Tribute to Colin Burrows

Sadly Dr Colin Burrows passed away Thursday 16 January.

Originally from Methven, in 1950-52 Colin studied part-time for his BSc while at Teachers Training College in Christchurch. He taught at secondary schools, Christchurch Technical College, and Timaru Boy's High (where he was a pupil 1946-49). In 1958 he completed his MSc (First Class) in Botany at Canterbury. In 1967 he was awarded his PhD on “The ecology of some alpine grasslands”. Since the late 1960s, after a sabbatical at Cambridge University, he worked extensively on paleoecology. He has an international reputation and was awarded a DSc for his work in this field.

Very important in Colin’s professional life (and personal friendships) has been his association with those in the Forest Service, New Zealand Geological Survey, Botany Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Lincoln, and other New Zealand universities, and their modern equivalents. In the 1970s he was active in the New Zealand Ecological Society, and now he is very involved with the Canterbury Botanical Society. However, his most lasting legacy will be the large body of research which he has published on diverse topics from the taxonomy of *Pimelea* through vegetation history to seed ecology.

He spent his lifetime studying, protecting and teaching others about New Zealand’s native plant life. He was a member of University of Canterbury staff from 1960 until he retired in 1993. He focused in particular on the ecological problems of Canterbury and New Zealand. He has worked in alpine grasslands, wetlands, and forests and produced many reports on natural areas suitable for conservation throughout the South Island. Papers were presented at a symposium held at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, on 11 October 1993, to mark Colin’s retirement.

Upon retirement he became an active Adjunct who worked tirelessly to support local projects and produced many publications.
From his active involvement with the famous Save Lake Manapouri Campaign in the 1970s through to his determined drive to restore Otamahua/Quail Island, his relentless pursuit to wanting to maintain order in his back yard inspired many. In 2008 he received the Environment Canterbury Natural Resource Management Award for his work on Quail Island.

In addition to his outstanding contribution of over 33 years to the education of New Zealand students as a teacher and supervisor, Colin was supervisor of the Cass Field Station for some time. He was the editor of ‘Cass: History and Science in the Cass District’, published in 1977.

He prepared a discussion paper in 2004 outlining the preservation of the University of Canterbury High Country Endowment Lands which was very close to his heart. Another publication he put his heart and soul into was the 2005 book ‘Julius Haast in the Southern Alps’ which was a beautifully presented edition. He was also a long-serving member of the University Council.

Colin was presented with the prestigious Loder Cup in 2010. The cup is to honour New Zealanders who work to ‘retain, investigate and cherish New Zealand’s incomparable flora’. This award was presented to him by the Minister of Conservation at Lincoln University.

Colin's last publication came only in 2012 where he and Hugh Wilson published a beautiful edition of ‘The Island's Plants’ of Otamahua/Quail Island from 1997-2010. It details the ecorestoration milestones and achievements of the Trust. Colin was particularly pleased with this rewarding work.

His contributions for the last half century working as a botanist, scientist, researcher, writer, poet and ecologist are legendary. His humble demeanour made it easy to start up any conversation on any topic. It will come as no surprise that to many people he was a mentor, respected colleague and dear friend who is already sorely missed.

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**Rakaia Valley Evening**

*by Colin Burrows*

All day the west wind raged,
it's torrent poured down-valley,
tossed tussocks,
threshed trees
and sky-tall dust veils
hid the gaunt grey hills,
screened the swollen river.

Now it's dusk,
the air's clear
and, but for little tremors,
in warm air-puffs,
the trees are stilled.
The river’s silver skeins
twist far westward,
where cardboard cutout
stand the fretted peaks,
shades on blue-black shades.

Cloud balloons
tied to highest summits
foretell another storm.
In a blaze of late, last light,
the sun slips through
the proscenium arch
and out.

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**Recent publications in the school**


**This is Tony’s first paper and at first author! Congratulations Tony!**


In the spotlight

International Award to New Zealand Scientist

Award for lifelong achievements in marine science presented to Prof David Schiel by Prof Steve Hawkins at the 10th International Temperate Reef Symposium in Perth, Australia

The triennial award for outstanding contributions to marine science was presented to Prof David Schiel of Canterbury University at the 10th International Temperate Reef Symposium in Perth Australia. The conference was a gathering of over 200 scientists from 24 countries. Prof Schiel was cited for his commitment to students, colleagues worldwide, contribution to the ITRS conferences over many years and his record of high achievement over his career. The award to Prof Schiel was only the sixth ever given. The presentation was made by noted marine scientist Prof Stephen Hawkins of Southampton University, UK, who gave a brief summary of Prof Schiel's career and scientific work. Prof Schiel thanked his students and colleagues for their substantial contributions to his achievements and noted the outstanding science being done by new generations of marine scientists.
Young scientist sets sights on future of the mozzie

Sophie Hunt (MSc candidate), under the supervision of university freshwater ecologist Professor Angus McIntosh, is researching how climate warming can affect insect predators and their prey, such as mosquitos, and how it might relate to invasive species. Highlighted in Carbon News, 20 December 2013.

Few think managing water rights helps environment

Only 15 percent of rural people surveyed believed managing water rights was beneficial to the environment, according to University of Canterbury research. Emma Porter (MSc candidate), is highlighted in Communications, UC, 6 January 2014.

UC research looks at ways to conserve NZ wetlands

Olivia Burge (PhD candidate) is investigating the Awarua-Waituna wetland, in Southland, which was New Zealand’s first and largest internationally-recognised wetland site and at 20,000 ha it is the largest out of 55,000 ha of wetlands recognised nationally. Read the full article in the Voxy and on Newstalk ZB.
New additions to the school

Three fine technicians and one technical assistant begin their journeys with us this month.

**Thomas Evans** - Genetics. Previously employed with us covering Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. Thomas received his Master of Science with Distinction in 2011.

**Jon Hill** - Animal Physiology. Jon was previously employed with us doing contract work in Physiology. Jon has a Ph.D. in Zoology.

**Kim Roberts** - Ecology. Kim was awarded her Master of Science with Distinction in 2013. She was working with the Freshwater Ecology Research Group as a Research Assistant.

**Marie Foxwell** - Technical Assistant. Marie will be new to the University. She begins on 3rd February.

Please welcome all four when you see them around.

Who wrote this?

She was a bad joke, and what Arnie saw in her that day I'll never know. The left side of her windscreen was a snarled spiderweb of cracks. The right rear deck was bashed in, and an ugly nest of rust had grown in the paint-scraped valley. The back bumper was askew, the boot-lid was ajar, and stuffing was bleeding out through several long tears in the seat covers, both front and back. It looked as if someone had worked on the upholstery with a knife. One tyre was flat. The others were bald enough to show the canvas cording. Worst of all, there was a dark puddle of oil under the engine block.

and now for something completely different...

**Tribute to Roger-Lloyd Pack**

as *Barty Crouch in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

as *Trigger in Only Fools and Horses*

**Best Vicar of Dibley lines:**

I am not a lunatic. I have the psychiatric report to prove it. A slender majority of the panel decided in my favour.

Sorry I'm late. Sheep exploded. Nasty business.

Sorry for being late but I made the mistake of going to my toilet today and it hasn't been flushed for ten days.

I've only just regained consciousness.
We remember “The Professor”
and... the theme from Gilligan's Island

And now for some cute cat moments

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**Thought for the Week**

"I would have been a very different scientist. At that time I was involved in evolutionary biology, but when the position came up at Canterbury I changed my research thrusts, so I turned out to be an ecologist".

- Colin Burrows
Recent publications in the school


This is Jonathan’s first publication, as first author and before he has submitted his Ph.D. Congratulations Jonathan!


Who wrote this?

The two men in the black suits had walked thirty brisk feet and climbed into a bright red car. Fire-engine red, the eyewitness called it. Vivid red. Fairly new. A regular four-door sedan, the eyewitness thought. Or maybe a five-door. Or a three-door. But definitely not a two-door coupe. A Toyota, the eyewitness thought. Or maybe a Honda. Or a Hyundai. Maybe a Kia.

**Issue 305:** She was a bad joke, and what Arnie saw in her that day I'll never know. The left side of her windscreen was a snarled spiderweb of cracks. The right rear deck was bashed in, and an ugly nest of rust had grown in the paint-scraped valley. The back bumper was askew, the boot-lid was ajar, and stuffing was bleeding out through several long tears in the seat covers, both front and back. It looked as if someone had worked on the upholstery with a knife. One tyre was flat. The others were bald enough to show the canvas cording. Worst of all, there was a dark puddle of oil under the engine block.

Answer: Christine by Stephen King
Guessed by: Our Nicole, oh, and Tracey!!

and now for something completely different...

- The puppy and the doorstop
- The art of asking
- Rafal Nadal’s routines

Thought for the Week

I care not what others think of what I do, but I care very much about what I think of what I do! That is character! -Theodore Roosevelt
Recent publications in the school

This is Andrew’s first journal publication as first author. Andrew graduated with a Master of Science with First Class Honours in 2012. Congratulations Andrew!


This is Ophélie’s first publication and at first author before submitting her Ph.D. Congratuations Ophélie!


In the spotlight

In saving a species, you might accidentally doom it

Article in National Geographic, Melanie Massaro’s reseach on the Black Robin is mentioned. Beautiful photo credit to Matt Walters.

Monsanto prepares to release first ever GMO wheat

Article from ‘Saludify’ mentioned Jack Heinemann and his results.

Monsanto, the world’s largest seed company, renowned for its genetically modified organism (GMO) product lines, is preparing to introduce the first ever GMO wheat seed onto the commercial market. The herbicide-tolerant wheat is not legally approved for use anywhere in the world, but according to reports Monsanto is confident the product will be approved by the time it is ready for release in a few years’ time.
Who wrote this?

My sisters and I have a wish before we die and it may sound strange as if our minds are deranged.

**Issue 306:** The two men in the black suits had walked thirty brisk feet and climbed into a bright red car. Fire-engine red, the eyewitness called it. Vivid red. Fairly new. A regular four-door sedan, the eyewitness thought. Or maybe a five-door. Or a three-door. But definitely not a two-door coupe. A Toyota, the eyewitness thought. Or maybe a Honda. Or a Hyundai. Maybe a Kia.

Answer: *A Wanted Man* by Lee Child
Guessed by: Smartie Pants himself!

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and now for something completely different...

In remembrance of a truly great actor, who sadly decided to leave us...

Philip Seymour Hoffman

*The Big Lebowski*

*Almost Famous*

Catch all his great films on dvd from *Alice in Videoland*

This is what Earth will look like if we melt all the ice

*Antarctica's Blood Red Waterfall*

Plus, no newsletter would be complete without a cute cat video...

(sound not required)

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**Thought for the Week**

A great man shows his greatness by the way he treats little men. -Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)
Recent publications in the school

This is Gloria's first publication and at first author before submitting her Ph.D. Congratulations Gloria!


In the spotlight

Tarantulas creep into exhibition

The Canterbury Museum has welcomed two new tarantulas into an exhibition, after they spent three years in quarantine. Radio New Zealand News had a small article about their transfer (Ed. - sighted their transportation vessel at a safe distance!).

The Lost World


Who wrote this?

Miss Brooke had that kind of beauty which seems to be thrown into relief by poor dress.

Issue 306: My sisters and I have a wish before we die and it may sound strange as if our minds are deranged.

Answer: Tea in the Sahara, by The Police
Guessed by: Nobody...
and now for something completely different...

Get ready for Sochi...

Top 10 coolest plants
(you probably have your own...)

Whew, they have found their luggage...

Flipping dog...

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Thought for the Week

You can overcome anything if you don't bellyache. -Bernard M. Baruch
Welcome to Semester One!

Recent publications in the school


This is Paul's first publication and at first author. Paul's Ph.D. was conferred in 2013. Congratulations!


This is Laura's first publication before the submission of her Ph.D. Congratulations Laura!

Lastest PhD oral exam

Pictured: Professor Jason Tylianakis (senior supervisor), Carol, and Associate Professor Jacqueline Beggs (Examiner, University of Auckland)

Carol Frost, had her oral exam on Monday 10th February. Her thesis is titled ‘Spillover and Species Interactions Across Habitat Edges Between Managed and Natural Forests’ and her senior supervisor was Professor Jason Tylianakis. Congratulations Carol! It has been a pleasure and delight to have you amongst our esteemed postgraduates.
In the spotlight

Listen to National Radio

Ximena Nelson spoke on National Radio (Our changing world) about her spider lab research (20 mins) which aired on Thursday 13th February:  
http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/ourchangingworld/20140213

Event celebrates twenty years of Marsden Fund

Scientists, researchers and politicians gathered at Parliament on the 18th February to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Marsden Fund, New Zealand's largest fund for leading-edge, fundamental research projects. Our very own Juliet Gerrard, chairperson of the Council was in attendance.

Marsden Fund not just play money

Researchers last week celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Marsden Fund, New Zealand's largest sponsor of leading-edge, fundamental study projects in many areas. New Zealand Herald science reporter Jamie Morton explains its importance to New Zealanders. This article includes a write up of a ex-UC student, Jane Allison (BSc Hons, 2004) who completed her research with the present chairperson of the Marsden Council Juliet Gerrard.

Health & Safety Rewards

Bill Davison provided chocolates for good health & safety practices last year. As an incentive for lab groups to comply with health and safety requirements, a prize of $100 would be awarded to the best ‘compliance’ student group in the School. The winners for January were Arvind Varsani’s lab group who were very impressive.

Why we need GMO labels

Article in CNN written by David Schubert mentions Jack Heinemann et al. latest publication. "For example, recently published data show that conventional breeding of corn and soy increases yields to a greater extent than GM technologies."

Shave for a Cure

Hannah Charan-Dixon, will be starting her fourth year (first year Masters) of study in Science. She is shaving her head on March 23rd as a part of Shave for a Cure in order to raise money for those living with Leukaemia.

It would mean a lot to those that she is fundraising for if the School of Biological Sciences would support this cause through sponsorship.
Please follow the link below to Hannah's fundraising page. She sincerely hopes you will consider sponsoring her or showing your support in any way possible.


Who wrote this?

Immediately after the elopement Adelaida Ivanovna discerned in a flash that she had no feeling for her husband but contempt.

**Issue 308:** Miss Brooke had that kind of beauty which seems to be thrown into relief by poor dress.

Answer: Middlemarch by George Eliot
Guessed by: Nobody...

and now for something completely different...

**Things You Do Online That'd Be Creepy In Real Life**

**25 Scary Bridges You'll Have To See To Believe**

**Safety in Paradise**
(yes, that now famous Air NZ ad)

**The Cat, Her Kitten And The Baby**
(contains: cuteness, shrills of kitten and of baby...)

**Thought for the Week**

- Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself.
  -- Chinese Proverb
Now over a week has passed since I welcomed our new first year students to UC, and a week since welcoming the 4th year cohort. I hope everyone continues to be enthusiastic about the year ahead even if the weather is trying to cool everything and everyone off. Biology continues to move forward with remediation of our research building moving apace and it is quite clear where the new RSIC building is going - in the space where I did all my undergraduate lectures many years ago. This might be the last year that I can point to the beech hedge and talk about juvenile beeches retaining their leaves, that is they are not abscising, even though they have senesced, whereas once the plant matures the leaves abscise. This takes some 30 – 40 years (!). Note also how the Pseudopanax are also changing from their juvenile state, with their lance-like leaves, to their mature, branched form – this didn’t take quite as long as the beech trees – but most of these will also disappear! Maybe it is obvious that my head is down trying to rewrite some of my lectures.

Best wishes to all staff and students in the year ahead.

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school

This is Lorna's first publication and as first author. Lorna conferred her Ph.D. in 2012. Congratulations!


**Lastest PhD oral exam**

Elizabeth Graham, had her PhD oral exam on Tuesday 28th January. Her thesis was titled 'Mechanisms and mitigation of food web change in stream ecosystems'. Her senior supervisor was Professor Angus McIntosh. Another star from the Freshwater Ecology Research Group - Congratulations Elizabeth!

