Tēnā koutou katoa. Ngā mihi ki a koutou. It is with pleasure that I have this opportunity to introduce the Research Cluster for Natural Resources Law. Established in 2008, the research cluster brings together some of the University of Otago’s leading researchers from the Divisions of Humanities, Sciences and Commerce. It comprises individual, disciplinary, and interdisciplinary collaborative projects on the law, policy and science relating to natural resources and the environment within Aotearoa New Zealand. These projects are grouped around the common goal of amplifying Otago’s voice on the national and international stage to assist policy formation and development of law.

This research is specifically focused on exploring the issues relating to agriculture, climate change, energy, fisheries, flora and fauna, land, marine mammals, minerals, the coastline, the urban and rural environments, and water.

A central goal for the research cluster is to generate research that has real value for New Zealanders, including for example, government, ngā iwi Māori and local communities. If your group is interested in meeting with us to discuss opportunities for collaborative research, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The purpose for this newsletter is to introduce our cluster and to profile some of our members’ research. For more information on the cluster, including upcoming events, please see the Faculty of Law website at: www.otago.ac.nz/law/nrl or contact Jacinta Ruru at jacinta.ruru@otago.ac.nz.
INTRODUCING SOME OF OUR MEMBERS

**Founding Members**

**Jacinta Ruru – Coordinator**

Jacinta Ruru (Ngati Raukawa, Ngai te Rangi, Pakeha) B.A. (Well), L.L.M. (Otago), senior lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Otago. Jacinta’s research interests focus on exploring the legal rights and responsibilities of Indigenous Peoples to own, govern and manage natural resources. To date, her international publications have case studied national parks, the foreshore and seabed, and Indigenous reserved land in Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and Canada. Jacinta has received several research distinctions, most notably an University of Otago Early Career Award for Distinction in Research, a Fulbright Travel Award and the inaugural Māori Academic Excellence Award for Law. She is currently working on a major FRST sub-contract with Landcare Research exploring Māori rights to govern freshwater.

**Ceri Warnock**

Ceri Warnock LLB(Hons), LLM(Auckland) senior lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Otago. Ceri’s research interests focus upon resource management law, energy law and international environmental law, particularly the climate change regime. Latterly her publications have focused upon both adaptation to climate change (via land use) and mitigation (the law and policy measures required to promote sustainable construction).

**Nicola Wheen**

Nicola Wheen BA, LLB(Hons), LLM (Otago), senior lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Otago. Nicola has a general research interest in New Zealand environmental law and has, over the years, written book chapters and articles on the history of environmental law in New Zealand; the Treaty of Waitangi, Māori customary rights and the environment, including the “SILNA forests”; the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and environmental issues; the evaluation of risk – especially risk of harm to beliefs about the environment – in decision-making; freshwater allocation and management; by-catch; and climate change and wildlife conservation. Nicola is also co-editor (with Janine Hayward from Otago’s Political Studies Department) of The Waitangi Tribunal/Te Roopu Whakamana i te Tiriti o Waitangi (Bridget Williams Books, Wellington, 2004). Nicola has also provided advice to the Humane Society International and the New Zealand scientific community on by-catch issues and the protection of the endemic Hector’s and Maui’s dolphins.

---

**Dr Mick Abbott**

Dr Mick Abbott B.Arch (Auckland) PhD (Landscape Architecture, Lincoln), senior lecturer, Department of Design Studies, University of Otago. Mick’s research interests focus on examining ways to build a greater sense of public involvement in protected areas. His work includes research and extensive field-based studies into national parks, wilderness and heritage landscapes in Aotearoa New Zealand, Canada and USA. He is currently involved with a number of funded research projects including how values associated with landscapes could be visualised in a digital environment, how ‘landscape’ is appealed to in wind-farm developments, and how the cultural landscape qualities of North American national parks can be conveyed in web-based environments.

