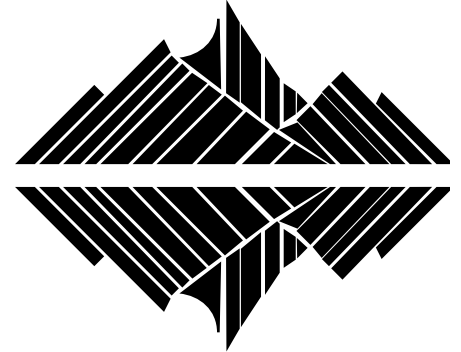


Ecological Society Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2006, we hope that your summer field work (or holiday) is off to a great start.

We wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the newsletter over the past year. We have been fortunate that Society Members have contributed articles and letters for the newsletter; and we appreciate many taking time out of their busy schedule to put pen to paper. In particular we would like to thank our regular columnists Jon Sullivan ('Ecology stuck on the web') and Robyn Sinclair ('News from Ecological Society of Australia'), and also those who have contributed to the 'Invited articles' feature. Our last invited article for the year is by Darryl MacKenzie, who has some excellent advice on getting the most out of your field data. If you have a suggestion for a topic for an invited article please don't hesitate to contact us.

All the best for 2007!

The deadline for submissions for the first issue of this newsletter for 2007 will be 20 February.

If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, we encourage you to put it in the form of a letter to the editors.



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INSIDE:

Letter to the Editors.....	2
NZES Council Profiles	2
Student award recipients 2006....	3
Revised Treasurers Report 2005... 4	
Invited Articles	6
News from Council.....	9
Minutes of the 54th AGM of the New Zealand Ecological Society.....	10
NZ Ecological Society Listserver	14

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Life membership—Dave Kelly replies

I would like to record how chuffed I was to be made a life member of NZES at the last conference, and apologise to those present at the conference closing ceremony (but not the AGM) for not making this clearer at that time. At the AGM the previous night, I think I went on a bit long (in my stunned state) about how much it meant to get this, and also how much enjoyment I'd had out of my years on the NZES council that partly contributed to getting the award. Conscious of having rambled on too long the night before, at the conference closing session I said almost nothing by way of thanks. So this note is to say what I should have said then - I'm honoured and humbled to get this from an institution as important as the NZ Ecological Society. And now I know how Anna Paquin felt at the Oscars (except she at least had some warning she was on the short list).

NZES COUNCIL PROFILES

Welcome to our new council members, Bruce Burns, Jacqueline Beggs and Roger Dungan.

Bruce Burns – Vice President

Hi. Like Hotel California, at the New Zealand Ecological Society 'you can check out any time you like, but you can never leave'. So after a stint as a councillor for the society (1998–2002), the draw of long committee meetings with too much coffee and bad jokes was overwhelming, and I'm back to take up the role of vice president (and lets face it, every good organisation needs some vice!). I'm a plant ecologist with Landcare Research based in Hamilton. My background includes a masters thesis on the ecology of mangroves at Auckland University, a PhD at the University of Colorado working on the regeneration dynamics of monkey puzzle trees in Argentina, and a stint with the New Zealand Forest Service working on their protected natural areas. These experiences have left me with a broad background in ecology. Most recently I've been working on managing biodiversity in rural and urban areas, and the restoration ecology of pest-free biodiversity sanctuaries. I'm looking forward to helping the NZES promote and support ecological science in New Zealand.

Roger Dungan – Council representative

Roger Dungan is a currently a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Canterbury. He is the production editor for the New Zealand Journal of Ecology, and joins the council after eight years as a Society member. His research interests include aspects of plant ecophysiology and plant-insect interactions; his PhD from Lincoln University was on aspects of deciduousness in New Zealand trees, and subsequent postdoctoral research at Canterbury has looked at interactions between scale insects and their beech-tree hosts, mast seeding in *Chionochloa*, and optimal life-history strategies in response to fires. Roger was highly commended overall, and joint winner of the Environmental Sciences section in the 2005 MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Awards. His days as a research scientist are numbered, as he has recently accepted a permanent position with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS 2006

Congratulations to all the students who received awards at the 2006 Ecology across the Tasman conference! Below are links to pdf files of the posters that won awards.