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**In the spotlight**

**Eagle spotting**

On a mountain in the Philippines, Pieter Pelser and Julie Barcelona found Rafflesia and even had regular visits by a Philippine Eagle. This is the first record of this rare iconic Philippine bird in the area. It was sitting directly above their tent! Video on Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2YM9cBbecY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2YM9cBbecY)
Lorne conference winner

Pictured: Barry Scott (Shimadzu) and winner(!) Rishi Pandey

Rishi Pandey, PhD candidate, attended the Lorne Protein Structure and Function conference, held 9-13 February in Australia and was a lucky winner of a brand new Shimadzu Microbalance. Well done Rishi!

Who wrote this?

Dear Joe, I feel happiness running through me like an electrical current. I close my eyes and see you as you were last night in the rain, across the road from me, with the unspoken love between us as strong as steel cable.

Issue 309: Immediately after the elopement Adelaida Ivanovna discerned in a flash that she had no feeling for her husband but contempt.

Answer: The brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Guessed by: None other than Tracey Robinson!!
and now for something completely different...

More from Sochi
Paralympic Games

Senate hearing on Alzheimer’s research
Seth Rogen Opening Statement

Thunderstruck

Yes, a cat advert...

Thought for the Week

If you don’t follow your dream, who will?
- Emeril Lagasse -
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Timid jumping spider uses ant as bodyguard

A timid jumping spider uses the scent of ants as a secret weapon to save itself from becoming the somewhat soggy prey of the predatory spitting spider. Read online article on Science 2.0 featuring the research of Dr Ximena Nelson and Professor Robert Jackson.

Research funding 'should support academic freedom

Academic Freedom Aotearoa supports the minister's desire to place "a higher value on research that meets user needs", but we are concerned that those who offer "research funds and contract research" will have their needs met at the expense of the rest of New Zealand society, says Academic Freedom Aotearoa chairperson Professor Jack Heinemann. Read the rest on Voxy.

Who said this?

I don't have the right style for you do I?

Issue 310: Dear Joe, I feel happiness running through me like an electrical current. I close my eyes and see you as you were last night in the rain, across the road from me, with the unspoken love between us as strong as steal cable.

Answer: Enduring Love, Ian McEwan

Guessed by: Rosalie Lyttle
and now for something completely different...

Manu Prakash: A 50-cent microscope that folds like origami

View the frog below, then click on this link

Six Nations winners

There are only two kinds of people in the world, The Irish and those who wish they were.

In Heaven there is no beer that’s why we drink it here!

May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live.

“St. Patrick -- one of the few saints whose feast day presents the opportunity to get determinedly whacked and make a fool of oneself all under the guise of acting Irish.” -- Charles M. Madigan

May the luck of the Irish be with you!

You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your father was.

Thought for the Week

'And slowly you know, you begin to realise that the flip side of life isn't death - its pain’

~ Girish Karnard (Indian playwright)
Recent publications in the school


This is Andrew's first publication and at first author. Andrew conferred his Master of Science in 2012. Congratulations Andrew!


This is Scott's first publication as first author. Scott conferred his PhD in 2013. Congratulations Scott!


In the spotlight

Quiz night round up

The Dynamic Duo

Super Nerds - best costume
Super Nerd "Dorien"  
Best colouring in - Tom Moore & Sophia Hunt

Postgrad Super heros
Evilution – Best individual costume (Rachel van Heugten)

Team Superclueless
Many thanks to: post-grad committee students (+ Daisy and Dorien), overseen by Simona, for organising quiz night; the post-grad student committee staff reps (Arvind and Brigitta) for stellar organisational and on-the-night work, and some pretty nifty costumes; Penny and Nicki for AV rescue and setup; and the man of the hour Jack Heinemann for MC’ing like he’d been born to do it.

Congrats to the teams at quiz night for the following achievements:

- Firecats – 1st prize
- Biosoc – 2nd; honourable mention for staff-on-staff heckling
- Superclueless – 3rd prize
- Super Nerds – team costume
- Quizzly bears – team mediocrity prize (no prize)
- Alteregos – commended for highest staff ratio (did not appear to help placing)
- Professional Phagocytes – specially commended – getting the baffler by mistake
- Evilution – Best individual costume (Rachel van H)
Our next quiz night will be in August. Same ticketing system as this time, and the earlier the tickets get bought, the more we can budget for food and prizes. Finally a big thanks to everyone for such enthusiastic participation and chipping in with tidying in at the end (Staff Club staff were stoked).

- student post-grad committee for biology
Biopostgrad.blogspot.com - check it out!

**Individual differences count in one of the world's largest Adélie penguin colonies**

Cape Crozier is full of life. You can hear it in the cacophonous braying of tens of thousands of Adélie penguins – a range of vocal sounds that imitate an entire farm of overly excited animals. Antarctica’s iconic seabird is so numerous here – spread out across more than two kilometers of coastline and up to a kilometer inland – that the queues of black and white ripple in lines longer than any at the most popular Disney rides. Read this wonderful article written by Peter Rejcek online at The Antarctic Sun. Follow Arvind Varsani and Melanie Massaro’s research amongst the penguins.

**Timid jumping spider uses ant as bodyguard**

Continuation from last week:
Ants act both as guardians and predators of jumping spiders in a three-species interaction, according to a study by Ximena Nelson and Robert Jackson from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Read the article at Asian Scientist.

**Why did New Zealand's moas go extinct?**

For millions of years, nine species of large, flightless birds known as moas (Dinornithiformes) thrived in New Zealand. Then, about 600 years ago, they abruptly went extinct. Read the article online at Science Magazine which deals with the publication above.

**Who wrote this?**

Way out at the end of a tiny little town was an old overgrown garden, and in the garden was an old house, and in the house lived....

**Issue 311**: I don't have the right style for you do I?

Answer: Katie Morosky Gardner (Barbra Streisand) said this to Hubbell Gardner (Robert Redford), who's reply was "No you don't have the right style". [The Way we Were, 1973]
Guessed by: Nobody
and now for something completely different...

What not to do on your next field trip
(ps. you may laugh...)

Ever wondered what your dog gets up to at home?
(complete with Benny Hill theme...)

The 23 Most Breathtaking Science Photos Of 2013

Thought for the Week

‘Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.’ -Ralph Waldo Emerson
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Spider uses ants as protection

Quirks & Quarks with Bob McDonald, CBS Radio, interviewed Ximena Nelson. Listen here to hear all about it. Scroll down the page a bit and click on the Listen button [8min:36sec]

Who wrote this?

"And this also," said Marlow suddenly, "has been one of the dark places of the earth."

Issue 312: Way out at the end of a tiny little town was an old overgrown garden, and in the garden was an old house, and in the house lived....

Answer: ...Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgreen
Guessed by: Nobody...
and now for something completely different...

If you were interested in the science photos last week, check out the book by Lovett, Horvath and Cuzzi (2006) Saturn: a new view (Abrams, New York). Here are few snapshots you may enjoy.

The moon Rhea in silhouette against Saturn, Saturn with ringshadows, Saturn transiting.

Here is a cool video [about 4mins long] of that Landing on Titan: Descent Data Movie with Bells and Whistles with beeps, altimeter, sketch of where the probe is at the time, etc

Kitty hugs his teddy bear

10 Places on Earth That Look Completely Alien

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Thought for the Week

When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway. - Erma Bombeck
Graduation is approaching - can I ask that as many staff as possible support our Graduation Afternoon Tea (gowns please if you have them) and take the opportunity to congratulate our group of graduands on Wednesday 16th and I encourage academic staff to attend graduation on Thursday 17th. Some of you may have noticed that plans for the Biology component of the RSIC are on the wall outside the HoS office. I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to look at these and pass comments onto Angus, Bill, Matthew, Nicole etc.

The process for selecting a new Head of School is underway (and my plans for heading overseas are taking shape!). Please keep an eye out for opportunities to contribute to this process. Bill Davison is the School conduit.

And plagiarising from the Department of Chemistry Newsletter

"April 2014 #472

So, on this theme I finish this month with a quote from a recent MacDiarmid Institute Newsletter, written by Kate McGrath, that I think gets really to the core of the problem with how a significant number of ‘University’ policies and processes are both arrived at and implemented.

‘and mostly let’s stop having the worst-case scenario dictate how we operate on a daily basis.’

AJF"

From our perspective an unfortunate accident in another department in which a piece of matagouri pierced the eye of a student in the field has led to the suggestion that safety glasses should be worn in the field…please be careful and keep our accident rate down to its usual low level, and ‘no’ we won’t be implementing that suggestion. Please also listen to Bill’s pleas about laboratory behaviours as we prepare for another MPI audit.

~ Paula ~

Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Freshwater CAREX

Last week the Freshwater CAREX (Canterbury Waterway Rehabilitation Experiment) team held a field day with Biology students from Riccarton High School. About 60 students visited Silverstream, a dairy farm stream which flows in the Selwyn River. The students looked at a spring wetland, undertook a crowd sourcing photo survey, sampled for benthic invertebrates, and heard about freshwater fish conservation.

Tertiary Education Union winner

The Tertiary Education Union welcomed one of their newest members, Jasmine Liew of the Pelser research group, with the grand prize Air New Zealand Mystery Weekend for 2. Branch President Jack Heinemann was present at the selection of Jasmine’s name from the box and he says he nearly fainted when the national Vice President Sandra Grey read out Jasmine’s name. “I’m really pleased that our casual fixed term staff are getting to know the Union. Jasmine’s luck will reinforce the message to our young scholars that academia doesn’t have to mean doing everything alone and it is never too early to join in the collective”, Jack said.
Richard White, awarded the Roper scholarship which is a three-year PhD scholarship ($25,500 per annum) given to the highest scoring domestic PhD applicant in the Science Department at UC.

Nixie Boddy, recently received the inaugural Vida Stout Scholarship for students doing a PhD studying limnology and/or environmental science in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Canterbury. This is a three-year scholarship valued at $8,500 for the first year and $11,250 for the two subsequent years, and only one student can hold it at a time.

Amanda Klemmer, awarded the Peterson Fund Travel Award of $1,200 for travel to the Annual Meeting of the Society for Freshwater Science in Portland, Oregon. Only one award is awarded to students studying outside of American universities to attend the annual meeting.
Who wrote this?

Mariam was five years old the first time she heard the word harami.

**Issue 313:** "And this also," said Marlow suddenly, "has been one of the dark places of the earth."

Answer: Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
Guessed by: Elizabeth Graham and Helen Boothby

and now for something completely different...

What NOT to give your young toddler for their next birthday...

Kevin Bacon's Footloose Entrance

Could Noah's Ark Float? In Theory, Yes

Thought for the Week

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is, that one often comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't.

- H.W. Beecher
Recent publications in the school


PhD oral exams completed

Angela Newton had her oral exam on the 9th April, Her thesis title is “Flavour formation in ghee” and her Senior Supervisor is Professor Juliet Gerrard. Congratulations Angela!

Pictured: Professor Juliet Gerrard, Angela, Dr David Everett (Oral Examiner, University of Otago)
Tejraj Janmale, had his oral exam on the 11th April. His thesis title is ‘Formation, Transport and Detection of 7,8-Dihydroneopterin’ and his Senior Supervisor is Associate Professor Steven Gieseg. It has been a delight and pleasure to get to know Raj during the time of his thesis. Big congratulations to you Raj! He is the 9th PhD student to graduate from A/Prof Gieseg Laboratory.

Pictured: Tejraj, Associate Professor Sally McCormack, Department of Biochemistry, University of Otago (Oral Examiner) and Associate Professor Steven Gieseg
**Kata Farkas**, had her oral exam this morning, 14th April. Her thesis title is 'Mimicking virus retention and transport in groundwater using surface charge-modified, DNA-labelled silica nanobeads' and her Senior Supervisor is Dr Arvind Varsani. Congratulations Kata!

Pictured: Dr Arvind Varsani, Dr Gail Greening (Oral Examiner), Kata, Dr Liping Pang (Supervisor, ESR) and Dr Wendy Williamson (Supervisor, ESR, absent)

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**Who wrote this?**

“Yes, of course, if it’s fine tomorrow,” said Mrs Ramsay. “But you’ll have to be up with the lark,” she added.

**Issue 314:** Mariam was five years old the first time she heard the word harami.

**Answer:** A thousand splendid suns, by Khaled Hosseini

**Guessed by:** Helen Boothby and Brigitta Kurenbach
and now for something completely different...

Damselfly eats smaller fly

GoPro: Director's Cut - Shark Riders

What Kate wore

Thought for the Week

One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries. -A.A Milne
Recent publications in the school


PhD oral exams completed

**Danladi Umar** had his oral exam on Thursday 17 April. His research topic is 'The effects of land use on stream communities in highland tropical streams in Nigeria'. His senior supervisor is Professor Jon Harding. Congratulations Danladi! It has been a delight to know you during your time here at UC. Travelling to the other side of the world and leaving your family behind is a huge commitment a lot of our international students make. Completing your PhD has made this sacrifice even more rewarding. Have a blessed life! Danladi’s exam was conducted via speakerphone only, thus no images at oral.

**Abishek Muralidhar** had his oral exam on Friday 25 April. His research topic is 'Mechanisms of turgor regulation and their relationship to growth in Vaucheria species from habitats of different salinity'. His senior supervisor is Dr Ashley Garrill. Congratulations Abishek! It has been a pleasure to get to know you during your time here at UC and your fine efforts for the St Albans Cricket Club!

Pictured: Dr Ximena Nelson (Oral Organiser), Dr Paul Broady (Associate Supervisor), Abishek, Dr Ashley Garrill and Dr David Burritt (External Examiner, Otago University)
In the spotlight

Science Media Centre Spins Pro-GMO Line

A new report commissioned by Prime Minister David Cameron suggests that GMOs have now been shown to be safe and that the United Kingdom may need to grow them in order to rely less on imports.

Jack Heinemann is quoted in this PR Watch article.

Canterbury Botanical Society grant

Congratulations to Sarah Wright (Pelser lab) who has received a $1000 grant from the Canterbury Botanical Society for her MSc project "Connecting the dots: the conservation genetics, taxonomy and ecology of the disjunctly distributed plant species Pittosporum obcordatum (Pittosporaceae)".

Interested in learning more about scientific publishing?

New Zealand Natural Sciences (NZNS) is looking for a new associate editor and treasurer. The associate editor assists in reviewing and preparing articles for publication, and the treasurer maintains the journal's accounts. Editing and reviewing papers is a great way to learn more about your own writing and gives you a behind the scenes look at how scientific publishing works. It's a relatively small time commitment and looks great on the CV. If you're keen, please send us an email with your research background and why you're interested in volunteering: nzns@canterbury.ac.nz.

Non-native species not the bad guys in a changing eco-system

University of Canterbury researchers (Professor Jason Tylianakis and Dr Daniel Stouffer) are investigating some positive features of animals being introduced to New Zealand. Exotic animals are generally considered to be a major threat to native species in New Zealand and worldwide. Despite numerous examples of invasive species harming ecosystems, exotic species may actually be able to fill ecological gaps in their new home, such as those left by native species that have gone extinct.

Read the full story on the Voxy.

