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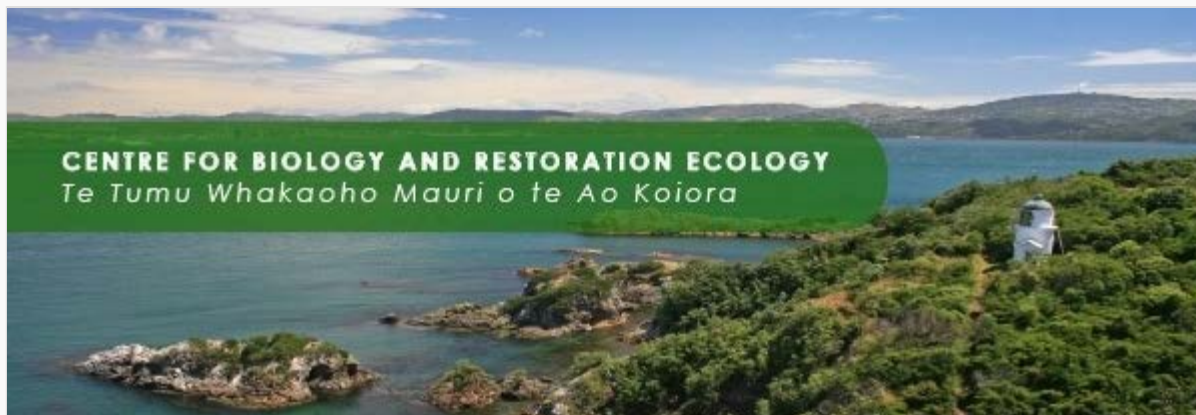
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Latest newsletter from Centre for Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology, Victoria University of Wellington



## December 2015

Catch up with all that's going on at CBRE



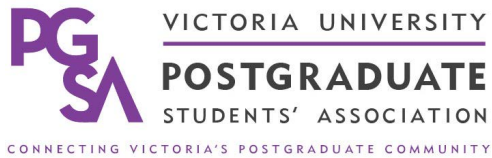
### Marsden Fund haul

Our members captured three of the thirteen Marsden grants awarded across the university. Together, Julie Deslippe, and Professors Jeff Shima and Kevin Gould were awarded a combined \$1.85M to pursue research on how communities are assembled, the dynamics of populations, and [plant adaptations for extreme conditions](#). More information about Marsden grant funding can be found [here](#).



### @ NZ Ecological Society conference

Four staff and four post-grad students from CBRE made presentations at this year's NZES conference in Christchurch in November. With over 300 delegates, Victoria post-graduates, Asher Cook (supervised by Dr Stephen Hartley) and Ellen Irwin (supervised by Dr Heidi Kilkillus) won two out of the four student prizes for best oral presentation.



## Science Communication Award

A/Prof Wayne Linklater was honoured with the New Zealand Ecological Society's Science Communication Award for 2015.

## Students awarded funds

We awarded \$14K to 8 students last month to support post-graduate research projects as diverse as monitoring biodiversity in cities, rat impacts on nesting birds, diving petrels on Codfish Island and restoring trees to wetlands.

## Post-graduate awards

PhD candidates, Michael Jackson and Kirsty Yule, won awards from the Post-graduates Student Association last week for Research Excellence and Teaching, respectively. Michael's published article about new lures for NZ's leading pest mammals, that led to his award, can be found [here](#).

## PestFest 2015

We contributed a stall and joined 17 other organisations at Waitangi Park for this educational and family-friendly event marking national Conservation Week. The event attracted ~500 members of the public, show-casing innovations in pest management and benefits for biodiversity in Wellington.

## International 'tails'

Dr Heiko Wittmer has been travelling for conservation research in North America and Borneo. Research includes the promiscuity of [Californian mountain lions](#), and world-first footage of the elusive "[vampire](#)" [squirrel](#) of the Borneo rainforest -

the squirrel with the world's bushiest tail.



## A bright idea to protect local wildlife from cats

CBRE researcher Dr Heidy Kilkilus, in collaboration with Wellington City Council, is trialling brightly-coloured cat collars to see if they deter predation on local wildlife. To read more, click [here](#).



## Footage captures kiwi destroying robin's nest

A kiwi destroying a robin nest and causing the death of the chicks in it at Zealandia by CBRE researcher, Dr Rachael Shaw. To view the video, click [here](#)

### Directors' Corner

Thanks to very many people and their valuable contributions, CBRE has had another successful year. To you all, we wish you an enjoyable summer break.

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