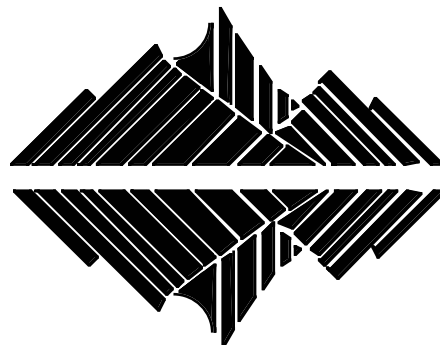


Ecological Society

Newsletter



No. 96, October 2000

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P.O. Box 25-178, Christchurch

MINUTES OF NZ ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY COUNCIL MEETING

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

Present

Carol West, Dave Kelly (secretary), Mark Sanders,
Craig Miller, Ben Reddiex, Jacqueline Beggs, James
Ross

Apologies

Bruce Burns, Janet Wilmshurst, Hazel Chapman,
David Wardle

Matters arising

Once again there are no nominations for the NZES
Award and the closing date was the 31st of August.
Accordingly, the Society is considering dropping the
award. In the interim another request for nominations
will be put out on the e-mail list server.

Treasurer's report

Audited accounts for the past two years are printed
in this newsletter. Journal production was \$5,700
over budget due to the size of the large
ecotoxicology issue. Surplus funds have been
reinvested at BNZ at the best available term deposit
rate.

Proposed budget for the current (9-month) year
was discussed. Both journal issues for 2000 have
been printed at a total cost of \$24,300 plus postage.
Royal Society payment is due about March/April, so
should only be a charge on next year's accounts.
Membership numbers are holding up and overseas
journal subscriptions are now set in US\$ to maximise
revenue. In conclusion, the society should net
approximately \$4,000 profit. The society needs
some profits to get back to the target of \$40,000 in
reserves, which was agreed at last year's AGM.

Journal editor's report

Everything is going fine and the latest issue is now
printed (printing cost was \$11,859.75 including
GST). The Society congratulates David Wardle for
his continuing sterling efforts.

Conferences

2000 Hamilton

Most things seem to be largely in place now for the
conference and registrations have started to come in.
Waikato University is also going to provide some
direct sponsorship support.

The two science speakers are Prof. Richard Hobbs
(Australia, Landscape ecology) and Prof. Neo
Martinez (USA, food webs) and both are now
confirmed and the symposium is largely organised.

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John Innes has organised a session on Tuesday afternoon to discuss deer management in natural ecosystems with representatives from Deerstalkers, DoC, and Landcare Research.

The Society has agreed to Lars Brabyn, a Geography lecturer at Waikato, running a daylong course on GIS for ecologists on the day after the conference. He would charge about \$100 per person and this would limit the course to 20 people (see advert later in newsletter).

Mitigating the environmental impact of the conference was suggested. The overall positive balances of the annual accounts have previously relied on conference profits over many of the last 10 years. Accordingly, there is not much leeway to disburse conference profits locally. The Society decided to make this issue an item for the upcoming AGM and members will be asked what they think would be suitable actions to minimise the ecological impact of future NZES conferences.

It was considered that the student travel grants were inadequate last year (only \$800 divided about 15 ways) and could well be increased prior to the conference.

2001 Christchurch

A committee has been formed (Hazel, Dave Kelly, Pauline Syrett, Rowan Emberson, John Parkes, Richard Duncan, Raphael Didham & Laura Sessions) and they are currently collecting addresses to contact old Society members (see list later in newsletter). Lecture rooms in C block booked for 27-30 August 2001. Plant and Microbial Sciences at Canterbury has agreed to officially support the conference.

Field trips at end (rather than in the middle) are generally preferred. Current possibilities are Birdlings Flat, Kaikoura (long drive), braided rivers, Quail Island, Mt Hutt alpine and a selection of Christchurch restoration sites.

The Society agreed that additional advertising would be required to attract the reunion members, through other societies, newspapers and the Royal Society newsletter.

2002 joint with Australian Ecol Soc.

Cairns is an option which is currently being investigated. However, the travel costs to get there could be prohibitive for NZ student members.

Correspondence

Council welcomed 14 new members. Full: Grant Blackwell, Ben Erskine, Neil Fitzgerald, Mel Galbraith, Sibilla Girardet, Clayson Howell, Brad Ilg, Nikki McArthur, Duane Meltzer, Joanna McQueen. Full overseas: Peter Baylis, David Hall,

Caroline Walsh. Unwaged: Johanna Taylor.

Five member's resignations accepted. Unwaged: Nicola Irvin, Rebecca James, H Thompson. Full: Fleur Maseyk, Rory McGirr.

Advocacy and Education

The new advocacy and education committee met on the 4th of July and started work on the interactive CD (see their report later in this newsletter).

Teri McLelland demonstrated the MacroMedia package using a couple of small files, which can move drawings around, have text fade, build up and slide-off effects. Sheryl McCammon is available to draw graphics and Marc Cohen can do the Internet development work (both have previously won awards in these areas).

It was agreed that the tui is a good flagship species as it is widely seen and is present through most of the country (unlike kiwi) and so is a visible local face for biodiversity. Reference (target) groups are primary to intermediate schools, and parents. Children are into computers hence the CD-ROM with a game emphasis should be attractive. Also, with MacroMedia technology the program would be small enough to just put it on the web and people can download from there or even run over the web. This would reduce costs with CD production and packaging and updating.

The material could follow the Encarta encyclopedia format with three main areas. Area 1 is a reference section with definitions, pictures, movie clips and hot links. Area 2 is build-a-bird section with wings, head, body etc. from 6 different bird species. Area 3 is like Doom (which is an interactive game) with different levels about a "day in the life of a tui". They need to make it fly, find food and so on. With chicks fledged they get up to level 2, which is the same but with predators added (so skill level increases). Level 3 is the same with predators and competition (eg. wasps, bellbirds, etc). Area 1 is very cheap (maybe \$3000 or less), area 2 is fairly cheap (\$3-4K) and area 3 would be the most expensive (tens of thousands).

General business

The Code of Ethics proposal drew two comments; one suggesting adding a bit on animal experiments, so a revised version will be presented at the next AGM.

Next meeting

Sunday 19 November 7:30pm at Hamilton (Bruce's house).

Meeting closed

at 1:23pm.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Hi everybody, I undertook the role of newsletter editor earlier in the year and this is my third issue. I have found this role very time-consuming, but also immensely fulfilling. I hope that everybody has enjoyed the articles that I have included and I look forward to meeting some of you at the upcoming conference in Hamilton.

This issue is very long with the committee member's reports. I apologise if some articles have been left out, however, they will be included in the next issue.

The article deadline for the next newsletter is December 31st 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.

A new inclusion in this newsletter is a list of student-research projects from Lincoln University. I invite postgraduate students from Canterbury University to e-mail me any abstracts (eg. ones used at overseas conferences) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 1999 TO 20 NOVEMBER 2000

At the 48th AGM in Blenheim two new Councillors were elected, Jacqueline Beggs and Mark Sanders. Much to my surprise I was elected President of the Society. We were very fortunate to retain the services of Dave Kelly as Secretary and Colin O'Donnell as Treasurer. The previous conference was very successful and recorded a healthy profit. Also, the Society is in very good heart with a record paid up membership and a fairly healthy rate of journal subscriptions (Refer Annual Report Section).

Meetings

During the course of the year five Council meetings have been held, in July, November, February, May and August and a considerable amount of business has been conducted. Some of that business is reported on separately in this newsletter but I will cover the major points here. In addition a Special General Meeting was held in January, at the Southern Connection Congress. The purpose of this meeting was to change the financial year from 1st Apr-31st Mar to 1st Jan-31st Dec so that journal costs and subscriptions coincided better. There were 36 members at the SGM and the motion to change the financial year was successfully passed.

New Treasurer

In May Colin O'Donnell resigned as Treasurer to take up a one-year post-Doc position in Britain. We were delighted that councillor Ben Reddiex was prepared to take up the challenge of this position. He has done a sterling job, benefiting from Colin's tutelage and the wisdom of Dave Kelly.

New Newsletter Editor

In November Astrid Dijkgraf resigned as Newsletter Editor to devote her attention to writing her PhD thesis. We thank Astrid for the great job she did with the Newsletter. James Ross from Lincoln University was Astrid's willing successor and he has settled into the role quickly. We are grateful to James for his dedication to the task.

Education subcommittee

The education portfolio of the Society was picked up and dusted off. A subcommittee comprising Jacqueline Beggs, Teri McClelland, Laura Sessions and me was formed to discuss what we might do. We have come up with an excellent concept for education about ecology and we have secured funding of \$30,000.00 from the Science and Technology Promotion fund to turn our ideas into reality (Refer NZES Subcommittee Report).

Journal

Through the efforts of Mark Sanders we have rationalised our free journal distribution list. In July 1999, Council decided to charge for overseas subscriptions (except Australia and the Pacific) in US\$ - a move which should net us quite a good return given the fall of the kiwi dollar against the greenback! The Journal continues to be ably edited by David Wardle (Refer Journal Editor's Report) report.

Code of Ethics

After the last AGM, the Royal Society of New Zealand Code of Ethics was published in Newsletter no. 92, and members were asked to comment on whether they thought this code was suitable for adoption by the Society. Further calls for comments were issued in Newsletters 93 and 94, and on the listserver. The code was also published again in Newsletter 94. Only three members commented. They agreed the Royal Society Code was suitable. We will vote at the 49th AGM in November 2000 on whether to adopt this code. Copies of the code will be provided at the AGM.

Conference 2000

Bruce Burns and his team in Hamilton have been working hard to deliver what promises to be a stimulating and enjoyable conference. The delay in timing of the conference was caused by a change to Waikato University's policy regarding student residence in the Halls. They no longer have to vacate their rooms in the semester breaks. Therefore, there was no campus accommodation available in August. Given that the nearest motel and backpacker accommodation was at least 3 km from the venue, it was agreed to delay the conference until after exams. We apologise for any problems this may have caused but we judged that it would lead to a more successful conference.

