



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Firstly I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope you all had an enjoyable time over the holiday season.

The Executives Committee had its first meeting of the year last week with one of the key objectives being to establish our goals for the year – luckily they don't differ from the past few years and are as follows:

1. To grow the membership of the society
2. To enhance the profile of the society and lastly (most importantly)
3. To stage a successful well attended conference in October 2012.

The committee was joined by Robin McAnulty, who along with Paul Mason, has "volunteered" to organise the 2012 N.Z.S.P. Conference. Robin and Paul are currently exploring a number of options in Marlborough region which, if their efforts in organising the Wanaka conference of 2009 are anything to go by, will be truly memorable – please offer them your full support. One final request regarding the annual conference – feedback from the 2011 meeting was that the presence of keynote speakers Dr Robert Poulin, Dr Garry Levot and Dr Sue Worner significantly contributed to the overall success of the event. We would really appreciate if everyone were to put on their thinking caps and make suggestion as to potential speakers for this year.

Colin

Shirley Calder Died 22 February 2012



Shirley came to Massey straight from Feilding Ag High School in 1982 aged 17. She joined Tony Charleston team in the Parasitology Dept.

Shirl worked with Tony, Bill and Barbara for 17 years and mixed many a poo sample over the years. Her passion however was

horses and most weekends, Shirley was competing in either eventing or dressage on her beloved horses. If she wasn't competing she would be helping out at the local pony club.

In 1999 Shirl left Massey to follow her father's footsteps and learnt the art of horse dentistry, attending courses in the States. She started her own business, travelling round NZ doing horses teeth. A couple of years later, she expanded her skills into massage therapy and formed her company Equine Bowen Therapy and was very successful.

Early last year, Shirley was diagnosed with lung cancer. She bravely fought it but by November she had developed tumours in her brain. Sadly Shirley passed away on 12 February 2012 aged 47.

...from Barbara Adlington

Executive

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--|
| President: | Colin McKay | colin.mckay@novartis.com |
| Vice President: | Ian Scott | I.Scott@massey.ac.nz |
| Treasurer: | Dean Reynecke | dean.reynecke@agresearch.co.nz |
| Secretary: | Caroline Costall | caroline.costall@agresearch.co.nz |

NEW MEMBERS

This month we have a few more brief bios:

Cathryn Christie [Cathryn.C@vetfocus.co.nz]

I'm a Territory Manager for VetFocus Putaruru/Te Awamutu looking after dairy and drystock farmers. Background in vet nursing both here and in the UK, particularly interested in sustainable drenching programmes for my clients. In my spare time enjoy deerstalking, travel and hunting with Waikato Hunt.

Laryssa Howe [L.Howe@massey.ac.nz]

Senior Lecturer in Infectious Disease

I spent most of my education years in the United States, graduating from Denison University in Ohio with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and went on to the University of Pittsburgh to complete a doctorate degree examining the antibody neutralization properties of Equine Infectious Anemia Virus (EIAV) in the Department of Infectious Diseases within the Graduate School of Public Health. As a researcher at Massey University (Palmerston North), I am currently work on developing a better understanding of illnesses and phylogenetic relationships of Apicomplexan parasitic diseases in cattle, sheep, deer (*Neospora* and *Toxoplasma*) and native birds (*Leucocytozoon* and *Plasmodium*).

Prof. Robert Poulin

Zoology Dept, University of Otago

Born in Montreal (Canada) in 1963, I grew up like many other future biologists, collecting butterflies and keeping fish tanks in my bedroom. After obtaining a BSc from McGill University and a PhD from Laval University, I eventually joined the University of Otago in 1992. Since arriving here, I have established a research programme in parasite ecology and evolution that focuses on broad questions and not on any particular taxa. Currently, my group's research has three main branches, reflecting my main long-term interests. First, we investigate the forces shaping the evolution of parasites, in particular the evolution of life history traits such as body size, host specificity, the ability to manipulate host behaviour, and the complexity of the transmission pathways. Second, we are studying the role of parasites in aquatic ecosystems, i.e. how they affect community diversity and food web stability, and how parasitism may interact with climate change to influence the properties of ecosystems. Third, I have long been exploring large-scale patterns of parasite biodiversity and biogeography, searching for the processes behind the diversification and distribution of parasites and diseases.

Bronwen Presswell

Research Technician & Lab Manager, Ecological Parasitology, Department of Zoology, University of Otago

I am from the UK where I gained my BSc in Zoology at Aberystwyth, and a Masters in Advanced Methods in Taxonomy and Biodiversity at the Natural History Museum, London. For my PhD at Glasgow University and the NHM, London, I studied the morphological and molecular systematics of Indian caecilians at the intraspecific level. Caecilians are the third largest amphibian group, but they are little studied, and mine was the first project to look at morphological and molecular variation between populations. I am currently investigating the identities and life cycles of trematodes, cestodes and acanthocephalans from native water birds, fishes and crustacea. It is surprising how little detail is known of the parasites of our native fauna, and how many unknown species are awaiting discovery. Using molecular, histological, scanning electron microscope and other methods I hope to fill a few gaps in our knowledge of this parasite fauna.



Caption Competition

Unfortunately this picture seems to have stumped members!

However an internal AgResearch competition did elicit some entries....

“So that’s where my prostate scans went”

“I don’t believe it, two sober Scotsmen”

When Lawrie turns around again it’s peep a boo!

**30th World Congress of Biomedical
Laboratory Science**

**18 – 22 August 2012
Berlin, Germany**

www.ifbls-dvta2012.com

**XI EUROPEAN MULTICOLLOQUIUM
OF PARASITOLOGY**

**25-29 July 2012
Cluj-Napoca, Romania**

<http://www.zooparaz.net/emop11/>

2011 CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

The abstracts from the 2011 conference at Massey University are now available on the society website.

NEWS FROM THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

Thorndon site redevelopment

“The redevelopment of our site in Thorndon, Wellington, is progressing at an exciting pace. The old Science House now has an additional, third floor, with roof and windows in place. Construction of the adjacent two-storey annex is well underway, as is the atrium joining these two parts of the new building. Most Society staff are working in temporary offices a short walk from the development site, and our 11th floor office windows give us a bird’s eye view of the project as it progresses. We’re looking forward to moving back into – and welcoming our Members to – the beautiful building later this year. We’ll post images and progress on the building on our website soon – check our [homepage](#) for a link.”

Next Newsletter

April 2012

Please forward articles to
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