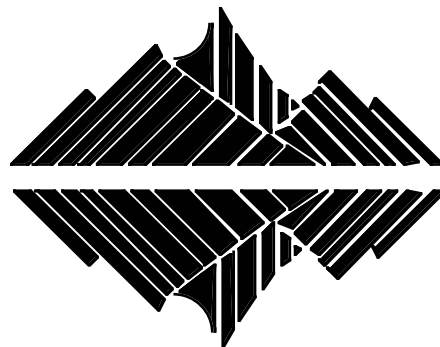


# Ecological Society

# Newsletter



No. 90, March 1999

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## NOTES FROM AGM

Thirty-nine EcolSoc members attended the Annual General meeting on 25 November, 1998 at Otago University.

Treasury report - a small profit, more members paid early this year, probably due to late payment penalty fee. Major points from annual report (previously published in newsletter) discussed. Discussions on budget strategy, what purpose should profits be turned to. Various options discussed, scholarships, increase education awareness, increase student price, wait a while until have a decent profit.

Election of Officers: Craig Miller, Wren Green and Colin O'Donnell were re-elected as President, Vice-President and Treasurer respectively for another term. Dave Kelly confirmed as Secretary. Alastair Robertson stood down from Council. Bruce Burns, Janet Wilmshurst and Ben Riddiex voted on as council members. Judith Roper-Lindsay rolls over for another year.

Journal costs are down, production times moved to earlier in the year (January and not June). Discussed selection of editor to replace Gábor Lövei. Good discussion on the future of the Journal following Wayne Linklater's paper analysing publishing trend here and across the Tasman. Various options suggested from "change name to reflect conservation management emphasis" to "need local journal for local issues".

Brief discussion about inclusion of student research topics in newsletter. Asked for reps from each university to compile and forward lists.

Discussion of "statement of professional ethics" initiated by Henrik Moller's address to conference and perceived need for professional society. Various suggestions including looking at current code of ethics being prepared by Royal Society.

## NOTES FROM COUNCIL

Professional society: A subcommittee has been set up to review models from other countries and to progress the issue. Subcommittee members nominated are Judith Roper-Lindsay, Henrik Moller, Caroline Mason and Ian Spellerberg.

Wren Green reported on the Professional Bodies Meeting of the 3rd December where they discussed issues such as Hazardous Waste Management, changes to Resource Management Act, Section 6c, fisheries and biodiversity.

Wren also reported on Foresight Project Meeting (Environment Sector Foresight Strategy - Forst) which indicated areas likely to get funded in the future.

Council discussed who to appoint as representative for the J.S. Watson Trust

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Journal Editors report: Gábor Lövei, John Parkes and Clare Veltman are making progress with the next two issues, they might both come out at same time. David Wardle has been nominated to be the next editor to take over from Gábor, who now resides in Denmark. David will have a maximum term of 5 years. John Parkes will help with the technical handover. Chris D. Thomas has resigned from the editorial board.

Springer Publishing offered to take over publishing of the journal. There are advantages and disadvantages. Council assigned Dave Wardle and Janet Wilmshurst to a subcommittee to investigate further and initiate dialogue with Springer.

The issue of a New Zealand Ecological web site was raised again. There is a possibility that Landcare might be willing to host an EcolSoc web page, but it would be better if we could have our own URL (web page address). A subcommittee consisting of Bruce Burns, Ben Reddiex and Astrid Dijkgraaf was assigned to investigate further. Council might also look at reviewing the EcolSoc Logo, as it does not seem to convey an internationally recognisable aspect of New Zealand Ecology.

We discussed both the 1999 and 2000 Ecology Conferences (see later this issue). Initial reports from the 1998 conference indicate a reasonable profit.

It is likely that a subcommittee will be set up in the future to look at setting up an EcolSoc financial reserves policy, investing any current and future profits, establishing scholarship and promoting study and application of ecology.

Council discussed initiatives and projects for this year and 2000. A number of issues are already being dealt with (e.g., RMA and Foresight) but the Society needs to look at input into the Biodiversity Strategy and Environmental Indicators. Council would like to find a suitable Millennium project (ideas included ecology and education or ecology and Maori issues) and floated some workshop ideas.

Next committee meetings: 20 April, 29 June, AGM 30 June, 17 August, 16 November.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS PROFILES

### ***Vice President: Wren Green***

Wren Green completed a Ph.D. in ecology at the University of British Columbia before joining the Forest Research Institute where he worked on problems related to possums for the next decade. Then it was off to the Department of Conservation for a stint in various roles associated with planning, public awareness, international conservation and conservation boards. He left DOC as Director of Planning and External Relations Division in 1997 and set up EcoLogic Conservation Consultants. As well as serving on the Ecological Society Council he is more than busy as a regional Councillor for IUCN.

### ***Councillor and awards Convenor:***

#### **Ben Reddiex**

After completing a Bachelor of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management degree I have focused my further study on vertebrate pest ecology. Recently, I have completed a Master of Science degree at Lincoln University, on diet selection of European rabbits in the semi-arid grasslands of the Mackenzie Basin. Surprisingly this was the first investigation of rabbit diet in New Zealand. I am currently enrolled in a Ph.D. at Lincoln University which is being carried out in collaboration with Landcare Research. My research investigates 1) the effect of predation on mortality rates of rabbits that survive RCD epidemics, and 2) predator management for conservation of native species. I have particular interests in vertebrate pest ecology and management, rabbit calicivirus disease and plant-herbivore interactions. I look forward to making a useful contribution to the NZ Ecological Society while on the committee.

#### ***Councillor: Janet Wilmshurst***

Janet is a palaeoecologist at Landcare Research, Lincoln. She keeps busy looking at mainly Holocene palaeoclimates, particularly rainfall variation, and vegetation change of southern New Zealand, through the study of peat bogs and soils. Her tools of trade include mostly looking down the microscope at pollen, charcoal, testate amoebae, plant macrofossils, and measuring the physical parameters of peat deposits, lake sediments and forest soils. Other areas of interest include impacts on the vegetation from early Polynesian settlement in New Zealand; volcanic and earthquake disturbance of forest vegetation in pre-settlement times; and recent vegetation and climate change in the subantarctic islands. Janet came from the UK in 1990 on a Commonwealth Scholarship to complete a PhD in palaeoecology at Canterbury University, and well, she never went back.

## OBITUARY JOHN HOLLOWAY (1944 - 1999)

The untimely death of John Holloway in Dunedin on January 1 is noted with much sorrow by his many friends and colleagues in the New Zealand Ecological Society. John trained as a botanist at Otago University and as a forester at Aberdeen (thus his love of the kilt). John worked for the New Zealand Forest Service from 1969 until 1986, was part of the team that established the new environmental government agencies in 1986, and in 1987 joined the new Department of Conservation where he was Director of the land management policy division (under its various guises), and Director of Science and Research from 1995 until his illness struck in 1998.

John's training as a forester and his whakapapa (with father, grandfather, and aunt all biologists of renown in New Zealand) were perhaps one reason why he often sought solutions to land management and ecological issues in timescales of decades and generations. Ecologists often pay lip service to timeframes longer than project or funding rounds, but John's determination to see above the day-to-day issues that beset the agencies in which he worked, and have others do so as well and reflect it in their policy was perhaps his main contribution to the Department of Conservation.

A valedictory email John sent as an open letter to all his staff and colleagues soon after his tumour was diagnosed showed again his concerns for the future of New Zealand, although he knew his own future was likely to be short - in this world at least as John was an active Christian. John reflected on the esprit de corps of the old environmental agencies and the need to build a new and lasting equivalent in the Department of Conservation - a daunting task in today's fractured structures, and one that the Department will find harder to do without John's drive and practice. Those who worked for John will know what I mean, if you convinced him on an issue he would go into bat for the idea.

John is survived by this legacy of hard work, a fact recognised by his award of the New Zealand Order of Merit. The Society extends its sympathies to John's wife Linda and sons Adam, David and John.

Haere, haere, haere

John Parkes

## NEW AND RESIGNED MEMBERS

Sixty people are currently in arrears to a total of \$4175. If you have borrowed this issue from a friend or colleague because yours didn't arrive, then you've probably neglected to pay your membership fee.

