

Maintaining the Gains Puretia te Aronga



NETS2024
24-26 July, Invercargill

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



New Zealand
Biosecurity Institute

Day 1 Wednesday 24 July 2024

- 8.00 Registration at Ascot Park Hotel
- 9.00 Mihi whakatau and NZBI Welcome
- 9.30 Tangata whenua leaders in island biosecurity and conservation. *Tane Davis, Member and Chair Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body, Member and Chair Whenua Hou Komiti, Ngāi Tahu Rep Kākāpō Recovery Group, Ngāi Tahu Rep New Zealand Conservation Authority, Registered member Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka.*
- 10.00 The interrelationships between conservation management, illegal pet trade, biosecurity, research, and technology. *Carey Knox, Southern Scales & University of Otago.*
- 10.30 Taupata (*Coprosma repens*) An invasive indigenous species – Impacts on the Rakiura Tītī Islands, and mahinga kai. *Corey Bragg, Kate Orwin (Manaaki Whenua; Rakiura Tītī Island Administering Body)*

11.00 Morning Tea

	MARINE	CAPABILITY	VERTEBRATES
11.40	Protecting the Top of the South from marine invaders <i>M. Seek, Tasman District Council</i>	Citizen Science: facilitating and harnessing for biosecurity <i>A. Evans, University of Canterbury</i>	Managing game animals in Aotearoa: proactive management or deja vu? <i>P. Caldwell, Boffa Miskell</i>
12.00	Combatting the vessels transporting marine pests. <i>A. Wills, Bay of Plenty Regional Council</i>	Biosecurity scientists of the future. <i>J. Hoggard, House of Science NZ</i>	Te Tari Pūreke Firearms Safety Authority <i>K. Hill, Te Tari Pūreke Firearms Safety Authority</i>
12.20	Protecting the pristine waters of the south <i>K. McLachlan, Environment Southland</i>	Opportunities to lift capability in biosecurity <i>R. Sprague, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research</i>	Tools from the future: Using AI technology to outsmart predators <i>B. Simpson, Boffa Miskell</i>
12.40	Boosting marine biosecurity across Aotearoa – a new national campaign and a new team <i>J. Sanson, Ministry for Primary Industries</i>	Looking to the next generation - future proofing the regional biosecurity sector <i>H. Palmer, Place Group Ltd</i>	Searching for improved bait delivery systems for control of dama and Bennett's wallabies <i>G. Hickling, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research</i>

1.00 Lunch

	ISLANDS	WEEDS	PATHWAYS
2.00	Eradicating an invader: Broad-Tailed Gecko on Rangitoto Island <i>S. Wales, Ministry for Primary Industries</i>	Velvetleaf: taming the giant or falling asleep at the wheel? <i>S. Linton, Sustainable Options</i>	Big Heads Online and the Mail Order Pest Infestation <i>M. Fea, Department of Conservation</i>
2.20	Ulva Island 2023 eradication - The challenge of maintaining its pest-free status <i>K. Ward-Allen, Department of Conservation</i>	Mid Dome: maintaining the wilding tree control gains and beyond <i>R. Bowman, Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust</i>	Investigating the role of wildlife in emerging infectious diseases: highlighting the need for local collaboration <i>C. Niebuhr, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research</i>
2.40	Kia mau te tītī mō ake tonu atu – Keep the Tītī Forever <i>S. King, paws4conservation</i>	Chilean flame creeper biocontrol leaps forward <i>R. Groenteman, Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research</i>	Biosecurity And pest control In the New Zealand Defence Force <i>A. Polkanov, New Zealand Defence Force</i>
3.00	Keeping pests off Hauraki Gulf Islands <i>K. Thode, Auckland Council</i>	Untangling the vexatious vine - waging war on wild kiwifruit <i>A. McConnell, Kiwifruit Vine Health</i>	Regulating the sale and breeding of pest pets in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan <i>A. Hart, Auckland Council</i>

3.20 Afternoon tea

	TOOLS & MODELLING	PROJECT MANAGEMENT
3.50	Modelling the generation, viability and potential movement of lagarosiphon fragments in Lake Wanaka <i>B. Woodward, NIWA</i>	Progressing or regressing? Modelling the required inputs for a weed control programme <i>B. Rohloff, Boffa Miskell</i>
4.10	Developing a Smart Weed Alert Tool to detect new weed incursions early <i>K. McAlpine, Department of Conservation</i>	Preserving progress: prioritising weed management with limited resources <i>B. Williamson, Boffa Miskell</i>
4.30	Assessing the efficacy of Bennett's wallaby as a Judas animal <i>G. Udy, Otago Regional Council</i>	Data collection in biosecurity response: connecting all the pieces <i>N. Parmar, Ministry for Primary Industries</i>

5.00 New Zealand Biosecurity Institute Annual General Meeting

6.00 Mix 'n' Mingle

Day 2 Thursday 25 July 2024

FIELDTRIPS - buses leave at 8.30am. Please get to the venue early enough to collect your lunch packs.

