Welcome back everyone. Hopefully people have had a good summer break and not been too badly flooded or shaken. We still live in interesting times and this is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. Managing our budget this year will be a strain, while we continue to live in a major building site (see below). On the positive side we have two exciting new additions to our staff arriving this term. Daniel Stouffer will be arriving in late February as our new community ecologist, while Paul Gardner will be joining us probably in April as a Rutherford Fellow.

On the teaching front the new teaching year is fast approaching. First year enrolments are still a bit of a mystery because of the December deadline, but 2nd and 3rd year numbers are looking good. We are already on 93% of last year’s 3rd year enrolments with three weeks still to go. Behavioural Ecology (BIOL373) is clearly the favourite course this year with record numbers already. Just as well we squashed them into a smaller lab this year. And speaking of labs, it will all be a tight fit this year. We have moved out of old Zoology and lost all of those teaching labs. What we have left in von Haast and Physics will serve us at a pinch but we all need to acknowledge that we will be working in temporary, unsuitable accommodation.

Building Update
Earthquake repair work is continuing, with most floors in the final stages of reconstruction. With any luck we should have most of it back by the end of the week, which leaves the work crew to concentrate on the Atrium.
Stage 2 (old Zoology) is progressing well. Level 7 has been cleared and some of level 6. The asbestos bench tops have been removed and the much more difficult job of removing the asbestos in the ceilings will begin in a couple of weeks. Removal of material from the building will take another two months because everything is being dismantled rather than being smashed apart, with the aim that as much as possible will be recycled. This means that there will be continual traffic through the linkway through this period. This is a potential hazard so please be on the lookout as you pass between Biology and von Haast.

~ Bill ~
On the 8th January, Alfred the Great lead a West Saxon army to repel an invasion by Danelaw Vikings and Phil Jellyman got married....

Think Science

Useful stuff for everyone is located under Think Science on our postgrad page under the heading of Resources, including:

The mechanics of writing and reviewing a scientific paper
Outline of the publication process
Overview of the manuscript submission and review process

Recent publications in the school


**Latest theses in the school collection**


and now for something completely different.....

More of the happy couple
8 January 2011
Angus Gieseg caught and landed this 5.245 kg rainbow trout just after New Year in Lake Selfe. Dad got to put it in the net at the end.

Thought for the week

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross,
We'll toil with hearts and hands,
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands,
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share,
With courage let us all combine
To advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia fair.
The newsletters for 2011 started with a flourish from Bill while I was camping at Kaiteriteri. Between Christmas and New Year it was great to meet several (albeit rather wet) people from the School along the Greenstone/Routeburn tracks. On both breaks we somehow managed to miss all the extreme weather events as well as the Boxing Day 'quake.

Hopefully most of you have managed to have a relaxing break, but of course Bill was back in checking things out on Boxing Day. It seems quite clear from meetings that the VC has planned regarding safe places to go to on campus in the event of a large aftershock, that we do have to remain alert to such an occurrence. This means keeping aware of what's on your bench in the lab and trying to work as securely as possible.

It appears that a shortage of scaffolding is holding up the work in the Atrium - but much of the rest of Putaio Koiora is getting back to working order - and that of course means on Levels 4, 5 and 6 that PC2 conditions must be adhered to.

I hope again this year to keep a lot of information off the general email and for it to be contained in the Newsletter - so anyone with general information should send copy to BIOLADMIN for the newsletter.

Best wishes for 2011!
~ Paula ~

This year we will experience four unusual dates - 1/1/11. 1/11/11. 11/1/11. 11/11/11. And to continue with the number one theme, take the last two digits of the year you were born, then add the age you will be this year and it will equal .... 111.

Building News

As far as I am aware, we have a quiet week ahead of us. By the end of the week all of the research areas should be completed in terms of earthquake repair work and we can get back to something resembling normality. In the Atrium, work will concentrate on repairs to both the new building and the Zoology building, mainly on level 7 where the two buildings meet. Glass specialists will be here this week to look at the broken pane in the roof of the Atrium. We have permission to start repair work in the basement and that might start as early as this week.

Stage 2 should see the start of scaffolding erection around the building, while the demolition crew will continue to move material from Zoology into the various skips.

~ Bill ~
Recent publications in the school


and now for something completely different.....

Some students with far too much time on their hands...
Bad Project (Lady Gaga parody) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fl4L4M8m4d0

Aussie animals being rescued from the floods
The Australian floods in Queensland don't just affect us humans... great to see so many people helping out. Take note of the last pic!!

Thought for the week

Scarlett: Tara! Home. I'll go home. And I'll think of some way to get him back. After all... tomorrow is another day.
As we move rapidly towards the new term, we have an exciting week for our 4th years coming up. All staff, please come along to the Wednesday party to welcome our new 4th years - unfortunately it looks like the Atrium may not be ready, so the party will be held in Arts North block.

Please note that all lifts on campus are fitted with seismic cut-offs - so in the event of a major aftershock they may stop (10 did on one occurrence), and this may be between floors. At the meeting I went to yesterday it was suggested you read the notices that have appeared in the lifts, so you know what to do before this happens! However, could I suggest that you avoid using lifts after hours (at Massey University this was the 'rule') as help may be a lot longer arriving and it may be very dark. New information sheets are being posted around campus showing the 13 earthquake evacuation sites (ours is our car park). These are usually different to the fire evacuation sites. Somehow we will be informed if evacuation post-aftershock is necessary - but it can of course be voluntary. The main caution is not to leave the building until after it stops moving!

On a positive note: Congratulations to Professor Dave Kelly and team: a paper in Science to start the year with!

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school


Thought for the week

Newcastle fights back for 4-4 draw with Arsenal
Security breach:
As we head into the new teaching year, with lots of new people on campus, we need to be vigilant about security. We have recently had a major breach of our security in the new research building where someone gained entry by following someone who had access. This had the potential to become a major issue for Biological Sciences. **Please do not** let anyone through a secure door if you do not know them, or even if you do know them but they don’t have access. This includes all outer doors after hours and all proximity card protected doors in the research building.

In addition, the first couple of weeks of term are a traditional time for material to go missing from rooms and offices. Please keep your office locked when it is unoccupied and do not leave valuables, including laptops where they can be easily lifted.

~ Paula ~

Building Update

For the next couple of weeks, work on earthquake remediation will concentrate on the back stairwell of the research building. This means that the stairs will be off limits to everyone, so use the lift to get between floors. For example, if you want access to the ice machine on level 3, you need to take the lift because you will not have access from the Atrium stairs. In the event of the fire alarms sounding, exit via the main Atrium door.

The remediation people have revised their views about the cracks in the floors of the research building. We will be removing a section of lino on one of the floors to have a closer look, however, at this point I don’t know exactly when or which floor.

Stage 2 has reached a point where there will be a lot of crane activity. This will mean that at times we will not have access through the main Atrium door. I will keep people posted about this. This week the crane will be working on Wednesday and Thursday. If you have a really important need to use the main Atrium door on these days, let me know when you need access and we will organise it with Lunds.

~ Bill ~
Recent publications in the school


Thought for the week

No time of life is so beautiful as the early days of love, when with every meeting, every glance, one fetches something new home to rejoice over. -- Soren Kierkegaard
• A few moments in time later..
It’s really rather hard to know what to write in this first post 22nd February newsletter. Certainly I want to offer my condolences to any of you who have lost friends, or who are supporting those who have lost family or friends; I wish to offer my support to those whose homes are seriously impacted and for whom returning to work is difficult. However, I do want to welcome back all our staff and especially our students who have stuck faithfully to UC and to Christchurch. We have some hurdles yet to surmount – especially getting both undergraduate teaching labs and research laboratories back to a ‘fit-for-purpose’ state. You can rest assured that Bill, Selwyn and I are working hard to ensure that this happens just as fast as possible but, and rightly so, the University is being extremely careful about re-occupation of multi-story buildings.

By the end of this weekend a number of field trips will have been completed: by being willing to hold these early, this freed the way for the University to reduce the mid-term break and thus enable an almost full semester’s worth of teaching to be offered to all UC students. I would like to thank our staff for returning to work and getting these trips underway. Many of our staff and students have worked extra hours and in varied roles - as rescue team members, as security and in redesigning courses and recording lectures. I am very grateful for the way everyone has pitched in over these last four weeks.

Take care everyone, take care of yourselves, your families and your friends. Please remain alert to the potential for aftershocks as we begin to move back into more normal teaching venues over the next few weeks.

Bill will be Acting HoS Thursday and Friday as I will be in Auckland attending a black tie event at which my brother (whom a number of you know - Geoff Jameson) will receive the Massey Research Medal. I will also visit PhD student Sarah Pilkington on Friday at Plant & Food.

~ Paula ~

Building Update

A small team of people has completed a hazard reduction assessment of the Biology spaces. Overall, the research building is looking good. Very little material fell to the floor, and only a few pieces of equipment (a couple of incubators, a couple of centrifuges on level 2). Power was off for only a few hours on 22nd so hopefully peoples’ samples will be fine. The quake opened up a new set of cracks; fewer than last time but enough that we will have some disruption when the remediation team gets round to fixing them. Von Haast looks very much like it did after the September quake. Fourth floor offices look horrible, while other floors look OK, though Manfred’s and Neil’s spaces on level 3 look a bit worse for wear. The autoclave looks OK, though it will need to be recertified before we fire it up. The fifth floor of Rutherford has minimal damage. There was flooding (again) and the herbarium got
wet (again). All of the microscopes in the stage 1 lab seem to have survived, but the AV equipment in that lab took a dive to the floor.

Selwyn and I have become experts at watering plants over at the glasshouses. We currently have an odd situation where the glasshouses have not yet been cleared, so we are obliged to wear hard hats and safety vests, yet next door, the Forestry department is open for business and there are students wandering around the place.

There is not a lot else I can say about the buildings at the moment quite simply because we have not had access.

--- Stage 2 ---

Stage 2 seems to be heading along on schedule. Construction has started on level 6, with a lot of wooden framing in place. Level 5 has been cleared and at the moment the asbestos is being removed. Level 4 is being demolished. Judging from the noise coming from there they have started removing the aquarium floor. The crane is still blocking the main atrium door and this will be an extra hazard when we are allowed to return.

~ Bill ~

--- University of Canterbury Teaching award ---

The Teaching and Learning committee received a strong group of nominations for this round of Teaching awards. The Committee was impressed at the impact Tammy is having with students and colleagues.

Tammy's award will be presented to her at a later date now that the April graduation ceremony has been cancelled.

Congratulations on your success!
Our Erskine Fellow

Unbeknown to most of you Professor Robert (Bob) Warner arrived on Friday 18th February before everything turned to custard. Bob was hosted by the Marine Ecology Research Group. He is currently Professor of Marine Biology in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His work spans two areas of fish biology. The first is the evolution of mating systems and life histories. Past topics include the evolution of sex change and other forms of hermaphroditism in animals, sexual selection and the development of secondary sexual characters, gamete allocation, the dynamics of parental care allocation, the economics of territorial defense, and social effects on life-history allocations. His second area of research is in population biology, concentrating mainly on the dynamics of recruitment in marine fishes. He is interested in what determines variability in recruitment, the extent to which recruitment determines subsequent population dynamics, and the degree to which local populations of fishes are self-seeding. This work is related to his recent studies about the efficacy of marine reserves. His research has been supported primarily by the US National Science Foundation, the Packard Foundation, and the Moore Foundation.