### *Resigned Members – Meeting 18 January 1999*

Miss Monique Doevendans	Dr Yonghong Li
Ms Nicole R Masters	Mr John Sawyer
Mr R Neal Wilkins	Ms Catherine G Young

### *New Members – Meeting 18 January 1999*

Ms Sue Maturin & Mr Graeme Loh	
Ms Alina M Arkins	Mr Phillip H Dawson
Mr Chris J K Perley	Mr Andrew J Townsend
Mr Cameron I Walker	

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT IUCN?

The major event since the October 1998 newsletter was the celebration of IUCN's 50th Anniversary. More on that below. The other major item to report on was the appointment of a new Director-General for IUCN at our November Council meeting.

### **IUCN Celebrates Fifty Years**

In early November 1998, people came from around the world to Fontainebleau, just outside Paris, to celebrate the organisation's fifty years of existence and work for conservation. President Chirac, Queen Noor of Jordan (Patron of IUCN) and several heads of governments spoke on the opening day (of three) to several hundred guests. The event was given extensive coverage by world media and Newsweek ran a special IUCN supplement in one issue. "Environment and Security" was a theme that these world leaders explored in broad terms, arguing that the linkages between natural resource use and armed conflicts are getting more serious in many regions. Bing Lucas, who many rightly regard as "Mr IUCN" in New Zealand, and I represented New Zealand members.

Each of the eight IUCN regions presented their views on the conservation issues they faced, the issues and challenges ahead. I presented the Oceania paper and spoke about the problems associated with invasive species, protection of marine biodiversity, conserving our treasures, and the opportunities offered by the World Heritage Convention. We successfully raised the profile of Oceania conservation issues in the IUCN context and will be working on getting more IUCN Programme money being spent in the region.

We then had a 2-day symposium on three major themes; conservation, communities, and consump-

tion. Under each theme there were four workshops on topics such as "Dealing with Extinction", "Greening Urban Society", and "How Do We Know When We Are Sustainable?" There were some excellent papers from leading experts that demonstrated how conservation issues have developed over the decades. But from its small beginnings IUCN has always aimed to be a network of experts, a facilitator, a catalyst and a synthesiser.

There is always a certain amount of "hoopla" at events such as these. Yet they also offer an opportunity to take stock, reassess achievements in the context of their times, and speculate on what the big issues are going to be. From humble beginnings IUCN is the major conservation player with 900 NGO members, 75 State members and networks of some 12,000 scientists and experts from 138 countries. What it chooses to do is therefore significant at both global and regional levels.

#### **New Director-General**

The IUCN Council has the important job of appointing the Director-General. Council approved the recommendation of its Search Committee and appointed Dr Maritta Koch-Wesser to the post, effective 1 March 1999. Dr Koch-Wesser has a Ph.D. in anthropology (fieldwork in Brazil) and most of her professional career has been spent in The World Bank. Presently she runs a unit of 150 staff with responsibilities for all rural, environmental and social programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean. The present Director-General, David McDowell, will return to New Zealand in March. Wren Green, IUCN Regional Councillor

### **THE NZ BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY**

MfE and DoC released the public consultation draft of the NZ Biodiversity Strategy in late January. Copies of the summary are available from MfE and DoC offices nationwide. A full copy of the Strategy document is available from:

Fiona Olliphant  
Department of Conservation  
PO Box 10420  
WELLINGTON

The Society will collate a submission on this document, and would like input from members on changes or improvements that could be made. Closing date for submissions for the Biodiversity Strategy is 16 April. If you are interested in helping with the submission, please contact

Jason Roxburgh at:  
jroxburgh@doc.govt.nz

### **THE GREENING OF ESA**

From the Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America

The Ecological Society of America has a special committee on reducing environmental impacts from the activities of the Society. In the 1998 annual report, they conclude that the single largest impact that ESA has on the environment is caused by travel to their Annual Meeting. In order to better understand the implications of site selection, they constructed a model that allowed them to examine how the distance travelled by membership would vary with changes in Annual Meeting location.

Their results show a large variation in the number of aggregate miles travelled to meetings in different cities, from a low of 4.2 million miles to a high of 17 million miles. For meetings held within the continental US, the range is 4.2-6.8 million miles, a difference of more than 50%. This difference between the optimal city and the most distant city within the US translates into approximately 6000 Mg of CO<sub>2</sub>, the air pollution generated to provide electricity for 700 homes for a year, or the equivalent of 25% of the annual electricity consumed within the homes of every attendee.

As well as including the environmental impacts of site selection into location decisions in the future, the committee also hopes to bring the concept of meeting location optimisation to a larger group of scientific societies.

Contributed by Bruce Burns  
*Councillor*

### **PEST SUMMIT**

Members will be interested to know that the Third National Pest Summit will be held from 7-9 April 1999 at Massey University. The Manawatu Wanganui Regional Council will host it. It will "examine issues facing the biosecurity industry both now and in the next five years. It will provide a forum to increase awareness of current and future issues, plan an agreed industry direction and develop future strategies in pest management."

Any inquiries to:  
wendy.butcher@mwrc.govt.nz

## A WORKSHOP ON STATISTICAL METHODS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

### Christchurch 10 - 11 June 1999

The Biomathematics Research Centre at the University of Canterbury and the Centre for Applications of Statistics and Mathematics at the University of Otago are inviting you to participate in a 2 day workshop on Statistical Methods for Environmental Management

In the workshop we will discuss how to design surveys and collect data for environmental studies and how to analyse such data. We will look at environmental management for both land and water (marine and freshwater). The workshop will focus on statistical survey designs and methods for environmental monitoring.

The workshop will be most beneficial to those actively working in environmental management and those responsible for survey design, data storage and analysis. You need not have previous statistical training.

For further information please contact  
Jennifer Brown,  
Biomathematics Research Centre  
University of Canterbury  
Private Bag 4800  
Christchurch  
email: j.brown@math.canterbury.ac.nz  
Phone: 03 364 2987 ext. 7684  
Fax: 03 364 2587  
or visit our web site  
<http://www.math.canterbury.ac.nz/biomath.html>

## THE "MYTH OF RESERVES"

In his contribution to the Ecological Society Newsletter ("The Myth Reserves..." Issue 89 of October 1998) David Norton establishes a straw person, the ecologist/conservationist who yearns to return New Zealand to its pre-human condition solely through the establishment of reserves, and then criticises this person for distracting effort from the more important objective of integrating conservation and production. This type of ecologist or conservationist is probably as mythical as the so-called "myth of reserves". David Norton's plea for a greater commitment to nature conservation in productive landscapes is timely and worthy of support. However, his implied criticism of reserves and those who advocate for further reservation is unjustified.

David Norton identifies three issues in his article: the distinction between conservation land and other land; the distinction between indigenous species and exotic species; and, the constant referral to the past. I respond to his analysis of each of these issues below.

### 1. *The distinction between conservation land and other land:*

New Zealand has an extensive and enviable protected natural areas system. These protected areas (parks, reserves, and conservation areas) contain most of the country, s remaining indigenous ecosystems and most significant populations of indigenous species, including many threatened species. Despite the size and extent of the protected areas system, it is still not representative of the original ecosystems and landscapes that gave New Zealand its special character,

Conservationists advocating further reservation of lands do so because the history of nature conservation on private land in New Zealand is lamentable. There has been widespread habitat destruction on unprotected lands. There are exceptions, but generally the remnants of indigenous habitat on private lands have survived in spite of, rather than because of former land management practices. This situation is changing. There is an increased awareness of the value of nature conservation and the desirability of sustainable land use. The enactment of the Resource Management Act is an indication of this increased awareness.

Reserved lands have also suffered. But such lands have mostly suffered from habitat depletion through the effects of ubiquitous introduced species and because there have been limited resources to counter to these threats, not from complete habitat destruction caused by contradictory or antagonistic management objectives.

The claim that much conservation thinking focuses on reservation for nature conservation is misleading. A significant proportion of the conservation advocacy work undertaken by community conservation groups in recent years has been directed towards Resource Management Plans and resource consent applications. This effort towards ensuring nature is conserved in productive landscapes has probably exceeded the effort towards the reservation of land in recent years. Furthermore, there are an increasing number of examples of ecologists, conservationists, and landholders working towards the protection or restoration of indigenous ecosystems on private land.

