Welcome back! I hope that you have all had the opportunity for at least a little bit of R&R over the summer break – I have memories of warm sea, coral, brightly coloured fish, swinging out over a blue hole (and dropping into it), and riding a bike with a back pedal brake and no gears (just like two of my school bicycles) along rugged roads (laid by the Americans during WWII) with back pack containing flippers and snorkel. Yes, we did get to Vanuatu and avoided all cyclones (but not necessarily rain).

Semester 1 seems to be starting earlier and earlier – the 18th February, only three and a bit weeks away! As many of you are know, as students start to come back onto campus so do the stair walkers – those into opportunistic thieving – so if you are not sure if someone should be where they are simply ask if you can help them. If they are a genuine student this might mean a friendly helpful interaction, and if they are a stair walker this is usually sufficient to cause them to leave.

The ‘bump’ we had last weekend should be a reminder that earthquakes may yet not be a thing of the past and to remain aware of where your personal items are – preferably on your person. Bill will continue to keep us up-to-date with the remediation process in Putaiao koiora. And as the semester progresses so will the planning for the Regional Science and Innovation Centre (RSIC).

I hope you all have an excellent year – whether this be as a UC student or a UC staff member!

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school

The first papers for the year!


This is Allie's (MSc candidate) first publication AND at first author to boot!


**Last round for 2012**


**PhD oral completed**

**Scott Graham** had his oral defence on the last day of the UC term, Friday 21st December. Scott’s thesis is entitled 'Components of ecosystem carbon dioxide exchange in a New Zealand tussock grassland under soil warming and nitrogen addition'. His senior supervisor is Professor Jason Tylianakis. Congratulations Scott!

Pictured: David Whitehead (Co-Supervisor), Scott Graham and Marta Camps (Oral Examiner)

**Making news...**

**Stinus Lindgreen** (Postdoctoral Fellow) appeared online: [http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/ED1212/S00138/danish-expert-at-uc-for-two-years-to-study-climate-change.htm](http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/ED1212/S00138/danish-expert-at-uc-for-two-years-to-study-climate-change.htm)
and now for something completely different...

Here are the five worst Christmas gift ideas and the most often returned items
1. Clothing
2. Home items, toys, games and hobbies
3. Beauty items and perfumes
4. Consumer electronics
5. Jewelry and watches

**Top 10 New Year’s Resolutions**
1. Spend More Time with Family & Friends
2. Fit in Fitness
3. Tame the Bulge
4. Quit Smoking
5. Enjoy Life More
6. Quit Drinking
7. Get Out of Debt
8. Learn Something New
9. Help Others
10. Get Organised

**New York Best Seller List - Combined Print & E-Book Fiction**
1. A MEMORY OF LIGHT, by Robert Jordan and Brandon Sanderson
2. HOPELESS, by Colleen Hoover
3. GONE GIRL, by Gillian Flynn
4. SAFE HAVEN, by Nicholas Sparks
5. FIFTY SHADES OF GREY, by E. L. James

**TIME Picks the Top 10 Photos of 2012**

**Thought for the Week**
Most people live and die with their music still unplayed. They never dare to try. -Mary Kay Ash
Recent publications in the school


PhD oral completed

It is with great delight that the school announces the completion of Sue's defence - CONGRATULATIONS!!

Sue Adkins, had her oral defence on Wednesday 23 January. Her thesis is entitled ‘Population biology and restoration of intertidal cockle beds’. Her supervisors are Associate Professor Islay Marsden and Dr John Pirker.

Pictured: Islay Marsden, Sue Adkins and Vonda Cummings (External Examiner, NIWA, Wellington)

Introducing...

Dr Andrew Muscroft-Taylor

Over the few remaining weeks of the year and in the New Year, we will be profiling each of the members of the newly established Industrial Research Limited Protein Science and Engineering Team located here at the University of Canterbury. We begin with the Team Leader, Dr Andrew Muscroft-Taylor.

Andrew concluded his PhD studies in synthetic organic chemistry within the Department of Chemistry here at the University of Canterbury in 2006. He then embarked on post-doctoral research in the School of Biological Sciences with Juliet Gerrard, where he was engaged in protein structure and function studies of dihydrodipicolinate synthase. In 2010, Andrew relocated to Wellington to begin a position with Industrial Research Limited (IRL), a Crown Research Organisation (CRI). Here Andrew worked in the Carbohydrate Chemistry Team, providing synthetic chemistry solutions to New Zealand and International clients. In 2012, Andrew returned to Christchurch to lead the new Protein
Science and Engineer Team based within the Biomolecular Interaction Centre (BIC) at the University of Canterbury. Andrew wishes he had more time to play Ultimate and practice Karate, but usually ends up fighting his rampant raspberry and blackberry bushes in his vege garden.

and now for something completely different...

The 10 best chocolatiers in the world

The latest Ikea catalogue

Thought for the Week

A dream is an answer to a question we haven’t yet learned how to ask. - Fox Mulder
As I am still taking anti-malarial tablets (and weathering the rather strange side effects) I am reminded that there was a holiday somewhere not so many weeks ago. I seem to have hit the year running with grant applications due, papers to write, new postgrads starting in the lab, enquiries coming in, UC Futures discussions, remediation discussions and re-organisations within our own general staff as we, as a School, work together to stay at the forefront of quality research and teaching. I believe we can all look forward to an exciting and progressive year within the School and UC as we move into the new academic year.

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school

This is Frank’s first paper from his thesis, which he has yet to submit. Well done!


Industrial Research Limited is now Callaghan Innovation

Callaghan Innovation

Some of you may be aware that a research team was established by Industrial Research Limited (IRL) here at the University of Canterbury in the School of Biological Sciences in mid 2012. The Protein Science and Engineering Team, headed by Dr Andrew Muscroft-Taylor, has been working with Canterbury businesses to solve their biotechnology problems and add value to their existing manufacturing streams. On February 1, IRL transitioned into Callaghan Innovation. This new government entity has been created to accelerate the commercialization of innovation in New Zealand firms. The name of Callaghan Innovation is an acknowledgement and celebration of one of New Zealand’s greatest scientists, Sir Paul Callaghan. His belief was that science was not only about great ideas, but getting value from those ideas through innovation and commercialization. More information on Callaghan Innovation can be found at: http://www.callaghaninnovation.govt.nz/.

Introducing...

Michael Steward

Callaghan Innovation is pleased to welcome Dr Michael Steward (Senior Research Scientist) to the Protein Science and Engineering Team.

Michael undertook his BSc (Biochemistry) and PhD (Molecular Virology) at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the UK. Michael has extensive experience in the biotechnology industry, working for a series of companies including Novocastra Laboratories, AdProTech, Lark Technologies and Domantis. Michael’s research has ranged from molecular biology (custom cloning and genotyping) to the development of molecular adjuvants and antibody technology. Michael’s most recent role was with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), where he established a domain antibody discovery group with a focus on bispecific antibody therapies. This role broadened to encompass the generation of monoclonal and domain antibodies to support GSKs biopharmaceutical pipeline. During this time Michael also led a priority project to identify a leading monoclonal antibody discovery platform for in-license. Michael is an author on over 30 papers and has contributed to a similar number of patent filings.

When Michael isn’t working he loves being outdoors, walking or gardening (or even just sitting doing nothing, which doesn’t happen very often). He is a keen sportsman, invariably turning his hand to anything that involves a moving ball (squash and 5-a-side football are my sports of choice). He has been married to Annette, a fellow scientist, for 21 years and is very much looking forward to making a significant contribution to successful partnerships between Callaghan Innovation and the University of Canterbury.
and now for something completely different...

This is a TED lecture about a project that uses crochet, and mathematics, to model coral reefs
http://www.ted.com/talks/margaret_wertheim_crochets_the_coral_reef.html

Complete Life Cycle of the Monarch Butterfly

Thought for the Week

People who make no mistakes lack boldness and the spirit of adventure. They are the brakes on the wheels of progress. -Dale Turner
Recent publications in the school


and now for something completely different...

The Festival of Flowers, 16 February - 3 March

La Grande Swim - 23 February

The Science of Love
Thought for the Week

Dear Mr. Jarrell:

It seems that the twenty-fourth floor is complaining of lost students who are hunting you. Could you put your name and office hours on the door?

Thank you.

The English Office

[University of Texas, at Austin]

RANDALL JARRELL, OFFICE HOURS 10-11

Mr Jarrell:
Come back and you will find me just the same
Hunters, hunters--but why should I go on?
Learn for yourself (if you are made to learn)
That you must haunt an hourless, nameless door
Before you find--not me, but anything.

Lost Students:
It never seemed to me that I was lost.
You were, perhaps; at least, no one was there.
I missed you; why should I go back?
I am no hunter, I say. I was sent
And asked to find--not you, not anything.

English Office:
Each of them is lost, and neither hunting;
And they stand still around a crazy door
That tells a truth, or lie, that no one learns.
Here is a name, an hour for you to use:
But name, or come, or come not, as you choose.
Welcome to Semester 1

Welcome to all our new postgraduate and undergraduate students. It was great to see how talkative and interactive our new 4th year group was this morning. I hope you will take advantage of the brand new facilities available to you on the 4th floor of SBS2.

I thought it might be useful to repeat what I put in the first newsletter of the year and mentioned to our 4th years today, but it applied equally to everyone on campus: As students start to come back onto campus so do the stair walkers – those into opportunistic thieving – so if you are not sure if someone should be where they are simply ask if you can help them. If they are a genuine student this might mean a friendly helpful interaction, and if they are a stair walker this is usually sufficient to cause them to leave.

The occasional ‘bumps’ we are having should be reminders that earthquakes may yet not be a thing of the past and to remain aware of where your personal items are – preferably on your person.

Bill will continue to keep us up-to-date with the remediation process in Putaiao koiora. And as the semester progresses so will the planning for the Regional Science and Innovation Centre (RSIC).

I hope you all have an excellent year – whether this be as a UC student or a UC staff member!

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school


and now for something completely different...

Traces of Anxiety Drug May Affect Behavior in Fish

36 Hours in Melbourne, Australia

French Film Festival

28 February - 10 March, Hoyts Northland

Thought for the Week

There is in every woman's heart a spark of heavenly fire which lies dormant in the broad daylight of prosperity, but which kindles up and beams and blazes in the dark hour of adversity. -Washington Irving (1783-1859)
Recent publications in the school

As a temporary measure in the school, a 'Paper of the Week' will be featured at reception. Our publications board will be going up again once level 2 of the research building is fully functional.


Introducing...

Dion Thompson

The next member of the Callaghan Innovation (formerly Industrial Research Limited) Protein Science and Engineering Team is Dion Thompson. Dion refers to himself in response to an old joke that asks “what do you call someone who hangs around with musicians?”, as a science drummer.

Dion has arrived to the team through a circular route that began at Lincoln University for his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Biochemistry, and then relocated to the Thermophile Research Unit at Waikato University. After his time Waikato University, Dion was recruited to AgResearch at Ruakura before taking off to the UK to spend time at North Wyke Research and the University of Exeter. Finally, prior to returning to Canterbury, Dion spent 5 years at Southern Cross University in the beautiful Northern Rivers region of NSW. Dion work focusses on enzymology, natural product characterization and cell culture for commercial clients. Dion has
particular enthusiasm for untangling a spread-sheet full of kinetic data and teasing apart synergist drug responses, where he draws on his additional postgraduate maths knowledge. Dion has published in high quality journals including Methods in Enzymology. Dion also shows his versatility outside of the lab being a keen brewer, Christmas tree farm owner and if he appears a bit grumpy it will be because he is going cold turkey on competitive rugby after thirty years.

and now for something completely different...

Will Godsoe as PI for an international group of biogeographers and theoreticians studying the role of species interactions on models of species distributions. Early Feb, Knoxville TN.

How to look cool
(Really...)

Thought for the Week

There are countless ways of achieving greatness, but any road to achieving one's maximum potential must be built on a bedrock of respect for the individual, a commitment to excellence, and a rejection of mediocrity.

-Buck Rodgers
Congratulations to Jon Harding for his appointment as one of the two Deputy Deans of Postgraduate Studies. Jon has stepped down from his position as our Postgraduate Co-ordinator. Ashley Garrill, who has been the deputy to Jon, has willingly stepped into our position and holds delegated authority from me to be the Post Graduate Co-ordinator for the School of Biological Sciences. Ximena Nelson will be Deputy Post Graduate Co-ordinator.

My grateful thanks to Jon for all his contributions as this is a position with a considerable amount of work and responsibility, and thanks to Ashley and Ximena for taking on their roles.

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school


I forgot to mention last week that this is Carol’s first publication and that she came in as first author, congratulations!


Where are they now...

*Sara Kross (PhD graduate 2012)*, has recently been selected as a 2013 Smith Conservation Research Fellow. She will be moving to California in August to start the two-year fellowship which is coordinated by the Cedar Tree Foundation and the Society for Conservation Biology. Sara will complete a project titled, “Conservation in the agricultural landscape: Investigating the tradeoffs between avian conservation and farm production in an ecosystem services framework” under the academic mentorship of Dr. Jason Townsend at University of California, Davis and working in partnership with Dr. Rodd Kelsey of Audubon California.

and now for something completely different...

*Other reasons why people use discharge certificates*

*Why my cat should be the next pope*  
(try not to take this too seriously...)

*How to slice a tomato*

*Annual farewell to the Godwits*

**Thought for the Week**

The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of the young mind for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards. -Anatole France
BIOSOC has started up again (I do remember it from my earlier years at UC) with an energetic committee with lots of ideas and a BBQ for members (a small joining fee applies) on Friday 15th March. I invite BIOSOC to contribute information/news to our weekly newsletter.

Our student Postgrad Committee is running a Quiz night on the 21st March for teams of eight – a small entry charge applies! I was in the team that came second last time – I hope we win this time!!

~ Paula ~

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**Recent publications in the school**


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

*Beautiful universities around the world*

*A look at the city's harbour*

(with video of Dave Schiel)

Tauranga’s harbour is the focus of a day long symposium aiming to raise awareness and educate the public on the waters surrounding the city.
Turnbulls become Kiwis

Thought for the Week

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated. -Confucius
Packing up a house to move to a new city or even a new house is exciting – but packing up for eight weeks in a motel in the same city is a little less so! So just to let you know we’ve got packers starting next week and a bit of teaching on before Easter, so I may be a little less available this next couple of weeks.

However, the Green Fingers team led by Anish is looking forward to a challenge from other teams – we’ve already got a few staff points (the HoS must be worth at least two) and we’ve been told by judge Dave Collings himself that he is open to bribes!

