of climate change on conservation planning or more work on invasives. Resolutions often ask the Director General to carry out new studies, or might be addressed to members or Commissions. The other group of motions becomes "Recommendations" that are directed to third parties. For example, one motion asks the FAO and States to take a number of actions to conserve and sustainably manage high seas biodiversity.

This time there were important motions relating to marine issues and two on GMO topics. I was able to go over the motions with John Sawyer before going to Bangkok and identify those of particular interest to the Society to support. Two-hour 'contact groups' were set up for the contentious motions and delegates substantially changed the wording of many motions before they were finally voted on. Two recommendations were adopted on conservation of high seas biodiversity and urging protection of seamounts, deep sea corals and other deep sea habitats from destructive fishing practices. One resolution calls on the DG to develop knowledge and information concerning biodiversity in relation to GMOs while another calls for a moratorium on further environmental releases of GMOs until their safety for biodiversity, human and animal health can be demonstrated.

Members also endorsed the Earth Charter (www.earthcharter.org) as "an ethical guide of IUCN policy". A late, but well-received motion congratulated the Russian Federation on its ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. It also urged non-ratifying States to do so as soon as possible and asked States to develop national action plans to implement the Climate Change Convention, taking biodiversity conservation into account.

I was particularly satisfied with the adoption of the 2005-08 Programme, which covers the work of the Secretariat and the Commissions. For the first time it has two significant developments – a One Programme" approach – which means that the Commissions are directly linked to the global activities, and an Oceania component programme that focuses on IUCN activities in the Pacific Islands. Linked to the latter was a commitment that the DG made in a meeting with Oceania participants to have an IUCN Office established and staffed in Suva, Fiji, by the end of 2005. This will provide significant opportunities to raise IUCN's profile and effectiveness in the region and may well provide opportunities for members of NZES to be involved in the planned activities.

The election of the new Council ended my 8-year involvement with a diverse and impressive group of people. (Two consecutive terms is the maximum allowed - fortunately.) Chairing the Programme and Policy Committee for the past 4 years was both challenging and rewarding. I wish my successor, Diana Shand, ex-regional councillor in Canterbury, all the best.

Wren Green

OBITUARY – GRAEME WHITE



Photo courtesy of David Hollander, Lincoln University.

Edwin Graeme White. 19 July 1938 – 10 April 2004

It is with sadness that the Society records the death of E. Graeme White on Easter Saturday this year after a long fight with cancer. Graeme, as he was known to most of us, was born in Dunedin, the son of a plumber. He attended Otago Boys' High for his secondary schooling and, in 1958, like a number of contemporaries, moved on to Lincoln College, then the agricultural college of Canterbury University College, one of the constituent parts of the University of New Zealand. He graduated from the University of New Zealand with a B.Agr. Sc.(Hort.) in 1962. For his Masters degree work, he was supervised by Roy Harrison and Graeme's interest in the insect fauna of the South Island high country became the focus of his thesis work and indeed of his research career. He graduated in 1964 M.Agr. Sc. (Horticulture) with First Class Honours from the University of Canterbury since Lincoln was, by then, a college of that university. After a short time with DSIR Entomology Division in Nelson, he moved to the University of California, Berkeley, to study for his Ph.D under the eminent quantitative ecologist Charles Huffaker. The focus of that study was a moth, a member of the group which later came to dominate his research work. During this period he was known to his fellow graduate students as 'El Greco di Blanco' – the Spanish influence of California was obviously strong there. It

was during his studies there that he met Erika who became his wife and lifelong partner who survives him with their two daughters.

On completion of his doctorate, he returned to New Zealand to an ecologist position with the Tussock Grasslands and Mountain Lands Institute (TGMLI), which was based at Lincoln College. Soon afterwards, he was joined by the new Director, Professor Kevin O'Connor, who encouraged Graeme in his studies of the invertebrate impact on the tussock grasslands ecosystem. These were long term studies of which alpine grasshoppers were the core part of the early programme but other monitoring, especially of moths, was also carried out. These were the days in ecology when the Holy Grail was to model whole ecosystems. As part of his efforts towards that end with the tussock grasslands ecosystem, Graeme spent a sabbatical split between Colorado, USA, and Obergurgl, Austria. The former was the base for the USA rangeland model and the latter for the higher lands in Europe.

Graeme used the mark/recapture method in his studies of alpine grasshoppers; his marking system allowed him to identify individually many hundreds of grasshoppers. He collaborated with Professor George Seber of the University of Auckland, a statistician who developed the now well known Jolly-Seber extension of the simple Lincoln Index form of mark/recapture studies. He also carried out many calorimetric studies of his insects to allow him to determine the energy flow in the ecosystem. The resultant ecosystem model appeared as a series of papers in 1984. By this time he had been promoted to the rank of Principal Research Officer in TGMLI.

With the demise of TGMLI in 1988, Graeme was forced to set out as a private scientific contractor. He was able to secure contracts from FRST, the Department of Conservation and, more recently, Landcare Crown Research Institute that allowed him to continue to pursue the long term studies on the fauna of the high country both in the Craigieburn area (White 1991) and, very significantly, in the Mackenzie Basin. These studies are among very few in New Zealand or elsewhere in the world of sustained studies of an ecosystem. In 1991, David Penman appointed Graeme as an Honorary Research Associate of the Entomology Research Museum at Lincoln University. This was helpful to Graeme in a number of ways and was extremely valuable to the university not only for the wide range of additions to the collection but also because of his interactions with postgraduate students whether they were interested in entomology, plant ecology or wildlife management. Graeme's knowledge and love of the high country was easily communicated to these students.

