



WCPA
WORLD COMMISSION
ON PROTECTED AREAS

THE IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
OCEANIA
Newsletter No. 3 2015



VALE Phillip Toyne AO



Lincoln Siliakus



Felicity Wishart

1. WCPA OCEANIA UPDATE

- FROM THE VICE CHAIR
- MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES
- REPRESENTATIONS
- NEWS OF MEMBERS

2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- OFFSETS AND PROTECTED AREAS
- NEW NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE SITES ANNOUNCED
- PROTECTED AREA DOWNGRADING, DOWNSIZING, AND DEGAZETEMENT

3. AUSTRALIAN NEWS

- VALUING NATURE: PROTECTED AREAS and ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AVAILABLE
- CLOSE WATCH ON GREAT BARRIER REEF REMAINS
- NUNGUNGNUNGULLA DECLARED AN ABORIGINAL PLACE
- BLUE MOUNTAINS TOURISM ICON \$1.5 MILLION UPGRADE
- CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT IDEAS IN ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

4. NEW ZEALAND NEWS

- TOP NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATIONISTS HONOURED
- ARK IN THE PARK

5. PACIFIC ISLAND AND PNG NEWS

- NATURE CONSERVATION AND TIMOR LESTE'S HISTORY OF CONFLICT
- SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DESIGNATION OF 'PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREAS' IN THE PACIFIC REGION
- PROTECTED AREAS WORKING GROUP'S COMMITMENT to BIOPAMA

6. UPCOMING

1. WCPA OCEANIA UPDATE

From the Vice Chair

Dear colleagues,

Many of us have barely recovered from the IUCN World Parks Congress when our efforts need to be focused on the next major IUCN event, the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii in September next year. As most of you know this great meeting has two halves. The first is an open conservation forum or conference which is open to all to put up proposals. Events include workshops, knowledge cafés, training and capacity-building sessions, and posters. The second half is the Members meeting the governance meeting of IUCN where key policies are determined and the Quadrennial programme 2016-20 is adopted. It also involves the election of key office bearers including the Chairs of the Commissions.

The Call for Contributions for the Forum has opened and interested parties have until 15 October 2015 to identify partners, develop and submit their proposals for events. For further information, visit: <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/donors/?21599/Help-shape-the-global-conservation-agenda>

Thank you to Louise O'Flynn, Keith Twford and Kathy Walls.

Member Opportunities

World Parks Congress Outcomes: If you would like to communicate more within your organization or department about the outcomes of the World Parks Congress various materials are available. Trevor Sandwith IUCN head of Protected areas has provided this advice: One other document that you might find useful is the summary of the World Parks Congress. It includes the Council Decision regarding the Promise of Sydney, and also a condensed version of the commitments made by countries in Oceania. The summary presentation can be downloaded from this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/gd1x94z6jm9bccx/Oceania%20Promise%20of%20Sydney%20summary%20slides%208%20July%202015.pptx?dl=0>

I am also including the full text of these commitments for your reference purposes. The full text of the Promise of Sydney and access to the 12 sets of recommendations is at this link: http://www.worldparkscongress.org/about/promise_of_sydney.html

Banking Nature Film The Environmental Film Festival Australia is screening a film called *Banking Nature* that investigates whether or not we should price. Melbourne: 6.15-8.15PM, Wednesday 9th September | Kino Cinemas, Collins Place 45 Collins Street

If nature had a price tag, would big corporations be less inclined to destroy it? And if everything from wildlife to the carbon stored in forests could be bought, what would we really be selling? *Banking Nature* is a provocative documentary that looks at the growing movement to monetise the natural world – and turn endangered species and threatened areas into "natural capital". The movie asks 'rather than a threat to the planet, could markets and capitalism be its salvation?'

Representations

Ethic Centre Debate. In July the Vice Chair participated in an Ethic Centre IQ2 debate on the issue of Valuing Nature debating the proposition that We Should Price Nature to Protect It. There was a substantial audience of some 800 people and a robust often amusing debate. You can watch this online at: <http://www.iq2oz.com/debates/price-on-nature/>

Future of NRS Meeting The Vice Chair represented the WCPA at two significant meetings in recent times. One was a discussion with the Commonwealth Department on the future of the National Reserve System. Members will know that unfortunately there is no current budget to continue to build the NRS despite the fact that the goal of a fully CAR system has not been achieved and many important areas remain unprotected. We also stressed the immense leverage value of the previous 2:1 funding model in securing very large investments by states and the private conservation sector in new protected areas. The NGO representative and VC all put a strong case for

- Resourcing ongoing strategic growth and effective management of the NRS.
- Implementing an effective whole of landscape approach truly complementary to the NRS.
- Refreshing the multilateral, public private partnership that underpins the NRS.
- Review of National Biodiversity Strategy incorporating the NRS.