April graduation - 17 April 2014

Doctor of Philosophy
IN PERSON
Carol Frost in Ecology
Spillover and Species Interactions Across Habitat Edges Between Managed and Natural Forests
Sharon E. Graham in Ecology
Mechanisms and mitigation of food web change in stream ecosystems

IN ABSENTIA
Francis Burdon in Ecology
Impacts of sedimentation on the structure and functioning of agricultural stream communities

Master of Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Honours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael J. Bartlett</td>
<td>Evolution</td>
<td>First Class Honours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica C.B. Hill</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simon Litchwark</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>Second Class Honours, Division 1</td>
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<td>James McBride</td>
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<td>Megan H. Nikoloff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen A. Renouf</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>Merit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert T. McGee</td>
<td>Plant Biology</td>
<td>Masters only</td>
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COUNCIL CEREMONY
Lauretta Bensemann, Second Class Honours, Division II, 29 January

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences/Biochemistry

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Catherine E. Bosma</td>
<td>Lance R. Buckett</td>
<td>Jamie D. Buckland</td>
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<td>Courtney J. Burn</td>
<td>Hannah C. Charan-Dixon</td>
<td>Ashleigh E. Cornish</td>
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<td>Sean P. Cross</td>
<td>Harmony M. Douglas</td>
<td>Samantha Z. Dudley</td>
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<td>Amy J. Ferris</td>
<td>Roseanna N. Gamlen-Greene</td>
<td>Paddy S. Gibson</td>
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<td>Mary-Ann K. Glaister</td>
<td>Oliver J. Gooday</td>
<td>Ellyse S. Gore</td>
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<td>Laura A.A. Grundy</td>
<td>Melanie R. Hamzah</td>
<td>Tracey M. Hannam</td>
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<td>Elise Hemmingsen</td>
<td>Anna M. Henderson</td>
<td>Jack Higgins</td>
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<td>Callum M.G. Holmes</td>
<td>Emma A. Hunt</td>
<td>Hilary C.E. Jacomb</td>
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<td>Steven R. Johnston</td>
<td>Annabelle R. Kerr</td>
<td>Angela R. Lewis</td>
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<td>Emma M. MacKenzie</td>
<td>Stephanie H.M.S. McRae</td>
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<td>Jaime E. Marriott</td>
<td>Helen R. Morris</td>
<td>Boushra Moustafa Alhathish</td>
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<td>Anna S. Newburn</td>
<td>Tristan K.F. Nicol</td>
<td>David K. Packer</td>
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<td>Alannah M. Rickerby</td>
<td>Hayley N.G. Schoch</td>
<td>Jennifer C. Schori</td>
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<td>Christina J. Shewan</td>
<td>Jordyn A. Smith</td>
<td>Anja R. Stampfl</td>
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<td>David H.M. Thomas</td>
<td>Channel L. Thoms</td>
<td>Janelle A. Trask</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christina S. Tse</td>
<td>Thomas van Workum</td>
<td>Thomas N.E. Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirstin J. Yee</td>
<td>Lauren R. Yule</td>
<td>Masuma Zawari</td>
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IN ABSENTIA
Jezebel Cleveland
Joshua Van Lier
What film is this?

“They wanna blow those water tanks two floors above you. They think it might kill the fire”.

**Issue 315:** “Yes, of course, if it’s fine tomorrow,” said Mrs Ramsay. “But you’ll have to be up with the lark,” she added.

Answer: To the Lighthouse, by Virginia Woolf
Guessed by: Maybe Bill did?

and now for something completely different...

The Government has released a booklet outlining who has responsibility for doing what in terms of offshore drilling.

It can be found at this address. [http://www.epa.govt.nz/EEZ/who_does_what/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.epa.govt.nz/EEZ/who_does_what/Pages/default.aspx)

[How to Make Good Use of Rainwater](#)
The most polite kitten

The 2014 World Cheerleading Championships, held at the Walt Disney World® Resort on 24-25 April 2014

All Girl Elite - 1st Team New Zealand
Coed Elite - 1st Team New Zealand

Thought for the Week

Habit and routine have an unbelievable power to waste and destroy. -Henri de Lubac
Recent publications in the school


I forgot to mention that this publication is Camille’s first before she has submitted her PhD, well done Camille!

PhD oral exam completed

Pragathi Dhandapani, had her oral exam on Tuesday 29th April. Her thesis title is 'Use of Rhodococcus as a tool to probe the mechanism of hormone homeostasis'. Her senior supervisor is Professor Paula Jameson. Congratulations Pragathi on reaching your milestone!

Pictured: Dr Ashley Garrill, Pragathi, Professor Paula Jameson (Senior Supervisor) and Professor Michael McManus (Oral Examiner, Massey University)

What film is this?

"What's the meaning of goodness if there isn't a little badness to overcome?"

Issue 316: "They wanna blow those water tanks two floors above you. They think it might kill the fire".

Answer: The Towering Inferno, 1974, starring Paul Newman and Steve McQueen

Guessed by: Paula Jameson
and now for something completely different...

Remember when...

Harry Potter vs Star Wars
(Potter fans may take offence...)

Meal Planning 101

Thesis defence

Thought for the Week
A single lie destroys a whole reputation of integrity. -Baltasar Gracian
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Another grant success for Sarah Wright (MSc candidate in Pelser lab!). She received a $3,700 grant from the Brian Mason Trust for her MSc project "Connecting the dots: the conservation genetics, taxonomy and ecology of the disjunctly distributed plant species Pittosporum obcordatum (Pittosporaceae)."

PhD Research Innovation and Commercialisation Course

Congratulations to the 19 UC PhD students who have been selected to participate in the PhD Research Innovation and Commercialisation Course, being held at the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Auckland Business School on 12 & 13 May.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Number of Students Selected</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical and Process Engineering</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electrical and Computer Engineering</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIT Lab NZ</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting and Information Systems</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomolecular Interaction Centre</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil and Natural Resources Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geological Sciences</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Forestry</td>
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PhD oral exams completed

Sarah Coxon, completed her oral exam on Thursday 8th May. Her research title is “The exercise physiology of snapper (Pagrus auratus): Implications for the better commercial harvesting of an iconic New Zealand finfish” and her Senior Supervisor is Professor Bill Davison. Congratulations Sarah on a grand effort, you will go far!

Pictured: Dr Chris Glover, Professor Bill Davison (Senior Supervisor), Sarah and Dr Neill Herbert (Oral Examiner, Leigh Marine Lab, Auckland University).
**Jimmy Thomas** completed the oral for defence of his PhD on Monday 12th May. Jimmy's PhD thesis was "An investigation of the formation and occurrence of spiral grain and compression wood in radiata pine (*Pinus radiata* D. Don)". Congratulations Jimmy!

From left to right are Professor Philip Harris (University of Auckland, Oral examiner), Jimmy Thomas (via Skype from India), Dr David Collings (Senior Supervisor) and Dr Sharyn Goldstien (Oral exam chair).

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**What film is this?**

There is surely nothing other than the single purpose of the moment. A man's whole life is a succession of moment after moment. If one fully understands the present moment, there is nothing left to do, and nothing else to pursue.

**Issue 317:** "What's the meaning of goodness if there isn't a little badness to overcome?"

Answer: National Velvet (1944) - Mrs Brown talking to Velvet (Elizabeth Taylor)

Guessed by: Nobody...
and now for something completely different...

Yosemite National Park
(very beautiful filming)

The world outside my window

Starter kit
(don't even think about it SJ-O'Connor!)

Thought for the Week

Ode to Sharyn:

Gorgeous hair is the best revenge. -Ivana Trump
Recent publications in the school


Check out Amy Whitehead's blog about Adélie penguins.

In the spotlight

**Part-time demonstrator wins mystery trip (with photo!)**

A part-time demonstrator from the University of Canterbury won TEU's Air New Zealand mystery break prize for new members who joined the union in March. **Jasmine Liew** is from Malaysia and is a part-time demonstrator in the College of Science at the University of Canterbury. She is currently in the second year of completing her PhD degree. Read the full text here.
PhD oral exam completed

Amy Phillips, had her oral exam on Thursday 15th May. Her thesis title is ‘Peroxiredoxins as self assembling building blocks for nanotechnology’ and her senior supervisor is Professor Juliet Gerrard. Congratulations Amy!

Pictured: Professor Juliet Gerrard (Senior Supervisor), Dr Andrew Sutherland-Smith (Oral Examiner, Massey University), Amy and Dr Ashley Garrill (OralOrganiser)
Pink Ribbon Morning tea

The School held a very successful Pink Ribbon Morning tea on Thursday 22 May and achieved the grand total of $260.00 (including online donations). Our target was $100 so we were tickled pink to receive much more than we anticipated.
What film is this?

"Eating greens is a special treat, It makes long ears and great big feet. But it sure is awful stuff to eat."

**Issue 318:** There is surely nothing other than the single purpose of the moment. A man's whole life is a succession of moment after moment. If one fully understands the present moment, there is nothing left to do, and nothing else to pursue.

Answer: Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai (1999), spoken by Ghost Dog

Guessed by: Yinnon Dolev

and now for something completely different...

- Manfred's replacement whilst he is in southern Spain!

- Around the World in 360° Degrees - 3 Year Epic Selfie

  - Jack Pack sing "That's Life"

    (they start singing at 1:27)

- The sausage thief

  - "Brave" trailer

    (just for you Selwyn - her name is MERIDA!!!)

Thought for the Week

It is a thousand times better to have common sense without education than to have education without common sense.

- Robert Green Ingersoll
Well it really is the wind down for me, when Nicki reminds me that this would be my last Newsletter introduction. I admit to having been a bit remiss this year with writing these, but there has always been building news and health and safety reminders from Bill.

But what to write?? A ten-year overview? No, because once my teaching finished, my mind turned to preparing two oral presentations and a poster for conferences in Dublin and Prague. I've also spent some time with Matthew chatting about an eclectic mix of things – and the occasional thing undone and left for him to pick up; and of course I have to move offices, so the weekend was spent sorting things out. Not too much in the recycle bin as I got tired of reshelving after the various earthquakes and reshelved a lot into a recycle bin back then.

And naturally there are many people to thank – in fact everyone in the School and associated with Biology has helped me in many and varied ways.

And just for the record, I'm not retiring as some of my 300-level class thought was happening! I am on sabbatical leave for the next six months – hence the conferences. Following those, I am looking forward to having more time to spend with my post grad group, catching up with the literature and writing papers in my new office on the 5th floor.

I know the School will be in good hands as Matthew takes the helm.

Best wishes and thanks
Paula

The end of an Era

This week marks Paula’s last week at the helm of SBS, and at the end of the week she hands over to Matthew Turnbull. Paula arrived here from Massey ten years ago to head the new School of Biological Sciences, a consequence of the merger of the old PAMS and Zoology departments. This was a formidable task, managing one of the biggest departments in the University comprising people from two very different departmental cultures. It was also a time of change, with many staff reaching retirement age and as a consequence the School has changed radically over the years with around 50% of our academic staff new since Paula’s arrival. It has also been a dynamic time, with a completely new research building, a newly refurbished office area and plans for new teaching labs (RSIC) all made extra demanding by the earth shaking under us. Throughout it all, Paula has led from the front and probably her biggest achievement is that she passes on to Matthew the best Biology department in the country, a fact backed up by the latest PBRF scores.

Thanks Paula
Recent publications in the school

This is Kevin’s first publication; at first author and published before he has submitted his Ph.D. Congratulations to you!


In the spotlight

Virus found among Adélie penguin population on Ross Island

It seems that research into Antarctic penguins and viruses has gone, well, viral.

A team of researchers funded by the National Science Foundation has reported finding a novel papillomavirus among the Adélie penguins on Ross Island, joining another group led by Australian scientists who also recently announced they found a new strain of avian flu amongst a population of Adélie penguins around the Antarctic Peninsula. Read the full article on ScienceBlog and at The Antarctic Sun, mentioning Arvind Varsani’s research.

Honorary appointment

Associate Professor Steven Gieseg has been appointed a Honorary Associate Professor in the Department of Radiology at the University of Otago, Christchurch from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.
Winners of the Behavioural Ecology Conference Poster

Joanna Enns and Jess Griffin for their poster "Dirty dancing: the role of sensory signals in eliciting courtship of Trite planiceps".

Canterbury Uni students win Todd Awards

Four University of Canterbury students are among 10 New Zealand university students to receive Todd Awards for Excellence in universities.

The awards support projects that promote excellence and encourage the development of new concepts, technology or research which will benefit New Zealand. The Todd Foundation Awards for Excellence (Universities) are granted in a field of study which is likely to benefit New Zealand.

The Canterbury students to receive awards were Sophie Hunt (MSc candidate), Jin Bum Hong, Nathaniel Gunby and Joshua Smaill.

Read the complete story at Yahoo! News.

What film is this?

By order of the commissioner of police, Zubrowka Province, I hereby place you under arrest for the murder of Madame Celine Villeneuve Desgoffe-und-Taxis.
Issue 319: "Eating greens is a special treat, It makes long ears and great big feet. But it sure is awful stuff to eat."
Answer: Thumper spoke this in 'Bambi', released 1942
Guessed by: Yinnon Dolev, Fiona Cross and Erin Smaill

and now for something completely different...

Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud

Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud

Maya Angelou in 1999. Photograph: Martin Godwin for the Guardian
Still I rise by Maya Angelou
Solar roadways
Gigapan from the UC library
Self-driving car project

Which English?
Is Throw me down the stairs my shoes a good English sentence?

The answer depends on where you live. Many people in Newfoundland find that sentence perfectly grammatical.

By taking this quiz, you will be helping train a machine algorithm that is mapping out the differences in English grammar around the world, both in traditionally English-speaking countries and also in countries like Mexico, China, and India.

At the end, you can see our algorithm’s best guess as to which English you speak as well as whether your first (native) language is English or something else.

Thought for the Week
So long, and thank you for the fish.
As I settle in as new Head of School (one week down, 250+ to go!) I would like to reiterate the vote of thanks for Paula that the School carried at the last staff meeting, and her thanks to all of us for the team effort during her 10 years as HoS. Paula is now on a well-earned 6-month sabbatical leave. Another person we owe a lot to (Bill) is also taking some well-earned annual leave this week.

It is a good time to reflect on the many great things we have achieved over the 10 years or so of the School, but also to consider that there is no shame in considering ways in which we can do better in the next 10 years. Soon we will be initiating a trial round of strategic planning meetings, which will be an open process to identify strengths/weaknesses/opportunities in the coming years – keep an eye out for that and get involved.

In the meantime, kia kaha to students and staff involved in exams!

Regards,
Matthew

Recent publications in the school


This is Yinnon’s first publication; at first author and published before he has submitted his Ph.D. Congratulations to you!


In the spotlight

UC Biology Volunteers

The SPGC (Student PostGrad Committee, and more specifically Anton Mather) created a facebook group called UC Biology Volunteers. This is a new designated space to create connections between volunteers and postgrads needing volunteers for field/ lab/ glasshouse work etc.

Check it out now! Utilise this great site and volunteer to your heart's content!

Chemical concepts basis for artworks

University of Canterbury chemistry, fine arts and art history students have teamed up to create and exhibit sculptures and graphic designs based on chemical concepts.

For their Chem-are/Comm-trast exhibition, which opened yesterday, chemistry students had explained scientific concepts, art students translated them and art historians curated the final pieces.

The exhibition has now closed. Read the full story at Stuff.

What film is this?

Mommy, don't! Mommy if Pinocchio became real and I become a real boy can I come home?

Issue 320: By order of the commissioner of police, Zubrowka Province, I hereby place you under arrest for the murder of Madame Celine Villeneuve Desgoffe-und-Taxis.
Answer: Spoken by Henckels to M. Gustave in The Grand Budapest Hotel (2014)
Guessed by: Nobody...

and now for something completely different...

Can I believe the magic in your sighs
Volkswagen - Eyes on the road
Dear Kitten
The scientific way to cut a cake

Thought for the Week

All your favourite Rick quotes here (The Young Ones)
Sometimes in life Monday’s turn into Wednesday’s... So here we are on the mid term break for our undergraduate assortments. May you be rewarded by your Mum’s best Sunday roast and perhaps some runs down a few ski slopes whilst your lecturers huddle over your papers with frowns upon their faces and a huge marker pen in their tightly gripped hands. As for our postgraduates, research continues and chapters are written, and re-written. School term breaks up this Friday so if you have any little munchkins you might like to check out KidsFest.

**Recent publications in the school**


**In the spotlight**

**Marsden grants submitted to the second round**

16 of out 51 proposals submitted from the College were successful in getting through to the second round of Marsden in 2014. The following researchers and their collaborators have – as I am sure you know already – been working hard on their second round proposals over the last few weeks:

From Psychology, three projects led by John Dalrymple Alford, Randy Grace and Simon Kemp
From Physics, four projects led by Jenni Adams, Loretta Dunne, Simon Brown and Jon-Paul Wells, and also involving Steve Maddox
**From Biological Sciences, three projects led by Jim Briskie, Ximena Nelson and Matthew Turnbull and also involving Dave Kelly, Ant Poole and Jonathan Love.**
From Chemistry, two projects led by Paul Kruger and Antony Fairbanks.
From Geological Sciences, a project led by Brendan Duffy
From Gateway Antarctica, a project led by Oliver Marsh
And last but not least,
**From BIC and partner Departments, two projects led by Ren Dobson (BIC/Biological Sciences) and Emily Parker (BIC/Chemistry)**
MBIE Smart Ideas projects

All three of the Smart Ideas proposals submitted by College researchers have gone to the Stage two phase and are in the process of being peer reviewed. Those projects are:
From Physics, a project on photon detectors led by Simon Brown
From BIC and partner departments, projects on kiwifruit proteins led by Grant Pearce (BIC/Biological Sciences), and on fungus in industrial bioproducts led by Matthew Nicholson and Emily Parker (BIC/Chemistry).