Unfortunately by the time you read this Bob would have left the country. Hopefully he will return another time so you all get a chance to meet him.

and now for something completely different.....

Fiona Cross, Postdoctoral Fellow, presently in Kenya

http://news.bbc.co.uk/earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_9398000/9398408.stm
The temporary offices of Admin

The Empire of Selwyn...

Thought for the week

You know you’re from Christchurch when... you DON’T call the police when there is a massive group of students in the middle of your street.
We are slowly re-gaining access across campus, which is meaning that both the number of lectures and the quality of the teaching facilities is rapidly improving. A number of people that I have talked to - or indeed who have talked to me - are very positive about our gaining re-entry both to von Haast and to the Biology Research Building within the next week. As soon as this happens I will let you all know - we will probably stagger re-entry so that staff have time to tidy offices and set-up teaching labs before assisting students to restart research. As it is, there will be varying delays as we get the research labs 'fit-for-purpose' e.g. see Bill's notes below. Thanks to Alan and his team, most of the electrical testing that they can do has now been completed. We will again be making lists of items for insurance claims.

4th year belated welcome. Today - Thursday 31st 4 pm - Big Top Too (near NZi3) . This is an opportunity for a Q&A session; a chance for 4th years to meet potential supervisors, and a chance to relax over pizza and juice. So academics please come along to discuss projects and to make our large 4th year group feel really welcome. Not quite the big party we had planned for the whole School - but it is in a marquee!

~ Paula ~

Building Update

Those of you who attended the various university and college for a will be aware that each building must pass a five step process involving inspection, identification of then remediation of problems, and finally signoff by an independent engineer. The building then has a “warrant of fitness” and we can use it. At the moment, all of our three major spaces (von Haast, Biology and Rutherford) are at stage four and a lot of effort is being spent getting to the end of this stage. All indications are that our building s are Ok and that we will be able to reoccupy them early next week. Our other buildings (garages on Creyke Road, Glasshouses) have already been cleared for general use. There was some concern that we might be delayed because of ceiling tiles in von Haast, but these have all been repaired today.

Teaching Labs

All of the teaching labs look fine and we should be able to start using them soon after we gain access. Essentially this means we have two weeks of lab time left this term and a full term of teaching after Easter.
Working in Biology

Comments were made in today’s meetings that a building fit for use does not necessarily mean fit for purpose and this is the case for Biology, especially on levels 4, 5 and 6. People will NOT be able to do PC2 work in the labs until the following have been completed.

- Biohazard hoods. These need to be recertified before use. We do not have a firm date yet for this.
- Autoclave. This needs to be inspected and we have Monday pencilled in for this
- Fume hoods. These have been approved other than one on level3. We nearly didn’t get approval because of the amount of junk being stored in them (more on this once we get back).
- New cracks in the walls. Hopefully by the time people get back into the building these will all have been taped up.

In addition:

- All electrical equipment needs to be tested before being used. We are on top of this, and this should not hold up work.
- Some equipment will need to be tested by the suppliers. If you have equipment in that category, please let Nicole know about it.
- The seawater system needs fixing. Selwyn and I have rigged up a temporary fix – it looked spectacular when our first attempt failed.

April Shutdown

Before February 22nd we were getting organised for a major electrical shutdown in both Biology and von Haast. This will still happen on the original dates.

- Tuesday 12th April. This will be an all-day event focussed on Biology. Power will be turned off early and replaced with a generator. Power will be reconnected about 12 hours later. There will be power to the building supplied by the generator other than about an hour early in the morning and half an hour in the evening. However, you should not plan to do any research that day.
- Wednesday 13th April. Power will be cut to the whole of von Haast from about 7 am. It may be switched back on around lunchtime, but no promises. Plan to spend the morning, or even the whole day working at home.

~ Bill ~

Thought for the week

When you come to a roadblock, take a detour. -Mary Kay Ash
Congratulations to Matthew Turnbull, Daniel Stouffer, Jason Tylianakis, Sharyn Goldstien, Pieter Pelser, Chris Glover, Dave Collings, Steven Gieseg and Céline Valéry for being called through to full proposal stage. This is a 50% success rate - so commiserations to those that missed out. Well done to you all!

~ Paula ~

Building Update

The two major power outages last Tuesday and Wednesday appeared to go smoothly other than one person who was found running a PCR machine half an hour before we turned mains power back on to the research building. It is worth pointing out to people that the outages were needed to fix the University ring main rather than doing anything specific in our buildings. However, we took the opportunity to test several things in the research building including the essential services circuit. We did find a major problem with the electricity supply to level 3 and this will need to be fixed fairly soon (when we get the part). Unfortunately it will mean another (but short) power outage. More on this when we get details.

We are getting closer to getting our labs up and running. Nicole has hassled the biohazard hood recertifier enough that he has promised to come down for a day during the Easter weekend. He estimates that he will be able to certify four hoods only during this time, enough to allow us to call floors 4, 5 and 6 PC2 labs again. The rest of the hoods will be looked at sometime later in May. It will mean that people doing PC1 work who do not need biohazard hoods will be able to resume work.

Stage II is progressing well, with construction work on levels 5 and 6, asbestos work on level 4, and destruction on levels 1, 2 and 3. There is some concern that we may lose our link between biology and von Haast due to demolition work on level 1. This will be discussed at the next meeting with the builders.
Don Merton

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Don Merton. Don and our Black Robin team were working closely together and Don is a co-author on a paper recently submitted by Ant, Mel, Marie, Jim and Raaz Sainudiin.

Don was closely involved with the rescue of the black robin from the brink of extinction. He initiated a cross-fostering routine, whereby any eggs laid by a black robin female were cross-fostered to Chatham Island tomtits. The intensive cross-fostering during 1980-88 resulted in increased productivity and a more rapid recovery of the species. By 1989, when Don left the black robin recovery programme, over 100 black robins were on Mangere and Rangatira Islands.

Don retired in 2005 after 48 years with the Wildlife Service/Department of Conservation working hands-on with some of New Zealand’s – and the world’s – most critically endangered birds and island habitats. He returned to Chatham Islands to experience the dawn of the new millennium from the summit of Rangatira and again in 2007 when he gave Melanie and her team a hand for their latest project on the black robin. Don was supposed to join the team on Rangatira Island in 2010 again, but sadly he had to cancel because of illness.
April Graduation - 20 April 2011

Doctor of Philosophy
Rebecca Campbell
Spatial pattern and community assembly: Does the configuration of stream networks influence their community structure?

Master of Science
Nursalwa Baharuddin  Environmental Sciences  Second Class Honours (Division II)

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences/Biochemistry
Barbour, Sian E.  Bartlett, Michael J.  Benfell, Jameson R.
Bleyendaal, Nikki  Chien, Tzu-Fu  Clarke, Tyler B.
Coates, Annabelle J.  Cumpstone, Catherine M.  Davies, Dylan B.
Donovan, Katherine A.  Dyer, Mikayla J.  Gallagher, Erin A.
Giddens, Courtney J.  Greenwood, Andrea M.  Hedley, Joanne C.
Hoskin, Teagan S.  Hurley, Simone L.  Kennedy, Mirrin B.F.
Kilbride, Anna M.  Klein, David  Mace, Gregory H.
McRae, Nicole K.  Morley, Thomas D.  Othman, Mohamad
Ridden, Adam D.  Ruegg, Evonne T.N.  Singh, Karla M.
Stephen, Hannah M.  Stock, Victoria J.  Stuart, Rebekah R.
Sutton, Hamish J.  Tighe, Emily J.  Toyama, Ryu W.
Welsh, Taryn  Winks, Alexander J.G.  Wright, Joshua D.
Zygadlo, Hireke A.P.

Recent publications in the school


and now for something completely different.....

VANCOUVER, CANADA - APRIL 13: Chris Higgins #20 of the Vancouver Canucks celebrates with Kevin Bieksa #3 after scoring against the Chicago Blackhawks during the first period in Game One of the Western Conference Quarterfinals during the 2011 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs on April 13, 2011 at Rogers Arena in Vancouver, BC, Canada. (Photo by Rich Lam/Getty Images)

Game 1: Vancouver Canucks 1 - Chicago Blackhawks 0
Canucks lead 3 games to 1 - Todays game is the decider.

Burger King Breakers down the Cairns Taipans in Game 1, 85-67

Big Brad will leave for Japanese club Fukuoka Sanix Blues after the World Cup

Thought for the week

It’s faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes a life worth living.

-Oliver Wendell Holmes
Congratulations to Tammy and Cam on the birth of **Tegan Manning Steeves-Wright**. She arrived safe and sound on Friday 29 April at 2:07pm.

The Easter break disappeared rather faster than usual but hopefully many of you were able to find a few days to relax. Bill sent out a building update on Friday, so I won't repeat any of that. From this week we will be hosting researchers from Chemical and Process Engineering and also from the Christchurch Clinical School in Putaiao Koiora. We are fortunate to be able to extend this hospitality to others, especially as so many of our own postgraduates have benefitted, and many currently are benefiting, from visits to labs further afield.

The Term 2 timetable sees us almost back to the original lecture schedule - just rather scattered in terms of rooms. We need to keep an eye on the timetable because as more lecture spaces become available room changes will occur. Lab sessions will be underway as well.

Let's hope teaching runs smoothly for Term 2 and my thanks to everyone who enabled Term 1 teaching to be completed to a very high level!

~ Paula ~
Thanks!

For the last five years I have been working with the Marine Ecology Research Group. Now I’m on to new things with the arrival of my daughter, Elouise, and work as an event coordinator. While I am sure I will see many of you again on a occasional visit to the department, I wanted to say that it has been a pleasure working with all of you. In the future I can be reached at kerry@southeventsnz.com. Best Wishes, Kerry (O’Connell) South

Poster conference success

Helen Warburton, PhD candidate, won a prestigious Poster award at the 4th International SIZEMIC Workshop, in Hamburg, Germany. Congratulations on a great effort!

Recent publications in the school


and now for something completely different.....

Britain's Prince William and his wife Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, kiss as they stand next to bridesmaids Grace van Cutsem (L) and Margarita Armstrong-Jones (R) on the balcony at Buckingham Palace with other members of the Royal Family, after their wedding in Westminster Abbey, in central London April 29, 2011. REUTERS/Darren Staples

The Breakers celebrate winning the Australian NBL grand final series against the Cairns Taipans.

Thought for the week

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person. -Mignon McLaughlin
Congratulations to our latest Doctors!

Phillip G. Jellyman (who looked pretty sharp in his suit I was told!)  
Disentangling the effects of disturbance and habitat size on stream community structure

Morten E. Allentoft  
An ancient DNA study of four species of moa (Aves: Dinornithiformes) from Holocene deposits in North Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand

Poster conference success

Helen Warburton, PhD candidate, won a prestigious Poster award at the 4th International SIZEMIC Workshop, in Hamburg, Germany.

Congratulations on a great effort!

Latest theses in the school collection


Recent publications in the school


and now for something completely different.....