IUCN Regional Forum: The Vice Chair also represented WCPA at the IUCN Regional Forum in Suva. This was the key preparatory meeting for the World Congress next year. My principal role was to remind all delegates of the key messages to emerge from the World Parks Congress and to strongly urge that those messages are fully embedded in the both the global programme for 2016-20 and the Oceania Regional programme.

News of Members

I am delighted to that two of WCPA's younger members have been given important international positions in the marine theme led by Prof Dan Lafolley. Mariasole Bianco and Katherine Zischka are the leads for the newly formed (WCPA) Young Professionals Marine Task Force (YPMTF).

In launching this Dan said 'Mariasole and Kathy are two passionate marine conservationists with a strong academic background. Mariasole led the young professional's declaration at IMPAC3 and was responsible for the integration of the marine cross-cutting theme into the Inspire a New Generation Stream of the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress (WPC). Kathy worked closely with the IUCN Marine Group during the WPC, has co-authored the marine chapter of the latest IUCN *Protected Area Governance and Management* publication, and is now the Acting Director of the Australian National Committee for IUCN. The co-vice chairs will be joined by Rebecca Koss who is a marine scientist, co-lead for the IUCN Task Force on the Intergenerational Partnership for Sustainability (IUCN IPS) and whose role will be ensuring a meaningful intergenerational integration and cooperation of YPs within each WCPA-Marine working group'.

The YPMTF was established at the WPC in November 2014 in Sydney, Australia, and formally recognised at the Steering Committee Meeting of the WCPA in April 2015 in Vilm, Germany. The YPMTF will consist of Young Professionals up to 35 years of age working in marine conservation (see membership details below). The group acknowledges the dynamic synergies that occur when networks of inspired Young Professionals work together, with each other and in intergenerational partnership for social transformation and effective conservation of marine environments.

For more details about the YPMTF, please refer to the [Terms of Reference](#) (TOR) or email Kathy at Katherine.zischka@aciucn.org.au

Rob Dunn has stepped down from a very successful 4 years leading the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative. Pip Walsh has left Bush Heritage Australia and joined Judy Lambert at Community Solutions.

Vale

WCPA wishes to pay our respects and express immense thanks for the lives of three important Australian conservationists who have recently died.

Phillip Toyne AO was a major figure in the history of the environment movement particularly in his roles as Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation and Chair of Bush Heritage. He was also a great champion of Indigenous rights and was instrumental in the handback of Uluru to Traditional Owners. Phillip is also rightly credited with the birth of the Landcare movement through his collaboration with Rick Farley of the National Farmers Federation. <http://www.smh.com.au/national/tributes-for-phillip-toyne-the-unpretentious-visionary-and-the-great-persuader-20150614-ghnkox.html>

Lincoln Siliakus was the key lawyer assisting the Franklin campaign and has been a major influence behind the scenes in the many Australian struggles to secure World Heritage including working to avoid the regressive 'handback of Tasmanian forest areas in recent years. http://www.bobbrown.org.au/lincoln_siliakus_has_died

Felicity Wishart, was a high-profile Australian conservationist who played a leading role in campaigns over the past 30 years to protect the Great Barrier Reef and Australian rainforests and to stop land clearing in Queensland.

2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

OFFSETS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Members may be interested in a comment piece that has come out recently in Nature by five authors, three of whom are WCPA members. The article outlines the risks associated with using offsets to achieve pre-existing commitments, such as those to which nations have committed under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Heritage Convention.

Maron, M., Gordon, A., Mackey, B. G., Possingham, H. P. and Watson, J. E. M. 2015. Stop misuse of biodiversity offsets. Nature 523, 401–403; doi:10.1038/523401a

The article recommends that while it is often appropriate for offsets to create and manage new protected areas, these outcomes should be accounted for separately from progress towards existing commitments such as the Aichi targets, in order to avoid offsets simply replacing government funding for protected areas. We argue that future international agreements should require separate accounting of conservation gains that were possible only because of equivalent losses, and benefits from the new protected areas funded by offsets should always be reported alongside the losses that triggered their protection.