Graeme saw himself principally as an ecologist; insects were simply the group through which he sought

to better our understanding of Nature. As already said, his long term studies are rare and all the more valuable because of that. In order to pursue his light-trapping studies, it was necessary both to standardise the methodology (and he was meticulous in this as he was in everything he did) and also be able to identify often cryptic species (but without molecular methods). The results of this work appeared in 2002 (White, 2002) as a book published by Manaaki Whenua Press. In a review in *New Zealand Entomologist*, Barbara Barratt (Barratt, 2002) said, with perhaps typical New Zealand understatement: "In summary this handbook has made a major contribution to the entomological literature in New Zealand".

Graeme was an active member of both the New Zealand Ecological Society and the Entomological Society of New Zealand. For the former, he served as Secretary 1968–71 and was a Council member 1978–80. He also served on the NZES Education Committee for a period and produced a resource for schools based on his studies of alpine grasshoppers. In 1992, he was awarded the Society's Te Tohu Taiao – Award for Ecological Excellence. He was also a member of the organising committee for the 2nd Australasian Conference on Grassland Invertebrate Ecology and Chair of the Organising Committee for the 4th Conference.

In addition to the papers on the tussock grassland model and the long term trends in moth numbers, one of Graeme's most significant contributions is undoubtedly the book on the moths of the high country. To that resource soon will be added the three-volume database that is to be published by Manaaki Whenua Press. Both of these latter publications will be valuable resources for entomologists and ecologists for many years to come. Graeme's full bibliography will be published later this year in *New Zealand Entomologist* 27.

R.R. Scott
Robert Mann

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OBITUARY – ROSS MCQUEEN



Donald Ross McQueen. 1927–2004.

Ross McQueen's premature death in July this year robbed New Zealand ecologists of one of their most distinctive pioneers. Ross was born in Dunedin in 1927 and moved with his family to Wellington in 1937. He attended Wellington College and then moved on to Victoria University College in 1948, where he gained his BSc and MSc in Botany and Geology.

After several years working as a paleobotanist in the Geological Survey, Ross and his wife, the artist Pamela Searell, spent many years in Europe and Africa, broken by several years working as a forest scientist at New Zealand Forest Products at Tokoroa. During two satisfying years at the University of Montpellier in southern France, Ross gained his doctorate in plant ecology, and in the process became a confirmed francophile. Ross's first stint in Africa, as a Colonial Service forester in Nyasaland, ended in his being dumped for treating the natives as he treated Maoris, and therefore accused of being Communist. On his second stint, as a FAO forester in the southern Sudan—ravaged by war and famine then as now—he played chess with the local French-speaking bishop and was accused of being a Christian missionary. Neither of these two accusations was true but one suspects the latter would have rankled more.

Ross and Pamela returned to Wellington permanently in the late 1960s, Ross to teach in the Botany Department for more than 20 years. Ross was a helpful and congenial supervisor. He was very supportive of his students, pushing hard in the Botany Department

for space and resources for them. When he arrived at Victoria there was little ecology taught, even less of it quantitative or experimental. So, although Ross did not personally have the numerical and computing skills that would today be regarded as routine, he sensed their importance and made a lot of effort to collaborate with those who had them, enabling his students to progress in “modern” ecology. Ross loved travel and revelled in seeing his students in the field. Their study sites were far-flung and there were few of them which Ross did not get to. Hundreds of students will remember Ross on the famous VUW Easter pedology field trip to Nelson Lakes and the Red Hills which he memorably taught and directed for many years. He was also active in the New Zealand Ecological Society and the Wellington Botanical Society.

Ross’s scientific interests and contributions were wide and perhaps unique for the time, bridging as they did the descriptive and the experimental, and various schools of ecological thought. For example, he was interested in the European phytosociological tradition, while rejecting its more extreme elements. At heart, Ross was interested in vegetation and all its surroundings: the climate and soils, the geological substrate, the landscape. (Even sometimes the animals: there was a phase of great discussion and many blurry photos of rheas at the Wellington Zoo, in pursuit of the elusive nature of divaricating shrubs.) This was a truly landscape ecological approach, beginning long before it became ecological mainstream. One of Ross’ Montpellier professors was Maurice Godron, and the early international writing on landscape received a sympathetic hearing at Victoria. This approach was the result of several influences. First was his early passion for tramping and field research in remote locations. Then was his early career working in Geological Survey and the remarkable colleagues there such as Harold Wellman and Colin Vucetich, with both of whom he later successfully collaborated at VUW. Finally, his travels in Europe and Africa and work experience in forestry in diverse environments.

Another of Ross’ strengths was to foster local bio-regional ecology at a time when a number of his contemporaries (not just in Wellington) appeared to shun their local surroundings as not sufficiently interesting. Some of Ross’ best publications were in *Tuatara* and addressed local ecological issues. Many of the exciting conservation projects in the Wellington region today—the Karori Sanctuary, the outer Town Belt concept and the ecological restoration projects in the regional parks, to name a few examples—owe much in their genesis to Ross’ interest in the ecological processes unfolding in those areas 20 or 30 years ago, and in many cases are lead by his students. It would be insidious to single out just a few of them, because there were so many who

have gone on to make leading contributions in research, teaching, writing and interpretation, consultancy, resource policy and planning, landscape architecture and ecological restoration. It would be fairer to say that the landscape approach and the synthesis of space and time in ecology have directly and indirectly permeated all their work. Another student left research to become a successful wine-maker, surely the ultimate art/science fusion of knowledge about plants, soil and climate, and one which Ross was particularly fond of.