Vancouver Canucks left-winger Daniel Sedin (centre) celebrates his first-period goal against the Nashville Predators with defenceman Alexander Edler (left), Christian Ehrhoff (5), Ryan Kesler and Henrik Sedin (right) during Game 6 of the NHL Western Conference semifinal series in Nashville on Monday, May 9, 2011. Photograph by: M. J. Masotti Jr., Reuters

Thought for the week

"... and don't put any baking powder in it either".
As we move through Term 2, the impact of the earthquakes continues to affect us. Please check locations of lectures each week as sites seem still to be coming and going. Below Bill has outlined in more detail the information I mentioned at the Staff Meeting about the need to strengthen the old Zoology Building, which will lead to a delay in our re-occupation of that building by perhaps six months.

We will have personnel sharing bench space from both CAPE and from the Christchurch Medical school over the next few months. Best wishes to all our research students as they return and get their research back underway.

~ Paula ~

Building News

Lots of things to report on this week.

The big news is that Old Zoology took a bit of a hammering in the February earthquake and will need quite a bit of remedial work. The two end shear walls have some cracking which will need filling, plus some extra work to make the building less rigid. I was told the technical details of what this entails but I will admit to not understanding much of it. The big bit of the repair work will be construction of a new shear wall in the middle of the building. At the moment it is all being modelled to determine exactly where this will go. Once the repairs have been completed, the building will be up to 100% of the new earthquake code so we will have the strongest (and safest?) building on campus. The consequences of this extra work are that more money will need to be spent on the project, there will be substantial delays especially as Lunds are currently hampered in their construction work because they don’t know where the shear wall will go, and we will need to revisit the plans. At the moment we have no idea how much extra time will be needed, but it is probably safe to assume that we will not move before the end of semester one next year.

A combination of factors, including the extra work to old Zoology means that Stage III has been delayed. The original start date was March 2012. This has been pushed back to 2013.

The earthquake remediation team will start work in the atrium area very soon. The aim is to concentrate on the back stairwell so that we can get the scaffolding removed. There are no plans at the moment to start any work in the labs.

We will be hosting a lot of people in the research building over the next few months. The biomolecular
people from Chemical and Process Engineering have set up shop on level 5 because they do not have access to their labs over at CAPE. In addition we are about to have an influx of people from the University of Otago Medical School because their labs are likely to remain closed until August. As a consequence, we will be very packed.

Stage 2 is going well, other than the major setback outlines above. The large amount of noise coming from there today (Monday) is likely to continue for much of the week. As pointed out in an e-mail last week, the door to the linkway between our two buildings will remain closed to people other than those with the code for the lock. If you think you need access but don’t know the code, talk to your supervisor.

Fire Egress

Here are some details (yet again) of fire egress. In the research building, egress is down the central flight of stairs (NOT the back stairwell) and out through the Atrium door. The collection point is the bridge across the Okeover stream next to the Zoology car park.

Von Haast has three (four) exit points: the south and north ends of the building, the main west entrance in the middle of the building, and only if necessary the loading bay in Geological Sciences. The linkway across to the Science lecture block on level 2 cannot be used because it has not been cleared as safe. None of the linkways between von Haast and Zoology can be used because they head into a building site, but also because they go from a building into another building so cannot be designated as fire escapes. The collection point is the grassed area in front of the C lecture block.

~ Bill ~

and now for something completely different.....

Eurovision winners

Ell and Nikki of Azerbaijan perform their song ‘Running Scared’ during a rehearsal for the Eurovision Song Contest in Duesseldorf May 13, 2011.

Manchester City players celebrate after defeating Stoke City in their FA Cup final soccer match at Wembley Stadium, in London May 14, 2011. Photograph by: Stefan Wermuth, Reuters.

Novak Djokovic continued his remarkable unbeaten run with victory over Rafael Nadal in the final of the Rome Masters. The Serb, who was pushed all the way by Andy Murray in Saturday’s semi-final, played some superb tennis to triumph 6-4 6-4 and make it 37 wins this year - 39 in total.
My introductions seem to be getting briefer - probably because I am lecturing at the moment and just a little behind in preparation! I attended a luncheon today for College of Science Scholarship winners, and was delighted that we have attracted into Biology several of the scholars. This bodes well for our future!

~ Paula ~

Building News

After such a big update in last week’s newsletter, there is little to add this week.

Lunds are still having problems with the aquarium floor on level 4 of Zoology, although it looks as though they may be getting there and they may be able to turn off the jackhammers soon.

People will have noticed the big changes to the end of level 1 in Zoology that happened over the weekend. The asbestos removing crew are currently on level 2 and will soon be moving onto level 1. At that point we will lose access through level 1 for some time and the assumption is that we will be given temporary access through a different floor.

This morning we had a person trapped in one of the -20C walk-in freezers because the inner door mechanism failed to function. This is not the first time that this has happened. If you are planning on working inside one of these freezer rooms, please do not close the door. If you do need to close the door, then make sure someone knows you are inside and can regularly check on you. There is an emergency alarm in the freezer, an orange glowing button to the left of the door. If you press this, an alarm is activated at Security and they will send someone to look for you. This alarm does NOT activate the buzzer just outside the freezer itself (no I don’t know why not). The trick with this alarm is that you need to press it just once – the button is depressed and the alarm is triggered. If you push it a second time it pops back out to the off position.

~ Bill ~
Looks like Arvind has found a new profession...

Lastest theses submitted


**Latest publications in the school**


**and now for something completely different.....**

**Black Cats secure top 10 spot**

Sunderland jumped four places on the final day of the season to bag a 10th place finish in the Barclays Premier League.

... Newcastle managed only 12th place, what a shame....

**Thought for the week**

Rose Tyler: [looking at the Earth] How long's it got?

The Doctor: About half an hour. Then the planet gets roasted.
Buildings Update

People will have noticed that the lock has been replaced on the linkway door. Please do not break this one.

Most of the concrete removal in Old Zoology has been completed and things should be a little bit quieter for a while. Asbestos removal continues this week on level 2 and it may move to the east end of level 1 by the end of the week. At this point we will be looking at alternative arrangements to link von Haast and the research building. More on this next week. Lunds have their big crane here this week and will be lifting big things through the roof of Zoology. I guess they are hoping for fine weather.

As outlined in an earlier update, Old Zoology requires substantial remediation work which involves construction of a new shear wall through the middle of the building. Planning for this has been completed and I have the plans if anyone wishes to see them. This work should begin very soon. The new wall has meant changes to the floor plans on all but level 6. In the main the changes have simply been shuffling of room spaces, though on all floors it has resulted in a change to the size of the tutorial room. The two floors needing the biggest changes are levels 1 and 2.

We have been fast-tracked for earthquake remediation work and the project is currently being scoped. The plan is that work will start on the back stairwell of the Atrium, then move to the main area of the Atrium. Following that, work will start on labs on levels 0, 1, 2 and 3. Work on the PC2 labs (4, 5 and 6) will not be done until we lose the Medical School people.

On a less positive note: someone has been rummaging through the microscope slides stored outside of my office. Whoever you are, I am not pleased at the mess you have left for me to tidy up.

~ Bill ~

Lastest theses submitted


**Latest publications in the school**


and now for something completely different.....

Swansea becomes 1st Welsh team to enter Premier League by beating Reading

2011 Stanley Cup Final
Vancouver Canucks vs Boston Bruins

- STANLEY CUP FINAL SCHEDULE
- GM 1: @Vancouver, Wed. 6/1, 8 pm, NBC, CBC, RDS
- GM 2: @Vancouver, Sat. 6/4, 8 pm, NBC, CBC, RDS
- GM 3: @Boston, Mon. 6/6, 8 pm, VS, CBC, RDS
- GM 4: @Boston, Wed. 6/8, 8 pm, VS, CBC, RDS
- GM 5*: @Vancouver, Fri. 6/10, 8 pm, NBC, CBC, RDS
- GM 6*: @Boston, Mon. 6/13, 8 pm, NBC, CBC, RDS
- GM 7*: @Vancouver, Wed. 6/15, 8 pm, NBC, CBC, RDS
- *if necessary; all times Eastern

Thought for the week

Wherever you may be, let your wind blow free.
It’s the last week of teaching for the semester. Amazing how fast it has slipped by. Well done and thanks to all staff and students who coped through the lockdown and managed to teach (and be taught) in tents. We have a four week “break” coming up which is really just more hard work as students suffer the hardships of exams and staff have to grade their efforts. Hopefully next semester will be a lot more settled. The 5.5 shake on Monday got a few people worried, while those of us hardy souls in the Research Building at the time got to see how well it moves – it wobbles a lot!

We have a new person on board. Paul Gardner, one of our Rutherford Fellows arrived this week. He can be found in room 468 sandwiched between Daniel and Anthony, so pop along and say hi.

~ Bill ~

**Building Update**

A fairly quiet week. Everyone will be aware that we have lost the linkway access on level 1, but have access via level 3. We will have this for a few weeks while asbestos removal is completed on levels 1 and 2, then we move back to level 1 to allow the builders to continue work on level 3.

Last weekend saw a lot of activity related to water services. Hopefully this work will be the end of it for a while. However, we do seem to be experiencing some problems with water pressure in the eyewash stations in the research labs. Can people please keep an eye on this (no pun intended) and let me or Selwyn know of any problems.

Hawkins have started remedial work in the Atrium area, though if we continue to have 5.5s there doesn’t seem to be much point. They should be working in the atrium at the top of the scaffolding, and on the back stairwell. They should not be in the labs at this point of time.

**Latest publications in the school**


and now for something completely different.....

2011 Stanley Cup Final
Vancouver Canucks vs Boston Bruins

- STANLEY CUP FINAL SCHEDULE
- GM 1: Vancouver 1 - Boston 0
- GM 2: Vancouver 3 - Boston 2
- GM 3: Boston 8 - Vancouver 1
- GM 4: @Boston, Wed. 6/8, 8 pm, VS, CBC, RDS
- GM 5*: @Vancouver, Fri. 6/10, 8 pm, NBC, CBC, RDS
- GM 6*: @Boston, Mon. 6/13, 8 pm, NBC, CBC, RDS
- GM 7*: @Vancouver, Wed. 6/15, 8 pm, NBC, CBC, RDS
- * if necessary; all times Eastern

Lightning flashes around the ash plume at above the Puyehue-Cordon Caulle volcano chain near Entrelagos June 5, 2011. The volcano in the Puyehue-Cordon Caulle chain, dormant for decades, erupted in south-central Chile on Saturday, belching ash over 6 miles (10 km) into the sky, as winds fanned it toward neighboring Argentina, and prompted the government to evacuate several thousand residents, authorities said.

REUTERS/Carlos Gutierrez

Thought for the week
Go back a little to leap further. -John Clarke
Another bump in the road...
Again our thanks to Bill and Selwyn for attending to our buildings during the last week. I’m sure everyone is now willing the earth to have a rest so our undergraduates can complete their exams without interruption. I would like to thank all our academic staff who have been fielding numerous enquiries and concerns about the examinations over the last week, and for encouraging our students to sit their finals.

As we are being informed by geologists, we are in a seismically active period in Canterbury, so please do take notice of the advice being promulgated about preparedness. The College of Science is looking to organise a talk by a structural engineer about the buildings the College occupies.

