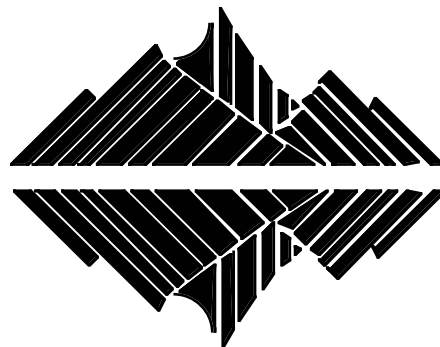


Ecological Society

Newsletter



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NOTICE OF THE 46TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 46th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.) will be held on Wednesday 25 November from 5:50 pm on in Castle 1 lecture theatre, University of Otago, Dunedin. **Note:** that this has changed from the programme included in the last newsletter. The conference programme will confirm final time and location.

The agenda is as follows;

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of minutes of 45th Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Receive Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts
5. Receive Annual Report
6. Election of Council
7. Notices of Motion
8. General Business

Discussion of professional society for ecologist

Status of journal editor

Inclusion of postgraduate research topics in newsletter

Would any members wishing to table Notices of Motion please ensure that copies of any proposed Notices are sent to the Secretary by 13th November 1998. This will enable Notices to be circulated to members at conference prior to the AGM.

Call for Nominations for Office Bearers and Council Members

Any financial member of the society is eligible for election to Council. Office Bearers, that is, **President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer**, are re-elected annually. Craig Miller, President, is

standing down, due to work commitments, but will continue to participate in EcolSoc matters as Immediate Past President. Thus, we need nominations for a new President.

Wren Green, currently Vice-President, is willing to stand again if nominated to that position. Dave Kelly, currently acting Secretary, is willing to stand for secretary if nominated for that position. The editor was unable to contact Colin O'Donnell, Treasurer, to confirm his availability for re-election.

Councillor Janice Lord is coming to the end of her 2 years and is not available for re-election due to work commitments. Alastair Robertson rolls over this year, but is due to finish his 4 year stint as councillor next year. Judith Roper-Lindsay rolls over as councillor this year. This means that we need nominations for another 2 councillors.

Gábor Lövei has moved overseas and would be happy to step aside if a new, NZ-based editor is found. Astrid Dijkgraaf, Newsletter Editor is equally happy to continue or hand over to somebody else.

Nominations for any of the above vacancies can be made in writing to Secretary before the AGM.

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Further nominations will be called for from the floor. Any nomination of a person not present at the AGM must be accompanied by his/her acceptance in writing.

It should be noted that the appointment of Sue Sheppard as Secretarial Assistant has made the jobs of President, Secretary and Treasurer much less onerous than in the past. Council meets four or five times a year, including one meeting at Conference.

NOTES FROM COUNCIL

Council has requested to be put on the mailing list for Conservation Board appointments. New membership leaflets have been produced, need to be circulated (please request from Sue Sheppard, Dave Kelly or Astrid Dijkgraaf). Also available as a Word 6 document file. Signatories to EcolSoc account were reviewed.

Journal: The 2/98 issue is full and in press at present and 1/99 will be eco-toxicology edited by Clare Veltman. NZ Post have doubled overseas costs. Someone needs to find a better deal. Confusion among authors and potential authors about where Manuscripts are at. Council resolved that it needed;

- (1) a list of all papers in progress and where they are at (since received).
- (2) A newsletter item explaining current set up (see this issue).
- (3) Needed a form letter to authors acknowledging receipt and saying "it has gone to Editorial Board member X" so they know it is in hand.

Publishing trends: an interesting analysis of publication differences in NZJECOL and AustJECOL by Wayne Linklater of Massey University will be presented at the Dunedin conference. Abstract is available now. Main point is that even when controlling for authors, there is a tendency for NZJE to carry papers on impacts of introduced animals and plants, whereas AJE has papers on basic biology of organisms. The NZ authors publishing impact papers in NZJE are publishing basic biology, but in overseas journals.

Conference 1998 - Well in hand, see this issue

Conference 1999 - Alan Rose is actually moderately keen to run 1999 conference in Blenheim! Have venue to hold 300 for talks. Dates: first week in July (28 June - 2 July) suits all universities. Council moved to agree to that.

Conference 2000 - possible link with NZ Institute of Landscape Architects' conference which has theme: "Ecology and Design". Their annual meeting is usually February. This timing is absolutely no good, but we could offer a special purpose

workshop associated with their conference. The other possibility in the usual July slot is Tamaki campus or the local authority people up in Auckland (e.g., Shona Myers, Alison Davis, Paula Reeves (Waitakere City), Karen Denyer (Environment Waikato)) for ecology in the urban environment.

Professional society was discussed - see item in this issue

Next meeting Dunedin, at Conference. Tuesday 24 November, 5:40pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1997/1998

At the 1997 Annual General Meeting in Wellington, members of the New Zealand Ecological Society expressed the view that they wanted the Society to take a more active role in contributing information and options to environmental debate and policy making. Consequently the new Council identified five strategic issues that the Society should seek to provide input to, and that specific issues that came up would be assessed and addressed as necessary.

The five strategic issues were:

- National biodiversity strategy
- Environmental indicators
- RMA principles
- Maori traditional use
- Population conference 97

A number of members have already had input to the biodiversity strategy, and we are eagerly awaiting the release of the draft document so that we can provide comment.

The Society's Vice President, Dr Wren Green, attended both the Government's population conference, and a Ministry for the Environment workshop on the environmental indicators programme. He provided input on behalf of the Society and his reports are in the March 1998 newsletter. It is certainly convenient having Wren in Wellington, and I thank him for his willingness to appear on our behalf.

Council observed the release of the McShane report on the Resource Management Act (RMA) with some interest. Our greatest concern was that there would be a proposal to water down sections 5, 6, and 7, which provide the principles on which the Act is based. We accepted the Minister for the Environment's assurances that there were no plans to change these, rather the debate was to whether the administration of the Act by Regional and District Councils could be done more efficiently. The Society is maintaining a watching brief, and will be prepared to lobby most strongly should there be a hint of an attempt to water down the Act.

The Society facilitated a workshop on developing ecological criteria for identifying significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, as required by section 6c of the RMA, for the Ministry for the Environment. My thanks go to Dr Judith Roper-Lindsay (Boffa Miskell Ltd) and Dr David Norton (University of Canterbury) for their efforts in drawing together the workshop, which was very successful, and their efforts to develop a draft manuscript of the outcomes. The report on the workshop is in the June 1998 newsletter. I look forward to the release of this document by MfE following peer review.