ESA/NZES best poster	Shane Geange , <i>Victoria University of Wellington</i> The Effects of Competitive Interactions on Community Structure in a Guild of Coral Reef Fish
ESA/NZES Best spoken presentation	Emma Gorrod , <i>University of Melbourne</i> Observer variation in vegetation condition assessments: Implications for Biodiversity
ESA Marilyn Fox prize for best inaugural presentation	Rowan Brookes , <i>Victoria University of Wellington and Monash University</i> No evidence for simultaneous pollen and resource limitation in <i>Aciphylla squarrosa</i>: A long-lived, masting herb
ESA/NZES Highly commended poster	Anna Burns , <i>Charles Sturt University</i> Arthropod assemblages of Mistletoe: composition and spatial turnover
ESA/NZES Highly commended spoken presentation	Susanna Venn , <i>Latrobe University</i> Facilitation is an important plant-plant interaction at high altitudes in Victoria, Australia
ESA/NZES Highly commended spoken presentation	Sarina Loo , <i>Monash University</i> Spread of an invasive freshwater snail: new methods to analyze historical data
Society for Conservation Biology Prize for a spoken paper on conservation	Joanne Hoare , <i>Victoria University of Wellington</i> Behavioural plasticity in habitat use enables large, nocturnal geckos, <i>Hoplodactylus duvaucelii</i>, to persist following invasion by kiore, <i>Rattus exulans</i>
Best spoken presentation on flora	Azadeh Haddadchi , <i>University of New England</i> Distyly and pollination of <i>Nymphoides montana</i> (Menyanthaceae)
EMR/Blackwell prize for spoken presentation on a management or restoration topic	Kerry Kriger , <i>Griffith University</i> Climate, morphology and chytridiomycosis
EMR/Blackwell prize for a poster on a management or restoration topic	Dale Redpath , <i>Massey University</i> Demography and ecology of flood damaged tawa (<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>) in Turakina valley, Ragitikei, New Zealand

REVISED TRESURERS REPORT 2005

Rachel Keedwell
Treasurer

Shown below are the completed and audited statements of financial performance and financial position for the New Zealand Ecological Society for the 12 month financial year ended 31 December 2005 (values in this report are GST exclusive). These are a slightly updated version from that published in the newsletter earlier this year. As explained at the AGM, an issue with the reconciliations between the accounts and the bank statements and GST returns that was picked up by the auditor had lead to a small error in the statement of financial position.

Financial performance

The statement of financial performance remains unchanged from that published in the earlier version.

Financial position

The newly reconciled balances resulted in the following changes: Westpac cheque account increased from \$47,197 to the correct figure of \$48,226 and similarly the term deposit altered from \$23,805 to \$25,000. The GST receivable was also revised down to \$2,355 instead of the earlier reported \$4,095. As a result of these changes, the net position of the Society is actually slightly better than first reported—the level of cash reserves at 31 December 2005 was actually \$58,993 rather than the earlier reported figure of \$58,509. Overall, our assets increased from \$76,198 to \$76,682. These are very slight changes to the overall balance but it was important that the errors were corrected. The same reconciliation error is present in the previous two year's accounts but I will leave those accounts as they stand.

NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Inc)

Statement of Financial Performance For the Twelve Months ended 31 December 2005

	12 Months Dec 2005		12 Months Dec 2004
	\$	\$	\$
INCOME			
Members Subscriptions	28,596		29,208
Interest	3,949		1,648
Publications	-		168
Journal Subscriptions	11,050		12,949
Reprints and page charges	4,861		3,006
Conference	1,446		9,342
Sundry Income	507		263
Journal online	-		8,667
	50,409		65,251
EXPENDITURE			
Journal Production	30,006		27,496
Newsletters	3,232		3,552
Secretariat	8,474		8,453
Subscriptions	1,718		2,742
Council Expenses	4,716		3,059
Administration	2,257		3,055
Audit Fee	500		700
Awards	1,655		-
Web Site	485		505
Tui time	60		845
Journal Online	5,100		1,332
Kauri Fund	13,070		-
Conference	1,495		532
	72,768		52,271
NET SURPLUS	-22,359		12,980

NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Inc)**Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2005**

	Dec 2005	Dec 2004
	\$	\$
FUNDS & LIABILITIES		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance 31 December 2004	80,867	67,888
Add adjustment for reconciliation error	485	
Add Net Surplus	<u>-22,359</u>	<u>12,980</u>
	58,993	80,867
LIABILITIES		
Advance – membership	–	–
Advance – journal subscriptions	–	556
Accounts payable	17,689	18,715
Kauri Fund	<u>–</u>	<u>3,597</u>
	17,689	22,868
	<u>76,682</u>	<u>103,735</u>
ASSETS		
Westpac Cheque Account	48,226	29,335
Westpac Term Deposit	25,000	55,000
Kauri Fund	<u>–</u>	<u>3,597</u>
	73,226	87,932
Arrears – membership	241	1,686
GST Receivable	2,355	3,079
Sundry Debtors	710	10,888
Stock – Journals	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>
	3,456	15,803
	<u>76,682</u>	<u>103,735</u>

INVITED ARTICLES

Darryl MacKenzie
 Proteus Wildlife Research
 Consultants
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Have you got the right stuff? Getting the most from your field data

As a statistician, I've had limited opportunities to set foot in the field and get my hands (and everything else) dirty in the process of collecting field data. However, from my few experiences and listening to the experiences of others, I'm the first to admit that collecting information on a particular species (it may be flora or fauna) can be very hard work. Just to reach study sites there will often be many logistical issues; arranging transport, food and lodging for the crew, organising gear requirements, and identifying any health and safety issues. Then there's the joys of field work; strolling around the forest on a pleasant summer's afternoon, keeping mosquitoes and sandflies at bay, bush-bashing through bracken and gorse when laying out transects or a trapping grid, sitting in a clearing on a cold night with your nose dripping listening for kiwi, sharing a hut during a thunderstorm with 5 rats, 2 possums and a leaky roof directly over your bunk. Then you actually have to record the relevant information which may involve capturing and processing animals; identifying which species just called, from what direction and how far away, all before you hear the next bird call; or extensive searches of areas without finding a single member of your target species. Finally you need to be able to look at the collected data and divine what it all means and what knowledge you have gained about the species or ecological community. As a statistician, it can be very easy to sit in one's ivory tower (with a heater on under the desk to keep your toes warm) and declare that sample sizes are too small, go forth and collect more data. I have found, though, that oftentimes the issue isn't collecting more data, but collecting the right data.

Once collected, there is no statistical magic-wand that can be waved that will suddenly infuse your data with more information that wasn't there previously. It may be that in some cases new techniques can be developed that will enable you to extract that very last drop of blood from the stone, but generally the GIGO principal stands: Garbage In, Garbage Out. The key to being able to make reliable conclusions is to collect the right data for the situation at hand.

What is the right data? Well that is a question of study design, and relies entirely on the objective or goals of the study or monitoring programme. I won't attempt to go into details here, I would need to write a book to do so, but the key is to carefully consider 3 fundamental issues;

1. Why are you collecting information from the field in the first place?
2. How does any data that you collect relate to the biological quantities of interest?
3. What are the requirements of any statistical analysis?

These are all things that should be considered before you even contemplate putting your boots on for the field work. Taking the time to fully resolve these issues first will reduce (note I didn't say "remove") the level of frustration and headache while grappling to analyse your resulting data.

Why?

Why do you want to collect data on this species in the first place? Is it to learn more about the general ecology of the species, are there different schools of thought about some aspect of the species that you want to be able to discriminate among (e.g., whether recruitment is density dependent), or are there broader management or conservation concerns about the species? In a management or conservation setting, are there potentially different management actions that could be implemented and one of the issues is how is the species likely to respond?

