



CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY AND RESTORATION ECOLOGY
Te Tumu Whakaaho Mauri o te Ao Koiora



January 2015

Catch up with all that's going on at CBRE



CBRE's students win awards

Amanda Taylor and Kirsty Yule took out first and second place, respectively, in the student talks, and Asher Cook second place for his research poster, at the New Zealand Ecological Society annual conference held 17-19 November at the Turitea campus at Massey University in Palmerston North.



Major funding for super-lures

VUW's search for mammal pheromones to develop as super-lures of New Zealand's leading mammal environmental and commercial pests, rats and possums, received a huge boost last month when MBIE awarded us \$1.1 million in Phase II "Smart Ideas" funding.

"We made huge progress over the last two years with the \$0.5M Phase I "Smart Ideas" funding from MBIE towards understanding chemical attractants in the urine of wild rats and possums." says Dr Wayne Linklater, who leads the team. *"And this further award is a big endorsement of the team's hard work."*

PhD scholarship for the



birds

CBRE student Nyree Fea was awarded the Holdsworth Charitable Trust Scholarship to fund her PhD studies. Nyree will be investigating what happens to bird populations and their predators after pest control operations across the greater Wellington region.



CBRE at Pest Fest

Pest Fest was held on the 9th of November, the final day of Conservation week. Held at Waitangi Park in Wellington, over 800 members of the public attended. CBRE held a store highlighting the work we do with tracking and chew cards. The day was widely considered a huge success for conservation yet again. Thank you to everyone who came to help out.



CBRE in the News

Aorangi Restoration project: CBRE members have been heavily involved in biodiversity monitoring associated with the Aorangi project - an aerial 1080 drop went as planned in August in the Aorangi Forest. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



CBRE Online

Identify Animals - CBRE member Victor Anton has set up website www.identifyanimals.co.nz to engage members of the public in identifying animals caught on camera around the perimeter of Zealandia. Cameras from around 40 locations recorded over 65,000 photographs of a variety of animals between March and July this year. RNZ's Our Changing World discussed the project [here](#)



PhD graduates helping Kiwi conservation

Two of our recent PhD graduates, Helen Taylor and Rachael Abbott have had serious media coverage lately with their work in kiwi conservation. You can read more about what they have been doing [here](#) and [here](#).

Student awards

Eight postgraduate students were awarded a total of \$17,220 from CBRE this year. Six awards were made to support research costs on projects including: disease ecology of tuatara (Stephanie Price), population structure of ship rats under sustained pest control (Charlie Hopkins), population viability of threatened native frogs (Patricia Ramirez), the influence of introduced mammals on native invertebrates (Olivia Vergara), nesting success of birds in response to mammal control (Nyree Fea), and rapid evolution and plasticity of invasive plants (Charlie Clark). Two awards of \$500 were given to support attendance and presentation at the New Zealand Ecological Society Conference in Palmerston North (see first item).

In Short

CBRE at National Science Challenges – Members, Phil Lester, Nicola Nelson, Stephen Hartley, Julie Deslippe, and Wayne Linklater have been contributing to the development of the Biological Heritage Challenge over the last few months.

World Youth Delegation visit –CBRE staff and students will be hosting a delegation of Japanese and New Zealand students from the Ship for World Youth, a study tour organised by the Centre for International Youth Exchange, Japan, and the Ministry of Youth, NZ. The theme of the tour is ‘environmental education’ and the delegation will visit in February.

GWRC workshop – Staff and students of CBRE met with GWRC in May to discuss the hydrology and ecorestoration of Wairio wetlands and Boggy Pond near Lake Wairarapa.



New Member: Dr Julie Deslippe

Dr Julie Deslippe's research focuses on plant-microbial interactions and in particular their responses to land use and climate change. Her goal is to develop our understanding of how species interactions determine the trajectories of ecosystems to different stable states in order that society can better address questions like: 1) What species can and will thrive under increased anthropogenic pressures? 2) How should

we target our efforts to best save species and restore ecosystems? 3) What attributes or functions of biological systems preserve the ecosystems services upon which human societies depend most? Current projects include elucidating the role of mycorrhizal fungal networks in the restoration of a Kahikatea swamp forest, the effects of storm-induced salinity stress on coastal plants and their mycorrhizal fungi, and the response of alpine plants, microbes and ecosystem carbon cycling to simulated climate warming.



New Member: Dr Rachael Shaw

Dr Rachael Shaw is fascinated by behaviour and cognition. Her research interests have ranged from evaluating potential evolutionary pathways for brood parasitic behavior in birds to testing the cognitive abilities of elephants. Her PhD research used behavioural-based cognition experiments to gain insight into the mental lives of Eurasian jays. As a post-doctoral researcher at SBS, she is investigating the role that cognition plays in the lives of wild animals, in the hopes of elucidating how intelligence may evolve.



New Member: Dr Rhian Salmon

Dr Rhian Salmon is a senior lecturer in the Science in Context group at Victoria University of Wellington. Her PhD in Atmospheric Chemistry led to a job with the British Antarctic Survey, including one over-winter stay in Antarctica lasting 18 months. In response to a frustration about - and interest in - public understanding of climate change, she next worked for the International Polar Year 2007 -2008, coordinating Education, Outreach, and Communication activities related to polar and climate science for scientists from over 60 countries. This led to her current research and practice in public engagement with science more generally -

especially environmental sciences.... and hence her interest in conservation, biodiversity, and ecology. She is programme director for the new Minor in Science in Context, which involves options of several online courses that explore the relationship between science and society, and a 300-level course in Science Communication. She's particularly excited to be offering a new module this year on "Living with Nature" that is led by Wayne Linklater and Stephen Hartley.

Directors' Corner

With a large number of diverse and interesting projects building steam towards the end of this year, major funding success, and growing profile nationwide, 2014 has been a huge year for CBRE. Our successes are a tribute to the calibre of our membership across the university and strength of collaborators. Wishing you all a very good holiday and excellent 2015. Stephen and Wayne are sharing the Directorship of CBRE as Wayne continues his part-time status for childcare.

If you would like to create a scholarship or award, or discuss our research capabilities, please contact Wayne or the VUW foundation

Our [website](#) is undergoing a facelift! Please take a look and let us know what you think.

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