Recent publications in the school


In the spotlight

Sophie Hunt: exotic mosquito explosion

New Zealand could become home to exotic disease-carrying mosquitoes because of climate change and urbanisation.

The discovery of Culex sitiens mosquitoes in the Kaipara Harbour north of Auckland proves non-native mosquito species can sneak in and set up home quite comfortably here, says insect scientist Sophie Hunt.

Listen to Sophie on Radio New Zealand talk to Wallace Chapman about ‘Hunting exotic disease-carrying mosquitoes’ and read the article here.

Urban sprawl, climate change help nasty mozzies

Urban sprawl and development combined with climate change mean New Zealand is troubled by more foreign, disease-carrying mozzies, scientists say.

A University of Canterbury study looked at how mosquito numbers and species might change as the planet warmed - and how shifts in land use could affect the picture.

This research was conducted by Sophie Hunt (MSc, 2015), Dr Mark Galatowitsch and Professor Angus McIntosh. Check it out in the New Zealand Herald.

Doctor Spider: From arachnophobe to arachnologist

Dr Fiona Cross spent her childhood in Tauranga terrified of spiders.

After a teacher warned her about the dangers of the native katipō, she became scared of anything with eight legs, running screaming from even a daddy long-legs.

Twenty years on and she has a doctorate earned from studying mosquito-eating, jumping spiders in Kenya, and her fear has transformed into an obsession.

Read all about Doctor Spider (aka Dr Fiona Cross) in the New Zealand Herald.
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

Fully funded M.Sc. project

Mapping the movements of Canada geese to reduce the risk of bird strike hazards at Christchurch International Airport

School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury

Applications close: 23rd April

Overview:
The objectives of this project are: (1) to map the movements and identify key areas used by Canada geese in the Christchurch International Airport area, and (2) to determine the diet of Canada Goose and identify feeding locations in the airport area that could be modified to reduce their attractiveness to the birds.

Full details

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

Associate Senior University Lecturer in Biodiversity, Lund University

Applications close: 8th May

Associate Senior University Lecturer in Biodiversity with a focus on the links between biodiversity and ecosystem services in landscapes characterized by human impact. Research will be conducted at least 80% full time.

It is an excellent position for young researchers, since it is highly likely to result in a permanent position.
The work tasks are primarily concerned with research in Biodiversity, with a focus on the links between biodiversity and ecosystem services in landscapes characterized by human impact, and teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Research will be conducted at least 80% full time. The work assignments of the position, as well as the relative proportions of research, teaching and outreach, may change over time.

Full details

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 bioinfomatic 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.
What movie is that?

We used to look up at the sky and wonder at our place in the stars. Now we just look down, and worry about our place in the dirt.

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

Answer: Tony Manero (John Travolta) yells to his Dad after he whacks him on the side of the head, in Saturday Night Fever (1977)

Guessed by: Matthew Turnbull with Runner-up dues to Bec Hurrell (for trying)

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.

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.
Pennell.edit@gmail.com
027 419 1046

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; ph/txt: 021 292 5319

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 (+64) 21 213 6511

...and now for something completely different

Children becoming more likely to draw women scientists but older kids picture them as men, study shows

New Zealanders at the Commonwealth games
Pictured: Geology ends coming down
Thought for the week

"To be named flag bearer is a huge honour - the New Zealand team is made up of so many amazing athletes."

"Our success with the New Zealand women's hockey team was really exciting, and I can't wait to have the moment with them and the wider team as I wave the flag tonight."

~ Stacey Michelsen

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.