**Professor Tom Brooking**

Professor Tom Brooking at the University of Otago specialises in New Zealand and comparative rural and environmental history and has published eight books and numerous book chapters, essays and articles. His last major book was Lands for the People? The Highland Clearances and the Colonisation of New Zealand: A Biography of John McKenzie (1996). He has since published two edited volumes: Environmental Histories of New Zealand, (Oxford UP, 2002) and The Heather and the Fern: Scottish Migration & New Zealand Settlement (Otago UP, 2003) and a general history of New Zealand for Greenwood Press in the USA (2004). He enjoys teaching at every level including pioneering an interdisciplinary course in New Zealand environmental history. He has supervised and examined a large number of post-graduate theses and serves as the History Department’s chair of Post-Graduate Studies. Currently Tom is working with Professor Eric Pawson of the University of Canterbury and a Marsden funded team on Seeds of Empire: The Environmental Transformation of New Zealand, to be published by I.B.Tauris (London) in 2009; a Biography of Richard John Seddon, New Zealand’s longest serving Prime Minister, tentatively titled ‘The People’s Servant’ to be published by Penguin, Christmas 2010; and a Marsden funded project on Scottish migration to New Zealand which involved the supervision of 2 PhDs and should appear in 2011 in book form. He is also a member of the research cluster on sustainable agriculture with ecologist Associate-Professor Henrik Moller and sociologist of food, Associate-Professor Hugh Campbell.

**Dr Janine Hayward**

Janine Hayward BA (Cant.) BA Hons (Well) PhD (Well), Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Otago. Janine teaches environmental politics, including environmental ethics, resource management and green party politics in New Zealand. She has published widely on issues relating to Treaty of Waitangi politics, and has a particular interest in Māori and local government relations with regard to resource management.
Dr Brent Lovelock
Dr Brent Lovelock (PhD Otago) Senior Lecturer, Department of Tourism, and Co-Director Centre for Recreation Research, School of Business, University of Otago. His background is in natural resource management and protected area tourism and recreation. Brent’s main research interest is sustainable visitor use of protected natural areas. He has undertaken research in Europe, North America, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region, examining collaborative planning processes for natural resource management. A further research focus is access to protected natural areas for recreationists and tourists with disabilities. Brent recently undertook a study that explored links between physical mobility, environmental values and attitudes to the development of motorised access to the backcountry of New Zealand. Another strong research interest is the consumptive use of wildlife resources for tourism and recreation – hunting, shooting and sport fishing. Brent’s current work on hunting involves cross-national comparative research on obstacles to the growth of this activity as a sustainable form of tourism, based on work in Scotland, Poland, Bulgaria and New Zealand. He is also involved in an international collaborative research project exploring recreational and touristic fishing as a sustainable economic activity within remote maritime communities – and is presently undertaking work on Stewart Island, the Chathams, and in the Lofoten Islands, Norway.

Dr James Maclaurin
James Maclaurin BA (Hons) MA (VUW) PhD (ANU), Head of Department, Department of Philosophy, University of Otago. James is a philosopher of science with a particular interest in the life sciences. His research centres on conceptual issues within evolutionary and ecological theory. He has written on innateness, fitness, non-biological analogues of natural selection and conservation issues. He is co-author, with Kim Sterelny, of What is Biodiversity? (University of Chicago Press, 2008), James is a fervent advocate of the view that Philosophy and Science should be informed by one another. At Otago he teaches Critical Thinking, Philosophy of Science and Philosophy of Biology. He is also a council member of the Otago Institute which is the Otago branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Associate Professor Henrik Moller
Associate Professor Henrik Moller is co-director of Kā Rakahau o Te Ao Tūrau (Centre for Study of Agriculture, Food & Environment) at the University of Otago. This transdisciplinary research centre hosts around 30 postgraduate students, Postdoctoral Fellows and support staff researching sustainable land and resource management, food production and wildfood gathering (www.csafe.org.nz). Henrik has researched co-management and community-led conservation approaches and mātauranga-science partnerships for improving social-ecological resilience in Aotearoa. He received the New Zealand Ecological Society’s Conservation in Action Award (2008) for his leadership of a 15-year research partnership with Rakiura Māori called Kia Mau Te Tītī Mo Ake Tōnu Atu (“Keep the Tītī Forever”). It applied ecology, population modelling, concepts of environmentality and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (mātauranga Māori) to guide sustainable tītī (muttonbird) harvesting.