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school


Newton, A.E., Fairbanks, A.J., Golding, M., Andrewes, P. and Gerrard, J.A. (2012). The role of the Maillard reaction in the formation of flavour compounds in dairy products: not only a deleterious reaction but also a rich source of flavour compounds. Food and Function 3(12): 1231-1241.


Introducing...

Kathryn Baker and Kat Melief (welcome back!) have filled the two new positions of Laboratory/Autoclave Assistants. If Kathryn's name sounds familiar to some zoologists, she did her BSc in Zoology back when Frank and Khris were here! They will be enjoying their new digs in the washing up/autoclave room on the first floor of Biology2 very soon.

Gavin Tisch has replaced Teri Johnston, as a full time Laboratory Assistant. He will be assisting our other Gavin in animal physiology.
Graeme Boddy has jumped in to take up the role of Technical Assistant that Mr Tisch left behind.

James Strong

The next member of the Callaghan Innovation Protein Science and Engineering Team to be profiled is Dr James Strong. James completed his PhD at Rhodes University in South Africa and has a background in biotechnology, microbiology and chemistry. The majority of his research has involved either isolating valuable materials from waste product streams or rendering these waste streams less toxic to the environment. Such projects have application across a wide range of industries. Generally, his research has involved some form of fermentation or biological digestion, but he has demonstrated his versatility by working on projects ranging from fungal enzyme production to antibody purification from tobacco plants. James enjoys developing new processes, often integrating new technologies to improve their efficiency. As part of Callaghan Innovation based at the University of Canterbury, James is enthusiastic about engaging with researchers at UoC on any project that has real-world application.

James has published in a number of biotechnology journals, and is an active reviewer for some of these. He has also had the opportunity to present his work at international research meetings.

In his free time, James is a keen angler and will appreciate any tips on good salmon or blue cod fishing spots.

The Body, the Research and the Professor

CTV will go digital on 18th March. For followers of Canterbury Medical Research Foundation's (CMRF) show, this is very exciting news as their first programme in the new series is scheduled to screen on the 19th March at 8.30 pm and replay over the following week. The second programme is the 26th March plus replays and then weekly, until all five programmes in the series have been broadcast.

Presented by CMRF's Medical Director Professor Robin Fraser with John Dunne, the first show features our very own Associate Professor Steven Gieseg and looks at atherosclerosis and cholesterol issues.

Programme two, guests Drs Anthony and Phil Butler and Nigel Anderson and delves into nanoparticles. Then follow shows with Professor Justin Roake on heart disease and strokes, plastic surgery practices with Mr Jeremy Simcock and Professor Eric Espiner and researcher, geneticist Dr Anna Pilbrow.

CMRF gratefully acknowledges the Mainland Foundation for their support in producing these programmes.
Journal news

BBC World Service - Science in Action

Brain-to-brain communication, featuring at end our very own Jason Tylianakis. Session is 18 minutes long.

and now for something completely different...

Crusaders back on track with Bulls victory

Huge puddle jump surprise

Five top cult movies
(or you be the judge...)
1. Barbarella (1968)
2. The Big Lebowski (1998)
3. Brazil (1985)
4. Breathless (1960)
5. Bride of Frankenstein (1935)

David Attenborough's Kingdom of Plants - Introduction
(Watch it - TV One, Tuesdays, 8.30 pm)

Thought for the Week

Many of the greatest men have owed their success to industry rather than to cleverness. -John Lubbock
The packers moved in today.....

Happy Easter everyone – remember Easter Tuesday is a University Holiday!

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school


Congratulations to Ceci on her first authored publication!


PhD oral completed

Davon Callander, had her defence on Wednesday 13 March. Her thesis is entitled 'Effects of environmental stress on gene expression in mussels'. Her senior supervisor is Professor David Schiel. Congratulations Davon on a well defended thesis!

and now for something completely different...

What causes hiccups?

What does the Easter bunny have to do with Easter?

Waiheke Island Jazz Festival

Kitty, Daisy and Lewis
(a rockabilly treat because tickets are sold out)

Thought for the Week

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature. -Helen Keller

In remembrance of Robyn Pinn - Mum, Grandma, Artist, Geraldine treasure.
Annual Biology Conference (ABC)
Thursday 17 October 2013
Location: A1 - A3
Abstracts due by: 20 September 2013
~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school


PhD orals completed

It is with enormous pleasure that I announce that both Kristy Hogsden and Mauricio Urbina Foneron defended their PhD theses on Wednesday 27 March.

Pictured: Associate Professor Jon Harding (Senior Supervisor), Kristy Hogsden (PhD candidate) and Associate Professor Kevin Collier (Oral Examiner)

Kristy's thesis is titled 'Structure and function of food webs in streams'.
Mauricio’s thesis is titled 'Physiological responses of Inanga (Galaxias maculatus) (Jenys) to environmental salinity and oxygen levels: The role of gills and skin in ion exchange and gas exchange across a salinity gradient'.

In the Spotlight...

Paul Gardner’s research has been immortalised into a cartoon! Paul attended a recent conference in Boston and Francis Rowland gave him this fine compliment! Francis Rowland cartooned Paul Gardner’s talk

Ant Poole’s article on “What if Kiwi are just tiny Moa?” was highlighted on 'The Civilian' website.

Adjunct Associate Professor John Clemens, has a glorious spread in Avenues (April issue) titled ‘A green heart’. A Jurassic gift for the Christchurch Botanic Gardens’ 150th anniversary year is a symbol of exciting things to come for this beloved piece of turf. It’s curator John Clemens’ job to help work out what to plant where for the next half-century.

and now for something completely different...

Kitty goes nuts for milk

Scientific Articles Accepted (Personal Checks, Too)
Thoughts for the Week

Former British Prime Minster Margaret Thatcher has died at the age of 87 after suffering a stroke.

Here is a selection of her best quotes:
1. "Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't."
2. "I always cheer up immensely if an attack is particularly wounding because I think, well, if they attack one personally, it means they have not a single political argument left."
3. "I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end."
4. "If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman."
5. "Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country."
6. "A world without nuclear weapons would be less stable and more dangerous for all of us."
7. "To wear your heart on your sleeve isn't a very good plan; you should wear it inside, where it functions best."
8. "I seem to smell the stench of appeasement in the air."
9. "I don't mind how much my ministers talk, as long as they do what I say."
10. "Pennies don't fall from heaven; they have to be earned here on Earth."
The long-awaited PBRF results are out. As many of you now know the School has come out extremely well - well tops really! As a School our overall score was 6.2. We are the top equal department at UC (with Psychology), and the top School of Biological Sciences in the country (Auckland SBS scored 4.8). Over three quarters of our PBRF-eligible staff scored a 'B' or better. Our 2005 Strategic Plan set a target of 75% of staff reaching at least a B grade and that was before the earthquakes so well done, we made it.

Thanks are due to Matthew who guided the preparation of the evidence portfolios - and a big thank you to all our researchers and that includes not just the academic leading a lab group but the post docs and post grads in our labs and the technical staff who support them, as well as all our other support staff - its been a huge team effort.

The score is even more impressive when you consider what we went through from Sept 2010 and through 2011, in and out of our labs - and in some cases completely out of homes - but the research and writing and portfolio preparation continued apace. Our performance also shows that the faith the UC Council put in us with the $56 million building/refurbishment programme has indeed been vindicated. We now need to turn this result to our advantage in recruiting more students!

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school


In the Spotlight... Jack Heinemann

The Press
Lax GM rules may bit back - scientists
Scientist warned agency of GM danger
Is it safe to eat?

FWPlus website
New GM technology under fire
Radio New Zealand News

New GM food not proven safe

Radio New Zealand National

Claims of lax food safety regulations for GM molecules (17min, 32sec)

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and now for something completely different...

How to put a cat in a cat carrier easily
(Just for you Alan!!!)

How to build a fairy house

---

Thought for the Week

Great graduation motivation:
Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.

~ Steve Jobs
We are now into term two and many of us are back into the swing of teaching after a busy ‘break’ of field activities. My impression is that field campaigns went well and students have come back from their field experiences pretty enthusiastic about their studies (if a little wet...). Best wishes for those teaching in the coming weeks.

On a darker note, please be careful about office/lab security – we have greater flows of people through our buildings during teaching time and it is difficult to know who belongs and who doesn’t. Already we have had a theft from a closed (but not locked) office. It’s really important to keep doors locked when offices are not occupied – the small additional hassle of locking/unlocking is worth it in comparison to having personal and/or Uni gear stolen.

~ Matthew ~

Recent publications in the school


PhD oral completed

Roopashree Revanna defended her thesis on Monday 15 April. The title is 'Investigation into the functional nature of FRC locus conditioning fructan levels in onion'. Her senior supervisor is Professor Matthew Turnbull.

Pictured: Professor Matthew Turnbull (Senior Supervisor), Dr Elspeth McRae (Oral Examiner), Roopashree Revanna and Dr John McCallum (Associate Supervisor)
Wedding bells

On Friday April 19th, Aliaa Idris (PhD student in plant cell biology) married Mohamad Safwan Ismail in Kejong, near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
In the Spotlight

Mark Silby (PhD graduate 2002) has been living in Boston for 11 years, and teaches microbiology at the University of Massachusetts. He spoke on the Morning Report (Radio New Zealand) about the tragic events in Boston.

April graduation - 19 April 2013

Doctor of Philosophy

IN PERSON

Sue Adkins in Environmental Sciences (awarded 17 April 2013)
Population biology and restoration of intertidal cockle beds

Kristy Hogsden in Ecology
Structure and function of food webs in acid mine drainage streams

Sarah-Jane O’Connor in Ecology
Quantifying seed dispersal of matai (Prumnopitys taxifolia)
IN ABSENTIA

Mauricio Urbina Foneron in Zoology
Physiological responses of inanga (Galaxias maculatus) (Jenys) to environmental salinity and oxygen levels: the role of gills and skin in ion exchange and gas exchange across a salinity gradient

COUNCIL CEREMONY

Scott Graham in Ecology
Components of ecosystem carbon dioxide exchange in a New Zealand tussock grassland under soil warming and nitrogen addition

Rocio Jana in Ecology
Animal dispersal and its consequences for plant recruitment

Tristan Stringer in Zoology
Developmental of biossay approaches to evaluate the impacts of pollution on New Zealand estuaries using the marine copepod Quinquelaophonte sp.
Master of Science

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Kim Roberts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh van Vianen</td>
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COUNCIL CEREMONY
Ashley Card, Zoology, First Class Honours, 30 January 2013
Kristy Udy, Ecology, Second Class Honours, Division I, 30 January 2013
Shevelle Hutt, Zoology, First Class Honours, 27 February 2013
Laurel Julian, Microbiology, First Class Honours, 27 March 2013
Bachelor of Science with Honours

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<td>Melissa Webby</td>
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IN ABSENTIA

Tessa Lambert, Biochemistry, Second Class Honours, Division I

COUNCIL CEREMONY

Marleen van Oeveren, Biochemistry, First Class Honours

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences/Biochemistry

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<tr>
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<th>Nixie C.M. Boddy</th>
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IN ABSENTIA

Reuben D. Herz-Edinger

Tessa K. Lambert
and now for something completely different...

Tribute to Dave McCartney

Is that the way

Virginia

Never fade away

Tribute to Chrissy Amphlett (Divinyls)

I touch myself

Pleasure and pain

Thought for the Week

Retirement quotes:
Aging is not lost youth, but a new stage of opportunity and strength. - Betty Friedan

People forget how fast you did a job, but they remember how well you did it. - Howard Newton

The things that one wants most to do are the things that are probably most worth doing. - Winifred Holtby

To sit in the shade on a fine day and look upon the verdure is the most perfect refreshment. - Jane Austen

It's not the hours you put in your work that counts, it's the work you put in the hours. - Sam Ewing
Recent publications in the school


This publication has extra kudos by having their research on the front cover of this issue! Check it out.


and now for something completely different...

The (original) Coffee Club
How to talk like a pirate

Thought for the Week

“The person who says something is impossible should not interrupt the person who is doing it.”
In the spotlight

Many congratulations to three UC PhD students who were recipients of Todd Foundation Awards for Excellence (Universities) last week. These awards support research projects that will benefit New Zealand, with an emphasis on projects with a practical application. Of the eight awards made three were awarded to UC students: Tom Brookman (Geological Sciences), Helen Warburton (Biological Sciences) and Matt Signal (Mechanical Engineering).

Check out the latest UC More, Feel More, Do More campaigns and you will spot Dr Laura Young and Tejraj Janmale (PhD candidate).

BIOSOC presents D.A.D (David Attenborough Day!)

Come celebrate the birthday of one of Biology's most famous personalities, David Attenborough! How do we celebrate birthdays? Why, with cake of course!

BIOSOC and CakeSoc have collaborated to bring you a cake feasting event! THERE WILL BE CAKE.

Feel free to BYO cake to contribute to the cake supply! There will be competitions and prizes for the best David Attenborough! Comes dressed as the man of the hour for some awesome cakes, friends and of course, David! Memorable footage of David Attenborough’s escapades from around the world will be featured!
David Attenborough Day  
Wednesday 8th May  
12pm - 2pm  
School of Biological Sciences Building - Atrium (ground floor, near the aquarium)  

Hope to see you there!!!  
BioSoc Committee  

Facebook link to the DAD event: http://www.facebook.com/events/369239796519146/  
BIOSOC Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/groups/396757107046080/  

and now for something completely different...  

Jock Paget wins Badminton horse trials  
Road Safety Week  
6 - 12 May  
Exam questions foretold  

Thought for the Week  
Things do not change, we change. – Kalidasa
It is a busy time for research-related activities this month. Congratulations to five groups within the School for getting the ‘call-up’ for full proposals by the Marsden Fund. Ant Poole, Ren Dobson, Will Godsoe, Robert Jackson and Mads Thomsen will be leading the charge to get full proposals written over the next few weeks. I am sure they would welcome assistance from colleagues to proof-read drafts so they get the best possible outcome when funding is determined.

Also on the agenda in coming months will be our collective contribution to the National Science Challenges, which were announced last week (http://www.msi.govt.nz/update-me/major-projects/national-science-challenges/). This is an opportunity for all of us to consider how we might contribute. Hazel and the research committee will be requesting suggestions/feedback in the coming weeks, so give some thought to that.

~ Matthew ~

In the spotlight


Check out Nixie Boddy (BSc Hons candidate), Amanda Klemmer (PhD candidate) and Hamish Greig (Postdoctoral Fellow) at the airport on a very large billboard. They are all members of the Freshwater Ecology Research Group.

Introducing...

