Recent publications in the school


This is Liezl’s first paper and at first author. These are results from her MSc in Plant Biology. Congratulations Liezl!


In the spotlight

**New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists Roger Slack award**

It has just been announced that Professor Paula Jameson is the recipient of the 2018 New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists Roger Slack award for excellence in plant research:

Paula has utilised the fundamental knowledge gained from a life-time’s research on the cytokinin plant hormone group, which are involved in many aspects of plant growth and development, and in plant-microbe interactions. The award is presented specifically for her extensive research into the roles of cytokinin in seed and forage development, resulting in 12 publications in the last five years. Paula’s group has identified the key cytokinin homeostatic elements that could be disrupted to increase seed production while maintaining quality, and has shown that the cytokinins are intimately involved in the re-establishment of carbon/nitrogen status following defoliation of perennial ryegrass. Paula’s group has also investigated gene expression in plants infected with the gall-forming bacterium *Rhodococcus fascians*, and has proposed that an interaction between cytokinins, cell wall invertases and the newly identified sugar transporter genes, the SWEETS, contributes to apical dominance loss and the appearance of the multiple shoots in infected pea seeds.

Professor Jameson will be presented with her award at ComBio2018 in Sydney on 26th September, when she will give a plenary address on her research.

**2018 Teaching Medal goes to scientist Professor Jon Harding**

*Professor Jon Harding* has won the prestigious University of Canterbury Teaching Medal for 2018.

Professor of Stream Biology and Dean of Postgraduate Research, Professor Harding co-leads the Freshwater Ecology Research Group (FERG) and is one of the principal investigators of the Canterbury Waterway Rehabilitation Experiment, known as CAREX. Read the full story at [Scoop Education](#).
BIOL 383 Poster winners

Animal Behaviour students get to present their posters, worth 20% of their internal assessment, with topics this year ranging from ants to weta and everything inbetween. It was a great way for them to interact with their peers and members of the School to discuss and present their research.

With four and six votes, respectively, are the "highly commended" posters "UnBEElievable Evolution" and "How important is colour?"

THE WINNERS ARE: "Kea Quarrels", with 12 votes. Well done Charlotte and Courteney! The winners took away $50 in prize money.

Funding success

Ren Dobson, has been successful in an application for RSNZ Catalyst Seed funding for a project New biophysical methods to understand how bacteria import metabolites across their cell membrane. The funds ($80,000) will be used towards advancing this research in collaboration with University of Lethbridge, Canada and University of Montana, USA.

Ren has also been accepted as an Associate Investigator in the MacDiarmid Institute, and will receive $5000 per annum towards relevant research projects.

UC Scientists Use Haybales to Protect Whitebait Spawning

University of Canterbury researchers have been successfully locating, protecting and studying whitebait spawning sites in Christchurch city rivers with help from the humble haybale.

Doctoral researcher Shane Orchard, along with University of Canterbury marine ecologists Dr Mike Hickford and Distinguished Professor David Schiel at the College of Science, have been working to improve the protection of whitebait spawning sites. Their new paper published in the scientific journal Ecological Indicators sets out the science behind using artificial habitats such as haybales to find areas used for spawning in degraded waterways. Read the full story at Scoop Education.
Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor
Adjunct Professor Juliet Gerrard has been appointed the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor! Just announced by Jacinda Ardern here: https://beehive.govt.nz/release/appointment-prime-minister%E2%80%99s-chief-science-advisor

Events

Pink Ribbon fundraiser
The School had their May fundraiser for the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation. In total we raised $190. Thanks to everybody who came by and shared in the pinkness. Donations are still welcome at Pink Like Me.
Extend your experience as a biologist
There are many great opportunities out there to extend your experience as a biologist, but watch out for some which may not be what they immediately appear: The philanthropist’s net: Women who were trapped in paradise.

Vacancies

Flora of Australia - botanists needed to write family-level profiles
Completed Submission Templates will need to be sent for ABRS’ consideration by 5pm Monday 18 June

The Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) is pleased to be able to offer short-term contracts to Australian-based botanists who may be interested in writing family-level descriptive profiles for the Flora of Australia.