For me, Ross was a mentor rather than a lecturer. He did not have the sort of style which students would seek out as a source of methodical lecture or lab notes. He could bluster at times. I suspect that around Wellington Ross was often in the shadow of his friend Tony Druce, with the latter’s incomparable field skills. But for those who went a little way to treating Ross on his terms, and who bothered to really listen to what he said, there was ample wisdom to glean and a world of experience to glean it from.

Ross was quietly proud of this legacy and after retirement he kept in touch with many of his students and colleagues. He continued to carry out fieldwork in Central Otago, and to publish. He and Pam also travelled extensively in New Zealand and overseas. The destinations reflected his ecological interests as well as his interest in archaeology and trains, and Pam’s artistic activities.

Even after he became less mobile, he kept up his interest in the ecology revealed in the view of the Pautahanui Estuary and the Akatarawas from his Whitby house. One of Ross’s former students had a lively phone conversation with him 10 days before his death, fittingly about fire ecology in the Tararuas, a subject which he studied as a student 60 years ago.

Paul Blaschke

With acknowledgements to Euan McQueen.

HOTSCIENCE

Efford, M.G. 2004. Density estimation in live-trapping studies. *Oikos* 106: 598–610.

This paper describes a new and general method for estimating density from closed-population capture–recapture data. Simulation and inverse prediction are used to estimate jointly the population density and two parameters for a spatial model of detection. The method uses any configuration of traps (e.g., grid, web or line), and simulations show it is largely free of bias when simple assumptions are met. The paper includes two New Zealand examples: Landcare Research data on brushtail possums in the Orongorongo Valley, and Ross Pickard's study of house mice on Mana Island. See www.landcareresearch.co.nz/services/software/density for software and a pdf of the paper.

Gillman, L.N.; Ogden, J.; Wright, S.D.; Stewart, K.L.; Walsh, D.P. 2004. The influence of macro-litterfall and forest structure on litterfall damage to seedlings. *Austral Ecology* 29: 305–312.

Litterfall damage to forest seedlings can differentially affect the survival and recruitment of different seedling species and it is therefore likely to influence forest composition. Rates of damage to seedlings differ among, and within, forests and appear to be independent of total litterfall. However, in this study of five North Island forests we demonstrate that the rate of macro-litterfall (leaf and deadwood material >1.5 x 30cm) surface area correlates strongly to litterfall damage to artificial seedlings ($R^2 = 0.99$, $P < 0.005$). In addition, the risk of litterfall damage to seedlings was reduced by up to 84% by ground vegetation and lianes. These results are important because they suggest that subtle differences in species abundances, and forest structure, may influence regeneration patterns through the litterfall disturbance regime.

Russell, J.C.; Clout, M.N. 2004. Modelling the distribution and interaction of introduced rodents on New Zealand offshore islands. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 13: 497–507.

Invasion of New Zealand's offshore islands by the four introduced rodents has caused widespread damage to the native biota. Here the geographical and ecological factors that relate to their distribution on offshore islands are examined, as are interactions between their distributions. The ship rat appears most widely distributed, and the most dominant, while kiore have suffered mostly from the expansion of ship rats and to a lesser extent Norway rats. The distribution of mice remains unexplained. Their coexistence is explained by differences in competitive ability and dispersal.

FILL IN THE BLANKS: WINNERS OF THE "BEST STUDENT TALK" PRIZE, NZES CONFERENCES

This prize, for the best student talk, was introduced at the 1984 conference and has been an annual feature ever since. However, in recently collating the information for the NZES archives, I found there are a few gaps. The list of winners is reproduced below for several reasons. Firstly it gives these worthy folk another moment's glory. Secondly, it is interesting to see how many of them have gone on to either become famous, or serve on NZES council (which is not the same thing!). And finally, I thought maybe someone out there may be able to fill in the gaps for our records. Who won in 1993? Was there a second winner in 1998? Where did Wayne Fraser study? Any answers to me please at dave.kelly@canterbury.ac.nz.

Winners of Best student talk, NZES conferences

1984	Alison Cree (Waikato)
1985	Andrew Read (Otago)
1986	Wayne Fraser (university?)
1987	Jacqueline Beggs (Auckland)
1988	Liz Slooten & Stephen Dawson (Canterbury)
1989	Chris Lusk (Auckland)
1990	Fran Hyland (Victoria)
1991	Mel van Aalst (Auckland)
1992	Janet Wilmshurst (Canterbury)
1993	?
1994	David Forsyth (Lincoln)
1995	Eric Edwards (Otago)
1996	Shona Lamoureaux (Canterbury)
1997	Lynette Hartley (Waikato)
1998	Alison Evans (Lincoln) and ??
1999	Deb Wilson (British Columbia) & Souzi McGill (Lincoln)
2000	Wade Tozer (Massey)
2001	Angela Moles (Macquarie) and Yanbin Deng (Auckland)
2002	Yanbin Deng (Auckland)
2003	Harshi Gamage (Victoria)
2004	Priscilla McCallum (Waikato)



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NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Editor's note: information on the Rutherford Medal and the Loder Cup from the Royal Society alerts

Rutherford Medal (2004) – Professor David Penny

The Royal Society of New Zealand has this year awarded New Zealand's top science and technology honour, the Rutherford Medal, to Professor David Penny FRSNZ of Massey University.