When considering why, it pays to be as specific as possible. Your objective is going to be your guiding light during the process of determining what field work is required. It can be very easy to get distracted and sidetracked into looking at

aspects of the species that will not help you achieve your objective, or at aspects that are of secondary or tertiary importance compared to other aspects to the species' ecology. Regularly asking yourself "How does this help me to reach my objective?" will help keep your study on track. This can be particularly important if due to time or budget restrictions you need to prioritise what data on the species can be collected. To quote John Tukey "An approximate answer to the right question is worth a great deal more than a precise answer to the wrong question."

How?

How does any information or data that you collect in the field, relate to the biological quantities that you've specified in the objective? Can you observe these quantities directly and without bias, or is there some practical and fundamental impediment to you observing these quantities. For example, if you're interested in biodiversity or species richness, how does the number of species counted at a monitoring station or in a quadrat relate to the true number of species that are there? Is there the potential for species to be present but go uncounted? What if your quadrat was placed at a slightly different place within your study site? Would the count be any different? Similarly, how does a count of the number of individuals observed in an area relate to the true population size? Could the same individual be counted multiple times? What fraction of the population is uncounted, and is that fraction likely to change over time or space?

These are just a couple of the many situations where it is not possible to directly observe the biological quantities of interest. Hence to make reliable conclusions about the species one needs to estimate these quantities before (or as part of) a broader analysis to address the study objective. By recognizing any potential disconnect between what is observed in the field and the real biological quantities of interest, naturally leads one to think about what additional information is required for any estimation procedure. Ultimately, this is the point where having "the right stuff" is important. For example, to get an estimate of population size or abundance from a count of individuals you need information that will enable you to determine the probability that an individual from that population will be included in the count (e.g., from distance sampling or mark-recapture methods). Without the right data it is not possible to address questions about the biological quantity of interest, unless one makes potentially restrictive assumptions about the sampling process. And while assumptions are still needed even with the "right" data, which may not be 100% correct or satisfied, resulting conclusions are likely to be more reliable. Again, the earlier quote from John Tukey is appropriate here.

What?

Before setting foot in the field it's important to have some reasonably clear notion of how you are going to analyse any resulting data, and what the requirements are of such an analysis so that you can ensure these requirements are met while in the field. Do the methods require assumptions such as normally distributed data, and how reasonable is such an assumption? Will your data be relatively sparse or will sample sizes be small; what effect will that have on your method of analysis? Is it even logistically possible to garner enough information to reliably assess whether you've achieved your objective? Perhaps your objective is too ambitious for the level of field effort you can realistically contemplate.

In situations where there may be interest in multiple biological quantities, which ones are most important with respect to the objective? It may be necessary to prioritise for these quantities with respect to data collection. For example, if developing a population model for a species to consider extinction risk, then for long lived species with low fecundity, the general rule of thumb is that adult survival is the key component. It would therefore make sense to design a study such that you get as accurate an estimate of adult survival as possible. That is,

rather than expend a lot of effort looking at reproductive success or collecting detailed morphological data on relatively few individuals, that time may be better used in marking and resighting as many adult animals as possible.

Final thoughts

In talking to field workers I'm always impressed, and humbled, by the efforts they sometimes go to to collect even a single piece of information. I always try to take that into account when providing advice about study design. However, the sad part is that if the type of information that is being collected is not conducive with the study objective, or does not allow you to separate the sampling from the biological processes, then all that effort is for naught. Let's face it, most people get into ecology because of a love for nature in general or particular species; not because of an interest in study design and statistical methods. However, when time and budgets are limited (alas, the days when scientists had rich benefactors to support their research are, by and large, long gone) carefully thinking about these issues will allow you to collect the maximal amount of relevant information as efficiently as possible. There are many examples from around the world, from small-scale scientific studies to continental-wide monitoring programmes, where people have put insufficient thought into study design, hence the "right" data has not been collected.

