



## **PRESIDENT'S POST**

I've just been watching the moment when a mosquito's mouthparts find a blood vessel and start sucking blood – in real time! Amazing video!

<http://phenomena.nationalgeographic.com/2013/08/06/heres-what-happens-inside-you-when-a-mosquito-bites/>

I came across this courtesy of a blog "Not exactly rocket science" which is a sister blog to Carl Zimmer's "the Loom" at the Nat. Geographic website. Carl wrote the excellent book "Parasite Rex" and his enjoyable blog still regularly contains references to parasites and is well worth a read. Another fun blog is "Parasite of the Day" (<http://dailyparasite.blogspot.co.nz/>). This site is co-administered by Tommy Leung who just might be one of Robert Poulin's former grad students.

Talking of Robert, congratulations are due for the award by Otago of a Distinguished Research Medal. Well done.

Finally, with the announcement of further changes to the structure of AgResearch, I would just like to say that I hope our Society members in that organisation will not be too adversely affected, if at all.

It is meant to be 17°C here today, in winter. Nematode larvae will be wriggling, ticks will be stirring (or thinking about stirring) from their winter slumber, fleas will be biting! And we'll all still have plenty of work to do!

Enjoy the spring (and the polar blasts still to come!)

Ian

## **SUBS REMINDER**

The annual subscription of \$20.00 for ordinary membership is due.

Please make cheques payable to **The New Zealand Society for Parasitology**

Cheques can be sent to the Secretary or direct transfer details are **NZ Society for Parasitology Inc, West Pac, 03 0774 0857331-01**

Phone: 06 351 8685

Email: [caroline.costall@agresearch.co.nz](mailto:caroline.costall@agresearch.co.nz)

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### Executive

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# Top university honour awarded to zoologist

By JOHN GIBB

UNIVERSITY of Otago zoologist Prof Robert Poulin, a world leader in parasite ecology and evolution, has been awarded the university's highest research honour, the Distinguished Research Medal.

The annual award is made for outstanding scholarly achievement, including the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge.

Announcing the honour, vice-chancellor Prof Harlene Hayne was "delighted" the university could formally recognise the "remarkable quality and quantity" of Prof Poulin's research output over the past two decades.

His research had been "world-class and wide-ranging" and he remained at the forefront of his field.

Prof Poulin (50) grew up in Canada, where he gained his PhD and held academic positions at several universities before joining the Otago zoology department in 1992.

He was "both surprised and hon-



Robert Poulin

oured" to receive the award, which also reflected the "great team that surrounds me" and the collaborative strength of the students and university colleagues he had worked with over the years.

University authorities said Prof Poulin had produced an impressive body of research that had increased understanding of host-parasite interactions at the individual, population and ecosystem levels.

His work, which combined theory with experimental studies, was providing new insights into many areas.

Prof Poulin said in an interview that one of his long-term goals was to raise awareness of "the importance of these little creatures"—parasitic trematode worms, sometimes called flukes.

In some cases, the parasites moved on from snails to galaxiid fish; and

then to native freshwater eels.

The worms effectively manipulated the fish by reducing their ability to swim, making them more likely, in turn, to be preyed on by eels, he said.

The influence of such parasites was complex and wide-ranging, and needed to be understood as part of the overall ecology, he said.

University authorities said Prof Poulin's book, *Evolutionary Ecology of Parasites*, was a worldwide standard text.

He had published prolifically, having produced half a dozen books, 25 book chapters and about 450 peer-reviewed journal articles.

Prof Poulin is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and has received several other honours, including the New Zealand Association of Scientists' Research Medal, and the Hutton Medal for excellence in animal sciences.

The Distinguished Research Medal will be presented to him at a public lecture he will give in November.

john.gibb@odt.co.nz

## CONFERENCE 2013

### Call for Papers and Registration

The call for papers and the registration form for the 41<sup>st</sup> NZSP Conference can be found at the end of this newsletter.



This year we are having a quiz during the Conference Dinner.

We invite you to submit questions (parasitological and general) to the organising committee.

(The more you enter the more you may get right on the night!)

Submit questions prior to the Conference Dinner to:  
Tania Waghorn, Laryssa Howe and Caroline Costall



An **Informal Welcome** will be held at the Rugby Institute on Sunday evening (20 October) from 5pm – 7pm. This will include local vendors displaying tastes of the Manawatu.

