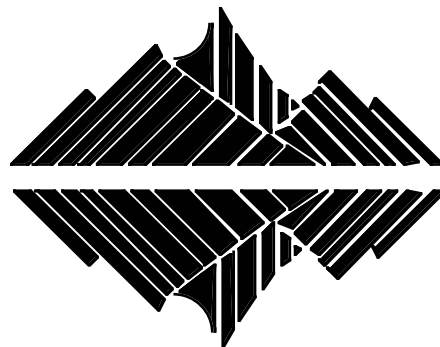


# Ecological Society

# Newsletter



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## NOTES FROM COUNCIL MEETING

*Friday 26 November 1999, 9:05am, PAMS,  
University of Canterbury*

### NZES list sever

NZES list server now going again. There was a software change, which meant that outside members weren't getting messages sent to them. The Society will also incorporate relevant material from the American Ecological Society listserver on the NZ list.

### Correspondence

30 new members, accepted with thanks. This included 17 full members (Clive Appleton, Peter Bellingham, Cees Bevers, Martin Brenstrum, Rosalind Cole, Tim Day, Mike Dodd, Craig Gillies, Tony Hall, Avi Holzapfel, Jeremy Kerr, Bruce Kyle, Ian Lynn, Diana Robertson, Peter Russell, Jenny Steven, Terita Thurley), two joint members (Dave Choquenot and Wendy Ruscoe), and 11 unwaged members (Michael Burrell, Alison Evans, Loretta Ho, Cindy Jenkins, Andrew McCall, Souzi McGill, Meredith McKay, Simon Pierce, Chris Shaw, Graham Strong, Deborah Wilson).

12 resignations, confirmed with regret, including 6 full members (Jocelyn Apeldoorn, PD Champion, R Creese, L Davies, Martin Heller, MC Wassilieff) and 6 unwaged members (Petrina Duncan, NS Harris, David Holland, Christina Houghton, NR Parker, L Reitsma).

### Journal editor's report

They have revised the journal layout to more "normal" settings. The 32nd manuscript for the year was also received by the Society (equalling the previous record in 1998).

Swiftprint currently holds electronic versions of the journal for the last 5 years. The Society has decided to get copies of these and there is the

potential to put PDF versions on the web page (abstracts and full journal files). This would be useful especially for sold-out copies such as the moa symposium. Accordingly, the Society will investigate options for putting abstracts, full contents and the Journal contents page on web page (similar to British Ecological Society homepage).

The cost of supplying "free" reprints for authors is costing the Society about \$1000 per year. It was suggested that the Society could give authors a PDF file, which would allow them to easily printout a good looking copy, and can be emailed as a reprint to overseas addresses.

Journal publicity: The development of a journal flyer is currently under way (2 page, 3-colour layout).

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### Newsletter editor's report

Astrid offered her resignation as newsletter editor due to work commitments and James Ross at Lincoln University volunteered to take it over. The Council resolved to thank Astrid for her wonderful efforts of the past years.

### 2001 Jubilee

Ken Lee sent in some very useful information about the formation of the Society in 1950-51-52. Carol West also has minutes from the archives of the inaugural meeting, which was at Canterbury University 7pm 24 May 1951 (with 70 people present!). However, we don't have a list of attendees and it appears that this has been lost. The Society has decided that there is the need to chase up as many of these original people as possible. The Entomological Society of NZ is also 50 years old in 2001; so there is the potential to have a joint celebration with them. A Society representative will approach Eric Scott and discuss the joint conference option.

### Biosecurity Council NGO Group

The Society received a letter from MAF, who are currently setting up a forum to discuss biosecurity matters with meetings to be held quarterly in Wellington (next one is 30<sup>th</sup> November). They have asked for an NZ Ecological Society representative and the Society will approach suitable candidates.

### Membership leaflet

This has been updated to include the added web address and a donation section. The Society also decided to reduce prices for back issues to try and promote sales: \$10 for recent issues (last 3 years, rolling); \$5 for older *NZJECol*; \$2 for *Proc NZ Ecol Soc*.

## SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

*Monday 17th January 2000, 1.11pm, lecture room S2 University of Lincoln*

The two rule changes, which had been advertised in the Newsletter (issue 93 pages 1-2), were discussed and carried unanimously:

1. Rule 7(d) end of financial year currently 31 March – change to 31 December; and
2. Rule 3(e) not liable for fees for that year if resign before 31 July – change to 31 March.

### Other business

Alan Mark described the *John Holloway Memorial*, which is a proposal to build two 3-wire bridges in East Matukituki River west of Lake Wanaka. Contributions will be invited from the relevant DOC offices.

## NOTES FROM COUNCIL MEETING

*Friday 18 February, 2000, 9:30am, PAMS, University of Canterbury*

### Ecotoxicology issue

Manaaki Whenua Press will sell back issues of the Ecotoxicology issue (Vol. 23 No. 2). Note: that members can get copies of previous issues through the society secretariat.

### New Government ministers

We have decided to send copies of the next journal to all four new cabinet ministers (including Forestry, Fisheries and Research, Science & Technology). Relevant ministers: Conservation = Sandra Lee; Agriculture = Jim Sutton; Forestry, Fisheries and Research, Science and Technology = Peter Hodgson; and Environment = Marian Hobbs.

### Correspondence

2 new members accepted with thanks. This included 1 full member (Louise Clarke) and 1 unwaged members (Ruby Jones).

1 resignation confirmed with regret (Janet McDonald).

### Gene technology conference

This is to be run by ERMA in Wellington on 6-7 May 2000. Registration is \$175 for the two days. It was decided that the NZ Ecological Society should develop a position statement on the Gene Technology issue. We have, therefore, decided to sponsor a NZ Ecological Society member (living near Wellington) to attend this conference and they will write a briefing article for the newsletter.

### Environmental Odyssey conference, Waikato 21-23 November 2001

The Society has been invited to participate at this conference. It was proposed that we could coordinate a lecture session (quarter to half day) with ecologists speaking on "*Application of Ecological Science to Resource Management Issues*" or similar. A poster display at the conference with membership forms and information about the NZ Ecological Society will also be organised.

### IUCN World Conservation Congress, Jordan

Mick Clout and Wren Green are attending and offered to act as NZ Ecological Society official delegates at no cost to the society - this will also allow them to have voting rights.

### Treasurer's report

Colin O'Donnell has indicated his intention to resign due to a 1-year post-doctoral placement in the UK. Council expressed thanks for his very long service in this post and we will need to find an interim treasurer to cover the period from May till the AGM in November.

Credit card payment option for society membership is currently being set up. It will be emphasised to overseas people that they can send us a personal cheque in foreign currency, which is cheaper to process than a credit card transaction.

### NZ Ecological Society conference 2000 Hamilton, 19-23 November

Suggested topics for symposia are:

- (1) From species to ecosystems: move to integrated management;
- (2) Landscape ecology; and
- (3) Keystone species: ecological naivety or critical conservation paradigm?

Proposed field trips are:

- (1) Wetlands and forests of the Waikato
- (2) Ecosystem management at Mapara and Waihaha
- (3) Karst ecology including black-water rafting

### 2001 Ecological Society of NZ Jubilee conference

This is now not going to be a joint conference with the NZ Entomological Society as they are committed to an Auckland venue.