The Society's submissions convenor, Jason Roxburgh (Department of Conservation), and Dr Shane Wright (University of Auckland) have been developing a submission on cultural harvest. This submission seeks to draw on the original submission and a contributed paper contained in the New Zealand Journal of Ecology 1995 vol. 19, and an understanding of the principles of ecological sustainability and rights guaranteed in the Treaty of Waitangi. I thank these two for their fine efforts on the Society's behalf.

The New Zealand Ecological Society has also contributed to issues as they have arisen throughout the year.

We supported a submission by Systematics Association of New Zealand (SYSTANZ) to the Minister of Fisheries requesting closure of the scallop fishery at Spirits Bay, Cape Reinga, due to impacts on the sea floor communities. This issue was highlighted at the 1997 Conference.

We made a submission to the Ministry of Agriculture on proposed regulations relating to RCD, after its illegal importation. The Society's position was that the possession and spread of RCD should be a controlled activity conducted by Regional Councils under best scientific and management practices.

The Vice President presented a paper jointly authored by Craig Miller, Wren Green, Judith Roper-Lindsay and Caroline Mason at a Royal Society Foresite workshop on environmental and occupational health research, science and technology. We were invited to present this paper and provide an ecological perspective. We felt heartened at this, because it is an acknowledgment of the role of ecology in more than just nature conservation!

We wrote a letter to the (then) SOE Minister, Jenny Shipley, with regard to the proposed beech scheme. Council took the view that the Society should not be making a value judgment as to whether indigenous logging should occur or not - although individual members will have views on this - but that given indigenous logging is allowed in some areas,

then it must be done in an ecologically sustainable manner. We pointed out that ecological research is a critical component of this. This letter was copied to the Prime Minister, Minister of Conservation, and Minister for the Environment.

Earlier this year the Society sponsored a scientific meeting on the ecological consequences of toxin use for mammal control. This was a tightly focused and well run meeting that exceeded many people's expectations. The standard of the invited papers was very high, and twice the number of people anticipated attended. The proceedings of this meeting will be published in the first edition of the journal in 1999. I thank Dr Clare Veltman (Department of Conservation) and Dr Charlie Eason for organising and running this meeting - it provides a model for future workshops.

A number of members have served their time as Editorial Board members for the New Zealand Journal of Ecology and are being released on good behaviour bonds. I express my thanks to Dr Peter Williams, Dr Nigel Barlow, Dr John Parkes, Dr Eric Spurr (all Landcare Research Ltd), and Dr John Dowding (Consultant) for their efforts to ensure that the standard of scientific papers in the journal was top rate. I also thank the those members who have volunteered to fill the gaps left.

I think that it is important to acknowledge that the Society functions on the efforts of its members, particularly the Council and those that are tasked with a specific job. These people put a lot of their personal time into ensuring that the objectives of the Society are being met, and deserve our thanks. I would especially like to thank Caroline Mason, who has been Secretary, President and immediate past President of the New Zealand Ecological Society since 1991. Caroline has been the lynch pin that has held the Council together for this time, and she has certainly made my job as President a lot easier than it could have been. While Caroline will be nominally retiring at the next AGM - to have her second baby! - I suspect that she will remain involved in the Society's dealings in some way, shape, or form.

Craig Miller, *President*

Awards Convenor Report

In 1997, the ecological society made awards to Dr John McLennan - Landcare Research (New Zealand Ecological Society Award), Lynette Hartley - University of Waikato (Best Paper by a Student at Conference), Dr John Parkes - Landcare Research (Honorary Life Membership). For more details see Newsletter No. 87, March 1998.

Alastair Robertson, *Awards Convenor*

New Zealand Journal of Ecology Editor's report

Publication schedule

Issue 2/1997 was published within the year, reaching the subscribers during mid-December. Issue 1/1998 was mailed during April. Issue 2/1998 was near book proof stage when I left New Zealand, and thus suffered a delay. I now have the book proofs at hand, and I expect the publication date of 2/1998 at around the end of September.

Issue 1/1999 will be devoted to the recent (July 1998) eco-toxicology meeting, and guest-edited by Clare Veltman (DoC Wellington). I met Clare in Florence in late July and she told me that all except one manuscript were in hand, reviewers were found and the MSs were about to be sent out to reviewers. This bodes well for a production of this issue not later than February 1999.

Cost & production matters

The cost of producing the journal has been substantially reduced during 1997. The Society should now see a consolidation of the lower production costs. Please keep an eye on this, because John Russell, so far responsible for the production, was moved sideways within Swiftprint, and new people are now involved, this might mean that considerably more time could be spend on producing the proofs but the Society should not be charged more for these services.

This change is a bit unfortunate as John was experienced and very good. I hope this change will not result in loss of either quality or increase in price, but please help me by pointing out errors, etc. that may occur in the journal. Keeping a quality control should not be more difficult from afar thanks to E-mail.

NZ Post has, out of the blue, decided that they charged us too little for distribution, and for 1/1998 they doubled the charge for postage. This requires urgent attention and the Secretary or Treasurer should contact NZ Post to negotiate a better deal.

Manuscript flow

There is a very healthy submission flow, standing at 29 manuscripts in 1998. This may be a reflection of the increased impact factor and respect the journal now enjoys, but it is too early to judge.

Manuscript processing continues to be slower than desired, and overseas reviewers are much faster in reviewing and handling MSs than NZ ones. While in general, the manuscript processing has improved somewhat; there is ample room for further improvement. I consider this as the main current challenge to NZJE.

Other matters

Advertisement in British Ecological Society journals - this was arranged. BES journals are advertised in both of this year's issues in NZJE, and a reciprocal ad has appeared in *J. Ecology* and *J. Animal Ecology* (I believe Dave Kelly has a copy of the *J. Ecology* issue in which the NZJE ad was published). I approached *Oikos* with a similar offer to which I have had no reply yet.

It is very pleasing that Vitousek's invited paper on invasions has made it into *Nature* and recently, also to *New Scientist*. The *New Scientist* write-up pointed to the NZJE article as "further reading".

Citation statistics

This showed a very pleasing increase, and currently stands at 0.925. A small item announcing this was sent to the Newsletter.

Editor's move to Europe

I moved to Denmark in August, and this move is permanent (or so it seems now). We worked out a way that enables me to continue editing the journal. It remains to be seen how feasible this is, but it is perhaps better in the long term if the Editor is based in New Zealand. Please let me know if there is any criticism or worries about the present arrangement. It is admittedly an emergency measure. I would be happy to step aside if a new, NZ-based editor is found.