Being born and raised in Christchurch, and as a great granddaughter of Harry Ell, who designed the concept of the Summit Rd and its rest houses (the Signs of the Takehe, Kiwi, Bell Bird and Pack Horse), I have a particular affiliation to Canterbury. I have signed The Pledge to stay here. On the 14th June I started my eighth year as HoS: we have some challenges ahead of us especially if rolls fall significantly. My plans are to continue as your HoS to the end of my current term, and to bring a strong and dynamic School along with me.

Take care
~ Paula ~

Building Update 20 June

The research building survived the last set of earthquakes very well, with the structural engineer who went through the building on Monday (13th) stating it was the best looking building he had seen in Christchurch.

I have had a team of builders (Hawkins) looking through the building today. We found more superficial cracks, but nothing significant. The only two concerns are: keep off the metal linkway between the atrium and level 6 of Zoology, because it is broken; there is a large sheet of metal flashing lying at an angle on the scaffolding in the atrium. We are having problems getting hold of scaffolders who can get up there and remove it – apparently they are all in the red zone.

Other than that I have nothing to report as I have been on holiday all last week.

~ Bill ~
Jen Skilton, PhD candidate, working in the Avon-Heathcote Estuary, was chosen as one of the new advertising ‘ambassadors’ for UC. This one was found on the corner of Moorhouse Ave/Deans Road/Detroit Place. Let us know if you see her on the billboards around the city (or on buses)!

Latest publications in the school


and now for something completely different.....

2011 Stanley Cup Final
Vancouver Canucks vs Boston Bruins

- **STANLEY CUP FINAL SCHEDULE**
- **GM 1**: Vancouver 1 - Boston 0
- **GM 2**: Vancouver 3 - Boston 2
- **GM 3**: Boston 8 - Vancouver 1
- **GM 4**: Boston 4 - Vancouver 0
- **GM 5**: Vancouver 1 - Boston 0
- **GM 6**: Boston 5 - Vancouver 2
- **GM 7**: Vancouver 0 - Boston 4

**US Open 2011: Remarkable Rory McIlroy wins by eight shots**

Northern Ireland's **Rory McIlroy** celebrates his US Open victory with his father Gerry.
Photograph: Jeff Haynes/Reuters

**Thought for the week**

"You've got to think positively and you have to be happy and then you feel like you've lived".
- Michelle Rambaud
Made it!! Well done to all our undergrads who sat their exams this last week, with only the occasional small rattle happening during the actual exams themselves. Can't say I would have coped well on the Wednesday after the majorly disturbed Tuesday night! I hope you all have a well deserved break.

Many staff will now be heads down marking this week as we try to turn exam scripts around rapidly, and then work through the expected large number of aegrotat applications.

Congratulations to the successful Brian Mason Grant applicants and their teams:

Chris Glover
Arvind Varsani
Jason Tylianakis
Melanie Massaro
Raph Didham and James McCarthy

~ Paula ~

VISITORS & APPOINTMENTS

Erskine Fellow

Associate Professor Matt Perugini will be visiting the School as an Erskine Fellow hosted by BIC from 18 July to 29 August 2011. During his stay with us he will be based in the Erskine Visitor Room, von Haast 368, ext: 7029.

Since 2005 Matt Perugini has been a Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne, and is now the BBiomedSc Student Coordinator, where he plays a key role in administration and pastoral care of over 500 undergraduate BBiomedSc students. In 2004, he was awarded the Young Biophysicists Award by the Australian Society for Biophysics for his contribution to the field of analytical ultracentrifugation; and in 2005, was awarded an Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship by the Australian Research Council. Dr Perugini was also recently awarded the 2007 Edman Award by the Australian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. His current research focuses on the structure, function and
inhibition of enzymes involved in bacterial lysine biosynthesis, apolipoprotein-lipid and lipid-lipid interactions, and the structure and function of RNA polymerase from influenza.

Dr Perugini is the second Erskine Visitor to the School for 2011; unfortunately, Prof. Robert Warner’s visit coincided with our February earthquake event. We are hoping this Erskine visit will be more productive and exciting in a very different way.

Adjunct Senior Fellow
Dr Eckehard G. Brockerhoff, SCION Research, has been appointed for a three year period.

Adjunct Fellow
Dr Susanna Venn, alpine-plant ecologist, has been appointed for a three year period.

JOURNAL INFORMATION
Latest publications in the school

Congratulations to Sarah on her first publication!


Congratulations to Ing Chia on her first publication!

and now for something completely different…..
Meet the Muntstones - Christchurch earthquake (this musical number should be taken with a grain of salt...) http://youtu.be/hfljz0PUDU
Good luck to all our undergrads!!

Building Update

People will be aware that the crane has moved around to its western site for the next few weeks as the eastern site is prepared for construction of the compound. Please do not try to use the ramp while the crane is operating. If you enter the buildings using the western von Haast entrance, to get to the research wing you need to climb to level 3 in von Haast and walk across at that level. Do not walk across to Zoology first, then walk up the Zoology steps – the builders get annoyed.

The big news for this week is that the engineers have decided that they need to look under the lino covering the floors in the research building. It will probably happen sometime next week. Selwyn and I have managed to restrict them to levels 0, 1 and 2, though they are quite keen to look at level 4 at some stage. The aim is to get this work done without disrupting the research in that building – it will need a bit of choreography but we will try our best.

~ Bill ~

Cafe 101 now open in Psychology!!!!

Latest publications in the school


Thought for the week

Quality means doing it right when no one is looking. -Henry Ford
Semester 2 begins

A big thank you to all staff involved in marking, organising the aegrotats, and entering marks onto Jade. With major effort by all we met the original deadline for sending grades to the Registry. This week we will send out congratulations letters to all Biology students who gained a B+ or better in any one of our courses.

Very many thanks to Jason and Ant for their presentations on Friday (which they had to do twice as the numbers exceeded the room) to school students and parents - and to all those that helped with the lab tours - Sarah, Jackie, Maggie, Penny, Jason, Ant, Arvind, Jon (O'Brien) - and I know that there were others in the wings.

As you will have seen from the University front page, last week we finally had the signing of the formal MoU between the School and the Botanic Gardens. This had been deferred several times but the signing finally happened. The signing was followed by a tour of the glasshouses where botanical prizes were eyed up (our hebe collection will assist with the establishment of a hebe collection in the Botanic Gardens and the mistletoe was wondered at). Thanks to Dave Conder - the glasshouses are a credit to him. Following this we had a symposium, but with numbers restricted to 30 in Rm 275. The aim here was to particularly address the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and excite them about research so that they will support another Summer scholarship. Last year’s two summer students, Matt Wallace and Bronwyn Slack, talked about their summer's research and both Pieter Pelser and Dave Kelly gave stimulating talks. Curator, Dr John Clemens, is keen to hear from anyone with ideas for summer research projects that could be loosely based around the Gardens.

I will be on holiday in England/Wales from the 15th July for two weeks. Bill will be Acting HoS.

~ Paula ~

Building Update

Not a lot to report this week. In theory, as I write this, the remediation team are tearing up lino on level 1 of the new building, but they have failed to appear. They are also due to remove the whole window from the west wall on level 2 (in the seminar room 275) on Friday.

Stage 2 is progressing to plan. The crane will be working in front of the atrium this week before heading back to its usual site at the eastern end of the building. The builders are getting ready to erect
scaffolding around much of the Zoology building. We have access between von Haast and the research building through level 1 until at least the end of this week.

~ Bill ~

VISITORS & APPOINTMENTS

Dr William Godsoe (currently Research Fellow at the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis at the University of Tennessee) to the fixed-term position in Terrestrial Community Ecology. This position is to fill the role of Jason Tylianakis while he has his Rutherford Discovery Fellowship (to March 2016).

William will take up his position in early August and primarily teach into BIOL309 this semester.

Dr Carlos Olavarria Barrera, will be teaching two tutorials in BIOL 474 Conservation Biology. You can locate him in room 441 on ext. 7074.

JOURNAL INFORMATION

Latest publications in the school


SCHOLARSHIPS & PRIZES

Our HoS Paula Jameson was recently made a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science for her “outstanding contribution to New Zealand horticultural Science”. The photo shows a delighted Paula receiving her award from Jon Hickford, the president of NZIAHS.

Biomolecular Interaction Centre Seed Grant round

Successful Biological Sciences academics

Seed Grant
Renwick Dobson
Grant Pearce
Arvind Varsani with Renwick Dobson and David Collings
Ant Poole and Paul Gardner

Flexible round
Celine Valery
Arvind Varsani with Renwick Dobson and Grant Pearce
Ant Poole
Simone Dimartino (BIC/CAPE) with David Schiel
Latest theses in the school collection


Thought for the week

There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance the next time. -Og Mandino
If you are wondering why the admin area seems to be a bit quiet this week it’s because lots of people are away. Paula is in the UK, rumour has it that Matthew is in Cambodia and Selwyn is off scaring trout on the West Coast. And as the person left looking after things you won’t see much of me either because I have quite a bit of teaching.

We are one week into semester 2 and things seem to be settling down. We have an impressive number of courses teaching out of the Kirkwood Village this semester, and while we had teething problems with a lack of data projectors and too much light streaming through the windows, much of this has been sorted and things are on track for an excellent second half of the year. We have one week of enrolling left to go although things seem to have settled down very quickly this semester and numbers seemed to have stabilised - see my comment later.

Building Update

The builders have asked us for extra time on level 3, mainly to install sprinkler pipes, so that level is blocked off to us for at least a week and access remains via level one.

The crane has moved back to the eastern end of Zoology, so access to the Atrium via the ramp should be easier this week. However, note that at some stage the window that was removed from the seminar room 275 will need to be put back and at that point the ramp will be closed. It was interesting to see how many people on Friday elected to squeeze past the scissor lift that was working on the ramp.

On Tuesday I have a meeting with Gordon the Engineer who will be telling me all about the cracks in the floor of the research building that we found when strips of lino were removed, and also what he found when he looked behind the window. More on this once I have the information.

Enrolments

Enrolments through the year have been "interesting" and almost impossible to predict. In February we had lower than expected first and second year numbers but very high third year enrolments. Following the Feb 22 shake, we lost more first and second year students (as expected) but not the third years. The first year numbers were predictable following the September quake (parents sending their children out of Christchurch), but the second year numbers were not. Coming into this second semester, our first year numbers have recovered reasonably well, but not to the numbers I had expected. Second year numbers have not recovered, and there seems to be a whole cohort of 2nd year students who have elected to either not pursue their university education, or have moved
elsewhere. No-one could have predicted what has happened to our third year numbers. They just keep climbing. Typically we do not get much change in third year numbers as we move from semester 1 into semester 2 but this year we have added students to many of our courses to the extent that one ecology course has greatly exceeded the capacity of the field station it uses, and BIOL309 is sitting on 95 students. Last year we set a record for BIOL309 enrolments with 64 students. If many of these third year students are thinking about continuing on into 4th year next year we need to be prepared for very big postgraduate classes.

