NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITOR

Fleur Maseyk
Horizons Regional Council
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There is plenty of material out there regarding the desperate state, and downward trend, of indigenous biodiversity and our wild places. The privatisation of profit gained from common resources and the socialisation of environmental costs continues to be a reoccurring tragedy. Judging by the talk in other ecological societies' newsletters and the results of research such as that presented in 'Global Biodiversity: Indicators of Recent Declines' (Butchart *et al* 2010), it is evident we are not alone.

The pressures seem as constant as ever, so what is to be our collective response? How far will moral obligation and a sense of responsibility as ecologists carry us? A sea change in attitudes, particularly those around perceived property rights and unbounded development, is required - and sooner rather than later. Such a fundamental shift in our nation's psyche won't occur without loud and difficult public discussions.

There are a lot of positive things about New Zealand that give me hope. We are not in the middle of a civil war, we do not suffer the same level of widespread and abject poverty as some other nations, and—despite its shortcomings—we do have a core agency with the term 'Conservation' in its title responsible for a sizable chunk of the country. And we have the Resource Management Act (RMA). Driven by the RMA, councils around the country are currently heading into the development and notification of their second generation plans. These are the plans that determine how we use or abuse our natural resources, and how we protect those elements and areas we need to—our biodiversity, our ecosystems, and our landscapes. Now is the time for ecologists to be working hard to inform, influence, and drive policy. There is little doubt we have some very big challenges ahead of us. Pushing the boundaries towards a brave new world of sensible resource management is a hard and painful place to be, but it's a brave place, and it's the right place.

This is my last newsletter as editor before handing over to Debra Wotton, and it is the last newsletter before conference. I am sure you will all be looking forward to what promises to be an informative four days. See you in Dunedin!

Reference

Butchart SHM 2010. Global Biodiversity: indicators of recent declines. *Science 328*:1164–1168.

INSIDE:

OUR NEW LOOK

Ruth Guthrie, Fleur Maseyk and Laura Young

The main aims of the New Zealand Ecological Society's Communication Strategy (2008-2018) are to: make ecology approachable and interesting to the public, inform public opinion, incorporate credible science into ecological debate, influence decision-makers and guide policy, and guide resource management and restoration activities. A key element underpinning these aims was the rebranding of the Society's logo and website to provide the Society with a strong identity. An upgrade of the website also makes us more visible and relevant on the internet – a critical communication space.

The Logo

In 2009, the NZES council commissioned Origin Design, a Wellington-based specialist design company, to rebrand the Society. Origin were given the brief to design a logo representing an organisation that can provide information and advice based on objective and rigorous scientific investigation and analysis to help achieve sensible decision-making and sustainable outcomes.

Origin considered building credibility to be an important consideration for our new brand, therefore it steered clear of 'home-made' and overtly 'green' images and created a logo which attempts to invoke professionalism and scientific balance, while still drawing on a 'nature inspired' colour palate.

The final logo design represents connections, relationships, balance, and the natural environment.

Given the prevalence of the 'NZES' acronym across all sectors—energy, environmental, economic and political, Origin recommended we use the full 'New Zealand Ecological Society' in association with the logo. The use of the logo and the text together clearly state what the society is about.

Our new logo lends itself to a number of applications (e.g., electronic, letterhead, banners and pamphlets) while staying crisp and meaningful. The logo can be further enhanced by the placement of an image behind the logo allowing the image to show through the negative spaces of the logo. These images combined with the symbolism of the logo capture the essence of the New Zealand landscape and its ecology. Using the logo this way is visually effective at any scale, from large banners down to pamphlets or promotional postcards.

The Website

Modica have also given our website a fresh new look, incorporating the key principles of clear communication and credibility.

The new website is easy to navigate around and has all your favourite pages, including a ten year archive of the newsletter and a comprehensive list of relevant links.

The Council will be working to continue to improve the website (including updating the journal page) and adding additional features into the future, so if you have any suggestions please get in touch with Laura (laura.young@pg.canterbury.ac.nz).

If you haven't already got the website saved in your 'favourites', head there now and check it out! www.nzes.org.nz

NZES CONFERENCE 2010

Biodiversity: 2010 and beyond
22–25 November 2010
(Student day 21 November)
University of Otago, Dunedin

2010 is the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity. This meeting will address this broad theme in a suite of symposia that include:

- Biodiversity and production lands: the benefits and the risks
- Ecology and conservation of indigenous grasslands
- Molecular ecology of New Zealand's biota
- Cultural perspectives on biodiversity research and management
- Urban ecology: where social and biological sciences need to meet
- Animal reintroductions and the problem of post-release dispersal
- Systematic biodiversity assessment, prioritisation and reporting
- Biodiversity and ecosystem function
- Weta evolutionary ecology
- Macraes Flat: research and management in a changing environment

We are delighted to announce five inspiring plenary and keynote speakers: Professors Kevin Gaston (University of Sheffield), Alan Knapp (Colorado State University), Chris Simon (University of Connecticut and Victoria University of Wellington), Katharine Dickinson (University of Otago), and Dr Mike Joy (Massey University). Others are presently being invited.

Field trips to the new Orokonui Ecosanctuary, the Otago Peninsula, the Grand and Otago Skink management areas at Macraes Flat, and the Waihola–Waipori wetlands complex will show delegates the unusual ecological diversity of the Dunedin region.

Early bird registration closes **22 September 2010**

More details are available at: www.nzes.org.nz

Announcement of the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Ecological Society will be held during the 2010 conference on

Wednesday 24 November
University of Otago, Dunedin (venue to be confirmed)

During the AGM, elections will be held for President, Treasurer, Secretary and one Council member.

NZES Student Conference Awards

Best student NZES Conference Paper

The society makes an annual award to the student who is judged to have presented the best oral paper at the Society's annual conference. The award comprises

- **One year's free membership of the society**
- **A certificate**
- **A prize of NZ$750**

A second place award may also be presented for NZ$400.

All papers (including joint papers) presented solely by students at the main conference are eligible for consideration.

Note: *this award does not consider papers presented at the student session of the conference or papers presented by individuals who are no longer enrolled students.*

Best student NZES Conference Poster

The society makes an annual award to the student (senior author) who is judged to have presented the best poster at the Society's annual conference. The award comprises

- **One year's free membership of the society**
- **A certificate**
- **A prize of $400.**

Note: *posters presented by individuals who are no longer enrolled students are not eligible for the award.*

Student Travel Grants

Students should apply by email to Chris Bycroft (chris@wildlands.co.nz) by ***30 September 2010****.*

Travel Grants are awarded annually to encourage student participation at the Society's annual conference. All bona-fide postgraduate students enrolled at a tertiary educational institute are eligible. Membership to the society is not required.

