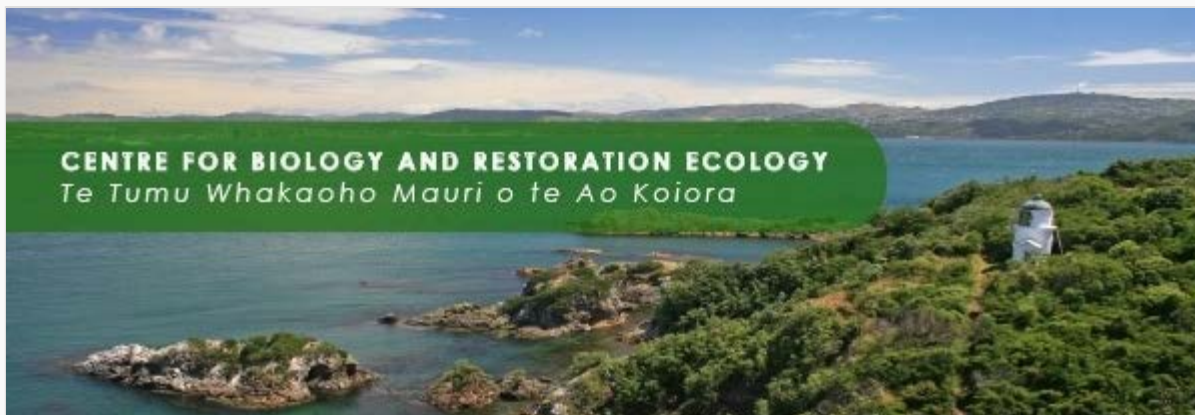


Latest newsletter from Centre for Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology, Victoria University of Wellington



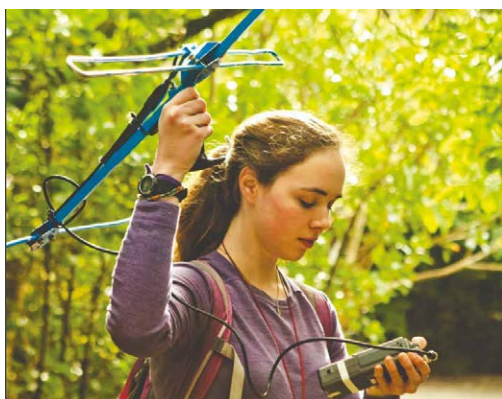
January 2017

Catch up with all that's going on at CBRE



Celebrating ten years..

[CBRE celebrated 10 years](#) of activity on the 9th of November. The Hon. Maggie Barry, Minister of Conservation, spoke after an introduction by our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Grant Guilford. The speeches shared a common theme - the importance of biodiversity and ecology to government policy and CBRE's leading role at the university in its research.



Ecological Society student awards

CBRE student Ellen Irwin, for the second year in a row, has won a Best Student Conference Paper award at the [New Zealand Ecological Society Conference](#) for her work on radio-tracking kakariki, in and around Zealandia.

Students awards announced



National **SCIENCE** Challenges

In November 2016, CBRE awarded \$8000 in funding to six Centre students. Projects ranged from soil & water sampling in the Waitakere ranges, to the resilience of lizard populations in New Zealand.

National Science Challenge update

CBRE's members are taking leading roles in several NSC initiatives. Most recently, Wayne Linklater accepted oversight of two projects with Landcare Research Ltd to develop remote biosensors for possums and new lures for stoats from their larger competitor and predator, the ferret. Rob Keyzers from Chemical and Physical Sciences provides expertise on volatile chemistry on both projects.



Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment update

Associate Professor Nicola Nelson and Dr Stephen Hartley will be part of a multi-institutional team starting a four-year programme of research as part of the recently funded MBIE project People, Cities & Nature: Restoring indigenous nature in urban environments



What will the wasp plague look like this year?

[New research from Prof. Phil Lester](#) recently published in the Journal of Animal Ecology has revealed wasp

populations increase with warmer and drier springs.



CBRE student a Wellingtonian of the Year finalist

CBRE PhD student Victor Anton was a finalist for the 2016 Wellingtonian of the Year awards in the Environment category. [His research](#) investigates the impacts of predators on native biodiversity in urban areas.



800th kaka banded at Zealandia

[Research headed by Dr Rachael Shaw](#) looking at how kaka tackle problem-solving has resulted in the 800th bird being banded - a huge milestone for Zealandia

Upcoming events



CBRE grad symposium - April 2017

CBRE will be hosting an all-day symposium at Kelburn campus on Thursday 27th April. Featuring talks from students and staff, we will cover the broad range of research the centre does, and look for future synergies. More information to follow.

Directors' Corner

What will the next 10 years bring? When speaking at our 10-year celebration I described the importance of universities and Centres like ours for driving innovation in thinking, approach and technique because of the independence and freedoms enshrined in law for our institution and their academics (Education Act 1989). These protections allow us to challenge accepted wisdoms and explore - pushing forward knowledge and practice in unpredictable ways that only appear sensible with hindsight. Whatever, the next 10 years bring, they will be better and more useful where we exploit our independence and freedom to explore (research) to its greatest extent. Happy hunting!

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