Professor Penny is a theoretical biologist who has made significant contributions, particularly in the area of molecular bioscience. His studies in molecular evolution and mathematical biology focus on the fundamental basis of DNA analysis, and range from evaluating how changes in DNA are involved in evolution, to studies of the origin of life, and patterns of human origins and dispersal.

Loder Cup (2004) – Colin Ogle

A Wanganui botanist whose passion for plants inspired generations of students to take up careers in conservation and ecology has won New Zealand's premier conservation award for 2004 the Loder Cup.

The award was made to Colin Ogle which recognises the outstanding contribution he has made to understanding and expanding our knowledge of New Zealand's native flora. Mr Ogle was nominated for the award by representatives from the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board, Landcare Research Ltd, the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa, the New Zealand Ecological Society, and the Wanganui Museum Botanical Group.

Ecologists elected to the Royal Society of New Zealand

Announcement from the Royal Society of New Zealand, 17 November 2004. Full list of fellows can be found on the Royal Society Website: www.rsnz.org

The Royal Society of New Zealand has elected 12 new Fellows to its prestigious science academy, at a gathering of its Academy Council in Christchurch on 17 November. Of note to the NZES include:

Dr Ross E. Beever, Senior Scientist, Landcare Research, Auckland, has made outstanding contributions to mycology, plant pathology and New Zealand botany over 33 years of active research. In his painstaking and innovative research on fungi from the subcellular level through to the ecosystem level he has collaborated widely with colleagues having complementary skills, and combined applied work with more fundamental studies.

In this way, his research has significantly advanced our knowledge of fungal behaviour and the physiology of plant diseases. He has developed methods to manage the problems of fungicide resistance in economically important fungi such as *Botrytis*, and he led the team that

identified flax yellow leaf phytoplasma as the organism responsible for the widespread death of cabbage trees throughout northern New Zealand.

Dr Beever is a skilled field observer with an extensive knowledge of native plants and fungi, and an inspiring leader of his younger colleagues.

Professor Helen M. Leach, Department of Anthropology, University of Otago, has achieved world class status for her scholarly contributions in the fields of: Polynesian stone technology and its development in which she pioneered innovative research methodologies; the social history and anthropology of horticulture and related fields of diet; culinary practice and plant foods; and the documentation and critical assessment of the history of archaeology and anthropology in Oceania.

Her work is published in the leading international anthropological and archaeological journals, and constantly cited. She is the author of more than 27 book chapters and 13 books, most notably, *Subsistence Patterns in Prehistoric New Zealand* (1969), *1,000 years of Gardening in New Zealand* (1984) that includes both Maori and European practices, and *Cultivating Myths: Fiction, Fact and Fashion in Garden History* (2000) that explores, from an anthropological perspective, the 'historical' justifications for the emergence of several different gardening types in the Western horticultural tradition. Helen Leach's commitment to the communication of her science is evident in a steady stream of popular books and articles on the history and archaeology of gardens, traditional foods and cookery that have made her a household name in New Zealand.

Editors' note: Helen Leach was a guest speaker at the 2004 NZES Conference in Invercargill where she gave the talk entitled: "Gardens without weeds?" which looked at indigenous plants that may have invaded Maori gardens, the inadvertent introduction of fellow-travellers with Maori cultigens, and how different groups of Polynesians might have classified the plants we call 'weeds'.

Stephen D. Wratten, Professor of Ecology, Lincoln University, has achieved international recognition for his research on plant-insect interactions and the biological control of agricultural pests by parasites and predators. His innovative studies have revealed chemical responses in plants to insect herbivores, and how rapidly changing plant chemistry can affect the population dynamics of these insects. Much of his research has centred on understanding and modelling the complex feeding interactions between plants and insects, and between insects and their parasites, that exist in agricultural ecosystems; it has revealed the importance of providing refuges in fields and hedgerows to enhance the populations of parasites and predators that control the insect pests, and in doing so has led to the recognition of "conservation biological control."

His work, and that of his research groups has greatly advanced our understanding of the dynamics of insect communities in agricultural landscapes.

Stephen Wratten is an outstandingly productive ecological entomologist and a gifted communicator. He collaborates widely and is the author or co-author of 5 books, more than 60 book chapters and reviews, and over 230 research papers. Through his research, the establishment of research and teaching facilities at Lincoln, and the training of over 60 PhD students, he has made a substantial impact on agricultural entomology and plant protection in New Zealand.

Rob McGuinness Award for best presentation at the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute conference – Kerry Bodmin.

Kerry Bodmin won the Rob McGuinness award for the best presentation at the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute conference with a presentation entitled “Wild Willows & Other Weeds in Te Henga Wetland, Waitakere City.”

As the Parks Ecology and Policy Co-ordinator for the Waitakere City Council, her current work involves combating the problem of invasive willows at Te Henga, Bethells. The Waitakere River Willow Control Project has involved treating all willows from Bethells Bridge down the centre of the river to allow kayak access, with a kilometre already cleared of all willows.

The majority of willows are treated using a drill and inject system whereby a mix of herbicide and dye is directly injected into each tree, eliminating any spray drift and reducing the amount of herbicide used. Herbicide is only sprayed on smaller saplings whose trunks are not big enough for the drill and inject technique. Left to die, the injected willows are not removed as they provide an ideal habitat for native plants to sprout and grow underneath while keeping invasive weeds at bay.

