Ecological Society Newsletter

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Welcome to another newsletter. By now you should all be thinking about Cairns in December and you will find a brochure about the meeting included with this newsletter. I hope that New Zealand ecologists make a strong showing at the combined meeting and show the Aussies a thing or two about our science and about New Zealand ecology. Make sure that if you are going, get in touch with *BTI travel* to take advantage of group travel discount (see details on page 2).

When I put this newsletter together this time, I began to think about the role of the society and of New Zealand ecologist's. This issue reflects praise on the science we do—we have more Hot Science contributions, I reveal the 30 most heavily cited contributions to the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, and David Wardle reports on the growing impact by citations of papers published in our journal. We have cause to celebrate—I suspect that New Zealand ecologists are now publishing more and having more impact internationally than perhaps we have ever had. However, as shown in the last two issues of the newsletters, the society has also had a very significant role in making submissions to local and central government on ecological issues. Wren Green (Issue 101) points out that the society submissions peaked in the 1990's (33). When looking through the list published in Issue 100, it is clear that in recent years, the society has been less active and in the last few years we have been very quiet on the submissions front. Indeed, this issue reports no progress on current submissions. It seems that as our efforts in science publishing increases, our effort in submissions appears to be diminishing. Perhaps there are less issues to be concerned about, the issues are more complex and difficult to present a society view, or as I suspect, we are now too busy doing excellent science to be concerned with making submissions.

Having said that, I think we should be very proud of a small group of members who have worked very hard to see the *TuiTime* project come to fruition (see page 3). Jacqueline Beggs, Carol West, and Laura Sessions, take a bow—your work runs magnificently against the general trend described above.

The newsletter always benefits from members views and I would encourage you all to consider whether there is something you would like to add to the next issue—I would welcome your contribution.

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INSIDE:

Newsletter editor's report 1
Conference 2002 2
TuiTime 3
New Look Website 3
Book Reviewers wanted 4
Submissions 4
Best Publication by a New Researcher 4
Citation Classics from the New Zealand Journal of Ecology 5
New Zealand Journal of Ecology leads southern hemisphere ecological journal league tables 7
Hot Science! 7
The 2002 New Zealand Ecological Society Award 10
Awards for New Zealand Ecologists 10
News 10
Jobs 11
Upcoming Meetings 11
Meetings Diary 12
News from Council 13
EcolSoc e-mail list server and web page 14

CONFERENCE 2002

http://www.tesag.jcu.edu.au/ecology2002/

The 2002 annual meeting of the New Zealand Ecological Society will be held jointly with the Ecological Society of Australia from **2–6 December**, at the Cairns Convention Centre in far north Queensland. There should be a brochure about the conference with a registration form included with this newsletter.

Programme

The scientific programme for Ecology 2002 includes a one-day course for postgraduate students on Sunday 1st December and **four days of scientific sessions** on Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd, Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December. Anyone who has registered for the conference is eligible to make a **presentation** provided their registration, payment and abstracts have been submitted by **26 August 2002**. Presentations can be as talks or posters, and can be offered for either **symposium** or **open forum** sessions. There will be up to three concurrent sessions arranged to avoid major subject clashes. About half will be dedicated to symposia and half to open sessions grouped according to common themes.

Symposia

This year posters will be held on

- Frugivory and seed dispersal in Australasia
- Exotic ant invasions
- Healthy savanna and grassland landscapes
- Australasian amphibian declines
- Weed risk assessment and incursions
- Forest restoration in theory and practice
- Problems with linear infrastructure corridors
- Ecology and Conservation of Tree Kangaroos
- Ecological applications of GIS
- Climate change and Ecosystems: Can we adapt?
- Global plant conservation strategy—What can Australia and New Zealand achieve by 2010?
- UNESCO Biosphere reserves
- Human Ecology: Integrating social and natural sciences
- Ecotourism management and sea birds
- Ecotourism management and sea mammals
- Making the connections: applying ecological research to management of threatened species/ecosystems
- Theory and Practice in the Study of Ecosystem services

Posters

Macroecology of the Wet Tropics rainforests posters will be a feature of the conference, with a dedicated poster session organised along Wollongong lines. (If you don't know what that means you'll enjoy finding out!)

Plenary Sessions

There will also be several plenary sessions. The opening plenary will feature talks by the winner of the NZES Te Tohu Taiao award for Ecological Excellence. The closing plenary will feature awards to outstanding student presenters at the conference.

For inquiries about making a presentation contact Will Edwards, email: will.edwards@jcu.edu.au; For inquiries about the overall program contact Jill Landsberg, email: Jill.Landsberg@jcu.edu.au

Field Excursions

Wednesday is a free day designed to allow delegates to experience some of the local environment. We have not included excursions in the registration package but we have arranged a number of special ecological day trips and some good deals on local commercial tours. We have also described a number of do-it-yourself activities for those who want to be more flexible. People arriving a bit early or staying over after the conference may also be interested in our special 3-day tour exploring the diversity of tropical tablelands. See the website for more details.

NZES Group Deal on Travel to Queensland

NZES Council has contacted BTI travel to investigate the possibility of a group fare for NZES members to attend the conference. An estimate of the number of people who wish to travel to Cairns for the conference is required before a group fare price can be negotiated with the airlines.

Could prospective travellers contact Ken McCauley (BTI travel agent) as soon as possible (**10 August at the latest**) indicating the following:

1. Departure date to Cairns
2. Departure date from Cairns
3. City of departure (i.e. Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch etc..)
4. Names of passengers (as per passport)
5. Ages if any children
6. Contact details (telephone number, email etc.)

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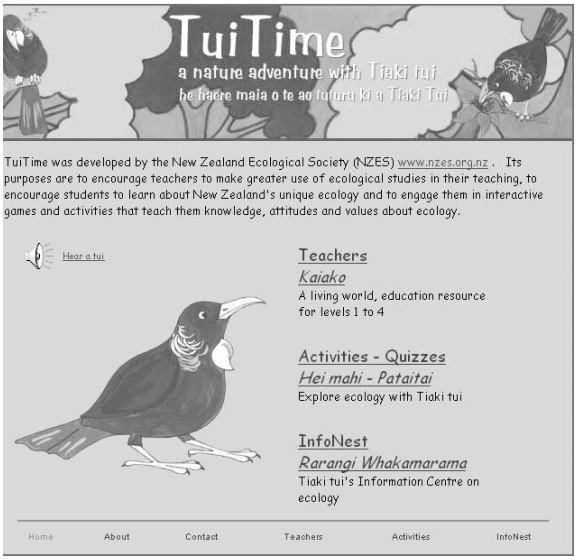
TUITIME



http://www.tuitime.org.nz

Recently, the New Zealand Ecological Society (NZES) launched its new website for children, *TuiTime*. *TuiTime* presents, in an exciting way, a wealth of information about the ecology of the New Zealand forest. The following is the press release we made at the time.