The next member of the Callaghan Innovation Protein Science and Engineering Team to be profiled is Dr Antonia Miller. Antonia is a Senior Research Scientist in the team, and is an alumnus of the University of Canterbury, obtaining her PhD in Biochemistry under the supervision of Prof Juliet Gerrard. Antonia undertook two post-doctoral fellowships, the first at Case Western Reserve University in the USA, and the second at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. Over these post-doctoral years, Antonia expanded her repertoire to include skills in cell biology and physiology, with an overall focus on diseases that arise as a result of diabetes. Antonia was the holder of a prestigious Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International Fellowship and has been awarded national and international grants from organizations such as the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. Antonia has published in high quality journals in the fields of Biochemistry, Endocrinology and Physiology, such as the Journal of Biological Chemistry, Diabetes and Circulation Research. During her time
at Monash, Antonia was a co-founder of a precinct-wide early career researchers committee, dedicated to the professional development of final year PhD students through to 7 years post-PhD. Antonia enjoys hitting the squash court with some members of the School of Biological Sciences, but is sadly yet to register a win against Dave Collings and has been annihilated by Matt Walters on more than one occasion.

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

If animals would eat fast food

How Dilbert deals with noisy co-workers

How to defrost a freezer

**Thought for the Week**

People have been known to achieve more as a result of working with others than against them.

- Dr. Allan Fromme
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Yet again one of our fine postgraduate students appears on the front cover of the Research Report. This time the accolades go to **Rathishri Chandruveland (PhD candidate).** Rathí’s research topic is 'Investigation of biomarkers of stress in New Zealand bivalves'. Her senior supervisor is Chris Glover.

**Sophia Hunt and Katherine Wootton (MSc candidates)** have both been awarded scholarships from Freemasons New Zealand. They have received $6,000 each towards their studies. Four Canterbury students received these scholarships and two just happen to be ours! Congratulations to you both.

and now for something completely different...

Crusaders make statement with big win
Mazes and Labyrinths
Kenton Nelson

Thought for the Week
Science gives us knowledge, but only philosophy can give us wisdom. - Will Durant
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Robyn White (MSc candidate), has received the Roland Stead Scholarship worth $5,000. Robyn's research is on the 'Response of New Zealand birds to the presence of novel predators' and she is supervised by Jim Briskie. Congratulations Robyn!

Jack Heinemann has been mixing it up again with these articles/opinions on GM research:

- The National Business Review
- GM Watch
- The Conversation

and now for something completely different...

- Animals you didn't know existed
- Goodreads
- All in the family - Too good Edith

Thought for the Week

"Skirt no bigger than a belt, too much eyeliner, and roots as dark as her soul."

- as said by Blanche Hunt about Liz McDonald
Recent publications in the school


PhD oral completed

Paul Dutton, completed his oral exam on Friday 7th June. His thesis is titled ‘Chimpanzee (Pan troglodytes elliot) ecology in a Nigerian Montane Forest’. His senior supervisor is Associate Professor Hazel Chapman and in attendance were Dr Nicholas Malone (Oral Examiner) and Dr Marie Hale (Oral Chair). No commemorative photo, but here is one taken on his research site in Nigeria (pictured at right).

Congratulations Paul!

In the spotlight

If you happen to be in the neighbourhood of Oslo, Norway, you can catch Professor Jim Briskie talk at the Natural History Museum this Thursday, 13 June on ‘Nest predation and the evolution of life history traits in New Zealand birds’.
and now for something completely different...

First footage of ocean's largest bony fish

Beautiful butterfly

What not to do if you fall asleep at work...

How to travel with your dog

Thought for the Week

On the move again...
Building News

Life seems remarkably quiet at the moment after the trials of Monday (yesterday) when we had lots of watery related incidents:

1. One of the R/O (distilled water) units had a hissy fit and destroyed itself. The back-up unit is still working. Major problems and probably major expense to get this unit repaired or replaced.
2. The sewer backed up which forced us to close down the holding tanks coming from the constant temperature rooms. Unfortunately lots of seawater was being drained from one of the CT rooms causing the holding tank to overflow. Luckily we got on to the strong hydrogen sulphide smell fairly quickly.
3. A great deal of water bubbled up through all of the cracks in the basement floor. The hope is that remediation with fix most of this. Serves us right for building a basement in Ilam.

Other than that, not a lot to report: the level 4 move is going very smoothly; Hawkins will start ripping level 4 apart on Monday morning; Hawkins will be shutting down the distilled water on Friday morning

~ Bill ~

Recent publications in the school


**PhD oral completed**

Anastasia Shchepetkina, had her oral exam on Thursday 13 June. Her thesis is titled 'Mechanisms of 7,8-dihydronopterin protection of macrophages from cytotoxicity'. Her senior supervisor is Associate Professor Steven Gieseg. Anastasia originally travelled from the Russian Federation to complete her studies here at Canterbury. She has been a huge asset on the postgraduate front during her time here. Congratulations Anastasia on completing your oral exam!

Pictured: Associate Professor Steven Gieseg (Senior Supervisor), Anastasia, Dr Jacquie Harper (External Examiner)

**In the spotlight**

Daniel B. Stouffer's most recent publication (see above), was highlighted in Decoded Science and Science Daily.

**From the deep...**

The answers to the most talked about species in the aquarium of late.

**Why do starfish lose their arms?**

When they are threatened or grabbed by a predator, such as a crab they will sacrifice the arm that's being grabbed or simply drop one as a distraction while they try to escape.
How long does it take a starfish to regenerate a lost arm?
About a year.

What happens to the lost arm if it is not eaten or damaged?
It can grow into a new starfish as long as some part of the central ring is included.

and now for something completely different...

Hey Grant, hope Colin doesn’t get any bright ideas...

Tis the season to be knitting your animal hat

Ten of the worst decisions ever made

Thought for the Week

“Try not. Do or do not, there is no try.” ~ Yoda
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight


You can also listen to Jack Heinemann on the Bush Telegraph which was broadcast yesterday on the topic of ‘Study: no yield advantage with GM crops’. Jack speaks to Cameron Wilson from the ABC’s Radio Network.
and now for something completely different...

Some different guitar music

Nadal out in Wimbledon shocker

Snow/wind/rain images from last Thursday

TED talks: What will future jobs look like

(14 mins long)

Thought for the Week

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

- Nelson Mandela
Building news

1. Hawkins are about a week into level 4 work and it is impressive how much they have done already. The labs are bare, the vinyl has been stripped from the floor and much of the floor has been ground back. Everyone is surprised at how relatively little damage there is to the floor. Floor injection should start in about a week’s time.

2. The digger in the gravel area between von Haast and SBS is preparing the area for laying an asphalt path. Work has stopped until they sort out how to lay the path over gravel and concrete without cracks simply appearing. This should be sorted in about a week.

3. The path is holding up erection of scaffolding on the western end of SBS1. Once the path is finished, a temporary ramp will be installed about three metres out from the building. It will not be pretty, but will be functional. Once this ramp is finished, scaffolding will be erected over the existing ramp – they do not plan to dismantle the ramp at this stage.

4. Final dates for moving level 5 down to level 3 should be in place this week.

5. The scaffolding around the back entranceway will stay in place for some time. Apparently there is a problem with the external seismic joint Between SBS 1 and 2.

~ Bill ~

Recent publications in the school

This is Arvind Ravichandran’s (PhD candidate) first published journal. Congratulations Arvind!


Recently submitted theses

Francis Burdon (PhD): Impacts of sedimentation on the structure and functioning of agricultural stream communities.

Jen Cate (PhD): The effects of tourism on the behaviour of the New Zealand fur seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*).

Patrick Collins (MSc): Investigating nuclear pore-anchoring proteins in plants using transient gene expression.

Carina Davis (MSc): Application of metagenomics to microbial source tracking.

Moritz Lassé (PhD): Does protein aggregation state impact on the digestibility and safety of foods?

Simon Litchwark (MSc): Impact of honey bee declines on invasive weed pollination.

James McBride (MSc): Factors influencing the honeydew production of *Ultracoelostoma* scale insects in New Zealand beech forests.

Kusitino Mudunaivalu (MSc): Community fishery resource management in New Zealand: Is it serving its purpose?

Karen Renouf (MSc): Riparian buffer zones of the Canterbury agricultural landscape as nutrient filters.

Emma Swadel (MSc): An investigation into the underlying mechanisms of hyphal branching in filamentous microorganisms.

Mandy Yang (MSc): Is the antifungal and anti-tumour activity of Ajoene achieved through the inhibition of microtubules?

and now for something completely different...

TED talk: The art of asking

Nature: New Zealand aims high with Natural Science challenges

Mad Science quiz of Doom

Thought for the Week

What “bleeping” kind of human being am I, if my own mother wants me dead?

- Tony Soprano
Building news

Not a lot to report this week, though the third item is very important.

- Despite telling me about all of the work that was starting late last week, the gravel area between von Haast and SBS1 remains a wasteland. In theory, by now we should have acquired a new ramp and a tarmacked path.
- Current dates for moving from Level 5 to level 3 in SBS1 are mid September. No I don’t know why Hawkins needs this much time.
- I received an e-mail last week announcing that the South Island MPI inspector’s position has been disestablished, and the inspector has been moved to a different position. At the moment I am not sure what will happen with all of our MPI interactions. Be aware though that if you are transferring something and need a transfer request, make sure you give Nicole plenty of warning.

~ Bill ~

Recent publications in the school

Now complete with page numbers


In the spotlight

GM crops article goes viral! Meet the co-author, Jack Heinemann, of the most popular article in International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability.

Robert Jackson’s photo for his publication above made it to the front cover of Journal of Zoology 290.

If you missed Troy Watson (MSc graduate 2012) on TV3 news segment, promoting the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival, you can watch it here.

and now for something completely different...

Fred Perry who?
Hugo & Holly
For you loyal Otago fans

Thought for the Week

Progress always involves risks. You can’t steal second base and keep your foot on first.
-Frederick B. Wilcox
Recent publications in the school

Francis Burdon’s (PhD candidate) first publication from his unpublished thesis. Congratulations Francis!


In the spotlight

Jessica Roche (PhD candidate), won the Best student poster prize from the New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists received at the annual conference recently. Her winning poster title was: Systems Biology: To build understanding of nitrogen use efficiency (NUE).
PhD oral completed

Gareth Taylor, completed his oral defence on Wednesday 10th July. The title of Gareth's thesis is 'Management of Sand Beaches for the protection of Shellfish Resources'.

Pictured: Associate Professor Islay Marsden (Senior Supervisor), Gareth, Dr Terry Hume (Oral Examiner, NIWA) and Dr Deirdre Hart (Associate Supervisor, Geography Department)

and now for something completely different...

Why are office kitchens so putrid?

The most patient and docile cat ever!

Catching dragonflies in Tonga
(an oldie, but a goodie!)

Thought for the Week
There are no speed limits on the road to excellence.
- Unknown
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Roseanna Gamlen-Greene (BSc student), was awarded the Walter Jones Scholarship which will be funding her tuition fees for this year. Well done Roseanna!

Ryan Catchpole (PhD candidate), won the Mayo Prize for best student talk at the Genetics Society of Australasia (GSA) conference in Sydney, 14-17 July. His winning talk was on 'Bacterial translation initiation - tMet'. Congratulations Ryan!

Robyn White (MSc candidate), was officially awarded the Roland Stead Scholarship for 2013 at a presentation on 17 July with Roland Stead, Jeff Field (Registrar), Paula Jameson (Head of School) and the 2012 recipient Matt Wallace in attendance.
and now for something completely different...

Tribute to Mel Smith

- Pit of despair - The Princess Bride
- Discussing the Beatles
- Police interrogation

- Wallaby coach ends his rein with Queensland... with a loss

- John Casablancas, the man who made supermodels

- Kittens on a slide

Thought for the Week

- When the world says, “Give up,” Hope whispers, “Try it one more time.”
- Anonymous
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Yinnon Dolev (PhD candidate), won the best presentation award at the recently held Australiasian Society for the Study of Animal Behaviour conference held in Auckland. Well done!

Jack Heinemann, was spotted online in Global Research, Centre for Research on Globalization on the topic of US Genetically Engineered Agriculture is Outclassed by Europe’s Non-GM Approach.

and now for something completely different...

And you think you've got problems!

Caption competition - send in your winning caption! Winner announced next newsletter

Thought for the Week

An inability to stay quiet is one of the most conspicuous failings of mankind.
- Walter Bagehot
Recent publications in the school


This is Abishek’s first publication. He is presently doing his PhD with Ashley Garrill. Congratulations Abishek!


PhD oral completed

Francis Burdon, completed his oral exam on Friday 2nd August. This took part as a video link between Switzerland-Palmerston North-Christchurch. Frank's thesis title is 'The effects of stream productivity on aquatic-terrestrial linkages'. His senior supervisor is Associate Professor Jon Harding.

Frank has now settled into his three-year Postdoctoral Fellowship position at Eawag Aquatic Research in Duebendorf in the Aquatic Ecology Unit. Well done Frank!

Pictured: Dr Russell Death (Oral Examiner), Francis Burdon (top right), Associate Professor Jon Harding (Senior Supervisor) and Professor Dave Kelly (Oral Chair)
A retirement farewell for Jack van Berkel (UC Field Stations Manager) was held on Wednesday July 31st at the Staff Club and hosted by the School.

He was joined by his wife Betty and long-standing colleagues and friends from Biological Sciences, Facilities Management, Geography, Geological Sciences and Forestry Departments. Several retirees attended to farewell Jack and wish him well after nearly 40 years of service to the Kaikoura Field Station and latterly all the University field stations.

Jack gave a light-hearted PowerPoint history of the building of the Kaikoura Field Station, early Registry processes, and various disasters that occurred both natural and man-made.

Many grateful graduate students and staff who could not attend sent their best wishes. Jack still resides in Kaikoura and will no doubt still be seen at EPFS in the future.
and now for something completely different...

Sleepy Man Banjo Boys

Caption competition winner:
"At this University we take Health & Safety so seriously that even the dead people have to wear seatbelts!"
(Mike Hickford, collect your prize from reception)

The top 10 posts from the week
(Treehugger)

Thought for the Week

No river can return to its source, yet all rivers must have a beginning.

- Proverb
As you know the School of Biological Sciences offered 10 out of the 17 presentations in the College of Science heats for thesis-in-three. Congratulations to the top three - all from Biology!

1) Alexandria Tino (score 27.5 out of 30) Natural dietaries and ovarian cancer
2) Olivia Burge (27) Succession within the Awarua-Waituna wetland complex
3) Jessica Hill (26.5) Whitebait: What happens to the ones that escape?

