Biology Newsletter

Newsletter 420 20 March 2018

Recent publications in the school


This is Wafaa’s 2nd publication and at first author. This publication has a high impact factor so is a great achievement for her. She completed her PhD in Biochemistry with Ashley Garrill. Wafaa will graduate this April. Congratulations Wafaa!


This is Jasmine’s (Chia-Sin) first publication and at first author. This research is the result of her PhD in Evolution which was supervised by Pieter Pelser. Jasmine will graduate this April. Congratulations Jasmine!

This is also Andrew’s first publication. He did his MSc in Ecology with Pieter Pelser. Congratulations Andrew!


This is Karen’s first publication and at first author. She conferred her PhD in Biological Sciences this year under the guidance of Bill Davison. Congratulations Karen!


This is Rudolf’s first publication. He is presently doing his PhD with Mitja Remus-Emsermann. Congratulations Rudolf!


In the spotlight

Turning farmer's roadside drain into a healthy freshwater ecosystem

New ways to transform water quality and ecology in streams flowing into Canterbury's Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere are being trialed by Living Water partners Fonterra and the Department of Conservation.

Canterbury's Ararira-LII River is one of five New Zealand catchments included in Fonterra and DOC's $20 million, 10-year, Living Water partnership. Like the Wairua River in Northland, the Peat Lakes in Waikato, Pukorokoro-Miranda in the Firth of Thames and Waituna Lagoon in Southland, the Ararira-LII catchment is environmentally degraded, much of that blamed on dairy farming.

Living Water is working in partnership with the University of Canterbury's School of Biological Sciences, Selwyn District Council, Te Taumutu Runanga and DairyNZ and Fonterra science teams. Check out the full article at NZFarmer.

The university's Canterbury Waterways Rehabilitation Experiment (Carex) team will provide expertise to monitor the progress of the Powells Rd project. To find out more about Living Water visit www.livingwater.net.nz

Funding success

Jason Tylianakis, has had year-three funding confirmed for two 5-year projects in the Bio-Protection CoRE at Lincoln University.

For two projects: 'Scenario modelling of the evolution of host resistance', and 'Understanding how community interaction networks resist and respond to invasions'. Funding for year three of the program (2018) is $298,000.

Ian Dickie, has had year-three funding confirmed for his leadership in the project Achieving bioprotection in NZ ecosystems in the Bio-Protection CoRE at Lincoln University. Funding for year 3 of the program (2018) is $177,000.
Hazel Chapman has been successful in obtaining a $20,000 1-year extension to her funding from North England Zoological Society for the project “Restoring the Forest to Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve and Understanding its Avian Pollinators”. (Total funding 2008-2018 of $219,000).

Events

Soil: Are we letting our most precious resource slip through our fingers?
Thursday 22nd March – check out the full details.

Scholarships

Two fully-funded PhD Scholarships
Investigating native plants derived from whole-genome duplication events and understanding why they are successful
Project description: We are seeking two highly-motivated PhD students for a project that seeks to understand why plants with multiple sets of chromosomes (polyploidy) are so common in New Zealand and elsewhere. The three-year project is part of a new Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund grant.

Full details

Postgraduate news

GoEco internships
GoEco was created by experienced volunteers for people who are eager to travel and contribute to the community, wildlife, and environment they visit. Based on years of practice and in-depth field reports, GoEco presents you with a careful selection of excellent yet affordable volunteer and ecological minded vacations.

Check it out!

Vacancies

Postdoctoral Researcher in Ecological Modeling and Global Change
Job Summary: The Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut, in collaboration with UNC-Chapel Hill and Georgetown University, invites applications for a multi-year NSF-funded Postdoctoral Fellow to work on spatio-temporal patterns and ecological consequences of phenological mismatch across three trophic levels. Funded by NSF’s Macrosystems Biology program, the project seeks to quantify ecological patterns of phenological asynchrony between plants, Lepidoptera, and birds, and to explore demographic consequences of mismatch. The Fellow will join a highly collaborative and dynamic group of researchers across 8 North American institutions. For further information, see <http://pheno-mismatch.org/>.
Primary responsibilities will include: building spatio-temporal models of phenological events across North America; using mark-recapture data in an integrated modeling framework to explore demographic responses to mismatch of phenophases; collaborating closely with climate, vegetation, and insect teams across multiple institutions; and assisting in curation of data products and associated bioinformatic resources. All project data would be available to the postdoc to develop their own analyses for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals in accordance with project goals. The postdoc would report to Dr. Morgan Tingley and would be hosted at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT.