Editorial Board changes

The changes in 1997 were: the introduction of a set Editorial Board term of 5 years. John Dowding and Eric Spurr are resigning from the Editorial Board, having served more than 5 years already.

The new book review editor, Dr. Robert Poulin is very active and very good. We'll soon have to limit the number of pages devoted to book reviews.

Unfortunately, one of the new overseas editorial board members, Chris Thomas (Leeds Univ, UK, insect & theoretical ecologist) has resigned, citing a large refereeing load (>100 MSs per year). I have started to look for a replacement, also from overseas.

There have been several requests for permission to use figures from past issues of NZJE that are, as a rule, granted. Two abstracting agencies requested updates on circulation and subscription that were sent by fax or E-mail.

I would like to thank Council and the members of the Editorial Board for their support and help to successfully continue the publication of NZJEcology.

Gábor Lóvei, *Journal Editor*

Newsletter Editor's Report

Since the last Newsletter Editor's report, 4 issues of the newsletter have been published, one each in June, and September 1997, and March and June 1998. Three issues consisted of 16 pages and the third was 20 pages long. The last issue included fliers for the Eco-toxicology workshop. This is the first time that this option has been used since the Newsletter and policy discussion of June 1997.

Contributions from members have increased, including some topics that have sparked lively debate. A cartoonist has been found to enliven the pages somewhat but more cartoon and light-hearted items will be welcomed. Comments received about the newsletter have all been favourable, and I am happy to continue as newsletter editor, unless a somebody else is willing to take over.

I would like to thank all contributors for their efforts and encourage other people to use the Newsletter for dissemination of ecological items, queries and discussions. I would also like to thank Jeremy Rolfe, Madison Printing Co. and the Wellington IHC for their continued efficient processing of the newsletter.

Astrid Dijkgraaf, *Newsletter Editor*

Annual Treasurer's report

1 April 1997 - 31 March 1998

The Society has had a successful year financially. We have been able to keep our running costs to a minimum as a result of active policies to reduce expenditure. This is the first time the Society has recorded a significant excess of income over expenditure (\$3849) in real terms for many years. Significant cost reductions have been achieved by Gábor in producing the Journal, Council has been diligent in keeping other costs down, and a healthy profit was received from the Wellington conference. We are now in a position to re-invest some of our financial reserves which we have had to hold in our operating account over the last few years as we realigned our financial system and caught up with journal production.

Over the coming year we will be developing a policy on what level of financial reserves the Society should maintain to ensure its financial viability. Any views on this would be welcome.

The timing of annual subscriptions was changed recently, and a late fee introduced. This appears to have been very successful, with a large proportion of subs now received. This means that we can maintain production of the journal (financially) early in the year rather than waiting for subs to trickle in slowly.

Below is the draft Budget for 1998-99. Now that we are in a more secure position financially the

Council has some flexibility to encourage new initiatives for spending. Council will be looking at options such as improving our role in education, and supporting ecological workshops, over the coming year.

Budget 1998-99 (all figures GST inclusive)

Income		Expenditure	
Membership	\$26700	Secretariat	\$6700
Subscriptions	\$11350	Post/stationery	\$1200
Reprints	\$2000	Audit	\$300
Interest	\$1600	Council	\$3500
Conference	\$1000	Journal Production	\$20000
		Royal Society	\$1250
		Newsletter	\$3500
TOTAL	\$42650	TOTAL	\$36,450

1997 Conference Report

30 June - 2 July 1997

Victoria University of Wellington

Biodiversity Now was the 1997 joint annual conference of New Zealand Ecological Society, Entomological Society of New Zealand, and Systematics Association of New Zealand. The conference committee consisted of members of all three societies. Biodiversity was selected as the overall symposium theme since it is an area of biological science which is common to all three societies and which is being increasingly recognised in science research and in science-based environmental management. The three day conference consisted of Symposium sessions, concurrent sessions of contributed papers, and a poster session. The conference was preceded by a student session.

The Symposium was presented in three parts, with invited speakers covering topics relating to biodiversity strategy, assessment, and management. Two keynote speakers from overseas were invited, Dr Peter Bridgewater of Environment Australia and Dr Jane Lubchenco of Oregon State University.

In total, 75 papers were offered and 52 were presented, including 9 by students. Thirty-three posters were displayed throughout the three days, 11 by students. Poster awards were presented to James Ross of Lincoln University, and Janet McDonald of the University of Auckland (for other awards see Awards Convenor report). Eighty-five students attended the student session and 16 papers were presented.

Dr Tim Flannery, author of "The Future Eaters", addressed a public meeting at the conference venue after the close of the conference. Formal field trips were cancelled because of the weather, but a dozen hardy souls went to the trip locations independently. Attendance each day ranged from 337 to 348 (see

item in Newsletter No. 87, March 1988 for more details).

My thanks go to all who helped and contributed, particularly to the sponsors and conference committee. The latter was a focussed and energetic group who worked well together. There's nothing like 1-hour lunch-time meetings to keep a committee focussed!

Fran Kell, *Convenor EcolSoc,
SYSTANZ Conference 1997*

HANDLING PROCEDURE FOR NZJE

Gábor Lövei, our editor of the NZJE has recently moved overseas but, for the time being, he continues to be editor. Prospective authors should not worry about delays as the following procedure is followed:

- for submission, the Society's P.O. Box address (The Editor, NZJE, P.O. Box 25-778, Christchurch) should be used as before.
- on arrival, the secretariat notifies Gábor by E-mail, who allocates the MS to an Editorial Board member.
- the MS is sent to this Ed. Board member from Christchurch.
- the author is notified about receipt and the name of the handling editor by the secretariat
- when all work is done, the Ed. Board member sends the completed MS with all correspondence to Gábor via the Chch office.
- Gábor makes a decision, and notifies the author, together with any further requirements.

With all Editorial Board members, the secretary, and nearly all authors having access to E-mail this procedure should result in minimum additional delay due to the fact that Gábor is not in New Zealand.

Gábor Lövei, *Journal Editor*

NEW MEMBERS AND RESIGNATIONS

Accepted 13 resignations with regret; welcomed 14 new members.

Resignations: B Brockie, T Buckley, N Burley, R Forlong, AS Garrick, MA Leslie, J Newell, PFJ Newsome, Virginia Reid, J Saunders, T Ward-Smith, A White, RCW Zander (deceased).