In addition, an existing Smart Idea project led by Ren Dobson of BIC/Biological Sciences on diagnostic markers for diabetic complications is being considered for an additional two years of funding, in recognition of the success of the work so far.

MBIE Enabling Technologies projects

Two large projects are in the peer review phase for this fund, as follows:
From Biological Sciences, a project led by Ren Dobson and involving Victoria, Waikato, Otago and Auckland universities and Callaghan Innovation on high value proteins for NZ exports
From Physics, a project led by Antony Butler and involving University of Otago taking MARS Spectral CT to human imaging.

What quote is this?

Because life appears to be challenging enough for most at the moment, here are two real easy ones for you to guess:

1. Film: "It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to your enemies, but a great deal more to stand up to your friends."
2. Song: "And as we wind on down the road, our shadows taller than our souls."

Issue 321: Mommy, don't! Mommy if Pinocchio became real and I become a real boy can I come home?
Answer: David talking to Monica (Mummy) in A.I.: Artificial Intelligence (2001)
Guessed by: Nobody...

and now for something completely different...

Warning! Gremlins, or other mysterious forces inhabit the female toilets in the biological sciences buildings! Causes people to lose things!

The recent spate of emails declaring items “FOUND – ladies toilets”, has aroused suspicion of gremlins, or other mysterious forces inhabiting the female toilets that causes occupants to lose their things. We have no knowledge of what this force consists of, how it works or why it is here. All we know is that things tend to get
lost in the female toilets more than any other place in the biological sciences buildings as the Figure 1 attests to. This pattern could have a rational explanation. Women may be doing more than just number ones and twos in the lavatory, e.g. grooming, and therefore carry more items into the toilets more frequently than males. Women may also be more observant and altruistic, noting and reporting lost items of their female colleagues more often. Or females may simply be more absent minded. However, we conclude the more likely explanation, that it is the work of some malevolent force, perhaps gremlins. Therefore, we strongly urge caution for all who venture into the female toilets, lest they lose items of worth unwittingly.

Figure 1: The number of emails sent by the SBS reception from 17/2/12 – 27/6/2014, reporting items “FOUND” from locations within SBS buildings.

Disclaimer: In no way is this email intended to be satirical. If this trend continues we fear that someone may lose their lip-gloss, permanently. This warning has been brought to you by your friendly and concerned PhD student, Richard White, who should probably be working on his thesis and not this guff.

Thank you for your attention.

Thought for the Week

Before you put on a frown, make absolutely sure there are no smiles available. -Jim Beggs
School's out for everyone which means the roads are quiet and the malls are busy. Marking is complete and grades are being entered gearing up for that wonderful evening this Friday when all the wee cherubs log on and check out if they can yell out "woo hoo" or not. Hopefully quite a few of you will feel the desire to enrol in some excellent courses offered here in Biology for semester two, it's never too late! For those of you keen this week check out Germany vs Brasil on Wednesday and Argentina vs Netherlands on Thursday (NZ times). I’m predicting a Germany-Netherlands final.

Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Forests in Nigeria

Kim Hill speaks to Associate Professor Hazel Chapman on her field research in Nigeria. Listen to here if you missed it last Sunday.

Bringing Moa back would cost millions - researcher

A leading Moa researcher has confirmed that while Labour MP Trevor Mallard's crusade to bring back the extinct bird could be a possibility, we should be thinking about the current state of our conservation.

View the article/video on TVNZ news with Professor Richard Holdaway.
What film is this?

What's the matter with you? Is this what you've become, a Hollywood finocchio who cries like a woman? "Oh, what do I do? What do I do?" What is that nonsense? Ridiculous!

Issue 322:
1. Film: "It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to your enemies, but a great deal more to stand up to your friends."
2. Song: "And as we wind on down the road, our shadows taller than our souls."
Answers:
Film: Spoken by Dumbledore in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, 2001
Song: Stairway to heaven, Led Zeppelin, 1971
Guessed by: Nobody guessed either....

and now for something completely different...

Hot Koalas, Disco Clams, And Other Amazing Images

Swimming with jellyfish
(there is a short advert before the clip starts)

Frozen Icelandic cave illuminated by Northern Lights
(click on image to get better view)

George Takei: Why I love a country that once betrayed me

Thought for the Week

Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there. -John Wooden
Semester Two is finally here after five long weeks of studying, exams and time out for a break. Those of us who continued to hold many forts (and there were many...) either have their heads spinning planning their lectures or prepping for laboratories. New sounds are coming out from the Roger Stead Atrium due to the sterling efforts of Alan Woods. Presently a variety of New Zealand bird calls are heard every five minutes. Come sit awhile and listen! UC Open Day was last Thursday and the campus was alive with keen and eager students and their parents. People were sitting on top of large chairs with loud hailers advising them where to go next. Talks and tours were held for most departments and the school did well with their troop of visitors.

Building news

SBS1
This current round of remediation has finished, with level 6 of the building signed off last week. Unfortunately we have now entered the next round of remediation (to repair the cracked control joints) and level 6 is once again a building site. I’m hoping that this work will only take a week because we have the owners of that floor moving back in on 21st. This new round of remediation will take place on levels 2 and 4 over the next few weeks, as the floors clear out, and hopefully by the middle of August we will have levels 2, 4 and 6 fully fixed and occupied. Reoccupation of level 2 signals our move out of von Haast, with the physiology and marine people finally moving home after almost 2 years in temporary accommodation. Remediation of levels 3 and 5 will take a bit of planning because these floors are already occupied. Once we move out of von Haast, expect some activity in that area as CAPE move in (their building is about to be knocked down).

Von Haast
The basement is currently having injection work to seal the leaks. No indication at the current time as to when it will be completed.

Other Bits
I have just been speaking to Learning Resources about the impressive amount of bird poo in the loading bay area. Hopefully we will get some movement on that soon.

We have just been informed that the area that we currently use for housing our fleet of boats needs to be used by another group (part of the engineering upgrade work) and we will need to move. At the moment we have no idea where we will be moved to, but major discussions on this are about to happen.

The pigeon aviary (the one at the end of Old Maths) is about to move. The whole of the Old Maths complex is about to be demolished to make way for the new RSIC building. The pigeons (they belong to Psychology) will soon have a splendid view of the Okeover stream and the Biology glasshouses.
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Trust offers Kiwis chance to spend summer in Antarctica

This summer, six intrepid young Kiwis will get the opportunity to take part in a range of life-changing environmental adventures, as part of the Sir Peter Blake Trust Blake Ambassador programme. Read the full article here.

For further details, or to apply for one of the six 2014 Blake Ambassador roles, visit www.sirpeterblaketrust.org/get-involved/blake-ambassador.

Expert supports Moa revival idea

Whanganui Regional Museum natural history curator Dr Mike Dickison said resurrecting the moa in areas such as the Dart River Valley near Wanaka where they once thrived, could be vital to the survival of New Zealand’s remaining native bush.

University of Canterbury palaeobiologist Professor Richard Holdaway said the moa habitat had irrevocably changed since their extinction and would continue to degrade. Check out The Southland Times article.

What film is this?

People will say we're in love.

Issue 323:


Answer: Don Corleone talking to Johnny Fontane (The Godfather, 1972)

Guessed by: Tracey Robinson
and now for something completely different...

20,000 days on earth trailer
(the myth of Nick Cave)

Jubilant Germany becomes world champions again

Mirror Mirror - Simon's Cat

Thought for the Week

TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More
When the Met Service advise you to wear three clothing layers and one windproof layer you know it's cold! For a change we are having a real winter, although it would be nice to have Dean Martin's version of Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow! come true (oh goody goody gumdrops!). If you have been driving in the sticks at the weekend you would have noticed some little white lambs frolicking in paddocks, way too early for the little pops to get cold hoofs, but great for people who want to make snowmen/women/people. Students making their way across campus to Kirkwood will have to be sure to wear their animal hats to keep their heads and ears cosy. Although I'm sure the sight of several students still in shorts at lunch time were visibly telling me to harden up!

Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Remediation work on level 3

Joint remediation work pulling out old sealants
What film is this?

Sometimes I wish I had never met you. Because then I could go to sleep at night not knowing there was someone like you out there.

**Issue 324:**
People will say we're in love
Answer: Hannibal Lector speaking to Clarice Starling in 'Silence of the Lambs' (1991)
Guessed by: Nobody, but the quote was also sung from the musical Oklahoma (1943) by Laurey & Curly!

and now for something completely different...

Highlights from the World Cup...
Weird Al Yankovic Music Video: FOIL
Jedi kittens strike back

**Thought for the Week**

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace...

John Lennon (1971)
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Antarctic fish should survive global warming - research

A University of Canterbury student researcher is investigating how emerald rock fish in the Antarctic can adjust and survive the predicted global and sea temperature increase. Read about Charlotte Austin's (MSc candidate) research at Yahoo.

Vice Chancellor's General Staff Award

Matt Walters has been awarded a $2,000 Vice Chancellor's General Staff Award. This will assist in his work at Kew later this year as part of his continued involvement in the Nigerian Montane Forest Project. Congratulations Matt!

Independent safety reviews will foster trust in GM technology

Professor Jack Heinemann has written an article for The Conservation. The topic of releasing genetically modified (GM) products into food and the environment is highly polarised. But are we making any progress with it?
Cass webcams

http://geog-stabx/

At present the Cass webcams can only be viewed here on campus. Will keep you posted as to when that changes.

Keeping marine pests out of Fiordland

The newly established Fiordland Marine Pathways Management Plan Steering Group met for the first time on 9th April 2014. The Group has been asked to develop a plan whereby the risk of marine pests being transported into the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area on vessel hulls and gear is minimised or removed. This task would be difficult to achieve without the ideas and involvement of vessel owners and operators. Input from these sources is likely to result in solutions that are effective and practical as such we encourage this input.

Read more...

Profile of the Week

Kim Roberts

Hi, I’m Kim, I’ve worked in the Ecology team since the start of the year, and otherwise known as “the new Jenny”. I did a MSc here a few years ago, on stream restoration as part of the freshwater group. When asked to provide a picture for my biology profile, I knew just the one. Rumour has it that I like a bit of sushi… not true of course. The taunts about my sushi problem might cease when you find out one of my extracurricular activities include boxing!! I am very dangerous. I also do a bit of hip hop dancing, I am so bad (not even being modest), but it’s fun. I also play netball and fill in playing other social sports when I can. I have to be active because my best friend works for a certain chocolate brand. Hence why sometimes I
wander round forcing chocolate and lollies on whomever I see, sharing the love/problem? I am Christchurch born and raised, apart from a brief time I spent in Hamilton, but we won’t talk about that anymore. None of my family live here though, but it means I get to shoot off to luxurious places like Stratford, Taranaki – don’t be too jealous.

What film is this?
A boy's best friend is his mother.

Issue 325:
Sometimes I wish I had never met you. Because then I could go to sleep at night not knowing there was someone like you out there.
Answer: Good Will Hunting
Guessed by: Our Tracey

and now for something completely different...

How to make disaster-free Yorkshire puddings

Li Hongbo - Tools of study
(check out the videos)

Nothing but a net

Amazing death grip
(sensitive parents should look away...)

Thought for the Week
Most people live and die with their music still unplayed. They never dare to try. -Mary Kay Ash
Pale blue has never been my favourite colour, but I would like to acknowledge the first win by the Warratahs, may it never happen again. The Commonwealth games ended today with some spectacular wins, losers and close shaves. The New Zealand team did exceedingly well this time round and I'm sure we are all very proud of our athletes. For those of you giving lectures or attending them (we hope) you will be pleased that you only have three more weeks of term three left, hasn't it raced by! More importantly it is PhD thesis-in-3 time again. The Biological Sciences heat is this Friday, 9-11 am in rooms 223/225. Go along and support our troops, there are bound to be UC winners in the room!! Don't forget that the Plant & Food Research launch is this Friday as well, 4.30-7.30 pm in room 275. If you are are a 300-level student and keen to get a summer scholarship come along and digest what they have to say.

Building news

1. **SBS1.** Levels 4 and 6 have now had new control joints fitted and have been signed off as finished. The level 4 people are moving back home this week. Once they have moved out of level 2, Hawkins will take over that floor to fix the control joints, with a view to finally moving physiology and marine biology back in starting around 13th August.

   Level 5 is due to have its control joints repaired starting 11th August. While this is happening the floor will close down completely, with no access to researchers.

   People will have noticed lots of activity in the stairwell as Hawkins repairs the control joints there, and in the toilets. Look out for workmen in the public areas of SBS1 this week as they start work in room 275 and in the tea area.

2. **Von Haast basement.** We moved material back into the basement last week, though only to a temporary location because remediation work has not yet finished there. It certainly looks much nicer down there with no water anywhere. Hawkins are hoping for a significant rain event soon in order to test their work.

3. **RSIC.** You may have seen notices about the hoardings around the RSIC site. We have moved all of our rubbish bins into the loading bay area, and we will be monitoring how quickly they get fouled with pigeon poo. The green bunker on the path outside von Haast is about to be removed. Workers were measuring up the disabled access ramp on the western side of von Haast at the weekend, though I'm not sure what is likely to happen to it. Note that access to the College Office is about to become an issue, with the western end of that building off limits from this week. The College move out of there on 18th August, and the whole area will become a building site.

4. **Boat Compound.** I have been promised information this week about the future location of our boat storage facility. More on this when I get details.

Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

BIOSOC quiz night

The BIOSOC committee are excited to be bringing you our second quiz night of the year!

When: 13th August at 7pm (doors open at 6:30pm)
Where: Bentley’s Bar, The Foundry

Tickets cost only $5 each for BIOSOC members and there will be free pizza and chips! You can pick up tickets from Level 2 Reception in the Biology building. There will be a bonus point if you have a biology staff member on your team (up to two per team). Membership sign-ups on the night too (you don’t have to be studying Biology to be a member).

So get your teams of six together and start studying up. Looking forward to see you there!

BIOSOC committee
Hi my name is Marie Foxwell. I work in the autoclave/wash-up room. Yes that’s me the one in the bikini lab coat … and before you ask, yes and yes. Yes, that really is my lab coat and yes, I’m totally sane (but 50% Irish). So I run the autoclaves, washing up and can turn my hand to a few other things. I came to Canterbury Uni this year after working in a medical laboratory as a medical Microbiology technician for several years. With budget cuts in the laboratory I had a change of hours of work, night shifts (which did not work for my family). I have also worked at Hills laboratory in the microbiology water section for a year.

Out of work I have a beautiful family of two sons (16 and 7 going on 40) and one husband, one cat and one dog, which keeps me busy with rugby, football, swimming, mountain biking, boating and water skiing activities. I play football for Selwyn Football Club woman’s team (have to give it up getting too old) and I run, in fact I have just done the mud sweat ‘n’ tears and coming up I’m working towards the Whale half marathon in September (yes still sane). I love music. You may have noticed the radio in the wash up room (sorry if it’s a bit loud). I’m a bit of a whiskey (Irish again) and wine “taster” and have started a barista course on the weekend (in my spare time!). Well that’s most of me! Pop in and say Hi.
What film is this?

Mother! I've turned the cooling unit back on. Mother!

Issue 326:
Answer: Marion Crane asks “Do you go out with friends?”, to which Norman Bates replies “A boy's best friend is his mother”. Psycho (1960)
Guessed by: Rosalie Lyttle

and now for something completely different...

Sadie doesn't want her brother to grow up

A Lick Of The Tongue Changes This Ice Cream's Color

TED talk: Teach teachers how to create magic

Kitten train

Thought for the Week

When the world says, “Give up,” Hope whispers, “Try it one more time.” -Anonymous
When your office is situated in the internal bows of a building and you have no window access to outside world, you begin to wonder if there are actually lifeforms on campus or not... it's only when you go out into the fresh air you get to see there is life after all! Someone just reminded me today that there are 20 Friday's till Christmas, now isn't that a spooky thought, or rather, an exciting one! Time to start thinking about that special someone in your life or in my case, will it be the small fluffy mouse or the ball with a bell in it...Do hope the undergrads are learning lots from their lectures this term. Another reminder came today that final exams are only two months away... eekkkkk!

Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Biology Photography & Art Competition

Theme: Diversity of Life
Show off your creative talents and win great prizes!

Biosoc and the School of Biological Sciences are excited to be hosting a photography and art competition! Submissions are now open and will close at 5PM on the 8th of September.

Winners will be announced at a wine and cheese evening on the 18th of September. For more details and entry info check out the competition website: www.biol.canterbury.ac.nz/photo_competition

Study into Didymo’s impact on 55 South Island waterways

In one of the largest field studies of its kind to examine Didymo, or rock snot, a University of Canterbury project has sampled 55 rivers and streams across the South Island in every major region, to establish its niche and effects on ecosystems. Read about Jon Bray's (PhD candidate) research in the Scoop.

Poster success at conference

Yinnon Dolev, PhD student with Ximena Nelson, won first prize for his poster at ICN 2014 (International Congress of Neuroethology) held in Supporo, Japan. He was up against 400 other posters. Congratulations Yinnon on a sterling effort!
Canterbury Uni research proves rugby is a hard game

A substantial University of Canterbury research project has not just confirmed rugby is a tough game but has found ways to help coaches and medical staff to manage players’ recovery and training during different phases of competition. Read all about Angus Lindsay (PhD candidate) and Associate Professor Steven Gieseg’s work in the Voxy. Their research was reported in The New Zealand Herald as well.

Profile of the Week

Campbell Sheen

Callaghan Innovation is pleased to welcome Dr Campbell Sheen to the Protein Science and Engineering Team based on the 6th floor of SBS.

Campbell completed a PhD in Pathology at the University of Otago, Christchurch, where he studied coagulation disorders with Steve Brennan. He then spent six years as a postdoctoral researcher in the USA, most recently as an American Heart Association Fellow at the Sanford Burnham Medical Research Institute in San Diego, California. His work there involved developing, characterising and treating animal models of the calcification disorders hypophosphatasia and medial vascular calcification. Campbell recently returned from America with his wife and two young children to take a position as a Research Scientist within the Protein Science and Engineering Team of Callaghan Innovation. He enjoys taking photos and being quite average at almost any sport he tries.

What film is this?


Issue 327:

Answer: Ripley says to Mother (ship computer): "Mother! I've turned the cooling unit back on. Mother!" to which Mother replies: The ship will automatically destruct in "T" minus five minutes. Cue flamethrower... Alien (1979)

Guessed by: Bill Davison and Robyn White
and now for something completely different...

How Harry Potter Should Have Ended

Magnificent Giant Tree: Sequoia in a Snowstorm

Roasting chicken made easy
(Annabel Langbein)

Cat fishing

Thought for the Week

I hear, I forget. I see, I remember. I do, I understand. - Confucius
Building news

1. We have reached a milestone in the remediation programme. For the first time in almost two years there are no Hawkins workers in any of our research labs. Level 5 was signed off on Monday morning, and we now have all of our lab space back.

2. We haven’t quite said goodbye to Hawkins because they are currently working in the public areas including the tea room and Room 275. They will be there for about another two weeks. At some point they may be back to do some work in the basement, but that is a distant horizon.

3. I headed into the von Haast basement on Monday morning. This work is essentially finished and I was down there looking at some rotting wooden pallets – 6 months under water does that to wood. The whole area looks nice and tidy. I wonder how long that will last.

4. As our main buildings head towards completion several of our outlying areas are under scrutiny, mainly in preparation for the big upgrade of Engineering (they need decanting space). We are probably about to lose the garage we use at 37 Creyke Road, our boatyard is about to move, and the areas we occupy under Forestry and being looked at.

~ Bill ~

Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Vice Chancellor's General Staff Award (with piccie)

Matt Walters has been awarded a $2,000 Vice Chancellor’s General Staff Award. This will assist in his work at Kew later this year as part of his continued involvement in the Nigerian Montane Forest Project. Congratulations Matt!

Sourcing GM-free soya protein a struggle for New Zealand’s poultry feed industry

It is becoming increasingly difficult for producers of poultry feed in New Zealand to guarantee a reliable supply of imported GM-free soya, according to the Poultry Association of New Zealand.

Our very own Professor Jack Heinemann is mentioned in this article at above link.
Eimear Egan (PhD candidate) from the Marine Ecology Research Group was awarded the supreme award for Best Student Oral Presentation at the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society Conference in Nelson last week. Eimear’s presentation, “Insights into the ‘black box’ of a widely dispersing Galaxiid: what can otolith microstructure reveal?” covering some preliminary results from her PhD on the early life history of whitebait, was judged to be the best of 65 student talks at the conference. To round out the night, MERG’s “Rocky Reef Headwear” came a close second in the fancy-dress competition at the conference dinner. The runners-up prize of three bottles of wine was gratefully received, but did nothing to improve the headaches the following morning!

Restoring bird pollination of Fuchsia excorticata by mammalian predator control

Professor Dave Kelly’s latest journal has been “interestingly” reported on at 4-Traders.

According to news reporting originating from Christchurch, New Zealand, by VerticalNews correspondents, research stated, “Many restoration projects aim to increase populations of native fauna and flora, but benefits to the ecological interactions between species are unknown. The restoration of bird pollination services to Fuchsia excorticata (tree fuchsia) was examined at Maungatautari, in the Waikato Region, New Zealand.”
Canterbury Uni rescuers received long service awards

Pictured L-R: David van Leeuwen, Graham Furniss, Graeme Bull, Heather Thomas and Mark Andrews (absent: Mark Warren)

Six University of Canterbury rescuers received Civil Defence Emergency Management long service awards on campus, Wednesday 20th August.

The awards were presented by David Coetzee, the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management’s national controller.

Those receiving awards were part of the university’s rescue team which was deployed to the red zone following the February 22, 2011 earthquake and they worked alongside the Taiwanese special taskforce to search for earthquake victims, as well as carrying out residential door-to-door checks.

Great work Graeme!!

University of Canterbury ranked No.1 university twice

The University of Canterbury is ranked first in the country in two out of the four annual performance rankings just released by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). Read the small article at Scoop.
Profile of the Week

Watch this space for Paul P. Gardner's profile.

What film is this?

"I'll let you in on a little secret, Ray. K-Mart sucks".

Issue 328:
Guessed by: Nobody....

and now for something completely different...

Tribute to Robin Williams

"...But if you listen real close, you can hear them whisper their legacy to you. Go on, lean in. Listen, you hear it? Carpe -- hear it? -- Carpe, Carpe diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary."

Live at The Met

Good Will Hunting - that park scene

Sesame Street

Thought for the Week

“Your’re only given a little spark of madness. You mustn’t lose it.”

– Robin Williams
Your purple glow will reign over us forever!

Recent publications in the school


PhD oral exam completed

Pictured: Dr Susie Wood (Oral Examiner, Cawthron Institute), Jon, Professor Jon Harding (Senior Supervisor) and behind the lens, Dr Sharyn Goldstien (Oral Organiser)

Jon Bray defended his PhD and gave a successful oral exam on Thursday 21st August. His thesis title is 'The invasion ecology of Didymosphenia geminata'. Jon's senior supervisor is Professor Jon Harding. Congratulations Jon!
Recently submitted theses

Research titles

June

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letitia Gilmour</td>
<td>Development of a bioassay for angiotensinogen to identify women prone to pre-eclampsia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timothy Millar</td>
<td>Resolving the New Zealand rosette forming Brachyglottis (Asteraceae) species complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Moore</td>
<td>An investigation of nitrate-nitrogen toxicity effects in Canterbury stream communities</td>
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<td>Samuel Murray</td>
<td>Soil respiration changes resulting from the conversion from traditional dry-land to intensified dairy farming practices</td>
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<td>Sasha Roselli</td>
<td>Factors limiting the growth and survival of naturally regenerating seedlings in Nigerian montane grasslands</td>
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<td>Alex Tino</td>
<td>Does resveratrol restrict the growth of metastatic ovarian cancer?</td>
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July

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Delphine Marjoshi</td>
<td>Investigating potential adverse effects of two herbicides and their major breakdown products on several microorganisms</td>
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<td>Amanda Peterson</td>
<td>Short and long term effects of aerial 1080 on forest birds</td>
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<td>Ashley Rabel</td>
<td>Respiratory physiology of the sand diver</td>
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<td>Eric Richards</td>
<td>Characterisation of enzymes important as neutaceutical addictives</td>
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<td>Josh Thia</td>
<td>Trees of a Nigerian Montane Forest: Exploring genetic and ecological processes in Lovoa trichiloide and Cordia spp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Walker</td>
<td>The function of Tar1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashleigh Watts</td>
<td>Managing internal borders for aquaculture in the Marlborough Sounds region</td>
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August

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ilina Cubrinovska</td>
<td>Hybridisation of the endangered black robin Petroica traversi with the Chatham Island tomtit Petroica macrocephala chathamensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Mills</td>
<td>Using exogenous amino acids to promote germination in salt stressed lettuce seeds</td>
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In the spotlight

Thesis-in-three UC winners

Anna Farquhar (PhD candidate, Chemistry) won 1st prize in the UC ‘Thesis in Three’ competition, having been placed 2nd in the College heats. Sarah Davies (PhD candidate in Communication Disorders) who won 3rd prize in the UC competition, having been place first in the College heats.

Amy Yewdall (PhD candidate in Biological Sciences) was also a finalist in the UC competition, having been placed third in the College heats last week. Amy is supervised by Juliet Gerrard and Grant Pearce.
'Honourable mentions' at the College heats also went to David Lim (PhD candidate in Chemistry) and Sharimila Adaikkalasamy (Communication Disorders) who made the final shortlist.

A big hand also to all those PhD students who entered the Thesis in Three College heats: it was an excellent showcase of your research and presentation skills and enthusiasm, and the quality of the field made for very difficult decisions for the judging panel.

Thanks to Sarah Masters of Chemistry for organising the College Thesis in Three heats, and also to my fellow judges in those heats, Paul Gardner of Biological Sciences and Malcolm Campbell of Geography, for your willingness to serve. - Wendy Lawson

What film is this?

My dad had this weird obsession with Roman or Greek mythology or something and he decided to name me after Zeus' wife.

Issue 328:
Guessed by: Bill Davison ("far too easy")

and now for something completely different...

Beautiful moments

Votecompass
(find out who you really should vote for...)

Richard Attenborough remembered
Welcome to Jurassic Park

Miracle on 34th Street

The Great Escape

Thought for the Week

Trust that little voice in your head that says 'wouldn't it be interesting if….’ And then do it. -Duane Michals
Recent publication in the school


In the spotlight

Daffodil Day morning tea
On Friday 29 August the school held a morning tea to raise funds for the Cancer Society. The tables were decked with foods in “shades of yellow” (or close to!) and we were treated to a wonderful display of imagination by Reijel, daffodils made out of chocolates and banana lollies. Marie looked a absolute treat as did Gavin! For all those who donated we raised $120, a sterling effort.

The daffodil is one of the first flowers of spring, whose bright yellow blooms remind us of the joys the new season will bring. It represents the hope there is for the 1 in 3 New Zealanders affected by cancer.

**Look at this day**

For yesterday is but a dream,
And tomorrow is only a vision,
But today, well lived,
Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness,
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well, therefore, to this day.

Sanskrit Proverb

**Tissue from hospital operating theatre to be rushed to UC**

Tissues blocking arteries to the brain are to be rushed to the University of Canterbury from Christchurch Hospital operating theatre to be kept alive in a laboratory for five days as part of a New Zealand Heart Foundation funded three-year study into heart and vascular disease.

**Associate Professor Steven Gieseg** has his latest research written about, read on [Scoop](http://scoop.co.nz/).

**Insider's Guide to UC**


Run by students for students it is a pilot for the rest of the year and if successful we’ll continue with it in 2015. If anyone in your department is interested in blogging to the prospective and current student audience let me know (either students or staff can submit posts).
What film is this?

Go back to Jersey, Sonny. This is the City of the Angels and you haven't got any wings

Issue 330: Juno (2007)
Answer: Jono says to Mark: My dad had this weird obsession with Roman or Greek mythology or something and he decided to name me after Zeus' wife.
Mark: Zeus' wife?
Juno: Yeah and I mean Zeus had tons of lays but I'm pretty sure Juno was his only wife. And apparently she was supposed to be super beautiful but really mean...kind of like Diana Ross.
Guessed by: Fiona Cross

and now for something completely different...

Ranfurly Shield returns to Napier

Best ever world rowing champs medal haul

Twenty things you can do to reduce test anxiety

39 Things You Probably Didn’t Know About "Doctor Who"

Thought for the Week

Knowledge speaks but wisdom listens. - Jimi Hendrix
Better late than never...

Building news

SBS1 is finally finished. Four years after the initial earthquake in 2010 the building is remediated and we have everyone back home. This means that we have more-or-less vacated levels 2 and 3 of von Haast. Very soon you should see people from FM working in there getting it all ready for some new tenants – Chemical and Process Engineering. Now that the place is empty it is sad to see how scruffy and dirty it all looks.

The hoardings surrounding the building site for the new RSIC building are moving, and will be very close to von Haast. Watch out for signs that the Old Maths Building is coming down. Note that this new site boundary will make it difficult to get from von Haast to Rutherford.

Fourth Year Exams

Fourth year exams began on Monday 8th September and run morning and afternoon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for two weeks. Please keep the noise down if you are using the tea area.

Fire Evacuation Trials

These started on Monday 8th and will continue for two weeks, covering the whole of the campus. If you are lecturing, or taking labs, then remember that you automatically become the fire warden for that area, you have to ensure the area is clear and you need to report to the blue evacuation board (so make sure you know where it is before you start a lecture).

Major Traffic Problems

Some of you may have noticed that some electronic signs have gone up along Kotare/Kahu Road (the next road along from Creyke Road once you cross over the lights at Clyde Road). The signs direct you to tfc.govt.nz (Transport for Christchurch) where you will discover that the bridge over the Avon River (next to Christchurch Boys High) is about to be fixed, starting on 11th September. It looks as though this road will be closed until the middle of December, with all traffic diverted onto Riccarton and Fendalton Roads.

~ Bill ~
Recent publication in the school


Welcome to the world

Here is a happy picture of William Dag Tylden Nordbrandt Love, born in Umeå, Sweden on 18 July, weighing 5.7kg and 52cm long. Mum, Sara Nordbrandt, is well and Dad (Jonathan Love, Postdoctoral Fellow) has attempted to grow a viking beard.
In the spotlight

BIOL 375 field trip in action

Images: Catherine Febria
Aude Thierry (PhD candidate) recently gave a poster at the 26th International Ornithological Congress which was held from 18-24 August in a very hot and humid Tokyo. She presented the results on one chapter of her thesis, demonstrating that male New Zealand robins appear to have the ability to recognize the presence of another male robin by odor alone. Jim Briskie also gave a talk with coauthors Justin Rasmussen and Laura Azzani, entitled “Do shining cuckoos mimic the odor of their host?” (answer is probably yes). About 1000 people attended the conference and both Aude and Jim enjoyed the lights and excitement of Tokyo, the great and inexpensive food, and even spotting a few new species during a day bird watching in the Japanese country-side.
Annu Ninan (PhD candidate) was awarded top poster prize from the NZ Society of Plant Biologists. Her poster title was "Interaction between cytokinin regulatory genes and transporter genes during seed development.

Jessica Roche (PhD candidate) came a respectable second with her poster titled "Metabolism and signaling after nitrogen fertilisation".

Conference attendees from Biological Sciences
What film is this?
Destiny is something we've invented because we can't stand the fact that everything that happens is accidental.

Issue 331:
Answer: Captain Dudley Smith: "Go back to Jersey, Sonny. This is the City of the Angels and you haven't got any wings". LA Confidential (1997)
Guessed by: Noboby...

and now for something completely different...

Run Walter, run!!
TED Talk: How to speak so that people want to listen
The lighter side of....the office
In case you hadn't heard...

Thought for the Week
When it is dark enough, you can see the stars. -Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)
The "Major Traffic Problems" item in the last newsletter said "It looks as though this road [the Kahu Rd humpback bridge near Boys High] will be closed until the middle of December, with all traffic diverted onto Riccarton and Fendalton Roads."