"We need to know about ecology because humans are living creatures who are utterly dependent on other living things and a healthy environment," says NZES education subcommittee chair, Dr Carol West. "We want children to learn how important ecology is for sustaining life".

TuiTime gives primary school children an opportunity to learn about ecology using plants and animals familiar to them. Tiaki tui is the central character in the website. An innovative, interactive game simulates a day in the life of tui. Tiaki must gather enough food to feed herself, find a mate and then rear chicks. Along the way she must cope with competitors such as wasps and bellbirds that eat the same food, and avoid predators such as cats and stoats that may eat her. "Children learn that it is a tough world out there for our native animals," says Dr West, "Introduced pests have made it even tougher."

TuiTime also introduces the concept of decomposition. When tui die, the world does not slowly fill up with dead tui bodies. Worms, fungi and bacteria are there to break down Tiaki's body when she dies, and return the minerals it contains to other living things. And so the cycle continues.

TuiTime drew together a unique team of scientists, software designers and education specialists. As well as the computer game, there are activities that develop word and numeracy skills. "We felt it was important to weave Maori language throughout the site" says Dr West. "*TuiTime* is designed specifically for New Zealand children to link them with the natural world around them."

TuiTime is an online educational programme that supports science and Te Reo Maori, levels 2 to 4. It consists of an interactive game, learning activities, a guide for teachers, pre- and post- assessment tests, an encyclopaedia, and a glossary.

This project was funded by the Science and Technology Promotion Fund (administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand). NZES, Landcare Research and the Department of Conservation provided additional funding.

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NEW LOOK WEBSITE

http://www.nzes.org.nz/

If you haven't been to our website lately—go check it out. Following the appeal in the last newsletter, Jon stepped up take on editing the webpage and has been doing a great job revamping it. You will see some significant new features on the site along with some rather elegant design features. Well done Jon!

BOOK REVIEWERS WANTED

Our book review editors reports that he has a number of books available for review in the *NZ Journal of Ecology* (listed below). If anyone would like to review the books listed, or if anyone knows of a new or forthcoming book they would like to see reviewed, can contact Duane via email or post at the address below.

Caswell, H. 2001. *Matrix population models: construction, analysis and interpretation*. 2nd ed. Sinauer, Massachusetts, USA.

Gaston, K.J. and Blackburn, T.M. 2000. *Pattern and process in macroecology*. Blackwell Science, Oxford, UK.

Gutzwiller, K. J. 2002. *Applying landscape ecology in biological conservation*. Springer, Berlin, Germany.

Herrera, C. M. and Pellmyr, O. 2002. *Plant–animal interactions: An evolutionary approach*. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford UK.

Michener, W.K. and Brunt, J.W. 2000. *Ecological data: design, management and processing*. Methods in Ecology. Lawton, J.H. and Likens, G.E. (Eds.). Blackwell Science, Oxford, UK.

Odum, H.T. and Odum, E.C. 2000. *Modelling for all scales: an introduction to system simulation*. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, USA.

Peat, N. and Patrick, B. 2001. W*ild rivers: discovering the natural history of the central South Island*. Otago University Press, Dunedin, New Zealand. 142 pp.

Press, M.C., Huntly, N.J. and Levin, S. (Eds.). 2001. *Ecology: achievement and challenge*. The 41st Symposium of the British Ecological Society. Blackwell Science, Oxford, UK.

Reice, S.R. 2001. *The silver lining: The benefits of natural disasters*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, USA.

Roy, J., Saugier, B. and Mooney, H.A. 2001. *Terrestrial global productivity*. Physiological Ecology Series. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, USA. 573 pp.

Tow, P.G. and Lazenby, A. 2001. *Competition and succession in pastures*. CABI Publishing, Wallingford, Oxon, UK.

Vallentine, J.F. 2001. *Grazing management*. 2nd Ed. Academic Press.

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SUBMISSIONS

National Policy Statement on Biodiversity on Private Land

Richard Duncan is keeping an eye on this one. Contact him with offers of help.

Sustainable Development Strategy

Things are apparently moving rather slowly here. Our plans to hold a workshop have been put on hold. Bruce Burns, Kath Dickinson, and John Craig are key people from NZES. Members should get in touch with them if they want further information or if they want to get involved.

BEST PUBLICATION BY A NEW RESEARCHER

It's time to enter your publication(s) for the New Zealand Ecological Society Award for Best Publication by a New Researcher. The NZES will award an annual prize of NZ$200 for the best published paper of an ecological nature, by a new researcher. This award is targeted at people at the start of their research career. The award will be presented at the NZES's annual conference in Cairns 2002, and reported in the NZES Newsletter.

Authors wishing to be considered for this award must meet the following criteria:

1. Be the first-named or sole author of the paper.
2. Be a current member of the NZES.
3. Either currently be a student or have graduated within the last 3 years, and be at the start of their research career.
4. The paper should be of an ecological nature, preferably published in an ecological journal (not restricted to publications in the *NZ Journal of Ecology*).

Authors wishing to be considered for this award should send 4 copies of their publication to the NZES Awards Convenor no later than **30 August 2002** (Susan Wiser, Landcare Research, PO Box 69, Lincoln 8152 Christchurch). All publications will be reviewed by a committee nominated by the NZES Council. At the discretion of the nominated committee, no award may be made in any given year.

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CITATION CLASSICS FROM THE NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY

To emphasise the point I made in the last newsletter when I introduced the new section on "Hot Science" about the importance of locally published material as well as the international work that is listed in that section, I thought it would be fun to review the most cited papers to have appeared in the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* since it began in 1978. In that time there has been over 130 papers published in the journal. Here then is our top 30.

Congratulations to Matt McGlone who is comfortably in the lead (though look out for number two – Peter Vitousek *et al*'s paper on introduced species is catching rapidly with 13 citations a year on average). Having any paper cited 62 times is no mean feat in any discipline of science and all the people in this list can feel justifiably proud of their efforts—their papers form the backbone of New Zealand's ecological science.

The 30 most cited articles to appear in the New Zealand Journal of Ecology. Citations are from the ISI citation Index and all citations listed up to June 2002 since 1980. Citations per year are citations divided by the number of years since publication. Hot articles are those that have been cited more than three times per year since publication.