New members (* = unwaged, otherwise full members): Ed Bickerstaff*, Lisette Collins, Jose Derraik*, Fletcher Dunning*, Martin Heller, Chris Jones*, Rachel Keedwell*, Joshua Kemp, Clare Miller*, Shona Myers, Claire Newell, Brent Sinclair*, Duncan Stewart, Corinne Watts*.

NZ(ES)²A CONFERENCE 1998

As of September 4, 1998, 163 abstracts were received for talks and circa 50 for posters. This means there will have to be 3 concurrent sessions in some of the contributed papers slots, but organisers hope to not turn away any decent offer. At the moment conference attendance is anticipated at about 350 people, not the 300 budgeted, plus day attendance on Friday from the Wildlife Society of NZ Veterinarian Association.

The conference seems to be heading for success and we look forward to seeing everybody there. You can still register to attend, though you are too late to present a paper and a \$10 late fee will apply. For more information contact

Janice Lord, Botany Dept.
University of Otago
Phone: (03) 4795131
email: jlord@planta.otago.ac.nz

or

Ian Jamieson, Zoology Dept
University of Otago
Phone: (03) 4797608
email: ian.jamieson@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

Web site: <http://www.otago.as.nz/Zoology/ecology/eco98.html>

(Important - watch the capitalisation)

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY

There were only 5 responses to the newsletter call for comments. The main message was that there is support to look into it further, especially the idea of a "register of ecologist".

Further questions for debate:

- 1) what is the demand for this in the market? ie what users of ecologists question whether the ecologist is qualified?
- 2) What form would registration take - a number of existing systems could be used or modified eg NZ Valuers, CPAg (Certified Practising Agriculturalist).

It was agreed that there would be a workshop at Dunedin conference run by Council. Judith Roper-Lindsay will talk to Ian Spellerberg and Janice Lord about this. Judith and Caroline Mason will prepare on Council's behalf an issues paper to present to the workshop. Need to get views of wider membership by circulating Issues & Options paper to key people. Judith and Caroline will discuss market with engineers, surveyors, lawyers, MfE etc prior to preparing this. Australians will be at the workshop, but focus of I&O paper to be on NZ.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT IUCN?

There has been a lot going on since my item in the June Newsletter. I'd like to report on regional initiatives and highlight some work of one of the six IUCN commissions - the Species Survival Commission (SSC).

IUCN Oceania Regional Committee Meets

The first ever meeting of this Committee was held in Sydney in mid-July. Not newsy enough to make the Sydney papers, but a significant step forward for coordinating IUCN activities across a very large region and promoting our regional voice to far-off Switzerland where IUCN has its headquarters. We got through the inevitable administrative housekeeping for the new body and agreed to push four initiatives for funding support and regional activity. These are invasive species, World Heritage, conservation of marine biodiversity and development of information systems for conservation NGOs. The focus for all of these initiatives will be the South Pacific Island countries. Yes, there are projects underway already on these issues; IUCN will be adding its particular strengths to complement and assist as appropriate.

Oceania is the only one of the eight IUCN regions without a regional office or any country office. Hence this new committee has extra challenges to get the conservation issues recognised in the larger IUCN context of its major programmes. The Committee submitted budget bids to Headquarters for consideration during the annual IUCN budget discussions in August.

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

This Commission held a successful regional 2-day meeting in Sydney immediately after the Regional Committee meeting. (Not a coincidence!) The Commission Chair, Prof. Adrian Phillips, from England attended along with 80 others, including DOC's D-G, Hugh Logan. There were interesting papers on two broad themes: protected areas in the broader context; expansion of support for protected areas. Bioregional planning was a "hot" theme. It goes beyond the scope of Conservation Management Strategies that DOC implements, to include planning initiatives of local authorities.

Species Survival Commission (SSC)

In future newsletter items I hope to work my way through the other five commissions, explaining a little about their interests and activities. (If you are keen for more detail, look up IUCN on the Web: <http://www.iucn.org/>) The SSC is the largest of the Commissions with over 7,000 specialists on its volunteer networks, organised primarily by species

groupings rather than regionally. These range from the African Elephant Specialist Group to the Lichen Specialist Group - with one hundred groups in between! A few are theme focused, like the important Invasive Species Specialist Group, Chaired by Dr Mick Clout at University of Auckland.

The SSC Mission is "To conserve biological diversity by developing and executing programmes to study, save, restore and manage wisely species and their habitats." Under that broad challenge lots of activities happen, much of it through the specialist groups. SSC is also responsible for producing and updating the influential Red Lists of threatened plants and animals. These lists help define conservation priorities from national to global levels, and are used at international gatherings such as the CITES meetings. At the CITES meetings the SSC analyses of proposals to change the status of plant and animal species are the major source of independent, international scientific input.

The SSC is presently developing a Species Information System as part of the ambitious Biodiversity Conservation Information System (BCIS) that will be coming to your PC screens "soon". The SSC priority areas for 1997-2000 are: Red List Programme, Trade and Sustainable Use, Information Sharing and Management, Invasive Species, and Freshwater Biodiversity. SSC has also joined with two NGOs in the Global Amphibian Campaign to address the alarming loss of amphibian species throughout the world. Want more? Then check out the SSC 1997 Annual Report and other new items on the Internet at: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc>

Wren Green. *IUCN Regional Councillor*

FLOWERS OF THE ANDES

Nearly every year there is an opportunity to visit the Andes. This year's trip is fully booked but there might be an opportunity next year. The trip is an introduction to the Chilean heartland and northern Patagonia between La Serena and Puerto Mont in Chile, and goes across the Andes to Lanin National Park and Bariloche in Argentina. Explore alpine meadows, deserts, beaches, lakes, rain forests, vast steppes, active volcanoes and glaciers. See rich farmlands and lonely estancias, and visit the lively and beautiful capital Santiago and other cities and villages shaped by five centuries of Hispanic culture, as well as glimpsing Indian cultures of great antiquity.

Accommodation is in moderately priced hotels, cabins and camping. Travel by rental vehicles, train and walking. Dates usually around late December to

late January (this year 25 Dec to 26 Jan). Cost including air fares from Auckland were NZ\$ 6300 this year (subject to currency fluctuations). The trip is led by ecologist Dr Peter Wardle, who knows the region well - contact him for information (63 Middlepark Road, Christchurch; phone 03 348 9724; e-mail wardlep@landcare.cri.nz). [Total party usually about 18 people].