~ Bill ~

JOURNAL INFORMATION

Latest publications in the school


Thought for the week

Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson
I guess we needed something to disrupt the term, and one day of interruption due to snow has got to be better than several weeks of interruptions due to the earth shaking. As I am writing this (Monday lunchtime) the snow is falling thickly and 15 cm of the white stuff is sitting on the table in my garden (I resisted the urge to come into work). I can almost see the fat in the holder getting smaller under the horde of waxeyes devouring the stuff, and the cherry tree looks like a scene out of Hitchcock’s “The Birds” as large numbers of sparrows and starlings wait patiently for their daily ration. And the poor dunnocks are hiding under the camellias trying not to get too wet. Biology in the garden interfering with biology at my desk.

Lab based people get an extra day off work, but ecologists get to play in the snow, though I’m sure that many of them, trying to rescue long running experiments would not exactly use the term “play”. I hope nothing has been too badly affected.

Last year our postgraduate students (PhD) were surveyed as part of an ongoing assessment of the postgraduate experience (UC Postgraduate Experience Questionaire 2010). Surveys were run in 2004 and 2007. There are two documents, one looking at the University as a whole, and one looking at the College and individual departments. They are worth looking at. By-and-large we came out OK, but there were some obvious areas of frustration shown by the students. The School has a single hard copy of the surveys which can be borrowed via Lyn.

On a sad note, Jackie Healy’s mother passed away, and Jackie is heading to the UK for the funeral. She will be away until 12 August.

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**Building Update**

We missed the Monday morning building meeting so not a lot to report. We have now moved to level 2 of the linkway to traverse between buildings, which gives us a good view of what the admin area will look like. Meanwhile the level one linkway has been quite thoroughly destroyed. I assume something will take its place. Selwyn and I have an all day meeting on Thursday (or at least Selwyn does, I have 5 h of teaching to get in the way) to work through outstanding issues relating to the research building. Following this we should move quickly into the next stage where FM take over control of the building. This will help us enormously because it means we are dealing with one, University based unit, rather than having to deal with architects, builders and subcontractors. Sometime this week we will also be having discussions with the engineers to determine what needs to be done in the research building now that they have had time to have a good look at the floors and walls.
We are slowly getting some answers to the problems with access into the research labs. As predicted, it appears to be an anniversary problem, in that when the anniversary of your initial access comes up, the system shuts you out and waits for Security to reinstate you, presumably for another year. About a year ago we sent over a big list of people in order to get the system up and running in time for the day we were allowed entry. I assume these were processed over several days, or even weeks, which is why there is a staggered effect.

At the moment Security have no way to check when you are likely to lose access, so the only way we find this out is when you suddenly find yourself locked out. So please, when this happens, let either myself or Selwyn know (e-mail is best) and we will reinstate you as soon as we can.

~ Bill ~

JOURNAL INFORMATION

Latest publications in the school


and now for something completely different.....

Saying for the week:
"The Snow was just the icing on the quake"
“With Paula and Bill otherwise engaged, it has fallen to me to write the friendly intro to the newsletter! You will be pleased to know I will keep this brief...

Having been away on leave for the last three weeks I can only give you my impressions of the last couple of days after time away from ChCh and UC – both seem very calm and it looks to me like everyone is getting about the business of the start to semester 2 in reasonable heart. Clearly I missed the big snow of last week! Thanks to all who made quick rearrangements to class schedules to minimise the impact of the lost day or so. We are obviously getting quite good at this kind of thing.

Read on for all that is fit to print...

Regards
Matthew

Latest publications in the school

and now for something completely different.....

The Best Pictures of the Week
22 - 29 July 2011

Thought for the week

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty. - Mahatma Gandhi
What I missed while away: the snow!! (but I was in Christchurch during the 1992 snow storm and the stuff that fell on several occasions during my PhD at UC and during my first winter back in 2004 obviously didn't rank - but still led to early closures of the campus).

What I didn't miss were the aftershocks!

While on what was essentially a family reunion during the high school vacation time, we visited several gardens: the National Botanical Gardens of Wales were quite outstanding for a relatively new garden - they have utilised an old walled garden as a feature for productive garden plants; the Chelsea Physic Garden even had some traditional medicinal plants from New Zealand; and the most stunning display at Kew was of grasses including some smaller displays of the evolution of the cereal crops - but unfortunately with no explanatory information for the general public. We also saw behind the scenes into the extensive propagation area at Kew - with signs on doors to keep them shut to stop the badgers causing damage!

Now back to earth and teaching for me this week! Thanks to Bill, Lyn and everyone for keeping things running while I was away.

~ Paula ~

Building news

We finally may be getting some progress in terms of the scaffolding in the atrium and the back stairwell. Apparently new CCC rules mean that the builders now need to have a consent to do any concrete injection work, though it is possible to apply for an exemption. We have done the latter for the back stairs. The current plan is that work in these two areas will start on 22 August. There is still some planning work to do concerning the Hardyboard panels on level 7 of the Atrium and the flashings between the new building and Zoology, but this should not hold up the start of this work.

~ Bill ~

SCHOLARSHIPS & PRIZES

Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards

This ceremony, which took place on Wednesday 3rd August, celebrated twelve of New Zealand’s finest tertiary teachers – as recognised by their organisations, colleagues and learners alike. The
One of the twelve was our very own Associate Professor Jon Harding. This is great recognition of the emphasis Jon puts into his teaching and of the quality of teaching Jon delivers. Congratulations!

and now for something completely different.....

LeRoy Grannis and the Golden Age of Surfing

Thought for the week

You’re more beautiful than Cinderella, you smell like pine needles and your face is like sunshine.
- Quote from "Bridesmaids"
BUILDING NEWS

Linkway Out Of Bounds

We all knew it was going to happen so there should be no surprises, we just didn’t know when, or that there has been a variation in the contract that has made life even more difficult.

The problem is that the builders have been told that they must create a seismic joint between Zoology and the linkway, which means cutting a 1 metre wide gap between the two structures on every floor, and it needs to be the whole structure rather than leaving one floor untouched. This involves cutting through lots of steel with a welding torch with bits of hot metal everywhere; not especially good for your health and safety.

As a consequence, the whole of the linkway will be out of bounds from first thing tomorrow morning. This means you will not be able to walk between Zoology and von Haast but instead you will need to leave the buildings and use the ramp at the entrance to the Atrium. We will still have access for trolleys but not on a continual basis. If you have material that needs to go across the linkway (such as PC2 material for the autoclave) you will need to let Selwyn know about it and he will arrange for a time when we can form a trolley/wheelie bin convoy across a level (it will be a different level and time each day).

I am aware that this is inconvenient, but it has been organised when there is no teaching so should cause minimal inconvenience. I do not know what the timeframe is – it might be just this week, but plan for two weeks.

Remedial Work Starts in the Atrium

Hawkins have returned to us. They have started work on the back stairwell by removing all of the scaffolding. This has allowed them to start removing all of the lino so that they can gain access to cracks in the stairwell that need injecting with resin. The scaffolding should be reinstated in a couple of weeks time for repair work to the walls. At some point in the near future you should see them in the Atrium.
Remedial Work in the Research Building

We are still waiting for the Engineers’ report for this building and as a consequence I have no information about what remedial work needs to be carried out, or when it will happen.

~ Bill ~

POSTGRADUATE NEWS

PhD in 3 competition

**FLASHBACK TO 2010**

Laura Domigan and Sara Kross took out 1st and 2nd prize respectively in the College PhD in 3 final. There were some very good talks and so for the School to provide both winners was an excellent achievement. Both represented the College in the University Final... where Sara Kross won 2nd prize overall and Laura Domigan won the audience choice award.

So, what are you waiting for!!??

The University is running its annual PhD in 3 minutes competition. This is open to all PhD students and involves you giving a 3 minute talk on your PhD. You can use one powerpoint slide during your talk and no other props or costumes. The School will be running heats to select our top two students to compete in this competition. They will then go to the College of Science heats and then, if successful, to the University finals.

If you would like to compete in this competition please email the secretaries at bioladmin@canterbury.ac.nz. School heats will probably be held during the week 5-9th September.

The College heats will be held between the 12-14th September and the UC finals on the 15th September. Any questions contact Jon Harding.

and now for something completely different.....

Dazzling Insects, Microscopic Worlds and A Glowing Space Blob

Thought for the week

Always plan ahead. It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark. -Richard C. Cushing
Almost September so it must be spring. Temperatures seem to be rising, although for those of you thinking hard about heading off into the field there are rumours that another bit of cold weather is heading towards us – so keep an eye on the forecast and stay at home if it looks nasty. The cold stuff certainly cannot be coming from Antarctica. As I write this Scott Base has a balmy -13 degrees C though the temperature is coming down from a high of -6C and a windspeed of 35 knots.

Hopefully people are getting the chance for a bit of a break over this two week period, as term three seemed to be a lot of work for everyone. At least the Kirkwood Village seems to be working quite well now as long as one can work out how the AV works. Only six weeks to go for this academic year when we start back next week, so let’s all try to make this an outstanding semester.

BUILDING NEWS

People should be aware that there will be two power outages this week, at 7.30am on Thursday and Friday mornings. The outages should only last for about five minutes each, but on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, please turn off your computer or any sensitive electronic equipment.

Work continues on the linkway. That work is supposed to be finished by the end of this week, but it doesn’t look remotely close to finished.

You will notice that Hawkins are back in the research building. They are busy ripping up the lino on the back stairwell ready to allow injection of resin into the cracks in the stairs. However, I have heard rumours that injecting cracks underneath the stairs is not easy (lots of practice in the Erskine building) and so this work could be interesting. You will also note lots of extra scaffolding going up in the Atrium. This is to allow repair work on level 7 of Zoology, but also to carry out work on other levels of Zoology, including getting rid of dust and repairing window sills.

~ Bill ~
Welcome to the World...

Pippa Elizabeth Reeves was born on Tuesday August 16th at 8:13 pm. She weighed 7 lbs 12 oz and was 52 cm long. She is a healthy and beautiful little girl. She is the delightful buddy for Kristy Hogsden (PhD candidate) and Ian Reeves.

Jennifer Gillette gave birth to a beautiful daughter on Friday 26th August, 8 lb 14 oz. Mum, Baby and Dad (Victor Parker) are all doing well! Image to follow.

Love is...

Sara Kross (PhD candidate) married her beau recently. Here is a delightful shot of the happy couple!
JOURNAL INFORMATION

Latest publications in the school


and now for something completely different.....

A Jaw-dropping wasp, a black hole and an ancient daddy longlegs.

Thought for the week

Winning isn't everything. Wanting to win is. -Catfish Hunter
The last leg begins... Term Four

I don’t know where the mid-term break went – of course those staff and students on field trips know exactly where it went, as will our 4th years whose finals started today! I did take time-out to attend a one-day symposium at Lincoln University on Bio-Protection – an area of increasing importance to New Zealand as pesticides and herbicides and various other ‘-cides’ get de-registered, and as we continue to get incursions of various pests and pathogens into our primary industries. We can only watch in horror as the kiwifruit industry in New Zealand faces the threat from \textit{Psuedomonas syringae pv actinidiae}, the pathogen that has devastated the Italian gold kiwifruit industry.

Yesterday, I hope that everyone who wanted to was able to reflect with friends and family over the devastating events in Christchurch of this last year. We can but hope that the major aftershocks are behind us and that we can move forward, albeit sometimes slowly, through the rest of this semester and into a new year.
Our best wishes to our 4th years for undisturbed finals!