According to the judges, competition was extremely tight with only a 3-point spread between the top 13 scores, so congratulations and thanks to everyone from Biology who competed. Our best wishes to Alex, Olivia and Jessica for the University round.

~ Paula ~

**Building News**

It has been a few weeks since I last mentioned anything about building work, mainly because everything has been fairly quiet. So what is happening?

1. In SBS1, level 3 is essentially finished. Level 4 is coming along well, with most of the concrete injection work in the labs completed. There is still injection and grinding work to do in the corridors.
2. I have MPI organized to inspect level 3 on September 6 and all being well, the move of people and equipment from level 5 down to level 3 will happen a week after that.
3. Scaffolding is very slowly going up on the west wall of SBS1 to allow repair of surface cracks.
4. The basement continues to be very wet.
5. We had a small flood on level 2 about a week ago (spotted at 5pm on a Friday evening). This has required some remediation work to that area, in particular replacement of ceiling tiles.
6. The ice maker was moved to level 5 to allow remediation of the level 3 corridors. Once level 3 is signed off, it will move back to that level.
7. In about three weeks time we have 4th year exams. It will be interesting to see how we fare in terms of noise.
8. We should be in a relatively quiet phase of the building work, but there was a substantial amount of grinding work this morning (12th) and a very impressive amount of noise over the weekend. Apologies for those people trying to work quietly – Hawkins do most of their really noisy work before 8.30am and after 5.00pm plus weekends in order to leave us relatively quiet during the working day.

**Defibrillators**

The University maintains a number of defibrillators on campus. Our closest one is in Forestry located “at the main entrance to the college office”. A new one has just been installed near the entrance to Café 101 specifically to cater for people in Law and the south end of campus.

~ Bill ~
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight


Not only did Robert Jackson's photo for this publication above make it to the front cover of *Journal of Zoology 290*, but Fiona Cross has a podcast available for listening! There are four interviews in this podcast, and Fiona is the second person who is interviewed. The interview begins at 12:00 mins and she talks for 17 minutes.

PhD oral completed (correction)

Francis Burdon, completed his oral exam on Friday 2nd August. This took part as a video link between Switzerland-Palmerston North-Christchurch. Frank's PhD thesis title is 'Impacts of sedimentation on the structure and functioning of agricultural stream communities'. His senior supervisor is Associate Professor Jon Harding.

Who wrote this?

Introducing a new section to the newsletter. If you want others to use their brains a little more, send in a few of your favourite lines from the book you are reading (be it fiction or non-fiction) and see how many smarties are out there.

Here is the first, probably too easy for some...
If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth.

and now for something completely different...

It's official, Benji is with the Blues

Robotic plant learns to grow like the real thing

Why every bike needs a bell

Thought for the Week

One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain.
- Bob Marley
Thesis-in-Three final

The UC Thesis in Three final was held last Thursday night and was a great success. The judges included Andrew Ramsay (UCSA Vice-President); Associate Professor Janet Carter (Psychology) and Emeritus Professor John Burrows (Law). The top three winners were Steven Banerjee (Mechanical Engineering) who came third with his presentation, "The silicon centipede - A parallel cellular delivery chip". Olivia Burge (Biological Sciences) took out second place with, "Regeneration within the Awarua-Waituna wetland complex" and Ksenia Gnevsheva (Linguistics) won first place with "Non-native English accents: How malleable are they?"

Congratulations to all!

~ Paula ~

The talks were pretty awesome with some great deliveries. Our three finalists (Olivia, Jess Hill and Alex Tino) did exceptionally well, receiving warm accolades from the audience. I certainly walked away with the warm fuzzies after a thrilling evening. - Editor

Recent publications in the school

This is Kata's first publication before the submission of her PhD. Congratulations Kata!

Just for the record, Arvind, has five out of eight publications in the top row of the Publications board!

This is Jeremy's first publication before the submission of his PhD. Congratulations Jeremy!

In the spotlight

The 2014 Postgraduate Prospectus is now available online as a pdf with clickable links. More importantly it has the FERGie gang on the front, **Nixie Boddy** (BSc Hons), **Dr Hamish Greig** (Graduate 2008), **Amanda Klemmer** (PhD candidate), **Helen Warburton** (PhD candidate), and **Mark Galatowitsch** (PhD candidate).

Recently submitted theses

**Guadalupe Peralta** (PhD): Effects of quantitative food web structure on functional resilience in the edge between natural and production forests (research proposal title).

**Jen Skilton** (PhD): Restoration of the Avon-Heathcote estuary/ihutai: benthic invertebrate responses and interactions with bottom-up feeds of legacy nitrogen (research proposal title).

**Sitara Thotta-Nagesh** (MSc): Identification and visualisation of actin-binding proteins in Arabidopsis thaliana and tobacco BY2 cells.

**Danladi Umar** (PhD): The effects of land use on stream communities in highland tropical streams in Nigeria.
Personal earthquake protection system trialled

It may look colourful, but these are no ordinary balloons. Prof Juliet Gerrard (Biological Sciences) is trialling a newly developed safety system with built-in early warning device. The system may take a lot of hot air to install, but only costs a few dollars. Inventors have included an ingenious early warning device, “We have inserted glitter in to 7 percent of the balloons, should an earthquake occur the balloons will pop and release a visual warning” said one unnamed source.

The system has so far been a total success, with the only downside being that items can easily swallowed up by the balloons. “I lost my coffee and sandwiches” said Gerrard.

With the continuing shaking around the country this new protection system may just catch on.
Who wrote this?

"I've just finished reading some of my early papers, and you know, when I finished I said “…….(name) …..my boy, you used to be a damned clever fellow”.

and now for something completely different...

**Body language in cats**

**Sad dog diary**
(content contains the word "poop")

**TED talk: Derek Paravicini and Adam Ockelford: In the key of genius**

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**Thought for the Week**

It was through the feeling of wonder that men now and at first began to philosophize.

- Aristotle
Recent publications in the school


PhD oral completed

Moritz Lasse completed his oral defence on Tuesday 20 August. His thesis is titled 'Does protein aggregation state impact on the digestibility and safety of foods?'. His senior supervisor is Professor Juliet Gerrard. Moritz has begun a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Biomolecular Interaction Centre. Congratulations!

In the spotlight

BIC students sweep E³: Enzyme Engineering and Evolution Queenstown Molecular Biology (QMB) Satellite meeting, 25-26 August poster prizes:

L to R: Rachel North, Katherine Donovan, Amy Yewdall, Sam Kim
Student Trifecta to MERG

MSc student Jess Hill of the Marine Ecology Research Group was awarded top prizes at the joint conference of the NZ Marine Sciences Society, NZ Freshwater Sciences Society and the Australia Society of Fisheries Biology in Hamilton last week. Jess was honoured for Best Student poster in aquatic science, best student oral presentation and best freshwater conservation poster, all in freshwater science, as well as honourable mention as runner-up in the best student oral presentation for NZMSS.

Over 500 delegates provided a full conference programme as well as a rousing evening at the conference dinner. In line with the theme of ‘The Life Aquatic’, guests were invited to come in fancy dress related to this theme. Once again, MERG came through with their combined efforts as a swarm of jellyfish. They beat out other notable groups such as the runner-up Rena brigade, who came in complete with commodore, a captain in shackles, a sinking vessel and clean-up crew. The marine ecology group gave 16 oral presentations at the conference. Well done Jess and Mergies!

Marine Ecology Research Group swarm of prize-winning jellyfish at the joint conference of the NZ Marine Sciences Society, NZ Freshwater Sciences Society and Australia Society of Fisheries Biology in Hamilton. Note also the Canterbury Mudfish (aka Michelle Greenwood) at left, also a prize recipient.

The 2013 Canterbury-Westland Schools’ Science and Technology Fair

This year’s event was held at the Addington Raceway on Sunday Morning, the 25th of August. The judges all met at 8:30am for a brief discussion.
My entire drive there was spend frantically hunting for an open café - there were none! This reinforced why sane people don't leave the house at that sort of hour. In desperation a petrol station was located, V purchased, a second V and/or an espresso were considered but abandoned for the sake of time.

At the judges meeting there was a great turnout from members of the School. Paul Broady and Anna Zakharova selected the two recipients of “Excellence in Biology” Awards, Dave Kelly led the judges for the Year 7 Science Awards and myself, Paul Gardner with Tony Mander, selected the four recipients of the “Excellence in Experimental Design, Approach & Interpretation”. The School really should have some sort of uniform for these sorts of events -- perhaps with a cape attached.

While Tony hunted for his reading glasses I took the opportunity to check out the senior exhibits. Some of the technology exhibits were remarkable. One student had used Lego and a laptop to build a robot that could solve the Rubik’s Cube (I can't solve this the old-fashioned way!), another had written a software package in Haskell! -- (a potential recruit for Bioinformatics?), another student had considered whether structures based on the Fibonacci Sequence provided any advantages for the integrity of the structures. I was also impressed to see a student had used DNA sequencing to identify which fish she had bought (a possible recruit for the DNA-Surveillance crew?).

The exhibits selected by Paul and Anna, in no particular order were: An exhibit by Heather Neill, Lincoln High School, Year 11. She investigated whether water cress harvested from ditches and drainage channels on Canterbury Plains could be a source of food poisoning due to contamination with *E. coli*. Yes, it could! They also selected the exhibit by Conway Morris Jones, Kirkwood Intermediate, Year 8. He compared the growth rates of chickens fed processed and “natural” foods. The processed food won out big time.

Dave Kelly headed a team of 15 judges looking over the 88 entries in Year 7 Science. The first prize in this category went to Megan Miles from Merrin School who tested light bulb efficiency; second prize to Leah Albrow (daughter of Michael Albrow and Karen Pollard in Physics) from Cobham who tested ways to purify drinking water; and third to Pete O’Connor of Cobham who tested wind turbine propellor shapes.
In Year 8 Science Dave's son Liam came third with a study of ways to save electricity at home (see photo). First went to Fleur Neill of Weedons School for a possum detector, and second to Conway Morris-Jones for the chicken food project that Paul and Anna gave a prize to above.

The exhibits selected by Tony and I for the Canterbury RSNZ Awards also had a strong Biology theme. Particularly Ashley Walsh, Year 8, Russley Primary School: “Predator Prey”, she compared the responses of 18 cats' to six bird-calls, three naturalised to NZ (blackbird, magpie, sparrow) and three rare in NZ (kookaburra, flamingo, peacock). She found NZ cats reacted strongly to the naturalised bird-calls using a series of well-controlled experiments. We also selected exhibits by Diana Sosnovskaya, Year 8, Weedons Primary School: “Audio versus visual”; Penny Howes, Year 8, Chisnallwood Intermediate: “Interpreting facial expressions”; Sophie Ballard, Year 8, Our Lady of Assumption School: “Battle of the sexes! Learning styles”. Which you can read more about in the next Canterbury RSNZ’s newsletter -- with colour photos!

In summary, the judges really enjoyed the atmosphere of the science fair; It was great to see such a variety of projects and interact with so many enthusiastic and creative students. We highly recommend others get involved if they have an opportunity.

~ Paul Gardner ~
Recently submitted theses

Rathishri Chandurvelan (PhD): Investigation of biomarkers of stress in New Zealand bivalves (research proposal title).

Liz Deakin (PhD): Spill-over effects of agricultural resource subsidies on multi-trophic interactions in adjacent forest fragments (research proposal title).

Andrew Guy (MSc): Analysis of high nitrogen fertilisers on Pinus Radiata D. Dons seed germination and de-rooted explant growth (research proposal title).

Robert McGee (MSc): Mapping of parthenogenesis genes in a Hieracium polyhaploid population (research proposal title).

Emily Tighe (MSc): Non-vocal communication in captive African wild dogs (Lycaon pictus) (research proposal title).

Tarryn Wyman (PhD): Seed dispersal with the wreakage of an avifauna (research proposal title).

Who wrote this?

“Weeds are flowers, too, once you get to know them.”

Issue 288: Rutherford
Issue 287: Catcher in the Rye

and now for something completely different...

Lots of contributions this week...
  Longboarding adventure
  Got a security issue?
  (it could apply to NZ one day!)
  Lydia Ko wins makes it a double
  Now onto the America’s Cup...
  Peacock spider
  (very adorable)
  Paper is not dead
  Beetle wearing knitted robe

Thought for the Week

Decoding the Dream - 50 years on

- No290, 2 September 2013 [This issue was accidently deleted]
Building Update

1. The next big move is almost upon us. On Friday we gained MPI approval for level 3 of SBS1 to be used as a PC2 lab. This week sees Hawkins put some finishing touches to the area, and then hand it over to the University. We move level 5 down to level 3 starting on 16th September.
2. There are some major problems on campus with sewerage and stormwater drainage, which is why we suddenly acquired a giant portaloo in the Biology carpark. These pipes are being cleaned out, and it is our turn sometime this week. The process will involve putting Gladwrap over the toilets on level 1 (just in case) and blasting the pipes with high pressure water. This work will start at 4am on the day (yet to be decided) and hopefully will finish by 7am and most people will never know it has happened.
3. Level 2 has a new water feature just outside my room. The problem is a pinhole leak in a copper pipe in the cooling system serving room 225. Bit of a worry that a one-year old pipe has already worn out.

Health and Safety

The School scored 100% in a recent external audit of our Health and Safety procedures. Many thanks to Nicole and Craig for their help with achieving this goal.

Floor Wardens and H & S Representatives

With some recent changes to the technical staff we need to rethink our floor warden register. More on this soon. People should be aware that the University has an election system for H & S Reps and this has just taken place. Biology reps are David Leung and Craig Galilee.

Recent publications in the school


**PhD oral defence completed**

**Tarryn Wyman** had her oral defence on Monday 9 September. Her thesis title is 'Consequences of reduced bird densities for seed dispersal'. Her senior supervisor is Professor Dave Kelly. Congratulations Tarryn!

Pictured: Professor David Schiel (Oral Chair), Tarryn, Dr Bill Lee (External Examiner) and Professor Dave Kelly (Senior Supervisor)
In the spotlight

The University Council has chosen to award two Research Medals this year – these are for outstanding research contributions in very contrasting areas of endeavour.

2013 University of Canterbury Research Medals are being awarded to Professor Dave Kelly in recognition of his world leading research in plant ecology and plant-animal interactions, and to Professor Angus MacFarlane in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Maori research and education.

The Research Medals will be formally presented at a Council-hosted function in November.

Special congratulations to Dave!!

Who wrote this?

You better not never tell nobody but God.

No-one guessed the last two....