Rachel Blundell,
Public Affairs Officer,
Waitakere City Council

ECOLOGICAL MISCELLANY

In this new feature of the NZES newsletter, we want to present useful tidbits and tools that ecologists may utilise in the course of their work. This will include statistical tools, presentation tips, skill development and innovative ideas for field work and field equipment (Dave Kelly has promised a cunning invention for the next newsletter).

We kick off this column with tips for establishing and maintaining writing productivity, a useful tool for students and professionals alike.

1. Creating a good writing environment

- Establish one or a few regular places in which you will do all your serious writing.
- Make your writing sit comfortable and arrange it to minimise distractions. Don't allow the temptation of cleaning up the site to distract—clean up only at the end of each session.
- Limit interruptions (especially social!) during writing times by closing the door, posting a sign on the door that asks visitors to limit interruptions to brief essential messages, unplugging the phone, asking colleagues to “head off” potential disruptions.

2. Creating good writing habits

- Make daily writing a priority, regardless of mood or readiness to write. Make another activity “contingent on daily writing”.
- Write while you're fresh.
- Avoid writing in binges, instead, write in small regular amounts.
- Schedule writing tasks so that you plan to work on small finishable units of writing in each session.
- Plan beyond daily goals. Schedule in terms of weeks, with clear measurable goals so that you know where you are heading.
- Share your writing with supportive, constructive people. Ask them to give you feedback on “imperfect” and “formative” drafts, rather than “finished” drafts.
- Try to work on several writing projects concurrently to alternate the tedium and encourage “cross fertilisation” of ideas.

These strategies are based on Boice's “stimulus control principles” see Boice, R. 1990. *Professors as writers: a self-help guide to productive writing*. New Forums Press, Stillwater, Okla, U.S.A.

EX LIBRIS

Barker, G.M. (editor) *Natural Enemies of Terrestrial Molluscs*. CABI Publishing. Hardback, 640 pp. HB ISBN 0-85199-319-2. £120.00 (US\$195.00)

This book provides the first coherent examination of the vast literature on the diversity of organisms that constitute the natural enemies of terrestrial molluscs. In a series of review chapters, it provides an authoritative synthesis of current research on predators, parasites and pathogens and how they might be used to control mollusc pests. Key features of the book include:

- Comprehensive synthesis of the diverse and wide-ranging existing literature,
- Highlights natural enemies groups such as mammals, birds and reptiles which have often been overlooked in existing literature,
- Provides knowledge crucial for the conservation of indigenous species and the management of invasive species

As a special offer to members of the New Zealand Ecological Society, CABI Publishing are offering a 20% discount on this title.

Simply quote reference JBK20 when placing your order by phone, fax, email or via the CABI online bookshop: <http://www.cabi-publishing.org/bookshop/BookDisplay.asp?SubjectArea=&Subject=&PID=1788>

Esler, A. *Wild Plants in Auckland*. Published by Auckland University Press, Paperback, photographs, original line drawings, RRP \$NZ 39.99

Wild plants may be as simple as a weedy patch in a garden or as complex as native forest in a bushy gully. A large proportion of Auckland's living landscape is made up of urban plants growing without intentional human aid. Every kind of plant is different, in its form, its requirements and tolerances, its life history and its influence on other plants. In words, and in exquisite line drawings and colour photographs, this fascinating and approachable book by an expert in the field tells the story of 322 species that grow wild in New Zealand's largest city.

The first part of the book demonstrates the place of wild plants in the urban vegetation, showing in detail how today's landscape evolved. The second explores some of the ways in which these plants impinge on our lives, in building and farming, in parkland and forest walks, and in science. The last section tells how they are structured for their various roles in the plant communities.

Alan Esler's enthusiasm for his subject, his wide experience and knowledge of Auckland's rich and varied flora and his awareness of the wider context in which plants live and grow make this a remarkable book. Students, teachers, managers of turf, weeds and trees, gardeners and everybody who appreciates Auckland's unique environment will be intrigued and informed by *Wild Plants in Auckland*.

Alan Esler was for many years DSIR Regional Botanist based at the Mt Albert Research Centre and is the author of many publications on the botany of the Auckland region.

Spellerberg, I.E.; Given, D.G. (editors). *Going Native – Making use of New Zealand's plants*. Canterbury University Press, 248 pp. ISBN 1-877257-13-3. RRP \$39.95. mail@cup.canterbury.ac.nz.

Have you ever wondered how best to incorporate New Zealand native plants into your garden? Or how to re-create a patch of native bush? This book is a rich compendium of ideas, describing the many and varied practical uses of New Zealand native plants.

With contributions from gardening experts to moving accounts from school children, this is a book by New Zealanders for New Zealand. If you are wondering which New Zealand native plants are frost tender, which prefer coastal sites or which are tall-growing species, there is an extensive A-Z glossary to guide you.

Advice on Landscaping with natives and on cultivating from seed or cuttings is presented in richly illustrated chapters. If you want to play your part in conservation and grow rare and endangered species, or restore an area of native plant habitats, you will find the guidelines in this book. For far too long introduced plants have overshadowed our native plants. This book will help ensure there is a better future for our rich and diverse flora.

Endorsement by Professor David Bellamy and Foreword by Dr. J. Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Teaching Assistants Plant and Animal Ecology and Plant Pathology, Lincoln University

Three opportunities exist in the Bio-Protection and Ecology Division at Lincoln University for suitably qualified graduates to complete a PhD and provide academic support to lecturers in the areas of Plant and Animal Ecology, and Plant Pathology.