THE MYTH OF RESERVES AND THE FUTURE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IN NEW ZEALAND

Although we have made great progress with indigenous biodiversity conservation in New Zealand in recent years we are still stumbling when it comes to dealing with the realities of modern New Zealand and especially the ways we will need to deal with conservation in the 21st century. In particular many people, including some professional ecologists, are still failing to realise that conservation and production no longer need to be mutually exclusive land-use options. As Harry Recher elegantly put it in the June 1997 editorial in *Pacific Conservation Biology* "For too long Western nations have pursued the myth of nature conservation through reserves". This is very true in New Zealand where the "myth of reserves" still appears to be a dominant paradigm in our conservation thinking.

I am not arguing that we should abandon protected lands and protected species. Rather, for the two thirds of New Zealand that is not protected land and that has suffered most since the arrival of humans in New Zealand, we need to look for different approaches to nature conservation. To truly address nature conservation in New Zealand our goals and visions for the future must focus on all of New Zealand not just on formally protected areas and species. To develop realistic goals and visions for doing this we need to address three key issues:

- (i) The distinction we continue to draw between conservation land and other land
- (ii) The indigenous-exotic distinction; and
- (iii) The constant referral back to the past.

Unless we can deal with these issues, and change the current paradigms, I do not believe we will achieve the successes in nature conservation we would like to.

The conservation-production distinction: Both the Resource Management Act and the Forests Act specifically talk about production and conservation as equal partners. The Resource Management Act

seeks to promote sustainable resource management that allows for the social, economic and cultural well-being of human communities WHILE sustaining the resources, safeguarding the integrity of ecosystems, and avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects. The Forests Act, as amended in 1993, states that management of an area of indigenous forest land must be done in a way that maintains the ability of the forest to continue to provide a full range of products and amenities WHILE retaining the forest's natural value. Both pieces of legislation see conservation and production occurring together, not as two mutually exclusive land use options (cf. Reserves, National Parks and Conservation Acts). Yet much of our conservation thinking in New Zealand still focuses on reservation as the only option for nature conservation (high country tenure review and the Timberlands debate are good examples).

The them and us distinction: We also need to be realistic about our modern biota which includes elements that were here before people arrived, although some of them were relatively recent immigrants (e.g., pukeko), elements that arrived with Polynesian and European settlers, and elements that continue to arrive unaided (e.g. swallows). We need to stop drawing the us-them distinction between indigenous and exotic species and instead focus on working with exotic species as our ecosystems continue to change and develop into the future. This is not to say that exotic species are all good, clearly some present very real threats to our indigenous species and ecosystems and their control must be a priority. But we also need to recognise that exotic species are part of the New Zealand biota and that some at least can perform positive roles (e.g., gorse as a nurse crop and blackbirds as seed dispersers).

Unachievable goals: My third point is the constant referral back to the past - "we will restore this area to its pre-human pristine condition" - a naive call at best and a recipe for loss of conservation values at worst. We must accept that New Zealand today is different to the past (because of extinctions, invasions and global climate change), and we need to accept that future ecosystems will be different to those present previously. Trying to force areas back to some former condition can only soak up our limited resources and be doomed to eventual failure. This is not saying that "mainland islands" are a wasted effort - they are a very exciting part of modern nature conservation so long as their goals are realistic. Arguing that we cannot turn the clock back is also not an excuse to do nothing about possums or stoats, but is simply suggesting that we need realistic goals for the future that accept the reality of New

Zealand today; goals that focus on ensuring that indigenous species and ecosystems flourish, but that also accept that exotic species can and do play important roles in achieving these goals.

It is a concern that many of the current debates over land management in New Zealand have totally missed these points and still seem firmly rooted in the "myth of reserves". But perhaps of even greater concern is that the focus on the "myth of reserves" distracts us from the much more urgent task of seeking new approaches to land management in our production forests (native and exotic), our agricultural and horticultural systems, and in our urban areas; new approaches that facilitate both production and conservation in the same landscape, that allow for an economic return from the land, but that also allow for our indigenous biota to flourish. A pipe dream perhaps, but if we don't deal with these issues then I believe that we might as well forget about nature conservation in the majority of New Zealand and as a result forget about gaining the support of the 99% of the New Zealand population who are not privileged enough to live or work in or close to protected areas.

David A. Norton
*Conservation Research Group,
School of Forestry, University of Canterbury*

Email: d.norton@fore.canterbury.ac.nz
(Also note the Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research item/conference on "Can science save New Zealand's environment?")

HANDS-ON SCIENCE

Otago Science Summer School for senior secondary students

Sunday 17 - Friday 22 January 1999

What is 'Hands-on Science'?

The goal of the Otago Science Summer School is to support and show interested students what research scientists do, and why, and to encourage talented

young New Zealanders to consider science as a career. We do this by bringing them to Otago, New Zealand's oldest and most attractive university, and one that has an international reputation for excellence in scientific research and teaching.

Each morning students participate in one research project based in a particular University department. Allocation to projects is based in part on a first-in first-served principle. However, for each project we also try to achieve a balance of skills and backgrounds, while achieving specific requirements of individual projects and supervisors.

The Otago Science Summer School is held at the University of Otago, Dunedin, in the last week of the secondary schools summer vacation. For the next camp the opening session will be on the evening of Sunday January 17, and the programme continues daily from Monday through to Friday. It closes with a report-back plenary session on the Friday afternoon, finishing at approximately 4.00pm.

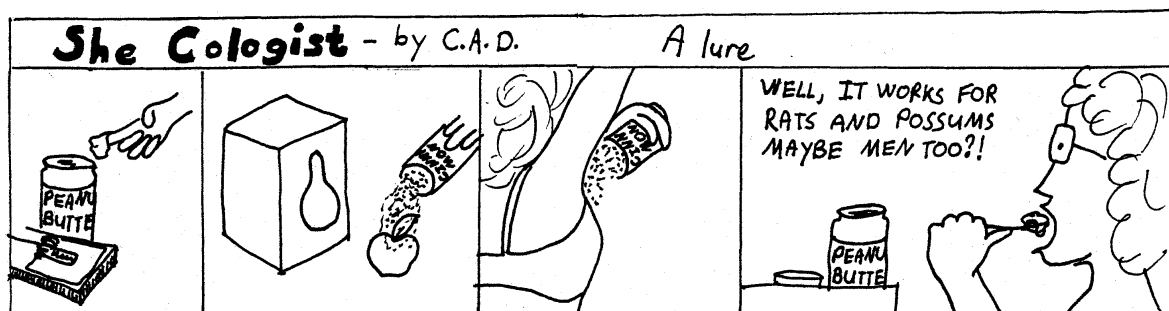
How to save a space

The first thing to do is to contact us for a brochure and application form. We will put your name down on our mailing list, and you will be sent the information as soon as it is ready. It will also be sent out to schools - but remember that there may be competition for places in some projects, so it would pay you to reply very promptly.