Rank	Times Cited	Citations per year		Authors	Year	Title	Vol: Pages
1	63	5.3	Hot!	McGlone, M.S.	1989	The Polynesian settlement of New Zealand in relation to environmental and biotic changes.	12: 115–129.
2	52	13.0	Hot!	Vitousek, P.M.; Dantonio, C.M.; Loope, L. L.; Rejmanek, M.; Westbrooks, R.	1997	Introduced species: A significant component of human-caused global change.	21: 1–16.
3	50	4.2	Hot!	Holdaway, R.N.	1989	New Zealand's pre-human avifauna and its vulnerability.	12: 11–25.
4	40	3.6	Hot!	Wilson, J.B.	1990	Mechanisms of species coexistence – 12 explanations for Hutchinson "paradox of the plankton" – evidence from New Zealand plant communities.	13: 17–42.
5	35	1.8		O'Connor, K.F.	1982	The implications of past exploitation and current developments to the conservation of South Island tussock grasslands.	5: 97–107.
6	34	1.6		Wardle, P.	1980	Ecology and distribution of silver beech (*Nothofagus menziesii*) in the Paringa district, South Westland, New Zealand.	3: 23–36.
7=	31	5.2	Hot!	Murphy, E.C.; Dowding, J.E.	1995	Ecology of the stoat in Nothofagus forest: Home range, habitat use and diet at different stages of the beech mast cycle.	19: 97–109.
7=	31	5.2	Hot!	Innes, J.; Warburton, B.; Williams, D.; Speed, H.; Bradfield, P.	1995	Large-scale poisoning of ship rats (*Rattus rattus*) in indigenous forests of the North Island, New Zealand.	19: 5–17.
7=	31	1.3		Mattlin, R.H.	1978	Pup mortality of the New Zealand fur seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*, Lesson).	1: 138–144.
10	30	3.0	Hot!	Treskonova, M.	1991	Changes in the structure of tall tussock grasslands and infestation by species of *Hieracium* in the Mackenzie Country, New Zealand	15: 65–78.
11=	28	2.3		Atkinson, I.A.E.; Greenwood, R.M.	1989	Relationships between moas and plants.	12: 67–96.
11=	28	1.6		Leathwick, J.R., Hay, J.R.; Fitzgerrald, A.E.	1983	The influence of browsing by introduced mammals on the decline of North Island kokako.	6: 55–70.
13=	27	2.3		Clout, M.N.; Hay, J.R.	1989	The importance of birds as browsers, pollinators and seed dispersers in New Zealand forests.	12: 27–33.
13=	27	1.4		Rounick, J.S.; Winterbourn, M.J.	1982	Benthic faunas of forested streams and suggestions for their management	5: 140–150.
15=	26	1.5		Daniel, M.J.; Williams, G.R.	1984	A survey of the distribution, seasonal activity and roost sites of New Zealand bats.	7: 9–25.
15=	26	1.3		McGlone, M.S.; Webb, C.J.	1981	Selective forces influencing the evolution of divaricating plants.	4: 20–28.

Rank	Times Cited	Citations per year		Authors	Year	Title	Vol: Pages
15=	26	5.2	Hot!	McLennan, J.A.; Potter, M.A.; Robertson, H.A.; Wake, G.C.; Colbourne, R.; Dew, L.; Joyce, L.; McCann, A.J.; Miles, J.; Miller, P.J.; Reid, J.	1996	Role of predation in the decline of kiwi, *Apteryx* spp, in New Zealand.	20: 27–35.
18	25	1.1		Primack, R.B.	1978	Variability in New Zealand montane and alpine pollinator assemblages.	1: 66–73.
19=	24	1.3		King, C.M.; McMillan, C.D.	1982	Population structure and dispersal of peak-year cohorts of stoats (*Mustela erminea*) in two New Zealand forests with especial reference to control.	5: 59–66.
19=	24	2.7		Murphy, E.; Bradfield, P.	1992	Change in diet of stoats following poisoning of rats in a New Zealand forest.	16: 137–140.
19=	24	2.0		Taylor, R.H.; Thomas, B.W.	1989	Eradication of Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) from Hawea Island, Fjordland, using brodifacoum.	12: 23–32. 8: 11–20.
22	23	1.4		Simberloff, D.; Levin, B.	1985	Predictable sequences of species loss with decreasing island area – land birds in two archipelagos.	
23=	22	3.1	Hot!	Murphy, E.C.; Dowding, J.E.	1994	Range and diet of stoats (*Mustela erminea*) in a New Zealand beech forest.	18: 11–18.
23=	22	1.2		Morgan, D.R.	1982	Field acceptance of non-toxic and toxic baits by populations of the brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula* Kerr).	5: 36–43.
23=	22	2.0		Thomas, C.D.; Moller, H.; Plunkett, G.M.; Harris, R.J.	1990	The prevalence of introduced *Vespula vulgaris* wasps in a New Zealand beech forest community.	13: 63–72.
26=	21	1.2		Diamond, J.M.	1984	Distributions of New Zealand birds on real and virtual islands.	7: 37–55.
26=	21	1.0		Donovan, B.J.	1980	Interactions between native and introduced bees in New Zealand.	3: 104–116.
28=	20	3.3	Hot!	Rose, A.B.; Platt, K.H.; Frampton, C.M.	1995	Vegetation change over 25 years in a New Zealand short-tussock grassland: Effects of sheep grazing and exotic invasions.	19: 163–174.
28=	20	0.9		Taylor, R.H.	1979	How the Macquarie Island parakeet became extinct.	2: 42–102.
30=	19	3.8	Hot!	Brown, K.P.; Moller, H.; Innes, J.;	1996	Calibration of tunnel tracking rates to estimate relative abundance of ship rats (*Rattus rattus*) and mice (*Mus musculus*) in a New Zealand forest.	20: 271–275.
30=	19	1.7		Haynes, R.J.; Francis, G.S.	1990	Effects of mixed cropping farming systems on changes in soil properties on the Canterbury Plains.	14: 73–82.

Some comments about this list.

- The importance of introduced species to New Zealand ecology is very evident. There are relatively few papers here on fundamental ecology of New Zealand native species and ecosystems. There are exceptions—papers by J.B. Wilson (4th), Peter Wardle (6th), Atkinson (11th=) lead the field for studies focussing on purely native issues.
- Several people appear more than once in the list —Elaine Murphy appears three times (7=, 19=, 23=) while there are seven people who appear twice—Phil Bradfield (7= & 19=); John Dowding (7= & 23=); John Innes (7= & 30=); Rod Hay (11= & 13=); Rowley Taylor (19= & 28=); and Henrik Moller (23= & 30=)
- The special issues feature prominently—the 1989 issue on *Moas, mammals, and climate* (supplement to Vol. 12), and 1996 issue following the *Causes of decline of native plants and animals* symposium at the 1995 conference (20:1), account for several top placings.
- Government Scientists from the former Ecology Division of the D.S.I.R. and more recently from Landcare Research account for the majority of the top papers, while university research features relatively little in this list. Apparently academics and students are either less productive or they are more likely to seek the prestige of publication in an international journal.
- Papers resulting from short visits from overseas researchers are notable in the list. Peter Vitousek's paper was an invited address at the Lincoln conference in 1996, but Richard Primack (18), David Simberloff (22), Jared Diamond (26=) were here on shortish sabbatical visits but managed to write some reasonably well cited papers on New Zealand ecology. I wonder if these papers would be as well cited, had they been written by people with lesser reputations!

NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY LEADS SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE ECOLOGICAL JOURNAL LEAGUE TABLES

As I was musing over the above figures, our journal editor sent me this note about the impact of the journal in citations—and it is good news! Read on.

Journal Science Citation Impact Factors are widely used as a measure of a journal's scientific impact and success. These factors provide a relative measure of how frequently the manuscripts published in a given journal are cited in the peer reviewed literature. Although there are many limitations regarding interpretations of these factors (notably because they are severely biased in favour of American journals) they are nevertheless widely used throughout the world as some sort of 'league table' to rank journals in terms of their perceived impact. Indeed libraries often base their decisions on which journals they subscribe to or cancel in part on of their impact factors.

The league tables of all ecological journals for 2001, which is now available, indicates that NZJE has leapfrogged its way up the ladder and now has an impact factor of 1.404, the first time that NZJE has scored above 1.00. This places us above our Australian counterpart (1.323) as well as several respected international journals, e.g., *Biodiversity and Conservation* (1.311), *Ecological Modelling* (1.182), *Ecoscience* (1.181) and *Plant Ecology* (1.059), and just behind the *Journal of Biogeography* (1.497).

This result indicates that *NZJE* is increasingly being taken seriously in the wider scientific community, and cannot be classified as a second-tier regional journal. In this light there is no good reason for New Zealand ecologists to publish their work in any Southern Hemisphere journal other than *NZJE*, given that *NZJE* now leads the league of Southern Hemisphere ecological journals.

David Wardle
Scientific Editor, NZJE

HOT SCIENCE!

Here is the latest instalment of international papers, books and book chapters from New Zealand researchers. Currently, we are still in catch-up mode—we want to have this list as complete as possible for items published internationally after 2000 so don't be shy—if your paper has not yet been listed let me know about it—see Issue 101 or NZES website for the rules for submission. Our new webmaster Jon Sullivan and I are keen to implement a growing list of these on the NZES website where you will be able to search for papers on a chosen topic.

One thing I have noticed already from the list we have so far—there are quite a few book chapters being produced with very nice sounding reviews in them. These items are very difficult to find out about as they are not listed in any online databases and as chapters in edited texts, and searching on library catalogues won't necessarily turn up New Zealand content or authors even when there are NZ contributions. As an example take the first item in this newsletter's list. Who of you knew that this book had been published or that it contained what sounds like a wonderful review from our own Jacqueline Beggs? I guess one slight complication, getting hold of these items isn't always easy – I think the authors better find out whether they can get reprints from the publishers in anticipation of the demand from New Zealand ecologists for copies!

Beggs, J.R. 2000. Impact and control of introduced *Vespula* wasps in New Zealand. *Hymenoptera: Evolution, Biodiversity and Biological Control*. eds. A.D. Austin, M. Dowton. CSIRO publishing. pp 404–409.

This paper summarises the introduction of social *Vespula* wasps to New Zealand, and the impact that they are having, particularly in honeydew beech forests. There is also a summary of wasp control in New Zealand, dealing with two main strategies: poison-baiting for short-term, localised control; and biological control for self-sustaining, widespread control.

Beggs, J.R. 2001. The ecological consequences of social wasps (*Vespula* spp.) invading an ecosystem that has an abundant carbohydrate resource. *Biological Conservation* 99: 17–28.

This paper reviews the impact that introduced social wasps are having in beech (*Nothofagus* spp) forest infested with endemic honeydew-producing scale insects. There is about 1 million ha of honeydew-infested beech forest in South Island, New Zealand. Wasps are abundant in these forests, and compete with native species for the honeydew resource. Additionally, wasps consume large quantities of native invertebrates. Wasp abundance needs to be reduced by 80–90% to conserve vulnerable invertebrate species. The paper also discusses how wasps could affect nutrient cycling, and the risk of an invasion by ants or other social wasps.

Flux, J.E.C. 2001. Evidence of self-limitation in wild vertebrate populations. *Oikos* 92: 555–557.

Compared with other species of rabbits, hares, and pikas (Order Lagomorpha), European rabbits reach exceptionally high population densities and often starve. I suggest this maladaptation is a result of previous domestication, a process designed to break down natural social barriers by providing unlimited food and artificial crowding for many generations. This explains the propensity for domestic animals and human commensals to become serious pests. As a corollary it supports Wynne-Edwards' contention that wild animal populations are regulated by social behaviour at limits safely below their normal food supply, because the disruption of social behaviour leads to overpopulation.

Gillman, L.N.; Ogden, J. 2001. Physical damage by litterfall to canopy tree seedlings in two temperate New Zealand forests. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 12: 671–676.

Litterfall has been demonstrated to be an important cause of tree seedling damage and mortality in several tropical forests. This study demonstrates that it can also be very important in New Zealand temperate forest. Litterfall was the cause of a significant proportion of seedling *mortality* in kauri forest at Huapai (18%) and in podocarp/angiosperm forest at Pureora (11%). Annual *damage* to natural seedlings, and to artificial seedlings constructed from plastic straws and wire, were significantly greater at Huapai than at Pureora, and the damage rate to artificial seedlings at Huapai was similar to those recorded in tropical forests.

Joy M. K.; Death R. G. 2000. Stream invertebrate communities of Campbell Island. *Hydrobiologia* 439: 115–124.

Stream invertebrates were sampled at nineteen streams on Campbell Island over the 1997–98 summer in the most extensive stream survey to date. The Crustacea including one isopod and two amphipod species dominated the species-poor stream invertebrate communities. Although distinctive communities were found over the island they did not relate to any of the environmental variables measured. Many of the invertebrate families commonly found in mainland New Zealand streams were not found and this appears to be related to the extreme isolation and geological history of the island.

Joy M. K.; Death R. G. 2001. Control of freshwater fish and crayfish community structure in Taranaki, New Zealand: dams, diadromy or habitat structure? *Freshwater Biology* 46: 417–429.

This paper investigates the relationship between fish and crayfish communities and environmental variables at a number of scales from proximal to landscape on the Taranaki ring plain. The analysis showed elevation, distance from the coast and dams were the strongest predictors of fish and crayfish assemblages. Dams had greater impacts at lower elevation and landscape scale variables proved more important than proximal habitat variables in structuring fish communities.

Keedwell, R. 2001. Evaluation of radio transmitters for measuring chick mortality in the banded dotterel. *Waterbirds* 24: 217–223.