Historical info: A copy of the minutes of the second AGM on 21-22 May 1953, Wellington, with a list of original members, has been located. The society has also received a letter from Mavis Davidson about the formation of the society in 1951 - although the first meeting was not held until 1952. This letter confirms that 2001 should be the jubilee conference date.

### 2002 Joint conference with Ecological Society of Australia

The Ecological Society of Australia Council met on 17-2-00 and adopted the recommendation that the 2001 meeting be held in Wollongong and that the 2002 meeting be held jointly with the NZ Ecological Society. It was also agreed that the Australian Ecological Society Council will wait until July to hear back from Jill Landsberg about the possibility of holding the 2002 meeting in Cairns. If that option doesn't eventuate, then the Ecological Society of Australia will have to revisit the best location for the joint meeting, which the NZ Ecological Society would want to be on the east coast of Australia.

Air New Zealand has been approached with regards to sponsorship on air fares for society

members. They have said they could do a discount of approx. \$120 for a group booking if all members fly out on the same day (can come back on different days). However, there could be a conflict if the Ecological Society of Australia opt for Qantas as the internal airline sponsor.

### Advocacy and education strategy

The Society has identified that there is a real gap in the CD materials available for primary and secondary school pupils, with a NZ ecology emphasis. Accordingly, there is a need to develop interactive CD material, based on the ecology of a common organism (e.g., the tui). This material should also have links to plant pollination, endemism and pest species etc. However, the development of this CD is likely to be very technical, time consuming and potentially expensive. For primary school children the focus needs to be the organism. Secondary school students could pick from more complex issues such as, competition with bellbirds, mutualisms, population models (with death rates etc), song and communication, dispersal, conservation, fragmentation and landscape effects.

At this stage, the Society will form a separate sub-committee to make a technical assessment, obtain a cost estimate and investigate the potential of sponsorship. The society also wants to develop a portable display, which can be set up at venues (including conferences) with membership forms. The sub-committee will also investigate this.

### Royal Society standing committee for biology societies

Ian Boothroyd (*The Royal Society of NZ*) wants to set up a standing committee for biology societies. He proposes regular e-mail contact, and probably occasional meetings, with one rep from each of 9 or 10 societies including Limnology, Parasitology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

### General business

It was decided that the web site should be updated three times a year (after each journal, and for the conference).

### Dates of upcoming council meetings

9:30am, 19 May, PAMS

9:30am, 18 Aug, PAMS

7pm, 19 November, Hamilton

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Hi there, as detailed above I have taken over the role as Newsletter Editor. The article deadline for the next newsletter is 1 May 2000 and I invite all members to forward any interesting articles, graphics, book reviews, and upcoming conference details. I am interested in all information relating to NZ and overseas ecological issues and would like to incorporate a variety of different (even conflicting) viewpoints. In the next newsletter, I will be issuing a formal call for papers for the upcoming society conference in Hamilton and providing a registration form.

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## REMINDER: CODE OF ETHICS

Do any society members have any comments on the draft code of ethics first printed in Newsletter No. 92, August 1999? If so - please send them to the secretariat (Sue Sheppard & Angela Wilkinson, PO Box 25 178, Christchurch, E-mail [sheppers@ihug.co.nz](mailto:sheppers@ihug.co.nz)) so they can collate the views of the NZES members.

Note: this is the **LAST TIME** this will be advertised – if you have an opinion please send it in soon!

## CODE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND ETHICS

### Royal Society of New Zealand

Below you will find reproduced in full the Royal Society of New Zealand Code of Professional Standards and Ethics (The **full version** of this document was printed in Newsletter No. 92, August 1999). This has been reproduced from the webpages (<http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/about/ethics.html>) of the Royal Society with kind permission.

It was agreed at the last AGM to publish this code so that members of the Ecological Society of New Zealand could ascertain for themselves whether this code is suitable for adoption by the Ecological Society, whether it needs adjustment, or if it will serve as an initial model for our own Code of Standards and Ethics.

The Committee urges **all members** to submit their comments and contributions regarding this code, even if it just reads “We agree with all points”. This can be done by sending written submissions to the secretariat (see address above). These submissions will be collated and compiled by the appropriate committee members and a summary published in the newsletter at a later date. Or, if members feel that discussion is warranted on a particular issue, send an e-mail message to the list server “[nzecosoc-request@its.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:nzecosoc-request@its.canterbury.ac.nz)” with your suggestions and comments.

Released by the President, Sir John Scott KBE FRSNZ, with the authority of the Council of the Society, on 1 January 1999 in terms of Sec. 34 of the Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1997.

### Preamble

Scientists and technologists, as individuals and within their various organisations, recognise their responsibilities to the broad community, but the specific environments in which they undertake their various tasks have changed markedly over the last few decades. Whereas, earlier this century, scientific knowledge in general was regarded as neutral, available to all, and inherently a “community good”, that concept must be placed into a wider context. The increasing emphasis on concepts of intellectual property, whether generated through public funding or via private, strictly commercial resources, has challenged the former concept of universal access to knowledge gained by scientific enquiry. Governments and communities generally now seek to use intellectual property to create economic advantages for their populations. In turn, public (governmental) investment accepts the reality of these worldwide changes in terms of effects on the national economy.

To be practical, any code of professional standards and ethics promulgated for scientists and technologists generally, must accept that there will be a division in terms of ethos and loyalty based on these across-societal and international changes in perception and attitude. This Code, which will be promulgated for a three-year trial period, attempts to encompass these difficulties. Any code that identifies these problems, but then proceeds to intensify the difficulties facing scientists and technologists, is unlikely to be honoured. Equally, as changes in the economic, scientific and technological arenas continue efforts to produce guidelines must continue in the interests of society as a whole.

At present the Code has no statutory status and the following paragraphs do not set out any mechanisms for identifying, investigating or applying sanctions in situations where allegations are made that the Code has been breached by scientists or

technologists. The time may well be approaching when some such mechanism will be required. Scientific fraud is recognised as an international problem and New Zealand will have to address this on a national basis at some stage. In the changing environment, temptations to invent data and to manipulate reports for benefit of a person or a funding agency, for instance, destroy the trust between scientists, technologists and the New Zealand community.

In the following sections, the word “must” implies an obligation for which there should be no exceptions; the word “shall” indicates a situation where virtually no exceptions are allowed; and the word “may” carries no sense of obligation.

### Charter Statement

Scientific and technological investigation, application and teaching shall be undertaken by rigorous methods. Those undertaking these tasks shall do so with integrity in order to expand the knowledge of our universe. The application of that knowledge must conform to the broadly accepted standards of the community. Innovative research and technological adaptation, undertaken outside the industrial and commercial environment, shall be open to scrutiny and criticism from any competent quarter within the traditional pattern of international science. Scientific and technological work undertaken within industry and commerce must also comply with accepted standards of integrity, honesty and professional practices.

Thus, those scientists and technologists, who commit themselves to this Code, shall avoid or abstain from scientific and technological work that directly or indirectly harms society or the living and physical environments to an unacceptable degree. Their work shall be undertaken in accordance with an accepted code of professional standards and ethics.

Scientists and technologists shall accept international obligations as well as primarily serving national interests. They thus have a duty to undertake surveillance in relation to introduction of technologies and application of scientific research based upon work undertaken overseas before such knowledge is applied within, or introduced into, New Zealand.