But note that both the Kahu Road bridge (24 hrs), and the path through Riccarton Bush (dawn to dusk only), will both stay open throughout to cyclists and pedestrians.

Recent publication in the school


PhD oral exam completed

Dorien Coray, had her oral exam on Friday 12th September. Her thesis title is 'The ability of toxin and antitoxin gene pairs to display a post-segregational killing phenotype, with regards to the ecology of mobile elements' and her Senior Supervisor is Professor Jack Heinemann. Dorien's journey has been long, but rewarding. Congratulations to our delightful Alaskan!

In the spotlight

Funding success

MBIE announced successful proposals in the Science and Innovation funding round for 2014. Congratulations to Steven Gieseg (MARS Spectral CT human imaging) and Jon Harding (CRL Energy Minerals Environment) for involvement in successful bids. Commiserations to others who were unsuccessful.

Read the article here.
What film is this?

"Please put down your weapon...you have 20 seconds to comply..."

Issue 332: Annie Reed: Destiny is something we've invented because we can't stand the fact that everything that happens is accidental.
Answer: Sleepless in Seattle (1993)

Guessed by: Helen Boothby

and now for something completely different...

In the light of it being Loud Shirt Day this Friday, here is one reason we support the cause

I Love Lucy - chocolate

Nan on a rollercoaster

Thought for the Week

The seeds that you sow so shall you reap
- Russell's Mum
The 4th year tests ended on Friday after two stressful weeks for our postgrads. They rounded off the evening with a wind down at the Staff Club. Luckily there were no planes to catch the next day... Our undergraduate examiners meetings happened today which is rather spooky especially if you are a lecturer and are now sitting down to mark the 4th year tests. The school hosted its annual Loud Shirt Day today. If you see lots of people buzzing it's because we ate lots of artificially coloured food!! It does appear that orange is the new black in the apparel for those loud shirts though!

Recent publication in the school


PhD oral exam completed

Anna Zakharova, had her oral exam on Thursday 18th September. Her thesis title is 'Soil organic matter dynamics: Influence of soil disturbance on labile pools'. Her senior supervisor is Professor Matthew Turnbull. Congratulations Anna!

Pictured: Professor Louis Schipper (Oral Examiner, University of Waikato), Anna and Professor Matthew Turnbull (Senior Supervisor)
In the spotlight

The Admin office has officially been awarded Fern One Certification from the UC Eco Office. We will work our way up to Fern Four (highest level) over time.

Prof Jack Heinemann on vaccines, climate, power, and GMOs

In the first article, Prof Heinemann takes on Monsanto PR woman Janice Person over her suggestion that opposition to GMOs is comparable to opposition to vaccines. He also explains why opposition to GMOs is not equivalent to "climate denial".

In the second article, Prof Heinemann asks whether attacks on Reuters journalist Carey Gillam by the blogger Keith Kloor and the former Vice President for Food & Agriculture of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), Val Giddings, have any credibility. Gillam has fallen foul of these people because she presents both sides of the GMO issue. Read the articles here.

Sod ceremony at the site of the new Rutherford Science Innovation Centre

The Prime Minister the Right Honourable John Key was on campus to mark the formal agreement of the first $100 million of UC Futures funding. Preparatory work for the Rutherford Science and Innovation Centre (RSIC) is under way, and contracts for that project are planned to be signed in early 2015.
Richard White (MSc candidate), managed to jump in closer than perhaps a bodyguard would have thought, but nevertheless Richard got his selfie!
Biology Photography and Art Competition results

A big thank you to everyone that entered the Biology Photography and Art Competition, the standard of the art and photographs was fantastic! For those that are interested, here are the winners and the awesome prizes that they received (the theme was ‘Diversity of Life’):

COMPETITION WINNERS

Photography
1st - Sophie Hunt (Bug-eyed frog)
2nd - Tom Swan (Mosquito collecting in Tonga)
3rd - Nicky Glenjarman (Diversity is everywhere)
Highly Commended - Sophie Hunt (Life supporting life)
People’s Choice – Morgan Jones (Off on an adventure)

Art
1st and People’s choice- Christie Webber (From the Forest Floor)
2nd - Erin Smaill (Far away eyes)
3rd - Mark Galatowitsch (Tiger Beetle)
Highly Commended - Dorien Coray (Thing from the deep)

COMPETITION PRIZES

Photography
1st - Olympus camera, sponsored by Photo and Video International
2nd - UBS voucher, sponsored by UBS
3rd - Nature Discoveries voucher, sponsored by Hawkins
Highly Commended - Photo and Video voucher, sponsored by Photo and Video International
People’s Choice - UBS voucher, sponsored by Hawkins

Art
1st - Microscope, sponsored by Nature Discoveries
2nd - Gordon Harris voucher, sponsored by Gordon Harris
3rd - Gordon Harris voucher, sponsored by Hawkins
Highly Commended - UBS voucher and Gordon Harris voucher, sponsored by SBS and Hawkins
People’s Choice - UBS voucher, sponsored by UBS

Student spot prize - Photo and Video voucher, sponsored by Photo and Video International
Staff spot prize - Delicious chocolates, sponsored by SBS

A huge thank you to Matt Walters, Matthew Turnbull, Nicki and Penny for all of their amazing background help

All photographs and most of the art will be on display in the atrium until Thursday, so if you missed the opening evening last Thursday make sure you head down and have a look.
What film is this?

I am Jack's smirking revenge...

**Issue 333:**
ED-209 says to Mr Kinney: "Please put down your weapon...you have 20 seconds to comply...".
Dick Jones: "I think you better do as he says, Mr. Kinney". [Unfortunately ED-209 has a malfunction and Mr Kinney is no more...]
Robocop (1987)

Guessed by: Anish Shah, Nicole Lauren-Manuera and by the by, Our Bill

and now for something completely different...

TED Talks: The danger of silence
Tomato growing guide
How to bathe a cat
(let me know if this works for you...)

How our 4th years felt about their tests

Thought for the Week

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. -Ralph Waldo Emerson
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Katoa Metagenomics day 27th September 2014

On Saturday 27th, members of the Biomolecular Interaction Centre, and our new Centre for Integrative Ecology 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, and workshops were also run at Massey Albany, Otago, Auckland and Waikato.
We had some super-engaged students and teachers from: Christchurch Girls’ High School, Lincoln High School, Riccarton High School, Burnside High School, Hillmorton High School, The Correspondence School (Te Kura) and even John Paul II High School in Greymouth!

The students extracted DNA directly from soil samples that they brought along, which included backyard samples and even compost. It was an early start (8.30am!), with a full-on day of DNA extractions, PCR reactions, pouring and loading gels, right through to computational analysis of metagenome sequence data.

The School of Biological Sciences put on a great lunch spread, and the students had lots of fun during Operation: Payload, where we sent ‘samples’ to three major sequencing centres!

We also had some great lectures and methods demonstrations from our crack team of PhD students, postdocs and lecturers: Ryan Catchpole, Alicia Lai, Brigitta Kurenbach, Karen Adair, Stinus Lindgreen and Ant Poole

Last but not least, special thanks to Claire Galilee for lab logistics and set-up!

This was a really successful outreach activity, which we’ll be looking to run next year too!

~ Ant ~

Mastering the art of pipetting with Dr. Karen Adair

Extracting DNA from soil samples with Dr. Brigitta Kurenbach
The courier service was not particularly reliable!
What film is this?

"I have to remind myself that some birds aren't meant to be caged. Their feathers are just too bright. And when they fly away, the part of you that knows it was a sin to lock them up DOES rejoice. Still, the place you live in is that much more drab and empty that they're gone. I guess I just miss my friend."

**Issue 334:**

I am Jack's smirking revenge...

Fight Club

Guessed by: Bridget Armstrong

and now for something completely different...

Professor Paula Jameson negotiating the cliffs at Zhangjiajie National Park

Global Be(er) Responsible Day | “Friends Are Waiting” | Budweiser

How to stack firewood

Dog thinks door is closed

**Thought for the Week**

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. -Helen Keller
Recent publications in the school


Welcome to the school

Please make welcome Tom Davison who will be working in the Autoclave Room/Central Washing Area with Kat Melief. If the name sounds familiar it is because he the son of Our Bill.

Marie Foxwell left us on Friday to take up a new position outside of UC. There was a fond farwell and much glitter everywhere! We wish Marie lots of luck with her new position.
In the spotlight

Mosquito Terminator II: a spider that craves only mosquitoes

The work of Professor Robert Jackson and Dr Fiona Cross is on the icipe website. This is the location where they both work in Kenya.

Mosquito Terminator II: a spider that craves only mosquitoes. Their latest publication (see above) is mentioned as well.

Intrepid New Zealand

Dr Ximena Nelson portrays an "accident victim" in Intrepid New Zealand: Adams - Miracle in the Southern Alps. If you just want to catch her cameo role it starts at 07:20.

What film is this?

Ever since I started working, every day has been worse than the one before. That means each time you see me, that’s on the worst day of my life.

Issue 335:
"I have to remind myself that some birds aren't meant to be caged. Their feathers are just too bright. And when they fly away, the part of you that knows it was a sin to lock them up DOES rejoice. Still, the place you live in is that much more drab and empty that they're gone. I guess I just miss my friend."

Answer: The beautifully spoken words of Red (Morgan Freeman) speaking of Andy (Tim Robbins) after he escapes.
The Shawshank Redemption (1994). If you haven't seen this bit of cinema magic, then rent it from your local dvd shop.
Guessed by: Charlotte Austin was the first, followed by a continued flow of et al.’s!

and now for something completely different...

The South Sydney Rabbitohs celebrate their 2014 Premiership with their team song

Which characters will likely die in "The Game of Thrones" novels

Hot water - Simon's cat

Thought for the Week
You must be the change you wish to see in the world. -Mahatma Gandhi
We are finally at the serious end of the year. One week remaining for Semester 2 and two weeks till examinations begin. Anybody shaking in their boots? We are in for a very pleasant week weather wise too, go outside and get your vitamin D, E or whatever. If you have been coming in through the loading bay in the last month or so you would have noticed some odd shaped woodwork pieces outside the workshops. They are destined for the Chatham Islands to become bird nests for those delightful robins. Shout out goes to Our Nick and his handywork!

Recent publication in the school


In the spotlight

“Remarkable” Spider Eats Mostly Mosquitoes—Could It Fight Malaria?

Hate spiders? The Malaysian jumping spider might just win you over. New research reveals that Paracyrba wanlessi preys almost exclusively on a despised human foe: the mosquito. The work of Professor Robert Jackson and Dr Fiona Cross has been highlighted in the National Geographic. Check it out here.

WATR 203 Freshwater Science Field Skills

This five day course running from 9 - 15 February, will be based primarily at UC, but involve learning practical freshwater field sampling including hydrological, water chemistry, aquatic plant, invertebrate, fish and bird identification.

For the full picture, contact Professor Jon Harding. Applications to enrol have started. Last day to enrol is one week prior to the 9th February.
What film is this?

“Yeah, dolphins.... They think they're so cute, like 'Look at me!! I'm a flipping little dolphin, let me flip for you.'

**Issue 336:** Answer: Office Space (1999)

Peter Gibbons says to Dr Swanson: "Ever since I started working, every day has been worse than the one before. That means each time you see me, that's on the worst day of my life.

Dr Swanson: What about today? Is today the worst day of your life?

Peter: Yeah

Dr Swanson: Wow, that's messed up.

Guessed by: Noboby

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

The new pigeon enclosure over at the Glasshouses, with guest (photo credit: Ceci Romo)

17 airport sleeping positions for long layovers

Shaking dogs

Spare three hours?

Stop-motion parkour

**Thought for the Week**

Swallow your pride occasionally. It's not fattening. -Frank Tyger
Recent publication in the school


In the spotlight

Tracking shining cuckoos

The Birds New Zealand Research Fund has provided us (Richard Holdaway, Jim Briskie, and Paul Sagar (ex-NIWA)) with a grant that will allow us to deploy 16 of these tags on shining cuckoos (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*) this breeding season. Each year, the two species of New Zealand cuckoo perform the longest regular overwater migrations of any land birds. The larger long-tailed cuckoo (*Eudynamis taitensis*) heads for small islands spread across western and eastern Polynesia, but perhaps more remarkably, the shining cuckoo, a fraction of the long-tailed's weight, flies the 4700 km to the Bismarck Archipelago northeast of New Guinea. Whether it gets there direct or makes a pit stop in Queensland is still unknown. Technology has now advanced to the point where archival geolocation tags are small enough, despite having batteries that last 1-2 years, to not seriously inconvenience migrants even as small as a shining cuckoo in their flight.

Birds from the populations breeding near Kaikoura and Nelson will be fitted with the tags using strong but flexible harnesses. Mounted on the birds' backs, only a light-sensitive wand will protrude above the feathers, allowing the device to record the times of sunrise and sunset. Those times depend on the bird's latitude and longitude, relative to where the device was fitted and retrieved. Previous work on other projects has shown that males in particular return to the same hectare of forest. As well as providing the first evidence for the migration tracks, the data downloaded from devices retrieved next year will provide information that will help us understand how such a small bird can achieve such extraordinary accuracy in its amazing migrations, regardless of wind, weather, mountains, and oceans.

This time next year, we should be able to, for the first time, reveal just how these little birds cross a mighty ocean. We are very grateful to Birds New Zealand (aka Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Inc.) for the opportunity to track these birds, which are threatened by habitat change at both ends of their journey.

[Shining cuckoo](http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/Content/Species/Chrysococcyx-lucidus.aspx) (New Zealand Birds Online)
What film is this?

You shouldn't ask me for advice...When it comes to relationships with women, I'm the winner of the August Strindberg award.


Chum (shark, voiced by Bruce Spence): "Yeah, dolphins.... They think they're so cute, like 'Look at me!! I'm a flipping little dolphin, let me flip for you.' "

Guessed by: Yinnon Dolev and Bill Davison

and now for something completely different...

God only knows

How fast do burgers age?

Alfonso Ribeiro "Carlton" Dance 2014 DWTS
(you know, from Fresh Prince...)

What's a GMO?
(Jimmy Kimmel Show)

Thought for the Week

Television enables you to be entertained in your home by people you wouldn't have in your home. -David Frost
Recent publications in the school


**PhD oral exam completed**

**Simon Howard**, from the fabulous Freshwater Ecology Research Group, had his oral exam on Tuesday 21st October. His thesis title is Flow-related threats to reare galaxiids in the upper Waitaki River. His senior supervisor is Professor Angus McIntosh. For the majority of his thesis Simon was sporting a delightful beard. For his photo shoot below he is clean shaven, perhaps a victorious cleansing!??
In the spotlight

Powerhouse prize for Innovation: Edward Marks
sFLT-1, a robust biomarker for prognosis in heart disease

Research committee prizes
Best paper by a MSc student: Andrew Barnes
Best paper by a PhD student: Guadalupe Peralta and Amy Phillips
Best overall publication output: Donna Sutherland

Overall presentations
PhD
1st: Yinnon Dolev
Hopes, expectations, and reality - on the path to a working ophthalmoscope
2nd: Gabriel Moinet
Quantifying the heterotrophic component of soil respiration using natural abundance
3rd: Camille Coux
Linking species network roles to community functional diversity

MSc
1st: Robert Perry
*Nitella* rhizoids as a model cell type for fluorescent imaging
2nd: Charlotte Austin
Hypoxia in Antarctic fish - getting to the heart of the matter
3rd: Kate Wootton
How far is too far when perturbing a food web?

Best BSc Hons talk: Roseanna Gamlen-Greene
Up s**t creek: using stable isotopes to detect seabird subsidies in stream ecosystems

Overall Best Oral presentation: Rachel van Heutgen
A structured living environment: investigating population and the role of habitat in two tree weta species (*Hemideina ricta* and *H. femorata*)

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.
Selection of winners

Yinnon Dolev: 1st place PhD talk
Robert Perry: 1st place MSc talk
Charlotte Austin: 2nd place MSc talk
Kate Wootton: 3rd place MSc talk
Rachel van Heutgen: Overall best talk
Wind down from presentations

It's official, the 6th floor rocks!!!!!
What film is this?

“We can stay up late swapping manly stories, and in the morning I’m making waffles!”