The **Parasite Advisory Day**, sponsored by Wormwise will be held on Wednesday 23 October at the Massey Vet School.

### Accommodation Options

<b>Sport and Rugby Institute</b>	Twin share	\$140.00 / night
	Suites	\$120.00 / night

To access these rates contact the Sport & Rugby Institute directly and state you are attending the NZ Society for Parasitology Conference.

Phone: 06 350 5844

Email: [SRI@massey.ac.nz](mailto:SRI@massey.ac.nz)

Web: <http://www.sportandrugbyinstitute.co.nz/accommodation.html>

<b>Hotel Coachman</b>	Deluxe room	\$175.00
	Studio room	\$117.00
	Standard room	\$139.00

To access these rates contact the Coachman directly and state you are attending the NZ Society for Parasitology Conference.

Phone: 06 356 5065 or 0800 COACHMAN

Email: [res@coachman.co.nz](mailto:res@coachman.co.nz)

Web: [www.coachman.co.nz](http://www.coachman.co.nz)

<b>A'La Vista Motel</b>	Single room	\$110.00
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To access these rates contact the A'La Vista directly and state you are attending the NZ Society for Parasitology Conference.

Phone: 06 357 1199

Email: [alavistamotel@inspire.net.nz](mailto:alavistamotel@inspire.net.nz)

Web: [www.alavistamotel.co.nz](http://www.alavistamotel.co.nz)

**New Zealand Society for Parasitology Conference and Annual Meeting No. 41**  
**The Sport and Rugby Institute, Palmerston North**  
**20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013**  
**and**  
**Parasite Advisory Day 23<sup>rd</sup> October**  
**IVABs, Massey University, Palmerston North**

**Registration Form**

*Please fill out and return this form with a cheque for the appropriate amount by **20 September 2013**. Cheques payable to the "New Zealand Society for Parasitology". Direct transfers can be made to the following account: **NZ Society for Parasitology Inc, ASB, 12-3153-0031821-00**. If paying by direct transfer, please include your name in the reference for the payment and return a copy of this form to Tania. Delegates wishing to make presentations please complete the abstract form.*

**Name:**

**Institution/company:**

**Address:**

**Phone No.**

**Email address**

**Circle or Mark your choice:**

<b>Registration:</b>	<b>One day</b>	<b>Both days</b>
Student	\$ 50	\$100
Member	\$ 75	\$150
Non-member	\$ 90	\$180

Conference dinner (21<sup>st</sup> October) \$80

**Parasite Advisory Day:**

Single day IVABS Massey University \$30

**Total Remittance:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please return to:**

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**New Zealand Society for Parasitology Conference and Annual Meeting No. 41  
The Sport and Rugby Institute, Palmerston North  
20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

**Please complete the following and return to Tania Waghorn, Abstracts Editor 2013 Conference.**

**I wish to present the following:- Poster / Oral presentation (Delete one)**

**Title:**

**Authors:**

(underline presenting author)

**Address:**

(Full Postal Address)

**Abstract (limit of 300 words):**

**Author Contact Details:**

**Tel:**

**Fax:**

**Email:**

**Send to Abstracts Editor 2013 Conference by 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013**  
(Preferrably by Email)

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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS**

The abstract should be self-contained, readable and easily understood by people not intimately involved in the field. The abstract should contain clear objectives, appropriate data (with statistical parameters such as standard error of means or probability estimates) and conclusions as appropriate. Unnecessary jargon and abbreviations, and information not relevant to the objectives and conclusions should be avoided.

**Please ensure that:**

1. The title and names of all authors are provided.
  2. The name, address, phone, fax number and email address of the corresponding author are given to facilitate contact regarding your submission.
  3. The abstract is set (excluding title and authors) in 12 point Times Roman. A maximum of 300 words is allowed. **Do not include headings, tables, equations or references.**
  4. If possible please submit the abstract electronically to the Abstracts Editor. The abstract form can be requested from the Secretary. Email the abstract in Microsoft WORD format to the Abstracts Editor. The abstract may be mailed to the Abstracts Editor if you do not have access to email.
  5. Abstracts must be received by the **6<sup>th</sup> September 2013**.
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