Conference 2001

Preparations for the Society's 50th Jubilee conference are well underway. Canterbury University is the venue and this is fitting as this is where the first General meeting of the Society was held. Hazel Chapman has agreed to organise the Conference and John Parkes heads a small group of long-time members who will organise the content of the conference and track down as many foundation and early members of the Society as possible. A group comprising Hazel Chapman, John Parkes, Dave Kelly, Richard Duncan, Pauline Syrett, Rowan Emberson, Raphael Didham and Laura Sessions has been set up to oversee all necessary plans. Mark the period from 26-30 August 2001 in your diary now and prepare for the conference of a lifetime.

Conference 2002

Negotiations with the Ecological Society of Australia continue regarding our second joint conference. We have agreed that the venue will be Cairns and the month will be November so start training for hot, humid weather now. Dust off your passport too, and if you have any ideas on how to help students get there as cheaply as possible, let us know.

Council

The Society is most fortunate to have hard-working and dedicated Councillors of very high calibre. It has been a pleasure working with such cheerful and reliable people. Dave Kelly is the corporate memory of Society and has his finger on the pulse of all issues. He's a great Secretary, too. I have been well supported by Craig Miller, immediate past President, and Janet Wilmshurst, Vice President. I thank the whole team for their work during the year. If I was to estimate the number of hours that Councillors, our editors, education subcommittee members and submissions convenor voluntarily contribute to the Society in the course of a year, you and I would be astounded. I must thank the employers of these people too – Canterbury and Lincoln Universities, Landcare Research, Environment Southland and DoC – because meetings are held during work time.

Carol West, President

21 September 2000

JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT

The journal continues to serve as a popular publication outlet for New Zealand ecologists; in 1999 we received an all time record of 34 unsolicited manuscripts and we look set to receive a similar number this year. We continue to receive large numbers of manuscripts on vertebrate ecology (including ecology of vertebrate pests) and a moderate supply of terrestrial plant and invertebrate manuscripts, but very few manuscripts on aquatic ecology. The journal is well supplied by data-rich manuscripts but we still receive few Forum and Review articles. I have received several enquiries from ecologists interested in writing Review and Forum type articles, and it would be great if even a subset of these actually materialised into real manuscripts someday.

Because of the increased supply of manuscripts and limited numbers of pages available it has been necessary to introduce finite length limits to manuscripts. The maximum length (in printed pages) is now set at 20 for Review Articles, 15 for Research Articles (representing the majority of manuscripts), 12 for Forum Articles and 5 for Short Communications. One printed page represents about three pages of double spaced typescript in 12-point font on A4 paper. Manuscripts in excess of these limits are usually returned to authors without review for shortening.

As well as introducing length limits, it has also been necessary to tweak the rejection rate of manuscripts slightly upwards. Currently we are rejecting about a third of the manuscripts that we receive,

mainly on the basis of the comments of reviewers. Another third of the manuscripts are accepted after major revision (frequently requiring more than one round of review) and the final third are accepted with minor revision. All manuscripts that receive generally favourable reviews are still able to be accepted.

I have placed a priority on reducing the length of time between submission and publication, particularly for well-presented papers containing good science and requiring minor revision. For good manuscripts this time is less than twelve months in the majority of cases; the most recent issue of the journal even included a paper that was published only four months after initial submission. However, there are some manuscripts that linger for a much longer time mainly due to tardy reviewers, and this is an area in which we continually strive to do better.

One change I am considering, based on suggestions I have received separately from two colleagues, is to drop the requirement for listing authorities or sources of nomenclature in manuscripts from Volume 25 Issue 2 (to be published from August 2001) onwards. Several overseas journals do not have this requirement. However, I would appreciate feedback on this, and if anyone feels strongly that the sources of nomenclature and species authorities should be included in all manuscripts then please let me know, giving reasons.

While we continue to receive many manuscripts that are well prepared we also receive several that although potentially publishable are poorly presented. These sorts of papers can remain in the system for a long time, sometimes for years, and require a considerable effort (involving several rounds of reviewing and editing) to get them into shape for publication. There are two major types of offending manuscript here. The first are sourced from CRI-based scientists trying to get their work submitted by June 30 each year in order to satisfy their FRST contracts. Some of these have clearly been produced in a bit of a hurry. Hopefully recent changes in the way that FRST contracts are organised will see an end to this. The second are papers arising from student theses. We definitely encourage students to publish in the Journal, and recognise that many papers we receive from students represent their first attempt at scientific writing. While some of these manuscripts are very well prepared some are not, and here the blame does not lie with the students themselves but rather with their supervisors, who frequently appear on such papers as co-authors. Ultimately the supervisor gets credit for the publication, and I see it as the duty of the supervisor (not the reviewers and editors of the Journal) to assist the student in getting the manuscript into a form suitable

for publication. There are instances in which I doubt that the supervisor coauthoring such a paper has ever actually bothered to read it properly.

The Journal continues to be served by an excellent Editorial Board. Over the past year Alastair Robertson and Carol West completed their terms on the Board and are thanked for their services to the Journal over the past few years. David Coomes joined the Board over that time. The Editorial Board therefore consists of Dave Choquenot, Kay Clapperton, David Coomes, Richard Duncan, Graham Hickling, Richard Holdaway, Peter Jones, Gábor Lövei, Ian McLean and Michael Winterbourn, with Robert Poulin as the Book Review Editor. I would like to express my thanks to the Board members and reviewers of manuscripts for their help to the Journal over the past year, and also to those authors who keep us supplied with enough interesting manuscripts to maintain the success of the Journal.

David Wardle
Journal Editor

ANNUAL REPORT 2000 - MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership

Membership of NZES is looking very healthy – in fact it seems probable that we have more members right now than we have ever had before. Not only that, but we have a higher percentage of Full members, with a decrease in the number of Unwaged members. Maybe the economy is looking up for ecologists! All of this is much better news than I was reporting in last year's annual reports. The tallies are presented below, in comparison with last year. Note that last year's totals are corrected from those printed in Newsletter No. 92 (August 1999) because those tallies failed to include c 78 joint members (so some of the gloom then was unjustified). The totals assume that those in arrears 1 year will pay, but those owing for two are unlikely to (it's not too late if this is you!).

Membership of NZ Ecol Soc as at 12/9/00

Category	Paid	Arrears 1 yr	Total	(Arrears 2 yr)
Full	278	33	311	3
Joint	39 x 2	2 x 2	82	0
Unwaged	109	19	128	13
Overseas	17	3	20	2
Honorary	7	0	7	0
Total			548	

A comparison with 1999 and 1991 is interesting. The Overseas category is a useful new membership category in 2000; previously members living overseas were simply signed up to the Full or Unwaged rate. Now they pay an extra amount for overseas postage on top of the full rate. Overseas members totalled 11 in 1999 (6 full, 5 unwaged) and 16 in 1991 (15 full, 1 unwaged).

Membership at 21/7/99

Category	Paid	Arrears 1 yr	Total	(Arrears 2 yr)
Full	214	67	281	8
Joint	38 x 2		76	
Unwaged	124	32	156	23
Honorary	6	0	6	
Total			519	

Membership at 24/6/91

Category	Paid	Arrears 1 yr	Total	(Arrears 2 yr)	(Arrears 3 yr)
Full	147	167	314	29	13
Joint	38 x 2		76		
Unwaged	40	21	61	9	1
Honorary	5	0	5		
Total			420		

Obviously, membership is well up (30%) on 1991 and even pleasingly up (6%) on last year. Moreover, we are clearly much better at chasing up arrears (and getting people to pay in the first half of the year) than we were in 1991! A big part of this improvement must be attributed to the professional work of the secretariat, who since the mid-1990s have run much of the invoicing and banking side of the society. Back in 1991, everything fell on volunteer help, so sometimes billing and reminders were sent out late. The society is much better run now, so all credit to Angela Wilkinson and Sue Sheppard.

Journal subscriptions

I have done a comparison of where our subscriptions to NZJ Ecology come from, compared to last year and to 1991 (which was chosen because a detailed list exists from that year). The long-term picture is of substantial losses in the early 1990s, but stability since the mid 1990s. Even on the optimistic assumption that all the subscribers currently in arrears do intend to pay up, we now have only 66% as many copies sold as in 1991, with the reductions in NZ being 28%, in Australia 36%, and the rest of the

world outside the USA plummeted by 83%. The only really bright spot is the USA where we went down a mere 3%.

Subscriptions to NZJ Ecology: number of institutions (number of copies)

Location	2000 Paid	2000 in arrears	1991
New Zealand	40 (43)	2 (2)	56 (61)
Australia	11 (14)	4 (4)	20 (28)
USA	34 (34)	3 (3)	38 (38)
Canada	1 (1)	0	7 (7)
United Kingdom	2 (2)	0	7 (11)
Europe	3 (3)	1 (1)	11 (11)
South Africa	0	0	2 (2)
South America	0	0	1 (1)
Asia/Pacific	0	0	3 (3)
PAID TOTALS	91 (97)	10 (10)	145 (162)
Complimentary	18 (19)	n/a	11 (14)

A further comparison with summary data for last year (1999) shows the change was not related to the introduction in July 1999 of overseas rates of US\$80 for subscribers beyond Australia and the South Pacific. (Please note that these figures for 1999 are also updated on those printed in Newsletter number 92, at which time I thought we had fewer NZ subs than was actually the case.) There has been practically no change in the number of subs within NZ (43 last year, 45 now, including those in arrears) or overseas (64 last year including 12 in arrears, 62 including 10 in arrears now). In fact the total number of subs had fallen to current levels by 1996/97 (37 in NZ, 63 overseas, 100 total).

On the bright side, electronic abstracting services and suchlike (which is where most of the complimentary copies go) mean that many more people can be aware of papers in NZJ Ecol even if their local library does not carry it. Our impact factors have certainly been pleasingly high in the last few years.