**Issue 338:** Answer: Manhattan (1979)

Isaac Davis (Woody Allen): “You shouldn’t ask me for advice...When it comes to relationships with women, I'm the winner of the August Strindberg award.”

Guessed by: Nobody...

and now for something completely different...

My favourite saxaphonist remembered...Raphael Ravenscroft

"Breakdance Conversation" with Jimmy Fallon & Brad Pitt

Jack Bruce, bassist extraordinaire remembered

Baby and cat cuddle in crib

Thought for the Week

Avoiding the phrase “I don’t have time...”, will soon help you to realize that you do have the time needed for just about anything you choose to accomplish in life. - Bo Bennett
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Ancient virus - Radio New Zealand interview

A team of international scientists has resurrected an ancient virus from a 700-year-old frozen Canadian caribou dropping. And they say it shows environmental changes like global warming, could mean ancient viruses could re-emerge. Dr Arvind Varsani is a molecular virologist from the University of Canterbury and he has been involved in the research. Listen to the riveting interview with Arvind here.

Risks in resurrecting ancient viruses from poo

Defrosting ancient poo could reintroduce some age-old bugs to the modern world, scientists say.

An extremely infectious and deadly ancient virus, released from a frozen slumber by warming climates, could play havoc with immune systems that have no experience of such germs.

Check out the article on Stuff with Dr Arvind Varsani.
Top researchers and scholars elected as Fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand

Twelve top New Zealand researchers and scholars in basic and applied science and the humanities have been elected as Fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand at the Annual General Meeting of the Society’s Academy in Wellington on 29 October.

Our very own Professor David Schiel has been elected. His marine research covers aquaculture, fisheries, and the diversity and functioning of coastal ecosystems. He is a world expert on kelp forests and temperate reefs, such as those in New Zealand and overseas environmental assessments of coastal developments.

What film is this?

You do the talking. Put that silver tongue of yours to work.

**Issue 339**: Answer: Shrek (2001)

Donkey says to Shrek: “We can stay up late swapping manly stories, and in the morning I’m making waffles!”

Guessed by: Linda Morris and Tracey Robinson

and now for something completely different...

[The Most Epic Safety Video Ever Made](#)

[Mr. Acker Bilk - Stranger On The Shore 1988 (Live)](#)

[Cat logic](#)

Thought for the Week

Go the extra mile. It's never crowded. -Unknown
Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

How we can help feed the world

While New Zealand is not doing enough to feed the world, it isn't because of a reluctance to intensity through adoption of more external inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides or controversial breeder-focused technologies.

Jack Heinemann shared his opinion in The Waikato Times.

Marsden fund success

Congratulations to Dave Kelly, Ant Poole, Jonathan Love and Matthew Turnbull who have been funded for a project entitled “Epigenetics and flexible plant memory: how past environmental cues lead to episodic mast flowering”.

Brian Mason fund success

Congratulations to Jim Briskie (Use of artificial nest-boxes as a non-lethal method to protect the endangered Chatham Island black robin from invasive European starlings), Sharyn Goldstien (Tracking food-sources of the Hutton’s shearwater within the Canterbury coastal waters) and Karen Adair (Community dynamics of algal blooms).

Fellowship awarded

Richard White (PhD candidate), has received the Claude McCarthy Fellowship for 2015. The Fellowship provides funds for Richard to travel to the American Fisheries Society conference in Portland in 2015 and to work with a collaborator at the University of Melbourne.
What film is this?

"Look at that! Look how she moves! That's just like Jell-O on springs."

**Issue 340:** Answer: Se7en (1995)

William Somerset (Morgan Freeman) say to David Mills (Brad Pitt): "You do the talking. Put that silver tongue of yours to work".

David Mills: "Have you been talking to my wife?"

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

Check out 'Dynamic Ecology' blog
(linked is Tim Poisot's blog on 'Busy is no myth')

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**Thought for the Week**

" Sometimes the best discoveries are the result of simple observations." Dr Seyed Reza Agha Seyed Hosseini
In the spotlight

A & P Show

There was a lot of public interest in UC's stand on all three days, but especially on Friday, where we estimate that close to 7000 people went through, based on the number of stickers and bookmarks we gave away. I have attached a few photos so you can see what was presented.

This was a job really well done by all concerned, and especially Jan, Mike, our marine group and volunteers. The stand captured Third Prize in the Trade-display competition - it was a shining beacon for families and young folk amongst the otherwise fairly standard trade stands (in my view!), and is an important way we reach out to the community.
Congratulations to Tommaso Alestra

Tommaso successfully defended his PhD oral examination on Friday 14th November. His PhD entitled *Experimental analysis of biological processes and abiotic factors structuring intertidal algal assemblages in southern New Zealand*. His supervisors were Dave Schiel, Bill Davison and Prof Chris Battershill, Chair of Coastal Science, University of Waikato.

**Tech Jumpstart Winner**

Please congratulate Keith Baronian who was one of three winners of the Tech Jumpstart prize of $20K for his entry:

**Title: Blood pressure medication enhancer**

The blood pressure medication enhancer is used in addition to prescribed blood pressure medication. Preliminary results indicate that the use of the enhancer results in a further reduction in blood pressure. A small, well-controlled, clinical trial using the enhancer with blood pressure medication is required to determine the general applicability of the finding.
CTV here in Biology

Steven Gieseg's lab, talking about Edward Marks Award, November 12th.

and now for something completely different...

Earth's untouched sanctuaries

Thought for the Week

“Seven days without laughter makes one weak?... But Seven days of laughter makes an awesome week!” by Joh Caine, South Africa
I do hope you have your Advent calendars hanging up ready for the countdown to Christmas! I am still in the process of making mine, so my "first day of Christmas" will be more likely be the 7th December! If you celebrating Hanukkah you will be lighting your first candle at sunset on the 16th. Enjoy the roll up to Christmas.

Recent publications in the school

**Catchpole, R.J. and Poole, A.M.** (2014). Antibiotic genes spread far and wide. eLife 3(e04266).


This is Jasmine Liew’s first publication. She is doing her PhD in EVOL with Pieter Pelser. Congratulations Jasmine!


This is Aliaa Idris’ first publication and at first author. She is doing her PhD in CEMB with David Collings. Congratulations Aliaa!


In the spotlight

Pieter Pelser, has won a iPad in the T.E.U. new member draw. Congratulations Pieter!

Poster success

Sarah Wright, MSc candidate, won best poster at the Australasian Systematic Botany Society meeting. Her senior supervisor is Pieter Pelser. She got a year long subscription to the journal of the Society and a $250 CSIRO voucher.
**Water Symposium success**

The Water Symposium was held in Blenheim last week, which was the annual meeting of the NZ Freshwater Sciences Group, NZ Hydrological Society and the IPENZ Rivers Group where several students gained prizes:

**From the Freshwater Ecology Research Group**

Mark Galatowitsch, PhD candidate – SIL Trust prize for best overall student oral presentation
Sophie Hunt, MSc candidate – SIL Trust prize for best oral presentation by an MSc/Hons student
Steve Pohe, PhD candidate – Golder’s award for best applied poster

**From the Marine Ecology Research Group**

Eimear Egan, PhD candidate - Department of Conservation Best Conservation Poster and Stella McQueen Best Fish Ecology Oral Presentation

**New Zealand Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology**

NZSBMB have selected a new president [http://nzsbmb.science.org.nz](http://nzsbmb.science.org.nz)

**Ant Poole** has been elected the President of the New Zealand Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. He'll be in that role for the next three years, and joins **Ren Dobson**, who is currently serving on the Executive Committee as Treasurer. Among other things, NZSBMB provides support for student travel, and administers the Custom Bioscience NZSBMB Award.


**Moa skeleton fetches $110,000 in UK**

Reports of the private sale of a moa skeleton at an auction in Britain have left a moa expert in New Zealand disgusted.

The extinct New Zealand bird's remains were sold for about $110,000 to an unknown bidder in the south of England. Read **Professor Richard Holdaway** reply at [Radio New Zealand News](http://www.nzih.org.nz/news/radio-new-zealand-news).

**Te Waihora can be restored to good health - ecologist**

Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere may have a reputation for being one of the most polluted lakes in New Zealand, but Canterbury University Freshwater Ecology **Professor Jon Harding** is optimistic about the future of the iconic lake.

Improving the lake’s water quality “won't be an easy fix” he told the recent Whakaora Te Waihora science hui, but with time and help he believes Te Waihora can be restored to good health. Read the article about Jon’s research at [Scoop](http://www.nzih.org.nz/news/scoop).
Canterbury researcher wins major national ecology award

A University of Canterbury researcher has won a major national ecology award for his research into how communities of interacting species respond to environmental changes.

Professor Jason Tylianakis has received the New Zealand Ecological Society's Te Tohu Taiao award presented annually to experts who have made an outstanding contribution to ecological science in New Zealand. Read about his award at Yahoo!

Dr Ximena Nelson's research:

More Than 300 Spiders Pretend to Be Ants - Discovery News.

This is not an ant - it's a spider - Treehugger

Professor Richard Holdaway's research (see publication above):

New Zealand’s moa: Extinct at the hands of less than 3,000 humans - Allvoices.

New Zealand's moa were exterminated by an extremely low-density human population - Science Codex.

The Arrival of People Doomed New Zealand’s Moa - Archaeology.

Humans wiped out moa, the largest bird that ever lived - SBS.

Scientists sure humans killed off moa - Stuff.

Few humans were needed to wipe out New Zealand’s moa - Science News.

What film is this?

Travis, I've never been able to like you. But you are one of the very few men I would trust with the life of Texas.

Issue 341: Look at that! Look how she moves! That's just like Jell-O on springs.

Answer: Some like it hot (1959)

and now for something completely different...

Funniest Game Show Answers of All Time
Star Wars: The Force Awakens International Teaser Trailer
Munchkin the Teddy Bear gets her exercise
Cat yoga

Thought for the Week

We need 4 hugs a day for survival. We need 8 hugs a day for maintenance. We need 12 hugs a day for growth. -Virginia Satir (1916-1988)
End of year exam results were released on the 5th December. No doubt there were hoards of punters logging on and reading their grades, hopefully more happy faces than sad. If you were even a smaller cherub you would have lined Riccarton Rd or Williams St for your fix of Christmas parades. Nothing beats seeing a smiling child happy in the knowledge that Santa is only so many sleeps away. And for those of you who don't believe, watch the original version of Miracle on 34th Street. For the skeptics amongst us, here are the so-called facts (read at your peril).

**Farewell to Graeme Bull**

We farewelled one of our long standing technicians on Thursday 4th December. Graeme Bull started at the University back in 1966, the year Country Calendar first screened on our tellies and Maria Dallas won the Loxene Golden Disc Award for Tumbling Down.

Graeme worked as a Histology technician firstly in the Department of Zoology and then in the School of Biological Sciences after the merge. He made many student's theses complete with his expertise and skills required from his histology suite. Graeme also had a big input into the early days of Health & Safety at UC working alongside the management team from the College. He was a loyal and tireless volunteer with the UC Rescue team leading the way back in 1976.

The School presented Graeme with two wonderful books for his reading enjoyment, First Crossings: Historic New Zealand Adventures Recreated and Tramping: A New Zealand History, plus a $80 voucher from Katmandu, which he was very wrapped with. A good sized crowd was in attendance to celebrate with Graeme and Jenny (who has a list a mile long of things to do at home!). Amongst the guests was Malcolm Mannering who's job Graeme took over. We wish Graeme a rewarding retirement enjoying his outdoor pursuits with his love of duck shooting and tramping.

Enjoy your retirement Graeme!
Graeme & Jenny cutting his cake

Speech in full swing
Mark Galatowitsch, had his oral exam on Wednesday 3rd December. Mark presented his thesis on 'Invertebrate life-history trade-offs and dispersal across a pond-permanence gradient'. His senior supervisor is Professor Angus McIntosh. Another success story from the FERG team, congratulations Mark!

Pictured: Dr Christoph Matthaei (Oral Examiner, University of Otago), Professor Angus McIntosh, Our Mark, and Professor Jason Tylianakis
Akshita Wason, had her oral exam also on Wednesday 3rd December. She presented her thesis on 'Investigation of Lsm Proteins as Scaffolds in Bionanotechnology'. The International Examiner was Assistant Professor Kenneth Woycechowsky, University of Utah. Her senior supervisor is Professor Juliet Gerrard. Congratulations Akshita!

Pictured: Akshita, Dr Wayne Patrick (Oral Examiner, University of Otago) and Professor Juliet Gerrard

Introducing our Summer Scholarship Students 2014/2015

Please make welcome our delightful summer scholarship students (in no particular order!),

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Research Topic</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bothara, Roshit</td>
<td>Macrophage migration inhibitory factor: oligomeric state and its interaction with signalling receptor CD74</td>
<td>Ren Dobson</td>
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<td>Elley, Sam</td>
<td>Assembly and dynamics of microbial biofilm communities</td>
<td>Karen Adair</td>
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<td>McGimpsey, Stephanie</td>
<td>Comparing the robustness of ncRNAs &amp; proteins to genetic variation</td>
<td>Paul Gardner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parker, Gregory</td>
<td>Characterisation of bioactive proteins present in Actinidia species</td>
<td>Grant Pearce</td>
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<td>Pearl, Esperanza</td>
<td>Discovering markers for diabetes complications</td>
<td>Ren Dobson, Mortiz Lasse</td>
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<td>Sibaeva, Nelli</td>
<td>Comparing the robustness of ncRNAs &amp; proteins to genetic variation</td>
<td>Paul Gardner</td>
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<td>Sweetapple, Lara</td>
<td>Development of a bioassay for angiotensinogen to identify women prone to pre-eclampsia</td>
<td>Ren Dobson</td>
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<td>Wyatt, Bern</td>
<td>Enzyme immobilisation on nanoscaffolds</td>
<td>Ren Dobson</td>
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<td>Sonal, Sarah</td>
<td>Statins for improving survival in chronic kidney disease: a network meta-analysis</td>
<td>Daniel Stouffer, Suetonia Palmer</td>
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<td>Armstrong, Bridget</td>
<td>Whitebait: where did you come from, where have you been and does it matter?</td>
<td>Mike Hickford</td>
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<td>Arnet, Matthew</td>
<td>Effects of micronutrient manipulation on young eucalypt plants</td>
<td>David Leung, Shaf van Ballekom</td>
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<td>Brennan, Mariann</td>
<td>Nitrogen use efficiency in the dairy industry: characterisation of expression levels of genes of interest and phenotypic responses to nitrate and grazing</td>
<td>Matthew Turnbull, Jonathan Love</td>
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<td>Brockerhoff, David</td>
<td>Do cryptic processes control biodiversity and productivity in estuaries?</td>
<td>Mads Thomsen, David Schiel</td>
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<td>Carr, Sam</td>
<td>Development of a new urinary myoglobin assay for trauma patients</td>
<td>Steven Gieseg, Geoff Shaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davison, Madeline</td>
<td>Effects of micronutrient manipulation on young radiata pine plants</td>
<td>David Leung, Shaf van Ballekom</td>
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<td>Hutchison, Matthew</td>
<td>Quantifying the units of co-evolution in pollination networks</td>
<td>Daniel Stouffer</td>
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<td>Meijer, Christopher</td>
<td>Is living on each other a problem or a solution?</td>
<td>Mads Thomsen, David Schiel</td>
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<td>Wi, Toni</td>
<td>Ecological, recreational and cultural values of shellfish beds in Canterbury</td>
<td>Islay Marsden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miln, Juanita</td>
<td>Eye to eye - visual function of New Zealand fish</td>
<td>Bill Davison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanpariya, Sonal</td>
<td>Coordination between hydraulic conductance, stomatal conductance and growth of radiata pine clones in response to water and nitrogen stresses</td>
<td>Matthew Turnbull, Jianming Xue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**In the spotlight**

**Best talk at conference**

Kevin Chase, PhD candidate, won best student talk on understanding invasive species at the New Zealand Ecological Society meeting in Palmerston North. Kevin is doing his thesis on 'The role of allee effects in the establishment of invasive alien insects' with Professor Dave Kelly. Well done Kevin!

**Encouraging young Māori into science**

A University of Canterbury scheme aimed at encouraging Māori secondary school students into university science studies is already changing lives and encouraging rangatahi to consider new pathways for their future.