I leave you with a final analogy. I liken the process of designing and executing a study, and analysing the resulting data to constructing a building. First, what sort of building do you want to construct? A holiday crib (sorry, a bach if you're not from the Mainland) or family home? High-rise apartments or a warehouse? Once you've decided on the type of building, you think about what features you want. How many bedrooms and bathrooms? How big of a living area? Indoor-outdoor flow? Next you would develop a set of plans for how you're going to bring all those features together. You may even bring in a draughtsperson or architect who know all about building practices, bearing loads etc., to give you some specialist help and determine what possible within your budget and what's possible but would cost \$5,000,000. This planning process is completely analogous to the study design phase. You wouldn't dream of building without a detailed plan, and I'd strongly argue the same should be the case in ecological studies and monitoring programmes: the more meticulous the planning, the smoother the execution. After the planning comes the construction (i.e., the field work). The finished product may vary slightly from the plan because of issues that only become apparent during construction, but the expectation is that the finished product should resemble what was planned for. However the quality of the construction materials and workmanship will ultimately dictate how good the completed building is. There are some corners that you can cut, and some that you shouldn't. Sometimes any problems are immediately apparent, other's will not appear until a couple of years later (leaky homes anyone?). Finally, once the construction is finished it's time for the decorating, furnishing and landscaping. The same building could look very different depending upon the quality of the finishing touches, however the final quality of the finish very much depends on the quality of the construction. Creative lighting and decorating may hide poor workmanship for a while, but it doesn't solve the problem. Installing a 52-inch plasma television isn't very practical if the wall you're going to attach it to is about to fall down. An analysis of the collected data is equivalent to the decorating and other finishing touches of the building process. The appropriateness and quality of any analysis is complete dependent upon the quality and information content of the collected data. Just like no amount of paint and wallpaper will improve a shoddily constructed building, no statistical analysis will be able to extract information about the underlying biology if the right data has not been collected.

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

Editors note: Edited and abridged minutes

Minutes of NZ Ecological Society Council Meeting, Sunday 30 August 2006, 2pm, Turnball House, Wellington

Present: John Sawyer, Rachel Keedwell, Jon Sullivan Shona Myers, Mel Galbraith, Ingrid Gruner, Ruth Guthrie, Kate McNutt (for Intecol item).

Apologies: Peter Bellingham, Susan Timmins, Alison Evans, Karen Denyer, Hannah Buckley.

Treasurer's report

Rachel presented the Treasurers report and explained that following the auditors advice a reconciled budget would need to be published in the next NZES newsletter due to some errors in the last budget. The audited accounts will be republished in the newsletter.

The Secretariat costs were discussed. Rachel noted that these included \$30 a month for storage. This is mainly for journals, brochures etc. It was suggested that the backlog of journals and other publicity material needs to be available at conferences, or given away as student prizes.

Rachel discussed other issues brought up by auditor:

1. The billing and collecting of money is not separated and is dealt with by Secretariat. This needs to be monitored by the Treasurer.
2. The Kauri Fund is in a separate set of accounts but doesn't appear on the Charitable Trusts register. John to talk to Murray Williams about whether Kauri Fund was registered as a Charitable Trust
3. The need for a summary of accounts from the banks (Westpac and National) Rachel to find out about receiving a summary of accounts from the banks and if there is a charge.

Rachel noted that \$1200 interest has been earned in the last 12 months.

Intecol Conference

Kate discussed progress with organisation of the Intecol Conference.

Ingrid and Mel will be the representatives regarding field trips in NZ. It is up to NZES to organise and run the NZ field trips for the conference.

Kate discussed the MOU between Australia and NZ. This is not a legal contract but a gentleman's agreement which sets out issues such as meetings, reporting, representatives, seed money etc.

There is a need for a sponsorship rep from NZ who will facilitate sponsorship from within NZ. To be mentioned at AGM (John, Kate). Mel will approach some NZ companies.

Kate noted that \$25,000 seed money would need to be paid between both societies.

It will be the largest profit making opportunity ever for NZES. There are likely to be 2000-3000 people at the conference. The level of NZES contribution was discussed. John emphasised that it is important for NZES to ensure that a \$50,000 buffer in its budget is safeguarded

Motion: That NZES endorses an additional payment of up to \$5,000 over the next 12 months for the Intecol conference, moved Mel Galbraith, seconded Ingrid Gruner, carried

Kate also explained that NZES will need to sign a waiver regarding the need for auditing of the company accounts. The company has been set up purely to act as a conduit for funds for the conference. Funds will not be held long-term in the account. John and Shona signed this on behalf of the Society.