These positions have been established so that a student receives an income while completing post graduate studies, in return for providing assistance with teaching, marking and tutorial work in the relevant discipline.

Applicants must:

- Be eligible to enrol for PhD studies;
- Have a sound knowledge in one of the following fields,
- Plant Ecology
- Animal Ecology
- Plant Pathology
- Have a strong interest in developing teaching and report-writing skills;
- Have a commitment to research.

The appointments are initially for a one year term, subject to review. For an Information Pack for any of the following positions:

Vacancy 04/74 Teaching Assistant Plant Ecology

Vacancy 04/75 Teaching Assistant Animal Ecology

Vacancy 04/76 Teaching Assistant Plant Pathology

contact Human Resources Section, tel: (03) 325-3613;

fax: (03) 325-3870; or e-mail trottc@lincoln.ac.nz

MSc/PhD project in Avian Conservation Biology

Department of Zoology, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Topic: Part of a long-term study of the behaviour, ecology and genetics of recently re-introduced threatened forest species of birds on Ulva I. (Stewart I.), Doubtful Is. (L. Te Anau) and Motuara I. (Marlborough Sounds). Specific goals are to examine the effects of inbreeding and loss of genetic variation of island populations of threatened bird species (saddlebacks and robins), and to determine if and why some family lineages are more successful than others in establishing and dominating in new populations. Either field experience in handling birds or laboratory experience in molecular genetics (or both) is preferable.

Funding: All research costs are covered. Recommend that MSc / PhD students apply to Univ. of Otago Scholarships (\$13,000–\$25,000 per annum plus fees). Australian students pay domestic fees and are eligible for the same scholarships. Students from countries other than the ones named above are advised to apply for scholarships within their own countries to cover expense of foreign students' tuition fees (>\$11,000 US\$ per annum). For details, go to: www.otago.ac.nz/study/scholarships. Post-docs are encouraged to apply for FRST Postdoctoral Fellowships www.frst.govt.nz/students/awards-fellowships.cfm

Contact: Dr Ian Jamieson, ian.jamieson@stonebow.otago.ac.nz, <http://www.otago.ac.nz/zoology/staff/academic/jamieson.html>

Post-doctoral opportunity for New Zealand citizen/resident in South Africa: rhinoceros biology and conservation.

An opportunity exists for a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, either in New Zealand or currently overseas to develop a minimum 2-year post-doctoral research program on any aspect of rhinoceros biology in South Africa with Dr. Wayne Linklater (Affiliations: Senior Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences, Victoria University Wellington; Research Fellow, Conservation and Research for Endangered Species, Zoological Society of San Diego, USA; and Research Fellow, Terrestrial Ecology Research Unit, University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa).

I have established collaborative and working relationships with South African universities, Govt. conservation agencies and NGOs, existing and active field sites, with marked and radio-transmitted study animals, and capital infrastructure (e.g., vehicles, accommodations and research equipment) in South Africa ready to support a post-doctoral candidate starting in 2005. The post-doctoral candidate will be working with an existing group of 3 to 5 research staff and students.

The post-doctoral candidate will be expected to develop a research proposal with me and one or more of my current South African collaborators at a South African University as the first step in funding their own salary, and minor consumable and operating costs, initially through application for a FRST post-doctoral fellowship (i.e., www.frst.govt.nz/students/postdocs.cfm). Applications to the FRST post-doctoral fellowship fund are due 5pm 8th April, 2005.

If interested please contact Wayne Linklater: wlinklater@sandiegozoo.org

MSc/PhD Student Research Opportunity, Goat diet and demography, Wanganui

Wanganui Conservancy, Department of Conservation, is still looking for a suitable student to undertake a demographic and diet study of goats in Whanganui National Park. Details can be found in NZES Newsletter No. 109, June 2004.

Dean Stronge
 Technical Support Supervisor
 (Wild Animal Management)
 Department of Conservation
 Private Bag 3016, Wanganui
 Ph: 06 345 2402
 Fax: 06 345 8712
 E-mail: dstronge@doc.govt.nz



Pseudopanax arboreus.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Conference: Working on the Frontier: Environmental Sustainability in Practice

Christchurch, 29 March – 1 April 2005.

The New Zealand Chapter of the EIANZ is hosting the Institute's Annual Conference in Christchurch next year. There are five guest "keynote" speakers; and over 60 contributed papers will be presented under five sub-themes:

- Community and indigenous resource management
- Industry and environmental management systems
- Systems thinking and environmental management
- Assessment and reporting
- Communication, education and dialogue

A series of technical tours will visit sites around Christchurch where "sustainability" is practised and there will be a variety of evening social events. There will be the opportunity for the carbon footprint of the conference to be offset by contributions to the EBEX21 programme, and the conference has a strong environmental policy.

The EIANZ is a professional organisation specifically formed to provide a multi-disciplinary forum for environmental practitioners from a wide range of backgrounds. The Institute was founded in Australia about 17 years ago, and the New Zealand Chapter was formed just over a year ago. A professional Certified Environmental Practitioner Programme (CEnvP) (which ecologists could apply to join) has recently been launched.

Further information about the conference is available on: www.conferenceteam.co.nz/eianz

You can get the registration brochure for the conference by emailing: sally@conferenceteam.co.nz or judithrl@boffamiskell.co.nz. You can find out more about the EIANZ at: www.eianz.org

Dr Judith Roper-Lindsay

MEETINGS DIARY

New entries are marked with an asterisk.

