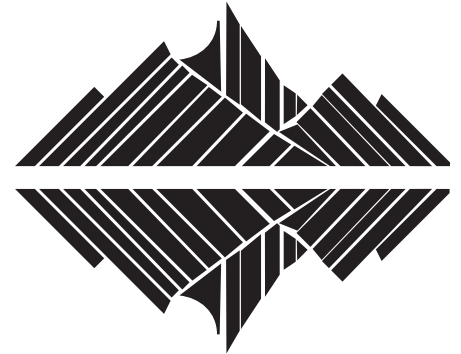


Ecological Society Newsletter

No. 122, September 2007

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P.O. Box 25-178, Christchurch



FROM THE EDITORS

This year's conference abstract and early bird registration deadline is fast approaching on 28 September! Make sure you check out the website for online registration (<http://www.newzealandecology.org/conf07>). Details for the symposium revisiting moa, mammals, and climate have been finalised (see Dave Kelly's article below). Make sure you're there!

This is our last newsletter after three years as editors. We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the newsletter over this time and to those who supported our move to electronic publishing. The new editor(s) will be decided at this year's AGM at the conference in Christchurch. If you are interested in the job, please email Shona Myers (president@nzes.org).

The deadline for submissions for the final issue of this newsletter for 2007 will be 3 December.

Erratum

Please note an error was included in the notes from council in the March newsletter (number 121); with regards to electronic publishing of the New Zealand Journal of Ecology. Council discussed providing an electronic version of the Journal in addition to the hardcopy, and providing members the option to receive either, or both.

If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, we encourage you to put it in the form of a letter to the editors.

Hannah Buckley and Ruth Guthrie
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“FEATHERS TO FUR”: THE 2007 NZES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dave Kelly,
University of Canterbury,
dave.kelly@canterbury.ac.nz
on behalf of the conference
organising committee

18-23 November 2007, Central lecture block, University of Canterbury, Christchurch



Final call for abstracts and cheap registration!

The conference is now just over 2 months away and the **last day for early bird registration and for submitting abstracts** (for talks and posters) is **Friday 28 September**. You can still register after that date, but save money and do it now!

Reasons why you should come to this conference:

- it has a once-in-a-generation overview of progress in NZ ecology
- it has four other symposium topics of interest to scientists and managers
- it has all the talks on three consecutive days so you can see the whole thing with minimum work time lost
- it has a really cool T-shirt design (by permission of the Ngai Tahu Rock Art Trust)
- it has some excellent field trips on offer
- it is relatively cheap, even by famously stingy NZES standards
- it has an excellent conference dinner
- all your friends will be there, including some you haven't met yet
- it has the most eco-friendly conference bag (one you bring yourself)
- attending will bring you fame and fortune

Well all right, the last one isn't true, but the rest are.

Timetable

During the conference, the main talks will run for three consecutive days, **Tuesday 20 – Thursday 22 November**, with the key symposium on the first day (Table 1). When booking accommodation and travel, we encourage you to stay for the full duration, as there are key sessions at the start and end of the conference. The field trips are on the Monday, and as usual the student-only day is on the Sunday.

Table 1: Sequence and start times of events in November 2007 conference.

Time	Sunday 18	Monday 19	Tuesday 20	Weds 21	Thurs 22
Day	Student session	Field trips Full day: Banks Peninsula or Quail Island Half day (13:00 onwards): bird watching or Canterbury Museum	08:40-17:55 Symposium: Feathers to fur	08:50-16:20 Talks & symposia 16:20-18:00 Poster session	08:50-17:10 Talks and symposia, including special closing session 15:20-17:10
Evening		18:00-21:00 Informal mixer	18:00-19:30 AGM 19:30-23:00 Barbecue dinner	19:30 - 24:00 Conference dinner	Conference finishes 17:10

The AGM will be on **Tuesday 20 November at 6pm in lecture room C1.**

Scientific programme

"Feathers to Fur: the ecological transformation of Aotearoa"

The conference features a major symposium titled "Feathers to Fur: the ecological transformation of Aotearoa". This is an update of 21 years of progress on the topics that make New Zealand unique, including updating topics covered in the 1986 conference "Moas, Mammals and Climate" which was published in a special issue of *NZ J Ecology* in 1989. The conference logo symbolises this ecological transformation with a Maori cave drawing of a bird-man from Frenchmans Gully in Otago (used by permission of Te Runanga o Waihao and Arowhenua and the Ngai Tahu Rock Art Trust). In the same way that "Moa Mammals and Climate" has served as a benchmark of the state of knowledge in the 1980s, we hope that this overview will serve as an excellent overview of NZ ecology now – and think how many technological developments have occurred since the 1980s (including DNA barcoding, satellite tracking, infrared video, GLM mixed models, *et al*).

Note that despite the title, the Feathers to Fur symposium is not just about mammalian invasions, and not about animals to the exclusion of plants. The symposium will compare and contrast the abiotic (climate including global change, earthquakes, disturbance, forest fragmentation, etc.) and biotic (extinction of moa, lost mutualists, plant and animal invasions, direct human impacts etc.) causes and consequences of biotic change, and try to put them all in context. We knew "*Feathers to Fur and a whole lot of other things we haven't forgotten about*" would be more accurate, but found it wouldn't fit on the T-shirts.

A list of some of the current speakers planned for the Feathers to Fur symposium follows; a couple of other talks are still to be confirmed. Please note that titles are preliminary but they should give an initial feel for the scope of the session (some speakers will have coauthors). We also expect some of the contributed talks will be on aspects of the *Feathers to Fur* theme, and hope to incorporate these into a continuation session on Wednesday morning.

- Past and present turnover in New Zealand invertebrates: George Gibbs
- Past and present turnover in New Zealand plants: Bill Lee
- Past and present turnover in New Zealand terrestrial vertebrates: Alan Tennyson
- Past and present turnover in New Zealand freshwater fish: Bob McDowall
- Past and present turnover in New Zealand fungi: Peter Johnston
- Unique characteristics of the NZ flora: moa, climate, or serendipity? Matt McGlone
- Moa ecology: population dynamics and habitat: Richard Holdaway
- Mammalian herbivore impacts on New Zealand vegetation: Dave Forsyth
- Regeneration gaps and vegetation change in NZ forests: earthquakes and climate: Richard Duncan
- The role of soils in vegetation change: Leo Condron
- Changes in frugivory, seed dispersal, and pollination and their consequences: Dave Kelly
- Known and possible impacts of invasive invertebrates on NZ ecosystems Ekehard Brockerhoff
- Trout and salmon impacts on native galaxiid fish: Angus McIntosh
- Predation and food limitation in native birds: John Innes
- Rat impacts and their timing: Janet Wilmshurst
- Changes on islands: seabirds, rats, climate: Peter Bellingham

We will also have a closing session on Thursday afternoon with several talks which should sum up the overall message from Feathers to Fur and the rest of the conference - well worth staying around to hear! Confirmed for this time slot is John Ogden who will present on Progress in NZ ecology in the past 20 years and challenges.