Presentation on Tenure review

A presentation was made to the NZES council by Susan Walker on her paper regarding the tenure review process and the impact on loss of lowland biodiversity. The issue was then discussed by Council, including concern regarding scientific ecological information being used through the tenure review process. The option of making a press release was discussed. If NZES made a statement on it, it would concentrate on whether the science is being respected, and recommending an audit of the process. It was agreed that Council should take it back to the AGM to get endorsement of the approach, and get feedback and consensus from members.

Journal

Mel reported that there is lots of support for a Tiritiri Island special edition. Tiritiri supporters have agreed to underwrite the edition. John Craig has agreed to be part of the editorial team. The possibility of a symposium in 2008 in Auckland was discussed. The journal would be produced in 2009.

Web report

Jon reported that the password access to latest on line journals will be turned on soon. A Hot science review page has been set up. Members can post what they like; finding out what is hot in NZ ecology

The launch of the website at the 2006 conference was discussed. The posters advertising the website will be sold at the conference with a gold coin donation going to the Kauri Fund.

It was noted that the posters should be posted to libraries and distribute through the Education gazette

Media Issues

Ingrid reported that Nick Early is preparing two press releases from the conference: one on president's report plus one on a topic during the conference. It was noted that Susan Walkers paper may make a good topic for the latter. It was noted that the press releases need to be put on the website.

MINUTES OF THE 54TH AGM OF THE NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Held on 31 August 2006 Wellington (during annual conference)

The AGM opened at 4.30pm.

Present: John Sawyer (chair), Shona Myers (secretary), and 40 other members (see list below)

1. Apologies

Mark Sanders, Judith Roper-Lindsay, Mel Galbraith, Colin Meurk, Mary and Andrew McEwen, Rachel Keedwell.

2. Minutes of the 53rd AGM

Moved they be accepted as a true record: John Sawyer, seconded Ruth Guthrie, carried. It was noted that Carol West was present and spelling of Jon Sullivan's name.

3. Matters arising

Peter Bellingham asked whether input into had been made into the Encyclopaedia of NZ. John and Karen Denyer reported on progress with developing a programme and strategy for communicating science, and feedback received at the conference workshop. Karen asked members to provide comments and suggestions to her on the feedback form. John reported that the council would rebid to TFBIS for funding for education brochures. The editor of the encyclopaedia reported that corrections and comments are welcome. Comments could be provided either through the website www.teariki.co.nz or through her.

John Parkes asked about progress with changing the format and lowering printing costs of the journal. John reported that Rachel Keedwell and Roger Dungan are investigating this, and that any changes rely on voluntary effort. Roger reported that alternative printing quotes are being obtained but that the biggest cost is the number of pages. Peter Bellingham reported that the journal is still good value for money and that the number of pages has increased by 20-30%. Roger Dungan suggested that one way to reduce the number of pages would be to dispense with paper off prints. Only 10% of authors are asking for them now. Preferences for the size of the journal varied, with Dave suggested there is a big advantage in the A4 size and this should be decided now, with Peter B preferring the current size.

Moved a vote of thanks to John Parkes for production of the Nigel Barlow volume (Vol 30, No 1 2006), Peter Bellingham, seconded Roger Dungan, carried.

John reported that there is interest in further special editions of the journal.

4. Annual reports

John Sawyer spoke to his annual report, which was printed in the May 2006 newsletter. John expressed thanks to the members of the council including Ruth Guthrie, Jon Sullivan, Shona Myers, Karen Denyer, Mel Galbraith, Kate McNutt, Ingrid Gruner, Susan Timmins, Peter Bellingham and Roger Dungan.

Jon gave a brief update on the website. An update of hot science will be launched soon, incorporating an interesting science blog site. Posters advertising the website have been produced and are for sale at the conference. Both www.nzecology.org.nz and www.nzecology.org are owned by NZES.