Up to eight grants with a value of **$400** each are available and priority is given to those presenting papers at the main conference and those who have furthest to travel.

Applications should include a statement of support from an appropriate staff member indicating why the applicant is a worthy candidate for a Student Travel Grant. Please also indicate in your application if you are presenting a paper or a poster at the conference, as well as your tertiary institution.

WHAT'S NEW?

Dataversity – A Community of Practice

Dataversity is an initiative to assist New Zealand organisations to cost-effectively improve their practices and systems for managing data related to biological diversity and biosecurity in their regions, districts, and cities. This community of practice consists of around a hundred biodata practitioners from local government, Department of Conservation, Crown Research Institutes and other government, non-government and private sector organisations, as well as independent consultants who provide cohesion to and coordination of Dataversity. There is potential for Dataversity to be the recognised voice for the New Zealand biodiversity and biosecurity data management community as more and more members join and find commonality in vision.

Participation is open to anyone interested in biodata management and is voluntary. Participants share knowledge, tools and assistance, and at times collaborate to develop new resources. There is a running record on the web of conversations and outputs of meetings, creating an archive of topics and ideas. Conversations include data standards and metadata standards, data sources, databases, and information sharing frameworks.

More pragmatically, the Dataversity web is a place where data management protocols and processes can be lodged, saving new biodata managers the hassle of developing these resources. The Dataversity Biodata System Guide helps current and new participants to find organisations involved in biodata management, requirement definitions for biodata systems, biodata practices documentation, and biodata systems. As Dataversity matures, the forum also has the potential for as a place for concept dissemination and peer review.

Biodata managers participate in Dataversity to gain benefits for their own practice, though the participation benefits others and the biodata sector in New Zealand. This has positive flow-on effects for the data that is available to support biodiversity and biosecurity management nationally and globally.

To browse Dataversity conversations and resources, or join Dataversity, visit http://dataversity.org.nz.

JOHN NICHOLLS 1921–2010

Fleur Maseyk

The passing of John Nicholls in Rotorua on 19 August 2010 (aged 89) marks the end of an era in New Zealand forestry and forest ecology.

Beginning with the National Forest Survey of 1946–1955, through to the 'revised classification of the North Island indigenous forests' (1976) and beyond, John was a cornerstone of ecological forest typing and classification of ecological districts.

It is widely recognised that John gained an unparalleled insight into the compositional variation of New Zealand forests, and contributed greatly to the protection of considerable areas of representative forest ecosystems during the wholesale native forest clearance and conversion to exotic plantation of the 1960s.

In *Characters of FRI* (Klitscher, 1997) John was described as:

"easily the most knowledgeable person in New Zealand on the description and typing of our indigenous forests. John's work on identifying a nationwide system of Ecological Areas must be numbered as one of the genuinely heroic, but unsung, research efforts of the 1970s and '80s. Not only did he play a major role in developing the philosophy for representing natural areas in New Zealand but he, almost single-handedly, identified, mapped, described and defended before a high-powered multi-disciplinary committee close to over 150 Ecological Areas totalling over 300,000 ha. The memorial to his efforts lies not in papers in science journals, but in enduring native forest landscapes. It is unlikely that John's encyclopaedic knowledge of New Zealand native forest composition and species distribution on a national scale will ever again be known to a single person."

Taken from the New Zealand Institute of Forestry webpage (www.nzif.org.nz)

That the Department of Conservation and local government still use John's classification systems today is yet another testament to the rigour of his work.

A obituary for John will feature in the next issue (35(1)) of the New Zealand Journal of Ecology *due out by Christmas.*

HOT SCIENCE

Contemporary cultural evolution of a conspecific recognition signal following serial translocations

PARKER KA, HAUBER ME, & BRUNTON DH

The divergence of conspecific recognition signals (CRS) amongst isolated populations facilitates the evolution of behavioural barriers to gene flow. The influence of CRS evolution on signal effectiveness in isolated populations can be assessed by testing the salience of changes in CRS from surviving ancestral populations but founder events are rarely detected. The population history of the North Island (NI) saddleback *Philesturnus rufusater* is absolutely known following

conservation translocations which increased the number of populations from 1 to 15. With one exception there is no gene flow between these populations. The translocations have generated inter-island divergence of male rhythmical song (MRS), a culturally transmitted CRS. We conducted an experimental test of behavioural discrimination in NI saddlebacks exposed to familiar and unfamiliar MRS and found that responses were significantly stronger for familiar MRS, consistent with a model of contemporary cultural evolution leading to discrimination between geographic song variants. Significantly, this result demonstrates the rapid tempo with which discrimination of CRS might evolve within isolated populations and supports both bottleneck and cultural mutation hypotheses in CRS evolution. The evolutionary implications of contemporary cultural evolution in the production and perception of CRS merit debate on the time frames over which conservation management is evaluated.
This article was published in Evolution 64: 2431-244.

Opportunities for non-native ecological replacements in ecosystem restoration
PARKER KA, SEABROOK-DAVISON M, & EWEN JG
Translocations can take a variety of forms, and there is considerable debate as to what defines an acceptable translocation. This is particularly so if a proposal suggests moving a species beyond its natural range which might be necessary for conservation purposes if habitat within the natural range is extensively modified. An extension of this approach is to use closely related ecological analogues to replace extinct species. This approach is controversial, and opportunities to do so will be rare, particularly for vertebrate species, but the use of ecological analogues is not without precedent, and ultimately will provide for more complete ecological restoration. We discuss the current use of ecological analogues to replace extinct species and conclude with a rare opportunity to replace the extinct New Zealand quail *Coturnix novaezelandiae* with the extant Australian brown quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*.
This article was published in Restoration Ecology 1: 269-273.

Standards for documenting and monitoring bird reintroduction projects
SUTHERLAND WJ, ARMSTRONG D, BUTCHART SHM, EARNHARDT JM, EWEN J, JAMIESON I, JONES CG, LEE R, NEWBERY P, NICHOLS JD, PARKER KA, SARRAZIN F, SEDDON P, SHAH N, &. TATAYAH V
It would be much easier to assess the effectiveness of different reintroduction methods, and so improve the success of reintroductions, if there was greater standardisation in documentation of the methods and outcomes. We suggest a series of standards for documenting and monitoring the methods and outcomes associated with reintroduction projects for birds. Key suggestions are: documenting the planned release before it occurs, specifying the information required on each release, post-release monitoring occurring at standard intervals of one and five years (and 10 for long-lived species), carrying out a population census unless impractical, distinguishing restocked and existing individuals when supplementing populations, and documenting the results. We suggest these principles would apply, largely unchanged, to other vertebrate classes. Similar methods could be adopted for invertebrates and plants with appropriate modification. We suggest that organisations publically state whether they will adopt these approaches when undertaking reintroductions. Similar standardisation would be beneficial for a wide range of topics in environmental monitoring, ecological studies and practical conservation.
Published in Conservation Letters, online early view

ECOTONES

New ecological research by New Zealand ecologists

Populations of 'common' native birds continue to decline in large, protected forests.