Council is always keen to find ways to market the journal better and get more subscriptions. We have made a number of efforts in this direction, but certainly since 1996 they have allowed us to hold our own, but not move forwards. If any members can think of particular libraries (local or overseas) which could be encouraged to take out a subscription, please contact Council to let us know.

Dave Kelly (secretary)
20 September, 2000

NZES EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT



Tui Time: Tiaki Tui's learning adventure with New Zealand's biodiversity

September 2000

Members

Carol West, Laura Sessions, Terri McLelland, Jacqueline Beggs

This subcommittee first met in July 2000 to scope the feasibility of the New Zealand Ecological Society (NZES) producing an interactive CD-ROM for school children. The CD, called "Tui Time" will use the tui, a bird familiar to most New Zealand children, to introduce ecological concepts. It will also promote an understanding and pride in New Zealand's unique cultural and natural heritage.

Tiaki Tui will lead children through three fun activities that are linked to an "encyclopaedia" of ecological information and pictures. Children will learn about science in a new and exciting way. Parts of the CD will be presented in Te Reo Maori and English. Iwi representatives will assist with production to ensure that it appeals to both Maori and non-Maori children. We will also collaborate with schoolteachers to ensure it aligns with the school curriculum so that teachers can use the CD to teach required science topics.

One activity, called "Build a Tui" will ask children to choose various body parts to create a native bird species, which will teach them about adaptations of various native species. The second activity, "A Day in the Life of Tiaki Tui," will require players to help Tiaki through the day. Tasks will be to find food, find a mate, avoid predators and chase away competitors. This game will convey a number of key ecological concepts including competition, predation, habitats, mutualisms, threats to species, nutrition, and mimicry. Furthermore, it will illustrate unique aspects of New Zealand's biodiversity (e.g. mammalian pest threats). This activity will have three levels of difficulty to cater for children of different ages, and it will have various skill levels that will enable kids to progress through new levels as they gain skill and knowledge. The final activity will include interactive stories about the tui by kuia, scientists, other kids and parents.

NZES have agreed to spend up to \$1100 to initiate the project. This has been spent on two subcommittee meetings, and on developing a demonstration CD. To date, we have gained \$30,000 funding from the Royal Society's Science & Tech-

nology Promotion Fund. Natural History NZ Ltd has provided archive film footage (at no charge). We are seeking additional funding from a range of organisations. Furthermore, we will be seeking assistance from NZES members to provide information, stories and scientific validity to the venture. We welcome your input (see below).

REQUEST FOR TUI INFORMATION

The New Zealand Ecological Society is producing a CD-Rom for primary school children to be launched at the Jubilee Conference in August 2001. The CD, entitled "Tiaki tui's learning adventure with New Zealand's biodiversity," will teach children about New Zealand ecology using interactive games and stories about the tui, an animal that most New Zealanders are familiar with. We are now seeking any information on the tui that may help us prepare the CD. If you have conducted research on the tui or know of relevant articles or sources, please contact Laura Sessions at:

PAMS, University of Canterbury
Private Bag 4800

Christchurch

Phone: 03-366-7001 ext. 7645

E-mail: l.sessions@botn.canterbury.ac.nz

TREASURERS REPORT

1. Shown below are the audited statements of financial performance and financial position for the New Zealand Ecological Society for the 1999-2000 financial year.
2. Council budgeted for a loss of c \$5,300 (see August 1999 newsletter) in the 1999-2000 financial year. This was due to increased costs related to producing the Ecotoxicology workshop proceedings as the second issue of the NZJE in 1999 (journal production was c \$6,000 higher in the 1999-2000 financial year than in 1998-1999). These increased costs are offset by the c \$7,100 profit from the workshop. The loss in the 1999-2000 financial year was only \$1,651, as income from journal subscriptions, reprints and the Blenheim conference all substantially exceeded the budgeted amount. It was pleasing to find that income from journal subscriptions was up c \$2,000 in 1999-2000.
3. Funds that were invested at the BNZ (\$7,000) have been re-invested on a 6-month term deposit at a substantially higher interest rate. An additional \$10,000 from the Society's current account has been invested on a 6 month term

NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000**

EXPENDITURE	1999-2000	1998-99	INCOME	1999-2000	1998-99
Journal production	\$28,711.05	\$22,746.99	Membership	\$24,190.71	\$23,811.37
Newsletters	\$3,915.11	\$3,821.27	Interest	\$729.56	\$841.38
Secretariat	\$6,801.35	\$7,357.01	Publications	\$393.44	\$488.30
Subscriptions	\$1,621.46	\$1,111.11	Journal subscriptions	\$13,813.46	\$11,867.77
Council expenses	\$3,057.25	\$2,148.01	Reprints	\$3,452.49	\$3,724.01
Administration	\$2,614.13	\$2,245.21	Conference	\$3,214.78	\$3,547.95
Audit	\$300.00	\$300.00	Donations	\$20.00	
Awards	\$255.47	\$600.00	Sundry	\$410.82	\$317.51
Web Site	\$601.00		Workshop profit	\$7,087.85	
Sundry costs	\$308.45				
TOTALS	\$47,876.82	\$40,638.05		\$46,225.26	\$51,686.14
Excess income (expenditure)	(\$1,651.56)	\$11,048.09			

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000**

LIABILITIES	1999-2000		1998-1999	
Membership in advance		\$806.13		\$648.91
Journal in advance		\$7,575.45		\$3,774.99
Accounts payable		\$882.43		\$1,655.41
Provisions (Audit)		\$600.00		\$300.00
General fund Balance:				
as at 1.4.99	\$34,985.05		\$23,936.96	
excess income	-\$1,651.56		\$11,048.09	
as at 31.3.00	\$33,333.49	\$33,333.49	\$34,985.05	\$34,985.05
Total liabilities		\$43,197.50		\$41,364.36
 ASSETS				
Membership in arrears		\$500.00		\$1,000.00
Journal in arrears		\$0.00		\$120.00
Bank balance:		\$38,613.07		\$34,461.30
Westpac	\$31,613.07		\$27,461.30	
BNZ	\$7,000.00		\$7,000.00	
Journal stock		\$150.00		\$150.00
Prepayments (Royal Society)		\$1,111.11		\$0.00
GST refund		\$1,604.62		
Prepayments (PO Box)		\$106.67		\$102.22
Sundry debtors		\$1,112.03		\$5,530.84
Total assets		\$43,197.50		\$41,364.36

deposit at WestpacTrust. I am investigating further banking options to maximise interest on funds in the current account.

4. The Societies financial year has changed from 1st April – 31st March to 1st January – 31st December so that journal costs and subscriptions coincide better. The current financial year will only be 9 months (1st April – 31st December 2000), and should result in reduced expenditure on administration, secretariat and newsletter production for the current financial year. The savings are estimated at around \$3,900 over the year. This will enable the Society to slightly increase cash reserves towards the level which was agreed to at the 1999 AGM at Blenheim (i.e., one year's expenditure = approximately \$40,000). The level of reserves at 31 March 2000 was slightly down from the previous year to \$33,300, so we have to accumulate profits of approximately \$7,000 altogether to get up to the desired level of reserves.
5. Overall the society seems to be in good financial shape. Reserves are slightly below target, but membership and library journal subscriptions are holding up, and journal-printing costs (our single largest item of expenditure) have been carefully controlled. Thanks are due to the professional work by the secretariat in keeping track of payments and invoices, to the volunteers who run the profitable conferences and workshops, and to members generally for renewing their memberships promptly.

Ben Reddiex
Treasurer

CONVENOR OF AWARDS REPORT

Five awards were presented at the 1999 Ecological Society Conference in Blenheim, and John Innes, recipient of the 1998 Ecological Society Award, spoke on "Adaptive management and the kokako project."

At the 1999 AGM the society announced a special award – **Dr Peter Wardle** was awarded an honorary life membership to the Society. This award recognises Peter's contribution to the Society and his contribution to New Zealand ecology in general. Peter has been a councillor, vice-president and president of the Society. In his research, Peter has made a number of major contributions to New Zealand plant ecology including a large number of refereed publications, completion of major reviews of alpine timberlines, alpine ecology and plant geography and publication of a comprehensive

account of New Zealand vegetation ("Vegetation of New Zealand"). The award is certainly well deserved – congratulations Peter.

The 1999 New Zealand Ecological Society Award was awarded to **Dr Carloyn King**, University of Waikato. This award, which is made annually, recognises society members who have made an outstanding contribution to the study and application of ecological science. Carolyn has studied small mammals, especially weasels and stoats, for more than 20 years and has produced a raft of papers on stoat and weasel ecology and has authored several books. Carolyn has also made a substantial contribution to New Zealand ecology via her editing of the *Journal of the Royal Society* since 1983, the *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* since 1991 and the Oxford University Press book "The handbook of New Zealand mammals". Congratulations Carolyn on receiving this prestigious award.

The annual award for best student oral presentation was jointly awarded to **Souzi McGill**, Lincoln University for her paper titled "Use of the gall fly to suppress Californian thistle in pea crops", and **Deborah Wilson**, University of British Columbia for her paper titled "How much does predation affect lemming population dynamics?". **Margaret Stanley**, Monash University received a highly commended award for her student paper titled "Avian frugivory in an Australian eucalypt woodland". Thanks to the judges, Dave Choquetot, Alastair Robertson, Dave Kelly and Frances Schmechel who had a difficult job as the standard of the student talks was excellent. The award for a highly commended poster by a student was awarded to **Ruby Jones**, Auckland University for her poster titled "Kokako translocation to Tiritiri".

There have been many entries for the inaugural New Zealand Ecological Society Award for Best Publication by a New Researcher, which will be awarded at this year's conference in Hamilton (see below).