Here is the link to the article: <http://www.nature.com/news/conservation-stop-misuse-of-biodiversity-offsets-1.18010>.

NEW NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE SITES ANNOUNCED

The Blue and John Crow Mountains has become Jamaica's first World Heritage site, following advice from IUCN. South Africa's Cape Floral Region Protected Areas and Viet Nam's Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park were also approved by the World Heritage Committee, as recommended by IUCN. The announcements were made at the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in Bonn, Germany.

Jamaica's Blue and John Crow Mountains has been inscribed as a "mixed" site, recognising the complex interplay between the area's natural and cultural values. The local Maroon communities share a strong identity with the area and are actively engaged in its management. Combining Jamaica's highest peak with a contrasting limestone plateau, the site boasts the greatest diversity of ecosystems and habitats on the island, which are also among the most intact in the Caribbean region.

Viet Nam's Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, a World Heritage site originally inscribed for its geological values in 2003, has been extended and now includes protection for ecological

and biodiversity values. Located in the Annamite eco-region hotspot, the extended area is home to globally threatened species, including large mammals such as the Clouded Leopard.

The Cape Floral Region Protected Area in South Africa has been extended to double its size, from 553,000 to 1,094,741 hectares. Inscribed in 2004, it is one of the most spectacular places for plants in the world in terms of diversity, density and uniqueness.

PROTECTED AREA DOWNGRADING, DOWNSIZING, AND DEGAZETTEMET

Another paper offered by international colleagues which may be of interest has just been published in open access format by Conservation Letters.

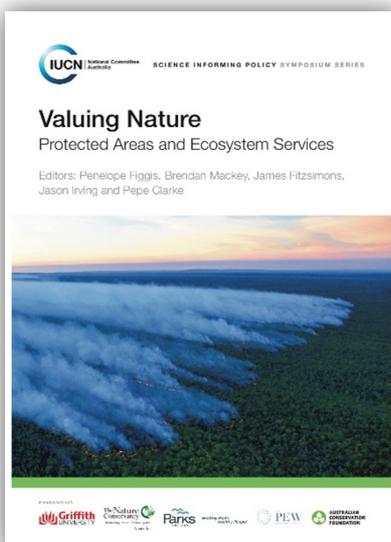
J.L. Forrest, M.B. Mascia, S. Pailler, S.Z. Abidin, M.D. Araujo, R. Krithivasan, & J.C. Riveros. 2015. Tropical Deforestation and Carbon Emissions from Protected Area Downgrading, Downsizing, and Degazettement (PADDD). Conservation Letters 8(3): 153-161. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/conl.12144/full>

Protected area downgrading, downsizing and degazettement (PADDD) is a global phenomenon that has not received formal attention in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) policies designed to reduce forest carbon emissions and conserve biodiversity. Here, we examine how PADDD affects deforestation and forest carbon emissions. We documented 174 enacted and 8 proposed PADDD events affecting more than 48,000 km² in three REDD+ priority countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malaysia, and Peru. Where sufficient data were available, we estimated deforestation rates and the quantity and economic value of forest carbon already lost and at risk in three land tenure classes: PADDDed, protected, and never-protected. PADDDed forests experienced deforestation and forest carbon emissions greatly exceeding rates in protected areas and slightly exceeding rates in never-protected forests. PADDD represents business-as-usual for protected areas, posing substantial risk to forests and forest carbon stocks. REDD+ policies have substantive implications for protected area biodiversity and forest carbon emissions; the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ provides new, but insufficient, guidance for nations to address these issues.

3. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWS

VALUING NATURE: PROTECTED AREAS and ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AVAILABLE

The Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) and its partners have published *Valuing Nature: Protected Areas and Ecosystem Services*. This publication is based on the presentations made to the Valuing Nature Symposium held on 21-22 July 2014 in Brisbane, the fifth in the ACIUCN Science Informing Policy Symposium Series.



The symposium had its catalyst in the compelling fact that the world's ecosystems and the myriad life forms they support, are the fundamental underpinning of life on Earth. Their rich values and services are crucial to human livelihoods, cultures, economies and well-being. However, while National GDPs may be growing overall, both ecosystems and the benefits they support are declining at unprecedented rates.