Thanks to sponsorship from Landcare Research and the Department of Conservation, *Feathers to Fur* will be published in 2008 as another special issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, including both the invited papers and any relevant contributed talks from the rest of the conference. We hope that it will provide a landmark summary of the state of our knowledge in the mid 2000s.

Other symposia

There are four other symposia being organised for the conference, to run over Wednesday and Thursday, as follows.

1. *Scaling up – biodiversity and ecosystem function*

Although it is well recognised that species affect ecosystem processes through different impacts on carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, and hydrological regimes, the way and area over which this occurs varies considerably in different ecosystems. This symposium explores the species-ecosystem function issue by examining the topic at different spatial scales and across a range of ecosystem functions. Major questions include: How do species, either directly or indirectly, change ecosystem characteristics, and over what spatial scales do these processes effectively operate? Are species interactions more important than individual species effects? Do cryptic components of biodiversity (microbes, fungi etc) drive ecosystem processes? Do species-ecosystem linkages have a role in conservation?

For more information, contact Bill Lee (leew@landcareresearch.co.nz)
Landcare Research,
Dunedin.

2. *Toxins and pest control*

As a spin off of the current 1080 review and recent developments in the efficacy of aerial 1080 against rats and mustelids, there has been heightend interest in the relative value of different pest control methods. In particular, this symposium will address the following. What animal pest control method or combination of methods is/are most likely (taking into account factors such as cost, accessibility, topography, etc) to protect the full range of biodiversity comprising New Zealand's mainland forest ecosystems - and where (ecosystem type, areas of high biodiversity value, etc) and when (frequency, timing, etc) would these method(s) be applied to best protect a representative sample of this biodiversity?

For more information, contact Shaun Ogilvie at Lincoln University (ogilvies@lincoln.ac.nz).

3. *Island management and restoration*

New Zealand has a proud record in the establishment, maintenance and restoration of island sanctuaries, and these are now critical for sustaining our endemic biodiversity. Also, Kiwi attitudes and techniques regarding islands have been exported to great effect around the world. Last year, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a global Programme of Work on Islands. In New Zealand, DOC is preparing a National Islands Management Strategy and is implementing an Island Biosecurity Island Audit Programme, which the symposium will feature. These initiatives must be underpinned by good ecological science, some of which is waiting to be reported, and some of still needs to be done.

For more information, please contact Rod Hay (rhay@doc.govt.nz) at DOC, PO Box 13-049, Christchurch.

4. *LENZ (Land Environments NZ) and Threatened Environments Classification*

We aim to review and update the science underpinning the LENZ and Threatened Environment Classification systems. These spatial tools have been designed to assist in land use and conservation decision making. We hope this will raise issues of relevance to local and regional authorities. Speakers lined up include John Leathwick, Daniel Rutelidge, and Philip Grove.

For more information, contact Philip Grove at Environment Canterbury (philip.grove@ecan.govt.nz)

How to register and submit an abstract

All this is done through the web pages: www.newzealandecology.org/conf2007/

For registration, you need to put in all your details and pay but can save (pause) the session and complete it later. The conference this year is very reasonably priced, being only \$230 for early-bird full registration for ordinary NZES members and \$150 for student members.

For abstract submission, you enter all the co-authors and paste your abstract in. Note we ask you to ideally keep the abstract below 250 words and **the system will not accept more than 350 words**, so edit it down before going to the web page! We expect to be able to accept all offered presentations in their preferred format (spoken or poster) but this is dependent on how many speaking slots there are, so we will confirm soon after submission if your abstract is accepted as a talk or a poster.

The **poster session on Wednesday 21 November** should be well attended, as there are free drinks which people will only get by talking to poster presenters. So rest assured if you offer a poster that it will get good attention.

We will send guidelines for preparing your talk or abstract soon after confirming your acceptance.

Student rates and travel grants

Note that there is no subsidised registration rate for students who are not members. If you are a student and you want to take advantage of the cheaper student rate, you must sign up as a member (\$35) first; you can do this via the NZES web pages.

Travel grants are awarded annually to encourage student participation at the Society's annual conference. Four grants of \$250 each are available and priority is given to those presenting papers at the main conference and those who have furthest to travel. All bona-fide students enrolled at a secondary or tertiary educational institute are eligible. Membership to the society is not required (but see note above, it is worth joining to save on registration). Students should **apply in writing (email or letter) by 28 September** to Ruth Guthrie (guthrie@lincoln.ac.nz; Bioprotection and Ecology Division, PO Box 94, Lincoln). Your application should include full details of your course of study (name of degree, title of project, years of enrolment, name of primary supervisor, email address of primary supervisor). You should also say where you are travelling from, whether you have any other funding confirmed towards your trip (e.g. from your department) and whether you have applied unsuccessfully for funds (this is viewed positively). The four grants will be made available to the successful students prior to the conference.

Social events

Two social events are already included in the registration cost: the barbecue dinner on Tuesday evening (meal provided, cash bar available), and the poster session (one glass of wine/beer provided) on Wednesday afternoon. For those in town on Monday evening there is also the opportunity to gather at the Staff Club with a cash bar in the evening. Optional social events are the conference dinner, and extra (partner) tickets to the Tuesday barbeque (\$35 per ticket; see website).

Conference dinner (\$77 per person, special rate of \$60 for student members of NZES)

The conference dinner will be held from 7:30 pm on Wednesday 21 November at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, one of Christchurch's premiere venues, located in the city centre, 5 minutes walk from Cathedral Square. Conference participants will be offered bus transport from the university to the dinner. Your ticket includes a buffet (including vegetarian options) and the equivalent of half a bottle of wine per person, and additional drinks can be purchased from the cash bar. The hotel is very close to the bar & nightclub area of Christchurch so you can easily move on to other revelry after midnight.

Field trips

There are four choices of field trip on Monday 19 November: two full-day trips and two half-day (afternoon) trips. It is possible to fly in Monday morning from all major centres in time to go straight to the full-day trips. The trips are all limited to maximum numbers of about 45 and will be closed off when those places are taken—so register early (and book those air tickets)!

Students should **apply in writing (email or letter) by 28 September** to:

Ruth Guthrie

guthrie@lincoln.ac.nz

Bioprotection and Ecology Division, PO Box 94, Lincoln

*Full-day trips***Banks Peninsula forests & dolphins \$80 per person.**

A trip by bus to Akaroa, including a 2 hour boat trip on Canterbury Cat to see Hector's dolphins, and visits to several peninsula forest remnants. Includes lunch. Boat trip is weather dependent but refundable if cancelled. Maximum of 43 places, minimum of 28. \$80 per person - good value given that the boat trip alone normally costs \$55 at that time of year (for more information see www.blackcat.co.nz). Departs from outside C lecture block, University of Canterbury at 8:30am then via domestic terminal at airport at 8:40am, return to university 5:30pm.

Quail Island \$30 per person.

A day on the island restoration project in Lyttelton Harbour, by bus from the university and ferry from Lyttelton. Lunch provided. You will be shown progress with revegetation and pest control and also be able to see historic sites, including those used by Robert Falcon Scott before his Antarctic expedition. For more information see www.doc.govt.nz/templates/PlaceProfile.aspx?id=35294. Maximum of 43 places, minimum of 30. \$30 per person. Depart from outside C lecture block, Univ of Canterbury at 9:30am, return 5pm.

