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



CENTRE FOR BIOLOGY AND RESTORATION ECOLOGY
*Te Tumu Whakaoho Mauri o te Ao Koiora*
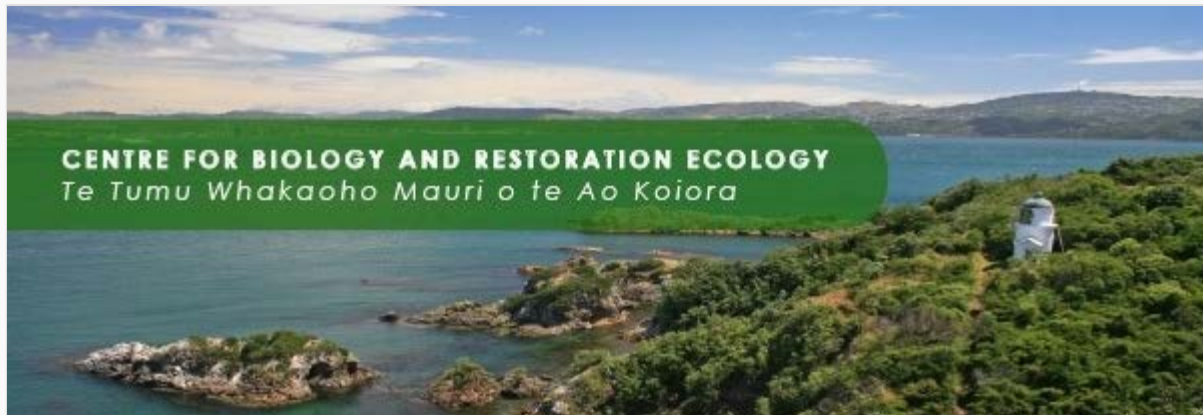
# March 2016

**Catch up with all that's going on at CBRE**



## Bigger is better for Zealandia's tuatara

The size and health of the tuatara population was assessed this month in a joint project by Victoria University of Wellington and Zealandia—the first time many of the iconic creatures will have been handled since the species were introduced to Zealandia 10 years ago. Read more.



New Lure, deterrent and bait technologies –
Science to development, formulation and market

Thursday 4ᵗʰ February, 9am to 5pm
Cliftons – Level 28, The Majestic Centre
100 Willis St, Wellington

## Lure symposium 2016

CBRE hosted the second symposium on new pest control technologies on February 4th at the Majestic Centre, downtown Wellington. Ten speakers, led by two plenaries, explored recent advances in "New lure, deterrent and bait technologies". The plenary speakers: Steve Lapidge (Director if Science Partnerships at the South Australian Research & Development Institute) and Craig Bunt (Formulation specialist in Agricultural Sciences at Lincoln University) developed the theme of taking science through development,

formulation, and out to market. The symposium was attended by 30 colleagues from a diversity of New Zealand's science providers and stakeholders: MPI, DOC, OSPRI, Tb-Free NZ, Landcare, Regional Councils, and five different pest control businesses.

## Spotted skinks on the move

Nearly a hundred skinks were moved from Matiu-Somes Island to their new hoe at Zealandia with the help of CBRE member Sue Keall. Read here.

## Feathery link to property sales in the Capital

CBRE post-doc Heidy Kikillus has been looking into how native birds can be used to influence property sales in Wellington. Read more.

## Bioblitz 2016 a success

Staff and students from CBRE were on-hand at the 2016 Pukaha Mount Bruce Bioblitz, providing guidance on species identification and different ways of detecting biodiversity. The event was a huge success due to a large, enthusiastic turnout and the variety of amazing species found. Read more.

# CBRE in the news

## CBRE Young Scientists: Jessica Russell

The varroa mite has decimated numbers of honey bees around the country, and that's far from the only threat to their dwindling population. Summer scholarship student Jessica Russell talks to Radio New Zealand about the work she's doing to help them in the wild. To listen, click here.

## CBRE young scientists: Alexandrea Whyte

Young researcher and summer scholar Alexandrea Whyte has been out in dense bush hunting for wētā and beetles, to see if they've been affected by 1080 poison drops in the area to control predators. She and Stephen Hartley spoke to RNZ about the project here.

## How munching moa affected plant evolution

PhD graduate Patrick Kavanagh has been looking at how the eating habits of moa affected plant evolution within New Zealand. Read more here.

## Exotic invaders dominating native species

CBRE researcher A/Prof KC Burns spoke recently with RNZ about the changing plant communities found on Wellington's South Coast. You can listen to the RNZ interview here.

## Public Seminars

CBRE PhD student Nyree Fea recently held a seminar at Zealandia will be

exploring the fantails' contribution to pest management in Wellington City.

## Directors' Corner

This summer has been a very busy and varied one for CBRE researchers, as the activities in this newsletter demonstrate- assisting community group projects and conservation initiatives by local government, collaborating with other research providers and stakeholders to achieve meaningful advances in conservation technologies and techniques, and bringing ecological science to a wider audience.

If you would like further information about any of the stories featured please do not hesitate to contact us.

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