### Statutory Provision

Section 34 of the Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1997 makes the following provision for a code of professional standards and ethics in science and technology for members. Section 34 reads:

34. Code of professional standards and ethics -

- (1) The Council must issue for members a code of professional standards and ethics in science and technology.

- (2) The Council may from time to time issue amendments to a code of professional standards and ethics issued under subsection (1).
- (3) The Council must make the code of professional standards and ethics and any amendments to it, publicly available.

### Application

This Code is available for use by all scientists and technologists in New Zealand. Adherence to the Code may be achieved by registration within the Royal Society of New Zealand, for those with the status of FRSNZ, CRNZ and MRSNZ. Thus, all individual members of the Royal Society of New Zealand must subscribe to the Code and they will be asked to account to the Society should their conduct be considered to breach any provisions of the Code.

### General Purposes and Principles

The quality of science and technology depends on the competence of scientists and technologists, their values and the environment in which they work. Scientific and technological investigation flourishes in an open society that values honesty, criticism and communication, and in work environments that support the ethos and recognise the benefits of science and technology, and where adherence to the highest professional standards and ethics prevails.

Scientists and technologists are complementary servants of society, dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and to its responsible application. Both require, and should deserve, recognition by the communities thus served. Scientists and technologists, in considering their responsibilities to clients, colleagues and other interests, should also take into account their responsibilities to the wider community such that conflicts of interest can be avoided, if at all possible, and certainly acknowledged openly. In a situation where a conflict is clear-cut, the interests of the community should take precedence over the views and ambitions of individual scientists and technologists.

Science and technology is based on a shared pool of public knowledge. It is essential that this is constantly replenished, and all scientists and technologists have a general obligation to ensure that they contribute information as well as using the work of previous generations.

Science and technology should work for the well being of society and the sustainable use of the natural environment.

### Integrity and Professionalism

- 1) Members shall behave with integrity, using their knowledge skills and abilities to serve all sections of the wider community. Specifically,

Members shall at all times:

- (a) endeavour to obtain and present facts and given interpretations in an objective and open manner;
- (b) strive to enhance the reputation of their scientific or technological profession;
- (c) show respect, consideration and courtesy to clients and the public;
- (d) observe fairness and equity in all aspects of research and the application of science and technology, including management of research and technology transfer;
- (e) not endanger the health or welfare of all people, including those directly associated with science and technology;
- (f) avoid or declare real or apparent conflicts of interest; and
- (g) accept a responsibility to avoid compromising the health, safety or sustainability of the natural environment.

### **Honesty**

- 2) Members shall conduct themselves honestly. Specifically, Members shall at all times:
  - (a) fairly and fully represent results as they honestly perceive them, without falsification or bias;
  - (b) strive to record fairly the intellectual, material and practical contributions of others to their work and results;
  - (c) ensure that there is appropriate disclosure of any limitations on their work due to insufficient resources or other factors;
  - (d) retain all types of research records, where possible in archives, but as a minimum for 5 years; and where they are not commercially or personally sensitive, make them available for others. Any records which enable individual people to be identified must not be made available or in a form permitting such identification without the consent of the individual people before or at the time of such release. It is a responsibility of researchers to ensure that this happens;
  - (e) avoid falsifying qualifications or claims of experience;
  - (f) not commit or condone plagiarism;
  - (g) be honest in the application of findings from scientific and technological research and in the transfer of technology across the community, nationally and internationally. Any selectivity in transfer should be openly acknowledged; and
  - (h) except where work and results are commercially sensitive, ensure the prompt publication of results from publicly funded research, or at least ensure that the results are readily available in the public domain.

### **Competence and Standards**

- 3) Members shall claim expertise only within their fields of competence, make optimum use of available resources, and follow acceptable work practices. Specifically, Members shall at all times:
  - (a) represent themselves as experts only in their fields of competence as defined by formal qualifications and demonstrable relevant experience;
  - (b) maintain a level of professional competence and make every endeavour to become familiar with recent advances in their areas of expertise;
  - (c) ensure that joint authors of publications and reports share responsibility for their contents; refuse to be associated with communications bearing names of honorary authors;
  - (d) have regard to the requirements, work practices and ethical standards of the International Council of Scientific Unions or any other relevant international organisation;
  - (e) adhere to the codes and disciplinary standards of professional societies and organisations of which they are members or by which they are registered; and
  - (f) allow the highest standard, as defined by maximum benefit to the community generally, to prevail whenever there is any discrepancy or conflict in standards.

### **Relationship with Colleagues**

- 4) Members shall support ethical behaviour, and high professional standards, in relationships with their New Zealand and overseas colleagues. Specifically, Members shall at all times:
  - (a) review the work of colleagues without bias and treat all information so provided as privileged and confidential, unless to do so would conflict with the general purposes and principles of this Code;
  - (b) fully and appropriately acknowledge the work and contributions of colleagues;
  - (c) avoid falsely or maliciously attempting to impugn the reputation of colleagues; avoid compromising or denigrating colleagues in order to achieve commercial, professional or personal goals;
  - (d) support the career development of junior colleagues and students by providing honest comment on career prospects, the conduct of work, proposals, manuscripts and papers;
  - (e) encourage the development of emerging scientists and technologists;
  - (f) avoid seeking to gain unfair advantage for themselves or their employer through review or other advisory processes;

- (g) be sensitive to the assumptions, points of view and perspective's of colleagues of other cultures; and
- (h) accept that researchers working on different approaches to the same question may each reach different but supportable conclusions within the context of their research; seek to reconcile differences in perspective, rather than denigrating the opinions of others.

### **Relationship with the Community**

- 5) Members shall endeavour to make the results of their work available to the public as honestly and widely as possible. Specifically, Members shall at all times:
- (a) be aware of ethical, social, cultural, legal and environmental implications and consequences of science and technology; in particular, be respectful towards the historical basis for differing perspectives, present or emerging, within the bicultural and multiethnic structure of our nation; seek to reconcile these differences through sensitive application of emerging knowledge in the interests of New Zealand society generally;
  - (b) endeavour to communicate the results of their work to the wider community in an understandable form without scientific distortion; in so doing, avoid potentially misleading simplifications and unjustified extrapolations; identify clearly all speculative and interpretive statements;
  - (c) endeavour to ensure all public statements are correct and are supported by competent research or scholarship;
  - (d) avoid attempting to influence public policy decisions where there is contradictory or inconclusive scientific evidence without disclosure of the circumstances;
  - (e) support the publication and dissemination of all competent research, even when its conclusions appear contradictory, or are contrary to currently accepted concepts or to their own opinions; and
  - (f) maintain awareness that human and societal values must be balanced against the potential consequences of unrestricted scientific enquiry and that they have a variable, but definite, measure of responsibility for the wider outcomes of their research.

### **Relationship with Funders of Research: Public Good and Commercial Appropriate**

- 6) The general principles listed under the categories of Integrity and Professionalism, Honesty, and Competence and Standards, apply to both major categories of research, i.e. basic (scientific

curiosity), and science-technology in the industrial-commercial sector. Thus, Members involved in research or technological developments for employers or other funding agencies should maintain the highest integrity and professionalism. Wherever reasonable, their employers should be encouraged to permit public disclosure of their results. Conversely, scientists and technologists in the industrial-commercial sector must recognise their responsibilities to their employer, especially in terms of the role of science and technology in creating wealth and economic growth. Thus, when Members undertake work for employers or paying clients, the interests of the clients normally should take priority over other interests, within the limits imposed by the Law, and accepted ethical standards and public interest.