*Half-day trips***Bird watching 1pm-5pm \$10 per person**

Half-day trip to several sites around Christchurch to see land and wading birds. Bus provided, bring your own binoculars and drinks. Maximum of 43 places. \$10 per person. Departs from outside C lecture block, University of Canterbury at 1pm.

Canterbury Museum moas: three repeats, 1:30–2:30 or 2:30–3:30 or 3:30–4:30 pm

One-hour exploration with Richard Holdaway of the moa bones stored in the Canterbury Museum, including moa pelvis bones with *Harpagornis* puncture wounds. Maximum of 15 on each of the three tours. Before or after your tour you can explore the rest of the Museum and its café, or visit other sites or cafes in the Arts Centre, Art Gallery and Botanic Gardens which are all adjacent. \$5 per person. Transport to the Museum not provided, at the start time meet at the Museum information desk inside the front entrance.

1:30 trip \$5 per person, maximum 15

2:30 trip \$5 per person, maximum 15

3:30 trip \$5 per person, maximum 15

Sustainability: carbon credits, conference bags

To save resources, there *WILL NOT BE A CONFERENCE BAG* given out. We are asking you to **REUSE** - bring your favourite conference bag from times past, this could be a good talking point at morning tea if it is from somewhere exotic. Moreover we ask you to *DONATE ANY SURPLUS OLD BAGS* you have, bring them along to put in our reuse box and we will make those available to anyone who arrives without a conference bag and needs something to hang over their shoulder.

One major carbon impact of conferences is travel to and from the host city. We ask you to consider how this is done so that you can minimise your carbon dioxide emissions—come by land rather than air, take public transport not a car, get together to fill the car or van with people. We encourage you to make a voluntary payment to offset your carbon emissions. If you want to do this properly, go to the carbonzero website (www.carbonzero.co.nz/calculators/calculators_tourist.asp) where you can work out the emissions from your whole trip (travel to and from Christchurch, travel around town, emissions from staying in a hotel, and so forth). You can then buy carbon credits through their website to get a certified offset of your emissions. However, note that there is a \$22.50 minimum charge in their system, so this is most useful for those coming a long way. For those e

coming shorter distances, we have a voluntary option on the registration page to donate smaller amounts to offset travel to and from Christchurch, with the costs estimated approximately from the carbon emissions and current offset pricing (ranging from \$9.00 for return air travel from Auckland, down to \$1.20 for driving from Greymouth; see website for list of distances). We will amalgamate all these small donations, and purchase certified offsets via CarboNZero from Hinewai Reserve behind Akaroa. Hinewai is a well-known forest restoration project that is producing benefits to biodiversity as well as sequestering carbon.

Accommodation options ([link](#))

There are many options for staying in Christchurch. We offer three options through the web page: student hostel accommodation on campus, the mid-range Academy Motel (on Creyke Road directly opposite the university), and at the more luxurious Chateau On The Park (on Kilmarnock St on the edge of Hagley Park, situated on a bus route that goes directly to the University or a pleasant 2.5 km walk through Riccarton Bush to the conference). For prices see the web page. Note that there are a limited number of rooms available at each of these so get in early.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Tena koutou

Shona Myers

This has been another busy year for the New Zealand Ecological Society and a huge amount of energy and passion has been put into the society by a number of people. The strength of the Society relies on the large number of volunteers across the country, from the Council members, to annual conference organisers, to the hard working editors of the journal and the newsletter and webpages. The depth of the Society also lies in its membership which continues to expand and diversify from ecologists in research agencies, Government agencies, private consultancies, community groups, NGOs, to regional and local government. The generosity of members in contributing through donations to the Society has also been significant and will put the Society in a good position to support ecological research and education into the future.

There are many challenges into the future for ecologists in groundbreaking research, developing innovative conservation methods, and with communicating research into management decisions. NZ ecologists and conservation managers excel internationally in a number of areas including mainland island conservation, threatened species conservation, and pest control. Ecology is at the centre of global issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss. A significant challenge is also engaging with public and community groups on green issues and biodiversity. In the last 5 to 10 years there has been a snowballing of effort from community groups and private landowners in protecting and restoring the environment and biodiversity. Local and regional councils in NZ have taken on a greater role in protecting and maintaining biological diversity. There is also the challenge of communicating and connecting with an increasingly urban society becoming disconnected from the land and the natural environment.

The objectives of the NZES include promoting the study of ecology; the publication of the journal; as well as promoting the application of ecological knowledge in all its aspects. The latter objective has been the focus of a significant part of the councils work over the last year. A communications study has been developed and will be released at the 2007 conference for feedback and discussion. Recommended actions include increasing the profile of the society, revamping the logo and encouraging attendance by restoration groups at conferences. Your creative ideas and feedback will be sought at the conference for redesigning the logo.

The annual conference is a key focus for the Society each year. Dave Kelly and his team in Christchurch have put together a wonderful programme revisiting

the 1986 theme and the ecological history of New Zealand. Mel Galbraith is planning the 2008 conference in Auckland with the theme of island restoration and a symposium on Tiritiri Matangi Island – a community island restoration project in the Hauraki Gulf which has become internationally recognised. The 10th International Congress of Ecology (INTECOL) will be held in Brisbane in August 2009 and is being jointly organized by the Australian and NZ Ecological Societies. This will be a fantastic opportunity to network globally as well as showcase NZ ecology and biodiversity to an international audience. Kate McNutt has put in a huge effort in co-ordinating NZES input into this.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by Council members over the last year. I would like to firstly acknowledge Susan Timmins who resigned as president early this year. She left big shoes for me to fill. Susan has put a huge amount of effort into the Society over many many years, most recently as Vice President. I wish Susan all the best for her future and for her recovery from her illness. Susan also led a team of volunteers to organise last year's hugely successful Ecology Across the Tasman conference, held jointly with Ecological Society of Australia.

Rachel Keedwell (Treasurer) has put in a significant amount of work into this role over the last four years. It is now in such a good state that it will be very simple for someone to step in to her role. John Sawyer as past president has continued to provide significant support particularly with the communication of ecology to public and decision makers. Ruth Guthrie and Hannah Buckley have continued to produce a high quality newsletter and have recently facilitated it moving electronic. Kate McNutt has produced outstanding work in working with the Ecological Society of Australia in organising the INTECOL conference in 2009, and has shared parts of the secretary's role when I took over as president. Jon Sullivan has continued his excellent work of managing the website. Mel Galbraith has provided excellent support for INTECOL organisation as well as planning the proposed 2008 conference in Auckland. Karen Denyer, co-opted onto council to develop the communications strategy has produced an excellent document which will be released for comment at the 2007 annual conference. This provides a number of actions to communicate ecological science to the wider public, to managers and to decision makers. Bruce Burns (Vice president) has provided wise advice and significant support during the year. Jacqueline Beggs, Ruth Guthrie and Chris Bycroft, have worked on the yearly council awards. Chris was recently co-opted onto council to replace Roger Dungan who resigned earlier this year.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the journal editors Peter Bellingham, Duane Peltzer and Anne Austin. Their high attention to detail and professionalism is outstanding and continues to produce a competitive journal which showcases ecological research in New Zealand.

