Long live the King

Recent publications in the school


This is Phoebe’s first publication with her collaborations from Cawthron Institute and the Ministry of Fisheries in Tonga whilst she is doing her PhD in Environmental Sciences. Congratulations Phoebe!


Recent PhD oral exam completed

Ani Kainamu-Murchie had her PhD defence on Monday 7th August. Her thesis title is ‘Mauka makai ‘Ki uta ki tai’: The sociocultural and ecological values of shellfisheries in Hawai’i and New Zealand’. Supervisors were Professor Islay Marsden, Dr John Pirker and Associate Professor Sally Gaw.
Amy Yewdall’s successful PhD defence was presented via Skype on Thursday 3rd August.

The Oral examiner was Professor Vic Arcus from Waikato (top left), Amy, Associate Professor Ashley Garrill, Oral organiser and Dr Grant Pearce, Supervisor (bottom left) and Professor Juliet Gerrard, Supervisor.

In the spotlight

Cover legend – New Phytologist
It’s a great day when your photo appears on the front cover of a super duper plant journal. Congratulations Ian!


What makes plant communities tick?
What makes diverse plant communities like Aotearoa New Zealand’s iconic grasslands tick? What allows so many competing species to co-exist? UC scientists are working to find out. Check out Associate Professor Daniel Stouffer’s talk on UC Intercom, *Quantifying the Importance of Non-additive Competition in Diverse Plant Communities.*
UN IPES Asia Pacific Regional Assessment

‘Konnichiwa’! Group photo of UN IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional assessment’s Chapter 3 (Status and trends on biodiversity and ecosystem services)

Konnichiwa! Last month a consortium of science and policy experts gathered at the UN University in Tokyo to work on the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN IPBES) Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment. SBS Postdoctoral fellow and UN IPBES fellow Catherine Febria attended and engaged in the science synthesis that will be included in the key report and summaries for policy makers for the Asia-Pacific region. This assessment runs alongside other regional assessments from around the globe with a launch date of March 2018. Catherine received a MBIE Linking Science into Policy grant for this work and is currently one of 4 scientists representing New Zealand in the UN IPBES assessment.

Thesis-in-Three: College of Science heats

Our very own Samarth (PhD candidate) came out trumps in the CoS heats with his award winning three minute talk on ‘Plant memory in massive mast flowering’. Samarth was on a huge high after his win and nothing was going to burst his bubble, congratulations Samarth! Our two other contenders did extremely well, Mona Bidanjiri received an honourable mention with her fabulous talk and Jennifer Schori did us proud amongst the other 20 finalists. Check out the CoS Facebook page for full details (24 July).
**Events**

**Canterbury Forum - Science in a Post-Truth Era & Political Forum**

Science in a Post-Truth Era 9.00am to 1.00pm & Political Forum 1.00pm to 3.00pm
Thursday 24th August 2017, Bayliss Room, Lincoln Event Centre, Meijer Drive, Lincoln

[Full details](#) – programme and registration

**MapNet**

2nd and 3rd November 2017
Palmerston North - registration now open

The MapNet2017 conference committee is happy to announce that the registration is now open and we are calling for abstracts addressing key themes about genomics, bioinformatics, quantitative genetics and conservation genetics. This MapNet conference presents an opportunity for sharing ideas, new innovations and technologies and experience in the field of genomics throughout New Zealand.

For all the key information about the conference, including registration, abstract submission, themes and key dates please visit the MapNet2017 website: [http://scienceevents.co.nz/mapnet](http://scienceevents.co.nz/mapnet)

**Scholarships**

**Technology / Energy Scholarships - The Dick and Mary Earle and the Todd Energy**

**Dick and Mary Earle Scholarship**

**Todd Foundation Energy Scholarship**

The closing date for both is 1st September.

