Recent publications in the school

This is Bonnie’s first publication and at first author. Bonnie completed her MSc in Biological Sciences with Associate Professor Ximena Nelson in 2017. Congratulations Bonnie!


Retirement for Nic Etheridge

Yes, you have read correctly, our Nic is retiring. His days of leisure will consist of finding remote spots to fly fish and putting his feet up.

Celebration for Nic will be held:

Friday 28th September
Edgar Stead Atrium tearoom, 10:30 am

Come along to the Biological Sciences reception to sign his card/donate $$ for a gift. If you live far away and wish to send a message, do so by emailing me and I will add it to his card.
**PhD oral exams**

**Fatemeh Ashari Ghomi**, had her PhD oral exam on Monday 20th August. The Convenor, Professor Angus McIntosh had to organise four video linkups. Her title is ‘Bacterial Genome Annotation’. Congratulations Fatemeh!

![Image of Fatemeh Ashari Ghomi](image1.png)

Pictured: Top, Fatemeh; Second row, Dr Paul Gardner (University of Otago) and Dr Amy Osborne (Supervisors) and Dr Nicole Freed (External Examiner, Massey University)

**Joe Healy**, had his PhD oral exam on Thursday 23rd August. His title is ‘Optimization of MARS Scanners for Material Imaging of Biological Samples’. Another success story from the Free-Radical Research Group. Congratulations Joe!

![Image of Joe Healy](image2.png)

Pictured: Associate Professor Steven Gieseg (Senior Supervisor), Joe, Dr Tracy Melzer (University of Otago, External Examiner) and Dr Phil Butler (Associate Supervisor)
Welcome to the School – Sarah Flanagan

Sarah has joined the School of Biological Sciences following her postdoc at the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her research focuses on understanding the evolution of complex, multivariate traits (such as mating displays) and the maintenance of variation. The majority of her work addresses these questions in pipefish and seahorses, using population and quantitative genetics, analyses of genomic datasets, and simulation modelling.

In the spotlight

Funding successes

**Tammy Steeves** – Genomics Aotearoa/Landcare Research – for ConSERT to contribute to the generation of a ‘platinum’ genome for kakī and perform downstream genomic analyses – July 2018 to Jan 2020, 0.1FTE salary recovery ($40,500)

**Matthew Stott** - New Zealand's Geothermal Future GNS-DCF00026 (GNS Science) – extended funding July 18 to June 19 - $8,000 project costs

**David Leung** - Probing Drought Tolerance Mechanisms In Plants CHN-UOC1802 (Royal Society of New Zealand, Catalyst - Leaders- NZ-China Scientist Exchange Programme) - $3,000

Time to step up to save NZ whitebait

Whether you make your own or grab one down at the local market, the whitebait fritter has a special place in Kiwi culture and with the whitebait season upon us, the nation’s fishers will be out in all weathers for a haul of New Zealand’s ‘white gold’.

But according to a report by the Department of Conservation, three out of five native whitebait species are under threat or, more officially ‘At Risk – Declining’. A fourth is classified ‘Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable’.
To put that into context, this threat status puts them in the same category as Brown kiwi or the Great Spotted Kiwi.

This is ongoing research from the CAREX group run from the University of Canterbury. Read all about it at the Newsroom.

Student Travel Awards Winners

Alibe Wasa – New Zealand Microbiological Society Annual Conference, Dunedin.
Gregory Baxter-Parker - Reactive Oxidants in Health and Disease (Society for Free Radical Research Australasia), Auckland

Events

180 Seconds of Discovery
Chance for Early Career Researchers to communicate the research they’re passionate about, showcasing their discoveries in a 3 minute video and sharing it with the public and their fellow researchers.

The competition is open to all New Zealand-based researchers who are no more than 10 years post-PhD (or other research higher degree) and carrying out research in any science, social science, or humanities discipline.

The competition is also open to postgraduate students who are currently enrolled in a New Zealand university or working at a New Zealand research institute in any science, social science, or humanities discipline. Career interruptions and periods of part-time employment will be taken into consideration when determining eligibility.

There are two great prizes: Submissions close 17th September
+ Future Leader Award, awarded by judges from New Zealand research organisations
+ People’s Choice Award, based on the votes of the public

Both winners will receive cash prizes to contribute to their future research goals. The winner of the Future Leader Award will also present their winning video at the Royal Society Te Apārangi Gala Dinner.

Full details

Scholarships

GCSB Women in STEM Scholarship
Applications open on 1 June and close on 1 October.

To be eligible for GCSB Tertiary Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be female students over the age of 18 years.
- Have been a New Zealand citizen for at least 10 years or hold New Zealand Permanent Residence or hold a current New Zealand Residency Class Visa and have been a citizen of United Kingdom, Canada, United States of America or Australia for at least 10 years.
- Have enrolled, or been accepted to enrol, in a full time degree majoring in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at an approved NZQA accredited tertiary provider in New Zealand for the next academic year.
• Be eligible to obtain and keep a national security clearance.

Full details

Masters scholarship in kauri dieback research

**Consideration of applications will start on 2 September 2018.**
Investigating the effects that landscape changes have on the growth and survival of soilborne pathogens such as *P. agathidicida* associated with kauri dieback is an area of national significance. Kauri is considered a taonga species, one of New Zealand’s best-known native plants, and a beacon for tourists (for example, Tāne Mahuta). Research has shown *P. agathidicida* is the primary cause of kauri dieback in New Zealand’s most northern native forests. The successful candidate’s research will focus on understanding the ecology of this pathogen, in particular how well it survives in the rhizosphere of other plant species.

The candidate will be supervised by Dr Amanda Black (Lincoln University), Professor Leo Condron (Lincoln University), Dr Nick Waipara (Plant and Food Research), Dr Monica Gerth (Victoria University) and Dr Peter Scott, (Scion).

The position can be funded for a period of two years (including paper and thesis year), starting early in 2019 (ideally January) or before.

Full details

**What movie is that?**

Was nothing real?

430: I vote we go back to the Slaughtered Lamb.
Answer: An American werewolf in London (1981). Yet again, another cult classic from the direction of John Landis should be on everybody’s Top films to see in this lifetime. Perhaps we need to start a movie club!?

Guessed by: Angela Langrish

Full details

**Classified**

**Offering private tutoring**
Aimed at 1st and 2nd yr students, in the area of microbiology, molecular biology and genetics. Contact: Dian Munoz, or ph: 0221031977

**Needing garden plants for research**
Masters student is looking for some garden grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) and fruit from the Bay plant (*Laurus nobalis*) 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.

**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 pots. 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

Good things to find in Dunedin
TIME OUT
I pursue but I can not catch up with you Time.
You precede me like the echo of sad footfalls in my heart, fading away.
Tears pool my eyes as I turn back to the find the solace in a resolute search for
my space
my beginnings
my self

Thought for the week
Happiness is....
Bringing a smile to everybody’s faces when they spot the sunflower at reception (courtesy of DC)

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.