He Puna Pūtaiao is a partnership programme between the University of Canterbury College of Science and several Canterbury secondary schools that began in 2013. Based on a scheme delivered by LENSscience at the Liggins Institute in Auckland, He Puna Pūtaiao engages Year 10 Māori students in the culture of science by involving them in scientific research.

Read the full article at [Te Waihora](#). It features Dr John Pirker and Channell Thoms (MSc candidate).
Canterbury scientist studying warmer, rougher New Zealand coastline

An award-winning University of Canterbury marine scientist will be busy over the summer break studying New Zealand’s warmer and rougher coastline.

**Professor David Schiel**, who has just been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, has a team of marine ecology researchers looking into the climate change impacting New Zealand’s coastline. Read the full article at [Yahoo!](https://www.yahoo.com)

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**What film is this?**

Please, God, something’s the matter with Daddy.

**Issue 343:** Travis, I’ve never been able to like you. But you are one of the very few men I would trust with the life of Texas.

Answer: The Alamo (1960)

Guessed by: None other than Bill Davison (and yes, the Bowie knife is named after Jim Bowie!)

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

- [Christmas presence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_presence)
- [Winter wonderland](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2c185NdcxM) (Lady Gaga & Tony Bennett)
- [Frozen Christmas Lights](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pFBY9oPpIw)
- [John Lewis Christmas Advert 2014](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10VbZo0Ma1A)
- [Santa tracker - yeeha!](https://www.santas.org_TRACKER.html)

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**Thought for the Week**

There’s no doubt about it, appreciation in any form at any time brightens anyone’s existence. And, like a beam of sunlight striking a mirror, the brightness is reflected back at you. - Unknown
Some will say, "well thank goodness the year is over", but if you check out the the items below you might have some saying, "we are so blessed to have such talent amongst us". For the past two weeks I have been gathering all the bits that make us a school as a look back on 2014. Hopefully I manage to get a few "awww's" or giggles whilst you read this issue.

Recent publications in the school


Of note to the below publication is the fact that it describes two species of algae that are new to science - one of which was found on Paul Broady's front lawn!!


Listen to the interview below relating to these publications:


PhD oral exam completed

Babale Aliyu, had his PhD oral exam on 15th December via video link. In attendance was his Senior Supervisor, Associate Professor Hazel Chapman; Oral Organiser, Associate Professor Jim Briskie and also via link, the External Examiner, Dr Bruce Burns (University of Auckland). Congratulations to you Babale!
In the spotlight

A stalwart of the 5th floor is heading for Pasteur’s greener

PhD student, Ryan Catchpole, a familiar face to all on the 5th floor, is leaving UC for his first proper postdoc. Ryan is going to work with Professor Patrick Forterre, and will be dividing his time between the Pasteur Institute in Paris and the Université Paris Sud in Orsay. Ryan did his PhD with Jack Heinemann & Ant Poole, and recently submitted his thesis for examination. We’re all going to miss him, but we wish him all the best in his future career!

Technology is not magic

Qu’avons-nous vraiment perdu ? Une demi-douzaine d’agronomes conduits par Jack Heinemann (université de Canterbury, Nouvelle Zélande) se sont posé la question. You can challenge your French by reading the article at Le Monde.
Time to confront the tyranny of surveys

A guest blog from University of Canterbury branch president Jack Heinemann:

Those who use surveys to measure goal achievement are obligated to provide evidence that -

- accomplishment of the goal can be measured using surveys; and
- the measurement creates no unacceptable harm to those being surveyed.

Read the full article here.

Christchurch's Avon-Heathcote estuary research a world-first

In March 2010, Christchurch’s Avon-Heathcote estuary experienced a huge (90 percent) reduction in nutrient input resulting from the diversion of wastewater to an ocean outfall, extending 3km offshore from South Brighton Beach. Read about Dr Jen Skilton's (PhD graduand, 2013) research at the Voxy.

Kiwi research reveals spiders' deepest fears

Arachnophobes rejoice - new research shows the critters you fear the most have their own phobias. Read about Dr Ximena Nelson's research at The New Zealand Herald.

The headline above made the Top Five story of the week in the Ashburton Guardian! Also made it into The Star.

Drs Tammy Steeves and Paul Gardner's research:

Canterbury researchers part of bird evolution project - at the Voxy

Pesky kea helps global evolution study - NZCity

Radio interview

Dr Tammy Steeves, was interviewed on Radio Waatea about a massive international effort that sequenced the genomes of 45 bird species helping unearth the best revolutionary framework map for birds to date. This is a joint effort with Dr Paul Gardner.

Ergonomic Attitude award

Craig Galilee, received an Ergonomic Attitude award in recognition of his voluntary service and dedication of ergonomic assessments for UC. They awarded him with a delightful measuring tape to measure up new assessments!
UC student helps Tonga’s Ministry of Health fight mosquitos

Ground-breaking research by University of Canterbury masters student Tom Swan is helping Tonga’s Ministry of Health in the fight against mosquito-related diseases. Read about Tom's research at NZDoctor and the Voxy.

Lecturing academics making it big this year!

In order of receiving award/accolades:
David Schiel, Award for lifelong achievements in marine science; elected as Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and promoted a progression within Professor grade
Steven Gieseg and Jon Harding, Science and Innovation funding success
Dave Kelly, Ant Poole, Jonathan Love and Matthew Turnbull, Marsden fund success
Jim Briskie, Sharyn Goldstien and Karen Adair, Brian Mason fund success
Jason Tylianakis, receiving the New Zealand Ecological Society’s Te Tohu Taiao award and promoted a progression within Professor grade
Grant Pearce, promoted to Senior Lecturer
Paul Gardner, Ren Dobson and Daniel Stouffer, promoted to Senior Lecturer (above bar)
David Collings, promoted to Associate Professor

General staff successes
Matt Walters, received a Vice Chancellor’s General Staff Award and promoted above the bar
Graeme Bull, received Civil Defence Emergency Management long service award
Lyn de Groot, Penny Moore and Nicki Judson, awarded Fern One Certification
Craig Galilee, promoted above the bar
Linda Morris, Kim Roberts and Jon Hill, received bonus payments
Alan Woods, Kim Roberts, Jon Hill, Thomas Evans, Gavin Tisch and Nicole Lauren-Manuera, received step progressions below the bar

Student successes

Richard White, awarded the Roper scholarship; received the Claude McCarthy Fellowship for 2015.
Nixie Boddy, received the inaugural Vida Stout Scholarship.
Amanda Klemmer, awarded the Peterson Fund Travel Award.
Sarah Wright, received a grant from the Canterbury Botanical Society; received a grant from the Brian Mason Trust; won best poster at the Australasian Systematic Botany Society meeting.

Sophie Hunt, received a Todd Award for Excellence.
Yinnon Dolev, won first prize for his poster at ICN 2014 (International Congress of Neuroethology).

Eimear Egan, awarded the supreme award for Best Student Oral Presentation at the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society Conference.
Amy Yewdall, was a finalist in the UC Thesis-in-three competition, having been placed third in the College heats.

Annu Ninan, was awarded top poster prize from the NZ Society of Plant Biologists. Jessica Roche, came a respectable second with her poster.
Kevin Chase, won best student talk on understanding invasive species at the New Zealand Ecological Society meeting.

Water Symposium was held in Blenheim, which was the annual meeting of the NZ Freshwater Sciences Group, NZ Hydrological Society and the IPENZ Rivers Group where several students gained prizes:

- **Mark Galatowitsch**, SIL Trust prize for best overall student oral presentation
- **Sophie Hunt**, SIL Trust prize for best oral presentation by an MSc/Hons student
- **Steve Pohe**, Golder’s award for best applied poster
- **Eimear Egan**, Department of Conservation Best Conservation Poster and Stella McQueen Best Fish Ecology Oral Presentation

**Biology Photography and Art Competition results**

**Photography**
1st - Sophie Hunt (Bug-eyed frog)
2nd - Tom Swan (Mosquito collecting in Tonga)
3rd - Nicky Glenjarman (Diversity is everywhere)
Highly Commended - Sophie Hunt (Life supporting life)
People’s Choice – Morgan Jones (Off on an adventure)

**Art**
1st and People’s choice- Christie Webber (From the Forest Floor)
2nd - Erin Smaill (Far away eyes)
3rd - Mark Galatowitsch (Tiger Beetle)
Highly Commended - Dorien Coray (Thing from the deep)
Annual Biology Conference

Powerhouse prize for Innovation: Edward Marks

Research committee prizes
Best paper by a MSc student: Andrew Barnes
Best paper by a PhD student: Guadalupe Peralta and Amy Phillips
Best overall publication output: Donna Sutherland

Overall presentations
PhD
1st: Yinnon Dolev
2nd: Gabriel Moinet
3rd: Camille Coux

MSc
1st: Robert Perry
2nd: Charlotte Austin
3rd: Kate Wootton

Best BSc Hons talk: Roseanna Gamlen-Greene
Overall Best Oral presentation: Rachel van Heutgen
Robert Perry: 1st place MSc talk
Charlotte Austin: 2nd place MSc talk
Kate Wootton: 3rd place MSc talk
Rachel van Heutgen: Overall best talk
New additions to the School

**Thomas Evans** - Genetics. Previously employed with us covering Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. Thomas received his Master of Science with Distinction in 2011.

**Jon Hill** - Animal Physiology. Jon was previously employed with us doing contract work in Physiology. Jon has a Ph.D. in Zoology.

**Kim Roberts** - Ecology. Kim was awarded her Master of Science with Distinction in 2013. She was working with the Freshwater Ecology Research Group as a Research Assistant.

**Marie Foxwell** - Technical Assistant. Marie left us in October to take up a new job here in the city. We wish her well.

**Tom Davison** - who will be working in the Autoclave Room/Central Washing Area. If the name sounds familiar it is because he the son of Our Bill.

**Campbell Sheen** - Callaghan Innovation. Based in the Protein Science and Engineering Team on the 6th floor of SBS.

Hatches, Matches and Dispatches

**We go ga-ga**

**Alexander** (8lb 1oz = 3657.1 grams), first born for Stacie Lilley (Research Assistant with MERG) and her partner DJ on 17th March.
Harry Anthony Paul Gallen, born 19th May at 6.02pm, 3.965kg (8lb 11oz) and 56cm

Proud Mum, Helen Boothy (4th year student, 2014), with her bonny boy, Harry
William Joel Hurrell, born on 8th July, weighing 2.5kg (one month premature).

William, now a bonny lad at 7.5kg.

Proud parents of Rebecca Hurrell and Andrew Muscroft-Taylor and brother to Ben.
William Dag Tylden Nordbrandt Love, born in Umeå, Sweden on 18th July, weighing 3685 grams (8lb 1.98oz) and 52cm long, pictured with his Mum, Sara Nordbrandt and Dad, Jonathan Love (Postdoctoral Fellow)

Telesia, and proud Mama, Alex Tino (MSc graduand, Dec 2014), born in July.
Miro Thomas Searle, born 17th December. Proud parents of Sam and Stephanie Searle (PhD graduand 2011)

We celebrate

Chan (Sonia) Deng (PhD candidate) married her sweetheart on the 27th November. She wore a stunning red gown for her traditional wedding and a gorgeous white gown for her formal day. No pictures, but Sonia looked absolutely beautiful.

Abishek Muralidhar (PhD graduand, 2014) married his beautiful wife this year as well back in India. We wish them happiness in their new life together.
We remember

Credit: UC

Colin Burrows, Thursday 16th January

His contributions for the last half century working as a botanist, scientist, researcher, writer, poet and ecologist are legendary. His humble demeanour made it easy to start up any conversation on any topic. It will come as no surprise that to many people he was a mentor, respected colleague and dear friend who is sorely missed.

December graduation - 17th December
Doctor of Philosophy
IN PERSON

Jonathan Bray in Ecology
The ecology of algal assemblages across a gradient of acid mine drainage stress on the West Coast, South Island, New Zealand

Sarah Coxon in Zoology
The exercise physiology of snapper (Pagrus auratus): implications for the better commercial harvesting of an iconic New Zealand finfish

Dorien Coray in Cellular & Molecular Biology
The potential for toxin and antitoxin gene pairs to display a post-segregational killing phenotype, with regards to the ecology of mobile elements

Pragatheswari Dhandapani in Biotechnology
Rhodococcus fascians-plant interactions: microbiological and molecular aspects

Mark Galatowitsch in Ecology
Invertebrate life-history trade-offs and dispersal across a pond-permanence gradient

Simon Howard in Ecology
Flow-related threats to rare galaxiids in the upper Waitaki River

Tejraj Janmale in Biochemistry
Formation, transport and detection of 7,8-dihydroneopterin

Amy Phillips in Biochemistry
Structural characterisation of proteins from the peroxiredoxin family

Anna Zakharova in Ecology (19th December)
Soil organic matter dynamics: influence of soil disturbance on labile pools

COUNCIL CEREMONY

Jimmy Thomas in Plant Biology
An investigation on the formation and occurrence of spiral grain and compression wood in radiata pine (Pinus radiata D.Don.)

Ophélie Sagnol in Ecology
Spatial and temporal distribution of sperm whales (Physeter macrocephalus) within the Kaikoura submarine canyon in relation to oceanographic variables

Kata Farkas in Microbiology
Mimicking virus removal and transport in aquifer media using surface-modified silica nanoparticles
# Master of Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Honours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte Austin</td>
<td>Zoology</td>
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<td>Thomas Hildebrand</td>
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<td>Timothy Millar</td>
<td>Plant Biology</td>
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<td>Thomas Moore</td>
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<td>Samuel Murray</td>
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<td>Amanda Peterson</td>
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<td>Emma Porter</td>
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<td>Eric Richards</td>
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<td>Sasha Roselli</td>
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<td>Joshua Thia</td>
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<td>Alexandria Tino</td>
<td>Cellular &amp; Molecular Biology</td>
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<td>Ashleigh Watts</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
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**COUNCIL CEREMONY**

Olivia Johnston in Environmental Sciences, First Class Honours
## Bachelor of Science with Honours

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher R. Horne</td>
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<td>David J Lloyd-Jones</td>
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<td>Olivia C. Rowley</td>
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<td>Simona Seizova</td>
<td>Cellular &amp; Molecular Biology</td>
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<td>Rose Shaw</td>
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## Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences / Biochemistry

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<td>Yaser S. Almu Hanna</td>
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<td>Matthew Arnet</td>
<td>Teresa Balcomb</td>
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<td>Roshit K. Bothara</td>
<td>Courtenay Bremner</td>
<td>Xaviera Colleen</td>
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<td>Ellery Daines</td>
<td>Madeline Davison</td>
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<td>Shannon Douglas</td>
<td>Sarah Drake</td>
<td>Thomas Falconer</td>
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<td>Bronwyn Fechney</td>
<td>Jacob Froehlich</td>
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<td>Katherine Hackett</td>
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<td>Hayden Petch</td>
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<td>Thomas Pitt</td>
<td>Josephine Robison</td>
<td>Jasfer Rosalitas</td>
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</table>
Olivia Rowley  Kathleen Seddon  Simona Seizova
Qi Min Ser  Belvina Sim  Bernice Sim
Erin Smaill  Jacob Somerton  Tessa Stevens
Lara Sweetapple  Millicent Taylor  Joy Tiong
Grace Wallis  Annie-Rose Willis  Raissa Woudenber
Hoo Yap

Margaret Austin being honoured as an Inspirational Alumni. The other recipients were Drs Tim Cooper and David Wardle.
What film is this?

To end off the year here are some quizzes to keep you guessing over the break - enjoy!

**Super Movie Quizzes - there are 40...**

**Issue 344:** Please, God, something's the matter with Daddy.

Answer: It's a Wonderful Life (1946)
and now for something completely different...

  Grocery checkout scanners

  Chinese kaleidoscope Christmas tree

  Pass the Parcel

Can you imagine what it would be like if everything you knew was swept out from under your feet? Twice.

  Santa Claws - Simon's Cat

  For all the parents out there

Thought for the Year

There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other is called tomorrow. So today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live.

- Dalai Lama

Contact details

The Editor would like to thank all the contributors throughout the year that bring the newsletters alive, including Google Alerts! Have a very blessed Christmas and safe journeys on the roads throughout the festive season.

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.