**PhD Scholarships in Alpine Evolutionary Ecology in Australia**

Application deadline for international students is August 31 and for Australian and New Zealand residents is October 31

Project Areas in Brief:

* Multi-trait plasticity in an Australian alpine herb in response to warming – epigenetic and ecophysiological underpinnings. Supervisors Profs Adrienne Nicotra, Loeske Kruuk (ANU) and A. Prof Christina Richards (Uni South Florida, USA).

* The adaptive potential of woody plants in the Australian Alps. Supervisors: Dr Susanna Venn & Prof Adrienne Nicotra (ANU) and Prof Ary Hoffmann (Uni Melb).

Suitable applicants need to be highly motivated with strong academic and research backgrounds; skills in plant evolutionary ecology, environmental physiology and/or ecological and evolutionary genetics are required. Demonstrated ability to conduct fieldwork, and independent research experience are highly desirable. Interested students must apply for admission and scholarship online at ANU.

Successful applicants will receive scholarship stipend, tuition fee waiver, research funds including computer and travel grants. [Full details](#).
**Vacancies**

**Lecturer in Climate Change and the Environment - 4 posts**

Grantham Institute - Climate Change and the Environment, Faculty of Natural Sciences  
**Salary:** £47,910 to £53,400 per annum  
**Campus:** South Kensington Campus  
**Closing date:** 21 September 2017 (Midnight BST)

The Grantham Institute is seeking applications for four lectureships, starting in the 2017-18 academic year. The positions are open to those working at key disciplinary interfaces relating to the understanding of, and responses to, climate and environmental change, within the broad fields of Engineering, Science, Medicine and Business. We also welcome applications from those with expertise in energy modelling and integrated assessment models. During the initial three-years, the lectureships will be based at the Grantham Institute, before formally transferring to an appropriate academic Department at Imperial.

Appointees will be expected to broaden the College’s research capabilities, complementing our existing strengths. They will build on a successful programme of engagement and development at the Institute, working to inform decision-making in business and policy, and drive forward research and collaborations across the areas of climate and environmental change.

These lectureships represent a significant investment in climate change and environment research by the Institute, and aligns with the College’s strategy for investment in multidisciplinary research around four interconnected global challenges: Discovery and the natural world; Engineering novel solutions; Health and well-being; and Leading the data revolution. Further details can be found in the College Strategy 2015-2020.

The successful candidates will have a good honours degree and a doctorate that demonstrate their effectiveness at working at a disciplinary interface of the climate change/environment debate. They will also be expected to demonstrate a strong research record, including a growing international reputation for research and innovation in an area of climate or environmental activity within the College’s remit, which is commensurate with their career stage. The successful candidates will have a broad knowledge of global climate and environmental issues and an awareness of relevant government and business interests, preferentially having provided advice on such areas to stakeholders in government and business. Evidence of attracting research funding and/or bids for other financial support, or an equivalent measure of impact, together with experience of planning and undertaking effective collaboration with external partners, are also essential.

The successful candidates will have excellent interpersonal, verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to convey ideas and concepts clearly and effectively to a range of audiences through a variety of methods and media. They will also have experience of teaching excellence at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level, and be able to demonstrate strong leadership potential. For informal discussions about these positions, please contact the co-directors of the Grantham Institute (Professors’ Joanna Haigh, j.haigh@imperial.ac.uk; or Martin Siegert, m.siegert@imperial.ac.uk).

**Postdoc position, plant water relations, UC Davis**

**Job Description:** A postdoctoral position in the UC Davis lab of Ken Shackel (department of Plant Sciences) is available to cooperate in the development of a micro-tensiometer for continuous in-situ measurement of water potential in grape vines and other woody perennial crops under field conditions.

**Qualifications:** A PhD is required. Applicants should have familiarity with the fields of plant water relations, xylem anatomy/hydraulics, and the physical principles of the measurement of water potential in plants or soils, and either have a demonstrated expertise in one or more of these fields, or a strong background in physics or engineering. The successful candidate should be able to work independently, read the literature critically, and be highly motivated and productive. Applicants with a proven record of publications in peer-reviewed journals and strong verbal and written communication skills will be preferred.