Issue 290: When I finally caught up with Abraham Trahearne, he was drinking beer with an alcoholic bulldog named Fireball Roberts in a ramshackle joint just outside of Sonoma, California, drinking the heart right out of a fine spring afternoon. - The Last Good Kiss, James Crumley

Issue 289: “Weeds are flowers, too, once you get to know them.” - A.A. Milne

and now for something completely different...

Fruit of the month club

Paget wins Burghley Horse Trials

How to make sherbert
(go on, you know you want to!)

Fiftieth anniversary of the day the Earth moved

Thought for the Week

Tears are words the heart can’t express.
- Unknown
**Recent publications in the school**


PhD oral defence completed

Rathishri (Rathi) Chandurvelan, completed her oral defence on Friday 20th September. Her thesis topic is 'Investigation of biomarkers of stress in New Zealand bivalves’. Rathi undertook her PhD in Environmental Science with Dr Chris Glover. Congratulations Rathi!

In the spotlight

Sanford School Fair

Nothing was going to stop Jack and me from wreaking judgement on small scientists. We dodged fallen trees and power lines as we headed to Timaru, stopping only for triple shot coffees and arrived in time to judge the Year 7 teams’ event. We were unclear whether the children entered the teams’ event because they were incapable of doing science alone, had better social skills or merely anticipated that collaborations are the way of the future, but we experienced a full range of projects. From blinged out safety vests for cyclists to what we suspected was an excuse to play SegaMegaTron uninterrupted for hours, we scrutinised the projects with rigour. We were plied with coffee and sweets before interrogating the small scientists. Some
went toe-to-toe with a (merciful and admittedly quite short) Jack; others were clearly the silent partner in the science project consortium. Our efficiency was such that we ran out of questions before the second round of finalist interviews. Never mind. More coffee was provided and we soon decided upon Machiavellian-flavoured finals round in which we made the small scientists visit each other’s projects and critique them to us. Our finalists were all excellent and we gave them all medals. Just one gold: to a team whose write-up had let them down, but had done a thorough planning phase and pre-experiment experiments, and intelligently critiqued the other projects. Appropriately, it was the blinged safety vests. We had fun; the children enjoyed the challenge; the near-life size hovercraft elsewhere in the hall did not explode – science for the win. - Olivia Burge

Who wrote this?

It began in a woman’s club in London on a February afternoon—an uncomfortable club, and a miserable afternoon—when Mrs. Wilkins, who had come down from Hampstead to shop and had lunched at her club, took up The Times from the table in the smoking-room, and running her listless eye down the Agony Column saw this:

To Those who Appreciate Wistaria and Sunshine. Small mediaeval Italian Castle on the shores of the Mediterranean to be Let Furnished for the month of April. Necessary servants remain. Z, Box 1000, The Times.

Issue 291: You better not never tell nobody but God. - The Color Purple, Alice Walker - guessed by Tracey Robinson!

and now for something completely different...

For those of you who require bigger labs

New Alien Life Claim Far from Convincing, Scientists Say

Next race...

Thought for the Week

We, whoever we are, must have a daily goal in our lives, no matter how small or great, to make that day mean something. -Maxwell Maltz
Recent publications in the school


This is Mads first publication at UC - congratulations!

PhD oral defence completed

Faradina Merican, completed her oral defence on Tuesday 24th September. The title of her thesis is 'A taxonomic and ecological study of periphytic cyanobacteria in Kaituna River and its tributaries, Banks Peninsula, New Zealand'. The oral was done by video link. Faradina undertook her PhD in Environmental Science with Dr Paul Broady. Congratulations Faradina!

Pictured: Faradina with her family

Pictured: Dr Paul Broady (Senior Supervisor) giving the thumbs up for a successful defence and Dr Susie Wood (Oral Examiner, from Cawthron Institute, Nelson)
In the spotlight

Katoa Metagenomics day 28th September 2013

On Saturday 28th, the Biomolecular Interaction Centre and the School of Biological Sciences ran an all day workshop introducing high school students and their teachers from around Canterbury to the exciting new field of metagenomics. This was part of the Katoa NZ initiative (www.katoa.ac.nz), and workshops were also run at Massey Albany, Otago and Auckland.

Students hard at work extracting DNA!

We had 40 super-engaged students and teachers from Christchurch Girls’ High School, Rangi Ruru Girls’ School, Villa Maria College, St Margaret’s College, Lincoln High School and the Southern Regional Health School.
The students extracted DNA directly from soil samples, which included backyards, school fields, round the back of the Foundry and our Atrium garden. It was an early start (8.30am!), with a full-on day of DNA extractions, PCR reactions, pouring and loading gels, computational analysis of metagenome sequence data, lectures and methods demonstrations from our crack team of PhD students, postdocs and lecturers.
Many thanks to everyone who helped make this a success:
Claire Galilee & Linda Morris for lab logistics and set-up!
Susie Meade for ensuring the caterers brought us lunch!
BIC and Biology for sponsoring lunch.
Karen Adair, Marta Gallart, Paul Gardner, Brigitta Kurenbach, Alicia Lai & Stinus Lindgreen for demonstrating the labs, giving lectures and running a really successful outreach activity!

Ant
PS Thanks also to John Pirker for letting his other half frolic in the DNA while he stayed at home and looked after the kids!

Top researchers awarded Rutherford Discovery Fellowships

Ten of New Zealand’s top early to mid-career researchers have been awarded Rutherford Discovery Fellowships in 2013, Science and Innovation.

The Fellowships are designed to develop and foster future leaders in the New Zealand science sector. They are funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The Rutherford Discovery Fellowships are open to researchers within three to eight years of having completed their PhD. The scheme was established in 2010 and now supports 40 fellows. Their research covers a vast range of topics from language studies to Antarctic research to the search for extra-solar Planets. By 2014, there are expected to be 50 fellows under the scheme.

The 2013 Rutherford Discovery Fellowship recipients are:
Dr Brendon Bradley, University of Canterbury, for research entitled: “Earth-shattering detective work: Uncovering the mysteries of unresolved ground motion and geotechnical case-histories from the 2010-2011 Canterbury earthquakes.”

Dr Dillon Mayhew, Victoria University of Wellington, for research entitled: “The mathematics of space and language: matroids and model theory.”

Dr Robert McKay, Victoria University of Wellington, for research entitled: “Antarctic Ice Sheet-Southern Ocean interactions during greenhouse worlds of the past 23 million years - and consequences for New Zealand climate.”

Dr Suresh Muthukumaraswamy, University of Cardiff (will be returning to The University of Auckland), for research entitled: “High-frequency brain activity in health and disease.”

Dr Suetonia Palmer, University of Otago, Christchurch, for research entitled: “Improving evidence for decision-makers in chronic kidney disease.”

Dr Craig Radford, The University of Auckland, for research entitled: “Using passive acoustics to monitor ecosystem health.”

Dr Jonathan Sperry, The University of Auckland, for research entitled: “Inert C-H bonds: A gateway to molecular complexity.”


Dr Daniel Stouffer, University of Canterbury, for research entitled: “Toward a general theory of evolution in ecological networks.”

Dr Angela Wanhalla, University of Otago, Christchurch, for research entitled: “Marriage: The Politics of Private Life in New Zealand.”

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Profile of the week

New to the newsletter is this edition on profiling our staff/students here in the School. Having had conversations with several personnel, a lot of us just don't know who everyone is or rather what or where we do it. This excerpt will give others a chance to highlight who they are, what they do and where they do it.

So, who wants to be first!?

Who wrote this?

Ullman stood five-five, and when he moved, it was with the prissy speed that seems to be the exclusive domain of all small plump men. The part in his hair was exact, and his dark suit was sober but comforting. I am a man you can bring your problems to, that suit said to the paying customer. To the hired help it spoke more curtly: This had better be good, you. There was a red carnation in the lapel, perhaps so that no one on the street would mistake Stuart Ullman for the local undertaker.

Issue 292: It began in a woman's club in London on a February afternoon—an uncomfortable club, and a miserable afternoon—when Mrs. Wilkins, who had come down from Hampstead to shop and had lunched at her club, took up The Times from the table in the smoking-room, and running her listless eye down the Agony Column saw this:

To Those who Appreciate Wistaria and Sunshine. Small mediaeval Italian Castle on the shores of the Mediterranean to be Let Furnished for the month of April. Necessary servants remain. Z, Box 1000, The Times.

The Enchanted April, by Elizabeth von arnim - Bill Davison picked this out.
Review of the week

Starting up this week is a new piece to the newsletter. Hopefully you will share your views/opinions on something you ate/heard/watched/touched or smelt. You could review the latest scientific publication you read....or better still share the amazing art you viewed whilst overseas.

Restaurant Review

Our Maharaja visit the other week was a divine dining experience. We had to book in advance which is given these days. The Maharaja occupies a beautiful restored villa in Papanui High Street. All seven guests chose something different for their mains and we shared various entrees including tasty vegetarian options. Although their naan breads were smaller than the usual, they were amazing. I had a stuffed bread with onion and potato. Highly recommend. Ask if they have goat again this weekend!

~ Penny ~

and now for something completely different...

After being scooped up by a Wraith Dart, Dr. Rodney McKay is rescued, but there isn't enough power to recover Lt. Laura Cadman. Soon, McKay realises that Cadman's consciousness is inside of him, and the two have a hard time in co-existing.

Can conscious/being be separated from the brain?

Thought for the Week

Academic diary: (random academic that is)

- Nine lecturing days left till the end of the year.
- Mark those assignments
- Pat the dog.
- Feed the dog.
- Mark those assignments.

Student diary (random student that is)

- Nine lecturing days left till the end of the year.
- Wait for assignments to be marked.
- Organise end of year lecturing party.
- Swat for end of year exams
- Feed the goldfish.
- Wait for assignments to be marked.
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Tarantulas finally home at Canterbury Museum

Four tarantula spiders have made Canterbury Museum their new home again. The tarantulas have been in quarantine at the University of Canterbury since the September 2010 earthquake and were cleared for re-homing in the Museum’s Discovery Centre last Wednesday.

Curator Natural History at the Museum and spider expert, Cor Vink, is delighted to have the gentle giants back at the Museum after such a long period of time.

The spider’s revamped enclosure has been designed to provide the eight-legged beauties with optimum safety and security amid an environment that is the closest interpretation of their natural habitats in Mexico and South America. Tarantulas (the spider family Theraphosidae) are found in warmer parts of the world and do not occur in New Zealand; however, New Zealand certainly has plenty of other interesting spiders. There are approximately 2000 spider species found in New Zealand, with 97 percent of them found nowhere else in the world and only just over half of them have been named.

The tarantula species at the Museum include a Mexican Redknee, Stripeleg, Peruvian pinktoe and Chilean Rose, and will no doubt be a popular attraction for children of all ages.
Profile of the week

Nicki Judson
Administrative Assistant
Room 219, level 2, Biology2

If you're an undergrad student you would most likely see me sitting in the school office and returning your assignments back. For the majority of you collecting your assignments it is a nervous time, anxiously waiting to see if that B will turn into A or amazed that you did better than you thought. It is great to hear woops of joy when that happens!

Back in the day I would tackle Colin Burrows' tables on Quail Island with joy on the typewriter. I loved spacing out his complex tables because they were challenging and looked impressive when done. Nowadays tables are completed with a flick of an eye on a computer with merging cells and columns that space out as you type, what is the fun in that...

Having seen hundreds of postgrad students pass through it is always delightful to hear what they are up to once they graduate and actually get to know them as individuals. An eventful 1998 trip to Wellington to watch a rugby game was a special highlight. A motley crew of three staff/three postgrads set forth to stay with some crazy B & B owner who "hated rugby". We donned our crocheted beer hats and moved with the rest of crowd towards Athletic Park - the Boks beat the AB's unfortunately on this occasion... Oddly enough it was at another rugby match we encouraged to get a "new" academic to go to a game, wear face paint and sing his nation anthem on a packed Embankment. He lives still.

On a personal note I live 45 km north of the city at Leithfield Beach. The Pukeko Junction Cafe is a great place to stop if you are heading onwards to Kaikoura. In my spare time I do not climb mountains, run marathons or go base jumping, but quilt. I have a garden, but this is used as a speedway for two cats and I do not grow broad beans in it. My folks had a farm at Belfield, near Geraldine and my sister is a footy fan like me.

NB: Profile of the week can be staff or student.

Who wrote this?

For a moment or two I sat breathless, hardly able to believe my ears. Then my senses and my voice came back to me, while a crushing weight of responsibility seemed in an instant to be lifted from my soul. That cold, incisive, ironical voice could belong to but one man in all the world.

Issue 293: Ullman stood five-five, and when he moved, it was with the prissy speed that seems to be the exclusive domain of all small plump men. The part in his hair was exact, and his dark suit was sober but comforting. I am a man you can bring your problems to, that suit said to the paying customer. To the hired
help it spoke more curtly: This had better be good, you. There was a red carnation in the lapel, perhaps so that no one on the street would mistake Stuart Ullman for the local undertaker.

Answer: No one guessed this one - it was The Shining by Stephen King.

**Review of the week**

Share your views/opinions/ on something you ate/heard/watched/touched or smelt. You could review the latest scientific publication you read....or better still share the amazing art you viewed whilst overseas.

and now for something completely different...

- [Everyday slow motion - First taste](#)
- [Jupiter-bound NASA spacecraft will swing by earth Wednesday](#)
- [Can you really outrun an explosion?](#)
- [Haven't had a fluffy kitten for awhile, get ready to say awwwww...](#)

**Thought for the Week**

- Think twice before you speak, because your words and influence will plant the seed of either success or failure in the mind of another. -Napoleon Hill
Now that I’m back from a holiday on Moso Island, Vanuatu, I though it time to re-start the weekly HoS’ comments. So, since I’ve been away for the last 10 days I thought I should report on our holiday at the most appropriately named Tranquillity Island Resort. It is also a Dive Base, but seeing as we don’t dive I left that bit of the name off, and an eco-resort, so power was intermittent, as were a few other things like water to the fare. A great location because, if it is windy on the side the well- camouflaged fares are located, it is usually calm on the ‘other’ side. So on Day 1 we set off for Fred’s Beach – a half hour walk to the north along track and beach and then another half hour on a track up over the escarpment [we were pleased to note near our fare was a tsunami track cut directly up the escarpment] and down to the beach where we snorkeled. Most days we walked to coves to snorkel, a ‘short cut’ to Fred’s beach one day took well over two hours (but we did find an old coke bottle made in San Francisco) and on our wedding anniversary we were dropped off at Starfish Beach with tent (already erected) plus hampers with quantities of food and beverages of all kinds and written instructions on how to light a fire amongst other things. No track to this beach – sea access only. It did feel remote and just before dusk even remoter when we saw a triangular black and white fin cutting through the water where we had been snorkelling. Never having seen a shark in the wild before we felt somewhat intimidated. Still next morning we went for another snorkel just before the wind got up – and by the time we were picked up the sea was quite rough - and as it turned out even rougher on the fare side – so no final swim but time to sponsor the release of a Hawksbill sea turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata), an ID on that (harmless) reef shark and pack.