John introduced Rachel Keedwell's financial report. The council made an apparent loss however much of this is due to the transfer of 12,000 to the Kauri Fund, the conference not making a profit and journal on line costs coming in the year after. The NZES accounts have been transferred to an interest bearing account with the National Bank. \$1200 has been gained in interest. The council has investigated several ways of reducing costs including electronic newsletter, reducing council travel costs and. He explained that the financial statement printed in the May 2006 newsletter is inaccurate and a revised audited financial report will need to be published in the next newsletter to incorporate amendments picked up by the auditor.

Bev Clarkson asked whether the Kauri Fund has been used yet. It was suggested that a strategy be developed regarding the use of the Kauri Fund. Dave explained that it is worthwhile getting the fund to a decent size so that it provides good basis. He explained that the society has had a history of profit and loss.

Moved: That the Treasurer's report be accepted, John Sawyer, seconded Bev Clarkson, carried.

5. Election of Officers

Nominations for President: Murray Williams nominated Susan Timmins, seconded Carol West. There were no further nominations. Susan was declared elected.

Nominations for Vice President: Susan Timmins nominated Bruce Burns, seconded Bill Lee. Alison Evans nominated Roger Dungan. Roger declined the nomination. There were no further nominations. Bruce was declared elected.

Nominations for Secretary: Ruth Guthrie nominated Shona Myers, seconded Bev Clarkson. There were no further nominations. Shona was declared elected.

Nominations for Treasurer: Susan Timmins nominated Rachel Keedwell, seconded Shona Myers. There were no further nominations. Rachel was declared elected.

Councillors: Two positions were vacant due to Alison Evans and Ingrid Gruner finishing their two-year term and not standing for re-election. The roles of these positions will include media liaison and liaison with Australian Ecol Soc.

Carol West nominated Ingrid Gruner. Ingrid declined the nomination. Peter Bellingham nominated Bev Clarkson. Bev declined the nomination.

Peter Bellingham nominated Jacqueline Beggs, seconded Rod Hitchmough.

Bruce Burns nominated Roger Dungan, seconded Peter Bellingham.

There were no further nominations. Jacqueline and Roger were declared elected.

Carol West moved a vote of thanks to Alison Evans. Susan Timmins moved a vote of thanks to Ingrid Gruner.

6. Life Membership

Dave Kelly was presented with Life membership of the NZ Ecological Society on behalf of the society by Alastair Robertson. Alastair gave a brief presentation of Dave's extensive accomplishments and ecological publications. Dave gratefully accepted.

7. Motions

1. NZES newsletter

Motion: That the newsletter move to a completely electronic publication: except for those members who do not have access to the internet. Moved: Peter Bellingham, seconded: John Sawyer.

Ruth Guthrie explained that distributing the newsletter online is more sustainable. The format of the newsletter has been changed to make it easier to read on line. 80% of members are now receiving it electronically. The newsletters are now achieved on line. Printing costs are expected to increase. There will be a link to the newsletter website in the email to members. Carol West asked about the impact on the IHC who have been organising the mail out, and asked that they be thanked for their efforts.

Ruth and Hannah were thanked for their efforts on publishing the newsletter. The redesign of the newsletter has been very successful. This has been designed by Jeremy Rolfe. Dave asked about the implications in the rules regarding requirements for notification of the AGM by mail and recommended a change to the rules.

Motion: that the words "by post" in 8c of the NZES rules be deleted. Moved Dave Kelly, seconded Ruth Guthrie, carried.

The motion was put to the vote, all in favour, carried.

2. Society subscription rates increase

Motion: That Waged society subscription rate increases by \$5.00, and the Overseas waged subscription rate increase by \$10.00. Local unwaged rates will remain the same. The Society rules state that the council has the power to set the membership fees, but the council felt it prudent to put this to the society for qualification. Moved: John Sawyer, seconded: Rachel Keedwell.

John explained that fees have not increased since 1994. The society is currently making a loss of 2-3k unless a profit is made from the conference. The council felt that it was unreasonable to expect the conferences to make a profit. The main aim of the conferences is to ...the study and research of ecology. Peter Bellingham explained that the journal is good value for money. Murray Williams raised the point that the journal is still costing more than it should and a review has not been produced. John explained that Roger Dungan is investigating this.