Our hard working and passionate council is looking for new members this year.

A number of positions on council are going to be available for election at the AGM in November, including Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter editor. In addition we need council members who can look after other issues including communications and co-ordinating submissions on key ecological issues. We are looking for keen people who can put the time and effort into the positions including committing to four council meetings a year. There is plenty of advice available from current members. It is a fun team to be involved in. See you at the conference in November!

Nga mihi nui

TREASURER'S REPORT 2006

Shown below are the audited statements of financial performance and financial position for the New Zealand Ecological Society for the 12 month financial year ended 31 December 2006 (values in this report are GST exclusive). Also included is the financial statement for the Kauri Fund for Ecological Science and Research, which is a trust fund of the NZES.

Rachel Keedwell
Treasurer

Financial performance

The Society made a profit of \$21,692 in the 12 months ended 31 December 2006. This is due to the large profit made by the conference run in Wellington—well done to the conference organisers. Note that without that input from the conference, the Society would have had a net loss for 2006. Journal expenditure was higher, with a special third issue of the journal published in 2006, but this was offset by grants to cover the majority of that additional cost.

Financial position

The level of cash reserves at 31 December 2006 is now at a healthy level of \$80,686. The main bank accounts are all with the National Bank now, and the ability to easily transfer money between the cheque account and the cash fund account means the interest-earning potential of the Society's reserves is maximised. Overall the society is still in a sound financial position, but the council is investigating options for keeping costs down so that the Society is not dependent on the conference profit each year to keep afloat.

NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Inc) Statement of Financial Performance For the Twelve Months ended 31 December 2006

	12 Months Dec 2006		12 Months Dec 2005
	\$	\$	\$
INCOME			
Members Subscriptions	30,082		28,596
Interest	4,573		3,949
Publications	2,975		–
Journal Suscriptions	10,841		11,050
Reprints and page charges	3,799		4,861
Conference	28,489		1,446
Sundry Income	14,634		507
		95,393	50,409
EXPENDITURE			
Journal Production	42,252		30,006
Newsletters	4,001		3,232
Secretariat	9,265		8,474
Subscriptions	2,264		1,718
Council Expenses	3,252		4,716
Administration	3,943		2,257
Audit Fee	750		500
Awards	3,344		1,655
Web Site	485		485
Tui time	60		60
Journal Online			5,100
Kauri Fund	1657		13,070
Conference	2428		1,495
		73,701	72,768
NET SURPLUS		21,692	-22,359

NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Inc)**Statement of Financial Position****As at 31 December 2006**

	Dec 2006	Dec 2005
	\$	\$
FUNDS & LIABILITIES		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance 31 December 2005	58,994	80,867
Add adjustment for reconciliation error		485
Add Net Surplus	21,692	-22,359
		<u>80,686</u>
		<u>58,993</u>
LIABILITIES		
GST payable	1,033	
Accounts payable	14,992	17,689
		<u>16,025</u>
		<u>17,689</u>
		<u>96,711</u>
		<u>76,682</u>
ASSETS		
Westpac Cheque Account	2,608	48,226
Westpac Term Deposit	-	25,000
National Bank Cheque Account	1,270	-
National Bank Cash Fund	58,523	-
		<u>62,401</u>
		<u>73,226</u>
Arrears – membership	241	241
GST Receivable	-	2,355
Sundry Debtors	33,919	710
Stock – Journals	150	150
		<u>34,310</u>
		<u>3,456</u>
		<u>96,711</u>
		<u>76,682</u>

**Kauri Fund for Ecological Science and Research
(Trust fund for the NZ Ecological Society Inc.)**

Receipts and payments for the year ending 31 December 2006**RECEIPTS**

Acc balance 1 Jan 06	17,063.83
Interest	697.84
From NZES	1,656.99
	<u>19,418.66</u>

PAYMENTS

Acc balance 31 Dec 06	19,075.31
Bank charges	0.35
Closing journal entry*	343.00
*(Interest owing to national bank account - unpaid as at 31 Dec 06, received 31/5/07)	<u>19,418.66</u>
Income	2,354.83
Expenditure	0.35
Profit/Loss	2,354.48

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS REPORT 2007

Membership of the Society has stayed steady over the last year. As at 22 August 2007 total membership is 599. This is an increase of 20 members from 2006. The total count of members includes those in arrears for this year but not those owing from last year. 80% of members have paid their subs for this year. Please keep paying your subs! The unwaged fraction of membership has remained similar to 2006. Overseas subscriptions have doubled from 2006.

Membership of NZ Ecol Soc as at 22 August 2007 (with data for 2/5/06 as comparison)

Category	Paid	Arrears this year	Total	Arrears last year
Full	313 (297)	77 (77)	390 (374)	9 (15)
Joint	46 x 2 (41)	4 x 2 (8)	50 (49)	(1)
Unwaged*	82 (76)	29 (43)	111 (119)	7 (12)
Overseas	24 (10)	7 (6)	31 (16)	(1)
Honorary	12 (12)		12 (12)	
Total	479 (439)	117 (157)	599 (579)**	16 (45)

*includes waged and unwaged overseas subs

**includes 5 newsletter only subscribers

Journal subscriptions totalled 105 (as at 22 August 2007). This includes 86 paid up subscribers and 16 complimentary subscribers. This compares with 110 journal subscribers in 2006, 117 in 2005 and 120 in 2004. There continues to be a drop in journal subscriptions.

NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY EDITOR'S REPORT

2006

- Three issues published in for the 2006 volume (No. 30): 30(1) was a the special issue arising from the symposium in honour of Nigel Barlow (12 papers and Introduction); 30(2) and 30(3) as standard issues containing 2 Review Articles, 16 Research Articles, 7 Short Communications and 1 Forum Article.
- Issue 30(3) was published in January 2007.
- 53 manuscripts were submitted in 2006 of which 21 were declined (39%), 23 have been accepted (43%; 5 appeared in volume 30, 17 have been accepted for publication in volume 31, and 1 has been accepted for publication in volume 32) and the remainder are with authors for revision.
- Dr David Coomes (University of Cambridge) resigned from the journal's editorial board after 6 years' service, and Dr Grant Edwards (Lincoln University) was appointed to the editorial board.

2007

- Issue 31(1) was published in June 2007.
- Issue 31(2) is complete and proofs are with authors. Its anticipated publication is in October 2007.
- Volume 31 contains 3 Review Articles, 19 Research Articles and 4 Short Communications.
- Two Research Articles, 1 Short Communication and 1 Forum Article have been accepted for publication in Volume 32 (2008).
- 37 manuscripts have been submitted to date in 2007.
- Dr Ian Jamieson (University of Otago) resigned from the journal's editorial board after 6 years' service. Dr Jacqueline Beggs (University of Auckland) Dr Jason Tylianakis (University of Canterbury) have joined the editorial board.
- Dr Roger Dungan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) resigned as Technical Editor for the journal after 3 years' service. Anne Austin with assistance from Christine Bezar (both of Landcare Research) have been technical editors for the journal since January 2007 and were responsible (with Jon Sullivan, of Lincoln University, for online assistance) for production of Volume 31.