Work undertaken as part of this project is aimed at providing up-to-date descriptions of all vascular plant families found within Australia. These family-level descriptions will form a high-level framework for the Flora of Australia on the eFlora platform (www.ausflora.org.au). Contracted botanists will help detail family descriptions, diagnostic features, distribution and number of genera, selected bibliography and any other relevant information.

Please note the focus of this work will be on family-level profiles and not focus on subordinate taxa (i.e. genera, species, infraspecific ranks).

Interested in applying? Please contact ABRS on ABRS@environment.gov.au or 02 6250 9444. We will send you a more detailed Project Overview and the Submission Template.
The 31st Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS) conference

4-6 December 2018, Hobart, Tasmania

Integrating wildlife management, nature conservation and production in land-, river- and seascapes

For more information on the conference, how to participate, student prizes and subsidies, how to register and submit abstracts (deadline 31. August 2018) please visit our conference website www.awms.org.au/conference, or contact the conference organiser (conference@awms.org.au).

In addition to dedicated sessions for students and general presentations, proposed symposia are:

- Effectiveness of ‘multi-use’ landscape management practices
- Managing freshwater and marine systems for wildlife
- What does ‘renewables (solar, wind, hydro)’ mean for wildlife management?
- Cultural practices in wildlife management – how and why?
- Harvesting and control of wildlife for commercial and environmental purposes
- Management of wide-ranging species across the landscape
- Wildlife disease management

Hobart Poster - Hobart Call for abstracts

Other symposia will be organised to fit the topics of the abstracts received. There will also be open sessions to accommodate talks on any topic related to wildlife management.

There are many ways to participate at the AWMS2018 conference:

a) Register as delegate to learn about projects and research, and network with other professionals in the wildlife management field,

b) Present your project with a talk or poster;

c) Promote your company or organisation with one of our sponsorship packages or take part in the trade exhibition.

An AWMS conference typically attracts 200 delegates from the Australasian region, with members from Australia, New Zealand, and around the world, all of whom have an interest in the wildlife management field. AWMS promotes the use of science to identify appropriate wildlife management principles and practices, develop plans of management, and to implement and review these plans within a social, environmental, economic and political context. AWMS members include research scientists, educators, wildlife managers, and extension, interpretation and policy professionals.

Postgraduate news

Opportunity for students to visit Princeton University's Ecology and Evolution department

We are trying to attract a broader range of students to apply to the program and one way that the department is trying to encourage that is to have a no-strings-attached visit to the department for students that are applying to PhD programs and might not consider a place like Princeton otherwise. The visit would be a 4-day trip in early October where successful applicants would get to see the department, meet faculty, and talk to current graduate students. For successful applicants, Princeton will cover the travel (at least $900
worth though this will likely be greater for international travelers), lodging, and food expenses for the four days.

EEB encourages students to apply to the 2018 EEB Scholars Program, in which exceptional students (EEB Scholars) will be selected from a competitive national applicant pool and invited to Princeton University for a weekend program focused on the graduate application process, connecting with EEB faculty and students, and highlighting Scholars’ academic achievements. Students with backgrounds historically underrepresented in STEM are particularly encouraged to apply to this scholastic program.

Full details
Flyer

What movie is that?
Alright, alright, Mickey's a mouse, Donald's a duck, Pluto's a dog. What's Goofy?

424: That's just a character I played in a movie! Peter Vincent's not even my real name!

Answer: Fright Night. Spoken by Peter Vincent(!) (Roddy McDowall)
Guessed by: Noboby... Really!!

Classified

Needing garden plants for research
Masters student is looking for some garden grapes (Vitis vinifera) and fruit from the Bay plant (Laurus nobilis) as part of her master’s project and was wondering if anyone may have some in their garden. Email Laura or see her directly in room 325.

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

Decoding the honeybee dance could lead to healthier hives

Albatross live 1969 – Danny Kirwan remembered

CNN’s Anthony Bourdain
On his award-winning series, "Parts Unknown," Bourdain brought the world home to CNN viewers. Through the simple act of sharing meals, he showcased both the extraordinary diversity of cultures and cuisines, yet how much we all have in common.

Thought for the week

10 ways on how to think like Sherlock Holmes

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.