Qualifications: Candidates must have a Ph.D. in biology or a closely related field, experience in ecological models of occurrence, abundance, and mark-recapture, and expertise in statistical analyses using R. Preferred candidates will additionally have: experience with ecological “big data”; advanced statistical and programming skills including the creation of R packages, and knowledge of python and SQL; demonstrated commitment to reproducible and open science; prior success in Team Science scenarios; and a strong track record of peer-reviewed publication.

Application Details: This position is based at the Storrs campus of the University of Connecticut and includes competitive salary and health benefits. This is a full-time, 12-month, fixed-term position, with an initial 3-month probationary period. Reappointment is available for up to 3 years, conditional on satisfactory performance. The position will begin on or after 1 June 2018. Interested candidates should send (1) an email describing their research interests and qualifications along with (2) a CV, (3) 1-2 representative publications, and (4) a list of 3 references to Morgan Tingley (morgan.tingley[AT]uconn.edu).

PhD and Postdoc opportunities
Plant & Food Research have a PhD and Postdoc position available to work on our new Marsden project, led by Kevin Davies and Brian Jordan.

PhD Studentship - Flavonoid Pigments in Liverworts (Three Years) - Plant & Food Research
This is an exciting opportunity to undertake a PhD as part of a project investigating the biosynthetic origin and function of the riccionidin flavonoid pigments of liverworts.

Postdoctoral Scientist, Premium Crops & Technology - Plant & Food Research
Plant & Food Research conducts research that adds value to fruit, vegetable, crop and food products. Our science supports the sustainable production of high quality produce and novel functional foods that earn a premium in international markets and offers benefits to human health and wellbeing.

Postdoctoral fellowship opportunity in Sydney, Australia
Addressing drug target identification blind spot with new phage display method
Application deadline: 5 March

We are seeking an innovative and highly motivated postdoc with exceptional skills in molecular biology to work with our multidisciplinary team on a cutting-edge project at the intersection of synthetic biology and chemistry; engineering a completely new phage display technology for the rapid identification of drug targets.

Snapshot
• To be eligible to apply the candidate must hold a PhD conferred between 1st July 2010 and 1st July 2018 (allowances will be made for career interruption)

Fellowship Information
• The project will be hosted at Macquarie University with Dr. Paul Jaschke and Prof. Peter Karuso as supervisors along with a supervisor from CSIRO.
• Salary Range (based on experience): $88,420 - $94,760 + 17% superannuation (retirement benefit)
• Research support is also provided with this fellowship
• Fellowships must commence by **1st November 2018**
• Research project to run for **3-years**

[Full details]

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### What movie is that?

Would ya just watch the hair. Ya know, I work on my hair a long time and you hit it. He hits my hair.

419: Never rat on your friends and always keep your mouth shut.

Answer: Goodfellas (1990)

Guessed by: Nobody

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### Classified

#### Casual work wanted in ecology

I am a forest ecologist, having received my PhD with a strong focus on restoration/forest ecology at the School of Forestry last year. I do hold a full working visa and am skilled in data analysis, data entry, writing scientific publications – basically, everything that you need to successfully complete your PhD. Contact Conny Keyz.

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#### Editor/proofreader available

Experienced editor/proofreader available online for essays, dissertations, theses and for postgraduates’ papers and publications. Specialist help for students whose first language in not English (ESL). University of Auckland approved proofreader.

Virginia Gray, BSc. (Canterbury), Dip.Edit.  
[Penell.edit@gmail.com](mailto:Penell.edit@gmail.com)  
027 419 1046

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#### Local honey for sale

1 kg $10, 500 g $5. 2017 season, multi-floral Ilam garden honey in plastic pottles. Soft granulated. I will deliver to the School of Biological Sciences or arrange pickup/delivery elsewhere. Harry Taylor, email:  
[harry.taylor@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:harry.taylor@canterbury.ac.nz); ph/txt:  021 292 5319

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#### Proofreading and Editing Services

Let me help you produce writing that is clear, error-free and consistent.  
Joan Gladwyn, BSc, MSc, CPhys, DipEdit  
[joan@properwords.co.nz](mailto:joan@properwords.co.nz) (+64) 21 213 6511

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...and now for something completely different

- Golden finish in PyeongChang for NZ as Adam Hall wins men's slalom standing ski
- Baby makes three: Third eaglet makes debut on ETSU eagle cam
- Purrthday Cake (A 10th Birthday Special) - Simon's Cat
Thought for the week

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.

~ Confucius

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 or phone ext 95200.