~ Paula ~

BUILDING NEWS

A quiet time this week.

Work has stopped for the moment in the linkway between our buildings and so we have normal access through on level 2.

The lift shaft in the research building is still being repaired. The large amount of noise coming from that direction indicates that many holes are being drilled into the concrete to accommodate the new brackets. The lift work means that the major job on the stairwell, injecting resin into the large number of cracks, has been put on hold for the moment. Hopefully we might see that starting in about a week’s time.

~ Bill ~

Use of old tearoom

Please could everyone be aware that the old tea room (room 444) is now a student office and not a tea room. If you need to use the zip / instant hot water can you please do it quickly and quietly and
have consideration for those working in the office. Microwaves and eating facilities are provided in the research building.

**Latest family members**

Nicole’s brood has increased with these adorable wee kids. Watch out next week for her doggies!

![Image of baby goats](image1.png)

**Baby metric translations!**

**Pippa Elizabeth Reeves** who was born on the 16th August weighed 7 lbs 12 oz = 3.5 kg or 3515 grams.

**Jennifer Gillette’s** daughter born on the 26th August, weighed 8 lb 14 oz = 4.05 kg or 4054 grams.
and now for something completely different.....

Somehow this needs a fitting caption...

Who knew Frank had this much talent!?

Thought for the week

There is never enough time to do all the nothing you want. -Bill Watterson
The 4.5 shake yesterday morning was a timely reminder that we are still in a seismically active area, and shows how our vocabulary has changed over this year. We tend to talk about 4.5s and 5.1s rather than a magnitude 5.1 on the Richter scale, and use the words “munted” and remediation regularly (at least I do!). At the time of the shake I was at Addington Raceway judging Science Fair exhibits along with my willing band of helpers (thanks to Anastasia, Paul, Krithika and Mark). It was impressive how well the students just accepted the shake and got on with whatever they were doing; though perhaps it is also a sign of how accustomed we have become to a wobbly world, and no-longer automatically head for cover. Overall the standard of exhibits was very impressive, especially considering the amount of disruption the students have faced. The Fair was, however, remarkably short of senior entries, showing the flow-on effect of disruption, coupled with the full schedule these students have, associated with NCEA. In the end we couldn’t decide who to give the two Biology prizes to, so gave out three.

Congratulations to our new Rutherford Fellow!!

Ant Poole, a senior lecturer in genetics, will use the fellowship to use a combination of computational and experimental approaches to test four specific hypotheses relating to the emergence of biological complexity with the aim of elucidating the mechanisms by which complex molecular and cellular systems evolve.

The University is holding a Community Open Day on 1st October, hoping to attract lots of potential students, though advertising that it will have the biggest bouncy castle in the South Island does not sound particularly academic. We will be looking for lots of volunteers to help with the Biology effort. More on this soon.

~ Bill ~

Buildings News

We are planning to use the Spider Lab as a test bed for remedial work in the Research Building. The work will start later this week/early next week and in preparation for this the spider lab has closed down all of its research work. People will be moving material out of the lab this week.

You might hear lots of scuffling noises above your head this week. We do not have a plague of rats but we do have two projects happening. The first is the spider lab work, so we have people moving about in the ceiling space on level one. The other project is replacement/cleaning of the air filters throughout the whole of the research building.
The scaffolders have returned to the back stairwell now that the lift is back into normal service. Please don’t use these stairs – use the lift or the central atrium stairs.

**Latest family members**

This week you get to enjoy Nicole's sweet lil puppies who have grown into adorable doggies.

**MEG**

![MEG](image)

**BRUNO**

![BRUNO](image)
Bruno up the tree and Meg playing peek-a-boo

Fourth year end of exam celebration

All postgraduates and academics are invited to share in the joy and relief of finishing the 4th year papers which are being held 5-19 September. All that's left is for them to be marked and graded!

Monday 19th September, 5.30 pm, The New Undercroft, under the Central Library
Pizza & Drinks to enjoy

Annual Biology Conference

Wednesday 19 October : Abstracts required by Friday 7th October.

All PhD candidates are required to present twice and MSc/Hons candidates once during your time here at Canterbury. There will be the opportunity of submitting your recent posters too. As we did last year we will be including Masters Part II and our Honours Students.
This year we welcome the Christchurch School of Medicine Hons and PhD students who are working here in our Research building. They will add to what's expected to be a full on fun day with our usual Prize Giving and After Party.

*2010 Abstract Book* for reference

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**and now for something completely different.....**

I only lost four fingers when I shut the door

---

**Thought for the week**

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself. -Leo Tolstoy
Buildings News

Another quiet week in terms of building news.

Access between the research building and von Haast has been restored on level 2. Note though that it is still an active building site and that there is a lot of broken glass around. At some point this week we will lose access for about half a day while window frames are removed in the linkway.

The cranes will be back on site this week.

Work has started on the repair of the back stairwell in the research building. One flight of stairs has been injected with resin as a test. This needs to set, then ground back and polished, so there may be some dust. The builders are also repairing all of the gibb board further up the stairs. In addition, work has started on repairs to the Atrium, so watch out for people on the scaffolding.

Summer Research

We are about to hit the summer research period, with a large number of people expected to swell the numbers of researchers in the New Building. These are visitors, summer scholarship students (about 35 of these) and 4th year students looking to start their research now that exams have finished. Note that at the moment we do not have desk space for these students other than what is currently occupied by the 4th years. More on this soon. All students/visitors working in the Research Building need to complete the College of Science Health and Safety Induction, and anyone working in a PC2 lab needs to complete PC2 training BEFORE they start work.

~ Bill ~

Lecturer of the Year awards

College of Science

Our Paul (Broady), what a winner!

Latest publications in the school


**BitesizeBio - Brain Food for Biologists**

*Why you should care more about statistics*

*by Sarah-Jane O'Connor (PhD candidate)*

**Party – Supervisors bring their students to the Staff Club**

With the opening of a new staff club on campus we are now able to host our annual Supervisors take thesis students to Staff Club event. A great opportunity to socialise with other students and supervisors from across campus!

Tuesday September 20 5-7pm at the Staff Club at the Kirkwood Oval Village.

Unfortunately we are not able to BBQ there yet, that will have to wait for the summer.

**Annual Biology Conference**

Wednesday 19 October : Abstracts required by Friday 7th October.

All PhD candidates are required to present twice and MSc/Hons candidates once during your time here at Canterbury. There will be the opportunity of submitting your recent posters too. As we did last year we will be including Masters Part II and our Honours Students.

This year we welcome the Christchurch School of Medicine Hons and PhD students who are working here in our Research building. They will add to what's expected to be a full on fun day with our usual Prize Giving and After Party.

*2010 Abstract Book* for reference

**and now for something completely different.....**

*Contagion - Bacteria Billboard*

(youtube - 1.39sec)

**Thought for the week**

A smile is an inexpensive way to change your looks. -Charles Gordy
Buildings News

You will see some activity on the outside of the research building this week, especially people in a giant cherry-picker looking closely at the walls. They are mapping out cracks and working out the best method of fixing these. The walls of the building have a three part construction – the main concrete slab, a polystyrene thermal pad, then a thin decorative concrete fascia (or at least I am told it is decorative). It is this outer layer that has cracked. It is not structural, there are no safety issues, and the main task is to find a way of sealing them while hiding signs of the repair. The engineers have lots of ideas, but like many post-quake repairs it is something they have never encountered.

There seems to be a lot of activity on level 2 of the Zoology building at the moment, so please be aware of hazards as you walk through there. It certainly shows different interpretations of Health and Safety as we really should not have people walking through the middle of an active building site.

And speaking about H & S, many of you would have seen my notices last week about the exploding bottle (and there are more notices to come). In the School we use quite a bit of both dry ice (solid carbon dioxide) and liquid nitrogen. We use them because they are very cold, and they have the ability to cause severe burns. You must always treat them with respect and handle them using the appropriate equipment and safety clothing. Even if you think you are doing things correctly, think about wider consequences – I am aware of a case (not here) where someone was using liquid nitrogen while wearing gumboots, and some spilled into the top of the boot. The student thought he was fine because he was wearing enclosed footwear. Remember that as these materials turn into gasses they greatly increase their volume, so never use containers that can be sealed. If you are using a thermos flask, make sure it is steel, never glass, and throw away the top.

~ Bill ~

Latest publications in the school

Blog from the Deep

If you aren't aware there is aquarium in the Atrium.

Wednesday 21 September
The two large crabs (the fancy ones with fluff on their bodies) managed to gorge themselves on fresh mussel.

One mussel said to the other mussel, "Have you pulled here before”?

Thursday 22 September
Large starfish was holding a paua and small starfish in a death grip. Gee, I hope the small one lives to see another day...

---

Photos of Jennifer Gillette's cute adorable baby!

Josephine Elanor Parker, at 2 days old and at about 2 weeks old who was born at 10:16 am on Friday 26th August, weighing in at 8 lbs 14 oz (4.03 kg) and 52 cm long.
and now for something completely different.....

More of Nicole’s treasured pets
Thought for the week

I love you not because of who you are, but because of who I am when I am with you. -Roy Croft
1200 visitors to the Biology Building!! A huge thank you to everyone who helped with this event on Saturday - the first visitors came through the doors at 9.50 and, thanks to security activating the locks, they were stopped about 3.15pm! I understand families were contacting other families to tell them they must come and see our displays. A lot of effort goes in before, during and after such an event; a lot goes on behind the scenes, organising, setting up, taking down, so I am not going to pick out any individuals for special thanks - simply a great team effort - well done!!

~ Paula ~

Buildings News

Virtually no news about buildings this week.

The linkway between the two buildings is still closed to general traffic other than the two periods at the beginning and end of the day. On Wednesday morning this should revert back to general access.

The trial injection of the cracks in the back stairwell appears to have been a success. Once this has been signed off by the engineers we should hopefully see a lot more activity. It will also mean a lot more noise, as much of the work involves grinding back the resin.

~ Bill ~

UC Community Day

Some events held at Biological Sciences, Saturday 1st October

Microscope marvels
The Meade boys checking out proteins

Youngsters enthralled by the giant bones shown by Jan

‘Star’ Sharyn showing off ‘Patrick’ in the touch pool
Chris getting everybody's hearts racing

Young lad playing DNA games

Angus delighting a family with the finer details of invertebrates

[Photos: M.J. Walters]
Annual Biology Photo Competition

Show off your creative side and win great prizes!

This year’s theme "Pretty Ugly"

Photos need to be submitted by Friday 14th October, 5.00 pm and will be displayed 24th October – 11th November.

You must be a current UC biology student to enter. Maximum of three photos per person. Photos must have been taken in last year. Specific details on how to enter and upload photos to come next week.

Latest publications in the school


Latest thesis submissions


Blog from the Deep

Monday 26 September
Hey, who swallowed all the water!

Saturday 1 October
Who's the prettiest starfish of them all!? It's not every day you get a pretty lady holding onto your legs!

Monday 3 October
Spot the big crab grabbing onto the smaller one... escape is futile.

and now for something completely different.....

