

ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

Tony Conner graduated with a B.Sc.(Hons) in Microbiology from the Botany Department, University of Canterbury in 1978. A portion of his honours project is presented here. Tony is currently teaching botany to horticulture students at Lincoln College. His present research interests include plant tissue culture.

Dr Khris Mahanty is a senior lecturer in Genetics at the Botany Department, University of Canterbury. His research interests include the effects of pollutants on algae and bacteria, mutagenesis, radiation cytology and the cytogenetics of New Zealand wetas.

Kelly Duncan is a senior lecturer in Zoology at the University of Canterbury. Kelly's interests include systematics and physiological ecology of terrestrial amphipods, interactions between fish and their bird predators, and computing.

Dr Laurence Greenfield is a lecturer in Microbiology in the Botany Department, University of Canterbury. His main research interests are the origin, nature and mobilisation of soil organic nitrogen.

Sam McClatchie is currently completing a B.Sc.(Hons) in the Zoology Department, specialising in marine biology. His research in the interactions of animals and seaweeds has led to a keen interest in bacteria in marine systems. In the future Sam hopes to begin a Ph.D. in some more applied aspect of marine biology.

Dr John Walker is a reader in Plant Biochemistry in the Botany Department, University of Canterbury, and is a graduate of the University of Leeds. Current research interests include plant phenolics, biodegradation of organic compounds (especially "Compound 1080") and studies of antibiotic substances in N.Z. native plants.

Margaret Stevens is a senior technician in the Botany Department, University of Canterbury, where she has special responsibility for plant physiology teaching and research.

Dr Don Jellyman completed his Ph.D. thesis on the biology of juvenile eels (*Anguilla* spp.) in 1974 at Victoria University, Wellington. He was appointed as a scientist with Fisheries Research Division and began studying an unexploited eel population in the lower Wairarapa. On finishing this field work in 1978 he was transferred to Christchurch where he is currently preparing this research for publication.

Malcolm Francis completed an M.Sc. in Zoology at the University of Auckland in 1975 and an M.Sc. in Resource Management at the Joint Centre for Environmental Sciences, Lincoln College and the University of Canterbury in 1979. During a study of the Kaikoura gill-net fishery he compiled the checklist of marine fishes presented here and became interested in the taxonomy and distribution of lancet fish, *Alepisaurus* spp. He is currently working in the United Kingdom.

Dr Ewan Fordyce, a previous editor of *Mauri Ora*, completed his Ph.D. on the morphology and systematics of N.Z. fossil whales early this year in the Zoology Department, University of Canterbury. Now a Post-doctoral Fellow in the Department of Palaeobiology, Smithsonian Institution, Ewan's research interests are: cetacean evolution, systematics and morphology and vertebrate palaeontology.

Dr Rob Mattlin obtained a B.S. at Northern Arizona University and an M.S. at the University of West Florida for his work on chaetognaths in the Gulf of Mexico. He then came to New Zealand, and earlier this year completed his Ph.D. study of fur seals on Open Bay Islands. Rob is now a scientist with Fisheries Research Division working on the New Zealand squid fishery.

Graham Wilson, a former M.Sc. student at the University of Canterbury, has worked extensively with New Zealand seals and with seabirds and whales off the Newfoundland coast of Canada, and at Cape Bird, Antarctica. He has a keen interest in the distribution and ecology of marine mammals and seabirds.

Graham Sandlant completed a B.Sc. in Zoology at the University of Canterbury in 1976. He then worked with the Entomology section of the Plant Health Diagnostic Laboratory (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) in Auckland. At present he is working on his M.Sc. thesis studying the ecology and behaviour of the tree weta, *Hemideina femorata*, at the University of Canterbury.

Dr Maurice Barnes is a senior lecturer in Plant Biochemistry at Lincoln College. His research interests are primarily in the field of plant development, particularly the biosynthesis of cytokinins (plant hormones) and the biochemistry of disease resistance in cereals. Pursuing a secondary interest in the application of biochemical techniques to problems of processing and handling agricultural products, he is presently investigating the behaviour of cherries during storage.

David Norton completed his B.Sc.(Hons) in Botany at the University of Canterbury in 1979. He is interested in plant ecology, especially that of South Island alpine plants.

Dr Colin Burrows, a reader in Botany at the University of Canterbury, teaches plant ecology and palaeoecology. His diverse research interests include Quaternary palaeobotany and vegetation history, Holocene glacial chronology, snow avalanche history, and climatic change studies particularly in reference to New Zealand and the Southern Hemisphere.

Wayne Fraser completed his B.Sc.(Hons) in Zoology at the University of Canterbury in 1978. He is about to begin a Ph.D. study on rabbits in Central Otago.

Richard Rowe graduated with an M.Sc. in Physics from the University of Auckland in 1975. A refugee from school teaching he has begun Ph.D. studies on dragonfly larval predation, following up hobby work of the last 15 years. Other interests include ecology and behaviour of dragonflies and insect vision problems.

Ann Jensen arrived in New Zealand from Denmark five years ago and in 1978 completed a B.Sc.(Hons) degree in the Zoology Department, University of Canterbury. Her main interests are genetics and dragonflies.

Dr Peter Harper, a lecturer in Science in the Department of Extension Studies, University of Canterbury, graduated from Victoria University of Wellington in 1978. Peter's research interests include the breeding biology, biochemical taxonomy, zoogeography and behaviour of marine birds, particularly the Procellariiformes.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN 1978

<u>Committee</u>	Tony Conner (President)
	Chris Porter (Treasurer)
	Lindsey Conner (Secretary)
	Phillip Bradfield
	Chris De'Ath
	Professor John Lovis
	Simon Ross
	Nicolas Stevens

Social events dominated the Society's activities in 1978 with numerous Friday night after-lab steins, a Wine and Cheese and the annual end-of-year Dine and Dance. A number of guest speakers were invited to various steins and broadened members' outlooks with expert accounts of: "Honey Dew Production in New Zealand Beech Forests" (Mark Belton), "Wildlife of Newfoundland" (Graham Wilson) and "Carcinogens and Mutagens in the Human Environment" (Bill Morgan).

In collaboration with the Forestry Society, a seminar on energy farming was highly successful. Professor P. Mulcock and Dr N. Brown (Lincoln College) and Dr D. Whitworth (Forest Research Institute, Rotorua) spoke on the potential of energy farming in New Zealand.

Trips in 1978 included a tramp along the Wharfedale Track, and a very successful four-day expedition to the Marlborough Sounds to study the natural history of Blamine Island.

The Biosoc Committee wishes to thank all members for their support in these activities.