Dr Peter Bellingham
Scientific editor, *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*

- From 31(1), *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* conforms to Royal Society of New Zealand publication style guides.
- From 31(1), *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* has adopted welfare policies consistent with guidelines of the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART).
- Landcare Research and the Department of Conservation have agreed to fund production jointly of a special issue of the journal to include papers from the symposium session "Feathers to Fur" at this year's New Zealand Ecological Society conference. Professor Dave Kelly (University of Canterbury) will be guest editor of that issue.

NZES WEBSITE ANNUAL REPORT

Jon Sullivan
Lincoln University
webmaster@nzec.org.nz

The numbers

The society website (www.newzealandecology.org) continues to be well used. In the calendar year of 2006, there were 131,638 visits to the site, viewing 296,172 webpages (up slightly from 125,961 visits and 268,436 pages in 2005). I recently found a section in the web stats area of our server that logs all the past PDF file "hits". Since the launch of the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* online, there have been a whopping 448,379 (almost half a million) hits on our PDF files.

In my annual report last year I presented the ten most popular *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* articles downloaded in the 2005 calendar year. To start a tradition, below is the equivalent list for 2006. Once again, there is a healthy mix of recent and older articles in this list. It is notable that three of the top ten come from the supplement to volume 12 based on the 1986 annual conference, "Moas, mammals, and climate". This topic will be revisited in 2007's annual conference, "Feathers to Fur", together with another special issue of the journal.

- [4605 hits] Vitousek, P. M., D'Antonio, C. M., Loope, L. L., Rejmanek, M., and Westbrooks, R. 1997. Introduced species: A significant component of human-caused global change. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 21: 115-129.
- [1268] McGlone, M. S. 1989. The Polynesian settlement of New Zealand in relation to environmental and biotic changes. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 12: 115-129.
- [1183] Robertson, D. A. 1992. Diet of the Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator* (Gr Gray) around New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 16: 77-81.
- [988] Clout, M. N., and Hay, J. R. 1989. The importance of birds as browsers, pollinators and seed dispersers in New Zealand Forests. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 12: 27-33.
- [968] Wilson, J. B. 1994. The intermediate disturbance hypothesis of species coexistence is based on patch dynamics. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 18: 176-181.
- [804] Wilmshurst, J. M., Higham, T. F. G., Allen, H., Johns, D., and Phillips, C. 2004. Early Maori settlement impacts in northern coastal Taranaki, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 28: 167-180.
- [800] Holdaway, R. N. 1989. New Zealand's pre-human avifauna and its vulnerability. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 12: 11-25.
- [767] McGlone, M. S., Wilmshurst, J. M., and Leach, H. M. 2005. An ecological and historical review of bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) in New Zealand, and its cultural significance. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 29: 165-184.
- [736] Clarkson, B. D. 1990. A Review of vegetation development following recent (less than 450 years) volcanic disturbance in North Island, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 14: 59-71.
- [719] Beever, R. E., Forster, R. L. S., Rees-George, J., Robertson, G. I., Wood, G. A., and Winks, C. J. 1996. Sudden decline of cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*): search for the cause. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 20: 53-68.

Updates and changes

This year, our HotScience project was resurrected as a blog called *New Zealand Ecology Reviews* (<http://www.newzealandecology.org/nzecologyblog/>), which includes the ability for any NZES member to submit and comment on summaries of articles about New Zealand ecology published overseas or in other New Zealand publications. Any feedback on this would be welcome, especially on whether members see any use for this and whether they are interested in participating.

LOOKING FOR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2007

Do you want to join a fun, hard working, passionate group of people, and have a say in the future of the NZ Ecological Society? We are looking for people who are current members of NZES, and who can dedicate time, take on jobs and attend 4 council meetings a year. It is time for a number of the current Council members to move on. We have the following positions vacant for election at the AGM in November:

Secretary

This position involves attending and organising Council meetings, taking minutes, keeping records, and generally keeping everyone organised. NB: we have a paid secretariat who handles subscriptions, and much of the correspondence.

Treasurer

Our hard working treasurer, Rachel is retiring this year. She will be leaving the job and finances very well organised, and it should not be difficult for someone else to take it on. Rachel will hopefully stay on as a Council member to provide continuity and share her knowledge.

Newsletter Editor(s)

An extremely important job, keeping the society members informed of current issues and upcoming events. Again this has been very well organised and established by Ruth and Hannah.

NZES T-SHIRTS

We have two boxes of stylish t-shirts left over from last year's Wellington conference that are going cheap—only \$5 each. They are tan coloured with a beautiful colour print on the front featuring a nikau palm against a back drop of the hills and harbour, with "Ecology across the Tasman 2006" written underneath. Sizes available are large and small (I think that is men's sizes because the small looks very large to me) and size 12 (women's size). If you would like one, please send a cheque for \$10 (\$5 t-shirt and \$5 for postage) made out to NZES with your name and address to Rachel Keedwell, PO Box 5539, Palmerston North 4441. Alternatively, you can direct credit the \$10 into the Society's National Bank account (06 0729 0465881 00) and email me at treasurer@nzes.org.nz with your address and details of when your payment was made. Any leftover t-shirts will be available for sale at the Christchurch conference also. Any queries about sizes; please email me at treasurer@nzes.org.nz.

BACK ISSUES OF NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY

The NZES council has a range of back issues of NZJE that will be available for members at the Christchurch conference. We currently have a lot of issues in storage so we'll dig them all out and bring them along to the conference for you to look through if you would like extra copies or are missing copies from your set of the NZJE. Come check out what is available at the stand that will be near the registration area. T-shirts from previous conferences will also be available.



Rachel Keedwell

INVITED ARTICLE: DETECTABILITY: MORE TO IT THAN MEETS THE EYE

Darryl I. MacKenzie
Proteus Wildlife Research
Consultants
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www.proteus.co.nz

Detectability: more to it than meets the eye

There are many situations where the detection of individuals, or even entire species, is not guaranteed during field surveys. This is true for biological populations of both flora and fauna, and there has been much debate in the literature over whether it should be accounted for when estimating demographic parameters such as abundance or species richness, or whether a 'simpler' index is appropriate. I have to confess to being in the former camp. I believe the resulting conclusions about a biological population are likely to be much more reliable when appropriate field data has been collected such that 'nuisance' parameters (e.g., detection probability) can be estimated and explicitly accounted for when focus is on the more interesting demographic quantities. This is because these nuisance parameters are often associated with the practicalities of collecting the field data, hence failing to account for them is failing to acknowledge that element of random chance of the sampling. More importantly, not accounting for them will generally result in biased estimates of the demographic parameters. Furthermore, many indices actually require more restrictive assumptions about the system in order to interpret them as meaningful indicator of the biological population. It is important however that when designing a sampling scheme people fully consider all the causes of why something may be detected imperfectly.