Western Southland Around the Mountain

An amazing trip around the sacred Takatimu Mountains. The Takatimu waka, one of the seven great waka that the early Polynesians travelled to Aotearoa/New Zealand, was capsized by three large waves in Te Waewae Bay. The waka metamorphosed into the stunning Takatimu mountains of Western Southland. This field trip takes you across Southern Central Southland, past the Longwood ranges to Western Southland and the eastern fringes of Ata Whenua/Fiordland.

Stopping at the Wairaki oxbow, you will see one of the latest projects completed by the Waiau Fisheries and wildlife habitat Enhancement trust (Waiau Trust). The Waiau trust has been operating in Southland since 1996, and is a self-funding organization dedicated to creating enhanced habitat in the Waiau River catchment.

Next you will travel to Te Koawa Turoa o Takatimu to learn about Mahinga kai values, and a people's journey of reconnection to the land. Learn about the cultural significance of the Takatimu ranges and the biosecurity challenges facing the area. Then we travel around to the amazing Rakatu wetland, first restored/created in the late 1970s by the then acclimatization society, and then further enhanced by the Waiau trust from 2000 onwards. Learn about the Waiau trust and partnership – the trust that keeps on giving quietly in the background. From there, we are off around the mountain to the Burwood Takahe Centre, site of 75 years of Takahe conservation, to find out about the status of Takahe - where they have come from, and where they will be into the future. Enjoy a 'show and tell' featuring the Takahe rearing pens and the original puppet rooms for chick rearing, as well as a unique, locally designed and built enclosure fence, around an area with plenty of biosecurity in action. And finally, out to Mossburn and a view of the West and Mid Domes and commentary on the ongoing wilding tree programmes of these sites.

Numbers will be limited to 30 and the field trip is all day 8:30am – 4:30pm

Otatara

This field trip will take us to a variety of interesting sites in Otatara, a short distance from Invercargill. First, we'll visit Bushy Point, where the Otatara Landcare Group will show us their long-term restoration project. Next, we'll visit the unique Oreti Totara Dune Forest and our hosts will take us on a guided walk through the reserve to learn about how the land was acquired, achievements to date, and challenges. During lunch, we'll meet a group of enthusiastic young environmentalists from Otatara School.

In the afternoon, we'll head to Sandy Point Domain and hear from Invercargill City Council representatives about this highly valued site, its past and present, and their future vision for the area. We'll also hear from a local historian about the origins of some of Southland's pesky exotic species.

Koreti/New River Estuary and Kew Bush

This trip heads off to explore the New River Estuary with freshwater ecologist Dr Jane Kitson, and 2017 Dave Galloway Innovation award winner John Taylor (weed biosecurity dogs). The Koreti/New River Estuary is a large tidal lagoon type estuary. It receives freshwater from a large predominately agricultural catchment which includes the Oreti and Waihopai rivers. The estuary has a wide range of habitats including extensive mudflats, seagrass and salt marsh areas. Historically, the estuary was a major food source for resident Māori and in recent times the focus of the very successful Spartina eradication program run by DOC with the help of some amazing dogs. The estuary has been significantly affected by urban and rural development over the past 150 years.

Then it's off to Kew Bush to explore a remnant stand of the original indigenous podocarp forest that once covered Invercargill, and is now being lovingly cared for by the local community. Explore urban pest control using hi-tech thermal optics, and next level air rifle technology. Finally, back to the Ascot for a biosecurity dog demonstration courtesy of the outstanding Wink.

DOC Quarantine and Bluff

Visit the DOC Quarantine store for a special tour of this vital resource for biosecurity of our predator free southern islands. Experience a guided tour throughout the quarantine area, including talks and demonstrations from Sandy King and Karen Andrews, with their rodent dogs. Get an understanding about the vast southern and Sub-Antarctic area and its amazing taonga. Then we're off to Te Rau Aroha Marae at Bluff, greeted with a Pōwhiri before a light Kai. Experience the impressive carvings with kōrero about whakapapa and connection to the whenua. Learn about Motupōhue and the biosecurity/biodiversity work being undertaken. Can Tīfī survive on the mainland? Then enjoy a unique kōrero from the DOC Kākāpō Team. Hear about the great work at Ōmāui maintaining the gains with John Collins.

After that we travel to the top of Motupōhue/Bluff hill to walk about the lookout area where we can view Rakiura and Waituna wetland, and hear a talk from our marine experts about the southern undaria project.

Numbers will be limited.