The two examples given are also misleading. Advocacy for further reservation of Timberlands administered forests on the South Island's West

Coast is prompted by the widespread loss of lowland forest ecosystems, their lack of representation in the existing reserves system, and uncertainty about the ecological sustainability and economic benefits of the proposed beech harvest. Advocacy for reservation of pastoral lease lands is again because the montane forests, shrublands, and grasslands of the eastern South Island high country are under represented in the existing reserves system. This advocacy is coupled with support for the retention of lands in leasehold tenure where extensive grazing and nature conservation may coexist.

### 2. *The distinction between indigenous and exotic species:*

Ecologists and conservationists have for a long time accepted that many introduced species are so well established that they cannot be eradicated. However, many of these species pose a significant threat to the survival of indigenous species, including high profile species like the kiwi, and to the integrity of indigenous ecosystems. Control and, if possible, eradication of the most voracious of these introduced species is essential to protect our natural heritage and to meet our international obligations for the conservation of biological diversity.

Unfortunately it has to be an “us and them” situation. There is little evidence to suggest that accepting introduced species as part of the evolving indigenous ecosystem will result in anything other than the continued loss of indigenous ecosystem components and the continued modification of ecosystem processes. Although it is inevitable that the evolution of indigenous ecosystems will now be influenced by introduced species, biodiversity objectives will best be met by the targeted control of the more damaging introduced species.

Most ecologists, conservationists, and protected area managers are pragmatists. Control of introduced species is increasingly targeted at selected species (such as possums) or areas (such as Mainland Habitat Islands) to achieve maximum benefit from very limited resources.

### 3. *Unachievable goals - the constant referral to the past:*

I doubt that anyone uttered the quoted comment “we will restore this area to its pre-human pristine condition”. Restoration of and even the accurate definition of pre-human ecosystems are probably not possible, nor necessarily desirable unless natural evolutionary changes are understood. However, if our objective is the conservation of indigenous biodiversity, the ‘pre-human condition’ is the benchmark against which protection or restoration efforts should be measured.

There is nothing inherently wrong with ‘constant referral to the past’. It helps ensure that we don’t forget or ignore our heritage. It also helps ensure that we have some benchmark against which we can measure the effects of our activities on indigenous ecosystems.

### **Conclusion - the benefits of reserves:**

The implied criticism of reserves (the “myth of reserves”) by David Norton is unsubstantiated in his article. Without reserves New Zealand would be a poorer place. The ecological (biodiversity conservation), aesthetic (scenery appreciation, recreation, spiritual renewal), economic (tourism), and scientific benefits of reserves are not mythical. Reserving areas does not guarantee provision of the above benefits, because of the effects of introduced species and the limited resources for reserve management, but it does ensure that such areas will be managed primarily for nature conservation.

The alternative, advocated by David Norton, of facilitating production and conservation in the same landscape is worthy of support and has in fact been pursued vigorously by conservationists for many years and especially since the 1991 enactment of the Resource Management Act. However, it is naive to claim that such actions will “allow for an economic return from the land [and] also allow for our indigenous biota to flourish”. The history of land use in New Zealand shows that it is difficult to achieve this ideal. Conservation objectives are invariably sacrificed to meet short-term economic objectives especially when landholders have production targets to meet, are receiving poor returns for their products. Or are just plain hungry (or greedy!). Furthermore, our incomplete knowledge of the functioning indigenous ecosystems makes it difficult to predict and measure the effects of extractive uses. The proposed beech forest management by Timberlands West Coast is a good example.

Facilitating nature conservation in productive landscapes is an essential component of biodiversity conservation, but it is not a replacement for the reservation of areas as public (Crown-administered) land and the management of such areas for the primary purpose of nature conservation by an agency that is accountable to the public. It is wrong to suggest that continued advocacy for reserves is diverting attention from the protection of indigenous biota in productive landscapes. I believe it is also wrong to imply that most New Zealanders do not appreciate or support reserves.

Mike Harding  
Blenheim

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## RESTORING THE HEALTH AND WEALTH OF ECOSYSTEMS

### Christchurch Girls' High School

28-30 November 1998

This conference followed on from a Workshop on Scientific Issues in Ecological Restoration, also held at Christchurch (22-23 February 1995). Both were organised by Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research, in the more recent case in association with Fjordland Ecology Holidays, Christchurch City Council, Dept. of Conservation and the University of Canterbury.

Like its forerunner, focus was on ecological restoration, i.e. restoring functional ecosystems with native plants. Day 1 consisted of formal presentations, Day 2 a field trip, and Day 3 workshops including a videolink panel discussion with participants at the 1998 International conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration, Austin, Texas. Broadly, the conference had four themes:

- \* The end point of ecological restoration will not necessarily be exclusively native plants.
- \* We should aim for a future state rather than to recreate some past state.
- \* The community must be involved in all stages of a project.
- \* Christchurch City is making an impressive commitment to ecological restoration.

Keynote speaker **Richard Hobbs** of CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology, Perth, Western Australia, spoke of the conceptual framework for restoration ecology, of avoiding outdated ecological theories, keeping projects practical and politically and economically feasible, and appreciating the complexity of systems and organisms. He proposed a sequence of establishing goals, identifying problems, devising methods to reverse the problems, incorporating these in strategies, and monitoring the outcomes. He suggested setting goals by milestones: 5 year, 10 year, 25 year, 50 year, 100 year - and that these reference points themselves would be dynamic and represent moving targets.

**David Norton** of the University of Canterbury referred to the "myth of conservation of nature through reserves". He said that two-thirds of New Zealand is in private ownership and the biggest need for biodiversity is in the most modified areas. It is unrealistic to take large areas out of production and so reservation is not the answer. His components of goal setting: presence of some native species, viability of natural communities, greater biodiversity, and improving existing natural vegetation remnants. His methodological principles: use

appropriate species, follow natural succession as a model, let nature dictate outcomes, and focus on ecosystems.

**Craig Ross** of Landcare Research spoke on issues relating to substrates in ecological restoration. These include: compaction; drainage; nutrient imbalance (deficiencies and toxicities); topsoil (best depth for replaced topsoil found to be about 150 mm); replacing subsoils (gives best results in longer term); synthetic soils; soil variability; contaminated sites; ameliorants and conditioners; and salvage and direct transfer of plants.

**Stephen Wratten** of Lincoln University described studies of invertebrate diversity. He said that diversity tends to increase with the diversity of plants and the size of an area, and often peaks about halfway through a successional sequence. Many invertebrates are endemic to New Zealand and many survive only because their habitats have been restored. Following overseas examples, experiments involved establishing 'beetle banks', strips of ground left uncultivated and ungrazed so that beetles can colonise the rank growth. In terms of colonisation by native beetles, Stephen and his co-workers found that introduced grasses are more productive than native grasses.

**Mick Clout** of the University of Auckland focused on vertebrates, especially birds, which are essential to the functioning of ecosystems. Many native species had become extinct and more were threatened. Predators and new invasive species of birds had been introduced by Europeans. Birds need a year-round supply of food, which was supplied in native forests by podocarps, but podocarps are often not included in restoration plantings. Flax and kowhai alone do not provide a year-round supply. Predators will need to be controlled in perpetuity. The complexity of interactions needs to be appreciated, e.g. controlling rats may increase predation of birds by stoats.

**Alistair Gunn** of Waikato University raised (weighty) philosophical issues. It has been argued that an area of rainforest cleared and then replanted would be less natural than the original, and therefore some its intrinsic value is lost. Thus if a development necessitates clearance of vegetation followed by restoration, despite restoration, an irretrievable value is lost. That is not to say restoration is worthless, because second best is better than third best. The assumption that human intervention always results in some departure from what is natural raises interesting issues under New Zealand law because the Resource Management Act 1991 defines "environment" as including humans.

In a joint presentation, Claire Freeman of Massey University said that the context of urban planning changed week by week as naturalness and wildness are being debated. Margaret Kilvington of Landcare Research described a Christchurch study of people's perceptions of vegetation types. Many identified Hagley Park type parkland with home and regarded it as natural. Riverbank woodland was regarded as wild and natural and identified with recreation and adventure. Roadside weeds (?="beetle banks") were regarded as unacceptable in an urban environment. People did not categorise plants into exotic and native and failed to recognise pictures of Riccarton Bush (one of the last remaining stands of more-or-less pristine bush in Canterbury).

Penny Doorman of Environment BOP said that the Resource Management Act does not require councils to undertake restoration but gives them a framework for doing so, through avoidance, remediation and mitigation. Ecological restoration frameworks should encompass a vision ("objectives"), a plan of action ("policy"), tools to achieve outputs ("methods"), and indicators of success ("monitoring"). [cf. keynote speaker Richard Hobbs]

Mark McDonnell of the Australian Centre for Urban Ecology, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, contrasted natural areas in static landscapes (New York or Melbourne) with dynamic landscapes in new suburban areas. For static landscapes, natural area management issues include: pollution, small size, edge effects, low diversity, genetic isolation, landscape fragmentation, cultural disturbance, non-native species, loss of natural disturbance regimes (e.g. fire), and truncated food webs. Dynamic landscapes have additional issues including: rapid population fluctuations, extinctions, exotic species invasions, new disturbance regimes, soil erosion and nutrient enrichment.

Alan Saunders of the Department of Conservation described the Mainland Island programme, designed to apply mainland sites principles derived from the successful biodiversity conservation initiatives on offshore islands. Mainland Island projects have been set up at a number of key sites. Intensive control of introduced mammals is a universal component. Territorial authorities, iwi, community and conservation groups and landowners have also initiated mainland restoration projects. [Discussion did not cover the extent to which the "Mainland Islands" programme represents the expedient of diverting funds from all reserves to a few.]

In another joint presentation, Colin Meurk of Landcare Research (and one of the key organisers of the conference) and Simon Swaffield of Lincoln

University advocated moving beyond the reservation philosophy and developing a New Zealand-Aotearoa cultural landscape which would integrate indigenous biotic process within global cultural practices.

The Field Trip took in:

*Wigram Retention Basin & Upper Heathcote River:*

Native plants being used under willows which are allowed to remain as a nurse and overstorey. Aim is for *Carex secta*, *Juncus pallidus*, flax and *Blechnum minus* along the river; a kahikatea swamp forest on the lower saturated terrace; and matai/totara/hardwood forest on the upper terrace.

*Ashgrove Park:*

Old 0.15 ha homestead site with beech, podocarps and mixed understorey provided an ideal setting for Rod MacFarlane to discuss the diversity of native insects. About 40% are specific to particular trees. Likewise, some trees have only limited range of insects, and others like lemonwood and *Coprosma robusta* harbour a wide range of insects.

*Victoria Park:*

Vantage spot on the flanks of the hills of Banks Peninsula provided extensive (if a bit hazy) vistas. Discussion topics included: reserves on the Port Hills (currently 2,000 ha in some form of public ownership - aim for 5,000 ha): lax grazing management to maintain the short tussock *Poa cita* grassland; and the role in ecological succession of a native import, *Olearia paniculata*, adapted to the conditions but not indigenous to the area (consensus = acceptable in these circumstances where it is not vigorously regenerating).

*Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Reserve:*

Part of extensive water bird habitat preserved and created in the area of the Heathcote Estuary.

*North Brighton sand dunes:*

Example of a "beachcare" projects involving seven "Coastcare" groups. Features include limiting access across the foredune to boardwalks attached to chains, using African iceplant to obtain initial stability, and planting pingao on the front of the dune and a range of other native plants behind.

*Otukaikino:*

A joint venture between DoC and Lamb & Hayward Funeral Directors to replace willow swamp forest with kahikatea/pokaka/manatu swamp forest as a memorial park.

Workshop Session 1 raised the question: "What do we want to achieve through ecological restoration?" The answer proposed by Mark Bellingham: BIODIVERSITY (decided on our behalf by the Government signing the Biodiversity Convention).

Workshop Session 2 addressed “Critical success factors in achieving goals”. Answers:

Hugh Wilson - minimal interference management; let nature get on with it.

Di Lucas - first step is protection of what’s there.

Brenda Green (Auckland City Council) - weed control; conservation planting for conservation sites; cultural planting for cultural sites.

Phil Simpson (DoC) - restoring processes rather than places.

In all, an enjoyable and informative three days, although I noted continuation of the established tradition of restorers remaking their own mistakes, and videolink technology showed its promise while delivering something well short of perfection.

Contributed by Bruce Bulloch  
Palmerston North



## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TOPICS

### Lincoln University, Ecology and Entomology Group

#### Honours Degrees:

Michael Gorton. The impact of domestic stock on the ground-dwelling arthropod fauna in native bush remnants on Banks Peninsula.

Gortom@lincoln.ac.nz

Kerri Lukis. Ecological attributes correlated with human-induced rarity of the New Zealand lizard fauna. Lukis@lincoln.ac.nz

Anna McKenzie. The winter abundance and distribution of the skylark (*Alauda arvensis* L.) in Canterbury, New Zealand.

Mckenza@lincoln.ac.nz

Amanda Ridley. The feeding ecology and habitat use of kereru and bellbird in a modified forest remnant, South Canterbury, New Zealand.

Ridlea@lincoln.ac.nz

#### Masters Degrees:

Jonathan Banks. Territory use and factors affecting breeding success of South Island Pied Oystercatchers/Torea, *Haematopus ostralegus finschi* (Aves, Charadriiformes) in riparian and pastoral habitat. Banks@lincoln.ac.nz

Carol Bannock. Implications of past and future vegetation change for the lizard fauna of Motunau Island. Bannock@lincoln.ac.nz

Mandy Barron. Foraging ecology of *Bombus hortorum* L. (Hymenoptera: Apidae) on tetraploid red clover (*Trifolium pratense* L. cv *Pawera*). Barronm@lincoln.ac.nz

Dallas Bishop. Parasitic Hymenoptera as biocontrol agents against Calliphoridae causing ovine myiasis (flystrike) in NZ.

Patricia Castro Schmitz. Biological indicators of sustainability in agriculture.

Castrp@lincoln.ac.nz

John Daly. Lure and kill methods for control of Diamondback Moth (*Plutella xylostella*).

Jdaly@hort.cri.nz

James Griffiths. Katipo spiders and humans.

Griffith@lincoln.ac.nz

Sari Hastuti. Insect pathology and pest management with special emphasis on evaluating efficacy of potential biocontrol agents.

Mark Jarrett. The impact that foraging at rubbish dumps has on the health and body condition of kea (*Nestor notabilis*). Jarretm@lincoln.ac.nz

James Lennon. The Effect of Moonlight Intensity and Moon Phase on Feeding Patterns of Common Brushtail Possum.

Russell McAuliffe. Scavenging behaviour of ferrets. Mcaulifr@lincoln.ac.nz

Susan McGill. Use of the gall fly *Urophora cordui* for suppression of Californian thistle flowering in pea crops. Mcgils@lincoln.ac.nz

Charles Merfield. Feeding behaviour of beneficial insects in agricultural landscapes.

Merfiec@lincoln.ac.nz

Pius Piskaut. Forest dynamics of post-logging forests. Piskaup@lincoln.ac.nz

Caroline Pratt. Factors affecting the early growth and succession of woody native plant communities on the Canterbury Plain, New Zealand.

Prattc@landcare.cri.nz

Ben Reddiex. Diet selection of European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) in the semi-arid grasslands of the Mackenzie Basin, New Zealand. Reddieb@lincoln.ac.nz

Daniel Ruth. Reconstructing the vegetation of Motunau Island. Ruth@lincoln.ac.nz

Sakkie Schabort. The effect of RCD on ferret prey selection. Schaboi@lincoln.ac.nz

Wendy Sullivan. Burrow competition between broad-billed prions and Chatham Island petrels. Sullivw@lincoln.ac.nz

Tina Troup. Foraging trips of Breeding Southern Royal Albatross. Troupc1@lincoln.ac.nz

Gillian Vaughan. The relationship between wood anatomy and ecology of selected New Zealand dicotyledon species. Vaughag@lincoln.ac.nz

- Nicolette Was. Burrow occupancy and related behaviour of broad-billed prions (*Pachyptila vittata*) on South East Island, Chatham Islands. Wasn@lincoln.ac.nz
- Clare Washington. Why didn't the pukeko cross the road? Effects of roads on pukeko mortality and behaviour. Washinc@lincoln.ac.nz
- Nigel Watkins. Ecological correlates of bird damage in a Canterbury vineyard. Watkinng@lincoln.ac.nz
- Nicola Wells. Factors influencing rodent in Mahazat As-Sayd Reserve, Saudi Arabia. Nwells@clear.net.nz
- Nancy Willems. Species composition and canopy species maintenance in forest fragments on Banks Peninsula. Willems@lincoln.ac.nz
- James Young. Movement patterns of two New Zealand mustelids: implications for predator pest management. Youngj1@lincoln.ac.nz
- Ph.D. Degrees:*
- Clive Appleton. Host-plant factors in relation to psyllid and leafminer performance and damage to *Acacia melanoxylon*. Appletoc@fri.cri.nz
- Chuleemas Boonthai. The influence of water quality parameters on the acute and chronic toxicity of several pesticides to aquatic invertebrates. Boonthc@lincoln.ac.nz
- Lynn Booth. Evaluation of the common topsoil-mixing earthworm *Aporrectodea caliginosa* as a sentinel species for biological and ecological monitoring. Boothl@landcare.cri.nz
- Louise Cullen. The effect of climate and disturbance on *Nothofagus menziesii* (silver beech) treelines. Cullenl@lincoln.ac.nz
- Alison Evans. The effect of southern beech (*Nothofagus* spp.) forest management on invertebrate communities and decomposition. Evansa@lincoln.ac.nz
- Stephen Harcourt. Pathogenic control of German and common Wasps (*Vespula germanica*, *V. vulgaris*). Harcourts@landcare.cri.nz
- Sönke Hardersen. The use of native damselfly larvae as biological indicators of insecticide contamination of freshwater.
- Scott Hardwick. Ecology of whitefringed weevil (*Graphognathus leucoloma*). Hardwicks@agresearch.cri.nz
- Helen Harman. Molecular ecology of the broom twigminer (*Leucoptera spartifoliella*) in New Zealand and Europe: implications for biological control. Harmanh@lincoln.ac.nz
- Nicola Irvin. Understorey management for the enhancement of leafroller parasitoids (*Dolichogenidea tasmanica*) in Canterbury, New Zealand orchards. Irvin@lincoln.ac.nz
- Horst Kalvelage. Effect of *Microctonus hyperodae* on *Listronotus bonariensis* and effect of the perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* endophyte. Kalvelag@matrix.com.br
- Andrew McLachlan. Agro-ecology of spiders: habitat use and biocontrol potential. Mclachla@lincoln.ac.nz
- Gonzalo Medina-Vogel. Variation in spacing patterns of ferrets (*Mustelo furo*) in response to an experimental change in food availability. Gmedina@valdiva.uca.uach.cl
- David Morgan. Optimising aerial 1080 control of possums. Morgand@landcare.cri.nz
- Graham Nugent. The role of wild deer in the management of Tb in New Zealand. Nugentg@landcare.cri.nz
- James Rea. Pest status, economic importance and control of green vegetable bug (*Nezara viridula*) in sweet corn. Rea@iconz.co.nz
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- James Ross. Cost effective control of bait shy possums. Rossgj@lincoln.ac.nz
- Frances Schmechel. Habitat use and breeding biology of the endangered Chatham Island oystercatcher (*Haematopus chathamensis*). Schmechf@lincoln.ac.nz
- Katrin Schops. Ecology and population dynamics of the Chatham Island coxella weevil and its host plant. Katrin.schops@Helsinki.fi
- Neil Schroeder. Temporal and spatial distribution of potato mirid (*Calocoris norvegicus* Gmelin) and blue green lucerne aphid (*Acyrtosiphon kondoi* Shinji) on white clover (*Trifolium repens* L.) seed crops: implications for pest management. Schroedern@agresearch.cri.nz
- Jason Smith. Population ecology, phenology and management of apple leafcurling midge (*Dasyneura mali*) (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae). Jase@ts.co.nz
- Stefan Thomsen. The skylark *Alauda arvensis* L., an Indicator of Farmland Sustainability. Thomsss@lincoln.ac.nz
- Steve Urlich. Species interactions and mechanisms for co-existence in mixed beech/hardwood/conifer forests in Westland. Urlichs@lincoln.ac.nz
- Andrew Wells. Disturbance history and forest pattern of the Karangarua catchment, Westland. Wellsa@lincoln.ac.nz

## POSITION AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY: COTTON RESEARCH.

Would prefer to fill by April 1. Please distribute.

### CSIRO Plant Industry, Kununurra, W.A.

*Plant ecologist, post doctoral fellow*

*\$41 k - \$48 k plus superannuation and allowances*

CSIRO Cotton Research Unit conducts a variety of projects related to the sustainability of cotton production in Australia. Research is conducted throughout cotton areas of eastern Australia and in north-western Australia where a new project is providing the foundation for the re-establishment of a cotton industry in the Ord River Irrigation Area. Transgenic cotton varieties will be a significant component of this production system.

We are seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral fellow with skills in plant ecology and demography to conduct a range of environmental studies in support of the introduction of transgenic cottons in this region. You will conduct a research program in various parts of Northern Australia to quantify the potential of transgenic and conventional cotton varieties to survive and reproduce in habitats outside cotton fields. You will also research the impact of insect herbivores on native cottons and conduct manipulative field experiments. You will form part of a small team based at Kununurra in the Ord River Irrigation Area, but with close links to the multi-disciplinary Cotton Research Unit at Narrabri, N.S.W and to CSIRO Plant Industry, Canberra. Field studies will occur at Kununurra and in the Fizroy River region of WA and at Katherine, N.T. The appointee will spend a period each year at Narrabri and in Canberra.

You must have a PhD in plant ecology, biology or genetics with a strong emphasis on field experimentation. The ability to initiate, plan and conduct independent and innovative research, with limited direction is essential. Good communication skills are also essential. The appointment is funded by Monsanto Australia for a period of 2 years and will be known as the Plant Industry - Monsanto Fellow.

As a first step, applicants are advised to obtain the Selection Criteria and Duty Statement. Address your application for the above position, quoting Reference No. PG:98057 and include details of your experience, skills and qualifications and nominating two referees. Please mark "Confidential" and forward urgently to: The Officer-In-Charge, CSIRO Cotton Research Unit, Locked Bag 59, Narrabri, N.S.W, 2390

Please direct all enquires to:

Dr. Gary P. Fitt <garyf@mv.pi.csiro.au>  
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<http://cotton.pi.csiro.au/aboutus/staff/fittg.htm>

## POST DOCTORATE INVADERS DATABASE

USDA Agriculture Research Service has committed funds (and other support) for a post doctorate to work at the University of Montana (Missoula) with the INVADERS Database team for up to four years. We would like a plant or weed scientist, ideally with strong computing skills (relational databases, GIS, modelling, some programming).

The position description (Post Doc- Plant Ecologist/Physiologist posted 11/23/98) is on the ARS web site: <http://www.sidney.ars.usda.gov/job2.htm>

or it can be accessed off of the INVADERS Database home page: <http://invader.dbs.umt.edu>

Anybody who might have an interest in analysing the plant invasion process and supporting strategic management at regional to global scales. Prospective candidates should respond quickly as we need to fill this position as soon as possible.

Invaders Database <http://invader.dbs.umt.edu>

## MEDIA RELEASES FROM MANAAKI WHENUA - LANDCARE RESEARCH

For more information on any of these items please contact

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Journalist

Phone: +64 3 325 6700 Fax: +64 3 325 2127

Email: [ellisonb@landcare.cri.nz](mailto:ellisonb@landcare.cri.nz)

### Restoring peat bogs

*Hamilton, 11 November 98*

Restoring native ecosystems after commercial use is a growing trend in New Zealand. One such project is the restoration of a restiad peat bog at Torehape in the Hauraki Plains.

Louis Schipper and Bev Clarkson from Landcare Research are working closely with Russell Gamman of Gamman Mining and Yates NZ Ltd to restore peat bogs after the mining company has removed the top layer of peat. The peat is used for general horticultural purposes.

“Gamman Mining has made a great commitment to the environment by working with us to restore the areas where they have finished mining,” said Dr Schipper. “It makes great commercial and environmental sense. It makes it easier for them to get resource consents if they can successfully restore these wetlands. And, if we are successful, they will have fresh peat to mine in future.”

The scientists will also gain important information about one of New Zealand’s least studied ecosystems.

“We’ve laid out 72 different plots that cover several different ways to restore the peat, everything from using manuka slash to throwing down seeds. It’s a trial we couldn’t do without help from the mining industry and the information we gain will be really useful in restoring other wetland areas.”

The trial was established in March this year and will be monitored for at least the next four years.

For more information contact:

Dr Louis Schipper,  
Landcare Research,  
Hamilton,  
Phone: 07 838 4441.

### **Cabbage tree disease spreading to other plants**

*Lincoln, 20 November 1998*

Cabbage trees are continuing to die throughout much of New Zealand, and new results from Public Good Science Fund research show that other native plants appear to be suffering the same fate.

Scientists from Landcare Research and HortResearch have advised the Ministers of Biosecurity and Conservation that high numbers of cabbage tree and coprosmas are dying, especially in the Auckland and Northland regions. The scientists are also concerned about puriri and tree fern species.

One study tagged 600 cabbage trees ten years ago and very few of these are now alive. The dieback is occurring in young and old trees and is visible in native forest and also in urban areas.

Some commercial crops are affected, including strawberries and other berry crops. In Australia a similar disease occurs in papaya and is now affecting grapes and possibly eucalyptus species.

Scientists believe the tree deaths are caused by a group of specialised bacteria called phytoplasmas. New Zealand flax has been known to have one of these diseases since the turn of the century, which is now being spread to other species probably by sap-sucking insects.

Scientists in New Zealand and Australia have used DNA techniques to find the phytoplasma in different plants. These tests confirm the flax

phytoplasma is the same as the cabbage tree pathogen, and that it is present in other native plants.

HortResearch and Landcare Research scientists say the long term impact of these diseases will be substantial if they continue to spread and if control measures cannot be found.

Practical actions for control cannot be recommended until a clear understanding of the scope and extent of the problem, and of the agents spreading the disease, has been developed. A coordinated approach between New Zealand and Australia would help to achieve this.

Although the disease was first seen in the northern parts of the North Island, diseased plants have now been sighted throughout the North Island, and in the northern South Island.

Symptoms of the diseases involve some or all of the following: yellowing or reddening and premature aging of foliage, twig and branch death, excessive shoot production, and eventually whole plant death. DoC and Regional Council staff are being trained by Landcare Research and HortResearch scientists to recognise the symptoms to help document the extent of the disease.

For more information contact:

Landcare Research - Dr David Penman,  
Phone: Bus (03) 325-6700 ext 3779,  
Mobile (025) 929-003,

or HortResearch - Dr Ian Warrington,

Phone: Bus (06) 356-8080,  
Mobile (025) 748-759,

or Liz Brook, Media Liaison,

Phone: (06) 351 7000 ext. 7749.

### **Kiwi and Aussie scientists cooperate to beat wasps**

*Nelson, 30 November 1998*

A combined Australia and New Zealand task force is meeting in Nelson tomorrow to look at ways of controlling introduced wasps. Common and German wasps are a major problem in New Zealand, and are developing into a pest in parts of Australia as well.

Landcare Research wasp scientists, Department of Conservation staff, and eight Australians from a range of State and Federal organisations will attend the first meeting of the Australia/New Zealand Task Force on European Wasps. The task force has been set up at the request of the inter-governmental Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council.

“New Zealand leads the world in wasp research because wasps reach such high densities here. This task force is a great opportunity for us to collaborate internationally,” said Ms Jacqueline Beggs of Landcare Research.

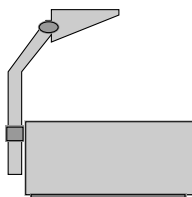
The task force aims to share information on research strategies and results. They will identify research needs and establish priorities for assessing the impact and effective control of European wasps. They will also discuss strategies for improved community awareness of European wasp issues.

Both Landcare Research and the Department of Conservation, which ran New Zealand's largest wasp control operation last summer, will present an update on the latest control techniques underway here. The task force will also look at the potential of other wasp control techniques for the future.

For more information contact:

Jacqueline Beggs,  
Landcare Research,  
Nelson,  
Phone: 03 548 1082.

or David Butler, Co-ordinator,  
Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project,  
Department of Conservation,  
Phone: 03 521 1806.



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

*Copied from The Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists*

**Feb 23 - 26, 1999: IUFRO International Symposium: Long-Term Observations and Research in Forestry**, Catie, Costa Rica. Christoph Kleinn, CATIE, Sub-Unidad de Estadística, CATIE 7170, Costa Rica, TEL: +506 556 6431 ext 1530 FAX: +506 556 7954 EMAIL: longterm@catie.ac.cr URL: <http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/SPDC/spdc.htm>

**March 1 - 3, 1999: Thirteenth International Conference and Workshops on Applied Geologic Remote Sensing: Practical Solutions for Real-World Problems**, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. ERIM Conferences, Box 134008, Ann Arbor, MI 48113-4008 USA. TEL: +1-734-994-1200 ext. 3350 FAX: +1-734-994-5123 EMAIL: wallman@erim-int.com URL: <http://www.erim-int.com/CONF/conf.html>

**March 2 - 6, 1999: 19th International Sea Turtle Symposium**, URL: <http://www.seaturtle.org/mtn/archives/mtn81/mtn81p14.shtml>

**March 8 - 11, 1999: Ninth Annual West Coast Conference on Contaminated Soils and Groundwater**, Oxnard, California, USA. Barbara Knowles, West Coast Conference Coordinator, Association for the Environmental Health of Soils 150 Fearing Street, Amherst, MA 01002 USA, TEL: 413-549-5170 ext. 11 FAX: 413-549-0579 EMAIL: [bknowles@aehs.com](mailto:bknowles@aehs.com) URL: <http://www.aehs.com/>

**March 16 - 19, 1999: ICES/SCOR Symposium: Ecosystem Effects of Fishing**, Montpellier, France. Dr Michael M. Sinclair, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, PO Box 1006, Dartmouth, NS, Canada B2Y 4A2 tel: +1 902 426 4890 fax: +1 902 426, 1506 EMAIL: [SinclairM@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:SinclairM@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) URL: <http://www.ices.dk/symposia/> CALL due Oct 15, 1998, ICES Secretariat: General Secretary, ICES, Palaegade 2-4, DK-1261, Copenhagen K, Denmark. TEL: +45 33 15 42 25; FAX: +45 33 93 42 15 EMAIL: [ices.info@ices.dk](mailto:ices.info@ices.dk)

**March 20, 1999: 4th Annual International Wildlife Law Conference**, Washington, DC, USA, Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy EMAIL: [JIWLP@earthling.net](mailto:JIWLP@earthling.net)

**March 21 - 25, 1999: Contaminated Site Remediation Conference: Challenges Posed By Urban & Industrial Contaminants**, Fremantle, Western Australia. Trevor Pillar, Development Officer, Centre for Groundwater Studies, C/- CSIRO Land and Water, Private Bag 2, Glen Osmond SA 5064, AUSTRALIA. TEL: (61 8) 8303 8753 FAX: (61 8) 8303 8750 EMAIL: [Trevor.Pillar@adl.clw.csiro.au](mailto:Trevor.Pillar@adl.clw.csiro.au), URL: <http://www.clw.csiro.au/CGS/conferences/>

**March 21-25, 1999: Third Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management: Facing the Emerging Water Crisis in the 21st Century**, Panama City, Panama. David W. Moody EMAIL: [dwmood@aoi.com](mailto:dwmood@aoi.com) URL: <http://www2.usma.ac.pa/~cathalac/dialogue3.htm> or <http://iwrn.ces.fau.edu>

**Mar 29 - 31, 1999: National Association for Research in Science Teaching, Annual Meeting**, The Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA, USA. John R. Wiggins, Director of the Technology Training Center University of Georgia, Athens, GA TEL: 706-542-6446 FAX: 706-542-0360 EMAIL: [jwiggins@coe.uga.edu](mailto:jwiggins@coe.uga.edu) URL: <http://science.coe.uwf.edu/NARST/NARST.html>

**April 25 - 29, 1999: 1999 World Congress on Coastal and Marine Tourism: RE-THINKING TOURISM - Choices, Responsibilities and Practices**, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Jan Auyong, Oregon Sea Grant, 500 Kerr Administration Building, Oregon, State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-2131. TEL: 541-737-5130; FAX: 541-737-2392 EMAIL: [auyongj@cmail.orst.edu](mailto:auyongj@cmail.orst.edu) URL: <http://seagrant.orst.edu/cmt/cmt99.html>, CALL due December 15, 1998

- May 3 - 6, 1999: **The Application of Scientific Knowledge to Decisionmaking in Managing Forest Ecosystems***, Asheville, North Carolina, USA. IUFRO Working Party 4.11.03 Knowledge and Information Management; USDA Forest Service; Forest Resources Systems Institute, Clemson, SC., H. Michael Rauscher, USDA Forest Service, Bent Creek Experimental, Forest, 1577 Brevard Rd., Asheville, NC 28806 USA; TEL: 704-667-5261 ext. 102 FAX: 704-667-9097 EMAIL: e-mail: rauscher\_mikesrs\_bentcreek@fs.fed.us URL: <http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/iufro.net/d4/wu41103/ev41103.htm>
- May 23 - 28, 1999: **10th International Soil Conservation Organization Conference: Sustaining the Global Farm, Local Action for Land Stewardship***, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA. Mark Nearing EMAIL: isco99@ecn.purdue.edu URL: <http://topsoil.nserl.purdue.edu/isco99/isco99.htm>
- June 12 - 15, 1999: **Third International Conference on Behaviour and Evolution of Sticklebacks***, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Dr. Eric B. Taylor EMAIL: etaylor@zoology.ubc.ca URL: <http://www.zoology.ubc.ca/~etaylor/stickle.html>, Call for Papers. Deadline February 15, 1999
- June 21 - 24, 1999: **Fourth International Airborne Remote Sensing Conference and Exhibition***, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. ERIM Conferences, Box 134008, Ann Arbor, MI 48113-4008 USA. , TEL: +1-734-994-1200 ext. 3350 FAX: + 1-734-994-5123 EMAIL: wallman@erim-int.com URL: <http://www.erim-int.com/CONF/conf.html>
- June 24 - 26, 1999: **Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community***, Shonan Village, Kanagawa, Japan. 1999 Open Meeting Secretariat Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, (IGES) Shonan Village Center, 1560-39, Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama, Kanagawa 240-0198, Japan EMAIL: hdgec@iges.or.jp , URL: <http://www.soc.titech.ac.jp/uem/openmeet/> or: <http://www.iges.or.jp/>
- July 4 - 9: **Biodiversity of Pacific Ocean Fishes Symposium; XIX, Pacific Science Congress***, Sydney, Australia. (Symposium) Dr. T.J. Donaldson EMAIL: tdonaldson@po.synapse.or.jp , Congress Secretariat EMAIL: pacsci@icmsaust.com.au
- Aug 25 - 27, 1999: **Ecology and Management of Ungulates: Integrating across spatial scales***, Prestige Lodge Resort, Nelson, British Columbia, Canada , Dr. Evelyn Merrill, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI 54481; 715/346-4112; EMAIL: emerrill@uwsp.edu , URL: <http://wildlife1.uwsp.edu/ungul99> , Call for Papers DEADLINE Feb 1 1999
- Aug 30 - Sep 2, 1999: **International Symposium on Environmental Software Systems***, University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ. Mrs. Linda Robson, ISESS 1999 Conference Manager, Department of, Computing and Information Science, EII CANADA, University of Guelph., Guelph, N1G 2W1 , Canada EMAIL: linda@snowwhite.cis.uoguelph.ca URL: <http://isess.crle.uoguelph.ca> Call for papers: Deadline Dec 20, <http://isess.crle.uoguelph.ca/cfp.pdf>
- Sept 8 - 10, 1999: **International Pandalid Shrimp Symposium***, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada , URL: <http://www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/shrimp/> Call for Papers DEADLINE: April 15, 1999
- Oct 10 - 17, 1999: **VI Neotropical Ornithological Congress***, Monterrey and Saltillo, Mexico. Ernesto C. Enkerlin, Chair of Organizing Committee; Centro de Calidad, Ambiental; Sucursal de Correos J, Monterrey, N.L.; 64849 MEXICO , FAX 011-528-359-6280. EMAIL: enkerlin@campus.mty.itesm.mx
- October 24 - 27, 1999: **The 52nd Canadian Geotechnical Conference, Geotechnique in Semiarid Climates***, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada , URL: <http://www.geomembranes.com/52cgs99/> Call for Papers DEADLINE: November 30, 1998
- July 16 - 23, 2000: **XIX Congress of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Geoinformation For All***, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ISPRS Organizing Committee, Attn. Ms Saskia Tempelman EMAIL: isprs@itc.nl, URL: <http://www.itc.nl/~isprs>
- Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America; Forthcoming meetings:*
- 8-12 August 1999: **Ecological Society of America 84th Annual Meeting***, Spokane, Washington
- 1-5 February 2000: **Species 2000: New Zealand***, Te Papa, Wellington
- 9-13 April 2000: **Joint Meeting of Ecological Society of America and the British Ecological Society***, Orlando, Florida
- 6-10 August 2000: **Ecological Society of America 85th Annual Meeting***, Snowbird, Utah.

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This Newsletter was produced by Astrid Dijkgraaf and Jeremy Rolfe.

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:

Astrid Dijkgraaf  
Dept of Conservation  
Private Bag 3016  
Wanganui

phone (wk) 06-345 2402  
phone (hm) 06-348 9178  
fax 06-345 8712  
email: astrid@mad.scientist.com

Next deadline for the newsletter is 4 May 1999.

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

**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 (1997/98)**

- Full (receive journal and newsletter) \$65 per annum
- Unwaged (with journal) ..... \$35 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 ..... \$65 per annum
- Overseas ..... \$85 per annum
- Joint members get one copy of the journal and newsletter to one address.
- School ..... \$12 per annum

Educational institutions may receive the newsletter at the cost of production to stay in touch with Society activities. By application to Council.

There are also Institutional Rates for libraries, government departments etc.

Overseas members may send personal cheques for their local equivalent of the NZ\$ amount at current exchange rates, for most major overseas currencies.

For more details on membership please write to:

NZ Ecological Society,  
 PO Box 25 178,  
 Christchurch,  
 NEW ZEALAND

Moving? If so, please print your name and new address below, and return with the old address label to us.

Block letters please

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Address effective from: \_\_\_\_\_ (Month) \_\_\_\_\_ Year

## CONFERENCE 1999

Note that the conference is back to its usual June/July slot, so yes, it is only 7 months since the last conference.

*Provisional programme and call for papers and posters.*

More financial details will be provided in the next newsletter.

### Themes

- \* Sustaining dry grasslands for conservation and production.
- \* Mainland Islands in theory and practice.

### When?

Tuesday 29 June - 2 July 1999, preceded by a student session on Monday 28 June. Book early the venue can only seat 150 people.

### Where?

*Blenheim Country Lodge, Blenheim.*

Blenheim Country Lodge is located in the centre of Blenheim, Marlborough - New Zealand's premium viticultural region, gateway to the Marlborough Sounds and Nelson Lakes, and the sunniest place you'll find in mid winter apart from Fiji. We get the conference facilities free if more than 30 rooms are booked by delegates.

### Transport

There are several daily flights, ferry services, buses, shuttles etc to and from Blenheim. Ample arrive before 11 am and depart after 12 pm. Student ferry/shuttle packages may be available - contact the Blenheim Information Centre (see below).

### Accommodation

If you intend to come to the conference you will need to book your own accommodation. Early booking will ensure you get the accommodation of your choice. Please book with the Blenheim Country Lodge, if you can afford it, to ensure free conference facilities.

Accommodation is available at the venue at \$95 per room (one rate for double, twin or single). Contact Blenheim Country Lodge, PO Box 747, Blenheim. Reservation hotline 0800 655 079. Fax 03 578 0337. email [belhotel@xtra.co.nz](mailto:belhotel@xtra.co.nz).