* 29 March – 1 April, 2005

Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Conference: Working on the Frontier: Environmental Sustainability in Practice

Christchurch. Contact: sally@conferenceteam.co.nz, or judithrl@boffamiskell.co.nz, <http://www.conferenceteam.co.nz/eianz>

* 28–30 April, 2005

Looking forward to HERITAGE LANDSCAPES Conference

Dunedin. Contact mick@design.otago.ac.nz, http://www.nzila.co.nz/conf_coming.htm

* 12–18 September, 2005

World Conference on Ecological Restoration, Zaragoza, Spain. www.ecologicalrestoration.net

* 6–10 December, 2005

Australasian Ornithological Conference
Blenheim. <http://osnz.org.nz/conference.htm>

* 11–13 December, 2005

Australasian Shorebird Conference 2005,
Nelson. <http://osnz.org.nz/conference.htm>

* 3–6 March, 2006

Second International Meeting on Physiology and Pharmacology of Temperature Regulation

Phoenix, Arizona. Contact Karla.Scarf@chw.edu, www.FeverLab.net

NZES COUNCIL NEWS

Editor's Note (Edited and abridged minutes)

Minutes of NZES council meeting, 11 November 2004

Correspondence

John discussed letter from Blackwell's Publishing offering cross marketing and collaboration with *Australian Journal of Ecology* and discount on journal subscriptions. Agreed that NZES will offer advertising space in *NZ J Ecol*. John to respond to letter and to check best subscription deal to Australian Ecological Society on website. The need for continuing contact with Australian Ecological Society through presidents rather than publishing company was discussed.

Treasurer's report

Rachel sent a summary of accounts to date via Shona.

As at October 2004, the cheque account balance (less outstanding cheques and Kauri Fund money) is \$26,820. A further \$56,194 is on term deposit. \$25,000 of the term deposit matures in late November and will be re-invested for a further 5–8 months. The remaining balance is still on term deposit at 6.15% until mid March.

The new account for the Kauri Fund has been opened. \$3587 from the cheque account will be transferred to the new fund. Rachel, Shona, John and Susan are currently being set up as signatories of the accounts.

Kauri Fund

The Kauri Fund has been passed by the IRD and is officially open for business. Alison suggested donations page on web site. Advertisement on membership form was also discussed—secretariat to be asked to put line on membership form to ask for donations to kauri fund.

Journal editor's report

No journal editors report to be presented. It was noted that the next journal is ready to be printed.

Webmasters Report

Jon sent a report via Shona.

The NZES website passed the milestone of 10,000 monthly page views last month, for the first time ever. A total of 10,437 page views were made by 2,266 different computers (a number a lot larger than the society membership). This is over three times more traffic than September last year, and is all due to the *NZ Journal of Ecology* back issues.

John reported that it is the top ecology website in NZ on Google.

Newsletter report

Hannah and Ruth are investigating making newsletter into PDF so it can be downloaded off website. The option of offering subscribers an email version rather than printed version of newsletter was discussed. The newsletter currently costs approximately \$800 to print. It was agreed that this option should be investigated. Subscribers should be offered the option of an email version or printed version. Shona to check with secretariat to find out if they could manage the membership if it was email based.

Hannah and Ruth discussed ideas for regular features. Dave suggested a column for innovative ideas for fieldwork and field equipment. John suggested an education angle—community information needs are not meeting met e.g. teachers, managers, community groups. There is a need to communicate management issues better. Newsletter could be the opportunity to broaden out from academic focus. Idea for a “Question of the week” column discussed.

Journal publicity

Dave discussed the proposal to employ a summer student to investigate publicity for journal subscriptions 2–3 students are interested in the job.

Dave proposing to put together small flyer—what *NZ Journal Ecology* is and advertising website. NZ Journal on website will be publicised through the following:

1. Current subscribers notified
2. Letter to people who used to be subscribers
3. Letter to people/libraries who have never subscribed
 - Need to identify important libraries, e.g. regional

and city council libraries. Alison to contact national library for list of email addresses of libraries and forward to Dave.

Awards

Alison reported on that Life memberships have been awarded to Alan Mark and Les Batchelor. Alan sent note back thanking society. Letters have been sent to unsuccessful recipients.

Te Tohu Taio award went to Mike Winterbourne.

Conferences

1. 2005. Joint Ecological Society – Limnological Society Conference in Nelson

John reported that Simon Moore (DOC plant ecologist) has been discussing conference organisation with other DoC staff and NZ Ecol Soc ecologists. Simon worried about size of venue. Dave and Susan expressed concern that the conference needs to be confirmed soon. John to talk to Simon Moore and circulate answer to NZES council next week. Shona to talk to lim soc and circulate answer

Dave discussed option of joint conference with Plant Physiologists. Dave to pass Mathew Turnbulls email to John. John to pass onto Nelson people

2. 2006. Joint NZ and Australian Ecological Societies, Wellington.

John has contacted Craig Jones, President of Australian Ecol Society and checked venue. John has made enquiries with Victoria University – Phil Garnock-Jones – large enough venue. Susan and Dave recommended an August timing rather than November. John to discuss timing of conference with Australian Ecol Soc.

Education and Submissions

The scope for the education focus for the council was discussed. Carol West and Jacqueline Beggs established Tuitime. John pointed out that if the Tuitime does not evolve and change then it would not be used.