In particular, the partners were concerned that the critical role played by protected areas in maintaining these ecosystem services and their benefits is often missing from policy and decision making. The result is that protected areas

are often narrowly valued and inadequately recognised in public policy. To address this challenge requires sound policy at local, national and international levels.

The publication provides decision makers with science-based and independent information to inform better policy and students will benefit from a broad spectrum of current information and views.

The publication can be downloaded in its entirety or chapter by chapter at <http://aciucn.org.au/index.php/publications/> where you can also find recent ACIUCN books – Innovation for 21st Century Conservation, Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional: the Future of World Heritage in Australia and Conserving Australia's Marine Environment: Key Directions Statement and online summaries of other events. * Note at the time of writing the website is having some technical issues which should be solved shortly.

For limited hard copies contact Katherine Zischka, Acting Director ACIUCN at katherine.zischka@aciucn.org.au

CLOSE WATCH ON GREAT BARRIER REEF FULLY REMAINS

IUCN's advice to continue close monitoring of Australia's Great Barrier Reef was adopted in full at the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in Bonn, Germany in July. The World Heritage Committee has requested that Australia report, in two years' time, on progress made in implementing the new Great Barrier Reef 2050 sustainability plan, including information on secured investment. In five years' time, Australia must also present a formal report to the Committee on the effectiveness of the plan.

According to IUCN, the Great Barrier Reef is facing major challenges due to climate change, poor water quality and impacts from coastal development. Australia's 2050 sustainability plan for the reef proposes a range of actions in response to these threats, such as reducing pollution, restricting port development and permanently banning dumping of dredged material within the reef.

NUNGUNGNUNGULLA DECLARED AN ABORIGINAL PLACE

An outcrop near Mittagong, formerly known as Jubilee Rocks has been declared as an Aboriginal Place. Aboriginal engravings, paintings and stencils, grinding grooves, scarred trees and campsites occur at the site, recording some of the ways the Gundungurra and the coastal Tharwal, Dhurga, Waddi Waddi and Yuin people used the area when travelling from the coast to the southern highlands. The elders believe that sharing of stories about Nungungnungulla will contribute to reconciliation between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal people. For further information, visit:

<http://www.2st.com.au/news/highlands-news/82809-nungungnungulla-declared-an-aboriginal-place>

BLUE MOUNTAINS TOURISM ICON \$1.5 MILLION UPGRADE



The Three Sisters walking track in the Blue Mountains National Park has reopened after a \$1.5 million upgrade. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, along with local contractors, have resurfaced the track's pathways, upgraded landscaping and signage and improved visitor safety. The work, which took 12 months to complete, also involved upgrading Spooner's, Oreades and Lady Game Lookouts.

In 2014, the Three Sisters became the 98th Aboriginal Place declared in NSW. The declaration recognises the special cultural, social and spiritual significance of the site to the Aboriginal community. The upgraded walking track

complements other improvements in the Blue Mountains, including the Honeymoon Bridge that links Echo Point Lookout to Lady Game Lookout, both of which overlook the Three Sisters.

CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT IDEAS IN ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, Bob Baldwin and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park's Board of Management chairperson Sammy Wilson have announced a call for culturally appropriate and environmentally sensitive business and investment ideas in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

The stated intention is to increase the visitor experiences on offer, increase visitor numbers and enhance people's understanding of their country and increased job and training opportunities for the community. Additional revenue will be reinvested in the park.

Expressions of Interest will be accepted until 30 September 2015. For further information, visit: <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/baldwin/2015/mr20150709.html>

4. NEW ZEALAND NEWS

TOP NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATIONISTS HONOURED



Award recipients (left to right) S. Jenkins, G. McDonald, R. Brown, J. McLintock, F. Ross, C. McKenzie. Seated (left to right) A. Cutler (Forest and Bird President), Hone McGregor (Forest and Bird CE).

Forest and Bird Protection Society have honoured six of New Zealand's top conservationists for their work on protecting New Zealand's biodiversity. Seventeen year old Guy McDonald was awarded the newly created Te Kaiarahi Rangatahi o te Taiao Youth Award for his work on insects. Guy has already spent five years on conservation projects in the South Canterbury region.