Ben Reddiex
Awards Convenor

NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY AWARD FOR BEST PUBLICATION BY A NEW RESEARCHER

It's time to enter your publication(s) for the 2001 New Zealand Ecological Society Award for Best Publication by a New Researcher. The NZES will award an annual prize of NZ\$200 for the best published paper of an ecological nature, by a new researcher. This award is targeted at people at the start of their research career. The award will be presented at the NZES's annual conference in Christchurch 2001, and reported in the NZES Newsletter.

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

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

Authors wishing to be considered for this award should send 4 copies of their publication to the NZES Awards Convenor no later than 31 March 2001 (Ben Reddiex, Ecology and Entomology Group, PO Box 84, Lincoln University, Canterbury). A committee nominated by the NZES Council will review all publications. At the discretion of the nominated committee, no award may be made in any given year.

Ben Reddiex
Awards Convenor

NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2000

University of Waikato, Hamilton. November 19th-23rd, 2000

Keystone Ecology: Understanding communities and ecosystems

Organisation for this event is progressing well and it will be an excellent event. Many thanks to the hard-working local committee for their efforts to date. We now have a full programme of presentations covering a large range of ecological topics - from native buttercups to kakapo (draft programme attached). Please note that we have had to reschedule two of the symposia so that the "Keystone

species" symposium is now on Monday 20th November and the "Ecology in human-dominated landscapes" symposium is now on Thursday 23rd November. The submission of oral papers is now closed although we are still accepting offers of poster papers and papers for the student-only day.

Registrations for the conference are also still open with forms available at the Society website (www.nzes.org.nz) or in the last issue of this newsletter.

A student-only day has been organised for Sunday 19th November. It is designed for post-graduate students to present and discuss their research with peers. A social event will be held afterwards. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss ecology from a student's perspective and gain peer review and discussion about your research projects.

NZES 2000 will present the latest research results in New Zealand ecological science, including special symposia focusing on current ecological issues, contributed paper sessions, field trips and social events. Special symposium topics are: Wetland Ecology, Keystone Species: Ecological Naivety or Critical Paradigm?, Ecosystem Management (Guest speaker: Prof. Neo Martinez, USA), and Ecology in Human-Dominated Landscapes (Guest speaker: Prof. Richard Hobbs, Australia). The AGM of the New Zealand Ecological Society will be held at the conference on Tuesday 21st Nov, 6:00 pm.

The following fieldtrips are planned for Wed. 22nd November.

1. Botany of the Waikato

Leaders: Bruce & Bev Clarkson

The flora of the Waikato is a mixing ground of northern and southern elements (eg. kauri/hard beech forest). Visit key natural ecosystems that make up the Waikato landscape such as restiad peat bogs and diverse forest communities including semi-swamp forest.

2. Managing ecosystems: Mapara & Warrenheip

Leaders: Karen Denyer & Phil Bradfield

Compare two approaches to restoration of natural ecosystems: Mapara Forest - intensively managed for kokako from 1989-1997, and Warrenheip - a private restoration project using a pest-proof fence.

3. Karst ecology at Waitomo

Leaders: Bruce Burns & Dave Smith

Explore the peculiar ecology of cave and other karst ecosystems. The trip will highlight cave faunas, karst vegetation, ecosystem management for cave conservation, and past fauna records from cave deposits.

For more information about the conference

Contact Bruce Burns: Landcare Research, Private Bag 3127, Hamilton.

E-mail: burnsb@landcare.cri.nz

Draft Programme

Monday 20th November, 2000

8:30	Registration	12:10	<u>Deborah J. Wilson</u> . Effects of vertebrate pests on recovery of New Zealand forests after disturbance: a planned experimental study.
9:20	PWC Lecture Room, School of Management, University of Waikato	12:30-1:40	Lunch
9:20	Official opening: NZES President's welcome	1: 40	Symposium 2: Keystone species: ecological naivety or critical paradigm? PWC Lecture Room, School of Management, University of Waikato
9:30	1999 NZES prize winner <u>C.M. King</u> : An online bibliography on stoats and weasels: introduction and analysis	1:40	<u>Ian J. Payton</u> , Michael Fenner, & William G. Lee. Keystone Species: useful concept for the management of indigenous biodiversity in New Zealand's natural ecosystems?
10:10 –10:50	Morning tea	2:00	<u>Douglas Bridge</u> , Warwick Silvester, & Bruce Burns. Does a mycorrhizal association of prostrate kanuka facilitate its survival in geothermal steamfields?
10:50	Symposium 1: Wetland ecology PWC Lecture Room, School of Management, University of Waikato	2:20	<u>Jon J. Sullivan</u> . How a sapling specialist shoot-boring insect alters the population dynamics of a Costa Rican tree.
10:50	<u>Bev Clarkson</u> , Louis Schipper, & Tony Lehmann. Restiad bog succession in the Waikato region since c. 13 000 ¹⁴ C years BP	2:40	<u>Mick Clout</u> & Astrid Dijkgraaf. Pigeons and possums as keystone species?
11:10	<u>Louis Schipper</u> , Bev Clarkson, Maja Vojvodic-Vukovic, & Rachel Kelleher. Restoration approaches for mined restiad peat bogs.	3:00	<u>B.D. Clarkson</u> , L.R. Walker, W.B. Silvester & B.R. Clarkson. Colonisation dynamics and impacts of a nitrogen-fixing native shrub (<i>Coriaria arborea</i>) in post-volcanic primary succession.
11:30	<u>Rachel Kelleher</u> & Paul Champion. Willow control in the Whangamarino wetland – a tool for native sedge restoration.	1:40	Contributed Papers 2 MSB101, School of Management, University of Waikato
11:50	<u>David I. Campbell</u> . Hydrology of Waikato peat bogs	1:40	<u>Paul Jamieson</u> , C.M. King, Chrissen Gemmill & Stephen Sarre. The taxonomic classification of the house mouse in New Zealand
12:10	<u>Jeff Smith</u> , David I. Campbell, & Louis Schipper. Fluxes of Water Vapour and CO ₂ at a Waikato Peat Bog.	2:00	<u>Pauline Syrett</u> . Establishment of <i>Arytainilla spartiophila</i> (Hemiptera: Psyllidae) for biological control of broom in New Zealand
10:50	Contributed Papers 1: Pest species MSB101, School of Management, University of Waikato	2:20	<u>Joanna McQueen</u> , Bruce Burns & Warwick Silvester. <i>Acacia longifolia</i> invasion of Kaimaumu Gumland, Northland, New Zealand.
10:50	<u>Jim Hone</u> . Responses to fertility control of vertebrate pests	2:40	Susan Walker & <u>William G.Lee</u> . Exotic plant invasions and invasibility: pattern, process and community changes in alluvial grasslands.
11:10	<u>Robbie A. McDonald</u> . Conserving native predators: The status of weasels and stoats in Great Britain.	3:00	<u>N D Mitchell</u> , J L Craig, G Ussher, R Jones & R Jessop. New Zealand, the foreign country. A changed paradigm to generate new conservation opportunities.
11:30	<u>W. Ji</u> , S.D. Sarre, N. Aitken, R.K.S. Hankin & M.N. Clout. Sex biased dispersal and a density independent mating system in the Australian brushtail possum, as revealed by minisatellite DNA profiling		
11:50	<u>Lindsay Wilson</u> . Intensive Non Toxic Multi Pest Control. A Viable Alternative To Brodifacoum, The Te Urewera Experience		

3:20-3:50	Afternoon tea	<i>Tuesday 21st November, 2000</i>
3:50	Symposium 2: Keystone species: ecological naivety or critical paradigm? (continued) PWC Lecture Room, School of Management, University of Waikato	8:30 Symposium 3: Ecosystem management: food webs PWC Lecture Room, School of Management, University of Waikato
3:50	<u>Sandra Anderson</u> . Desperate and dateless: pollinator limitation in <i>Rhabdothamnus solandri</i> on the New Zealand mainland.	8:40 Conference Guest Speaker: <u>Neo Martinez</u> . Food webs: data, theory and applications.
4:10	<u>Debra Wotton</u> . Frugivory and seed dispersal by the common gecko <i>Hoplodactylus maculatus</i> .	9:30 <u>Simon Fowler</u> . Food webs for exploring indirect effects of weed biocontrol agents
4:30	<u>Frances Schmechel</u> . Between the devil and the deep blue sea: nest site selection in the Chatham Island oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus chathamensis</i>).	9:50 <u>Jacqueline Beggs</u> . Food webs in SI beech forest
4:50	<u>Rachel J. Standish</u> , Peter A. Williams, Alastair W. Robertson, & Neal A. Scott. Invasion by <i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i> increases decomposition rate and alters nutrient cycling in a New Zealand lowland forest remnant.	10:10 –10:40 Morning tea
5:10	Panel discussion. Keystone Species: ecological naivety or critical conservation paradigm?	10:40 Symposium 3: Ecosystem management: PWC Lecture Room, School of Management, University of Waikato
3:50	Contributed Papers 3 MSB101, School of Management, University of Waikato	10:40 <u>Clare Veltman</u> , John Daly, & Max Suckling, Graham Burnip, Are native leafroller moths affected by possum control?
3:50	<u>John Craig</u> . Sustainability & Ecology: The Natural Step™	11:00 <u>Rosemary Barraclough</u> . Ecosystem monitoring in Te Urewera
4:10	<u>Marta Treskanova</u> , <u>Cathie Brumley</u> & Pam Guest. Practical application of an ecosystem-based framework to address land degradation in the Canterbury high country: an evolving concept.	11:20 <u>Gary Barker</u> . Quantitative methods for the selection of indicator species.
4:30	<u>Helmut J. Janssen</u> . Biodiversity Restoration on Private Land. Manawatu -Wanganui region (horizons.mw).	11:40 <u>John Leathwick</u> , & Jake Overton. Environmental domains
4:50	<u>Sam Zirnheld</u> . Towards a Participatory Model for Sustainable Management of Maori-owned Indigenous Forests in Southland New Zealand.	12:00 <u>Sam M Ferreira</u> & Dave R Towns. Ecosystem approaches to maximise conservation of biological diversity.
5:10	<u>Jo Ritchie</u> . Creating new mainland islands – what are the essential ingredients for success?	10:40 Contributed Papers 4. MSB101, School of Management, University of Waikato
6:00	Dinner. Station Cafe	10:40 <u>Isabel Castro</u> , Dianne H. Brunton, Deborah J. Anthony, & Sandra Anderson. Is blood sampling of birds truly harmless?
7:30	Natural History Unit Film Evening. PWC Lecture Room, University of Waikato	11:00 <u>Doug P. Armstrong</u> & R. Scott Davidson. Estimating impacts of poison operations on native birds using mark-recapture analysis
		11:20 <u>Amy Trass</u> & Alastair Robertson. Berries and birdpoo – the ins and outs
		11:40 <u>Britta Basse</u> , John Innes, & Ian Flux. Comparing pulsed management strategies for North Island kokako using mathematical modeling.
		12:00 <u>Robyn Simcock</u> , Craig Ross, Peter Williams. Accelerating rehabilitation of native ecosystems: successes and failures of the direct transfer technique.
		12:20-1:20 Lunch