When considering issues of detectability, it often helps to think of it in terms of two components; 1) availability; and 2) detectability given availability. Availability can be defined as whether or not the individual or species is in a position where it is available for sampling by your methods. That is, if it is available there is a non-zero probability of you detecting it, while if it is unavailable, there is a zero probability of detection. For example, in an aerial survey, any animal that is in a position where it cannot be seen from the aircraft (e.g., under trees, behind a mound, under water) is unavailable to the observers at that point in time, or a plant may be unavailable to surveyors if it is still below ground during the surveying. The selection and placement of study plots can also induce a form of availability; everything outside of the plots is technically unavailable. The second component then relates to how likely you are to see an individual or species given that it is available to your sampling methods. This could be affected by a number of factors such as the colouration of the individual, whether it was flowering or not, distance from the transect line, and of course, dumb luck.

In my experience, people often seem to focus on the second component, without due consideration for the first. "If the purple people-eater is standing in front of me then of course I'm going to see it, so I don't need to worry about this detection probability stuff." But what's the probability of the purple people-eater being in front of you, i.e., being available to your sampling? What if you came back in two hours, or tomorrow, would the purple people-eater still be there? "If the seeds of the target species are in the core sample, then I'm not going to miss it." Possibly true, but how representative is that core sample of the seed bank in the immediate vicinity? Would that target species still appear in the core sample if it was taken 10cm to the left or right?

Accounting for availability can be more difficult, and exactly how to do it will often be on a case-by-case basis. In some situations it may be possible to modify the timing of surveys such that the probability of availability is close to 1.0, or use alternative sources of information such that the probability of an individual being available can be estimated directly. For example, if there are a known number of radio-collared individuals within the area that is to be aerial-surveyed, by locating animals during the survey and determining what fraction are in a position where they could potentially have been seen would provide an estimate of availability.

In other situations it may not be feasible to obtain an estimate of availability, but it's not strictly necessary that you do. What is important is that you can obtain an estimate of the combined probability of an individual being available and detected, i.e., the product of the two components discussed above. By doing so you can still get unbiased estimates of the demographic parameters of interest, you simply can't determine what the respective probabilities of availability and detection, given availability, are. There are also other situations where it may not be feasible to collect the appropriate data to estimate the probability of availability separately, nor to estimate the combined probability. In such cases it may be necessary to consider whether similar information could be garnered from alternative demographic parameters. Traditionally there has been a long focus on abundance; however, in terms of understanding changes in populations, similar information could be obtained from focusing on survival and recruitment rates. Indeed, focusing on these vital rates may provide even more information about why any change is occurring, not just that a change is occurring. For some species, less effort may be required to obtain annual estimates of survival and recruitment, than reliable estimates of annual abundance.

It is only through careful consideration of both components, and designing a sampling scheme appropriately, can one hope to get a reliable estimate of the demographic parameters of interest. For example, distance sampling and multiple observers are good methods for accounting for the imperfect detection of individuals given they're available, but do little to account for the probability of individuals being available in the first place. By failing to do so, the resulting estimate is of the number of animals (say) available to the sampling in the area at that point in time, and it is unknown how that may relate to the total number of animals in the area. That is, even though a correction has been made for detection probability, the resulting estimate is still one of relative abundance, not absolute abundance. Hence, it is open to many of the same criticisms of relative abundance indices that do not account for detection probability at all, particularly when making comparisons at multiple points in time or space.

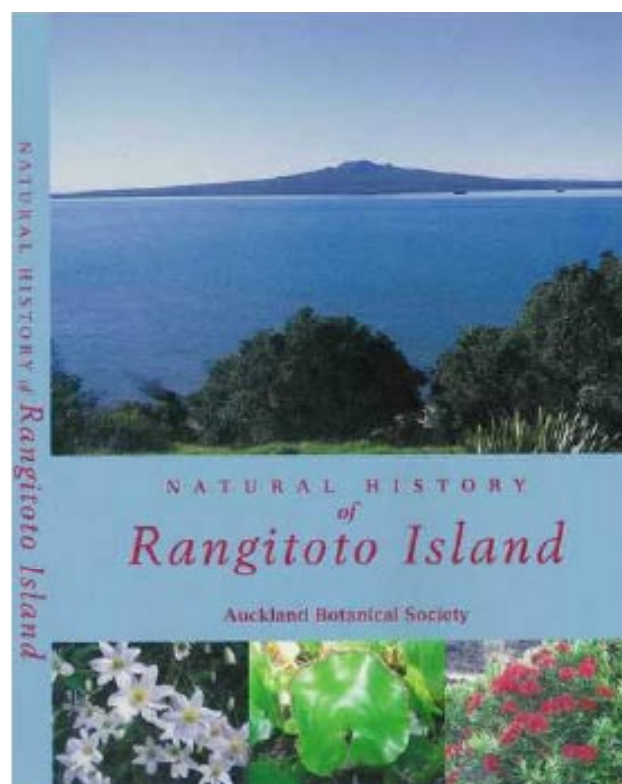
NATURAL HISTORY OF RANGITOTO ISLAND

This 192 page book is fully illustrated in colour and provides a comprehensive account of Rangitoto Island. It covers flowering plants, conifers, ferns and fern allies, mosses, liverworts, lichens, fungi and algae, and includes species lists, along with accounts of the geology, history, vegetation ecology, and animal life.

Published by the Auckland Botanical Society, the book is the result of intensive field work and research by a distinguished team of contributors, and embodies the findings of past researchers on the origins, biodiversity and ecology of Auckland's unique volcanic island.

Editor: Mike Wilcox, ISBN: 9780958344739

Available from Manaaki Whenua Press:
<http://www.mwpress.co.nz/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=715>



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: RESEARCH ON THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS GRASSLANDS AND ASSOCIATED VEGETATION IN THE SEQUESTERING AND STORAGE OF CARBON

Miss E. L. Hellaby
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Research Trust

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The Hellaby Indigenous Grasslands Research Trust wishes to promote research on the above topic, preferably at a PhD level although a proposal for an MSc would also be considered. The Trust is aware of the wide interest and concern for the increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, globally, and the role of vegetation in both sequestering and storing carbon organically in both vegetation and soil. In New Zealand, Landcare Research has been undertaking research into aspects of this issue, but apparently confining it to measures or estimates of the of above-ground components of woody, particularly forest, vegetation.

Questions have been asked about the role of indigenous grasslands and associated non-forest vegetation, and their soils in carbon sequestration and particularly storage in above- and below-ground components, and soil organic matter. Other related issues are the possible role of associated wetlands, and activities such as the clearance of wilding exotic trees from high country tussock grasslands.

Comprehensive studies along representative moisture and temperature sequences across the range of indigenous grasslands, and assessment of the effects of vegetation degradation and exotic afforestation appear to be needed. Long-term reserves or exclosures might provide valuable baselines.

The Trust welcomes expressions of interest from university staff, particularly at Canterbury, Lincoln and Otago University, willing to supervise post-graduate research at the PhD (or MSc) levels. The Trust would provide a Fellowship equivalent to a University Fellowship/Scholarship plus field and research expenses for up to three years for a suitable proposal. The successful applicant would be expected to demonstrate that a suitable student was available to take up the scholarship, or that processes were in place to locate a suitable student following an indication from the Trust that a Fellowship was available.

Those interested in responding to this invitation may find it useful in scoping it, to discuss aspects of a proposed research exercise with others known to be involved in, or knowledgeable on, various aspects of this issue, in particular Prof. Leo Condron, Soils Group, Agriculture and Life Sciences Division,, Lincoln University and Drs Ian Payton and Allan Hewitt of Landcare Research, Lincoln, and Drs Kevin Tate, Surindar Sagar and Craig Trotter of Landcare Research, Palmerston North.

Expressions of interest are invited on or before **31 October 2007** and should be sent to the undersigned at the below address. The Trust's Research Advisors, Assoc. Professor Katharine Dickinson and Professor Richard Duncan (e-mail addresses at right) are available to provide advice to potential applicants.

Alan F. Mark Emeritus Professor

ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

This year, the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) celebrates 20 years of activities. The New Zealand Chapter of the EIANZ is more recent but is growing rapidly.

The celebrations include day-long seminars in several main centres in Australia and New Zealand—'Environmental Professionals: evaluating practice and evolving pathways'

Auckland - 17th September

Wellington - 19th September

Christchurch - 21 September.

Programmes are now available from the website (see below).

The EIANZ is the peak professional body in Australasia for environmental practitioners. Founded in 1987, the EIANZ is a not-for-profit, politically independent professional association with a charter to meet the needs of environmental practitioners.

The EIANZ supports environmental practitioner by:

- Recognizing and promoting environmental skills
- Establishing and administering standards of professional conduct and competency
- Providing an interdisciplinary forum for professional networking
- Supporting and promoting development in environmental education, training and research
- Contributing member perspectives to national policy discussions
- Promoting debate and facilitating awareness and knowledge on environmental issues
- Monitoring and communicating local, national and global environmental management goals and achievements.

The focus is on representing individual practitioners rather than business or organisations.

The EIANZ fills a professional institute gap in New Zealand—for those environmental practitioners who do not qualify for membership of other institutes. Members include environmental managers, environmental scientists, environmental consultants, environmental engineers, resource managers, ecologists, soil scientists, policy analysts, hydrologists, policy planners, and consents managers.

The Certification Programme for individuals was a natural extension of the EIANZ. The Certified Environmental Practitioners (CEnvP) programme was established in 2004 and there are now 165 certified environmental practitioners from New Zealand and Australia.

To qualify for CEnvP you need:

- An environment related degree
- Five years of relevant environmental experience over ten years
- Three referees prepared to vouch for your skills, performance and professional conduct
- A signed statement of ethical conduct
- Commitment to a minimum over two years of 50 hours of professional development
- Additional supporting evidence of claim including at least two referee reports.

There are two dates each year for applications. There is a formal interview process. Anyone can apply and you do not need to be a member of the EIANZ.

There is indemnity insurance offered by Marsh—specifically developed for EIANZ environmental practitioners.

For further information, please see the website www.eianz.org

Or contact:

Professor Ian Spellerberg
CEnvP, FEIANZ (New Zealand representative on the CEnvP Board)

Dr. Judith Roper-Lindsay,
CEnvP (President of the New Zealand Chapter of the EIANZ).

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

Editors note: Edited and abridged minutes

NZES Council Meeting 24 August 2007, Auckland Regional Council

Present: John Sawyer, Ruth Guthrie, Rachel Keedwell, Shona Myers, Bruce Burns, Mel Galbraith Chris Bycroft, Kate McNutt, Karen Denyer (afternoon only).

Apologies: Peter Bellingham, Jacqueline Beggs

Minutes: Kate McNutt

Minutes from last meeting

- Shona welcomed everyone, and made a special welcome to Chris Bycroft who has volunteered to assist the Council with the Awards for the conference.
- An item from minutes from newsletter no 121 was incorrect. Council had not decided the journal would convert to completely electronic. Council had discussed whether an electronic version was appropriate in addition to the hardcopy. Kate apologised for making a typo.

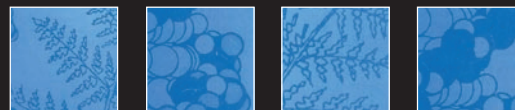
Mel moved that the minutes are a true and correct reflection of the meeting that took place. Seconded by Shona.

Treasurers Report (Rachel Keedwell)

- Rachel took accounts to an accountant to try and resolve anomalies. The accountant discovered small errors in the MYOB summaries that are created by the Secretariat e.g. can't claim GST on award cheques. Rachel received a report about these small mistakes and took the report to the auditor. The cost for the accountant's services was \$200.
- Rachel recommended the Secretariat should prepare the end of year accounts from now on and the Treasurer would look over them. This would reduce Rachel's time and prevent unnecessary double handling of the accounts. It is unclear whether the Secretariat would charge for this extra service which Rachel estimated would be once morning's work once a year.
- Profits from the 2006 Conference ensured the society did not spend more than it earned for this financial year.
- A separate code has been created for costs associated with the INTECOL conference. These costs have been added into administration fees to date, which explains why general expenses were high in last financial report.
- Secretariat is increasing their costs each year yet our subscription costs have not.
- Rachel recommended that the Society transfer \$12000 into the Kauri Fund (which currently has a balance of \$22000). This keeps cheque account below \$5000 and maximises interest. The Nigel Barlow cash fund does not show up in this year's financial statement but will do next year.
- Rachel projected that the Society will break even this year assuming a profit of \$5000 is received from the conference.
- An electronic newsletter has reduced the costs of postage considerably.
- The Council discussed mechanisms about how to increase protection for the Society from take-overs. The Nigel Barlow cash fund is of particular concern because it is not held in a Trust. Options could be to have an endorsement or longer nomination process for members, or to require members to join more than three months before an AGM. This means you can't just come to an AGM as an immediate member. Council agreed it is important and serious to try and improve the current rules.
- Rachel raised the possibility of using ethical finance instead of the bank for the Society's investments, even though the interest rates are generally lower. This could be an option for the next Treasurer to look into.

Rachel moved the financial reports were a true and accurate record of the society financial records, seconded by Shona.

PLANT BIOSYSTEMS



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Volume 141, 2007

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Official Journal of the Società Botanica Italiana

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

Professor Carlo Blasi, *University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy*

Plant Biosystems is the research journal edited by the Società Botanica Italiana. It is an English-language journal which encompasses the entire spectrum of plant biology, from the subcellular level to ecosystems and from microorganisms to flowering plants. Published three times a year, the journal is open to papers dealing with all aspects of plant biology, systematics, and ecology. Research studies containing novel and significant findings are welcome. *Plant Biosystems* has been conceived in consideration of the recent progress in botanical research. An editorial board has been devised to ensure that all the main trends of contemporary plant science are represented.