The closing date for enrolment is generally November 1st, but we do operate on a 'first come, first served' system, which means later applications stand less chance of obtaining their first choice of project.

Contact:

Division of Sciences,
University of Otago,
Box 56, Dunedin.
Telephone (03) 479 8458,
Facsimile (03) 479 9045,
e-mail pam.quin@stonebow.otago.ac.nz



MEDIA RELEASES FROM MANAAKI WHENUA - LANDCARE RESEARCH

For more information on any of these items please

contact: Brian Ellison,
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Ph: +64 3 325 6700 Fax: +64 3 325 2127
Email: ellisonb@landcare.cri.nz

Mackenzie hill soils 'fragile' says scientist

Dunedin, 22 June 1998

Current debates over whether parts of the Mackenzie hill country should be planted with trees, or used for pastoral farming, or for conservation must consider the effects on the soil said Landcare Research scientist, Dr Peter McIntosh.

"The Mackenzie soils are fragile and must be treated with respect," said Dr McIntosh. "The Mackenzie debate must look further than what the land can be used for," he said. "It should also consider what a land use will do to the soil resource. How the land use will affect the soil, its fertility, nutrient balance, organic matter, acidity, and erosion. As for any land use, to be sustainable, agriculture and forestry in the Mackenzie hill country must maintain or enhance the soil resource."

"Before you can measure whether change is occurring, and whether the change is good or bad, you've got to have a good idea of what is there to start with."

Dr McIntosh and Grant Hunter describe the assets in the Mackenzie 'soil bank' in their book, *Soils and Land-Use Issues in the Mackenzie Hill Country*. The book discusses issues of sustainability in the Mackenzie and includes innovative fact sheets on all soils. It is aimed at farmers, foresters, conservationists, consultants, and local authorities. *Soils and Land-Use Issues in the Mackenzie Hill Country* is published by Manaaki Whenua Press, PO Box 40, Lincoln.

"It is important to have a good resource database for these fragile lands," said Dr McIntosh.

For more information contact:
Dr Peter McIntosh,
Landcare Research, Dunedin,
Phone: 03 477 4050 or 025 222 6469.

Bad smells keep pests away

Lincoln, 26 June

Understanding nature's checks and balances is often the best way to solve ecological problems, says David Morgan of Landcare Research. This approach led Mr Morgan to develop a product that repels rabbits, hares, and possums from tree seedlings. Repelling these three pests greatly improves the seedlings' chances of survival.

Mr Morgan and Dr Tony Woolhouse of Industrial Research began studying the chemicals present in the scent of predators several years ago. Their aim was to develop a synthetic odour that would deter browsing pests.

The researchers found that several similar, strong smelling compounds were found in the scent and urine of predators. These sulphur-rich compounds are the by-products of digesting meat. Predators use the compounds as chemical signals when marking their territory.

Herbivores have evidently learned to recognise the compounds and stay away from them, says Mr Morgan. Trials he conducted showed that rabbits, hares and possums avoided seedlings sprayed with the compounds.

"The principle is so basic in nature that even possums were deterred by chemicals found in fox urine or ferret scent," said Mr Morgan. This is despite the fact that the possum evolved in Australia, completely isolated from foxes and ferrets. "This is most probably explained by the presence of marsupial predators in the past that may have produced similar smelling chemicals."

The researchers used this knowledge to develop a new predator-odour based repellent, named PineplusTM. The new compound has proved more effective than traditional egg-based repellents, particularly against rabbits and hares.

Pineplus is being manufactured by Roe Koh & Associates Ltd. They are supplying it to tree nurseries in a formulation suitable for the treatment of seedlings before they are distributed for planting. This is a more efficient method of treatment than laboriously spraying trees after planting as up to 10,000 seedlings can be treated in 20 minutes using tractor-mounted spray equipment. The repellent costs 7.5-9.5 cents per seedling, depending on the number treated.

The formulation remains effective for at least three months. After three months most seedlings have grown out of reach of rabbits and hares. A new formulation called ProtectumTM, suitable for use by farmers and others, is expected to be available in 5 litre, ready-to-use handy packs in the near future.

Nursery owners and growers wanting more information on pre-treatment of seedlings with PineplusTM can contact Roe Koh & Associates Ltd at PO Box 6254, Christchurch. Phone or fax them on 03 343 0345.

For more information contact:
Dave Morgan
Landcare Research
Phone: 03 325 6700

Landcare Research leaves Havelock North

Havelock North, 30 June

The door closes on 33 years of history when Landcare Research moves out of the Goddard Lane site in Havelock North today.

Goddard Lane has a long history of science. Landcare Research (formerly the Soil Bureau, Ecology Division, and Botany Division of the DSIR) has been on the Goddard Lane site for 33 years. HortResearch, also formed from divisions of DSIR and MAF, is presently celebrating 50 years on the site.

Early ecological research focussed on solving the rook problem which was costing farmers millions of dollars, studying the potential of starlings as a biocontrol agent for grass grubs, discovering the home ranges of wild cats and possums, and introducing bird repellents to reduce damage to grape harvests.

More recent work has concentrated on conservation issues. Particularly in regard to the preservation of kiwi in mainland forests. This work is continuing.

Soil research began with large scale soil surveys of the Ngatarawa and Ruataniwha Plains, and developed into surveys for irrigation, and the perfection of techniques for assessing and measuring soil water infiltration and permeability of soils.

Botanical research has comprised vegetation surveys of scenic reserves on the East Coast and Hawkes Bay, studies of rare plants, and the effects of stock and vehicles on sand-dune systems. In latter years research has focussed on traditional uses of native plants, including the establishment of a collection of flax varieties used for weaving.

One Landcare Research scientist is moving to Lincoln near Christchurch, another will continue to work in Hawkes Bay but not at the Goddard Lane site. Other staff have chosen voluntary severance.

Sirtrack, a subsidiary of Landcare Research, will remain on the site. Sirtrack produces high-tech radio tracking equipment used by researchers in New Zealand and overseas.

For more information contact:

Keith Vincent,
Landcare Research, Havelock North.
Phone: 06 877 7736.

