Recent publications in the school

This is Jen’s first publication and at first author. She is presently doing her PhD in Ecology with Associate Professor Tammy Steeves. Congratulations Jen!


Welcome to the School – Vanessa Morris

Vanessa is a structural biologist with a strong interest in protein misfolding and amyloid fibril formation. She has joined UC after her postdoc in Toronto studying misfolding of proteins involved in Alzheimer’s disease and motor neurone disease. Vanessa's research will focus on the mechanisms of amyloid aggregation in neurodegenerative disease, as well as investigating important roles of functional amyloid proteins in biology. She uses a range of biophysical methods to study these proteins states, including NMR spectroscopy, an important and versatile technique for studying structures and interactions of proteins.
PhD oral exam

**Kevin Fraley**, had his oral exam on Tuesday 16th October. His thesis title is “Drivers of Stream Fish Assemblages and Trophic Interactions”. He passed without any recommended changes. Congratulations Kevin!

![Picture of examiners](image)

In the spotlight

**Annual Biology Conference – 25th October 2018**

**Paper prizes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2018 $</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Journal Article by a BSc or BSc(Hons) Student</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Michael Love</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Journal Article by an MSc Student</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Simon Stewart</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honourable Mention for a Journal Article by a PhD Student</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
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A Supervolcano's Colossal Eruption Has Been Lying About Its Age

The most violent eruption of the last 5000 years was undoubtedly that of Taupo, a volcanic cauldron found in New Zealand. It’s still an active volcanic system, so the more we know about it the better — but the exact age of that eruption has proved to be a puzzle for scientists.

This is a continuation of the Nature Communications article written by Adjunct Professor Richard Holdaway et al. You can read the full text at Gizmodo.
Check out the **winners** judged by the School of Biological Sciences judges. Congratulations to all!!

**UMass Amherst research shows spider eyes work together to track stimuli**

Using a specially designed eye-tracker for use with spiders, biologists Elizabeth Jakob, Skye Long and Adam Porter at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, along with colleagues in New York and New Zealand, report in a new paper that their tests in jumping spiders show a secondary set of eyes is crucial to the principal eyes' ability to track moving stimuli.

For this work supported by the National Science Foundation, the UMass team used a specialized eye tracker first created by Duane Harland and Robert Jackson at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and further developed by Christina Canavesi and Jannick Rolland at the University of Rochester, N.Y. At UMass, Long perfected the instrument for use in these experiments. UMass undergraduates Ashley Carey and Mary Emma Searles also worked on the project.

Read the full article at [EurekAlert!](https://www.eurekalert.org/)

Technician of the year nomination – celebration

The class of BIOL313 celebrated the contributions of technician, Mr Craig Galilee recently in the school.

Funding

Koiata Botanical Trust

Applications close: 30th November

The Koiata Botanical Trust is a small, Canterbury-based trust with the following Objectives:

- Increase public awareness of New Zealand vegetation and flora;
- Support one or more New Zealand botanists to undertake research;
- Help with publication of the research;
- Encourage interaction with the public through popular publications, lectures and field trips.

Each year we endeavour to support a few projects with modest (c$2000) grants. These are generally, but not exclusively, targeted to graduate students and are intended to supplement other means of support.

We are hoping to receive applications within the next month and will decide on recipients in early December. If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me.

Rod Hay, Chair – Koiata Botanical Trust, Ph +64 27 2303801

Full details
**Events**

**Thursdays in black – not just for students**

Thursdays in Black is a global campaign aimed with increasing awareness of sexual violence, consent culture, and positive relationships. Thursdays in Black encourages everyone to wear black every Thursday in solidarity against gender based violence.

The 2018 formation of UC’s Thursdays in Black club has led to many events including clothing swaps, discussion panels, and free workshops, keeping its focal message in mind. You can typically find our stalls Thursday’s at the central library’s entrance for free coffee, resources, and conversation. [Otherwise, look out for us on Facebook.](#) The on-campus presence of clubs and campaigns such as Thursday’s in Black lies at the heart of UC’s culture, building a community united in diversity.

**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/)

**Vacancies**

**Research Associate**

The Biomolecular Interaction Centre is looking for a Research Associate to work with Dr Jodie Johnston for 17 months. If you have skills in chemistry, biochemistry, biology or a related area, or know someone who does, take a look or get in touch.

Postdoc opportunity in Switzerland
Molecular biology of pollinator-mediated speciation in Petunia
Applications close: 18th November

The successful candidate will be involved in the generation, analysis and stacking of CRISPR-mediated mutations in potential speciation genes.

Full details

Postdoc and Technician - Food Web Modelling
NERC-UK funded three year project on food webs: Towards a general theory of ecological impacts of multiple, simultaneous stressors.

Do you have modelling and database experience and an interest in challenging models with data? The research team includes Owen Petchey, Julia Blanchard, Tim Poisot and Ute Jacob and Tom Webb.

Full details

Volunteer Internships for Students of Biology
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.

Top biology internships of 2018 were:
- Diverse jungle experience
- Health & medical care, San Jose
- Whale shark conservation
- Jungle trekking and sea turtles
- Private island marine experience

Check out what GoEco have to offer for you here.

Faculty Position in Plant Ecology
The University of Georgia, USA
Deadline for applications: 13 November 2018

The Department of Plant Biology at the University of Georgia invites applications from outstanding candidates for a tenure track faculty position at the Assistant or Associate Professor level. This search is open to candidates wishing to pursue fundamental questions in plant ecology within an evolutionary context, with an emphasis on above ground processes. The successful candidate will be expected to establish a high-impact, externally funded research program and contribute to classroom instruction and mentoring in the Department.

Full details

Biodiversity Postdoc Fellowships
The Living Earth Collaborative, a partnership with Washington University, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Zoo, is seeking applications for three postdoctoral fellowships in the area of biodiversity research and conservation.
LEC Postdoctoral Fellows will be an essential part of the Living Earth Collaborative and are expected to develop an independent research or conservation program that engages with multiple members of the Living Earth Collaborative Community—projects that involve LEC Biodiversity Fellows.

Application deadline: 1 December 2018
For more information about the fellowships, requirements, and application instructions, please see the official announcement here.

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?
Find me that piece of paper I had in my hand yesterday morning.

433: It would be easy to say that the pants changed everything that summer.
Answer: Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants (2005)
Guessed by: Annabella Thomas and Melissa Bird

Classified

Seeking home to rent
We are an American couple (professor and wife), and our 15-yr. old son and are coming to the Christchurch area for sabbatical from 10 Jan. - 25 July, 2019. We are looking for a 2-3 BR home to rent. We haven no pets, do not smoke, and can provide references, including friends living in Christchurch now. Contact is David Flaspohler.
Looking for a casual job
Tom Flikac has just finished his PhD in Zoology (Fish physiology) under Bill Davison, and while he’s looking for a job matching his qualifications he will be available for any casual/part-time work at the School. Please let me him if anything becomes available (0274 315 910, tflikac@gmail.com).

House available to rent
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.
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joan@properwords.co.nz (+64) 21 213 6511

...and now for something completely different

Dilbert: Annual performance review

Being a grad student at Halloween

All Blacks Beauden Barrett and Brodie Retallick up for try of the year – videos at end of article

Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness
Thought for the week

If everything seems under control, you’re not going fast enough.

~ Mario Andretti

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.