The lighter side of NOT receiving emails

Thought for the week

Lead Singer Crucifee: [Dying on the cross] Cheer up, Brian. You know what they say: some things in life are bad. They can really make you mad. Other things just make you swear and curse. When you're chewing on life's gristle, don't grumble: give a whistle, and this'll help things turn out for the best. And... always look on the bright side of life...
End of the lecturing year!

Well as we bask in the thought of another week of rugby involving the All-Blacks (and the Wallabies!!) we need to bear in mind that we have entered the last week of undergraduate classes and thus the business end of the semester. The coming weeks will increase the stress levels of students in particular, so it is important that we collectively lend a helping hand where we can. If you know of students who are concerned about their studies, please encourage them to talk with course coordinators or me as supervisor of studies.

Congratulations to Pieter Pelser and Daniel Stouffer, who have been successful in the latest round of the Marsden Fund with Fast-start grants. I am sure we will be hearing more about the work they have proposed in the coming months/years. Commiserations to those who were not successful – this was a very tough year with the level of funding quite a bit lower than in previous years. It is back on the horse next year!

~ Matthew ~

Marsden Fund success in School

UC researchers have been awarded nearly $3 million in funding in this year’s Marsden Fund round.

Daniel Stouffer and Pieter Pelser were both awarded Fast-Start grants worth $345,000 over three years.

Pieter, working with Julie Barcelona, will research the topic "Untangling a vine and its parasite: the importance of cospeciation, host-switching and geographic isolation in the evolutionary history of Tetrastigma and Rafflesia". The research aims to identify the factors driving parasitic plant evolution through the study of the Philippine species of the parasitic genus Rafflesia and its host plants.

Daniel will use his funding to investigate the topic "Bringing ecology full circle: Understanding species-level consequences from a community perspective". He will look at how the interactions between species within ecological communities allow us to better understand the importance of different species in ecological networks.
Latest publications in the school


and now for something completely different.....

Penny's Blue, feeling blue after another 5.5

Thought for the week

We never know the love of a parent till we become parents ourselves. -Henry Ward Beecher
This week the ABC’s and the RWC final!

All staff, technicians and postgraduate students are welcome (and expected!) to attend the Annual Biology Conference held in the A1-3 lecture block. The Programme and Abstracts can be found at: [http://www.biol.canterbury.ac.nz/abc](http://www.biol.canterbury.ac.nz/abc)

So, it's down to the French and us! ('Us' equals everyone (I hope) in the School with the exception of any French students!).

Best wishes also to our students for their exams - let's hope that the only ground shaking that goes on will be next Sunday's RWC final.

It is interesting how two staff from the School are involved in emergencies in Tauranga: David Schiel has been providing information and advice on the spot in Tauranga with respect to the oil spill, and I have been there also as a member of the Research Oversight Committee on the Psa (*Pseudomonas syringae pv actinidiae*) outbreak in kiwifruit in the wider Te Puke region. Both issues have major impacts on the livelihood of the wider Tauranga region, and for Psa there is the potential for the entire kiwifruit industry to be affected.

Bill got to Antarctica. He survived his two days of field training which included a night out in a tent. The overnight temperature was somewhere between 30 and 33C (minus). He reports it was a good, clear sunny night so he still has all of his fingers and toes. No report from Selwyn who is in a different climatic zone (Fiji!).

I will look to update the building situation as it comes to hand in Bill's absence.

~ Paula ~

PS Monday 24th is Labour Day, which is a public holiday, so the University will be closed.

**and now for something completely different.....**

*Some impressive photos of the semi-finals at the weekend*

**Thought for the week**

"I am who I am, and I play the way I play, and if you like it or not, that's me..." Quade Cooper
End of year examinations 25 October - 10 November

Well, other than THAT big news over the weekend, the biggest story of the week is that exams start for our undergraduate students today. This is a stressful time for them and results in a lot of marking for teaching staff over the coming weeks. It is also worth (once again) congratulating all involved in last week’s Annual Biology Conference – as usual it was incredibly well organised and the quality of presentations was very high (a good example to us all).

~ Matthew ~

P.S. To divert any possible criticism that an Australian is underplaying the great result in the world cup – well done to the All Blacks and well done to NZ for hosting what seems to be have been regarded as a great tournament. It is good to see good news coming out of this part of the world.

Hot off the Press

Check out Jon Harding in today’s Press.

Annual Biology Conference winners

Overall Talk Achievement: Sol Heber
Overall Paper Achievement: Stephanie Searle

Best PhD talks
1st: Helen Warburton
2nd: Kate Schimanski
3rd: Liz Deakin

Best MSc talks
1st: Archie MacFarlane
2nd: Jennifer Iles
3rd: Rachel van Heugten

Best BSc Hons talk: Sarah Jodczyk

Best Poster: Kate Schowe
Best Paper: Phil Jellyman
Journal news

Latest publications in the school

and now for something completely different…..

From warm up to Victory

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
A chicken crossing the road is pultry in motion.
The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.
Bakers trade brea recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Thought for the week

"It's hard to describe. I'm absolutely shagged. The courage, what the guys put in out there, we dug deeper than we ever have before". - Richie McCaw
The great weather must mean that it is Show Week this week. This is an important time in the local calendar, and also for us to show ourselves off at the A+P Show this coming week. The biology display is always very popular, thanks in no small part to the folk who volunteer their time and effort to prepare and look after it.

For the recent Cantabrians, don’t forget that this Friday is a public holiday here for Canterbury Anniversary Day (I still tend to forget, 16 years on...)

~ Matthew ~

**Miss EL Hellaby Indigenous Grasslands Research Trust success**

Simon Litchwark (MSc candidate) has been awarded with a grant of $40,000 towards his MSc project on the impact of honeybee declines on native plant and invasive weed pollination in grasslands. His senior supervisor is Jason Tylianakis. Congratulations!

**UC freshwater research inspires MP's visit**

[http://www.comsdev.canterbury.ac.nz/rss/news/?feed=news&articleId=247](http://www.comsdev.canterbury.ac.nz/rss/news/?feed=news&articleId=247)

Welcome back...

Dr Hamish Greig, Postdoctoral research fellow, has returned from the University of British Columbia to complete his term with the Freshwater Ecology Research Group under Angus McIntosh (Mackenzie Foundation Chair).
Latest publications in the school


and now for something completely different.....

[National Geographic best photos for October](https://www.nationalgeographic.com)

Thought for the week

Ignore what a man desires, and you ignore the very source of his power. -Walter Lippman
Miss EL Hellaby Indigenous Grasslands Research Trust

Elle Soper (MSc candidate) has been awarded with a grant of $45,000 towards her MSc project on the interactive effects of nitrogen enrichment and warming treatments on the functional assembly of native grasslands in NZ. Her senior supervisor is Jason Tylianakis. Congratulations!

Recent conference success

Frank Burdon was awarded the SIL Trust prize for the best oral presentation (first-equal) after giving his talk titled “The agro-ecological network: Riparian drivers and the relative effect of fine sediment and nutrients on invertebrate communities in agricultural streams” at the joint Congress of the Australian Society of Limnology and New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society held in Brisbane during September. Frank also presented at the International Water Association’s Diffuse Pollution conference in Rotorua in the same month. Earlier in the year, Frank was awarded the prestigious Petersen Award which enabled him to travel to Providence, Rhode Island, USA, to present findings from his PhD research at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the North American Benthological Society. Although old news now, Frank, in collaboration with Jon Harding, has been allocated funds from the Brian Mason Scientific & Technical Trust to perform stable isotope analyses for the purposes of constructing food webs in his research proposal: “Understanding how sediment damages stream food webs in Canterbury agro-ecosystems.” Frank would also like to report that the silver Nissan van, which broke down on his watch during the 375 field trip, has been successfully repaired, and is set to torture staff and students alike for at least another good few years.

Annual Biology Photo Competition winners

This year’s theme was "Pretty Ugly"

1st place Simon Litchwark - Pretty? Ugly? It's all relative
Journal news

Latest publications in the school


Thought for the week

"Actually, all education is self-education. A teacher is only a guide, to point out the way, and no school, no matter how excellent, can give you education. What you receive is like the outlines in a child’s coloring book. You must fill in the colors yourself.” - Louis L’Amour
A belated thank you to all those who helped at the A&P Show. Well done on the 3rd place for Indoor Exhibits.

As I have foreshadowed I’m off to China from the 23rd November to the 9th December. When Bill gets back from the ice he will be Acting Head. I’m faced with a dilemma - how to pack for 22 degrees in one city and snow showers in the next! Plus fitting in all the necessary pamphlets, computer and gifts.

~ Paula ~

A&P Show Exhibit

**Kristin Scheuer (PhD candidate) sells the charms of the estuary**

**SBS’s section of the UC display**

Congratulations to the organisers and volunteers at the School of Biological Sciences A&P Show Exhibit last week. The UC exhibit won third prize for the Best Presented Indoor Trade Site. Biological
Sciences’ contribution “The Avon/Heathcote estuary: change after the earthquakes” included an estuary ecosystem display aquarium, crab burrow tanks, baby flounder, microalgae and details of the Marine Ecology Research Group’s work in the estuary. The interactive displays (as interactive as they could be given the estuary’s mud is contaminated with sewage!) were a big hit with the children and most adults were able to be convinced that ‘mud matters’. Special thanks for all the work put in by Jan McKenzie, Mike Hickford, Nick Etheridge, Matt Walters and all the volunteers on the exhibit stand. Thanks also for financial contributions from the School and MERG.

Journal news

Latest publications in the school


and now for something completely different...

Sanger Institute-Story behind the science: Malaria’s Achilles’ heel

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_6m40zSX9g&feature=digest_tue

Julian Rayner is an ex-Cantabrian, now running a lab at the Sanger Institute in Cambridge

Thought for the week

TV. If kids are entertained by two letters, imagine the fun they’ll have with twenty-six. Open your child’s imagination. Open a book. -Unknown
I have returned from the South to a remarkably quiet 4th floor with Paula, Matthew and Marie all away, so lots of admin work to keep me occupied. It was time to come home because it was getting too warm: we headed down in temperatures of -33C, but today at Scott Base the temperature reached plus 1.6C, and the whole place is melting.

Back here, things seem to have started to wind down already, and the place feels remarkable empty, I’m sure because everyone is out doing fieldwork. If you are, then please keep a part of your brain focussed on Health and Safety and have a safe and event-free summer. And don’t forget the sunscreen – the ozone hole was very big this year and so New Zealand will be getting lots of UV.

Building News

As I have been away for a while, this bit of the newsletter has been somewhat silent. Time to get it going again.

Remedial work in the atrium and stairwell is going well, and the plan is still to have it all finished before the Christmas break. Hawkins will then be looking towards work in the lab areas. We have no details of this work yet, but there are plans for a briefing session before Christmas. One hiccup in the process is that the architects are not satisfied with the final look of the stairs now that the cracks have been injected and it has all been ground back – be prepared for more grinding work.

Work has finally started on strengthening of the shear walls in Zoology. This has been holding up other construction work, so it is good to see this happening.

I need to remind everyone that Zoology is a building site and access through it is only at specific times and these times are on the doors. Please do not take shortcuts through Zoology outside of these times.