Professor Kerry Shephard
Kerry Shephard BSc, PhD (Reading, UK) Professor of Higher Education Development, University of Otago. Interests spanning eLearning, staff and educational development, student learning, education for sustainability and ‘the public understanding of science’. Kerry is currently researching how students learn about sustainability, how online learning-resources can support student learning and how best to support staff to make use of these resources. He has recent publications in the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education and the British Journal of Educational Technology. Kerry has a background in the biological sciences and extensive experience as university teacher and researcher on which his current career is built.

Associate Professor Liz Slooten
Liz Slooten came to New Zealand from Holland in 1977. She studied biology for her BSc and MSc at Auckland University and then started a southward migration, first to Canterbury University for a PhD and in 1990 to a lecturing position at Otago University’s Zoology Department. Her research on Hector’s dolphin started in 1984 and continues today. Liz’s main research focus is on population viability analysis, quantifying the threats to Hector’s dolphins and the likely effectiveness of protection measures. She is also actively involved in field research to gather the data needed for these analyses, including population surveys, photographic identification studies to estimate survival and reproductive rates, movements, etc. Liz directs the Otago University Marine Mammal Research Group together with her partner Steve Dawson who works at the University’s Marine Science Department. Together they supervise a group of 12 MSc and PhD students working on marine mammals. Liz is a member of the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group, regularly represents New Zealand at the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission and regularly contributes research information at stakeholder meetings on the environmental impacts of fishing, coordinated by the Department of Conservation and Ministry of Fisheries.

Dr Inga Smith
Inga Smith BSc (Hons), PhD (Otago), Teaching Fellow, Department of Physics, University of Otago. Inga’s research interests focus on the cross-over between the physical sciences and natural resources law/policy making, particularly in the areas of energy, climate change, and water resources. She has authored and co-authored international peer-reviewed papers that have examined such diverse subjects as carbon offsetting from international air travel, public perceptions of New Zealand wind farms, and interfacial processes in Antarctic sea ice formation. Inga has been a participant in seven Antarctic and sub-Antarctic research field trips. She was Principal
Investigator in Antarctica for PhD research project into platelet ice formation, with winter fly-in logistics supported and funded by a Sir Robin Irvine Antarctica New Zealand Postgraduate Scholarship. Inga is currently working on research into climate impacts from international transport with Dr Craig Rodger and a team of postgraduate students from the Energy Management and Energy Studies programme within the Department of Physics at the University of Otago. She is also active in building physics and housing research, as well as maintaining research interests in physical oceanography and sea ice physics.

Dr Janet Stephenson
Dr Janet Stephenson, Senior Research Fellow, CSAFE (Centre for the Study of Agriculture, Food and the Environment), University of Otago. Janet’s research interests cover in three main areas – perceptions of landscapes, social aspects of energy issues, and the management of resources in which Māori have an interest. She is co-leader of the Marsden-funded research project ‘Plans, Power, Partnerships’ which is examining the management of mahinga kai (traditional food gathering sites and practices), and a team member of the FRST-funded project ‘Matauranga and the RMA’ (led by Cawthron Institute) which aims to enhance acceptance of Māori knowledge in resource consent proceedings. In another FRST-funded project ‘Technology Users as Innovators’ (led by Lincoln University) she is examining the experience of innovators in the energy sector as they seek to commercialise their innovations. Other current research includes ‘Wind farms and Landscapes’ which contrasts expert landscape assessments with submitter perceptions; ‘Attitudes of non-submitters towards wind farms’ which is looking at the opinions and motivations of the ‘silent majority’; and ‘Energy culture’ which is examining the drivers of energy-related behavior. Janet has a particular interest in cross-disciplinary research.