Details the results of a trial using elastic harnesses to attach radio transmitters to banded dotterel chicks in order to determine rates and causes of mortality. The technique only had limited application to young chicks because the harness occasionally fell off or entangled small chicks but the transmitters remained attached to chicks older than one week. Most mortality occurred in the first week, and predators were responsible for a minimum of 18% of deaths.

Keedwell, R.J.; Maloney, R.F.; Murray. D.P. 2002. Predator control for protecting kaki (*Himantopus novaezelandiae*) – lessons from 20 years of management. *Biological Conservation* 105: 369–374.

This paper discusses how after 20 years of predator control to protect kaki (black stilts) there is only limited evidence to suggest that predator trapping is beneficial for the survival of kaki. Lack of adequate experimental design and understanding of the predator-prey dynamics in the system in which kaki live appeared to be the main reasons why the benefits of predator control were not consistently clear. An adaptive management approach would have provided more information on the efficacy of predator trapping and increased understanding of the interrelationships between kaki survival and predator abundance.

Lord, J.M.; Markey, A.; Marshall, J. 2002. Have frugivores influenced the evolution of fruit traits in New Zealand? *In* D Levey, WR Silva and M Galetti (eds.) *Seed dispersal and Frugivory: Ecology, Evolution and Conservation.* CABI Publishing, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, U.K.

The chapter summarises information on fruit size and colour in NZ then looks at the influence of three frugivore guilds (non-volant birds, volant birds, reptiles) on fruit evolution. Flightless birds, including moa, ate fruit, but there is no evidence of fruit "adapted" to dispersal by these species. The smaller size of NZ fruit reflects the smaller sizes of volant frugivorous birds (c.f. Australia), indicating that fruit evolution in NZ has been influenced by the characteristics of this guild. Frugivory by reptiles may have played a part in the evolution of pale fruit colours in small leaved shrubs.

Lord, J.M.; Wilson J.B.; Steel, J.B.; Anderson, B.J. 2000. Community reassembly: a test using limestone grassland in New Zealand. *Ecology Letters* 3: 213–218.

We assessed the species composition of South Island grassland overlying limestone at Weka Pass, Castle Hill, Beautiful Valley and near Clinton. All of these grasslands have a high proportion of introduced species that also occur in neutral to basic grasslands in the UK. We put the data through the British National Vegetation Classification. Two site with soils <10cm depth were classified as limestone grassland, providing some evidence for community reassembly when the environmental filters are strong enough.

Lövei, G.L. 2001. Extinctions, modern examples of. Pp. 731–743 in: *Encyclopaedia of biodiversity*, Vol. 2. Ed. by S. Levin. Academic Press, New York.

The fossil record indicates that recent extinctions were parallel with the arrival of modern humans to areas formerly uninhabited by them. These started at around 40,000 years before present. On continents, large mammals (>50 kg body mass), on islands, mostly birds were affected. The causes of these extinctions are not well known but include hunting, habitat alteration and the introduction of non-native species. By today this developed into a full-fledged mass extinction, affecting all species in all habitats, potentially surpassing the previous five mass extinction events in the history of Earth.

Lövei, G.L.; Cartellieri, M. 2000.Ground beetles (Coleoptera, Carabidae) in forest fragments of the Manawatu, New Zealand: Collapsed assemblages? *Journal of Insect Conservation* 4: 239–244.

Botanically diverse, protected forest fragments in the Manawatu contained very poor carabid assemblages. In the potential source area, 9 species were present. The largest forest remnant had 2 species, and a well-managed suburban forest patch had 3 (only 1 with a reproducing population). Lack of grazing and high botanical diversity was insufficient to maintain the potential carabid assemblage in these fragments. Predation risk, low dispersal power in endemic New Zealand ground beetles, combined with fragment size and degree of isolation could contribute to this collapse. Active management of ground-active invertebrates seems necessary to protect them in isolated forest fragments.

Miller, C. 2002. Conservation of riparian forest remnants, West Coast, New Zealand. *Landscape Research* 27: 125–140.
This paper presents data on the spatial extent and distribution of intact and fragmented riparian forest on the South island's West Coast. The implications of ecological processes and land-management practises are discussed, and three conservation priorities are identified.

Miller, C.; Elliot, M.; Alterio, N. 2001. Home range of stoats (*Mustela erminea*) in podocarp forest, south Westland, New Zealand: implications for a control strategy. *Wildlife Research* 28: 165–172.
Predation by stoats threatens the survival of Okarito brown kiwi (*Apteryx australis*). Home range data from stoats at Okarito forest are presented, and the implications of these for the development of a stoat control strategy are discussed.

Miller, C.J. 2000. Vegetation and habitat are not synonyms. A perspective on New Zealand's Resource Management Act. *Ecological Management and Restoration* 1: 103–105.
The Resource Management Act requires the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. This paper argues that assessment of these conditions requires two different approaches if the purpose of the RMA is to be met.

Norbury, G. 2001. Conserving dryland lizards by reducing predator-mediated apparent competition and direct competition with introduced rabbits. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 38: 1350–1361.
This paper examines the potential for introduced rabbits to cause extinction of native secondary prey species (common skinks) in dry grasslands. Because rabbits are the preferred prey of introduced predators (ferret and cats), rabbit abundance dictates predator abundance and predators' consumption of native skinks. More rabbits mean more predators, and sudden declines in rabbit abundance create acute peaks in consumption of skinks because predators switch their diet. Rabbits have further impacts because they consume the habitat of native skinks. When skink numbers reach critically low levels, predation can drive them locally extinct.

Norton, D.A.; Miller, C.J. 2000. Some issues and options for the conservation of native biodiversity in rural New Zealand. *Ecological Management and Restoration* 1: 26–34.
For the 70% of New Zealand in private ownership, most biodiversity conservation has to occur within a landscape that must also provide a productive return to landowners. This paper argues that four key issues need to be considered, and stresses the importance of taking an integrated landscape management approach.

Sanders, M.D.; Maloney, R.F. 2002. Causes of mortality at nests of ground-nesting birds in the Upper Waitaki Basin, New Zealand: a five-year video study. *Biological Conservation* 106: 225–236.
This study used video cameras to obtain definitive evidence of the causes of mortality at nests of three species of ground-nesting birds. Unlike most video studies, this study videoed sufficient nests to draw conclusions about the relative impacts of various predators. Seventy-seven lethal events were recorded at 172 nests. Cats, ferrets, and hedgehogs accounted for 43, 19, and 18% of mortality at nests. Cats were the only predator to take adult birds. Stoats, avian predators, and other causes of mortality each accounted for <4% of lethal events. The paper also reports on the duration and diurnal timing of predation.