Many thanks to Bill, Lyn and the team for looking after everything in my absence. Can I encourage everyone to attend the ABC on Thursday.

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Alyssa Cirtwill (PhD candidate), was recently selected as one of 20 students to attend the Santa Fe Intitute’s 2013 Chile Complex Systems Summer School. Participation is a competitively-determined process and includes support for travel and accommodation during the 10 day course. Alyssa's senior supervisor is Dr Daniel B. Stouffer (Rutherford Discovery Fellow 2013-2018).
CSSS-Chile is an intensive 11-day exploration of biocomplexity and the complex behavior in the environment and social sciences. This school is intended for graduate and postdoctoral fellows. Topics include social dynamics, scaling and network theory, ecology and nonlinear dynamics among others.

Jack Heinemann, spotted in 'The Hindu' with his article, Keep the pause button on GM pressed, published 7 September.

Who wrote this?

April 24th. -- Like the navigators of old when approaching an unknown land, we examined and watched for the most trivial sign of a change. The drifted trunk of a tree, or a boulder of primitive rock, was hailed with joy, as if we had seen a forest growing on the flanks of the Cordillera. The top, however, of a heavy bank of clouds, which remained almost constantly in one position, was the most promising sign, and eventually turned out a true harbinger. At first the clouds were mistaken for the mountains themselves, instead of the masses of vapour condensed by their icy summits.

Issue 294: For a moment or two I sat breathless, hardly able to believe my ears. Then my senses and my voice came back to me, while a crushing weight of responsibility seemed in an instant to be lifted from my soul. That cold, incisive, ironical voice could belong to but one man in all the world.

Answer: The Hound of the Baskervilles, by Arthur Conan Doyle
Guessed by Brigitta Kurenbach

Review of the week

The Last Word – Christchurch’s own Whiskey and Cocktail bar

While perambulating the city streets on a warm summer’s day early this year, we stumbled upon this jewel in one of the ‘flashiest’ streets of Christchurch. Located on New Regent St., The Last Word is a fantastic, quaint little bar offering exceptional service with their splendid and vast selection of liquors and cocktails (or even mocktails). The bar is named after a cocktail which they do serve, and is incidentally quite delicious.

Their seating is quite limited, with only about 7-8 tables upstairs and a little room by the bar downstairs. I guess due to their small capacity, it makes it easier for the staff to devote their full attention to patrons and offer their excellent advice to help you select the best whiskey (or whisky) and cocktails.
My personal favourites herald from the Highland region of Scotland, as I prefer the darker, peaty tastes, usually late at night, since The Last Word is open till around 1.30am most weekend nights.

I’d highly recommend giving this bar a try, especially if you’re into ‘fine’ drinking.

Cheers,
Anish

and now for something completely different...

Loud Shirt day participants, 19 September, which supported The Hearing House and the Southern Cochlear Impact Programme

Living Relatives Of 5,300-Year Old-Mummy Located In Austria

Why are fishermen superstitious of bananas?

In case you haven't heard...

(one for Raj!)

Thought for the Week

Whenever you do a thing, act as if all the world were watching. -Thomas Jefferson
Congratulations to everyone who had input into a most successful ABC. Again a big thank you to our sponsors.

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school


Annual Biology Conference

This year’s ABC was held on 17th October. The conference was a showcase for our PhD, MSc and BSc Hons postgraduates. High School students were also invited to attend. We would like to congratulate the following on their outstanding achievements.

Powerhouse prize for Innovation: Anton Mather

Research committee prizes
Best paper by a MSc student: Laurel Julian
Best paper by a PhD student: Jeremy Keown
Best overall publication output: Rathi Chandurvelan

Overall presentations
PhD
1st: Yinnon Dolev (sponsored by John Morris Scientific)
Spiders respond to stick figure representations of prey
2nd: Amy Yewdall
Manipulating the quaternary structure of peroxiredoxin
3rd: Nicholas Baker
A meso-scale approach to understanding nestedness and modularity of ecological networks

MSc
1st: Ashleigh Watts
A characterisation of biofouling patterns and genetic connectivity in Pelorus Sound, New Zealand
2nd: Ronan Broad
The molecular and biochemical characterization of **sloughy**, an *Arabidopsis thaliana* cell separation mutant

**3rd: Emma Dorsey**
Investigation of a novel bifunctional diaminopimelate decarboxylase: aspartokinase of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa*

**Best BSc Hons talk: Emma Pukola**
Radionuclides in fish of the South Pacific

**Overall Best Oral presentation: Olivia Burge (sponsored by Lab Supply)**
Native forest regeneration under *Leptospermum scoparium* in Awarua-Waituna wetland, Southland: constraints, trajectories, and predictive ability

We give thanks to the following sponsors who provided the main and spot prizes and the morning/afternoon teas. Also big thanks to Dave Conder for providing the plants for the conference venue and spot prizes.

And, just for the fun of it... view the [flash mob](#), spot those sexy moves!

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**Brian Mason Trust funding round success in Biological Sciences**

**Jim Briskie** University of Canterbury $15,775.00
New blood or bad blood? The long-term consequences of using inbred donors for the genetic rescue of endangered New Zealand birds

**Kevin Chase** University of Canterbury $9,000.00
Distribution and spread of pine bark beetles across Canterbury

**Angus McIntosh** University of Canterbury $12,380.00
Climate and habitat mediation of mosquito population dynamics in Canterbury and Westland

**Chris Glover** University of Canterbury $19,725.00
Putting galaxiid fish in the mix: assessing sensitivity of inanga to emerging contaminants and their mixtures
In the spotlight

Farewell for Gavin Robinson

On the 11th October, the School of Biological Sciences farewelled a respected general staff member, Gavin Robinson.

Gavin started in the former Zoology Department in March 1971. He began by helping Graeme Bull set up the Stage I teaching labs, eventually becoming the primary person for these labs.

An early job which displayed Gavin’s flair for design and woodwork was to build a replica Inuit sled, which was used for many years by student research groups in Antarctica, capable of towing ½ ton of gear.

His design skills were also well utilised in the graphics field, designing charts, plans and diagrams, all by hand (before computer aids).

Gavin took over responsibility for the physiology teaching and research labs from Bruce Lingard in 1992 and continued in this role till his retirement.

Notable achievements were the architectural design for the complete refurbishing of the original Aquarium Room and the original physiology teaching lab. He was also the primary departmental designer of the new Research building, followed by the refurbishment of the old Zoology building. These major projects involved much liaison with external professional architects.

Coupled with all this, Gavin was the line manager of the specialist service technicians in Biological Sciences.
Footnote:
Gavin - ‘Thank you very much to everyone for the really enjoyable morning tea to celebrate my retirement and for all the very kind thoughts and generous gifts, which have all been much appreciated. It has been a great privilege to work with you all over the years and I wish you all the very best in the years to come.’

UC research to help treat ovarian cancer
Kelsey Rao, BSc Hons, received a writeup on the Voxy website on her research on ovarian cancer. Her senior supervisor is Ashley Garrill.

Who wrote this?
Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Issue 295: April 24th. -- Like the navigators of old when approaching an unknown land, we examined and watched for the most trivial sign of a change. The drifted trunk of a tree, or a boulder of primitive rock, was hailed with joy, as if we had seen a forest growing on the flanks of the Cordillera. The top, however, of a heavy bank of clouds, which remained almost constantly in one position, was the most promising sign, and eventually turned out a true harbinger. At first the clouds were mistaken for the mountains themselves, instead of the masses of vapour condensed by their icy summits.

Answer: The voyage of the Beagle by Charles (Chuck) Darwin
Guessed by Tracey Robinson/Bill Davison

and now for something completely different...

Three rules to spark learning

New South Wales bush fires
(no doubt you will be able to donate through the Red Cross)

Mr Bean prepares for his exam

Thought for the Week
Life begins at the end of your comfortable zone.
Congratulations to Professor Robert Jackson and Dr Mads Thomsen on their being awarded Marsden Grants. This is a great achievement as the competition gets tighter each year. Commiserations to those that submitted second round proposals and were unsuccessful – to be invited to write a full proposal is still a considerable achievement.

If many academics are looking a little stressed it is because many of us are involved both in developing bids for Centres of Research Excellence and also developing the research questions within the National Science Challenges – and both are running at the same time. And then of course we are also marking exams and looking after our postgrads. Somehow some members of the public still seem to think once lectures finish we’re off for the summer!

Our best wishes to Bill Davison for a speedy recovery!

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school

**Jellyman, P.G.,** Booker, D.J. and **McIntosh, A.R.** (2013). Quantifying the direct and indirect effects of flow-related disturbance on stream fish assemblages. Freshwater Biology 58: 2614-2631. [now complete with page numbers]


PhD oral completed

It is with great delight that I announce, Guadalupe (Lupe) Peralta, had her oral exam on Thursday 24 October! Her research was on the 'Effects of quantitative food web structure on functional resilience in the edge between natural and production forests'. Her senior supervisor is Professor Jason Tylianakis. You will be sorely missed Lupe. All the best for your future endeavours!

Pictured: Dr Sarina Macfadyen (Oral Examiner, CSIRO), Lupe, Professor Jason Tylianakis (Senior Supervisor)

In the spotlight

Researcher seeing if seaweed can inspire a wet-resistant glue

Biological sciences Masters student Anton Mather is working under the supervision of Dr Simone Dimartino and Professor Juliet Gerrard on investigating seaweed bio-adhesives that could benefit New Zealand's Naval and undersea construction industries.

Check out the full coverage at Voxy.

Who wrote this?

"I love you. I am who I am because of you. You are every reason, every hope, and every dream I've ever had, and no matter what happens to us in the future, everyday we are together is the greatest day of my life. I will always be yours. "
**Issue 296:** Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Answer: Isaiah 1:18, from The Bible, by the big man himself, God
Guessed by Nicole Lauren-Manuera and Bill Davison

and now for something completely different...

**TED Talk: The fiction of memory**

**How to grow broad beans**
(come back Manfred!!)

**Video highlights of that wonderful win against Wellington**
(take that Andrew!!)

**Thought for the Week**

Just a perfect day
drink Sangria in the park
And then later
when it gets dark, we go home

Just a perfect day
feed animals in the zoo
Then later
a movie, too, and then home

Oh, it's such a perfect day
I'm glad I spend it with you
Oh, such a perfect day
You just keep me hanging on
You just keep me hanging on

Just a perfect day
problems all left alone
Weekenders on our own
it's such fun

Just a perfect day
you made me forget myself
I thought I was
someone else, someone good

Oh, it's such a perfect day
I'm glad I spent it with you
Oh, such a perfect day
You just keep me hanging on
You just keep me hanging on
Recent publications in the school


Welcome to the School

**Catherine Febria** is joining FERG as our latest Postdoctoral Fellow, from the University of Maryland (USA). In Maryland, she worked with Margaret Palmer on several syntheses related to ecosystem vs. ecosystem service restoration in urban and agricultural streams and rivers. She also took part in an empirical study of the source, transport and fate of dissolved organic carbon and other nutrients within urbanizing stream networks. In 2010, she completed her PhD in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of Toronto (Canada) where she studied the microbial and ecosystem ecology of hyporheic zones in the lab of Dudley Williams. In 2005, she completed an MSc in Limnology/Biogeochemistry from Simon Fraser University (Canada) where she studied biogeochemical processes in Canadian arctic floodplain lakes with advisor Lance Lesack. As part of FERG, she is excited to be a part of the Mackenzie Project, putting the recent syntheses on freshwater management into practice through a series of multi-year trials on agriculturally-impacted waterways of Canterbury. Her husband Peter and 2-year old daughter Emilia join her in New Zealand.
Who wrote this?

"I'm a fleabit peanut monkey, all my friends are junkies".

**Issue 297:** "I love you. I am who I am because of you. You are every reason, every hope, and every dream I've ever had, and no matter what happens to us in the future, everyday we are together is the greatest day of my life. I will always be yours."

Answer: Yes, this sickly mush came from 'The Notebook' by Nicholas Sparks

Guessed by Tracey Robinson

and now for something completely different...

Joseph O'Connor - *Going Forward*

(recommended by Keith Baronian)

**Could you really dig a hole to China?**

**Top double dutch team competes**

Baby duck can't stay awake in accounting class...

Thought for the Week

**Marsden Fund figures:** 109 projects were successful after 1,157 proposals were submitted (229 proposers were asked to put in full proposals), for a 9.4% success rate. $67.8m (inc GST) was awarded to the projects, up 24% on last year's total due to a Budget increase. A [full list of the projects](#) is available.
PhD oral exam completed

**Jen Cate**, had her oral exam via Skype on 7 November here at UC whilst she was sitting in Alaska. Her thesis title is ‘The effects of tourism on the behaviour of the New Zealand fur seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*). Her senior supervisor is Professor Jim Briskie. Oral Chair was Associate Professor Islay Marsden. Congratulations Jen!

Pictured: Jen, on screen in Alaska

Pictured: Professor Jim Briskie and Dr Laura Boren (Oral Examiner) relaxing at the defence lunch

Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Climate change cause for concern for NZ freshwater fish

Nixie Boddy, freshwater ecology postgraduate student, says air temperatures in New Zealand are predicted to rise, by up to 7degC in the next century, with a corresponding increase in water temperatures.

Read the full write up on the Voxy. Note: The image really IS Nixie...!

Who wrote this?

Nobody knows when she started her skid, she was only 27 and she had five kids.

Issue 298: "I'm a fleabit peanut monkey, all my friends are junkies".

Answer: Richards & Jagger singing Monkey Man

Guessed: Anon.

and now for something completely different...

Rugby legend Peter Fatialofa passes away
(aka Fats)

Bardsley seals Sunderland win over City

The joy of waiting for a train
(43 secs of joy!)

Don't know what to call your new dog?

Thought for the Week

Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal: my strength lies solely in my tenacity. -Louis Pasteur
Showcase success

PhD section, 1st Joint winners and Overall best speaker award
Olivia Burge (SBS) / Kristen Lamvik (Communication Disorders)

PhD section, 2nd place
Yinnon Dolev

Master's section, 3rd place
Jess Hill

In addition, several biology post-grads were involved with running the event because they are on the PGSA – Jessica Roche and Marine Aubert. We were probably the most well-represented department/school as well, no doubt because everyone had ABC talks which only needed a bit of attention.

