Biology Newsletter

Newsletter 432

1 October 2018

Recent publications in the school


**PhD oral exams**

**Ayelen Taygui**, had an awesome PhD oral defence on Tuesday 11th September. The title of her thesis was "Measurement of protrusive force in hyphae using lab-on-a-chip technology".

It has been an enormous pleasure to get to know Ayelen. Her popularity is one reason why she had such a large support crew waiting for her. Her past and present roomies will no doubt be as ecstatic as I am on her successful defence. Congratulations Ayelen!

![PhD oral exam participants](image1.png)

Pictured: Back row: Dr Volker Nock (Co-Supervisor), Professor Paula Jameson (Senior Supervisor), Dr Tina Voisey (Oral Examiner, AgResearch, Palmerston North), Ayelen, Associate Professor Ashley Garrill (Associate Supervisor) and Dr Matthew Stott (Oral Convenor)

**Tom Flikac** had a successful PhD oral on the 12th September. The title of his PhD was ‘Seasonal growth dynamics of two temperate New Zealand finfish, Australasian snapper and yellow-eyed mullet- two strategies for the common success’. Tom undertook his PhD with the Plant & Food Research Seafood Group in Nelson. Congratulations Tom!

![PhD oral exam participants](image2.png)

Pictured are Professor Islay Marsden (Oral Convenor), Professor Bill Davison (Senior Supervisor), Tom and Dr Esme Robinson (Associate Supervisor for Plant & Food Research). The New Zealand examiner was Neill Herbert from University of Auckland who was on video.
In the spotlight

Iconic British swim
In the mid-term break **Associate Professor Ashley Garrill** went over to the United Kingdom to swim one of the iconic British swims - the length of Lake Windermere from Fell Foot to Waterhead in the Lake District. The swim was 17 kms and took around 7 hours. The water temperature was a "cool" 15 degrees. For official ratification it was done under English Channel Rules i.e. no wetsuit, just togs, goggles and a cap. The pictures are of the view up the Lake at Fell Foot prior to starting, and after the swim and reviving pints of cider :).

Research presentation

**Nyil Khwaja** (Postdoctoral Fellow with Professor Jim Briskie) gave a research presentation at the International Ornithological Congress in Vancouver in August. The talk was taken from research on riflemen that Nyil carried out at Kowhai Bush in Kaikōura for his PhD.

Spawning in the stream at Takamatua
Shaded by tall, elderly trees and flowing gently out to sea the Takamatua Stream provides the perfect opportunity to develop spawning grounds for the endangered Inanga, a native New Zealand fish most well known as ‘whitebait’.  

A report was commissioned by the Christchurch City Council to assess the viability of the area for restoration work, and to understand fully the situation in the Takamatua Stream.
Shane Orchard is an environmental consultant in water resource management specialising in conservation planning and natural resource management and has been working on the restoration of the Avon River. He is presently doing his PhD at the University of Canterbury with Waterways/Biological Sciences.

Check out the inspiring work done by several teams in the Akaroa Mail.

**Events**

**Bird of the Year**

The ‘Bird of the Year’ competition, organised by Forest & Bird, is quickly approaching (1-15th October). A group of dedicated researchers in the SBS are campaigning for a bird who has flown under the radar for years: the kākāi/black stilt. Kākāi are staunch, fierce, rare, and beautiful South Islanders, and we feel it is their time to shine with New Zealand’s highest bird accolade.

So please #VoteKaki when BOTY rolls around, and follow kākāi on social media for more details!

[https://www.facebook.com/vote4kaki](https://www.facebook.com/vote4kaki)
[https://twitter.com/vote4kaki](https://twitter.com/vote4kaki)
[https://www.instagram.com/adventureshelly/](https://www.instagram.com/adventureshelly/)

**Backyard Buzz Project**

This is a community science project looking at pollinator-plant interactions. For information and to take part, visit our website [https://ccc.govt.nz/backyardbuzz](https://ccc.govt.nz/backyardbuzz)

**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.

**Vacancies**

**Amazing opportunity working at Dolphin Encounter for Mandarin speakers**

Dolphin Encounter in Kaikoura are looking to employ a Mandarin speaker for the summer as a guest host. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone who loves the outdoors, dolphins and seabirds and may be studying hospitality and/or tourism.

DE is a wonderful company with a fantastic team – it would be a great opportunity for our students and may open potential internships/opportunities in the future. Check out the full details [here](#).

**Soil Agroecology Postdoctoral Researcher**

Departments of Wildlife, Fish, & Conservation Biology and Land, Air, & Water Resources- University of California, Davis  
**Application review begin date: 31 October 2018**  
**Start date: 1 January 2019**

We are seeking a Postdoctoral Researcher with expertise in foodborne pathogens, soil science, and/or soil microbial ecology to join Daniel Karp’s Lab in the Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology and Kate Scow’s Lab in the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources at the University of California, Davis. The appointment will be for one-year with the possibility of extension based on performance. The postdoctoral researcher will join a collaborative team focused on exploring strategies for managing California agroecosystems to suppress foodborne pathogens. The project will be based at UC Davis (Prof. Daniel Karp and Prof. Kate Scow) and at the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Albany, California (Dr. Jeffery Garvey). The work is supported by the Center for Produce Safety.

[Full details](#)

**What movie is that?**

At the same moment, a sperm with one X chromosome, belonging to Raphaël Poulain, made a dash for an egg in his wife Amandine. Nine months later, ?????? was born.

431: Was nothing real?  
Answer: The Truman Show (1998). Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey) asks Christof (Truman Show producer) (Ed Harris), to which replies, “You were real. That’s what made you so good to watch...”  
Guessed by: Angela Langrish
House available to rent
House available to rent for 6 months. Available from mid Dec 2018 - 6th of July 2019. Fully furnished house (3 bedrooms + study) in Roker St, Somerfield. Well insulated, partially double glazed, 2 heat pumps. Fully fenced garden with lots of fruit trees.
Contact; Thomas 0212998925, mountaingames@gmail.com

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 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
Pathogens on a plane: How to stay healthy in flight
That’s unacceptable

Thought for the week
How to change a light bulb

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.