Alison suggested the need for an education person on council. A discussion of what the scope of councils education focus should be followed. John discussed the need for scientific information to be communicated to a wider audience and the need for a broader range of people coming to conferences. Dave pointed out that there are other people and organisations doing education—important not to duplicate. Dave pointed out that the conference and journal were the two most important roles of the society. Alison suggested Ecol Soc could be conduit for information. Susan emphasised avoiding doing things that are not our core business. Submissions were originally made only on big issues. Shona discussed needs of managers and council ecologists

A half-day council meeting to brainstorm ideas and scope of council education role was suggested. Where do we want to be in five years? Identify gaps, priorities

for skills and options for applying for resources. Agreed: several hours will be set-aside at next council meeting to discuss education and submissions roles.

Membership

(figures taken as at 8 November 2004)

	TOTAL	Comp	Paid to date	2003 Unpaid	Hold	GNA
Full	373	4	350		3	2
Joint	44		42			
Overseas	24		21			1
Unwaged	145		115		6	5
Hon/Hon Life	9	9				
Newsletter	9	4				
Total	604	17	528		9	12

Membership Changes since 19 August 2004

New Members: welcomed 10 new members – 7 Full members: Mr Simon Moore, Miss Kate Morrissey, Dr Nigel Bell, Cinzia Vestena, Ms Lucy Tukua, Mr Dave Bell, Sarah Evans. Three unwaged members: Mr Ricky Olley, Ms Jane Marshall, Ms Ursula Brandes.

Resignations were accepted from two Full members, two unwaged members and one newsletter only subscription.

Subscribers

As from 8 November 2004: Paid up Subscribers for 2004: 120 (out of a total of 121), Complimentary Subscribers 17. One new Subscriber since last meeting: Te Tai Tokerau Wananga, Whangarei.

General Business

1. Nominations for IUCN meeting

Representation of NZES at IUCN meetings was discussed. Wren Green currently has position on national committee of IUCN members. There are 4 meetings a year with 7 NZ members (including Eco). Pam Williams is current NZES member. It was agreed that NZES should continue to have a member represented on the national committee. This representative needs to be reappointed each year after each AGM. Wren is keen to take on that position. Pam is happy for him to take on the role. John is willing to be back up member and will attend some of the meetings. Moved that NZES appoint Wren Green as representative on national IUCN committee (moved John), Alison (seconded), accepted.

Motions for IUCN Congress meeting in November were discussed. Wren Green will be attending the meeting. John and Wren have discussed recommended motions for NZES to support. Agreed that a list of the motions that NZES voted on/supported is put in newsletter.



Griselinia littoralis.

ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY E-MAIL LIST SERVER: DID YOU KNOW YOU AREN'T ON IT ANY MORE?

Well that got you reading. You may have been subscribed to the NZES listserver, but I have to do a lot of housekeeping on the list and have to remove about 2–3 addresses a month because they are generating error messages. These errors could be because people have moved and not changed their address; sometimes because they are over quota and the inbox is full (especially on hotmail-type accounts), and so forth.

So if you haven't had the odd email now and again (there is not a lot of traffic, about 1–2 messages a month perhaps) it might be worth checking if you are still on. You can do this by sending a new "subscribe" command, and if you are already on the list it will tell you so and do nothing else.

Also please note that if you send a message to the list itself for circulation, as sender you will get back in response the current list of error messages for all dead addresses I have not yet tidied up. Sorry these will come to you, but you can just delete them.

About the List Server

Now some background on the listserver (this summary below is also on the web pages)

What is a listserv?

A listserv (short for List Server) is a centralised list of e-mail addresses of subscribers. Anyone who is subscribed to the listserv will automatically receive all emails sent to the listserv, and can send emails to all subscribers via the listserv. You can subscribe and unsubscribe from a listserv at any time.

The NZ Ecological Society listserv

By subscribing to the NZ ecosoc listserv, you will receive emails about meetings, seminars, jobs, and issues in New Zealand ecology. You will also be able to post emails that will be received by most practising ecologists in New Zealand.

Subscribing to the NZ EcoSoc listserv

To subscribe to this server, e-mail a message to the automatic Mailserv processor at:

nzecosoc-request@it.canterbury.ac.nz

Include nothing in the e-mail except the following text in the body of the e-mail:

SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
END

To unsubscribe from the listserv, send another email to the above address, but this time use the following text:

UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC

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

Sending list messages

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 messages on the list. If you are not on the list and don't want to subscribe, but want to send a message, send it to Dave Kelly (Dave.Kelly@canterbury.ac.nz) to forward on.

Messages on the list should follow these simple rules:

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

Replying to list messages

To reply to a list email, you have two options. You can either hit reply and this will reply to everybody, or you can reply to the author only (e.g., a new e-mail with the author's personal e-mail address). If you want to reply to the person who sent it, please be careful that your reply goes to the person, and not to the list (to be bounced out to everyone!). In other words, double-check what "To:" field your reply has picked up before you press "send".

If you change your email address

If you change your email address, you have to unsubscribe from the old one, and subscribe from the new one. If you changed address but forgot to tell the server, we start getting error messages from your old address and have to unsubscribe you manually, so make my life easier and do this yourself. If your email address has problems (e.g., messages rejected because your inbox is full) for more than a few weeks we will also unsubscribe you. If you are not getting any messages and wonder if you are still on the list, just send another subscribe command. The easiest way to unsubscribe your old email address is to send a message while you are logged on as that user; if the old email address is dead you may not be able to unsubscribe it because the system sees you as someone else, if you see what I mean. In this case send the details to me and I can delete the old address.

For information on the listserver contact me, Dave Kelly (Dave.Kelly@canterbury.ac.nz).

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(Effective from 14 September 2004)

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

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