March 2018
Catch up with all that's going on at CBRE

Emma Marris
CBRE hosted environmental journalist and writer Emma Marris for a week long tour of New Zealand. You can hear her on Radio New Zealand and read her recent writing about her trip in National Geographic.

The fight for nature: a public debate on the future of conservation in New Zealand
CBRE hosted this public panel discussion and the events podcast can be heard here. The motivation for holding the event is described in this Newsroom article. For further reading, Fairfax's Nikki MacDonald's Should we learn to live with introduced species rather than wipe them out compleandel continues this important line of discussion.

Do pesticides really harm bees?
Bunnings recently announced that were pulling pesticides from their shelves that were thought to harm bees. CBRE
researcher Phil Lester spoke with RNZ to discuss how despite the ban, it is likely not to have much of an effect on bee populations.

Google-built AI software boosts NZ birdsong study

In one of the most unusual applications of machine-learning yet, CBRE PhD student Victor Anton, alongside NEC's Paul Mathews have trained Google-built artificial intelligence software to recognise the different call of threatened native birds.

People, Cities & Nature: Restoring indigenous nature in urban environments

CBRE researchers Stephen Hartley and Nicola Nelson are a part of an MBIE-funded inter-disciplinary team undertaking ecological restoration research across New Zealand. Make sure to check out their website for greater project detail, and give them a Like on Facebook page to keep up-to-date with their progress.

Our changing world: Urban lizards

CBRE PhD student Chris Woolley joined Alison Ballance on RNZ's Our Changing World to discuss his research on urban lizards in New Zealand. You can listen to the interview here.
At the end of last year, we awarded $18K to nine CBRE students to support their post-graduate studies. The research projects span a diverse range of conservation initiatives including seabird-skink habitat interactions, utilising bioacoustics to gauge the effect of 1080 on bird populations, and monitoring our wide biodiversity in our urban areas. We will look to profile these projects in greater detail in this newsletter throughout the year.

The 2017 Great Kererū Count – Results are out!

Coinciding with the final tally of the Kererū Count for 2017 (15,459!!), Wellington City Council has installed "Slow for kererū" road signs at key locations around Zealandia and Wiltons Bush.

Directors' Corner

With two major conservation and ecology conferences in Wellington this year [Society for Conservation Biology – Oceania conference (3-5 July), and New Zealand Ecological Society's annual conference (Nov.)], and a one-day symposium on the 27th March on "Bio-technology in Conservation & the Environment" supported by funding from the Royal society, 2018 is shaping up to be another big year for CBRE. We look forward to seeing you at these events.