Natural method beats weeds

Auckland, 6 July

A new natural weed control could save foresters and farmers millions of dollars. Scientists from Landcare Research have developed a mixture of water, vegetable oil, stabilisers and a special fungus that could control gorse and broom. These two weeds are currently controlled using expensive chemicals or labour-intensive methods. Dr Jane Frohlich, the

scientist leading the research, says results from trials with the new spray are promising.

"It's particularly effective against young plants and is capable of killing those less than three months old. Older plants have been severely damaged," said Dr Frohlich.

The key to the mixture is a fungus called *Fusarium tumidum*. This fungus is already in New Zealand. Spores, the seeds of fungi, are mixed into the water and oil solution. This is then sprayed on to weeds. The benefit of the fungal spray is that it is unlikely to affect surrounding plants unrelated to the target weeds and will not contaminate waterways with manufactured chemical residues.

More trials are needed before the spray can be commercially produced and used widely.

For more information contact:

Dr Jane Frohlich
Landcare Research, Auckland
Phone: 09 849 3660.

Can science save New Zealand's environment?

Lincoln, 13 August 1998

Pressing environmental issues, and the role that science should play in managing them will be discussed at a three day conference in Wellington next year. "Our environment continues to suffer from problems such as pests, deteriorating natural habitats, and soil erosion," says Mr Rob Earle of Landcare Research. "For a small nation, the problems appear immense. These problems threaten our national icons ... the Kakapo and the Kiwi are at serious risk. In the light of the Government's drive to reduce overall spending, researchers and resource managers need to work together to be more efficient and more effective."

Landcare Research is organising the conference, Manaaki Whenua ('cherishing the land'), to help meet the research needs of people managing our environment.

The three days will be controversial. Managers will get to challenge the focus and priorities of scientists - and scientists will be challenging managers to be more effective in what they do.

To be held at Te Papa in Wellington on April 21 - 23, 1999 (Wednesday to Friday), the conference will focus on three themes:

Te Hoa Riri (the enemy)

Debating the impacts of animal and plant pests, the need for control, 1080 and other pesticides, Tb, biological control, monitoring control operations, social and cultural issues.

Manaaki (cherishing, caring, conserving)

Discussing issues relating to biodiversity and conservation, including threatened species, ecosystems, urban ecology, intellectual property, and harvesting native species.

Te Whenua (the land)

Debating issues that relate to the land, including indicators of environmental health, mitigating hazards and contaminants, catchments and wetlands, determining land use capability, and changing land uses.

Landcare Research will post regular conference updates and information on their web site:

<http://www.landcare.cri.nz>

For more information contact:

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Marketing Manager,

Landcare Research, PO Box 40, Lincoln 8152.

Phone: (03) 325 6700 or 0800 Landcare,

Fax (03) 325 2127.

E-mail: Conference@landcare.cri.nz

Coordinating far-flung information sources

24 August 1998

How to make information systems work together was discussed at the New Zealand Distributed Computing workshop (NZDC'98) at Te Papa in Wellington on the 3rd and 4th of September. But attendees didn't get a sales pitch about the latest and greatest technology to buy. Instead, they heard about developments in distributed information systems from leading New Zealand and Australian scientists.

The workshop was organised by NZDIS (<http://nzdis.otago.ac.nz>), a consortium of New Zealand and Australian scientists. NZDIS was set up to research, develop and promote distributed information system (DIS) technologies in New Zealand. Led by the University of Otago, NZDIS includes Landcare Research, the International Centre for Antarctic Information and Research (ICAIR), Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS), and the Distributed Systems Technology Centre (DSTC). NZDIS is funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

"The biggest problem and the biggest opportunity in computing today is how to access and coordinate all the distributed information that is electronically available. This workshop discussed the technology that can help," said NZDIS programme leader, Martin Purvis of the University of Otago Information Science Department.

The involvement of the Australian Distributed Systems Technology Centre is significant.

"We were really pleased to have people from the Distributed Systems Technology Centre in Australian to present the workshops. They are world leaders in distributed information systems," said NZDIS researcher Robert Gibb of Landcare Research.

The DSTC is a vendor-neutral, IT research and development organisation.

"This means they are uniquely placed to provide independent comment. They can highlight both positive and negative aspects of products, services, and emerging technologies, without fear of losing sales," said Dr Gibb.

NZDIS organised two days of events at Te Papa: On September 3rd they presented a free Distributed Computing Seminar designed to provide policy makers with the information they need to plan their distributed computing strategy. While Information Strategists, and Policy Makers would have obtained the most benefit from this day, it was open to anyone interested in new technologies. Topics discussed included: "Resolving the Middleware Conundrum", "But why do I need Meta-data?", "To Java or not to Java ...", "Do we need a NZ Information Infrastructure?"

Early adopters found practical advice on implementation from either of the two full day workshops on September 4th. These two workshops were run by the DSTC and are part of the "A Day in the Life of ..." workshops they regularly hold in Australia. However, they were especially tailored to a New Zealand audience.

The first workshop, "A Day in the Life of Meta-data", included sessions on Meta-data for Electronic Information Management, The latest on Dublin Core, Z39.50, ANZLIC et al, and Meta-data Tools & Services. It was aimed at technical IT managers & consultants, web developers and administrators, information & records managers, cultural & archival information officers, and library information managers.

The second workshop, "A Day in the Life of Middleware", included sessions on Middleware Architectures and Standards, Demystifying CORBA, DCE et al. This was also aimed at technical IT managers, IT consultants, and corporate information managers.

For more information contact:

Robert G. Gibb

Landcare Research

Palmerston North

Phone: 06 356 7154

or Martin Purvis

Information Science Department

University of Otago

Dunedin

Phone: 03 479 8318

or NZ DIS Contact Details:

NZDC'98 Registrar

Phone: (03) 479 8180

Fax: (03) 479 8311

Email: nzdis@infoscience.otago.ac.nz

Web: <http://nzdis.otago.ac.nz/>

Wanted: Live Wasps

Nelson, 15 September 1998

Have you spotted any large wasp nests this Spring? Landcare Research is seeking a supply of live wasps for their research on wasp control. They are keen to hear from anyone who knows of accessible wasp nests in the next few months.

A small proportion of wasp nests survive the Winter, particularly in the upper North Island. By Spring they can become surprisingly large -and a menace to anyone who gets too close. These large nests are ideal for their research, providing a source of wasps out of season.

“Introduced social wasps are a pest, not only to gardeners and others who enjoy the outdoors, but they are a threat to many of our native insects and birds,” said Jo Rees.

Landcare Research is trying to find new ways of controlling wasps -focussing at the moment on a combination of diseases and poisons which kill wasps.

A longer term option is to modify the bacteria already present in the gut of a wasp. It may be possible to change the bacteria so that it attacks the wasp -but is still specific just to wasps. The first step in this process is to screen a number of wasps and identify the bacteria present. Hence Landcare Research’s need for live wasps.

Landcare Research also supplies an American laboratory with wasps. The Americans use the wasps for medical reasons. They collect the wasp venom to help desensitise people who are severely allergic to wasp stings.

After Landcare Research staff have collected the wasps from the nest, they will destroy the nest. So, not only are you helping with their work, but they can help get rid of a localised wasp problem.

For more information contact:

Jo Rees,
Landcare Research,
Private Bag 6, Nelson.
Phone: 03 548 1082,
Fax: 03 546 8590.
Email: reesj@landcare.cri.nz

CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESSES**NZ EcolSoc email list server**

Some members may be subscribers to automated email list servers for overseas ecological societies such as the Ecological Society of Australia. These are a useful, fast, cheap way of spreading or requesting information among email-enabled members. We have now taken the step of setting one up for the NZ EcolSoc.

Operation is pretty simple. You can add yourself to the list (or take yourself off it) by sending a message - NOT to the email list itself but to the list controller. Once on the list you get sent a copy of all messages sent to the central server. To send a message, or reply to it, simply mail the message to the server.

To subscribe send a message to the automatic Mailserv processor at:

`nzecocosoc-request@csc.canterbury.ac.nz`

The recommended way to subscribe is to send a message with two lines:

`SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
END`

Explanation of the various possible instructions you can send as messages to `nzecocosoc-request` is given below.

`HELP` - Sends a help file. This command takes no parameters.

`SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC`

An optional second parameter, the address to subscribe (eg `my.name@where.ever`), may be specified with this command, otherwise the sender’s email address is added. NB if your email system adds a signature you must include a second line, see `END` below.

eg `SUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC
cctr145@csc.canterbury.ac.nz`

`END` - Terminates MAILSERV processing; subsequent message contents are ignored. This command is useful when signatures are automatically appended to messages that will cause errors if MAILSERV sees them.

`UNSUBSCRIBE NZECOSOC`

This is the command you should use if you want to stop receiving mail from this list.

`LISTS` - Sends a file containing a list of the mailing lists maintained by this server. The file normally includes an explanation of what each list is for. This command takes no parameters.

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

For information on the listserver contact the newsletter editor (`astrid@mad.scientist.com` or myself at `d.kelly@botn.canterbury.ac.nz`). For information on the Australian listserver contact me or Kath Dickinson (`ecolkjmd@matai.vuw.ac.nz`).

The IUCN invasive species list

Send a message to

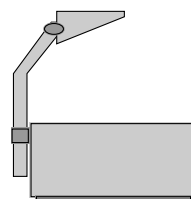
`ssc-mgr@indaba.iucn.org`

No subject and no signature
with the message

`subscribe Aliens-L`

USEFUL WORLD WIDE WEB ADDRESSES

- IUCN on the Web: <http://www.iucn.org/>
- SSC 1997 Annual Report and other new items on the Internet at: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc>
- NZ & Aus EcolSoc Conference 1998 Web site: <http://www.otago.as.nz/Zoology/ecology/eco98.html>
(Watch the capitalisation here - important)
- New Zealand Universities on the web [Http://canterbury.cyberplace.org.nz/education/unis.html](http://canterbury.cyberplace.org.nz/education/unis.html)
- Hands on Science - Discover the future [Http://www.otago.ac.nz/Hands-OnScience/HOShome.html](http://www.otago.ac.nz/Hands-OnScience/HOShome.html)
- Parrot Society of Australia Inc - Home page [Http://parrotsociety.org.au/index.html](http://parrotsociety.org.au/index.html)
- World wide online weather camera's [Http://www.weatherimages.org/weathercams.html](http://www.weatherimages.org/weathercams.html)
- NZ weather including Pacific satellite image (also includes a link to Lotto results pages) [Http://web.co.nz/weather/](http://web.co.nz/weather/)
- Cool Diary by a Doctor over-wintering at Australian base Mawson, includes links to other bases and Antarctic camera's and US Antarctic Sciences Section. Great pictures. [Http://www.adc.net.au/science/antarctica/ingrid/diary.htm](http://www.adc.net.au/science/antarctica/ingrid/diary.htm)
- New Zealand Antarctic web page (includes job description page, currently showing job descriptions for 1998/99 team, but the must be selected by now closing deadline was 3 April 1998)
[Http://www.antarcticanz.govt.nz/](http://www.antarcticanz.govt.nz/)
- The Lab - all sorts of interesting sciences stories and links [Http://www.abc.net.au/science/default.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/science/default.htm)
- New Zealand Distributed Information Systems NZDIS (<http://nzdis.otago.ac.nz>)
- British Ecological Society homepage <http://www.demon.co.uk/bes>
- Dr Tim Flannery, author of "The Future Eaters", See the Web page of the TV show [Http://www.abc.net.au/science/future/default.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/science/future/default.htm)



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

NZ(ES)2A

November 24 - 27th, 1998. University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Joint Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Ecological Societies Student session on Monday November 23rd. Registration forms, more details and a call for papers in this newsletter. Address any other enquiries to

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Email: jlord@planta.otago.ac.nz

or Ian Jamieson
Zoology Dept University of Otago
Phone: (03) 4797608,
Email: ian.jamieson@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

Can science save New Zealand's environment?

April 21 - 23, 1999, Te Papa in Wellington

The conference will focus on three themes: **Te Hoa Riri** (the enemy) - **Manaaki** (cherishing, caring, conserving) - **Te Whenua** (See item this issue for more detail).

Landcare Research will post regular conference updates and information on their web site: <http://www.landcare.cri.nz>

For more information contact:
Mr Rob Earle,
Marketing Manager,
Landcare Research, PO Box 40, Lincoln 8152.
Phone: (03) 325 6700 or 0800 Landcare,
Fax (03) 325 2127.
E-mail: Conference@landcare.cri.nz

Southern Connection Congress III

January 15 - 21 2000, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand.

For further information contact
Dr Glenn Stewart,
Soil, Plant and Ecological Sciences Division,
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PO Box 84, Lincoln, Canterbury
Phone: (03) 325 2811
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This Newsletter was produced by Astrid Dijkgraaf and Jeremy Rolfe.

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

Astrid Dijkgraaf
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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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