**Compensation:** $48,216/yr + Benefits
Term: Full term, one-year commitment with two-year expectation, contingent upon continued satisfactory individual productivity and cooperation with other team members.
Start: ASAP

How to apply: Submit a letter of application, indicating your specific background and experience relevant to the job description, curriculum vitae, and the names and emails/contact information of three references, to Ken Shackel at kashackel@ucdavis.edu.

Post-doctoral positions in tomato functional genomics

Two postdoctoral positions are available that focus on genes and regulatory pathways that lead to fruit size and shape variation using tomato as a model. One project focuses on the effects of structural variation in tomato genomes. The goals are to identify structural variants and associate them with phenotypes. The second project focuses on mining of ancestral tomato germplasm for crop improvement traits. The goals of the latter project are to recognize in semi-domesticated germplasm alleles that lead to tomato improvement. For both projects, the postdoctoral associates will be part of a team of researchers who are collaborating on various aspects of tomato genetic diversity, genome sequence variation and fruit/inflorescence development. Both projects will integrate classical and quantitative genetics, QTL and RNA-Seq, molecular biology, genome editing, plant development and bioinformatic techniques. Review of applicants will begin September 1, 2017 and continue until filled. Full details.

PhD scholarship from the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR), New Zealand

Studying Legionella mobility and persistence in plumbing systems using micro mimics

We are seeking a highly motivated PhD student to study the mobility and persistence of Legionella in plumbing systems using biopolymer-based micro mimics. The PhD study forms part of a 3-year multi-disciplinary Marsden Fund project awarded by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The position will close once a suitable candidate is found so we encourage applicants to apply promptly. The starting date will be as soon as possible. Read here for full details.

What song is that?

Take a jumbo cross the water.

406: Sitting like a princess perched in her electric chair.

Answer: Someone saved my life tonight, Elton John, 1975

Guessed by: Nobody, not even Lyn!

Classified

Wanted: Data Science Summer Projects

The first cohort of MADS of students (MSc. in Applied Data Science) are looking for projects to work on over the summer. The will have training in data wrangling, analysis, management, ethics and big data. The project is worth 45 points (DATA601, EFTS for SBS), and will typically be run between November and February. There are ~40 students who need to be placed on either industry or academic projects. They will be assessed based upon a write-up, peer-assessment and a presentation of their results.

If you have a suitable project, then please email the details to james.williams@canterbury.ac.nz
Looking for part time/full time work

I am a University of Otago graduate who completed a BSc (Hons) with First class majoring in Anatomy. My degree also included papers physiology, neuroscience and microbiology. I am looking for positions available as a lab demonstrator, assistant research fellow or anything else - contact me at 0276340637 or davidtimajo@gmail.com

Experienced editor available

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**Virginia Gray**, BSc (Canterbury), Dip.Edit.  
[gray.edit@clear.net.nz](mailto:gray.edit@clear.net.nz)  
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**Joan Gladwyn**, BSc, MSc, CPhys, DipEdit  
[joan@properwords.co.nz](mailto:joan@properwords.co.nz) (+64) 21 213 6511

...and now for something completely different

- *[Science is his passion](#)*  
- *[Bed Head - Simon’s Cat](#)*  
- *[Crown of thorns – When starfish go wild](#)*

**Remembering Glen Campbell**  
Keith Urban & Glen Campbell in Las Vegas  
Glen Campbell - Rhinestone Cowboy  
Glen Campbell's fantastic guitar solo on "Galveston"  
Glen Campbell - By the time I get to Phoenix

**Commemorating 40 years since Elvis left us**  
The wonder of you  
Can’t help falling in love with you

Thought for the week

*Water, water, every where, nor any drop to drink.*  
~ Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Contact details

If you have items of news or interest that you would like included in this newsletter, contact the admin office before noon on Friday at [BIOLAdminSharedMailbox](mailto:BIOLAdminSharedMailbox) or phone ext 95078.