A final comment is about jandals. Summer is almost upon us with people moving into summer attire, including footwear. The School has a policy of NO JANDALS in any research lab. This includes the whole of the research building. If you see anyone wearing jandals, politely remind them of this policy.

~ Bill ~

Life began with a planetary mega-organism

RNA Structure Prediction by New Scientist on 25 November 2011
Check out Ant Poole in this article.
POSTGRADUATE NEWS

Freddie Prebble (MSc candidate) was giving his first conference presentation last Thursday at the New Zealand Microbiology Meeting in Palmerston North. Unfortunately there was a power cut and so Freddie had to give his talk using only a whiteboard and marker.

and now for something completely different...

Just in case you haven't started to make your Christmas cake yet....
by Delia Smith

Thought for the week

Christmas! The very word brings joy to our hearts. No matter how we may dread the rush, the long Christmas lists for gifts and cards to be bought and given, when Christmas Day comes there is still the same warm feeling we had as children, the same warmth that enfolds our hearts and our homes. - Joan Winmill Brown
The official release of grades on Friday (2nd) marks another milestone and the end of the academic year, although our new 2nd year summer course (BIOL203 Introduction to Forensic Biology) has just started, and I will be teaching in ANTA101 later today, just to remind us that there is always something happening. I would like to congratulate all of our students for doing so well this year. There was the potential for it all to turn to custard, but you hung in there and completed your studies, with record numbers of students passing courses.

Now that 2011 is out of the way you need to be thinking about next year. If you are enrolling for the first time in 2012, you probably won’t be reading this, but if you are, then you only have five days left to get your application in. For returning students, think about applying now. Your deadline is early January, but if you leave it until then, you will get caught up in Christmas festivities, then holidays, and you will forget. The centralised timetabling project is slowly gearing up, so hopefully in about a month’s time you will know when your lectures will happen. Associated with this is a rumour that the new timetable will have ALL lectures starting on the hour, so the tradition of having afternoon lectures starting at ten past the hour will fade into history.

Building News

The scaffolding on the back stairwell of the research building is about to come down. There is still quite a bit of finishing work to do in this area, but getting rid of scaffolding that has been in place since January is a positive sign. Work in the atrium has reached the tidy-up and painting stages and the plan is for this area to be scaffolding free before Christmas.

Stage 2 continues. There has been a great deal of activity on level 1 and there is now a very big hole at the west end, with a similar hole planned for the eastern end. Once they fill them in with lots of concrete we will be getting up towards the 100% of code target.

Another plea for people to use the linkway between von Haast and the new building only during the specified times. That corridor is busy with workmen and is a hazardous area. In particular, there is work planned for the linkway on level 2 and you need to keep out of their way.

~ Bill ~

Don’t forget to RSVP for the Christmas BBQ by 9th at the latest.

Unfortunately due to an edict from the Senior Management Team we are unable to accommodate partners (or children) on the 15th.
Lastest publications in the school


Congratulations Kristy on your first primary authorship


Congratulations Lucy on your first publication!

and now for something completely different...

Spain reign! Rampant Nadal guides hosts to Davis Cup glory over Argentina
Wales 18 Australia 24: Defeat for Williams but legend makes scoring end to brilliant career
Santa Parade, Christchurch
(check out the Photo Gallery)

Thought for the week

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day.
Don't clean it up too quickly. -Andy Rooney
Academic promotions

Jason Tylianakis, Rutherford Discovery Fellow, has become our latest Professor. Congratulations!

Both Ren Dobson and Sharyn Goldstien have been promoted to Senior Lecturers.

Latest hatchling

Paul Gardner, Rutherford Discovery Fellow, has a new addition to the family. Eva Agnes was born Friday 25th November weighing in at 3.63 kg (or 8 lb and 0.04 oz!) and measuring 55 cm (approx) (21.7"). Her brothers think she is pretty special!

Lastest publications in the school


and now for something completely different...

Masters of disguise
HMS Ocean - All I want for Christmas

Thought for the week
A little thought for those about to graduate:
The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence. -Eddie Robinson
As Christmas approaches and 2011 draws to a close this will be the last newsletter for the year. I find reflecting on this last year has a somewhat unreal aspect to it: we have been through, and are still going through, the type of disaster that we would normally see only reflected to us through the media. Yet staff and students alike have worked through this year, staff delivering our teaching programme, students continuing with their studies and research, all determined to support each other, the School, the University and the community. I am really proud of how the School has worked together, and look forward to working with you all in 2012 - another year that will not be free of challenges as we work though the remediation of Putaiao koiora and move into the refurbished Biology building.

In a small effort to rebuild connections and attract new students, our family travelled to China with Jason Song (Senior Research Fellow in my lab, and now part-time Professor at Yantai University). The first formal meeting was at Wuhan Botanic Gardens where John Clemens, as Curator of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, myself, representing our MoU with the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and personnel from Wuhan Botanic Gardens met to rekindle the tripartite MoU and potential research collaborations. I subsequently talked at three schools in Wuhan, and visited four Universities (three in the Shandong region) with the aim of developing formal Memoranda of Agreement. We also managed a bit of sightseeing around Beijing (Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City and of the course the Great Wall), Xi'an (the Terracotta Warriors - full size and the half size ones) and travelled overland in dense fog from Jinan to Weihai.
Take care everyone over the break, have a safe and relaxing holiday season and I look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

~ Paula ~
Professor Tylianakis receiving his bubbles

Lecturing academics making it big this year!
In order of receiving award/accolades:

Tammy Steeves, received a UC Teaching Award.

Brian Mason Grant applicants: Chris Glover, Arvind Varsani, Jason Tylianakis, Melanie Massaro and Raph Didham.

Paula Jameson was made a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science for her “outstanding contribution to New Zealand horticultural Science”.

Jon Harding, received a Tertiary Teaching Excellence award.

Ant Poole, Rutherford Discovery Fellow 2011-2016

Paul Broady, College of Science Lecturer of the Year

Pieter Pelser and Daniel Stouffer, were both awarded Fast-Start grants worth $345,000 over three years.

Jason Tylianakis, Rutherford Discovery Fellow, has become our latest Professor.

Ren Dobson and Sharyn Goldstien have been promoted to Senior Lecturers.

Student successes

Helen Warburton, PhD candidate, won a prestigious Poster award at the 4th International SIZEMIC Workshop, in Hamburg, Germany.

Annual Biology Conference winners

Overall Talk Achievement: Sol Heber
Overall Paper Achievement: Stephanie Searle

Best PhD talks
1st: Helen Warburton
2nd: Kate Schimanski
3rd: Liz Deakin

Best MSc talks
1st: Archie MacFarlane
2nd: Jenifer Iles
3rd: Rachel van Heugten
Best BSc Hons talk: **Sarah Jodczyk**

Best Poster: **Kate Schowe**
Best Paper: **Phil Jellyman**

**Simon Litchwark** and **Elle Soper** (MSc candidates) were awarded with Miss EL Hellaby Indigenous Grasslands Research Trust grants.

**Frank Burdon** (PhD candidate), was awarded the SIL Trust prize for the best oral presentation (first-equal) at the joint Congress of the Australian Society of Limnology and New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society. Frank also presented at the International Water Association’s Diffuse Pollution conference. He was also awarded the prestigious **Petersen Award** which enabled him to travel to Providence, Rhode Island, USA, to present findings from his PhD research at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the North American Benthological Society.

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**New additions to the school**

![Photo of new additions](image)

**Daniel Stouffer** arrived in late February as our new community ecologist.

**Paul Gardner** arrived in April as a Rutherford Discovery Fellow till 2015.

**Dr William Godsoe** arrived in semester 2 to the fixed-term position in Terrestrial Community Ecology. This position is to fill the role of Jason Tylianakis while he has his Rutherford Discovery Fellowship (to March 2016).
Visitors to the school

Professor Robert (Bob) Warner, Erskine Fellow, visited the School when it turned to custard! No doubt he will be returning when the year is more favourable.

Associate Professor Matt Perugini, Erskine Fellow, visited the School hosted by BIC. His upbeat enthusiasm teaching BCHM222 left many students star struck!
Hatches, Matches and Dispatches

We go ga-ga...

**Tegan Manning Steeves-Wright** arrived safe and sound on Friday 29 April at 2:07pm. Parents Tammy and Cam were over the moon.

![Image of Tegan Manning Steeves-Wright and baby Elouise](image1.png)

**Elouise** - lil marine baby created by Kerry (O'Connell) and Paul South.

![Image of mother and baby Elouise](image2.png)
**Pippa Elizabeth Reeves** was born on Tuesday August 16th at 8:13 pm. She is the delightful buddy for Kristy Hogsden (PhD candidate) and Ian Reeves.

![Pippa Elizabeth Reeves](image1)

**Josephine Elanor Parker**, at 2 days old who was born on Friday 26th August. Parents Jennifer Gillette and Victor Parker were overjoyed at their first daughter.

![Josephine Elanor Parker](image2)
Eva Agnes was born Friday 25th November. Her brothers think she is pretty special as does mum and dad (Paul Gardner).

We celebrate...

On the 8th January, Alfred the Great lead a West Saxon army to repel an invasion by Danelaw Vikings and Phil Jellyman got married....
Sara Kross (PhD candidate) married her beau. Here is a delightful shot of the happy couple!

We remember...

Ian L. Daniel, Palaeobotanist, great bloke.
**Don Merton** - Don and our Black Robin team were working closely together and Don is a co-author on a paper submitted by Ant, Mel, Marie, Jim and Raaz Sainudiin.

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**December Graduation - 14 December 2011**

**Doctor of Philosophy**

**Fiona R. Cross in Zoology**
Attentional processes in mosquito-eating jumping spiders

**Benjamin K. Franzmayr in Biotechnology**
Metabolic engineering of isoflavonoid biosynthesis in tobacco and white clover

**Phillip G. Jellyman in Ecology**
Disentangling the effects of disturbance and habitat size on stream community structure
Master of Science

Thomas G. Evans  Cellular and Molecular Biology  Distinction
Hannah M. Franklin  Zoology  Second Class Honours (Division I)
Angus J.C. Lindsay  Zoology  Second Class Honours (Division II)

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences/Biochemistry

Nathan J. Ainsworth  David S. Aitken  Jimma L.Q. Arnaiz
Ashton H.A. Balderstone  Quoyah T. Barr-Glintborg  Lauren E. Batt
Carlo M. Botha  Emma L. Cameron  Jong C. Choi
Michael M. Cowie  Sarah F. Cull-Luketina  Emily Y. de Vries
Andrina G. Dooley  Sarah E. Fitzpatrick  Ge Gao
Nathan M. Gillam  Letitia H. Gilmour  Andrew M. Green
Jenna Heins  Simon J. Hogg  Olivia R. Johnston
Gregory T. Leaman  Chelsey M.A. Loader  Laura A. Love
Ka Y. Luk  Jania L. Lynds  Kimberley J. Macdonald
Duncan P. MacIntyre  Delphine Marjoshi  Thomas P. Moore
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and now for something completely different...

Christmas scene in China
Thought for the year

Today’s decoration of three women with the highest universal Peace Prize must not be a passing historic moment. We must look upon this event as a milestone in the inexorable march toward the achievement of a genuine and lasting peace.

Closing remark by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, joint winner of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize with Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman