



August 2018

Catch up with all that's going on at CBRE



Change of directorship

Stephen Hartley is the new director for the Centre for Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology. He is replacing Wayne Linklater who will be on research sabbatical. Stephen's contact details can be found [here](#). We all wish Stephen a successful time.



Award for world leading pest management

Associate Professor Wayne Linklater, has been awarded the 2018 Peter Nelson Memorial Trophy by New Zealand's Biosecurity Institute in recognition of his research in pest management. Associate Professor Linklater is the first researcher from Victoria University to receive this trophy, and one of only three Wellington residents to receive it (alongside Deidrik Meenken in 2007 and Graham Nugent in 2017). He was nominated by Charlie Eason, CEO of the Cawthron Institute, with support from colleagues from Ministry for

Primary Industries, Massey University and Victoria University. [Find out more about this award here.](#)



New species of diving petrel

A new species of diving petrel has been identified on Whenua Hou (Codfish Island), located off the coast of Stewart Island/Rakiura. The identification is the result of a joint research project between Victoria University of Wellington, the Department of Conservation (DOC), the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and the Chizé Centre for Biological Studies in France. Victoria University student and doctoral candidate Johannes Fischer, who worked on the project for his Master's thesis, says the researchers compared birds from the Whenua Hou population with museum specimens from around the world to uncover differences. Read the full story [here](#).



Bird calls recorded, countering silent forest claim

Roald Bomans used bioacoustics to listen to the sound of native bird species in the Aorangi and the Remutakas Ranges to investigate the effects of 1080 on bird calls before and after two separate 1080 aerial drops. Roald developed an algorithm to isolate particular bird calls from the enormous amount of data collected, focusing on moreporks. This research also gained interest from Radio NZ. [Listen to the full interview and the sound of the morepork.](#)



CBRE Professor going live

CBRE's Professor [Phil Lester](#) featured on TV's Seven Sharp on 11th April, where he talked about controlling wasp numbers and his new book – 'The Vulgar Wasp. Watch the whole clip [here](#).



Student Travel Grants

We awarded \$8K to 15 students in May to support post-graduate students to present their research at conferences all across the globe. Students will visit conferences such as the

- Society for Conservation Biology 5th Oceania Congress in Wellington, New Zealand
- International Symbiosis Society conference in Oregon, USA
- Ecology Society of America in New Orleans, USA
- 2nd International Wildlife Reintroduction Conference in Chicago, USA
- 46th Annual meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group in Hawaii, USA
- 29th International Congress of Applied Psychology in Montreal, Canada
- International Biogeography Society Biennial Conference 2019 in Malaga, Spain.



Student presence at Oceania's 2018 conference

The Society for Conservation Biology Oceania's 2018 conference took place at Te Papa on July 3rd to 5th. Victoria University of Wellington are proud to have co-hosted the conference and the Centre for Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology has awarded 7 post-graduate students with a CBRE Conference Grant to present their work at this conference. Find out more about some of the projects presented at this congress [here](#).



Successful conference experience thanks to CBRE Travel grant

In July 2018 I attended the Environmental Psychology stream of the International Congress of Applied Psychology in Montreal, Canada. I was invited to present a paper "Connection to nature's relationship with pro-environmental behaviour: a meta-analysis" as part of a symposium about understanding and encouraging pro-environmental behaviour led by Elliot Lee from the University of Victoria, Canada. A second paper of which I am also the first author was presented at this conference by my co-author, Dr Taciano Milfont of Psychology at VUW. The international conference was an opportunity to learn from others and engage with their work in formal and informal discussions. This improved my knowledge of my field and put my own research into a broader context. I have formed new relationships with researchers from many countries, which will be useful going forward. Attending this conference and presenting a paper forced me to grow and challenge myself by directly engaging with other researchers, many of whom are leaders in my field. I have come away

with renewed motivation and confidence after receiving much positive feedback and interest about my presentation and in my research in general. Plus I had the pleasure of visiting beautiful Montreal. Thank you CBRE for supporting me to attend.

- Julie Whitburn



Killing for Conservation

Alongside the SCB conference, Kim Hill hosted a free session on 4th July for the public to join leading conservation scientist working on the many issues regarding a predator free NZ. The session, held at Te Papa, included topics from ethical considerations and gene editing to what actually constitutes an invasive species.



#EarthOptimism2018

The Smithsonian's Conservation Commons team are hosting the 2018 Earth Optimism digital event, [#EarthOptimism2018](#). Click the link to see what they have organised!



Who'd rather be in the tropics right now?

In April this year, Dr Jeff Shima led 11 undergraduate students on a field trip to French Polynesia. Each student designed and completed their own research project where they observed and analysed marine life on the reef. [Watch](#) what they have been up to.



Deep water communities

Victoria researchers went on a trip to Fiordland in April where they studied deep-water communities. “We were able to record the marine life unique to the area, such as sharks and black coral, which occur at amazingly shallow depths in the fiords,” says Associate Professor James Bell from the School of Biological Sciences. The whole story can be found [here](#).

Directors' Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to thank [Associate Professor Wayne Linklater](#) for his leadership of the Centre over the past five-and-a-half years. It has been my privilege to work alongside Wayne. Over that time the Centre has grown an increasingly interdisciplinary membership both internally and through the number of external partners who value the quality and breadth of research that a university-based Centre is able to undertake. We are energised by our student body and privileged to assist and witness the development of their careers. As this newsletter demonstrates, our students and members continue to develop creative and hard-won solutions in the face of increasingly complex environmental, social and global biodiversity challenges.

Wayne has been active in promoting critical reflection of society's approach to conservation, motivated by a desire to see the best possible outcomes for society and biodiversity. He has been instrumental in bringing several world-renowned speakers to New Zealand and encouraging public debate (his weblog “Politecol” can be read [here](#)). In 2015, Wayne was awarded the New Zealand Ecological Society's [award for communication in ecology](#), and in July this year he was awarded the [Peter Nelson Memorial Trophy](#) by the NZ Biosecurity Institute for his contribution to the science of vertebrate pest control. Conservation is both a science and a values-driven activity and Wayne's research is exemplified by his appreciation of both. We wish him all the best on his upcoming research and study leave.

- Stephen Hartley

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