Schauber, E.M., Kelly, D., Turchin, P., Simon, C., Lee, W.G., Allen, R.B., Payton, I.J., Wilson, P.R., Cowan, P.E. & Brockie, R.E. 2002. Synchronous and asynchronous masting by 18 New Zealand plant species: the role of temperature cues and implications for climate change. *Ecology* 83: 1214–1225.
This paper tests for synchrony in seed crops in 34 datasets from 18 NZ plant species from Fiordland to Wellington, in *Chionochloa*, *Nothofagus*, *Phormium*, *Elaeocarpus*, and *Dacrydium*. All species except rimu were highly correlated across years within and between genera. Heavy seeding years came one year after warm summers, and were also related to high values of the Southern Oscillation Index (La Nina). The synchrony is apparently not driven by selective benefits (e.g. shared seed predators) but instead by incidental sharing of the same climate cue. Global warming could alter the pattern of high seed crops, with widespread community effects.

Sessions, L.A. & Kelly, D. 2002. Predator-mediated apparent competition between an introduced grass (*Agrostis capillaris*) and a native fern *Botrychium australe* (Ophioglossaceae) in New Zealand. *Oikos* 96: 102–109.
A 1995 wildfire burnt a population of *Botrychium* which had been studied since 1986. The fern survived the fire well, but from 1997 on suffered very high levels of herbivory which prevented reproduction, reduced plant size and increased mortality. Exclusion experiments identified the introduced slug *Deroceras reticulatum* as the culprit; the slug increased due to greater shelter from *Agrostis* which increased after the fire. Therefore this is an example of apparent competition: the introduced grass negatively affected the native fern by harbouring an introduced invertebrate herbivore. The future for this population of *Botrychium* looks bleak.

Sinclair, B.J. 2001. Biologically relevant environmental data: Macros to make the most of microclimate recordings. *Cryo-Letters* 22: 125–134.
Automated data loggers make it possible to gather vast quantities of environmental data, but the quantity can be overwhelming, limiting interpretation to means, rather than the biologically relevant thresholds. This paper presents macros for Microsoft Excel that calculate rates of change of a data series that has crossed a threshold; it will count the number of times a threshold is crossed (and allows for the decreasing threshold being different from the increasing threshold), and for calculating the amount of time that a threshold is exceeded. These macros are available electronically from the author bjs@sun.ac.za.

Sinclair, B.J. 2001. Field ecology of freeze tolerance: interannual variation in cooling rates, freeze-thaw and thermal stress in the microhabitat of the alpine cockroach *Celatoblatta quinquemaculata*. *Oikos* 93: 286–293.
This paper takes laboratory data on the low temperature thermal biology of an alpine cockroach, and applies it to the interpretation of field microclimate data spanning 4 years. During the 1998 El Nino winter a lack of snow cover (and therefore insulation) resulted in much more extreme winter temperatures and many more freeze thaw events. This situation is used as an analogue for

predicted climate change, and suggests that an alpine zone community may be maintained at low(ish) altitudes by severe frost events in this scenario.

Sinclair, B.J. 2001. On the distribution of terrestrial invertebrates at Cape Bird, Ross Island, Antarctica. *Polar Biology*. 24: 394–400.

In this paper the terrestrial fauna of the Cape Bird Ice-Free Area is surveyed. Little relationship was found between the presence of macroscopic vegetation and invertebrates. This has important conservation implications, because many Antarctic protected areas are currently designated on the basis of vegetation, under the assumption that this preserves a representative terrestrial community, while this paper shows that this is not the case.

Sinclair, B.J.; Lord, J.M.; Thompson, C.M. 2001. Microhabitat selection and seasonality of alpine invertebrates. *Pedobiologia* 45: 107–120.

This study examined the invertebrate fauna under rock slabs in summer and winter on Rock and Pillar Range, Otago. Rock size and season were the most important determinants of species presence. Species examined in detail were the cockroach *Celatoblatta quinquemaculata*, alpine weta *Hemideina maori*, and a spider *Neoramia childi*. We found evidence of positive interactions between weta and cockroach independent of rock size, but negative interactions between these species and spiders. The amount of vegetation around the rock was positively associated with cockroaches but negatively with weta. Adjacent vegetation composition had no effect.

THE 2002 NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY AWARD

The NZES award is made annually to recognise society members who have made an outstanding contribution to the study and application of ecological science. The award is made to the person(s) who have published the best original research into the ecology of New Zealand, and its dependencies (including the Ross Dependency), in the previous two calendar years, or the person(s) who have made the most outstanding contribution to applied ecology, particularly conservation and management, in New Zealand and its dependencies over the same period. Nominations close on **30 September 2002**.

Nominations and queries about NZES awards and prizes should be emailed to the NZES Awards Convener, Susan Wiser, WiserS@LandcareResearch.co.nz, or posted to Susan at Landcare Research, Private Bag 69, Lincoln. For more information on NZES awards and prizes, see our Awards webpage.

AWARDS FOR NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGISTS

Congratulations to:

Dr Charles Baker, Senior Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Auckland, 2001 New Zealand Science and Technology Bronze Medal "for his significant contribution to biodiversity".

Dr Ross Beever, a scientist at Landcare Research in Auckland, will also receive a 2001 Bronze Medal "for his significant contributions to mycology and plant pathology".

Dr Henry Connor made Companion of The New Zealand Order of Merit (Botany).

NEWS

Thanks to Science Alert for these items. Editor.

New Fossil Finds

Hunters in the Humboldt Mountains of Mount Aspiring National Park have recently discovered the remains of an **Upland Moa,** *Megalapteryx didinus*, believed to have been extinct for 400–500 years.

The partial skeleton of a female bird and her egg (in fragments) have been extracted from the cave at 900–1200m altitude and passed on to the Otago Museum. This discovery is important for Moa research as few specimens of the Upland Moa have been found in comparison with lowland species. This specimen can give important insights into the habitat, nesting behaviour and taxonomy of the animal and the ecology of this poorly known upland species of moa.

The Otago Museum will work with New Zealand moa experts, Dr Trevor Worthy and Dr Richard Holdaway, to investigate the site and study this specimen.

For further information, contact Clare Wilson, tel. (03) 474 7473.

Meanwhile, the discovery of a **treasure trove of animal and bird fossils** that fill a crucial gap in NZ's palaeontological history was announced this week. The Central Otago site, an ancient lake bed near St Bathans, has remains that are estimated to be between 15 and 20 million years old. While NZ has fossil finds that date back 2 million years, and dinosaur finds have been discovered that date back about 70 million years, this find places many animals in New Zealand for either the first time, or much earlier than was previously thought.

The remains include snakes, fish, fragments from as yet unidentified mammals, and teeth and scutes (bony back plates) of an ancient crocodile that is estimated to have been between 1.5 to 2 metres long. It is the **first evidence of snakes**, and further confirmation of crocodiles having lived in this country. Theories are being formulated about why they are no longer found in New Zealand, with temperature change being one possibility. Also unearthed were the oldest tuatara bones ever found, eggshells, probably moa, and bat bones.

The geologists are Craig Jones, from the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, Trevor Worthy, of Palaeofaunal Surveys, Alan Tennyson, from Te Papa national museum, and James McNamara, from the South Australian Museum.

JOBS

Masters Research Scholarship in Entomology and Pest Management – Landcare Research and Massey University

This scholarship is part of a joint research programme (between Landcare Research and Massey University) funded by Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and is available for one year with possibility of renewal for one year depending on the achievement in the first year. The successful candidate will work on behavioural and ecological interactions between bees and varroa mites, aiming at development of control measures based on the disruption of varroa mites' host-finding and oviposition behaviour.

Students who have completed their Bachelors or Honours/PGD before December 2002 with good knowledge of entomology, ecology, or insect pest management are eligible to apply. Interested students are encouraged to contact Dr Z.Q. Zhang in Landcare Research zhangz@LandcareResearch.co.nz, or tel. (09) 815 4200 extn 7069.

Postdoctoral Scientist—Biodiversity and Insect Ecology—*Forest Research*

Forest Research is seeking a postdoctoral scientist with a strong background in biodiversity and insect ecology. The successful candidate will contribute to a study on relationships between biodiversity in plantation forests and defoliator population dynamics (focussing on the effects of natural enemies such as ground beetles and parasitic wasps).

This is a 2-year fixed-term position that will be based at the Christchurch office on the University of Canterbury campus.

Requirements:

- PhD in relevant discipline and experience in entomology, insect ecology, or similar.
- Keen interest in field and laboratory work.
- Excellent knowledge in ecological data analysis.
- Excellent writing skills and intent to publish results.

For further information, contact Dr. Eckehard Brockerhoff (Eckehard.Brockerhoff@forestresearch.co.nz)

Applications close on 25 July 2002. If no suitable candidate is found by this date, the search will continue.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

1–5 December 2003

Organisers: The Wildlife Society (USA), Landcare Research (New Zealand), Australasian Wildlife Management Society, Ngai Tahu, and the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

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

The 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress will provide a forum and meeting place for wildlifers from around the world to interact and exchange information and ideas on all aspects of wildlife management. The scope of the Congress will be broad and will interest those who approach wildlife issues from a strongly theoretical perspective, right through to those who are interested in practical wildlife management and sustainable use. Financial assistance may be available for students and others who would otherwise be unable to attend the Congress.

The Congress will have a strong Pacific and Southern Hemisphere flavour, but the main focus will be on contrasting perspectives on wildlife management in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Within the theme of the Congress (Ki te takikite tonga – ki uta kitai: From the north to the south – from mountains to sea) we will bring these contrasting perspectives together for a fascinating global focus on wildlife management issues in the 21st Century.

Principal themes

- Management of overabundant populations
- Threatened species management
- Ecosystem consequences of wildlife management
- Wildlife management in polar areas, islands and continents
- Wildlife diseases
- Wildlife toxicology
- New technologies in wildlife management
- Kaitiakitanga: Maori approaches to wildlife management
- Indigenous peoples' rights and wildlife management
- Community involvement in wildlife management
- Wildlife-based tourism
- Animal welfare and ethics
- Managing wildlife from the desktop

Important Dates

Call for papers	**September 2002**
Deadline for receipt of abstracts	**February 2003**
Registration brochure	**May 2003**

MEETINGS DIARY

New Zealand Plant Protection Society 55th Annual Conference and Biosecurity Symposium

12–15 August 2002

Centra Hotel, Rotorua.
http://www.hortnet.co.nz/publications/nzpps/conferen.htm

Gondwana 11, Correlations and Connections

25–30 August 2002

University of Canterbury.
Convenor: Professor Bryan Storey, Gateway Antarctica.
http://www.anta.canterbury.ac.nz/gondwana

QMB2002. The 12th Annual Queenstown Molecular Biology Meeting

1–4 Sept 2002

http://www.qmb.org.nz

"Science, culture and fear"

22 November 2002

Te Papa, Wellington
Jointly organised by the Royal Society of New Zealand, Te Papa, and the Stout Research Centre of Victoria University, Wellington.

Under five sub-themes, the conference will examine pressure points between science and culture, especially as these give rise to conflicting views on truth, value, and meaning, for example where science and traditional knowledge systems meet.

Australian New Zealand Society for Ecological Economics (ANZSEE) 2002 Conference

2–4 December 2002

University of Technology, Sydney

Theme
Strategies into action: regional and industry policy applications of ecologically sustainable development

Geological Society of New Zealand's Annual Conference, "Northland 2002"

2–6 December 2002

Forum North, Whangarei.
http://www.gsnz.org.nz/gsco.htm

New Zealand Ecological Society & Australian Ecological Society Joint meeting

2–6 December 2002

Cairns Convention Centre, Queensland (see page 2 for details)
http://www.tesag.jcu.edu.au/ecology2002/

NZ Hydrological Society Symposium "The easy water is gone: making the most of a scarce resource"

3–6 December 2002

Blenheim. Contact: cmi@marlborough.govt.nz
http://www.hydrologynz.org.nz/society-conferences.html

Workshop on Matrix Population Models

4–6 December 2002

Centre for Applications of Statistics and Mathematics, University of Otago, Dunedin

SEEM4. Fourth Conference on Statistics in Ecology and Environmental Monitoring – Population Dynamics: The Interface Between Models and Data

9–13 December 2002

Centre for Applications of Statistics and Mathematics, University of Otago, Dunedin
http://www.maths.otago.ac.nz/SEEM4/

Distance Sampling Workshop

16–17 December 2002

Christchurch, Jointly sponsored by New Zealand Department of Conservation, Biomathematics Research Centre, University of Canterbury.

Southern Connections IV

No longer being held in Bariloche, Argentina in January 2003. Shifted to South Africa in 2004.
More details to be posted in future newsletters when they come to hand.

7th International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography

24–28 March 2003

Wellington. Hosted by the Meteorological and Marine Sciences Societies.

Fourth Oamaru Penguin Symposium

19–20 June 2003

Email: agh@ihug.co.nz

22nd conference of the New Zealand Geographical Society

6–11 July 2003

Auckland University.
Email: NZGS2003@geog.auckland.ac.nz

3rd International Wildlife Management Congress

1–5 December 2003

University of Canterbury, Christchurch.
Organisers: The Wildlife Society (USA), Landcare Research (New Zealand), Australasian Wildlife Management Society, Ngai Tahu, and the New Zealand Department of Conservation.
http://www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/wildlife2003/

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

Minutes of NZES council meeting 10 May 2002 PAMS University of Canterbury

Editor's Note (Edited and abridged minutes)

NZES Archives

Council continued to discuss problems with accessing archive material stored at the Canterbury Museum. For the recent jubilee conference, Susan Wiser tried to access material to photocopy for display at the conference. The museum has a strict policy on how many articles can be viewed at once and what material is allowed to be photocopied. Susan wrote to the museum explaining problems with access to archives, particularly a limit on how many items we could view at once, and limits on what we were allowed to photocopy (e.g. minutes book). Council discussed the merits of keeping our own a scanned or photocopied versions. We are caught between having material readily at hand, but at the risk that things might go astray.

Since the meeting, the museum replied reiterating its policies and explaining the need for them and suggesting some ways that might help with future needs such as requesting material in advance. It seems that we will have to live with the limits that securely archiving our material imposes.

Journal

Journal editor's report: "All is going smoothly with the journal and there is little to report. This year we have so far received eight manuscripts which is about average for this time of the year. The production of Volume 26 issue 1 has been delayed slightly but will be released very soon. The final manuscripts have just been accepted for inclusion in Volume 26 issue 2, which we still hope to have out in August/September."

Council passed a vote of thanks to David Wardle and Jenny Stevens for their sterling work on the journal. The technical editor job is proving quite demanding, council discussed options for making this task less burdensome. Plan to put detailed instructions to authors on the web to direct authors to for formatting etc.

Web

Council noted with great thanks the offer to take over web management by Jon Sullivan and his very thoughtful comments on how this may be developed. Council discussed options for web access to *NZJE* following a brief prepared by the editor and president. An option discussed was allowing free access fro all comers to older issues (more than 3 yrs old) and access for institutional subscribers (but not members) to current issues. We would need to figure out how to limit access to theses recent issues—this may be able to be done by passwords or by IP address lists at each library etc. We could additionally sell "theme" CDs of reprints which could still be popular even if the web has all the old issues as the CD would be more convenient. A major issue if we host it ourselves is the amount of space required.

Council agreed in principle to this plan and now need to move onto investigating the cost and feasibility of us hosting the journal on the NZES website.

TuiTime

Site is all going in final form but we need to work on publicity. A press release has been issued (see page 3), but follow-up work in schools etc is needed. The work was funded by a grant from RSNZ and final reports went to RSNZ in March. The council financially supported a small function for Carol West, Jacqueline Beggs and Laura Sessions and Heurisko (software developers) to celebrate and launch the software. We had applied for a IDG Communications Computer Excellence award for the game but we were not successful in becoming a finalist.

Council recorded their great thanks for the efforts of the subcommittee to date.

NZES plans to continue to develop TuiTime and so we have applied to Pacific Development and Conservation Trust for $6500 (the $5K loaned from the society, plus $1500 for making CDs). And applied for $25K from Sustainable Management Fund from MfE (the $5K owed, $3K to improve maori component, $5K to tweak the end of the game, etc etc). Will apply to JS Watson for the max they offer ($4K).

We are still waiting to hear the outcome of these applications. In the meantime, we are keen to get help from volunteers in keeping TuiTime current—please contact Carol West or Jacqueline Beggs if you think you can help.

Treasurer's report

Things seem to fine with NZES finances. The treasurer has put another $40K on term deposit, bringing the total on term deposit to $50K. Most subscriptions now in with an estimated $5K still outstanding. Finances appear generally healthy.

Kauri Fund for Ecological Science

A draft trust deed for the Kauri Fund for Ecological Science was presented and discussed. Several questions for the solicitor and amendments to the draft deed were raised. Clause 4f permits the Trust to borrow money. Is this a problem? Who would be liable for any loss? Council recommended removing this clause. This raised the overall question of liability—are the Trustees liable? Should we incorporate Trust to help with this issue? Council discussed the need to clarify the rules regarding membership of the board of trustees. Do the Society rules need to acknowledge the existence of the Trust? What is the best procedure should the trust be disestablished?

Council were agreed on the purposes of the Trust as specified in the draft deed, and the suggested name "Kauri Fund for Ecological Science".

Bruce Burns is currently redrafting the Trust deed for discussion at the next council meeting. This draft will be placed on the web and advertised to members in the newsletter for consultation before finalising.

Correspondence and membership

We currently have 447 paid up members out of a total of 595. There are 17 "gone no address" including one paid-up member (included in the totals). Journal subscribers, 91 paid out of 116 (plus 18 complimentary subs).

New members

Four unwaged (Carolyn Kurle, Kathrin Affeld, RM Pearce, Mrs Shelley Heiss-Dunlop) and three full (Scott Crawford, Peter Sweetapple, Nic Peet). New subscribers: one (S Mohammed, United Arab Emirates).

Resigned members

Four full and two unwaged.

Council welcomed the new members and accepted the resignations.

Members in arrears: Council resolved to strike off 9 members who were two years in arrears.

Agreed to a request from *Zoological Record* (an abstracting service) for a complimentary subscription.

Council provisionally agreed to be involved as an umbrella organisation following a proposal for an Environmental Professionals organisation (from Prof Ian Spellerberg at Lincoln, among others).

Conferences

Cairns 2002

Council discussed arrangements for this Cairns meeting. Council noted that travel will be expensive: over $1000 for the airfare alone by current quotes. Ben is attempting to negotiate a group price from a travel agent *(see page 2)*. Landcare Research has generously donated some money to support students *(see next newsletter due in September for details on how to apply).*

Student conferences

Council discussed plans for the two student mini-conferences which were due to take place in June and July. *I hope to get a report on these for the next newsletter.*

Sustainability workshop and statement on sustainability

Bruce apologises, no action from him or Kath Dickinson or John Craig. He talked to MfE, who said in Wellington sustainability is "out", sustainable development is "in". Main worry is that members were keen on this happening, but then we don't get action from anyone.

The updated statement on sustainability has had contributions from some members, but is not much further forward. We could wait to respond to anything put out by government departments etc, ie recognise that we can't be pro-active on this.

Next council meetings

9 August in Christchurch, Dec in Cairns.

ECOLSOC E-MAIL LIST SERVER AND WEB PAGE

Ecolsoc E-mail

To subscribe to this server, send a message to the automatic Mailserv processor at:
nzecosoc-request@its.canterbury.ac.nz

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

The command line to stop receiving mail from this list is:
UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC

Once subscribed, you will receive instructions on how to send messages, unsubscribe etc.

PLEASE KEEP THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM.

To send a message to anybody on the list, even if you are not a subscriber, use the address:
nzecosoc@its.canterbury.ac.nz

To reply 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).

For information on the listserver contact the newsletter editor (A.W.Robertson@massey.ac.nz) or me at d.kelly@botn.canterbury.ac.nz. For information on the Australian listserver contact Dave Kelly.

Web page

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

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

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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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New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.)
P.O. Box 25-178
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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.

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