Rod Hitchmough agreed that it is unreasonable to expect the conference to make a profit. Matt McGlone agreed that the conferences should be able to move around and not be constrained. Dave gave the examples of the Cairns conference and the joint conferences with other societies such as Lim Soc as being useful even though they do not make a profit. It was pointed out that the Kauri Fund is a safe place for the profits of the society to be put to good long-term use. He does not want to see the erosion of the council's stores.

The motion was put to the vote, all in favour, carried.

8. General Business

INTECOL

Kate McNutt gave a brief update on organisation of Intecol 2009. This is being jointly organised by EAS and NZES. It will attract 2500-3000 delegates and will be an opportunity to showcase New Zealand ecology. It will replace the annual conference. Carol West, Dave Kelly and Angus MacIntosh are the NZ reps on the scientific committee. Mel Galbraith and Ingrid Gruner are the NZ reps on the field trip committee. Kate is joint chair with Craig James from EAS. There is a need for a NZ sponsorship rep. A separate NZ Company has been set up so there is no risk to the society. There is an MOU between the two companies. All monies to do with Intecol will be placed in a Trust Fund. NZ will take 30% of the profit of the conference, based on the level of commitment and seed money. EAS have invested 20k, with a further 10 this year and the following year. NZES have committed 5K with a further 5K this year. Murray Williams asked what the speculative budget for the conferences. Kate explained that the conference organising company has estimated 3 instalments of 25k. There are two years to accumulate the sponsorship funds. The joint target for sponsorship is 300-400k.

John thanked Kate for the work she has put into organising the conference.

Press Release 2006 conference

John Sawyer explained that a press release has been made regarding Susan Walkers paper at the conference on the biodiversity implications of the South Island High Country tenure review. It was explained that there is concern about the inadequacy of the process, the use of scientific information to aid decision making, and the need for an audit of the process. Feedback was requested from members. The councils concerns are around the effective use of ecological information and research in decision making. Philip Grove explained Environment Canterbury's concerns including ecological concerns, public access and waterways. Murray Williams stated that the council is empowered to make statements on behalf of members. There was general agreement amongst members at the AGM that the council is empowered to make statements on behalf of members and general support for the approach taken.

2007 conference

John announced that the 2007 conference will be at Lincoln, Christchurch and will revisit the Moa and climate theme.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Present at 54th AGM

Members: Kathryn Affeld, Olivier Ball, Jacqueline Beggs, Peter Bellingham, Bruce Burns, Chris Bycroft, Bev Clarkson, Bruce Clarkson, Nathan Curtis, Nicola Day, Karen Denyer, Roger Dungan, Philip Grove, Ingrid Gruner, Ruth Guthrie, Avi Holzapfel, Rod Hitchmough, Clayson Howell, Melissa Hutchison, Cathy Jones, Dave Kelly, Bill Lee, Matt McGlone, Kate McNutt, Maria Minor, Sarah-Jane O'Connor, John Parkes, Alastair Roberston, Cynthia Roberts, Cielle Stephens, Theo Stephens, Jenny Steven, Jon Sullivan, Ross Thompson, Susan Timmins, Tina Troup, Susan Walker, Carol West, Murray Williams, Laura May Young.

Non members: Merodie Beavon, Dale McEntee

NZ ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY LISTSERV

What is a listserv?

A listserv (short for List Server) is a centralised list of e-mail addresses of subscribers. Anyone who is subscribed listserv will automatically receive all emails sent to the listserv, and can send e-mails 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 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:
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END

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

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Once subscribed, you will receive instructions on how to send messages, unsubscribe etc. PLEASE READ 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 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 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 address. If you changed address but forgot to tell the server, we start getting error messages from your old address and will have to unsubscribe you manually, so make my life easier and do this yourself. If your email address has problems (such as 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 listserv contact me, Dave Kelly (Dave.Kelly@canterbury.ac.nz).

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(Effective from September 2006)

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This Newsletter was produced by Hannah Buckley, Ruth Guthrie and Jeremy Rolfe.

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

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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 (2006)

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

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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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