~ Paula ~

PhD oral exam completed

Jen Skilton, had her oral exam today, 18 November. The topic of her research was 'Invertebrate responses to large-scale change: impacts of eutrophication and cataclysmic earthquake events in a southern New Zealand estuary'. Her senior supervisor is Professor David Schiel. External examiner was Conrad Pilditch and moderator was Jim Briskie. Co-supervisors: Dr John Zeldis (NIWA Christchurch) & Dr Drew Lohrer (NIWA Hamilton) Congratulations Jen!
Recent publications in the school

This is Rachel's first publication as a Ph.D. candidate. Congratulations!

Who wrote this?

**Issue 299**: Nobody knows when she started her skid, she was only 27 and she had five kids.

Answer: Emmylou Harris - Red Dirt Girl
Guessed: Nobody guessed it, although Our Bill thought it was from some tragic country song, so true!

and now for something completely different...

*Scenes of devastation and some relief after Typhoon Haiyan*  
*(Red Cross appeal)*
It was quite a week last week being in Bangkok with the Prime Ministerial Delegation for Trade and for Education New Zealand. The main event for the education delegation was the signing of a Letter of Intent by the delegate representing Universities New Zealand, witnessed by the two Prime Ministers at Government House. This means that students gaining Thai Government Scholarships can attend a New Zealand University. Our Wednesday presentations to their MOST from the five NZ Universities present were to convince MOST to encourage the Office of the Civil Service (that awards the Scholarships) that NZ Universities are quality destinations. Because of the current political unrest the entrance to Government House was guarded by police in riot gear and rolls of barbed wire. I saw a water canon vehicle drive past. But it was all peaceful inside what is a magnificent building.

New Zealand Embassy barbeque
Business lunch - Trade and Alumni

Letter of Intent signing

Government House

Outside Government House
Thanks to Angus and Bill who hosted the delegation from University Malaysia Sarawak, also last week.

And it is farewell and thanks to Will Godsoe as he makes the move down the road next week. We will be seeing him around as he continues collaborations with staff and supervision of post grads.

Thank you to Jan and her team who put together a well received exhibit at the Canterbury A & P Show around Jack’s ideas of the Microbiome. There was plenty of positive feedback and favourable comments during the show itself. As huge numbers of people attend the Show including large school groups, it is a great way for the university to communicate with such a large audience over a short period of time. The public are really interested to learn new things and it is rewarding to see them get such a buzz from it.

~ Paula ~
PhD oral exam completed

On Friday 22 November, Liz Deakin had her oral defense. It was very successful and passed with no revisions. However, as she was in Java, Indonesia, the oral examiner (Bruce Burns) in Auckland, Raph Didham (the senior supervisor) in Perth, and Jim Briskie (oral organiser) at UC, there are no group photos, thus the following pics. Congratulations Liz!
Recent publications in the school

This is Teresa’s first publication after the submission of her Masters thesis. It is also Elizabeth’s first publication after the submission of her PhD thesis. Congratulations to both!


This is Roseanna’s first publication. She is presently waiting for her 300-level exam results. Congratulations Roseanna!


In the spotlight

Ant Poole was interviewed on Radio NZ for the Morning Report about his publication mentioned above. Listen to him now - Scientists find bacteria can resurrect dead DNA.

Who wrote this?

Each morning they came around, three brisk and serious men with efficient mouths and inefficient eyes, accompanied by brisk and serious Nurse Duckett, one of the ward nurses who didn't like Yossarian. They read the chart at the foot of the bed and asked impatiently about the pain. They seemed irritated when he told them it was exactly the same.

and now for something completely different...

- Domino tricks
- Suitcase - Simon's cat
- The father of genomics
- Christmas in the park

Thought for the Week

Minds are like parachutes, they only function when they are open. - Thomas Robert Dewar
Recent publications in the school


PhD oral exam completed

Justin Rasmussen, completed a very successful oral exam on Thursday 28 November. His research title was ‘Evolution and maintenance of host specialisation in the shining cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*’. His senior supervisor is Professor Jim Briskie. His oral defense took place via conference link via Manitoba, Canada and Christchurch.

Pictured: Professor Jim Briskie (Senior Supervisor), Justin (sitting in snowy Manitoba) and Dr Adrian Patterson (Oral Examiner, Lincoln University)
In the spotlight

Two UC experts receive Royal Society research medals

Two University of Canterbury (UC) academics last night received Research Honours Medals from the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Professor Dave Kelly (see photo below) received the Hutton Medal for his research into plant ecology and Professor Andy Buchanan won the RJ Scott Medal in recognition of his world-leading work in developing design techniques for large-scale timber buildings. The pair received their medals at an event in Dunedin.

Professor Kelly has made major contributions to New Zealand plant ecology across a range of areas. His hallmark is using long-term studies of South Island ecosystems to reveal the answers to fundamental questions of national and international interest.

Read the full story in The Voxy.
Royal Society of New Zealand awards

Some of the UC crowd at the RSNZ awards dinner in Dunedin last Wednesday.

Pictured: Professor Paula Jameson (Head of School, Biological Sciences), Associate Professor Catherine Moran (Communication Disorders and Dean of Science), Professor Jenny Brown (Head of School, Mathematics & Statistics), Professor Dave Kelly (Awardee), Professor Steve Weaver (Geological Sciences and AVC Research) and Professor Conan Fee (Chemical & Process Engineering, Dean of Engineering and Forestry, Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor)

Canterbury university researchers look at impacts of intensive dairy farming

University of Canterbury postgraduate students are investigating changes in soil carbon on intensive dairy farms.

Biology PhD students Gabriel Moinet and Anna Zakharova and Masters student Sam Murray want to know if soil organic carbon stocks and long-term productivity is influenced by intensively-managed dairy farm conversions.

Read full article at the AgScience blog.
Work to start on UC's major new science facility next year

Construction work will start later next year on the University of Canterbury’s (UC) $212 million new Regional Science and Innovation Centre.

The new science facility is part of the Government’s $260 million support for the university as it rebuilds and remediates following the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes.

The RSIC will, due to clever design, have much of our science on view where school students and other visitors to the centre will be able to see laboratory work in action through glass walls.

Read the full story on The Voxy.

Will sweeping changes improve university?

Will sweeping changes at the University of Canterbury improve the academic institution? And can universities embrace commercial ideals? Philip Matthews reports in The Press.

Jack Heinemann has been mentioned in the article which you can read in full here.

Visual Puzzle (Who wrote this? on hold this week)

What's odd about this dashboard in the new VW Golf Mk 7?

Issue 301: Each morning they came around, three brisk and serious men with efficient mouths and inefficient eyes, accompanied by brisk and serious Nurse Duckett, one of the ward nurses who didn't like Yossarian. They read the chart at the foot of the bed and asked impatiently about the pain. They seemed irritated when he told them it was exactly the same.

Answer: Catch 22, by Joseph Heller
Guessed by: Trio of people - Tracey R, Bill D and Dave K

and now for something completely different...

Carols in the Square
Professionals star Lewis Collins dies
Ford Capri 3.0 S (primarily the Mark III model)
The Professionals theme song
(you are welcome to “boogie” down at your seat)
Group Therapy... with a difference

Thought for the Week

"Work hard for what you want in life and you will be rewarded, if not, know that you did your best trying" - Rishi Pandey
Who wrote this?

I greet this sunrise with cries of joy as a prisoner who is reprieved from death.

(Hopefully this will quiz the Tracey's and Bill's that surround us!!)

Issue 302: What's odd about this dashboard in the new VW Golf Mk 7?

Answer: The speedo changes scale abruptly at 60 km/h.

Guessed by: Guess who? Yes, the one and only Tracey!!

and now for something completely different...

Remembering Nelson Mandela

New York Best Sellers

HARDCOVER FICTION (as at 5.12.13)

TAKEDOWN TWENTY, by Janet Evanovich
KING AND MAXWELL, by David Baldacci
SYCAMORE ROW, by John Grisham
THE FIRST PHONE CALL FROM HEAVEN, by Mitch Albom
THE GOLDFINCH, by Donna Tartt

Lydia Ko wins first tournament as a pro

How to wrap a cat for Christmas

Thought for the Week

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
Nelson Mandela
I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone involved in any way with the School of Biological Sciences a relaxing and safe festive season. Of course this message includes all the students and staff of the School, but there are many others across campus who support us as well – and who get to read our newsletter! We have all worked hard and the successes have been many as indicated by the list that Nicki has compiled below. A special thanks to Nicki who has compiled this and the other 303 newsletters!

Season’s greetings!
Paula

Over the Break

The last day of normal work is Monday 23rd December. After that the University is officially closed until 3rd January 2014. This is a holiday and the university expects you to have some time off – don’t come to work, have a break, relax, drink lots of beverages whether this be tea, Milo or even other substances.

If you must work over this period then please do not work in the lab alone. Make sure someone knows you are working in the lab and that have reached home safely at the end of the day.

If you are doing fieldwork the normal rules apply in terms of making sure you have a contact person who knows where you have headed and that you check in when you are back. If you are planning on doing fieldwork over the break, please make sure that you tell Nicole, and give her a copy of your Field Intentions Form.

Some other information:

- Security can be reached 24 hours per day. From the lab use the extension 8666 or in an emergency 8111. Their cellphone number is 0800 823 637. If you have this stored on your cellphone then it’s easy to contact them.
- Bill’s cellphone is 027 289 0020. If everything turns to custard then phone him.
- If you are collecting lots of material that needs autoclaving, make a note of the autoclave times during the break. See Craig’s e-mail, but effectively the days are 23rd Dec, 30th December, 3rd January.
- Seawater. Renny and Alan will be checking seawater levels at regular intervals.
- Animals and plants will be checked daily as long as we know they need to be checked. Basically everything in the aquarium and the atrium will be checked, plus the insects and the plants in the glasshouses. Anything else, you need to let Bill know.
- There should be no building work happening over the break. If you are in the building and see anyone with an orange vest, then ask them what they are doing, or phone security (building work starts again on 6th Jan).
Recent publications in the school


Recently submitted theses

Michael Bartlett (MSc) The evolution and maintenance of body colour polymorphisms in *Bombus ruderatus* in the South Island, New Zealand

Lauretta Bensemann (MSc) How specialised are insect pollinators in urban Christchurch?

Carol Frost (PhD) Spillover and species interactions across habitat edges between managed and natural forests

Elizabeth Graham (PhD) Mechanisms and mitigation of food web change in stream ecosystems

Jessica Hill (MSc) Reproductive biology, movement and spawning dynamics of *Galaxias maculatus* in central New Zealand

Tejraj Janmale (PhD) Oxidation of 7,8-Dihydroneopterin

Alexander Knight (MSc) The Genetic Structure and Dispersal Patterns of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes elliott*)

In the spotlight

Climate change impacts on small insect predator-prey interactions

Sophia Hunt (MSc candidate), is studying climate change impacts on small insects and their predator-prey interactions.

She will look at how habitat drying affects interactions between both a native and introduced mosquito, and their predators, in New Zealand freshwater environments. Read the full story in the *Voxy*.
Conservation efforts allowed survival of the not-so-fit

The study, conducted by UC researchers Dr Raaz Sainudiin, Dr Marie Hale, Dr Jim Briskie, Dr Anthony Poole and former UC academic Dr Melanie Massaro, documents the unintended consequences of conservation measures taken to save the Chatham Islands black robin from extinction.

The findings of the research were recently published in the scientific journal Plos One. Read the Voxy article..

Wait, there's more!

Marie Hale, was mentioned on Newstalk ZB.

University of Canterbury researchers have found not all conservation efforts have their desired effect. They found efforts in the 1980s to boost the population of the endangered Black Robin accidentally risked its long term survival. Read the full article.

Lecturing academics making it big this year!

In order of receiving award/accolades:
Matthew Turnbull, UC Teaching Award
Dave Kelly, UC Research Medal and Hutton Medal
Daniel Stouffer, 2013 Rutherford Discovery Fellowship

Brian Mason Trust funding success
Jim Briskie, $15,775.00 - New blood or bad blood? The long-term consequences of using inbred donors for the genetic rescue of endangered New Zealand birds
Angus McIntosh, $12,380.00 - Climate and habitat mediation of mosquito population dynamics in Canterbury and Westland
Chris Glover, $19,725.00 - Putting galaxiid fish in the mix: assessing sensitivity of inanga to emerging contaminants and their mixtures

Robert Jackson, Marsden Grant
Jon Harding, Promotion to the rank of Professor
Ant Poole, Promotion to the rank of Associate Professor
Arvind Varsani, Chris Glover and Ximena Nelson, Promotion to the rank of Senior Lecturer Above the Bar
General staff successes

Jan McKenzie and Linda Morris, Promotion above the Merit

Craig Galilee, Jackie Healy and Matt Walters, Bonuses

Thomas Evans, Nicole Lauren-Manuera and Gavin Tisch, Step progressions
Sadly, we have or are about to farewell five technicians this year.

**Selwyn Cox** - Leader extraordinaire, Captain of the ship. Someone who didn't need a database because everything was in his head!

**Graeme Young** - IT stalwart, Farmer. Many a PC versus Mac debate!**********

**Jenny Ladley** - Ecology superwoman, hear me roar!
**Student successes**

**UC student wins major environmental scholarship**

Biological sciences student **Marine Aubert** is the inaugural recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Dr Brian Molloy Doctoral Scholarship, which includes a $30,000 annual grant and a research expenses allowance of $20,000 a year.

**Brian Mason Trust funding success**

**Kevin Chase**, PhD candidate in Ecology, $9,000.00

Distribution and spread of pine bark beetles across Canterbury
Todd Foundation Awards for Excellence

Many congratulations to three UC PhD students who were recipients of Todd Foundation Awards for Excellence (Universities). These awards support research projects that will benefit New Zealand, with an emphasis on projects with a practical application. Of the eight awards made three were awarded to UC students: Tom Brookman (Geological Sciences), Helen Warburton (Biological Sciences) and Matt Signal (Mechanical Engineering).

UC More, Feel More, Do More

Check out the UC More, Feel More, Do More campaigns and you will spot Dr Laura Young and Tejraj Janmale (PhD candidate).

UC advertising

Check out Nixie Boddy (BSc Hons candidate), Amanda Klemmer (PhD candidate) and Hamish Greig (Postdoctoral Fellow) who were at the airport on a very large billboard. They are all members of the Freshwater Ecology Research Group.

Yet again one of our fine postgraduate students appears on the front cover of the Research Report. This time the accolades go to Rathishri Chanduruveland (PhD candidate). Rathi's research topic is 'Investigation of biomarkers of stress in New Zealand bivalves'.