New evidence has recently been published recording declines in native bird populations over the last 30 years in a New Zealand forest. Although this may seem just the same story we've been hearing for a while, the concerning thing about these results is that they are of species we think of as common and they are from a large (>100,000 ha) protected National Park. Elliott *et al.* (2010) compared bird counts from 1974-1984 with counts from 2002-2007 along identical transects at Nelson Lakes National Park. Over that c. 30 year time frame, many common native birds (bellbird, rifleman, grey warbler, New Zealand tomtit and tui) and total bird numbers overall declined significantly in abundance. Interestingly, a few birds did not follow this trend, with silvereye more than five times more common in the later period than the earlier, and blackbirds maintaining population numbers. The authors concluded that the most likely explanation for the substantive declines was the effect of introduced predators and competitors. These data refute the idea that some native bird species may have achieved some sort of population equilibrium with exotic predators, and show that protection of even large forest tracts by themselves will not be enough to conserve a diverse native forest bird community in New Zealand without active management.

Elliott GP, Wilson PR, Taylor RH, Beggs JR 2010. Declines in common, widespread native birds in a mature temperate forest. *Biological Conservation 143*: 2119–2126.

Do belowground fungal communities influence lodgepole pine invasion?

The invasion of grasslands of the South Island and parts of the North Island by pines and other conifers is a major weed issue. Pine invasion in parts of the southern hemisphere has been limited sometimes by the absence of appropriate ectomycorrhizal soil fungi that can form mutualisms. So, what mutualisms are lodgepole pines entering into to allow the current invasion, and are they with native species or coinvading species? Dickie et al. (2010) compared the ectomycorrhizal communities of lodgepole pine with co-occurring mountain beech to find out. They concluded that the invasion by lodgepole is clearly a co-invasion-dominated process with 93% of ectomycorrhizal associations being with non-native fungi, and fungal diversity limited to 14 species. In contrast, mountain beech had 86% of its ectomycorrhizal associations with native fungi represented by a rich diversity of fungal taxa (97 species). These results are important and intriguing for a number of reasons. They support the emerging idea of greater host-fungus preference in ectomycorrhizal associations, and suggest that the exotic fungal mutualists of lodgepole are widespread in soils to allow this invasion. They also hint that greater understanding and management of the belowground fungal community may be a key to explanations of plant distributions and invasions.

Dickie IA, Bolstridge N, Cooper JA, Peltzer, DA 2010. Co-invasion by *Pinus* and its mycorrhizal fungi. *New Phytologist 187*: 475–484.

Pasture is a landscape barrier to dispersing North Island robins.

The persistence and distribution of species in fragmented landscapes is often related to the ease with which they disperse between patches across the intervening matrix. Any reluctance of species to disperse across matrix habitat types will effectively isolate populations within small patches. Richard and Armstrong (2010) followed juvenile North Island robins over three years in a fragmented landscape in central North Island to build up a picture of their dispersal behaviour. By fitting models varying dispersal resistance of

different habitat types to these data, they have been able to estimate how juvenile robins perceive dispersal choices. Juvenile robins moved in decreasing order of preference through native forest, plantations and shrubland, and showed a marked reluctance for flying over pasture. Under the best model, the largest pasture gap crossed was 110 m. Such information will allow the design of landscapes that provide functional connectivity to particular species in fragmented landscapes through the use of habitat corridors, or the spatial arrangement of sympathetic landuses.

Richard Y, Armstrong DA 2010. Cost distance modelling of landscape connectivity and gap-crossing ability using radio-tracking data. *Journal of Applied Ecology 47*: 603–610.

Incorporating alternative methods could improve management of Tb in possum populations

A major tactic in eliminating bovine tuberculosis from cattle herds in New Zealand is major reductions in adjacent brushtail possum populations which provide the main wildlife reservoirs of the disease. As well as intensive culling, two alternative methods to control either the disease or the possums are either being considered for use or in development. The first is a Tb vaccine for possums that can be delivered orally (using bacille Calmette–Guérin (BCG)) and currently in field trials, and the second is fertility controls (e.g., immunocontraception) which is still in development but could also be delivered in an oral vaccine. Ramsey and Efford (2010) have developed a new spatially-explicit model to examine the response of Tb prevalence in possum populations to different combinations of management approaches using combinations of the conventional intensive cull with the two alternative approaches. Their model predicted that a combination of initial culling of possums combined with a vaccine with BCG and/or fertility control every three years were the most cost-effective approaches. Their work encourages exploration of these alternative approaches and may see changes in possum population management in the future.

Ramsey DSL, Efford MG 2010: Management of bovine tuberculosis in brushtail possums in New Zealand: predictions from a spatially explicit, individual-based model. *Journal of Applied Ecology 47*: 911–919.

Domatia influence foliar mite communities on *Coprosma*.

Domatia, small indentations on the leaf surface usually at the junction of the primary and secondary veins, occur on the leaves of a number of New Zealand plant species (e.g., *Coprosma* species, hinau). The current hypothesis for the function of domatia is to act as habitat to support populations of foliar mites which act to control other plant-eating insects, fungal epiphytes and pathogens. O'Connell et al (2010) report experiments to understand the influence of domatia on foliar mite communities of *Coprosma lucida* (karamu) near Dunedin. They compared mite communities that developed on shrubs with domatia and those with blocked domatia in a range of habitats. More mite species occurred on the shrubs in native forest habitats than other habitats, and leaves with domatia supported higher mite densities and more diverse mite assemblages than those with the domatia blocked. This study confirmed that mite communities were influenced by the presence of domatia. Perhaps more importantly, however, it provides a window into an ecological world previously neglected in New Zealand, the ecology of leaf surfaces, and greater understanding of interactions at this scale is a useful direction for future research.

O'Connell DM, Lee WG, Monks A, Dickinson KJM 2010: Does microhabitat structure affect foliar mite assemblages? *Ecological Entomology 35*: 317–328.

Bruce Burns

IN THE NEWS

Compiled by Fleur Maseyk

The dawn of the sixth great extinction?

(Daily Mail 26-May-2010)

The Madagascan Alaotra grebe has been declared extinct in what scientists believe may herald the beginning of a global catastrophe only recorded five times in Earth's history as bird species alone seem to be disappearing at the rate of one per decade. Biologists have claimed that the rate at which species are vanishing from the planet could indicate we are on the verge of the 'sixth great extinction'. The previous five cataclysmic events during Earth's prehistory, were naturally caused. This is the first time humans have been implicated in causing mass global extinction. The demise of the Alaotra grebe has been attributed to the introduction of a carnivorous fish into its habitat, and entanglement in fishing nets.

The Madagascan Alaotra grebe, last seen twenty-five years ago.

New species discovered

(Reuters 17-May-2010)

An international group of scientists found several new species including a Pinocchio-nosed frog, the smallest known wallaby, and a yellow-eyed gecko, in the remote Foja Mountains on the island of New Guinea in late 2008. Details of the expedition were released in time for the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2010.

"While animals and plants are being wiped out across the globe at a pace never seen in millions of years, the discovery of these absolutely incredible forms of life is much needed positive news," said Conservation International's Bruce Beehler, a participant on the expedition.

The Foja Mountains are in the Indonesian province of Papua on the island of New Guinea and cover a large area of undeveloped and undisturbed rainforest. "Places like these represent a healthy future for all of us and show that it is not too late to stop the current species extinction crisis" said Mr Beehler.

Kauri provide a unique climate change record

(Waikato University 28-May-2010)

Northland's long summer drought has lead to the discovery of 70 to 80 sub-fossil kauri providing an invaluable resource for climate records said Dr Alan Hogg, the Director of the Waikato Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory. The tree rings from swamp kauri reveal climate change information including annual rainfall and temperatures from thousands of years ago.

Dr Hogg is currently focusing his research on five ancient kauri found at Towai, north of Whangarei, which grew 12,000–13,000 years ago and span a short and very rapid cooling period in the earth's climate—a mini-ice age which lasted about 1,000 years and saw temperatures in Greenland drop seven degrees in only 10 years. This period, known as the Younger Dryas cooling interval, occurred in the middle of a longer period of global warming and has aroused curiosity among the world's climate change researchers who theorise this sudden global cooling was connected with changing ocean circulation patterns in the North Atlantic.

Dr Alan Hogg

Hunters call for deer to be seen as game animals not pests

(Guide2.co.nz 23-June-2010)

A new report has been released which advises the Government on how to set up a Game Animal Council. Hunters want the legal status of wild deer, pigs, tahr, and chamois changed to "game animals" and they hope that the establishment of a Game Animal Council will change perceptions of feral deer from environmental pests to potentially valuable prey.

Hunting lobbyists have long argued that feral deer and pigs have a rightful place in New Zealand, and they have been supported by the United Future party. Party leader Peter Dunne, said the report brought a Council one step closer for the "long-neglected" recreational hunting community. "These large game animals deserve responsible management as valued introduced species rather than just the pests they are currently considered to be," he said.

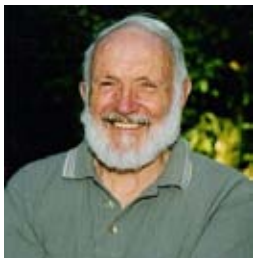
However, there is scientific evidence that feral pests at any stocking density damage ecosystems and the biodiversity of native plants and animals, and the environmental lobby group Forest and Bird considers that the proposed Council is unbalanced and has voiced concerns over the proposal. "The proposal is incompatible with New Zealand's conservation laws and international commitments, which put protection of our native plants and animals first," the organisation's conservation advocate Quentin Duthie said.

A formal response from the Government is due in September.

Colin Burrows wins the Loder Cup

(The Press 10-Aug-2010)

Christchurch ecologist Colin Burrows has been awarded this year's Loder Cup for his contribution to Canterbury's natural history and plant ecology.



Colin Burrows.

The cup honours New Zealanders who work to "investigate, promote, retain, and cherish our indigenous flora".

Dr Burrows was recognised for his active involvement with Save Lake Manapouri Campaign in the 1970s, and currently helping drive the Quail Island restoration in Lyttelton Harbour.

Announcing the award, Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson said "For over 50 years he has been inspiring others as a researcher, mentor and teacher, and as a role model for community conservation projects".

Obsession attracts big cats

(Reuters 10-Jun-2010)

Biologists Rony Garcia and Jose Moreira from the Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS) Jaguar Conservation Program say they use hidden cameras as a primary source for observing and tracking jaguars in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve, and to attract the cats in front of the camera they rely on Obsession for Men by Calvin Klein.

The WCS was looking for ways to get cheetahs in front of camera traps, and, after several years of testing with different fragrances, found spraying the musky Obsession For Men near the heat-and-motion-sensitive cameras drew the cats for longer than other scents.

Common names for rare species

(Guardian 16-Jul-2010)

The Guardian competition to name some lesser-known and threatened United Kingdom insects, lichens and sea-creatures attracted an outpouring of interest, ingenuity, some poetry, a touch of magic, and more than 3,000 entries.

Guardian columnist George Monbiot made a plea for more common names in order to capture the public imagination after a report by Natural England, the government's countryside and biodiversity agency, revealed that more than two species a year were becoming extinct in England, and nearly 1,000 more were seriously under threat of disappearing.

Winning names including 'Queen's executioner beetle', 'kaleidoscope jellyfish', 'witches' whiskers lichen', and 'sea piglet shrimp' incorporated reference to location, character and appearance. The creation of common names strengthens connections between people and their wildlife.

Kangaroos barometer of climate change

(news 4-Aug-2010)

Kangaroo evolution is a barometer of climate change in Australia and could help determine how local fauna may be affected in the future, a new study shows.

Kangaroos and wallabies have been around for at least 30 million years, and have long been recognised as potentially ideal barometers of historical climatic change, but difficulties in working out which species are related and when certain lineages evolved have hampered research for more than a century.

Using skeletons of modern and fossil species, recent collaborative work between a palaeontologist and an anatomist have pieced together a detailed kangaroo family tree. "We are now able to say that many of the key stages within the evolution of the group actually match quite closely with key stages in the evolution of Australia's climate" said Dr Prideaux palaeontologist at Flinders

University. Getting the kangaroo story together could help scientists look at the impact contemporary climate change will have on Australia's remaining fauna, he said.

Fat penguins make the best fathers

(Livescience 13-Jul-2010)

Adélie penguins, a species of Antarctic penguin, rely on calling to attract female penguins during courtship rituals. "They're not musical calls—they sound like a cross between a donkey and a stalled car," said study researcher Emma Marks of the University of Auckland.

A new study has determined that the male's call discloses how fat he is, and in this case fat indicates better parenting. Pudgy males are "a good choice for a female, because males do so much of the offspring care," said study researcher Dianne Brunton of Massey University. "They're able to incubate the eggs for longer and use up their fat stores, while skinny males aren't able to do that."

As females can't judge a male's fatness just by looking at him, the call is an important indicator for a female choosing a mate.

The results of this research were published in Behaviour earlier this year.

Marks EJ, Rodrigo AG; Brunton, DH.2010: Ecstatic display calls of the Adélie penguin honestly predict male condition and breeding success. *Behaviour 147(2)*:165-184

ACROSS THE TASMAN

ESA Bulletin June 2010

Ecology in Action Photographic Competition

As part of the Ecology Society of Australia's (ESA) 50th Anniversary celebrations, the Society is running a photographic completion. As entry is not limited to ESA members, and is free, this is a great opportunity for New Zealand ecologists who have worked in Australia, or with Australian ecologists, to submit a winning photograph. There are two categories: 1) Ecologists in Action, and 2) Ecology in Action.

Important dates:

- Entries close mid-September 2010.
- People's choice award open for voting October 2010.

Winners will be notified in December 2010, and winning entries will be displayed at the ESA 2010 conference in Canberra.

More details can be found on the ESA website (www.ecolsoc.org.au).

Introducing CATER

CATER stands for Carbon Accumulation Through Ecosystem Recovery and is a Queensland Government initiative to facilitate carbon sequestration through the recovery of natural ecosystems. Queensland has large areas that have been recently cleared that could be restored with active and sensitive management that allows existing seed-banks to regenerate. International markets will be responsive to the opportunities for sequestration with cost effective and biodiversity-friendly projects that are secured by adequate regulation. With CATER, and a price on carbon, regional economies in Queensland will have the opportunity to diversify their economic base. The project will deliver web-based information showcasing this outstanding opportunity. Once up-and-running, the CATER website will provide carbon forecasts, management prescriptions and define the biodiversity value of ecosystem restoration projects. CATER will be informed by a broad range of ecological studies that will be conducted across ecosystems as diverse as arid mulga forest and tropical rainforest.

The project presents opportunities for PhD students through the Ecology Centre at the University of Queensland. There are many exciting projects compatible with CATER's broad agenda and top-up funding will be available for students eligible for APA scholarships.

Interested? Contact: r.fensham@uq.edu.au

Politics and Ecology

The article in *Science* featured in this issue's editorial also featured in the ESA Bulletin, along with commentary on the Australian Government's stalling of the Emissions Trading Scheme, and frustration at the lack of global progress following on from the Copenhagen Summit last year. It would seem the need for ecological science to work to influence policy is as great over the Tasman as it is here.

Social Networking and Ecology

In response to an expressed need from society members for increased interactive and networking opportunities, the ESA is now on Facebook and Twitter.

RECENT STUDENT RESEARCH

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

This issue: University of Canterbury

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

2008

Allen SE. The effect of population bottleneck size on parasitic load and immunocompetence of introduced birds in New Zealand.

Blakely TJ. Tree holes as habitat for aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates in mixed broadleaf-podocarp rainforest, New Zealand.

Debruyne CA. Fluctuating asymmetry and body morphology in relation to population bottlenecks of introduced birds in New Zealand.

Greig HS. Community assembly and food web interactions across pond permanence gradients.

Sarfati MS. Diapause by seed predators and parasitoids in *Chionochloa* mast seeding communities.

MASTER OF SCIENCE

2008

Ertel C. Algal preferences in the masking behaviour of the spider crab, *Notomithrax ursus*.

Fluen TA. Comparative analysis of evolutionary changes in island birds.

Mesa LA. The influence of pollinator diversity and behaviour on pollen movement in *Brassica rapa chinensis* (PakChoi) crops, and its significance for gene escape.

Sinton AMR. The ecology of freshwater communities of stock water races on the Canterbury Plains.

Wood H.F. The benthic ecology and food web dynamics of Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere).

2009

Doehring KAM. Urbanisation influences on freshwater fish distribution and remediation of migratory barriers.

GOING GLOBAL: INTRODUCING SOCIETIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Ecological Society of Nigeria ECOSON

the Ecological Society of Nigeria
Publishers of the Nigerian Journal of Ecology

The Ecological Society of Nigeria (ECOSON) was formed in 1973 to advance the education of the public and publish ecological research. The society publishes the Nigerian Journal of Ecology. Described as a "journal by ecologists for ecologists" the Journal accepts descriptive, experimental, theoretical, review and position papers covering all aspects of terrestrial and aquatic ecology. Contrasting with the New Zealand Journal of Ecology, subject areas of the Nigerian Journal seem to have an emphasis on traditional knowledge, human interaction with the environment and sustainable resource use.

The society holds biennial conferences and workshops, the proceedings of which are also published.

Netherlands-Flemish Society for Ecology NECOV

necov

The Netherlands-Flemish Ecological Society (NECOV) was formed by the merger of the Flemish and Dutch Ecological Societies. The Society focuses on "the promotion of fundamental and applied ecology, national and international collaboration of ecologists, and the sustainable management of the biosphere". The official publication of the society 'Bionews' has twenty issues a year, and is published by the Dutch Institute for Biology. The hydrological branch of the NECOV has, since 1971, produced the journal 'Aquatic Ecology' - A multidisciplinary journal relating to processes and structures at different organisational levels.

NECOV are supporters of the 3rd International Multidisciplinary conference on Hydrology and Ecology (Ecosystems, Groundwater and Surface Water – Pressures and Options) to be held in Vienna on the 2–5 May 2011.

Somali Ecological Society SES

URURKA IKOOLOJIYADA SOOMAALIYEED
SOMALI ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Somali Ecological Society (SES), was established in the early 1980s in response to the pressure natural resources and livelihoods were facing and to promote the study and sustainable use of natural resources in the Horn of Africa. Since 1991, and the outbreak of civil war, meeting the objectives of the Society have not been easy. Founders and former members, many of whom were refuges living in the United Kingdom, revitalised the SES in 1996. In 1999 two fact-finding missions were sent to Somalia and Somaliland. The missions delivered disturbing news including the indiscriminate felling of trees as a result of an increased demand for wood-fuel, the illegal export of charcoal to the Gulf States, over-fishing and illegal fishing by foreign companies in Somali waters, indiscriminate shooting and hunting of wildlife, uncontrolled over-grazing by livestock, erosion, wide spread threats of environmental degradation and desertification, and the possibility that many flora and fauna species face extinction.

The Ecological Society of America ESA

esa The Ecological Society of America
1990 M Street, NW | Suite 700 | Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-833-8773 | Fax: 202-833-8775 | Email: esahq@esa.org

In vast contrast to the Somali Ecological Society, is The Ecological Society of America (ESA). Founded in 1915, the ESA, as would be expected, is a very large society with over 10,000 members and aims and objectives that closely mirror those of NZES. Members can join Sections (to promote various special interests)

or Chapters (to enhance communication amongst members regionally), the Chairs of which serve on the ESA Governing Board.

The ESA publishes a suite of publications, from peer-reviewed journals (including Ecosphere, Ecology, Ecological Monographs, Ecological Applications, Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment www.ecojournals.org) to newsletters, fact sheets and teaching resources. The ESA Bulletin is available free on-line (www.esajournals.org/toc/ebul).

The ESA also encompasses three offices;

- The Public Affairs Office focuses on getting ecological understanding into decision-making, conveying ecological science to the media and the general public, and providing services to the ecological community.
- The Science Programs Office, works on specific projects and initiatives (e.g., the Panel on Vegetation Classification, and the Data Sharing Initiative) and linking the ecological research and management communities.
- The Education and Diversity Programs Office works to increase diversity within ecology-related professions, to engage the public in a dialogue on ecological research and issues, and to improve the quality of ecology education at all levels.

The ESA also offers a certification program to its members that recognises professional ecologists who have met certain standards in education, experience, and ethics, and helps identify these standards to the general public.

The next ESA meeting will be held on the 7-12 August, 2011, in Austin, Texas, with a theme of "Planetary stewardship: Preserving and enhancing earth's life-support systems".

NOTICEBOARD

STUDENT GRANT FOR BOTANICAL RESEARCH

AUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 26391, Epsom, Auckland 1344
Contact person: Kristy Hall (Secretary)
Email: aucklandbotanicalsociety@gmail.com

STUDENT GRANT FOR BOTANICAL RESEARCH CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2011

Applications are invited for the Lucy Cranwell Grant of $2,000 from the Auckland Botanical Society to assist a student studying for the degree of PhD, MSc or BSc (Hons.) in any tertiary institution in New Zealand whose thesis project deals with some aspect of New Zealand's flora and vegetation. Priority will be given to projects relevant to the northern half of the North Island.

The research project to be supported will be chosen on the basis of appropriateness to the objectives of the Society, namely to encourage the study of botany, and to stimulate public interest in the plant life of New Zealand and its preservation, conservation and cultivation. The grant will be administered by the student's supervisor as a contribution to expenses associated with the project.

Closing date for applications: **Wednesday 27th October 2010**

A copy of the Application Form and the Rules of the award can be obtained from:
Kristy Hall, Secretary
Email: aucklandbotanicalsociety@gmail.com

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Honorary Fellow,
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The new internet factsheets, "Interesting Insects and other Invertebrates", are now available on line at http://nzacfactsheets.landcareresearch.co.nz/Index.html

The production of the factsheets was a joint project, with the first 18 factsheets being funded by TFBIS, and Landcare Research contributing with the IT work.

The material in the factsheets can be used by people for their own projects and is likely to be of interest to people involved in habitat restoration and land management, education, and people with an interest in plants and insects.

In a few months time we hope to invite members to write their own factsheets and so contribute to the series.

We welcome feedback about what you like about the factsheets and where improvements can be made.

CELEBRATING WETLANDS

The year 2011 marks the 40th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention on Internationally Significant Wetlands—the only international treaty that relates to a specific ecosystem type dispersed across the globe. The Department of Conservation, National Wetland Trust, Fish and Game Council, Forest and Bird, and Auckland Regional and Manukau City Council staff met recently to brainstorm ideas for a range of events to celebrate throughout the year.

If you are interested in contributing ideas or finding out more please email: karen.denyer@wetlandtrust.org.nz

DONATE NOW! KAURI FUND FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE

We invite you to help grow the science of ecology in New Zealand by contributing to the NZES Kauri Fund. This fund was established in 2001 to provide resources for initiatives that assist the development of ecology and ecologists in New Zealand. As the Fund grows, it will play an increasingly critical role in advancing the Society's goals and fund exciting new initiatives for New Zealand ecology.

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

You can make your contribution to the Kauri Fund in two ways:

Send a cheque made out to the "NZES Kauri Fund" to the New Zealand Ecological Society, P.O. Box 25 178, Christchurch 8144.

Use internet banking, to credit your donation to New Zealand Ecological Society, bank account 06 0729 0465881 00, identifying the payment as "Kauri Fund".

UPCOMING MEETINGS

NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

Plants in a human landscape – conservation outside nature reserves

Canterbury Horticultural Society Rooms, Christchurch

8–10 October 2010

If you are not a Network member and would like to receive information about this conference when registration details are confirmed then please email us (info@nzpcn.org.nz)
For details see: NZPCN Conference

ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

2010 EIANZ Conference at Te Papa

Wellington, New Zealand

26–29 October 2010

Hosted by the New Zealand Chapter of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ).

The conference celebrates the International Year of Biodiversity, looking at the place of biodiversity in broader environmental management issues. Confirmed plenary speakers are Peter Newman, Marilyn Waring, Graeme Pearman and Larissa Brown. Over 60 invited speakers and submitted papers in seven streams:

- Valuing Ecosystems
- Assessment and Monitoring
- Urban Challenges
- Natural Resource Governance
- Community Action
- Business Leadership
- Wicked Problems

These topics are designed to appeal to a wide range of disciplines including ecologists, economists, local and central government policy analysts, urban designers, community development specialists, business leaders and industry representatives.

And, in brief, 5 field trips

A – From heavy metal to high amenity
Travel round Wellington Harbour to Waiwhetu Stream and in the afternoon visit Matiu-Somes Island.

B – From history to current controversy
Matiu-Somes Island then continue across the harbour to visit Pencarrow Lakes.

C – Sustainable buildings and a jewel in the urban crown?
Walking tour of the CBD to see some examples of sustainable urban design. In the afternoon visit Karori Wildlife Sanctuary.

D – From water to wine
Into the Wairarapa - visit Lake Wairarapa and see sustainable farming in action.

E – Limiting urban sprawl?
Projects around Makara including Makara Wind Farm.

To view the full confirmed programme see:
http://www.confer.co.nz/eianz2010/programme.html
or contact:
Conference Secretariat:
Conferences and Events Ltd
PO Box 24078, Manners St
Wellington 6142
Phone: +64 4 384 1511
e-mail:eianz2010@confer.co.nz

ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Ecology and Education Summit
Washington, DC
October 14-15 2010
Co-organised by the Ecological Society of America and National Education Association and more than 20 national organisations and partners.
Investing in environmental literacy is critical to developing a workforce and a citizenry that can engage in public discourse, research, and governance for a sustainable world. Join in a national dialogue including education, scientific, health and business communities to accelerate the transformation of teaching and learning among K-20+ audiences in both formal and informal settings. This is an incredible opportunity to disseminate best practices that will advance *Environmental Literacy for a Sustainable World,* reduce duplication of efforts, and coordinate strategies to build capacity and pathways of support for green careers for the next generation.

Registration closes 20 September
For registrations and more information see: www.esa.org/eesummit/

LANDCARE RESEARCH, AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INC. AND THE NEW ZEALAND PLANT RADIATION NETWORK

"Systematic botany across the ditch: links between Australia and New Zealand"

Lincoln University, Lincoln

Monday 29 November – Friday 3 December 2010

The conference will include the following themes:
- Palaeobotany
- Biogeography
- Phylogeny

- Algae
- Hybridisation
- Biosecurity/weeds

Organised by Landcare Research, Australian Systematic Botany Society, and the New Zealand Plant Radiation Network.

For conference registration form, speakers abstract form, accommodation, field trip details, and key dates see:
www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/conferences/asbs2010/index.asp
or
e-mail: ASBS2010@landcareresearch.co.nz

ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Annual Conference: Sustaining biodiversity – the next 50 years
6–10 December 2010

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

www.esa2010.org.au/

INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS

IBC2011
XVIII international botanical congress
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA | 23-30 JULY 2011

The Australian botanical community invites you to Melbourne, Australia in July 2011 to participate in the XVIII International Botanical Congress. Australia has a vibrant scientific community active across all botanical disciplines and its researchers play a prominent and highly collaborative role in international biological sciences.

Themes include:

- Systematics, evolution, biogeography & biodiversity informatics
- Ecology, environmental change & conservation
- Structure, development & cellular biology
- Genetics, genomics & bioinformatics
- Physiology & biochemistry
- Economic botany including biotechnology, agriculture & plant breeding

Proposals for general symposia are now being sought.

For full details see: www.ibc2011

SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

More information coming soon, see:
www.conbio.org

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF BIOMETEOROLOGY

19th International Congress of Biometeorology (ICB2011)

University of Auckland
New Zealand

5-9 December 2011

Climate and Society

The overall aim of ICB2011 is to explore the links between climate and society. This is because a central ethos of the interdisciplinary science of Biometeorology is the desire to understand interactions between atmospheric processes and living organisms - plants, animals and humans. Such interactions are fundamental to the well-being and sustainability of society at a range of geographical and time scales. Given this we anticipate the participation of scientists including social scientists and health scientists from a wide range of fields in ICB2011.

At this stage of the planning process the general ICB2011 programme structure will include plenary sessions, parallel paper sessions, fieldtrips (optional), and social events such as an ice breaker and congress dinner.

For further detail see: www.icb2011.com

NATIONAL WETLAND RESTORATION SYMPOSIUM

The 5th National Wetland Restoration Symposium will be held in Invercargill during March 2012. This symposium is being organised by the Southland Wetlands Working Party in conjunction with the National Wetland Trust.

More details to follow, for updates see:
www.wetlandtrust.org.nz

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCIL

Membership report

A warm welcome to new members

New members as confirmed by Council on 28 July 2010:

Salman	Al-Shami	
Kerri	Lukis	
Michael	Cripps	Lincoln University
Nicholas	Dickinson	Lincoln University
Rebecca	Lawrence	
Jan	Berghan	Unitec New Zealand
Sarah	Withers	
Dan	Blanchon	Unitec New Zealand
Ann-Jorun	Bronstad	North Shore City Council
Trina	Smith	Unitec New Zealand
Tarryn	Wyman	University of Canterbury
Graham	Jones	Unitec New Zealand
Luitgard	Schwendenmann	Auckland University
Amelia	Geary	
Liz	Deakin	University of Canterbury
Alastair	Jamieson	Wild Earth Media Ltd
Thomas	Etherington	
Alex	Schanzer	
Philip	Pointon	
John T	Darby	
Jessica	Kerr	University of Canterbury
Cecilia	Romo	University of Canterbury
Amy	Adams	
Lorna	Deppe	University of Canterbury
Sarah	Herbert	
Beatrice	Wiggenhauser	
Sarah	Wyse	University of Auckland
Jesse	Bythell	Biosis
Becky	Bell	Golder Associates
Kimberley	Harris	
Renee	Johansen	University of Auckland
Georgina	Pickerell	
Sarah Jane	Wells	
Phil	Bishop	University of Otago
Lorraine	Cook	Department of Conservation
Thalia	Sachtleben	Department of Conservation
Melissa	Griffin	
John	Steel	University of Otago
Monique	Wheat	University of Auckland

NZES Council also welcome our **new journal subscribers:**

National Agricultural Library, Baltimore
Librarian Collections (Serials), Te Papa

The following resignations were acknowledged:

C. Clarke	Jenny Rodgers
Theresa Downs	Leslie Molloy

Council minutes

These minutes have been edited and abridged.

28 July 2010, Wellington.

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

Correspondence

1. The Ecological Society of Australia is celebrating their 50th anniversary. ESA has invited NZES Council representation at the conference. Bruce or K.C. will attend.
2. ESA is also establishing an 'Austral Ecology Network' to encourage ongoing communication and collaboration between ecologists across the Southern Hemisphere. NZES will be kept informed and involved.
3. Bruce received audited accounts from INTECOL.
4. A copy of 'Threatened plants of New Zealand' was received from Canterbury University Press. Chris will review. Book reviews will be moved from the journal to the newsletter.

Finances

Account balances 28/07/2010:

Cheque	$42,772.60
Westpac	$12,756.05 (01/07/2010)
Cash fund	$62,840.49
Barlow	$56,501.34
Kauri	$63,440.85

Automatic payments made since 18/03/2009

5 x $200.00 to Kauri Fund
4 x $844.81 to Secretariat

Transfers made between Cash fund and Cheque account

09 April $5,000
11 May $6,500

2010 Budget and Year to Date

Income	**Budget**	**YTD 18/03/10**	**YTD 28/07/10**
Memberships	31,000.00	18,887.26 (+Westpac)	23908.20
Westpac			12,000.00
Journal subscriptions	10,000.00	-	
2009 Conference profit	16,179.82	0	32,795.85
Return of INTECOL seed funding	12,521.32	0	
Interest	7,000.00	624.59 (+Westpac)	
TOTAL PREDICTED INCOME	**76,701.14**	**19,511.85**	**68,704.05**
Expenses			
Journal Production	16,000.00	26,040.16	33,961.15
Newsletter printing + Layout	900.00	256.16	943.80
Secretariat	9,000.00	2,534.43	5,913.67
Council travel	3,000.00	947.00	1,953.95
Preparing accounts	562.50	0	0
Auditor	750.00	0	0
Administration	3,000.00	2,087.61	3,705.88
Contribution to Kauri and Barlow funds	2,400.00	600.00	1,600.00
Awards	3,600.00	1,000.00	500.00
Website development	c. 10,000.00	0	9,753.75
Conference seed/sponsorship	0	4,000.00	4,000.00

TOTAL PREDICTED EXPENSES	**49,212.50**	**37,765.36**	**62,332.20**
Kauri Fund (National Bank)			
Income			
Contributions from main account	2,400.00	600.00	1,600.00
Interest	3,000.00	453.09	
Expenses			
Grants	0	0	
Barlow Fund (National Bank)			
Income			
Contributions from main account	0	0	
Interest	2,000.00	403.91	
Expenses			
Grants	0	0	

Notes:

1. Return from INTECOL includes both seed funding and profit.
2. Income: membership, journal subscriptions, page charges, Kauri Fund donations and interest all come into both the National Bank accounts and the Westpac (credit card) accounts. This is difficult to tease apart, but the totals are correct.
3. Because expenses are limited to two automatic payments and cheques these are accurate.
4. Awards appear to have gone down since last time, but are actually the same: A cheque for $500 has not been presented.
5. Interest not presented for Cash, Barlow, and Kauri Funds.

Journal printing costs are greatly reduced due to the new format and printing methods.

The overall Journal costs were more expensive than initially budgeted because the costs for the Feathers to Fur issue were incurred this year, while we received support for this issue last financial year.

$20,000.00 from the cheque account to be transferred the Kauri Fund.

$200 per month will be paid into the Barlow Fund to accelerate that account.

Journal

1. The 2009 impact factor is 1.11, which is a big jump from last year and a sign that the journal is in good standing (Austral Ecology is 1.58 and the Royal Society journals average around 0.8).
2. 34(3) is now in print. It contains eight articles and two short communications.
3. There will be four issues in volume 34 – two regular issues (2 & 3) and two additional issues edited by others (1 – Feathers to Fur and 4 – Detection methods in Wildlife Management (Edited by John Parkes))
4. The first issue of 2011, 35(1), is nearly full with one review, nine articles and two short communications. It should be in the post in early December.
5. 28 manuscripts have been received so far in 2010. 17 are in review, seven were rejected without review and four have been accepted. These numbers are similar to last year, with a slightly smaller total number of manuscripts received, but fewer manuscripts that fell outside the Journal's scope and were rejected outright.
6. Gabor Lovie has stepped down from the editorial board.
7. K.C. suggested we think about putting into action the 'online only' option of journal dissemination.

Confirmation of members receiving the journal electronically, and an email alerts will be set-up.

K.C. will investigate the possibility of establishing online submission system for manuscripts.

Mel reported that he has started to receive manuscripts for the special journal issue on Tiritiri Matangi. There is money set aside to cover publication costs. This could represent a third edition of the Journal for 2011.

Newsletter

The next issue (early September) will be the last newsletter before the conference and will contain the AGM announcement. Annual reports will go into the issue following the annual conference.

Fleur pointed out that if the Council meeting minutes are to go onto the website they should be accessed only by members, or put onto NZES letterhead so that they are appropriately recognised and in context (especially financial information).

Website

The new website is ready to launch following a few changes. We will continue to make corrections and changes once the website is launched.

Conferences

Dunedin conference:

The conference website is up and running. Council meeting to be held on Monday evening (to allow for fieldtrips), the AGM will be held on Wednesday evening prior to the conference dinner.

2011 SCB conference:

Liasion will continue with the SCB conference organisers as to an agreement between the two societies for a joint NZES-SCB conference in 2011.

General Business

Archives from University of Canterbury:

Most of the archived material at Canterbury has been sorted through. There were a number of folders with letters relating to Submissions by NZES over a large period which will be catalogued in order to determine if it should be archived or scanned. The National Archives will be approached regarding what material should be kept. The majority of the original cover drawings for NZJE have been recovered.

Promotion of the New Zealand Ecological Society:

With the website up and running we can have lots of educational downloads, e.g., a "what is ecology" brochure. We should be aiming to put publications other than papers on the web which could target a wider range of audience. This fits well with the communication strategies.

NZES LISTSERVER

Dave Kelly
Dave.Kelly@canterbury.ac.nz

RULES FOR THE NZES LISTSERVER

This listserver is for "issues of general interest" to NZ ecologists (conferences, jobs, etc).

The list has three key guidelines:

1. Only messages of genuine general interest. No ads for things being sold (this does not include job ads which are OK) and no fringe interests. If in doubt check with me first.
2. If you want to reply to a posting, the default is for you to reply only to the sender. Do not reply to the whole list unless you are sure your point will be of "general interest", which most replies are not. Please check what "To" field you have set before pressing "Send". Remember this listserver is primarily for announcements, not discussions.
3. No attachments—put your message in plain text, with if necessary a link to a pdf on a web page.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

To subscribe to this server, e-mail a message to the automatic Mailserv processor at:nzecosoc-request@it.canterbury.ac.nz following text in the body of the e-mail:

SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
END

To unsubscribe from the listserv, send this message to the same address above:

UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC

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

TO SEND A MESSAGE

To send a message to everybody on the list, use the address, nzecosoc@it.canterbury.ac.nz. Only people subscribed to the list are able to post to it. If you are not on the list and don't want to subscribe, but want a message, send it to me (Dave.Kelly@canterbury.ac.nz) to forward on.

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

If you change your e-mail address, you have to unsubscribe from the old one, and subscribe from the new address. The easiest way to unsubscribe your old email address is to send a message while you are logged on at the old address; if the old e-mail address is dead you will not be able to unsubscribe it because the system sees you as someone else. In that case e-mail me and I can do it for you.

Office Holders of the New Zealand Ecological Society 2009/2010

(Effective from 18 August 2009)

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This Newsletter was produced by Fleur Maseyk and Jeremy Rolfe.

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

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

Next deadline for the newsletter is Friday 3 December 2010.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the society is open to any person interested in ecology and includes botanists, zoologists, teachers, students, soil scientists, conservation managers, amateurs and professionals.

Types of Membership and Subscription Rates (2009)

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

Unwaged (with journal) .....$45* per annum
Unwaged membership is available only on application to Council for full-time students, retired persons etc. Unwaged members may receive the journal but must specifically request it.

Joint.....$75* per annum
Joint members get one copy of the journal and newsletter to one address.

Overseas Full .....$95* per annum

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For more details on membership please write to:

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