1:20	Conference poster session	2:30	Contributed Papers 5
	<p>School of Management foyer <u>Gary M. Barker</u>, Beverley Clarkson & Louis A. Schipper. Successional development of restiad bogs: patterns in invertebrate communities. <u>Paul D. Champion</u> & <u>Andrew J. Townsend</u>. Selective control of weeds in New Zealand wetlands using herbicides <u>Roger Dungan</u>, David Whitehead, Matt McGlone, Rob Allen, & Richard Duncan. Seasonal photosynthetic response of leaves of two co-occurring tree species with contrasting leaf habit <u>Melissa Hutchison</u>. Population dynamics and seasonality of ground beetles (Coleoptera: Carabidae) in New Zealand native forest remnants <u>Peter R. Johnston</u>. Communities or Plantations? Microbes and site restoration <u>Alison J. Perfect</u>, Elizabeth Grove, Jennifer M. Hurst, Pim J.M. de Monchy & Patrick Stewart. A Different Kettle of Trees - how valid is the comparison of offshore island data to mainland sites when evaluating forest health? <u>Paul G. Peterson</u>, A.W. Robertson & B.Lloyd. Pollination by short-tailed bats Craig Ross, Peter Williams, & <u>Robyn Simcock</u>. Can pakihi fernland be restored after mining? <u>James Russell</u>. Community involvement in an urban kereru assessment <u>Stokes, K</u>, Bullock, J, & Watkinson, A. Ecological processes controlling the range distribution of <i>Ulex minor</i> and <i>Ulex gallii</i> <u>Wright, G.R.G.</u>, Brown, L.E., Radford, C.D., Eason, C.T. Trends in vertebrate pesticide contamination of wildlife.</p>	2:30	MSB101, School of Management, University of Waikato
		2:30	<u>Susan Walker</u> , Laurence J. Smith, W. McG. King & J. Bastow Wilson. How useful is the plant functional type concept? A comparison of morphological characters and responses to nutrients, water, and the cessation of grazing in semi-arid New Zealand grassland.
		2:50	<u>Peter Wardle</u> . Are there significant environments within New Zealand that are vulnerable to invasion by introduced trees, but beyond the ecological potential of native trees?
		3:10	<u>Duane A. Peltzer</u> , Scott D. Wilson & Norm C. Kenkel. Why does diversity not beget stability or productivity in some grassland ecosystems?
		3:20-3:50	Afternoon tea
		3:50	Symposium 3: Ecosystem management: deer management - a case study
			PWC Lecture Room, School of Management, University of Waikato
		3:50	<u>Graham Nugent</u> . Deer distribution and impacts
		4:15	<u>NZDA</u> . Hopes, policies, actions
		4:40	<u>Sean Goddard</u> . DoC policies, actions, update on recent submissions
		5:05	Convened panel discussion (end 5:35)
		3:50	Contributed Papers 6
			MSB101, School of Management, University of Waikato
		3:50	<u>Merilyn Merrett</u> . A native sand dune species in decline: what threatens <i>Pimelea arenaria</i> ?
		4:10	<u>Kerry-Jayne Wilson</u> , N.W. Was & W. Sullivan. Prion problems. Early breeding and non-breeding season colony visits enable broad-billed prions to exclude endangered Chatham petrels.
		4:30	<u>Ron Moorhouse</u> , Les Moran & Genevieve Taylor. Increase in kaka (<i>Nestor meridionalis</i>) breeding success following control of mammalian predators.
		4:50	<u>Wendy Dimond</u> , Doug P. Armstrong & Tim G. Lovegrove. The effect of a translocation on a source population using North Island robins (<i>Petroica australis longipes</i>) as a case study.
2:30	Symposium 3: Ecosystem management:		
	PWC Lecture Room, School of Management, University of Waikato		
2:30	<u>Alan Saunders</u> and <u>Paula Warren</u> .		
	Preparing a strategy to guide the Department of Conservation's ecological management programmes.		
3:05	<u>Kirsty Johnson</u> . Environmental Performance Indicators Programme Update.		

5:10	<u>B. L. Chisnall</u> , B. J. Hicks, & M. L. Martin. Size, abundance, and production of harvested freshwater eels (<i>Anguilla australis</i> and <i>A. dieffenbachii</i>) in a New Zealand stream.	10:50	<u>Bestic, K.L.</u> ; Meurk, C.D., Wilmshurst, J.M., & McGlone, M.S. Recent spread of <i>Dracophyllum</i> scrub on Campbell Island, subantarctic New Zealand.
5:30	<u>Richard Gordon</u> . Sustainable conferences.	11:10	<u>Kate G. McAlpine</u> & Donald R. Drake. The effects of small-scale environmental heterogeneity on seed germination in experimental treefall gaps.
6:15 AGM	MSB101, University of Waikato	11:30	<u>Laura A. Sessions</u> & Dave Kelly. Predator-mediated apparent competition between an introduced grass (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>) and a native fern <i>Botrychium australe</i> (Ophioglossaceae) at Cass, inland Canterbury.
7:15	Wine and pizza evening Station Cafe	11:50	<u>Tristan Armstrong</u> & Julian Ash. The ecology of speciation: patterns and processes in Australian alpine <i>Ranunculus</i> .
<i>Wednesday 22nd November, 2000</i>		12:10	<u>Dave Kelly</u> , Mark Rees & Ottar Bjornstad. Weather versus predator satiation: the role of resources and cues in mast seeding by <i>Chionochloa pallens</i> (Poaceae) in New Zealand
Field trips 8:30-5:00 pm approximately		12:30-1:30	Lunch
6:30 pm	Dinner and dance, College Hall, University of Waikato	1:30	Symposium 4: Ecology in human-dominated landscapes & contributed papers PWC Lecture Room, School of Management, University of Waikato
<i>Thursday 23rd November, 2000</i>		1:30	<u>Sarah Flynn</u> & Dan McClary. Riparian restoration in an urban environment
8:30	Symposium 4: Ecology in human-dominated landscapes PWC Lecture Room, School of Management, University of Waikato	1:50	<u>Mairi Jay</u> . Dairyfarming: information flows and biodiversity loss
8:40	Conference Guest Speaker: <u>Prof. Richard Hobbs</u> . Landscape ecology in Western Australia.	2:10	<u>T.M. Downs</u> & B.D. Clarkson. Identification and management of key ecological sites of Hamilton City.
9:20	<u>David Norton</u> , Jenny Ladley & Hamish Cochrane. Forest fragmentation and fruit dispersal of the mistletoe <i>Peraxilla tetrapetala</i> .	2:30	<u>D. Gleeson</u> , S. Binzegger, and N. Ling. Conservation genetics of <i>Galaxias gracilis</i> , a rare endemic freshwater fish.
9:40	<u>Mark Bellingham</u> . Bird communities in small forest remnants.	2:50	<u>Robin Janson</u> . Fungal diversity in imported wood packaging: a biosecurity threat.
10:00	<u>Jake Overton</u> & Mark Smale. Biodiversity of New Zealand road reserves.	2:20	Contributed Papers 8 MSB101, School of Management, University of Waikato
10:20 – 10:50	Morning tea	1:30	<u>Lars Brabyn</u> . The use of GIS for biodiversity mapping in New Zealand
10:50	Symposium 4: Ecology in human-dominated landscapes PWC Lecture Room, School of Management, University of Waikato		
10:50	<u>Claire L. Newell</u> , Kathryn Whaley & Colin D. Meurk. Exotic plant invasion in Auckland native forest fragments		
11:10	<u>Craig Miller</u> . Management of riparian and floodplain forest remnants in an agricultural landscape		
11:30	<u>Ecki Brockerhoff</u> . Biodiversity in plantation forests		
11:50	<u>Shona Myers</u> . Urban biodiversity		
12:10	<u>Karen Denyer</u> . The effects of adjacent land use on indigenous forest fragments in the Waikato Region.		
10:50	Contributed Papers 7 MSB101, School of Management, University of Waikato		

- 1:50 Gareth Wilson, Megan Balks, Keith Thompson & Kerry Brown. The impact of hydro-electricity generation developments on the extent of braided rivers and adjoining wetlands in the Upper Waitaki Basin, South Island, New Zealand.
- 2:10 Joyce, L.J., Dickinson, K.J.M., Elliott, G., Minot, E. & Arbuckle, C. Kakapo home range and habitat use on Pearl Island, New Zealand.
- 2:30 T.G.A. Green, W.B. Silvester & S.M.McCurdy. Nitrogen isotopes in nitrogen fixing and non-fixing lichens and other plants in Tongariro National Park, New Zealand.
- 2:50 Wade C Tozer, Bruce D. Clarkson, & Warwick B. Silvester. Identifying sources of nitrogen in primary succession on Mt Tarawera, New Zealand.
- 3:10 Close and prize-giving

ADVICE FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE TALK

Here is the latest in an occasional series of hints for giving a good conference talk. Every year there are new good ideas to share and new traps to warn people away from. So here is my collected wisdom and/or prejudices. Of course, there are many different ways of giving a good talk. You don't have to slavishly follow these suggestions if you have an alternative approach that works for you. But I think if you follow the advice, your talk should be well received. I should also say as a compliment to everyone that the general standard of conference talks has gone up a lot in the last 15 years. It is now rare to see unreadable tables or big A4 pages of 10-point text. Most talks are very well done.

In summary, the main changes I would emphasise this year are as follows:

- Powerpoint is getting reliable enough that you can just about trust it to work live (though I would still sleep easier if using 35 mm slides).
- As we see more live powerpoint talks, we see more and more badly scanned pictures inserted into powerpoint. Either use a real slide here or scan with high resolution and decent colour depth (please!).
- I'm glad to say the wider use of powerpoint has been coupled with a simplification of the colour schemes and backgrounds, so most people use white letters on plain blue background (a very good choice). I have also seen some very good talks using black text on a white background; it sounds stark but works quite well.

- New technology is allowing people to produce full-colour OHPs, sometimes including printing colour photos onto OHP. In general, I don't think this works as well as slides or powerpoint.
- OHPs can be a good way to give a no-frills talk, but it is really noticeable how slow they are to change compared to slides or powerpoint. Maybe I'm getting too impatient! Enlist a helper to change them for you.

Now for some explanation of the above points.

1. SLIDES, OHP OR POWERPOINT?

Should you use 35mm slides, OHPs or a live PowerPoint talk on a laptop? Or some mixture of the two? My first choice would be to use all 35 mm slides, and my second choice to use 35 mm for the pictures, and plain OHPs (ie white background) for the graphs and text. Third choice would be 35 mm pictures with live powerpoint text and graphs.

1.1 PROS AND CONS OF USING POWERPOINT LIVE

Powerpoint can be used to generate 35 mm slides beforehand or to run a talk "live" in the conference. My advice is (still) too not do it live. Powerpoint is reliable enough these days that you can probably count on it working. However, live talks have inherently low resolution - usually 800 x 600 pixels at limited colour depth (bits per pixel), sometimes up to 1024 x 768. In contrast, a PPT-created 35-mm slide will be exposed at more than 3,000 x 2,000, and original slides of scenery etc taken in a camera are sharper still. I like looking at real slides of sites, plants, etc and I'm getting very fed up of blurry photos scanned into Powerpoint. If you really must scan your pictures in, do it at a decent resolution, and fill the entire screen for the picture - leaving a coloured border around the photo usually wastes over half, and sometimes two-thirds, of the available resolution.

If you were going to do a live talk, it would be prudent to have OHP copies of the key slides in case of equipment failure.

The main reasons for doing live PPT talks are that it is cheap (making 35 mm slides costs around \$4 per slide), and that you can change the talk around late. You shouldn't be messing with your talk that late; get organised. If cost is an issue, make OHPs - they are cheap, clear, and reliable.

1.2 PROS AND CONS OF OHPs

OHPs are not as good as slides for several reasons, although they do have two advantages: (1) they are cheap (about \$1) and fast to make. (2) they are bright, so they work well in rooms with poor black-out.

Neither of these advantages apply to the recent trend for full colour OHPs, sometimes including photos. In general I find these have murky colours and are not that easy to read, and no doubt they are expensive too. I don't think these are a good idea. Keep your photos on slides, and by all means use colour on the OHPs but keep the background clear or pale coloured.

OHPs have a number of disadvantages; in order from most important to less important these are:

- They encourage presenters to stand next to the overhead projector, which guarantees that half the audience will be unable to see through you to read the screen. It is much better to stand by the screen and point to things on that, rather than pointing on the OHP itself. The problem with this is that you then need to move over to the projector to change the next one; best way around this is enlisting a helper to change them for you.
- OHPs are slow to change, since you have to move the last one out of the way, get the backing paper off the next one, put it on the OHP and check it is lined up well. This takes about 5 seconds per acetate or more, cf about half a second per slide. This is less of a problem if you have a helper who changes them for you.
- OHPs are often set up so the projected image is bigger than the screen, so you need to check that important text is not hidden off the top or to one side, slowing down the process.
- If the OHP is tilted back to point up at an elevated screen, acetates have a disturbing habit of sliding off backwards.
- Images are often somewhat distorted, as the screen is usually not square on to the projector.
- They can get out of order, especially if you drop the pile, and are very hard to get back into order in the middle of a talk. Writing a big sequence number in one corner helps.
- NEVER part-cover the OHP and reveal bits at a time; this is a dreadful practice, which annoys the audience.

1.3 PROS AND CONS OF 35 MM SLIDES

Most talks are given this way - for good reason.

Advantages

- Sharp, especially since you can use original photos of sites, organisms etc.
- Fast to change.
- Can't get out of order (unless you leave the cover off the carousel, then drop it).

Disadvantages

- Costly to make from Powerpoint, though you can do acceptable cheap slides of text and graphs by printing the page out and photographing it onto slide film.

- You may need to keep adjusting the focus as you change slides.
- If the slide projector jams, you have no talk. Luckily this is rare, and even if it happens you won't be blamed. If you are paranoid, make OHPs of the key graphs as a backup.
- No good if your slides are underexposed - try them out in a lecture room beforehand.
- Sometimes, the screen is set up for landscape slides, and if you show a portrait slide the top will be chopped off. Either avoid portrait slides, or make sure that the top part only carries non-essential information like a title.

1.4 CONCLUSIONS

You should recall that the main reason for giving the talk is the message (ie. the science) and the mechanics of presentation should not get in the way or be very important.

If time and money are no object the best way is to make 35 mm slides from Powerpoint, intermixed with original slides of sites etc, or occasionally a photo scanned into PPT so you can add text and arrows etc.

If either time or money are limited, put most of the effort into working out a well planned talk, and use 35 mm slides for your photos, and clear OHPs with a large Times Roman font (18 point or bigger) for the text and graphs.

2. GRAPHIC DESIGN

The main message here is, keep it simple. You should only present the essential message. In particular, nearly all the following are counterproductive and should be avoided:

- **corporate logos** - restrict these to only the first slide (and the conclusions one, if you must).
- **borders**: they reduce space available for real information.
- **fancy backgrounds**
- **gradient fills**
- **Clip art**
- **False 3-D** on graphs.

Luckily, nearly all the above except corporate logos are getting quite rare.

Good things to do with an image include:

- **High contrast** between background and message. This is easiest with a relatively plain background, such as a uniform deep blue (better than black, which makes the room very dark). Then use a bright colour or colours for the text and graphs (white, yellow, and red are best). Alternatively use a white or very light coloured background and black or dark blue text - this works better in live PPT than in 35 mm slides, which show dirt more easily. Don't use red on green (bad for colour-blind people).

- **Get the message as big as possible.** This is where borders, logos etc. waste room. Get the table or graph almost out to the edge of the screen. Make the font as big as possible. Keep the text short to facilitate this. Text can never be too big. If you are scanning a picture or graph into Powerpoint, use the whole frame for the picture.
- **Use a clear font.** The most readable font is a serif font (Times Roman is a good example) in mixed case. Don't use all-capitals, or small-caps, as the letters are more similar to each other. Don't use a sans-serif font like Helvetica or Arial.

3. SCIENTIFIC CONTENT AND PRESENTATION SKILLS

Below is an abbreviated version of previous articles I have published on how to plan and present a talk. If you want full details see back issues of the NZES newsletter (most university libraries probably hold it). The articles are in Newsletter issue 81 pages 7-8 and issue 77 pages 8-10. Alternatively e-mail me on d.kelly@botn.canterbury.ac.nz and I'll send the long version to you.

A. PLANNING THE TALK.

1. Using only slides is better than a mixture of slides and OHPs.
2. Aim at about 1.1 slides per minute.
3. Try to get *all* information onto its own slide, including simple things like a title, and a list of your species names.
4. Put your acknowledgements slide second (after the title) so you can end with your conclusions.
5. Do use simple tables with a few to 10 numbers on them. Don't use big messy ones.
6. Prepare a one-page prompt sheet, with one line per slide, in order, saying what each is, and listing any data you need to say which is not on the slide (so you don't forget it).
7. Make a couple of reminders to yourself on the top of your prompt sheet of things to say before turning on the first slide (acknowledgements etc).

B. BEFORE THE TALK.

1. Make sure you know how to work the lights, slide projector, remote control, OHP, board etc beforehand.
2. Put the slides in the projector and *run them all through* to make sure they are right way around and in the correct order (as on your prompt sheet).
3. Arrange the furniture so you have a place to stand where you can point to the screen without blocking anyone's view, and where you must

face the audience rather than the screen (especially important if using OHPs).

4. Check out how the lights dim but not completely blacked out.

C. DURING THE TALK.

1. Give your talk a definite start and finish with "good morning" and "thank you, that's all" or similar.
2. NEVER read a prepared speech - it bores the audience stupid.
3. Slow down, nerves will make you want to talk too fast.
4. Explain every slide when it first appears.
5. Don't worry about timing unless your chairperson announces that you have used up all your time; in this case, go *very* fast over the rest.
6. Don't apologise for ANYTHING.
7. Don't part-cover OHPs and only reveal them one line at a time.
8. Don't worry about turning a slide off (or inserting a black one) just because you have finished mentioning the main points on it.

D. AFTER THE TALK.

1. Write on your prompt sheet how long it actually took to give the talk.
2. Keep the prompt sheet for planning other talks.

Dave Kelly
Plant and Microbial Sciences,
University of Canterbury, Christchurch.
19 September, 2000

STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

The following section is a selection of student-research projects. The purpose of this section is to highlight postgraduate research and hopefully forge new links between the different research institutions. In this newsletter, we are focusing students from the Ecology & Entomology Group, Soil, Plant & Ecological Sciences Division, Lincoln University.

Status, habitat selection and breeding ecology of the endangered Chatham Island Oystercatcher (*Haematopus chathamensis*)

FRANCES SCHMECHEL
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PhD Project

The Chatham Island Oystercatcher (*Haematopus chathamensis*) is an endangered shorebird endemic to the Chatham Islands about which little was known, including population trends, habitat requirements or limiting factors. A population census was conducted to determine current numbers, distribution and trends. Habitat selection at a broadscale was studied for three of the main breeding islands (*ca.* 90 - 95% of the breeding population). In order

to gain a better understanding of factors potentially limiting the population, detailed data were collected on habitat use, territory quality and nest site selection for 15 pairs (ca. 25% of the breeding population) along the north coast, Chatham Island over three breeding seasons (1994/5 - 1996/7). The population was estimated at around 140 - 150 total individuals (1998), with about 85% breeding on the two main inhabited islands (Chatham and Pitt). CIO selected areas with wide intertidal rock platform and wide sandy beaches for foraging and breeding. Two important factors limiting the population appeared to be lack of high quality nesting habitat due to the establishment of marram grass along sand dunes, combined with high predation pressures.

The ecology and conservation of *Ischnocarpus novae-zelandiae* and *I. exilis*, two threatened New Zealand cresses

ALICE MILLER
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MSc Project

Herbaceous plants constitute 65% of New Zealand's threatened plant taxa, yet herbaceous species are largely ignored in ecological research. Threatened plant research in New Zealand tends to be descriptive in terms of the types of habitat where species are found, and in describing the primary threats limiting species' distribution. Very few studies have conducted experimental fieldwork on rare plant ecology. This study will examine threats limiting the distribution of *Ischnocarpus novae-zelandiae* and *I. exilis*, which are the only two members of the endemic New Zealand genus *Ischnocarpus* of the Brassicaceae family. Both of these species are threatened. The focus of the study will be an experimental field trial looking at the effects of weed removal and soil disturbance on seed germination, seedling survival and growth rates, in three different types of habitat. I will also quantify the nature of any soil seed bank that helps to buffer the small populations that these species exist in. This research will provide a backbone for the recovery of both species, as well as provide insight into the problems faced by other threatened herbaceous species in the dry, eastern regions of the South Island.

Distribution and abundance of *Latrodectus atritus* Urquhart 1889 (Araneae: Theridiidae) in northern New Zealand

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PhD Project

Surveys were undertaken at selected study sites (50m x 100m) along the northern New Zealand coastline (north of Pouto Point and Waipu Cove) between 17th January 2000 and 5th February 2000 to determine the distribution and abundance of *Latrodectus atritus*. At each study site wind, temperature, slope, aspect, habitat type, relative lay, vegetation cover, substrate type, substrate fluidity, the degree of dune modification, presence or absence of detritus, presence of *L. atritus* and other spider species were recorded at 10m intervals along six transects (50m long). Transects ran parallel with the coast and were spaced at 20m intervals from the high tide mark back into

the dunes. Data were mapped in arcview and analysed using a chi-square test to determine whether there was a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between sampled variables at sites where *L. atritus* were present and those where they were absent. Analysis revealed significant differences in the wind, slope, aspect, vegetation cover, and presence of detritus between sites where *L. atritus* were present and sites where they were absent. Most *L. atritus* were found in sloping (10-35°) dune areas characterised by low wind, sparse to medium vegetation cover, absence of detritus, and an aspect of north-east to north-west. In modified dune systems, in which suitable habitat may have been limited, *L. atritus* populations were fragmented.

Recent spread of *Dracophyllum* scrub on Campbell Island, subantarctic New Zealand

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MSc Project

The vegetation of subantarctic Campbell Island consists mostly of *Dracophyllum* scrub, tussock-grassland and upland tundra associations. First human contact with the island began in the 19th century. The earliest accounts and photographs of the island vegetation (1888 and 1907) indicate the scrub was highly restricted to shoreline fringes and extending up slope in sheltered gullies. Since the 1960s, photographs have been retaken at intervals from the same viewpoints to document the changing distribution of scrub. We analysed 33 of these photographic sequences to estimate the changing distribution of *Dracophyllum* scrub over the last 110 years (measured as change in percentage cover between sequential photographs). There has been an ongoing increase in woody vegetation, seen mostly as an expansion of pre-existing scrub patches. Selected topographic units on these photographic sequences were also analysed for any change in scrub cover to determine if topography was a factor influencing change. Increases in scrub cover occurred mostly on the mid slopes down to the foreshore and on flat bogs, but not on the upper slopes (>200m a.s.l.). Such a dramatic change in the vegetation cover of the island is of intrinsic interest from an ecological and environmental viewpoint, and has implications for the management of the island for wildlife values.

Post-dispersal seed predation in relation to plant regeneration and forest fragmentation

CHRISTOPHER BERRY
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PhD Project

The role of seed predators in the dynamics of plant populations has received detailed attention overseas, but within New Zealand our understanding is very limited. Patterns in seed predation may reinforce or counter the effects of other factors related to germination, seedling establishment and seedling survival. This study investigates the importance of both native and introduced predators to the primary stages of plant regeneration and investigates changes in post dispersal seed predation due to fragmentation of forested ecosystems. Preliminary results show predation levels range from 3 - 55% depending on the plant species, microhabitat and seed density. Future research will also investigate young seedling predation.

Assessing impacts of introduced biological control agents on valued non-target species

MANDY BARRON

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PhD Project

There is growing concern about the environmental safety of introduced biological control agents and in particular, their impacts on non-target species. A decline in the abundance of the endemic red admiral butterfly (*Bassaris gonerilla*) has been associated with the introduction of the pupal parasitoid *Pteromalus puparum* for control of the white butterfly (*Pieris rapae*). In the absence of baseline data on red admiral populations before the introduction of parasitoids, the quantification of parasitoid impacts demands a novel approach. The construction and use of a model describing the dynamics of parasitised butterfly populations is proposed as a means of unraveling parasitoid impacts from other potentially regulatory mechanisms. Once this methodology is refined it can be used to develop generic models for assessing biocontrol agent impacts on non-target native species.

Climate warming and disturbance influences on *Nothofagus* treelines in north Westland, New Zealand

LOUISE CULLEN

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PhD Project

Globally, there is a great deal of concern over the impact of climate warming and other associated changes in climate. Treeline forests are generally thought to be highly sensitive to changes in temperature, as they occur at the temperature limits for tree growth. However, few studies have considered the potential role of disturbance in modifying or even preventing a response by treelines to increased temperatures. Therefore, my research has investigated the relative roles of disturbance and recent climate warming (using forest stand history reconstruction and dendrochronological techniques) in driving the population dynamics and growth trends of *Nothofagus menziesii* (silver beech) dominated treelines in the Rahu Saddle area, north Westland, New Zealand.

Recruitment is highly episodic, and tends to occur in small, scattered patches indicating that disturbance has been the primary control on recent *Nothofagus* treeline recruitment. Furthermore, the lack of recent recruitment within treeline forests or above treeline indicates that climate warming since c. 1950 in New Zealand has had little effect on recruitment or treeline position. While year-to-year ring-width variation is related to summer temperatures, growth rates have not increased in all trees as might be expected. In fact, in some trees growth has declined. This loss of growth sensitivity to temperature appears to be related to an increase in competition, as stems initiated during a late 19th/early 20th century recruitment period grow larger and move into the canopy. However, the effect of competition on growth is highly spatially variable reflecting the spatial patterns of recruitment at treeline: stems surrounded by many neighbours show a growth decline due to high competition levels; whereas, stems surrounded by fewer neighbours are unaffected by competition and show the expected increase in growth in

recent decades. Therefore, a growth response to climate warming appears to be strongly disturbance-mediated. Overall, this study suggests that the main driver of *Nothofagus* treeline dynamics and growth trends over the last 100 years has been disturbance, not climate warming.

The performance of two insect biological control agents of broom, when growing under moisture and light stress

KYLIE GALWAY

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PhD Project

Is environmental stress on host plants beneficial or detrimental to insect herbivores? This study will focus on broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and its two most widely established insect biological control agents *Leucoptera spartifoliella* (Lepidoptera: Lyonetiidae) and *Arytainilla spartiophila* (Hemiptera: Psyllidae). Broom infestations occur over an extensive environmental range, with plants exhibiting morphological and physiological changes. It is assumed these changes in the plant will affect the performance of insect herbivores. Controlled laboratory studies will assess insect performance and preference when broom is growing under a) moisture stress and b) light stress. This will be followed by field surveys, to be conducted in New Zealand and Australia. Results from these laboratory studies and field surveys will be used to predict, by computer modelling, where these agents are likely to establish and have the greatest impact on broom.

The provision of floral resources to enhance biological control of leaf rollers in vineyards

LISA BERNDT

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PhD Project

Many adult parasitoids feed on nectar and pollen from flowers. It has been shown that access to these resources can increase parasitism rate, longevity and fecundity of some parasitoid species. Floral resources are often lacking in agricultural systems due to the monocultural cropping practices favoured by western agriculture. The aim of this project is to show what effect floral resources have on leafroller parasitoids in New Zealand vineyards and to demonstrate how this may be used to enhance biological control of this pest. Results so far suggest that parasitoid abundance is increased in the presence of buckwheat flowers, although no effect on parasitism rate has yet been demonstrated.

Investigating deciduousness in the New Zealand flora, using wineberry (*Aristotelia serrata*) and fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*) as examples

ROGER DUNGAN

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PhD Project

This PhD research is investigating aspects of deciduousness in the New Zealand flora using two species with contrasting leaf habits as examples. The research has three objectives:

1. To quantify the contrasting seasonal phenology of evergreen wineberry (*Aristotelia serrata*) and winter-deciduous fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*), which co-occur at a field site in the Taramakau Valley, Westland.

- Using the seasonal phenology data, together with site environmental data and detailed seasonal measures of leaf physiology, construct a computer model of annual carbon assimilation to investigate the consequences of winter leaf loss on carbon gain for each species.
- Investigate those processes, which are giving rise to observed patterns of leaf loss in wineberry.