Dr Mick Strack
Mick Strack BA, MSurv, PhD (Otago). Lecturer, School of Surveying, University of Otago. Mick’s research interests focus on land law, property rights and sustainability, with a particular focus on indigenous rights to land and resources. His published research includes issues relating to indigenous property in rivers in Canada and New Zealand, the foreshore and seabed, access to land, tenure reform, the impact of boundary surveys on landscape, and treaty settlements.

Dr Anna Thompson (nee Carr)
Anna has been a senior lecturer and lecturer in the Department of Tourism since 2001. Anna has published in the fields of eco tourism, adventure tourism, entrepreneurship and visitor interpretation. Her other research interests include: wilderness recreation planning, sustainable SMTEs and destinations, cultural landscapes and adventure guiding. From 1999 to 2002 Anna worked alongside Professor James Higham on a nationwide FRST funded project investigating Ecotourism in New Zealand: profiling visitors to New Zealand ecotourism operations. Recent external funded work includes conducting research for the Department of Conservation in the Hakatere, Ahuriri and Ruataniwha Conservation Parks. In 2008 she, Dr Brent Lovelock and Dr Mike Boyes (PhysED) received SPARC funding for a project - ‘Family preferences, experiences and benefits associated with outdoor in Aotearoa’. She has been a visiting researcher at the Universities of Stavanger (Norway), Edinburgh and Strathclyde (Scotland). Anna sits on the NZ Mountain Safety Council National Research Committee and is a director of Te Ana Whakairo (Ngai Tahu Māori Rock Art Centre Trust). She is co-director of the Centre for Recreation Research with Dr Brent Lovelock (www.crr.otago.ac.nz).

Associate Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett
Michelle Thompson-Fawcett (Ngati Whatau) BTP (Akd), MPlan (Hons) (Akd), DPhil (Oxon), MNZPI, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Otago. The various strands of Michelle’s research are linked by a pivotal interest in the critical analysis of contemporary governance activities at the local scale, and specifically the unveiling and explication of complex inclusionary and exclusionary practices surrounding planning and futuring. All this is fuelled by an enthusiasm for improving proactive, reflective and visionary local planning. Michelle’s research interest has been grounded by work on urbanisation and indigenous resource management in New Zealand, Great Britain, Scandinavia and North America. One of her current research projects is part of a FRST sub-contract assessing regional development and urban regeneration.

Dr Yolanda van Heezik
Yolanda van Heezik, Senior Lecturer, Zoology Department, Division of Sciences, University of Otago. Yolanda’s background as a wildlife biologist includes research on reproductive strategies, ecology, behaviour and survival of both wild populations and species that are the focus of reintroduction projects, in New Zealand, South Africa and the Middle East. Since 2001 she has developed a programme of research in urban ecology in the Dunedin urban area, focussing on abundance, distributions and survival of wildlife, impacts of predators, and social attitudes towards urban biodiversity. Her current research includes a multi-disciplinary study aimed at understanding factors influencing urban wildlife in private gardens, and a FRST sub-contract with Landcare Research examining impacts of urban predators.

Dr Jim Williams
Jim Williams (Kai Tahu) B.A. (Hons (Well) PhD (Otago) Senior Lecturer, Te Tumu, School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies. Jim’s research interests centre on pre-contact Kai Tahu practices, especially with respect to the land and waterways and tellurian natural resources. His PhD thesis argued a successful regime of pre-European sustainability practices, in the south. Publications focus (in the main) on Kai Tahu management of land and waterways, and a proposed research methodology for pre-contact topics.