The 2014 Postgraduate Prospectus is now available online as a pdf with clickable links. More importantly it has the FERGie gang on the front, Nixie Boddy (BSc Hons), Dr Hamish Greig (Graduate 2008), Amanda Klemmer (PhD candidate), Helen Warburton (PhD candidate), and Mark Galatowitsch (PhD candidate).

Scholarships

Sophia Hunt and Katherine Wootton (MSc candidates) have both been awarded scholarships from Freemasons New Zealand. They have received $6,000 each towards their studies. Four Canterbury students received these scholarships and two just happen to be ours! Congratulations to you both.

Robyn White (MSc candidate), has received the Roland Stead Scholarship worth $5,000. Robyn's research is on the 'Response of New Zealand birds to the presence of novel predators'.
Roseanna Gamlen-Greene (BSc student), was awarded the Walter Jones Scholarship which will be funding her tuition fees for this year.

Alyssa Cirtwill (PhD candidate), was recently selected as one of 20 students to attend the Santa Fe Institute's 2013 Chile Complex Systems Summer School. Participation is a competitively-determined process and includes support for travel and accommodation during the 10 day course.

CSSS-Chile is an intensive 11-day exploration of biocomplexity and the complex behavior in the environment and social sciences. This school is intended for graduate and postdoctoral fellows. Topics include social dynamics, scaling and network theory, ecology and nonlinear dynamics among others.

Conference successes

Jessica Roche (PhD candidate), won the Best student poster prize from the New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists received at the annual conference. Her winning poster title was: Systems Biology: To build understanding of nitrogen use efficiency (NUE).

Ryan Catchpole (PhD candidate), won the Mayo Prize for best student talk at the Genetics Society of Australasia (GSA) conference in Sydney, 14-17 July. His winning talk was on 'Bacterial translation initiation - fMet'.

Yinnon Dolev (PhD candidate), won the best presentation award at the Australasian Society for the Study of Animal Behaviour conference held in Auckland.
MSc student Jess Hill of the Marine Ecology Research Group was awarded top prizes at the joint conference of the NZ Marine Sciences Society, NZ Freshwater Sciences Society and the Australia Society of Fisheries Biology in Hamilton. Jess was honoured for Best Student poster in aquatic science, best student oral presentation and best freshwater conservation poster, all in freshwater science, as well as honourable mention as runner-up in the best student oral presentation for NZMSS.

Over 500 delegates provided a full conference programme as well as a rousing evening at the conference dinner. In line with the theme of ‘The Life Aquatic’, guests were invited to come in fancy dress related to this theme. Once again, MERG came through with their combined efforts as a swarm of jellyfish. They beat out other notable groups such as the runner-up Rena brigade, who came in complete with commodore, a captain in shackles, a sinking vessel and clean-up crew. The marine ecology group gave 16 oral presentations at the conference.
Pictured: Marine Ecology Research Group swarm of prize-winning jellyfish at the joint conference of the NZ Marine Sciences Society, NZ Freshwater Sciences Society and Australia Society of Fisheries Biology in Hamilton. Note also the Canterbury Mudfish (aka Michelle Greenwood) at left, also a prize recipient.

Annual Biology Conference
This year’s ABC was held on 17th October. The conference was a showcase for our PhD, MSc and BSc Hons postgraduates. High School students were also invited to attend. We would like to congratulate the following on their outstanding achievements.

Powerhouse prize for Innovation: Anton Mather

Research committee prizes
Best paper by a MSc student: Laurel Julian
Best paper by a PhD student: Jeremy Keown
Best overall publication output: Rathi Chandurvelan

Overall presentations
PhD
1st: Yinnon Dolev (sponsored by John Morris Scientific)
Spiders respond to stick figure representations of prey
2nd: Amy Yewdall
Manipulating the quaternary structure of peroxiredoxin
3rd: Nicholas Baker
A meso-scale approach to understanding nestedness and modularity of ecological networks
MSc
1st: Ashleigh Watts
A characterisation of biofouling patterns and genetic connectivity in Pelorus Sound, New Zealand

2nd: Ronan Broad
The molecular and biochemical characterization of sloughy, an Arabidopsis thaliana cell separation mutant

3rd: Emma Dorsey
Investigation of a novel bifunctional diaminopimelate decarboxylase: aspartokinase of Xylella fastidiosa subsp. fastidiosa

Best BSc Hons talk: Emma Pukola
Radionuclides in fish of the South Pacific

Overall Best Oral presentation: Olivia Burge (sponsored by Lab Supply)
Native forest regeneration under Leptospermum scoparium in Awarua-Waituna wetland, Southland: constraints, trajectories, and predictive ability

We give thanks to the following sponsors who provided the main and spot prizes and the morning/afternoon teas. Also big thanks to Dave Conder for providing the plants for the conference venue and spot prizes.

Showcase success
PhD section, 1st Joint winners and Overall best speaker award
Olivia Burge (SBS) / Kristen Lamvik (Communication Disorders)

PhD section, 2nd place
Yinnon Dolev

Master’s section, 3rd place
Jess Hill

In addition, several biology post-grads were involved with running the event because they are on the PGSA – Jessica Roche and Marine Aubert. We were probably the most well-represented department/school as well, no doubt because everyone had ABC talks which only needed a bit of attention.

Thesis-in-three
College of Science round
As you know the School of Biological Sciences offered 10 out of the 17 presentations in the College of Science heats for thesis-in-three. Congratulations to the top three - all from Biology!

1) Alexandria Tino (score 27.5 out of 30) Natural dietaries and ovarian cancer
2) Olivia Burge (27) Succession within the Awarua-Waituna wetland complex
3) Jessica Hill (26.5) Whitebait: What happens to the ones that escape?
According to the judges, competition was extremely tight with only a 3-point spread between the top 13 scores, so congratulations and thanks to everyone from Biology who competed. Our best wishes to Alex, Olivia and Jessica for the University round.

**Thesis-in-Three final**

The UC Thesis in Three final was a great success. The judges included Andrew Ramsay (UCSA Vice-President); Associate Professor Janet Carter (Psychology) and Emeritus Professor John Burrows (Law). The top three winners were Steven Banerjee (Mechanical Engineering) who came third with his presentation, “The silicon centipede - A parallel cellular delivery chip”. **Olivia Burge (Biological Sciences) took out second place with, ”Regeneration within the Awarua-Waituna wetland complex“** and Ksenia Gnevshева (Linguistics) won first place with ”Non-native English accents: How malleable are they?“

**New additions to the school**

**Kathryn Baker** and **Kat Melief** (welcome back!) have filled the two new positions of Laboratory/Autoclave Assistants. If Kathryn's name sounds familiar to some zoologists, she did her BSc in Zoology back when Frank and Khris were here! They will be enjoying their new digs in the washing up/autoclave room on the first floor of Biology2.

**Gavin Tisch** had initially replaced Teri Johnston, as a full time Laboratory Assistant. He has since gone on to became the school's Purchasing Technician.

**Graeme Boddy** has jumped in to take up the role of Technical Assistant that Mr Tisch left behind.
Our Nicole (Lauren-Manuera) has taken up the reins of Technical Manager.

Catherine Febria has joined FERG as their latest Postdoctoral Fellow, from the University of Maryland (USA). In Maryland, she worked with Margaret Palmer on several syntheses related to ecosystem vs. ecosystem service restoration in urban and agricultural streams and rivers. She also took part in an empirical study of the source, transport and fate of dissolved organic carbon and other nutrients within urbanizing stream networks. In 2010, she completed her PhD in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of Toronto (Canada) where she studied the microbial and ecosystem ecology of hyporheic zones in the lab of Dudley Williams. In 2005, she completed an MSc in Limnology/Biogeochemistry from Simon Fraser University (Canada) where she studied biogeochemical processes in Canadian arctic floodplain lakes with advisor Lance Lesack. As part of FERG, she is excited to be a part of the Mackenzie Project, putting the recent syntheses on freshwater management into practice through a series of multi-year trials on agriculturally-impacted waterways of Canterbury. Her husband Peter and 2-year old daughter Emilia join her in New Zealand.
Hatches, Matches and Dispatches

We go ga-ga

Luca Heber, 26 April, 3600 grams
Proud wee boy to Sol Heber (PhD graduand 2012)
Amaru Tomás, 26 May, 6 lb 7 oz or 2.92 kg
Proud delightful boy to Amanda Greer (PhD candidate)
Samuel Heikki Tylianakis, 26 June 2013, 3.0kg
Proud first parents to Sanna and Jason Tylianakis

George, 22 July, cuddly and cute goat
Proud buddy to Nicole (photo may differ from the real George)
Seamus Ross Reeves, 29 September, 3.6 kg

Proud parents of Ian Reeves and Kristy Hogsden (Postdoctoral Fellow) and brother to Pippa
Jem Patrick South, 30 September 2013, 3.420 kg

Proud parents to Kerry and Paul South and brother to Elouise
Tate James Steeves-Wright, 21 October

Proud parents to Cam Wright and Tammy Steeves and brother to Teagan
Yonatan Avraham Dolev, 23 November 2013, 3460 grams

Proud first parents to Rinat and Yinnon Dolev (PhD candidate)
Jillian Strong, 30 October, 3.36 kg

Proud first parents to Tamlyn and James Strong (Callaghan Innovation)
Edine Stouffer, 10 December, 3.16 kg
Proud first parents to Mireia Casas Marce and Daniel Stouffer

BIG THANKS to the proud parents who let me add their precious babies :)}
We celebrate

A little birdie did some digging and found the delightful news that Hannah Burrowes (MSc graduand 2013) and Freddie Prebble (PhD candidate) tied the knot in January! I have no official photos, but the couple looked beautiful together. To top things off they brought into the world little Ollie, born last month. Congratulations to both!!

On Friday April 19th, Aliaa Idris (PhD in CEMB) married Mohamad Safwan Ismail in Kejong, near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
We remember

Bruce Lingard, who worked in the Zoology Department from 1964 to 2001, died in March 2013. He worked in Animal Physiology and then finished up as the Accounts/Purchasing officer.

Bruce was a unique character. Usually dressed in shorts and sandals and he drove his distinctive red truck. He was well known for his quick wit and readiness to laugh, but was very caring and interested in those around him.

His favourite quote was 'it's good work if you can get it!'.
December graduation - 18 December 2013

Doctor of Philosophy

IN PERSON
Rathishri Chandurvelan in Environmental Sciences
Investigation of waterborne cadmium toxicity in the green-lipped mussel, *Perna canaliculus* using biomarkers - a potential bio indicator of coastal metal pollution in New Zealand

Moritz Lassé in Biochemistry
Does protein aggregation state impact on the digestibility and safety of foods?
Elizabeth Deakin in Ecology
Impacts of land-use intensification on forest remnants embedded within production landscapes

Tarryn Wyman in Ecology
Consequences of reduced bird densities for seed dispersal

Jennifer Skilton in Ecology
Invertebrate responses to large-scale change: Impacts of eutrophication and cataclysmic earthquake events in a southern New Zealand estuary

Gareth Taylor in Environmental Sciences
Management of sand beaches for the protection of shellfish resources

IN ABSENTIA
Jenipher Cate in Ecology
The effects of tourism on the behaviour of the New Zealand fur seal (Arctocephalus forsteri)

Justin Rasmussen in Zoology
Investigations of evolutionary arms races and host diversity in avian brood parasite systems
Master of Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick P. Collins</td>
<td>Biotechnology</td>
<td>Master of Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carina L. Davis</td>
<td>Cellular &amp; Molecular Biology</td>
<td>First Class Honours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew C. Guy</td>
<td>Biotechnology</td>
<td>Master of Science</td>
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<td>Kusitino Mudunaivalu</td>
<td>Environmental Sciences</td>
<td>Second Class Honours, Division II</td>
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<td>Emma K. Swadel</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>First Class Honours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan S. Taylor</td>
<td>Zoology</td>
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<td>Sitara Thotta Nagesh</td>
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<td>Emily J. Tighe</td>
<td>Zoology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandy Yang</td>
<td>Cellular &amp; Molecular Biology</td>
<td>Second Class Honours, Division II</td>
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COUNCIL CEREMONY

Laurel C. Julian, First Class Honours, 27 March
Jane Gosden, First Class Honours, 29 May
James Schaap, Second Class Honours, 29 May
Alyssa M. Sikorski, Distinction, 26 June
Gemma McLaughlin, Master of Science
Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences/Biochemistry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anisha Ali</th>
<th>Elizabeth C. Ashby</th>
<th>Della G. Bennet</th>
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<td>Jacob C. Blokland</td>
<td>Christina H. Chapman</td>
<td>Naomi C. Clarke</td>
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<td>Duncan P. Coleman</td>
<td>Theo J. Commissaris</td>
<td>Mary K. Davies</td>
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<td>Olivia C. Dickson</td>
<td>Kelsey H.H. Evans</td>
<td>Billie J. Fletcher</td>
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<td>Daniel J. Gilmour</td>
<td>Daniel M. Gregory</td>
<td>Tessa N. Greig</td>
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<td>Charlotte J. Grubb</td>
<td>Jacob P. Harris</td>
<td>Danielle E. Hayne</td>
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<td>Janelle I. Hosking</td>
<td>Longyuan R. Hu</td>
<td>Sarah L. Johnstone</td>
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</table>
COUNCIL CEREMONY

Mandy K. Shuker, 29 May
Josh C.C.M. van Vianen, 29 May
Simone D. Hudson-Papuni, 31 July
Lina Saito, 31 July
Alexander S. McMahon, 30 October
Harriet A. Roil, 27 November
Who wrote this?

Four quizzes to keep the generations busy!

Gone with the wind (10 questions) - for those that love love

To kill a mockingbird (10 questions) - for all those serious adults who read the book

The Harry Potter quiz (28 questions) - for all those young at heart or who read it anyway

The velveteen rabbit (12 questions) - for those who have small children and cried with them

Issue 303:

I greet this sunrise with cries of joy as a prisoner who is reprieved from death.

Answer: The greatest salesman in the world by Og Mandino
Guessed by: Anish Shah
and now for something completely different...

A Christmas airport miracle

Peter O'Toole receiving his Honorary Oscar in 2003

John Lewis Christmas Advert 2013 - The Bear & The Hare

Thought for the Year

“Are you a Tigger or an Eyore?”
— Randy Pausch, The Last Lecture

Contact details

If you have items of news or interest that you would like included in this newsletter, contact the admin office before noon on Friday at bioladmin@canterbury.ac.nz or phone ext 6732.

The editor would like to thank everybody who contributed to the past 12 months of newsletters, in particular Jason T, Paul G, Dave K and Bill.