Specifically, Members shall at all times:

- (a) exercise initiative, skill and judgement for the benefit of the employer or client;
- (b) ensure that clients are aware of the ethical and legal obligations of scientists and technologists whose services they are purchasing;
- (c) respect any confidentiality required by the employer or clients;
- (d) take all care to protect any intellectual property employed within, or arising from, research undertaken for the employer or client;
- (e) accept personal responsibility for work done by themselves or under their supervision-direction;
- (f) in no circumstances promise to, give to, or accept from any third party, anything of substantial value by way of gratuity or personal advantage;
- (g) ensure that clients or employers are aware of the general place which publication of research findings plays in the world of science;
- (h) make available to the funding agencies, within appropriate time-frames, fully documented reports that are supported by competent research;
- (i) encourage employers to provide suitable alternatives for career advancement to compensate for restrictions on publication of key aspects of research experience and technological development; and
- (j) oppose manipulation of results in a manner contrary to the general principles of this Code to meet perceived needs or requirements of employers, funding agencies, media or other interested parties, while accepting the particular terms of their research contracts.

### Relationship with Paying Clients

- 7) When Members undertake work for paying clients the interests of the clients should take priority. Should the interests of the client conflict with the Law, accepted ethical standards or the broad public interest, the work should not be undertaken. Specifically, Members shall at all times:
- (a) ensure that clients are aware of the legal and ethical obligations of scientists and technologists whose services they are purchasing; and
  - (b) not undertake work which they know to be in conflict with the general purpose and ethics of this Code.

### Environmental Considerations

- 8) Members shall consider the environmental implications of their work, and draw the attention of those affected and of decision-makers, to the significance of the research and to the perceived immediate and potential consequences involved. Specifically, Members shall at all times:
- (a) seek to observe the principles and practices of sustainable management in relation to needs of future and present generations internationally;
  - (b) strive to identify impacts of their work on the environment and on people and communities; endeavour to assess and report on such impacts; seek to avoid or mitigate adverse environmental impacts;
  - (c) strive to encourage within the wider community, and internationally, the avoidance or minimisation of adverse effects of science and technology on the environment;
  - (d) pay due regard to international resource agreements and protocols on the sustainability obligations for science and technology; and
  - (e) foster environmental awareness within the science and technology professions, and among the public.

### Use of Animals in Research and Teaching

- 9) Members shall seek to minimise detrimental use of animals in research and teaching, and shall give special consideration to the welfare of any animals used in these endeavours. For the purposes of this Code, the term “animal” shall apply to all vertebrate species but not to bacteria or sub-bacterial organisms. The term “animal” for these purposes also incorporates organisms from other phyla employed in specific projects, which must be accorded a general respect for life and imposition of minimal trauma, pain or distress. Specifically, Members shall at all times:

- (a) adhere to any mandatory code of ethical conduct that may be applicable to the animal-based research or teaching being undertaken;
- (b) seek to make all those engaged in animal-based research or teaching aware of the need to practise and encourage the highest standards of care when dealing with animals;
- (c) make every endeavour to ensure that the proposed outcomes of any such research or teaching are sufficiently important to fully justify the use of live animals;
- (d) encourage the use of alternatives to live animals in research and teaching in circumstances where an appropriate alternative is available;
- (e) strive to determine the impact of their work on the welfare of all animals used in it, and to reduce the harmfulness of that impact as much as possible, both by refining their procedures and by using as few animals as will allow the expected gains to be achieved; and
- (f) foster animal welfare awareness within the science and technology professions and among the public.

### Educational Responsibilities

- 10) Members in formal teaching settings, as mentors to junior colleagues, during interactions within their professions, or in their dealings with politicians, the press and the public, shall participate as educators advancing scientific and technological awareness, knowledge and understanding among those outside their profession. Specifically, Members shall at all times:
- (a) provide high-quality, up-to-date instruction and guidance in their specialist areas, including reference to established knowledge, recent developments and areas of controversy;
  - (b) illustrate the observational and experimental foundations of science and technology, and particular features of good observation, good experimental design and data analysis in their specialist areas;
  - (c) reveal the importance of analytical, critical and innovative thinking in scientific and technological enquiry;
  - (d) strive to educate all other members of the community, thus making it clear how people generally benefit directly or indirectly from science and technology; in so doing, accept responsibility for stating objectively known risks and known benefits of particular experimental protocol or technological development. In particular, strive to present science and technology as major components of universal knowledge and culture, that is, a part of the heritage of civilisation; as a minimum in these regards,

encourage the use of imagination and independence of thought in enhancing scientific and technological creativity;

- (e) indicate how imagination and independence of thought enhance scientific and technological creativity;
- (f) recognise their ethical responsibility to provide balanced and open-minded presentations of alternative explanations of observations and of any unresolved differences between the explanations; and
- (g) remain aware, and encourage awareness that science and technology are not fixed and static; espouse the concept that established and accepted knowledge may be revised as a result of well-founded challenge.

## NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2000

*Keystone ecology: Understanding communities and ecosystems*

### When?

19th-23rd November 2000. A student session will occur on the Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November with the main conference between the 20th-23rd.

### Where?

*University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.*

The University of Waikato occupies a campus of 67 ha including extensive gardens, several small lakes, and a recently developed fernery. For those who want to stay on campus, accommodation for the conference has been arranged at one of the University hostels. Hamilton is New Zealand's largest inland city and is situated on the banks of the Waikato River. City attractions include the Hamilton Gardens and the increasingly vibrant cafe, restaurant, and nightlife scene of southern Victoria St. Hamilton is near to a diversity of ecosystem types: restiad bogs (e.g., Kopuatai peat dome); conifer-broadleaf forest on Mt Pirongia; the wading bird flocks of Miranda; and the cave ecosystems of Waitomo.

Relevant websites: <http://www.waikato.ac.nz>, <http://www.hcc.govt.nz>, [www.hamiltoncity.co.nz](http://www.hamiltoncity.co.nz)

### How will the conference be structured?

The conference will be run in the School of Management, which provides large theatre-style conference rooms linked by a common foyer. The conference will include open contributed paper sessions and symposia directed at specific topics. Two concurrent sessions will be run at most times. Posters will be

displayed in the main registration foyer and there will be a designated time for a poster session.

The conference title 'Keystone Ecology: understanding communities and ecosystems' refers to the idea that ecology as a discipline has (or potentially has) a disproportionately large impact on resource management and human society relative to its size. In this respect, we would be particularly interested in papers that explore the actual or potential contribution of ecological insight and knowledge to national goals.

The following mini-symposia are planned for the conference. If you wish to present a paper that could be relevant to a particular symposium topic, please contact the symposium organiser. A call for general papers will be issued in the next newsletter.

### *Objectives for managing communities and ecosystems*

John Innes, Landcare Research, Private Bag 3127, Hamilton. ([innesj@landcare.cri.nz](mailto:innesj@landcare.cri.nz))

### *Ecological processes in human-dominated landscapes*

Craig Miller, Department of Conservation, PO Box 701, Hokitika. ([cmiller@doc.govt.nz](mailto:cmiller@doc.govt.nz))

### *Keystone species: ecological naivety or critical conservation paradigm?*

Ian Payton, Landcare Research, P.O. Box 69, Lincoln, Canterbury. ([paytoni@landcare.cri.nz](mailto:paytoni@landcare.cri.nz))  
See separate article in this newsletter.

### *Wetland ecology*

Bev Clarkson, Landcare Research, Private Bag 3127, Hamilton. ([bev@landcare.cri.nz](mailto:bev@landcare.cri.nz))

Conference field trips are scheduled for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Trips under construction include a tour of the vegetation of the Waikato, cave ecosystems at Waitomo, and ecosystem management at Waipapa and Mapara.

Registration forms and a call for papers will appear in the June newsletter and on the Internet site also at that time (<http://www.nzes.org.nz>).

Address any other enquiries to:

Bruce Burns  
Landcare Research  
Private Bag 3127  
Hamilton  
PH: (07) 858-3728  
e-mail: [burnsb@landcare.cri.nz](mailto:burnsb@landcare.cri.nz)

## KEYSTONE SPECIES SYMPOSIUM

### Call for papers

This year's Ecological Society Conference in Hamilton will include a symposium entitled Keystone species - ecological naivety or critical conservation paradigm? The symposium stems from a review paper that the Department of Conservation has asked Landcare Research to prepare. The symposium organisers, Ian Payton and Bill Lee, see this as an opportunity for the concept and its usefulness for conservation management to be debated by the wider ecological community. If you would like to contribute a paper on some aspect (past, present, or future) of the keystone debate, please contact Ian Payton, preferably before the end of April. Contact details: Landcare Research, PO Box 69, Lincoln 8152; e-mail [paytoni@landcare.cri.nz](mailto:paytoni@landcare.cri.nz)

## ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION

### A new journal to help environmental managers

Never before have ecosystems been subjected to this magnitude of urban and industrial pressures – yet never before have there been so many individuals and organisations prepared to do something about it. But do we have enough reliable and relevant information to direct our resources where they can make a real difference?

A new journal is being established by the Ecological Society of Australia (ESA), with assistance from the Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation (LWRRDC). This collaboration is motivated by recognition of the growing need among land managers for reliable and relevant technical and ecological information.

Over the past 20 years, our communities and governments have become increasingly aware of the need for improved management of the natural resources upon which our lifestyles depend. Yet there is a wide and perhaps growing gap between the perspectives and understanding held by ecologists and those who carry much of the responsibility for on-ground management of Australian ecosystems.

To help bridge this gap, ESA and LWRRDC have jointly agreed to fund the establishment of an Australian ecological restoration and management journal, to be run by the ESA. This journal is dedicated to providing a two-way communication between ecologists and on-ground managers and to

convey the findings of both science and practice to the end-users – the land managers across Australia and our broader region.

The editorial philosophy of *Ecological Management and Restoration* emphasises the scientific nature of the discipline of restoration and ecosystem management, while allowing the journal to acknowledge the discipline's role in redressing past mistakes and fostering future solutions.

“Ecological management and restoration is the process of maintaining and repairing plant and animal communities within a context of biodiversity conservation and ecologically sustainable utilisation.

The effective practice of ecological management and restoration depends upon a two-way collaboration between ecologists and field managers to devise new hypotheses, sound experimentation, effective treatments and reliable monitoring.”

*The journal is seeking contributions that:*

- stimulate discussion of ideas and techniques relevant to the restoration and management of ecosystems;
- provide an ongoing source of technical information and other educational support for those involved in on-ground management of ecosystems;
- report and interpret the practical implications of recent research;
- report and evaluate the results, successes and failures, and critical factors of past and current restoration and management projects;
- help link on-ground managers to existing scientific knowledge and research capability; and
- provide an effective link for information flow and co-learning between restoration and management projects.

While the main focus is the management and restoration of plant and animal communities, cross-disciplinary contributions involving socio-economic and cultural aspects of ecosystem management are encouraged.

*A range of formats are sought*

(Note: format types 8-10 will be peer reviewed by qualified people from both science and practice.)

1. bodyletters (<300 words)
2. news items or notices of events (<300 words)
3. guest editorials (1000-1500 words)
4. comment pieces (1000-1500 words)
5. short technical or research notes (1000-1500 words)
6. publication reviews (600-1000 words)
7. feature articles, interviews and profiles (2000-4000 words)

8. review articles (invited) (4000-6000 words)
9. technical reports (4000-6000 words)
10. research reports (4000-6000 words)

*Who would contribute – and read the journal?*

The journal is dedicated to providing a forum for exchanges between scientists and non-scientists working on ecosystem restoration and management at all tiers of government, community and industry. So contributions are encouraged from all involved in the ambitious project of conserving and sustaining our ecosystems. It is hoped that the same groups will enthusiastically subscribe to their new journal.

*Further enquiries:*

Dr Tein McDonald,  
Editor,  
Ecological Management & Restoration,  
P.O. Box 214,  
Woodburn, NSW,  
Australia 2472.  
Phone +61-2-6682-2885  
e-mail: [teinm@ozemail.com.au](mailto:teinm@ozemail.com.au)

## TRIBUTE TO FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER JUDITH ROPER-LINDSAY

With regret we farewell Judith Roper-Lindsay, a current Councillor and former President. Judith, a plant ecologist, arrived in New Zealand from England for a six-month look-around in the late seventies. Twenty-odd years later she's return to Europe, this time to Zurich, Switzerland, where her husband has taken a job. Judith has taken two years leave from Boffa Miskell, where she is the Ecology Principal, and we have every hope of seeing her back, but with the evidence of her last short-term stay we are not too confident about when this will be!

Throughout Judith's time in New Zealand she has been determined and persuasive in her advocacy for ecological skills to be at the forefront of environmental decision-making and management. This was evident through all her work, whether in the old Ministry of Works, in consultancy work as an independent and at Boffa Miskell (where she was employed in 1988 as one of the first full-time ecologists in a New Zealand consultancy firm), in her many reports and presentations for local authorities, or on her term on the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Most recently Judith was a member of the Ministerial Advisory Group which has just released its report on the effects of private land management on indigenous biodiversity (*Bio-What?*).

Judith has been equally concerned with the quality of that ecological advice. She has done a lot of work on various types of post-graduate training of ecologists, and has also advocated long and loud for some form of professional institution for ecology practitioners in New Zealand.

With these interests it was perhaps natural that Judith should be active in the NZ Ecological Society. She served on Council from 1984-1992, and was the first woman President of the Society from 1989-92. During this time Judith was pivotal in the Society's active participation in the Resource Management Law Reform. Judith returned to Council in 1997.

This is no obituary! We have warned the Swiss authorities and the IUCN Head Office to expect some disturbance of their calm lives in the near future. Beyond that, as stated above, we do want to see Judith back in New Zealand. But it seems timely to record now the gratitude of New Zealand ecologists for Judith's efforts over the last 20 years and wish her all the best for the next.

Paul Blaschke  
Boffa Miskell  
Wellington

## THE PROBLEMS OF INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS

Dear All

This comes to you as the named contact for some scientific or science education professional organisation. I have obtained this contact address from the Royal Society of NZ's affiliated societies listing. Attached is what I hope is a self-explanatory letter to the Minister of science from myself on behalf of a group of "Independent" Researchers (i.e. those working by themselves or in small groups - being independent of large organisations and usually contracting to them). We have several issues, which we will be addressing, two of which are referred to in the attachment.

This is sent to you for two purposes: to notify your organisation of these growing issues. Your organisation may well have members who have these problems, or who will have them unless they are addressed, and hence they may well be issues that your organisation may want to explore.

The second reason is to let your members know that our organisation is "virtually" in existence, operating by e-mail, and can be contacted via my e-mail address. Some of your members may be interested in contacting us, either to go on our contact list or to tell us of any issues they might have that our group could address. We would therefore be

grateful if you could circulate the letter and my contact address (d.sheppard@xtra.co.nz).

Dr Doug Sheppard  
Geochemical Solutions  
P O Box 33 224  
Petone  
NEW ZEALAND  
(04) 565 1121 / fax (04) 565 1179

Association of Independent Researchers  
c/- Geochemical Solutions  
P O Box 33 224  
PETONE

14 March 2000

The Minister of Research, Science and Technology  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

### **Independent Researchers in New Zealand**

Dear Minister

The Association of Independent Researchers is currently a grouping of independent researchers and very small research companies who conduct scientific research on a contract basis, mostly through contracts with CRIs, Universities or directly funded through agencies such as FRST. The Association was instigated last December and currently has about 40 people on its mailing list.

The principle issue that led to the formation of our Association is concern over continuing access to funding from the PGSF for we small players. Currently, independent researchers such as those in our Association are in receipt of some 2% of the PGSF directly, and indirectly would be in receipt of much more. The new, portfolio-based funding system adopted by FRST prevents us from bidding directly for research funds from the PGSF, and places us at the whim of the major providers. FRST themselves have advised me that they are aware of the issue, but that they are in the business of buying specific research skills to address the research needs identified in the Foresight process and the subsequent SPOs. However, the development of the portfolios is being carried out by the CRIs, Universities and other major providers without, in general, any input from small providers who have specific skills that are obviously currently of value. We have concerns that the major providers will develop portfolios, which will downplay our potential contributions, given that any funding we get will be funding that they do not get. We would ask that you request the Foundation to ensure that independent providers are specifically included in the portfolio development process and not relegated to being

included at the whim of their competitors. The small independents feel somewhat left out and their viewpoint is being missed. We do note that the Health Research Council is inviting small and independent providers to participate directly in their portfolio development.

In the current climate in New Zealand where retention of technical and scientific skills and people in New Zealand is a Government policy priority, it would seem that the Government should be encouraging those in the scientific and technical community with the enterprise and the skills to set themselves up in the open market.

Another issue that is of concern to our members is access to information resources in libraries of the CRIs. The books and journals held in these institutions have been paid for mostly by the taxpayer. The commercial realities of the world in which the CRIs are operating mean that they feel obliged to charge for access to these holdings. The charges are not insignificant – IRL for example charges an annual fee of \$1600 just to have access to what is on their shelves, with high charges for other services. Access to information and library services is vital in the research community and if we independent researchers are to flourish the problem of access to information needs to be addressed. We request that you take up this issue with the CRIs and the Universities in the near future, aiming at the development of policy which will allow us reasonable access to these dominantly publicly funded libraries and services. The development of internet-based access to journals is not likely to be an answer for active researchers in the near future as the service is available only to subscribers and this is prohibitively expensive for individuals and small companies. Indeed in some areas (social research) specific collections are not available at any single institution, which is a problem for those workers.

Our Association is not yet formalised, and the intention is that it will be some sort of virtual organisation. This letter has been circulated to all on our mailing list for comment prior to sending it to you, so I can sign this on their behalf despite our association not yet having any officeholders.

Yours sincerely  
Dr Doug Sheppard

## 2000 NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY AWARD

Nominations for the 2000 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 in 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 1999, the award was made to Dr Carolyn King, University of Waikato. Nominations should be made on the form included in this issue and forwarded to the Awards Convenor no later than 31 August 2000.

## JS WATSON CONSERVATION TRUST

This trust is administered by Forest and Bird. Applications are invited from individuals or conservation groups for financial assistance for conservation projects over the 2000-01 year.

The criteria for assistance are:

- the conservation of plants and animals and natural features of New Zealand;
- the advancement of knowledge in these matters by way of research, literary contribution, essay or articles, or other effort; and

- general education of the public to give them an understanding and love of the world in which they live.

A total of around \$20,000 is available for distribution. Individual applications should be limited to a maximum of \$4,000.

For further details write to:

Forest & Bird  
PO Box 631  
Wellington  
Or e-mail: [t.dewitt@wn.forest-bird.org.nz](mailto:t.dewitt@wn.forest-bird.org.nz), or fax 04 385-7373

*Applications close 30 July 2000.*

## 1ST ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 1ST SYMPOSIUM ON EXOTIC SPECIES

*Introductions, Causes and Consequences  
Lisbon, March 2000*

Dear colleagues

The "Liga para a Protecção da Natureza", a Portuguese NGO, is organizing a symposium on the introduction of exotic species or biotic exchange. The first announcement can be seen at <http://paginas.teleweb.pt/~exoticas>.

Best regards

The organizing committee  
Aldina Maria Antunes Franco  
[A.Franco@uea.ac.uk](mailto:A.Franco@uea.ac.uk)  
Population and Conservation Biology Sector  
School of Biological Sciences  
University of East Anglia  
Norwich NR4 7TJ  
UK  
Tel: 01603 593172  
Fax: 01603 592250  
WWW Server URL: <http://www.bio.uea.ac.uk>

## 2000 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 31 August 2000.

## COMPLEX SYSTEMS 2000

### Conference announcement and call for papers

*The Fifth International Conference on Complex Systems*

*Date:*

19-22 November 2000, 3-4 days

*Place:*

Otago University, Dunedin, New Zealand

*Theme:*

Applied Complexity - From Neural Nets to Agricultural Soils, and all that lies in between.

For registration, paper submission and detailed information, please visit: <http://www.crop.cri.nz/complex2000>

*Important deadlines:*

**Paper submissions by 31 May 2000**

*Aim:*

Much of complexity work to date has dealt with abstract modelling, while people who most deal with real complex systems (ecology to economics) are virtually unaware of progress. The conference will bring together the abstract with the realistic and show advances in complex system theory and modelling which have been applied to real world situations or hope to be heading that way.

Background: "Applied Complexity" is the fifth of a series of conferences on Complex Systems in Australasia and the first in New Zealand. The first conference (From Biology to Computation) was held at the Australian National University, Canberra, in 1992. Subsequent conferences were held at the University of Central Queensland, Rockhampton, 1994 (Mechanisms of Adaptation); at Charles Sturt University, Albury, 1996 (From Local Interactions to Global Phenomena); and at University of New South Wales, Sydney, 1998 (Complexity Between the Ecos - From Ecology to Economics). "Applied Complexity" expands the international tradition of these conferences and expects a wide participation from around the world.

*Audience, disciplinary interests:*

Complex systems cross boundaries between disciplines, thus we expect to elicit interest in disciplines ranging across mathematics, computing, physics, chemistry, climatology, biology, psychology, neural sciences, information sciences, social sciences, anthropology, ethnobiology, economics, modelling, conservation, and management to cite only a few at a broad level. However, to maintain a clear focus,

paper presented must deal explicitly with issues within those fields that suggest the extraction of broad rules, which may be applicable across complex systems of a different nature.

*This conference is for you if:*

- you work in real-life complex systems (e.g., agriculture, economy, psychology, conservation, social studies, history) and wonder whether there could be more holistic approaches to scientifically comprehend them;
- you have heard of chaos theory, complexity, catastrophe theory, artificial life, artificial intelligence, self-organisation, etc. and believe they are applicable to your problem but don't know the right people to establish a working relationship; and
- you work with computer simulations of complex systems (e.g., genetic algorithms, information science, fitness landscapes, ecological and agricultural modelling, etc.) but wonder how this will ever be connected to real-life complex systems.

Complex Systems 2000 brings these strands together in a meeting, which encourages the initiation of important collaborative research, as well as updating the most research, advances in the field.

We look forward to seeing you in Dunedin!

Dr Stephan Halloy  
Biodiversity  
Crop & Food Research Institute  
PB 50034  
Mosgiel,  
NEW ZEALAND  
Tel +64 3 489 0673  
Direct 489 0160  
Fax 489 0674  
e-mail: [halloys@crop.cri.nz](mailto:halloys@crop.cri.nz)

## ECOLOGY OF INSULAR BIOTAS

### Second announcement and call for papers

An international conference to be held in Wellington, New Zealand from 12 to 16 February 2001. The conference will focus on ecological patterns and processes of particular importance to isolated biotas, including true islands, natural habitat islands (e.g., ponds) and artificial habitat island (e.g., reserves). Examples of suitable topics for papers include: dispersal and gene flow within and among isolated populations; ecology of small populations; ecological consequences of disharmonic floras and faunas; the relevance of island biogeography principles in conservation; islands as model ecosystems; comparative ecology of true islands vs. habitat islands. One

goal of the conference is to bring together researchers from disparate disciplines to seek general ecological patterns common to isolated biotas of all types.

*Keynote Speaker:*

Dr. Peter M. Vitousek, Stanford University, USA: "Islands as model ecosystems: understanding locally and thinking globally".

*Plenary Speaker:*

Dr. William F. Laurance, Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project, Smithsonian Institution and INPA, Brazil: "Landscapes in crisis: Fragmented forests as insular habitats in Amazonia and Australia".

*Invited Speakers:*

- Dr. Fred Allendorf, University of Montana, USA: "Genetics and the persistence of isolated populations" Dr. Charles Fisher, Pennsylvania State University, USA: "Dispersal and settlement constraints of deep-sea hydrothermal-vent and cold-seep animals";
- Dr. Rosemary Gillespie, University of California at Berkeley, USA: "Evolution of spiders in the oceanic islands of the Pacific: does history repeat itself?";
- Dr. Kanehiro Kitayama, Japanese Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Japan: "Comparison of Malesian vs. Hawaiian mountains: consequences of a disharmonic flora in the ecosystem processes of tropical rainforests"; Dr. John Morgan, La Trobe University, Australia: "Maintaining diversity in temperate grassland remnants: patterns, processes and challenges";
- Dr. Gary Polis, University of California at Davis, USA: "Food web considerations of the conservation and ecology of island biotas";
- Dr. David Towns, Department of Conservation, New Zealand (title to be announced); and
- Dr. David Wardle, Landcare Research, New Zealand: "Islands as model systems for evaluating how species affect ecosystem properties".

*Call for papers*

We invite the submission of abstracts for oral presentations and posters on any topics related to the conference theme. For full information and instructions, visit our webpage (see address below) or contact us at [sbs-islands-conf@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sbs-islands-conf@vuw.ac.nz).

More information on the conference and on abstract submissions can be found at:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/sbs/conferences/island.shtml>

## 3rd EUROPEAN VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

*Kibbutz Ma'ale Hachamisha, Israel,  
September 9-14, 2001*

### First announcement and call for papers

Dear Colleague,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to participate in the Third European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference, which will take place in Israel in September 2001.

I am looking forward to a gathering that will bring together scientists from Europe, the Middle East and beyond, from a broad range of disciplines including: crop protection, wildlife management, structural pest control, conservation biology, and nuisance wildlife control. I am looking forward to a rich exchange of information on research on a wide variety of problems dealing with effective, humane and environmentally sound methods of reducing human-animal conflicts, in light of EU and international legislation. The conference will provide many new opportunities for dialogue and collaboration.

Israel sits at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa, and has provided profound intellectual and spiritual inspiration for the world for over three millennia. We are planning an elaborate program of social events and tours connected with the conference, for participants and accompanying persons.

I invite you to join us in Israel.

Dr. Shmuel Moran  
Chairperson,  
Conference Organising Committee

### Suggested conference topics

- Population management
- Habitat management
- Behaviour management
- Integrated pest management
- Environmental implications & ecotoxicological risks
- Repellents
- Legislation
- Wildlife contraception
- Structural bird problems
- Commensal rodents
- Rabies control
- Bird-aircraft hazard
- Bird-fisheries conflicts
- Carnivore-livestock conflicts

Some specific problems may be organised as separate workshops or symposia.

### Preliminary scientific programme

*Sunday, September 9, 2001*

All day: Arrival and transfer to hotels. Check-in and Registration.

Evening: Informal Get-Together.

*Monday, September 10, 2001*

Morning: Opening session and keynote lectures.

Afternoon: Lunch and continuation of lectures and discussions.

Evening: Reception, hosted by the Organising Committee.

*Tuesday, September 11, 2001*

Morning: Lectures and discussions.

Afternoon: Lunch and continuation of lectures and discussions.

Evening: Optional visit to Caesarea excavations including fish dinner.

*Wednesday, September 12, 2001*

All Day: Symposium at Tel Aviv Fair Grounds

Evening: Optional night tour of historical Jaffa & modern Tel Aviv including mediterranean barbecue dinner.

*Thursday, September 13, 2001*

All Day: Field trip to the North of Israel. Return to hotel in the evening.

### General information

*Travel to Israel*

The best way to travel to Israel is by air by direct flight from most major cities in Europe, North America and Asia.

*Venue*

The Conference will be held at Kibbutz Ma'ale Hachamisha Guest House located in the Judean Mountains, 15km west of Jerusalem. The guesthouse operates as a hotel with excellent conference and recreation facilities.

*Climate & clothing*

September is one of the most pleasant months in Israel. Temperatures at this time of year in Israel range between 28°C midday to 18°C in the evening. Dress will be informal throughout the Conference. No rain is expected.

*Language*

The official language of the Conference will be English (including lectures and printed material).

*Visas*

Participants from most countries do not require a visa to Israel. Ortra or other travel agencies can provide you with current information. Individuals from countries without diplomatic relations with

Israel should write immediately to the Secretariat, giving the following details: **full name, date and place of birth, passport number and date of issue, time of arrival and flight number.**

The Secretariat will arrange for a visa to be issued at the airport upon arrival.

### Information about Israel on the Internet

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gov.il>

For additional information contact the conference secretariat:

#### ORTRA LTD.

1 Nirim st.

P.O. Box 9352

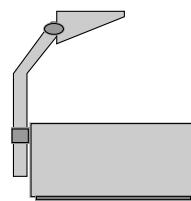
Tel Aviv, Israel 61092

Tel: 972-3-6384444

Fax: 972-3-6384455

E-mail: [vert@ortra.co.il](mailto:vert@ortra.co.il)

Web-page <http://www.ortra.com/vertebrate>



### OTHER UPCOMING CONFERENCES

*April 14-17, 2000*

#### Spacetime 2000

Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand Annual Conference Upper Hutt, New Zealand. Contact Edwin Budding, CIT, Upper Hutt ([secretary@rasnz.org.nz](mailto:secretary@rasnz.org.nz))

*May 14-18, 2000*

#### The 2nd Pacific Basin Conference on Adsorption Science and Technology

Brisbane, Australia. Contact Prof. D. D. Do, Department of Chemical Engineering, The University of Queensland, St Lucia, QLD 4072, Australia.

*June 6-11, 2000*

#### Third International Weed Science Congress –IWSC

Foz do Iguassu, Brazil. Contact P J Eventos – Feiras e Congressos, Rua Jose Risseto, 1023 – Curitiba, Parana – Brazil, CEO 82.015010. Phone/Fax 5541 372 1177, e-mail: [pj@datasoft.com.br](mailto:pj@datasoft.com.br)

*June 3-11, 2000*

**Earth 2000 Conference**

Sydney, NSW, Australia. Contact: Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia, G.P.O. Box 3428, Sydney, NSW 1043, Australia. Ph/fax 61 2 9556-1537

*June 5-09, 2000*

**Special Symposium on Aquatic Species Invasions**

Copenhagen, Denmark. Contact Gregory Ruiz, Smithsonian Environmental Research Centre, PO Box 28, Edgewater, Maryland 21037, USA. Phone 301-261-4190, Fax 301-261-7954, e-mail [ruiz@serc.si.edu](mailto:ruiz@serc.si.edu)

*June 14-16, 2000*

**International Ecological Congress: Advances in Ecology and Environmental Safety**

St. Petersburg, Russia. Contact Svetlana Bykadorova, Congress Secretariat, Department of Ecology and Environmental Safety, Baltic State Technical University, 1 Pervaya Krasnoarmeyskaya Str., 198005, St. Petersburg, Russia. Tel (7-812) 301-8661, Fax (7812) 316-1559, e-mail: [newecol@spb.cityline.ru](mailto:newecol@spb.cityline.ru)

*June 24-Aug. 9, 2000*

**2000 International Science Festival**

Dunedin – The City of Science, New Zealand. Contact Caroline Cook, Director, 2000 International Science Festival, P O Box 5819, Dunedin, New Zealand. Tel: (03) 474 3338, Fax (03) 474 3458, e-mail: [director@scifest.org.nz](mailto:director@scifest.org.nz)

*June 27-29, 2000*

**NZIAS/NZSHS Convention: The Noah Paradigm!; Strategies for Managing Climate Variation in our Primary industries**

Palmerston North, New Zealand. Contact Tel/Fax (+64-3) 3842432 Scicon 2000, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

*July 3-7, 2000*

**15th Australian Statistical Conference**

Adelaide, Australia. Contact e-mail: [15ASC@sapmea.asn.au](mailto:15ASC@sapmea.asn.au)

*July 3- 7, 2000*

**15th Australian Geological Convention: Understanding Planet Earth - Searching for a Sustainable Future**

Sydney, Australia. Contact 15th AGC C/- Geological Society of Australia, Suite 706, 301 George Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000. Ph 02 9290 2194, fax 02 9290 2198, e-mail: [15thagc@gsa.org.au](mailto:15thagc@gsa.org.au)

*July 16 - 23, 2000*

**XIX Congress of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Geoinformation for all**

Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ISPRS Organising Committee, Attn. Ms Saskia Tempelman e-mail: [isprs@itc.nl](mailto:isprs@itc.nl), URL: <http://www.itc.nl/~isprs>

*August 6-10, 2000*

**Ecological Society of America 85th Annual Meeting**

Snowbird, Utah.

*August 7-12, 2000*

**XXI IUFRO World Forestry Congress**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Information: [iufroxxi@frim.gov.my](mailto:iufroxxi@frim.gov.my). Website: <http://frim.gov.my/iufro.html>

*August 14-18, 2000*

**29th International Geographical Congress**

Seoul, Korea. Contact e-mail: [igcseoul@plaza.snu.ac.kr](mailto:igcseoul@plaza.snu.ac.kr)

*September 3-8, 2000*

**11th International Biotechnology Symposium and Exhibition**

Berlin, Germany. Contact Fax: (+49-69)-7564201

*September 4-6, 2000*

**Evolution and Revolution = C21 Nutrition**

Wellington, New Zealand. Contact Dee Armstrong. (04) 562 8392 (home), e-mail [Dee.Armstrong@hvh.co.nz](mailto:Dee.Armstrong@hvh.co.nz)

*November 19-23, 2000*

**New Zealand Ecological Society Conference**

Hamilton, New Zealand. Contact Bruce Burns, Landcare research, Private Bag 3127, Hamilton. Ph (07) 858-3728, e-mail [burnsb@landcare.cri.nz](mailto:burnsb@landcare.cri.nz)

**ECOLOGICAL SOFTWARE ON THE INTERNET**

This is a new section advertising ecological software that can be downloaded from the Internet.

**Freeware**

*Biodiversity Pro:*

<http://www.nrmc.demon.co.uk/bdpro>

As far as I can see the most thorough collection of biodiversity related statistics:

Alpha Calculations

Abundance Plot: K-Dominance, Rank

Abundance Model: Log-Series, Broken Stick

Rarefaction

Diversity Indices: Shannon, Alpha, Caswell, Berger-Parker, Simpson, Hill, Margalef, McIntosh

Beta Calculations  
 SHE Analysis  
 Species Richness  
 Chao 1&2  
 Jackknife  
 Species Distribution  
 Multivariate  
 Principal Components  
 Correspondence Analysis  
 Cluster Analysis  
 Non-Metric MDS (not yet implemented)  
 Comparison  
 Descriptive Statistics  
 Kulczynski  
 Mann-Whitney  
 Rank Correlation  
 Correlation  
 Variance-Covariance  
 ANOSIM

*EcoSim:*

<http://homepages.together.net/~gentsmin/ecosim.htm>

EcoSim is an interactive computer program for null model analysis in community ecology. EcoSim allows you to test for community patterns with non-experimental data. EcoSim also performs Monte Carlo randomisations to create "pseudo-communities" (Pianka 1986), then statistically compares the patterns in these randomised communities with those in the real data matrix.

It has modules for:

- Co-occurrence;
- Niche Overlap;
- Size Overlap; and
- Species Diversity

Other software which I haven't tried yet but looks interesting:

*Ecology Software by Hsin Chi:*

<http://nhsbig.inhs.uiuc.edu/www/c>

*Krebswin:*

<http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/jb>

Please feel free to send in any more interesting webpage sites to the Newsletter editor.

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For information on the listserv contact the newsletter editor ([rossj1@tui.lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:rossj1@tui.lincoln.ac.nz)) or myself at [d.kelly@botn.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:d.kelly@botn.canterbury.ac.nz). For information on the Australian listserv contact Dave Kelly.

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

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