6.00 Happy Hour

7.00 Conference Dinner

Day 3 Friday 26 July 2024

LANDSCAPE

- 9.00 Aerial predator control- defending for 20 years
S. Morgan, West Coast Regional Council
- 9.20 Community-led landscape-scale pest management being delivered through the Northland Regional Council's 'High Value Areas' Programme
D. Morgan, Northland Regional Council
- 9.40 From locals to landscapes - our Predator Free challenge
J. Clark, FTP Solutions
- 10.00 The challenges of maintaining momentum - case studies from Crown land
S. Thomason, Land Information New Zealand

FRESHWATER

- The importance of actively holding onto the focus or direction when managing freshwater pests
K. Bodmin, Department of Conservation
- Do fish like discos? Testing the Bio-Acoustic Fish Fence (BAFF) as a control tool for koi/amur carp.
C. Baker, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
- Development of an automated detection tool for incursions of invasive submerged weeds
D. Clements, National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA)
- Comparative Efficacy of Treatments for Juvenile *Corbicula fluminea* Eradication: A Laboratory Study
K. Thompson, NIWA

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

- Biosecurity education - increasing our eyes and ears on the ground
B. Cook, Tasman District Council
- Discovering and protecting Tautukua's treasures: challenges and successes seven years on
F. Cunningham, Forest and Bird Protection Society - Tautuku Restoration Project Manager
- More bang for our buck - The Waikato Regional Council's collaborative model with the Department of Conservation for pest animal control.
C. Monk, Waikato Regional Council
- Site-Led: a Partnership for biodiversity gains
S. Gibson-Pinn, Otago Regional Council

10.20 Morning tea

WRAP UP

- 10.40 GEMS - Short Presentations
- 11.10 How is Predator Free Dunedin contributing to the national PF2050 strategy? *Rhys Millar, Predator Free Dunedin.*
- 11.30 DOC's Conservation Dogs Programme; the canine mahi supporting conservation and biodiversity efforts, now and for the future.
Adeline Bosman, Department of Conservation.
- 11.50 Islands: maintaining the gains. *Stephen Horn, Department of Conservation.*
- 12.10 Incorporation of mātauranga Māori in biosecurity responses of taonga species. *Jane Kitson Kitson Consulting Ltd.*
- 12.30 Call to NETS2025 and President's Closing

12.45 Lunch

General Information

VENUE and ACCOMMODATION

NETS2024 is being held at the Ascot Park Hotel. Delegates need to make their own arrangements for accommodation and parking during their stay.

REGISTRATIONS

Online registrations can be made at www.netsconference.co.nz

Full Registration includes: all sessions, lunches, morning and afternoon teas, handbook, field trip (unless extra charge specified), Mix 'n' Mingle and NETS dinner function..

One-Day Registration includes: sessions, tea breaks and lunch on day selected, and field trip (unless extra charge specified) if day registration is for Thursday 25 July. Excludes tickets to social events - these can be purchased online when you register.

Student Registration includes: sessions, tea breaks and lunches, field trips (unless extra charge specified) Mix 'n' Mingle and NETS dinner function.

Registration Fees

Early Bird applies to registrations received on or before 31 June only.

Discounted member registration fees only apply for those NZBI members who paid their 2024 subscriptions before 31 March 2024.

Non-members who attend NETS will be offered free trial membership until December 2025, unless they have had a free trial membership previously.

Changes, Cancellations and Refunds

Any changes or cancellations of your registration must be notified via email to carolyn.lewis@xtra.co.nz as soon as possible. A full refund of registration fees, less an administration fee of \$150, will be made for cancellations before 10 July 2024. Refunds or cancellations received after this date will not be possible unless exceptional circumstances prevail and are at the discretion of the committee. Registrations may be transferred to another name at no charge.

NEW MEMBER

If you are new to NZBI or NETS and would like to be allocated a buddy to introduce you to others please let us know.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

If you require vegetarian, diabetic, dairy-free or gluten-free meals, or special assistance while at NETS2024, please let us know on your registration form and we will try to assist.

PRIVACY ACT

The conference handbook will include a list of all attendees and their contact details. Please tick on the registration form if you DO NOT want your details to be included.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Neither the organising committee of NETS2024, its individual members nor the conference organiser can accept any liability for death, injury, any loss, cost or expense suffered by any person attending NETS2024. Delegates are strongly advised to take out travel insurance to cover medical expenses, accidents, loss, damage, etc.

DISCLAIMER

The organising committee of NETS2024 reserves the right to modify the programme as needed, and is not able to guarantee that any particular person will appear as a speaker or any particular workshop or fieldtrip will be run, should circumstances require a cancellation or change to the programme.

CORRESPONDENCE and QUESTIONS

Please contact Carolyn Lewis, NETS2024 Conference Organiser at carolyn.lewis@xtra.co.nz or 0274 434 431 if you have any questions or require further information.