For alternative accommodation ranging from camping grounds and backpackers to motels and hotels, contact Wendy at the Blenheim Information Centre. Phone 0800 262 752. email [bclhotel@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bclhotel@xtra.co.nz).

### Registration, abstracts, and enquiries

Expression of Interest forms are included with this Newsletter. Details of registration fees will be published in the next newsletter. In the meantime send all enquiries and abstracts to:

Alan Rose  
Landcare Research  
Private Bag 1007, Blenheim  
Fax 03 578 0153.  
email: [arose@hort.cri.nz](mailto:arose@hort.cri.nz)

*The deadline for abstracts is 10 May 1999.*

Don't forget to include a contact address/number. Abstracts should be sent as Wordperfect, MS Word, or text files plus hard copy. Contributions ranging from case studies to theoretical syntheses will be considered.

If possible bring your own name tag, this is environmentally friendlier and will reduce the overall conference costs.

### Provisional Programme

*Monday 28 June*

Student session (students only).

*Tuesday 29 June*

8:30 - 11:00: Registration.

11:00 - 5:30: Sustaining dry tussock grasslands and contributed papers.

Evening: Taste Marlborough - wine, cheese, salmon, and other gourmet foods.

*Wednesday 30 June*

8:30 - 11:00: Mini field trips.

1 Wither Hills: drought, degradation and restoration in a lowland dry grassland with forest remnants, or

2 Wairau vineyard with a view: resource management and intensive horticulture.

11:00 - 5:30: Mainland Islands and contributed papers.

Evening: AGM and Dinner.

*Thursday 1 July*

All day field trips, 3 options.

1 Dry tussock grassland. Mt Gladstone, Awatere Valley, 1.5 hr from Blenheim. Environmental and management influences on soils, *Hieracium* invasion, and vegetation composition in unimproved tussock grassland. Role of alternative pasture species. Polynesian impacts. Warm clothing and stout footwear required.

2 Mainland Island. Lake Rotoiti nature recovery area, St Arnaud, 1.5 hr from Blenheim. Effects of intensive pest control, recovery of native biota in montane beech forests. Warm clothing and stout footwear required.

3 Wine Trail. Warm clothing and stout footwear not required!

*Friday 2 July*

8:30 - 12:00: Contributed papers.

**BLenheim 1999 CONFERENCE: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM**

Please post form and abstract before 10 May 1999 to:

Alan Rose,  
Landcare Research,  
Private Bag 1007,  
Blenheim,  
or fax 03-578-0153.

Surname: ..... Title: ..... First Name: .....

Full Postal Address: .....  
.....  
.....

Day time Phone number: ..... Fax: .....

Email: .....

I am a member of (✓): ( ) New Zealand Ecological Society  
( ) I wish to offer a paper/poster (cross out the option that does not apply)

All delegates offering papers/posters should post a camera ready copy (12 pt font, title in bold, authors and address(es) on new line, presenter underlined, max. of 200 words)  
AND if possible, email (prefer MS-Word 6 formatting) to [arose@hort.cri.nz](mailto:arose@hort.cri.nz) with "NZES presenter's surname and initials" in the subject field.

**Day Registrations Only**

If you are enrolling for part of the conference, tick the day(s) you wish to attend (✓)

Tuesday ( ) Wednesday ( ) Friday ( )

**Special diet**

Vegetarian ( ) Other ( ) (specify .....)

**Other needs**

Mobility ( ) Other ( ) (specify .....)

## BLenheim 1999 - THE STUDENT SESSION

### Monday 28 June 1999

This year the student-only day will be held on Monday, June 28 (day prior to the main NZES conference). The student session provides a great opportunity for students to present their research which may range from preliminary results to completed research. The benefits of presenting and/or attending this session include gaining comment on research projects, obtaining invaluable experience in giving presentations and meeting other student ecologists from around New Zealand. The student-sessions at previous conferences have proved to be very popular, with over 80 attending last year's session. The format for presentation will be a 10-15 minute talk (speakers will receive further information in due course), with ample time for discussion. We encourage all students attending Blenheim 1999 to come a day early and attend the student session, even if not presenting. This should be a constructive experience for all participants, not just those making presentations.

There is no cost to attending the Student Session, although you must register for the main conference.

Travel Scholarships are available to Students who are presenting in the main sessions of Blenheim 1999, and who are members of the New Zealand Ecological. Please ask Ben Reddiex for more information or include a letter, confirming that you are a student and signed by your supervisor, requesting travel assistance with your Student Day application. See the main Registration form for information about Blenheim and how to get here.

Because we only have a day, we can't guarantee that all talks will be accepted, but we'll do our best to fit you in. Please send your registration form and abstract (200 words max) to

Ben Reddiex, Ecology and Entomology Group, PO Box 84, Lincoln University, Canterbury.

Please also email a copy of your abstract in the body of an email message to:  
<reddieb@lincoln.ac.nz> by 10 May 1999.

We look forward to seeing you at Blenheim.

Ben Reddiex

## BLenheim 1999 - THE STUDENT SESSION EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Monday 28 June 1999

Please post this form by May 10 1999 to:

Ben Reddiex, Ecology and Entomology Group, PO Box 84, Lincoln University, Canterbury.

Surname: ..... Title: ..... First Name: .....

Full Postal Address: .....

Day time Phone number: ..... Fax: .....

Email: .....

I am Studying at ..... for a  PhD  Masters  Honours  Diploma

Other (please state). .....

I intend to give a talk

My talk could best be described as:  More or less finished work  Work in Progress  A proposal

I have attached a copy of my abstract, and e-mailed a copy to Ben (email reddieb@lincoln.ac.nz) in the BODY of the email message (and made sure my name is on it!).

I have attached a letter requesting the travel assistance grant, confirming that I am a student and signed by my supervisor.

When I do my talk, I'll require:  A slide projector  Overhead projector  Black/White board  
 Proxima  Video

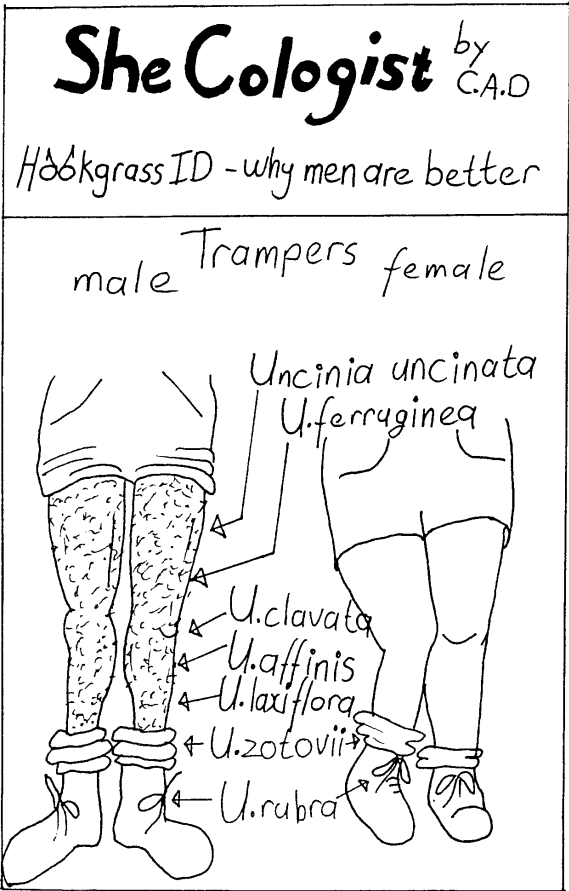
**1999 NEW ZEALAND  
ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY AWARD**

Nominations for the 1999 Ecological Society award are now invited from any members. This award, which is made annually, recognises society members who have made an outstanding contribution to the study and application of ecological science.

The award will be 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. Recipients of the award may be asked to give a presentation of their work at the Society's next annual conference.

In 1998, the award was made to John Innes - Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research.

Nominations should be made on the form included in this issue and forwarded to the Awards Convenor no later than 17 May 1999.



**1999 NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY AWARD NOMINATION**

Nominee .....

Nominated by .....

Statement of support including reference to any relevant publications

.....

.....

Signature ..... Date: .....

post to Ben Reddiex, Ecology and Entomology Group, PO Box 84, Lincoln University, Canterbury  
by 17 May 1999.