Agriculture & Environmental Sciences Area

Agricultural and forest science, animal science and zoology, biocontrol and plant science, food science, environmental policy and law, environmental science, resources conservation and recycling, and wildlife management. All these subjects and more are covered by the diverse range of agricultural and environmental science publications offered by Taylor & Francis.

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Journal Report (Peter Bellingham)

- The journal report sent by Peter Bellingham was read.
- Council had more discussion over changing the journal's format. Rachel has a quote from printers based on printing 700 copies using offset printing. They were considerably cheaper than the costs of printing the journal now. The paper size was smaller by 5mm length and width, but the same layout could be used. She needs to get a quote for digital printing to compare with offset printing and a quote for using recycled paper. She will keep Peter Bellingham and Anne Austin in the loop on developments.
- John moved that Council support Rachel and permit up to \$500 for mock ups of digital and offset types and potential alternative page sizes. Mel seconded.
- Subscription charges have not been changed for 8 years and they are not really covering the true costs and are being subsidised from elsewhere in the society. Rachel moved that NZ subscription charges increase to \$125 (up \$5) Australian increase \$135 NZ (up \$5 NZ) and international increase by \$15 US to \$95 US.

Conferences

2008 Conference in Auckland (Mel Galbraith)

Mel has investigated dates and venues and thinks the best time will be the last week of August at Unitec in Auckland. The only issue is the largest lecture theatre only holds 212 people which he thought may not be large enough for the opening plenary session. Two other lecture theatres are within 2 minutes walk and can be used as concurrent sessions. The Council thought that space would not be a problem in the opening plenaries and options like live video links to other rooms could be set up if need be. The Council thought Unitec was a great venue and offered to help Mel as much as possible.

INTECOL (Kate McNutt)

Kate has just come back from 5 weeks overseas and was still catching up on developments on INTECOL.

- Tour Hosts have drafted a sponsorship hierarchy and potential sponsors are being short listed.
- Ingrid Grunner and Mel have drafted up a potential fieldtrip structure. Ingrid has sourced a preferred provider in the South Island.

Awards (Ruth Guthrie and Chris Bycroft)

- Shoulder tapped judges will not be used at the Conference as all participants will be asked to vote for their favourite student and non student talks. The poster session could have a similar approach. Awards will be given for best talk/ poster and runners up.
- Nominations were assessed for the Te Tohu Taiao Award for Ecological Excellence. After a lengthy discussion, the Council has agreed on a worthy recipient.
- We received seven nominations for best publication by a new researcher. These are currently been evaluated by three assessors who will make a final recommendation.
- Several nominations for Ecology in Action Award and Life Members Award were received and Council debated them. Recipients were chosen from a high calibre list of potential recipients.
- The Nigel Barlow Award will be advertised in April/May 2008, close in September and awarded in December 2008 in time for February 2009. It should be advertised on the university scholarship website.

Communication Strategy (Karen Denyer)

- Karen has carried out minor revisions given feedback for the first version of the strategy. She presented the final version to the Council.
- Karen said she has other commitments now and regrettably resigns from the position she currently holds on the Council. Council reluctantly accepted her

resignation. Council thanked Karen very much all hard work and expertise in pulling this document together on behalf of the Society.

- The Council decided to send the final version to all members on the list server to give them an opportunity to comment. Once all comments have been received, a final version will be taken to the AGM for approval.
- Redesigning the logo is one action in the Communication Strategy. Updating the logo has been discussed several times already, even prior to the strategy being written. Any redesign of the NZES logo needs to be in conjunction with a revamp of the NZES website, which will involve Jon Sullivan.

Positions on Council (Shona Myers)

- Several positions will need to be filled at next conference; Secretary, Treasurer, President and newsletter editors. John Sawyer (as past president) and Kate McNutt's Council terms have both finished. John and Rachel are undecided whether to stand as Councillors.
- The Council discussed how to best fill the positions and deal with the increasing work loads (ie from awards, communication strategies, fund administration and INTECOL).
- We will need someone to take responsibility for each of the fund ie Nigel Barlow and Kauri Fund because they are dormant now but in 2 years time they will require considerable time to administer them.

IUCN meeting Wellington attended by Shona Myers

- Shona attended the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Oceania meeting in Wellington representing the NZES to learn more about the IUCN. They are holding an IUCN congress conference in Barcelona 2008.
- Council discussed the value of NZES continuing to subscribe (\$1200/year) to the IUCN. John has attended numerous IUCN meetings as well as this recent one by Shona. Council decided it was now clear that the issues dealt with by the IUCN have little direct relevance to the NZES.

Action: John will write an article in the newsletter to suggest that NZES withdraw from IUCN. Then it will be put forward as an issue at the AGM to seek feedback from members.

Next Council meeting is Monday 19 November in Christchurch at 2pm.

NZ ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY LISTSERV

What is a listserv?

A listserv (short for List Server) is a centralised list of e-mail addresses of subscribers. Anyone who is subscribed listserv will automatically receive all emails sent to the listserv, and can send e-mails to all subscribers via the listserv. You can subscribe and unsubscribe from a listserv at any time.

The NZ Ecological Society listserv

By subscribing to the NZ ecosoc listserv, you will receive emails about meetings, seminars, jobs, and issues Zealand ecology. You will also be able to post emails that will be received by most practising ecologists in New Zealand.

Subscribing to the NZ EcoSoc listserv

To subscribe to this server, e-mail a message to the automatic Mailserv processor at:

nzecosoc-request@it.canterbury.ac.nz

Include nothing in the e-mail except the following text in the body of the e-mail:

SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC

END

To unsubscribe from the listserv, send another email to the above address, but this time use the following text:

UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC

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

Sending list messages

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

Messages on the list should follow these simple rules:

- • NO ATTACHMENTS!!!
- • Put the info in plain text in the message
- • If there is bulky or graphic material some people may want, put a web address in the message that can click on if they want, or give a contact email address where people can ask for it
- • Only send stuff that is likely to be of general interest to NZ ecologists

Replying to list messages

To reply to a list email, 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). If you want to reply to the person who sent it, please be careful that your reply goes to the person, and not to the list (to be bounced out to everyone!). In other words, double-check what "To:" field your reply has picked up before you press "send".

If you change your email address

If you change your email address, you have to unsubscribe from the old one, and subscribe from the new address. If you changed address but forgot to tell the server, we start getting error messages from your old address and will have to unsubscribe you manually, so make my life easier and do this yourself. If your email address has problems (such as messages rejected because your inbox is full) for more than a few weeks we will also unsubscribe you. If you are not getting any messages and wonder if you are still on the list, just send another subscribe command. The easiest way to unsubscribe your old email address is to send a message while you are logged on as that user; if the old email address is dead you may not be able to unsubscribe it because the system sees you as someone else, if you see what I mean. In this case send the details to me and I can delete the old address.

For information on the listserv contact me, Dave Kelly (Dave.Kelly@canterbury.ac.nz).

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(Effective from June 2007)

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This Newsletter was produced by Hannah Buckley, Ruth Guthrie and Jeremy Rolfe.

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

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

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