Preliminary results

- A preliminary field tour (September 1999) indicated that there is no geographic variability in the degree of leaf loss in wineberry. This is in contrast to the widely held view that this species exhibits variable leaf loss at regional scales, driven by local climate. It was observed that there is within-canopy leaf loss variability, which is apparently related to sun-exposure. These preliminary observations were confirmed quantitatively in September 2000.
- The sun exposure effect was investigated by measuring declines in leaf chlorophyll fluorescence ratios on clear frosty days for a wineberry tree at Lincoln. Sun exposed leaves showed large declines in F_v/F_m after freezing leaf temperatures (minimum recorded -5 C). Fluorescence ratios did not recover for several days. Shaded leaves showed no decline. These effects will be investigated further over winter 2001.
- Leaf emergence in wineberry and fuchsia is robustly predicted by accumulated growing degree days. At the Taramakau site bud-burst in fuchsia occurs several weeks prior to wineberry. Leaf mortality in both species is effectively linear throughout the growing season, although fuchsia has a large peak in leaf area mortality in late summer.
- Measured rates of CO_2 assimilation (A_{max}) of mature leaves of wineberry and fuchsia were high, with average values of 12.9 and 14.7 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ respectively. By April these values declined to 5.9 and 10.2 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. A_{max} of over-wintering wineberry leaves was 5.2 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. A_{max} in both species was linearly related to nitrogen concentration on an area basis (N_{area}), suggesting that seasonal A_{max} decline is related to withdrawal of nitrogen from senescing leaves. The differences in phenology and physiology in these species may result in significant differences in annual carbon gain. Computer modelling will elucidate these differences.

50TH JUBILEE - PARTY, PARTY, PARTY!

New Zealand Ecological Society will celebrate its 50th jubilee at next year's annual conference. The conference will be held at Canterbury University (26-30th August 2001) with a special theme of "What has changed in ecology over the last 50 years". We intend to invite attendees of the original conference to the jubilee. But, first we need to track them down. We are working off a list of Society members as at July 1953. If anyone can access an earlier list of members we would be grateful. We also need your help in locating the original members. We have

addresses for many, but below is a list of those whose whereabouts is unknown. Please contact Jacqueline Beggs or John Parkes if you can help.

Jacqueline Beggs
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John Parkes
Landcare Research
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Ph. 03 325 6700 Fax. 03 325 2418
e-mail: parkesj@landcare.cri.nz

Past members we need an address for:

M. Atken	Mrs K.R. Allen
L.W. Angus	B.M. Bary
E.J. Batham	B.I. Brewin
A.M.R. Burnet	N.J. Butler
J.A. Carnahan	U.V. Cassie
A. Chambers	T.C. Chambers
R.A. Couper	B.H. Croker
P.J. Culliford	B.T. Cunningham
J.H. Darwin	W.H. Dawbin
E. Dear	P. Dickinson
M. di Menna	F.W. Dry
L.T. Evans	E.G. Everson
E. Fairbairn	P.J.F. Fisher
J.A.F. Garrick	D.I. Glue
D.H. Graham	G.A. Hancox
V.M. Hanham	P.B. Hannken
P.J. Harrigan	P.J. Harris
S.C. Harrison	D.F. Hobbs
V.H. Jollie	P.B. Keasing
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M.C. E. Ward	J. White
H.B. Wisely	T.E. Woodward
G.M. Wright	

SUMMER HOLIDAY WORK IN ECOLOGICAL ENTOMOLOGY

We are looking for someone to help with a variety of exciting invertebrate research projects, including working in prime podocarp forest near Ohakune, and on the Mercury Islands (near Whitianga). The job involves field work, laboratory work, and data entry, so would best suit a graduating student who wants research experience before moving on to a higher degree in biology.

You need to have an interest in invertebrates, be reasonably fit, and enjoy working outdoors, as some of the fieldwork involves living in tents and working near moderately high cliffs. In the Mercury Islands you will be working during the night, and you must be able to swim for safety reasons. Some experience with Microsoft Excel is desirable, but not essential.

This is a unique opportunity to work with some of New Zealand's more interesting fauna, such as the Tusked Weta, and to gain invaluable research experience, so if you would like further details, please contact:

Ian Stringer

Ecology Group, Massey University, Private Bag 11222, Palmerston North

Email: i.stringer@massey.ac.nz

Phone: (06) 350-5799 ext7967

A ONE DAY INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) FOR ECOLOGISTS

As an extension to the Ecological Society Annual Conference, Dr Lars Brabyn from the University of Waikato will host a special one-day GIS course for Ecologist. No previous experience with GIS is required. The course will involve a mixture of lectures and computer laboratory exercises using ArcView. The lectures will start with basic GIS concepts, and then cover a range of GIS data input methods, review the main GIS data sets available in New Zealand, and provide an overview of the analysis functions of GIS. The laboratory exercises will include basic query and display functions, Data integration, and terrain analysis.

Date: Friday 24 November 2000

Time: 9am - 4pm

Location: University of Waikato

Costs: \$100 per person including GST

Maximum number of people: 20

Please contact Lars Brabyn by email if you are interested.

Dr. Lars Brabyn

GIS Lecturer

Department of Geography

University of Waikato

Private Bag 3105

Hamilton, New Zealand

http://www.waikato.ac.nz/geog/staff_pages/lars/index.html

Ph +64-7-838-4466 x8429 Fax: +64-7-838-4633

E-mail: larsb@waikato.ac.nz

3RD INTERNATIONAL CANOPY CONFERENCE

June 2002 – Cairns, Australia

The Queensland Government and the Smithsonian Institution are proud to support the 3rd International Canopy Conference to be held in Cairns, North Queensland, Australia. The conference will bring together scientists, managers and policy-makers concerned with the discovery and sustainable use of forests around the world with an overall theme of science, policy and utilisation. The conference will highlight the most exciting and recent discoveries in canopy research.

Current plans for the conference include:

International Environmental Policy and Canopy Science

Forest canopies are crucial to global issues including climate change, ozone depletion and the loss of biological diversity. This symposium will match key international policy-makers with leading scientists to identify where new information is needed and to explore the practical implications of recent discoveries.

Lessons from the past – an Australian perspective

Australia's leading forest scientists will synthesize the evolutionary history and modern ecology of Australian forests.

Field Day A trip to the Great Barrier Reef or Australia's World Heritage tropical forest.

Economic benefits from forest canopies Increasingly the world seeks new ways to capture benefits from forests. This short session will focus on sustainable uses of forests and provide examples of novel ways in which the forest canopy has been utilised for tourism.

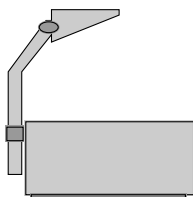
A Global Canopy Initiative A recent National Science Foundation/European Science Foundation forum recognised the vital need for a combined approach to canopy science to provide comparative data from some of the world's problems. This symposium will highlight work at key canopy research sites, most notably the network of canopy cranes, and other access systems, and share some of the most exciting results from comparative studies

between these sites. The new Global Canopy Initiative will be launched as part of this symposium.

The conference will also feature a number of focussed symposia on forest canopy biodiversity, forest hydrology and meteorology, the exchange of carbon dioxide and trace gases across the canopy-atmosphere boundary, epiphytes, bromeliads and mistletoes, the use of remote sensing in forest canopies, canopy ecology and architecture, and vertebrate ecology and use of forest canopies.

Cairns is located between the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area and the Wet Tropics World Heritage area. The Wet Tropics is one of the world's global biodiversity hot spots and is home to the world's oldest tropical forests. It has a unique and unusual canopy flora and fauna including tree kangaroos, tree possums and many primitive plant families. Cairns is home to the world's largest cableway, Skyrail, which takes more than half a million visitors a year. Australia also has many successful forest canopy walkways including ones in Dorrigo and Lamington National Parks and in the Valley of the Giants. There will be a range of tour options to visit the reef, rainforest and outback and opportunities to visit the Australian Canopy Crane in Australia's Daintree rainforest. Cairns has an international airport easily accessible from most parts of the world and is also an ideal holiday location for this time of the year with average daily temperatures of 25°C.

If you are interested in more information please contact Eileen Domagala (details below).
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OTHER UPCOMING CONFERENCES

November 19-23, 2000

New Zealand Ecological Society Conference

Hamilton, New Zealand. Contact Burn Burns, Landcare research, Private Bag 3127, Hamilton. Ph (07) 858-3728, E-mail burnsb@landcare.cri.nz

November 28-December-1, 2000

Australasian Wildlife Management Society Conference

Queenstown, New Zealand. Contact: Dr Wendy Ruscoe, Landcare Research, P.O. Box 69, Lincoln. PH (03) 325 6701 ext. 2251, E-mail: ruscoew@landcare.cri.nz

February 19-23, 2001

Eradication of Island Invasives Conference

Auckland, New Zealand. Contact: Mr Dick Veitch, 48 Manse Road, Papakura, New Zealand. PH & Fax +64-9-298 5775, E-mail: dveitch@kiwilink.co.nz

NZ ECOSOC EMAIL LIST SERVER AND WEB PAGE

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nzecosoc-request@its.canterbury.ac.nz

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END

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

UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC

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

PLEASE KEEP THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM.

To send a message to anybody on the list, even if you are not a subscriber, use the address:

nzecosoc@its.canterbury.ac.nz

To reply you have two options. You can either hit reply and this will reply to **everybody**, or you can reply to the author only (e.g., a new e-mail with the author's personal e-mail address).

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

Web page

To obtain additional conference details contact the NZ Ecological Society website: www.nzes.org.nz.

This site also has membership details, information on awards and prizes, information on submitting papers to the journal and links to overseas ecological organisations.

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This Newsletter was produced by James Ross 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:

James Ross
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Next deadline for the newsletter is 31 December 2000.

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

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

Types of Membership and Subscription Rates (1999/2000)

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