He hopes to have a future career in conservation. Fraser Ross was awarded the Distinguished Life Member Award for his services to conservation for over 40 years. He was a key person in the restoration of Arowhenua Bush (near Temuka), a significant remnant podocarp forest on private land. The Old Blue Award has been awarded to four people this year. Rod Brown has been honoured for his work on restoration in the Bay of Islands. Julie McLintock was honoured for over 30 years of conservation work with Forest and Bird in Nelson. Craig McKenzie was honoured for his contribution to raising the profile of Forest and Bird through his amazing photography. Sylvia Jenkins was honoured for contribution to the Maara Rose restoration project, an ecological bush corridor stretching from Cannons Creek to Petone, in the Wellington region.

ARK IN THE PARK

New Zealand has a large number of eco-sanctuaries on its two large islands. These sanctuaries have been set up by interested groups and individuals in response to the alarming rate at which New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity is declining through human population pressures, predation from introduced animals and reduction of critical habitats.

Many eco-sanctuaries are the result of local communities working from the ground up. Ark in the Park is the second eco-sanctuary to be featured in WCPA-Oceania newsletters for 2015.



Ark in the Park is an eco-restoration project established in the "Cascades Kauri Park", located in the northern Waitakere Ranges, approximately 25 minutes' drive west from Auckland City. Rather than isolating the area with a predator proof fence, which is very costly, intense predator control is carried out in the area instead. Predator control first began in 2002 and today, over 2,450 hectares are managed through the use of bait stations and traps. Toxic bait is placed in the bait stations to control rats, mice and possums.

North Island kokako. Photo: Cheryl Marriner

Stoats, weasels and ferrets are caught in specially designed traps. Weeds are also controlled in the park.

Since the predator control work began, the existing native plants and trees, insects, birds and frogs have begun to recover. With the significant reduction in predators, whitehead, North Island robin and kokako, species of birds not seen in the region for decades, have been re-introduced and are now thriving. The restoration programme has enabled a number of research projects and observational studies. Many of the reports are available on the website: www.arkinthepark.org.nz/. Ark in the Park is a partnership project between Forest and Bird Protection Society and the Auckland Council.

5. PACIFIC NEWS

NATURE CONSERVATION AND TIMOR LESTE'S HISTORY OF CONFLICT

Rui Pinto, Policy Manager for Conservation International Timor-Leste has written a thought provoking article on the role that nature conservation can play in helping Timor-Leste recover from its long history of conflict.

Timor-Leste has a turbulent past, over several centuries the people of Timor-Leste have experienced prolonged periods of war and armed conflict. This turbulent history has impacted all facets of life for the Timorese people, including the rules and norms around natural resource management, for example the rights and access to coastal and forest areas. Timor's natural areas cannot meet the increasing demand for their services whilst driven by famine and limited environmental knowledge to over exploitation.

Rui Pinto talks of his work in designing and leading Conservation International's field programs in Timor-Leste and working with communities to protect the country's natural resources. Pinto explains that in Timor-Leste, open dialogue is challenging due to a history of mistrust and changing leadership at all levels of government. Conservation International's work in Timor-Leste seeks to introduce good governance to ensure lasting conservation and reduce overexploitation.

Pinto believes that "in the end, people need nature to thrive – perhaps now more than ever, in this era of dwindling resources and changing climate." However, bringing people together to sustainably manage their natural resources "requires people to help one another, to share and grieve over the loss of the sacred, to re-ignite the old metaphors that mark the Timorese spirit: the forest, the wilderness, the strong and bountiful ocean. As we work toward rescuing these natural treasures, we will unconsciously save our souls in the process."

<http://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2015/07/people-nature-thrive-recovering-conflict-conservation-timor-leste/>

The [original version](#) of this article appeared on Conservation International's [Human Nature](#) blog.

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DESIGNATION OF 'PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREAS' IN THE PACIFIC REGION

Pacific island representatives recently gathered in Nadi, Fiji to discuss the protection of marine areas from the impacts of international shipping. The sub-regional workshop on 'The Identification and Designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) in the Pacific Ocean' was coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

A PSSA is a global mechanism to mitigate or eliminate the impacts of international shipping on sensitive marine environments. A PSSA differs from a Marine Protected Area because it is focused solely on the impacts of international shipping. Currently, five areas in the Pacific region meet the criteria to establish a PSSA. These areas are located in the waters off Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Fiji and Kiribati. Other areas under consideration are located in Tonga and the Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands.

To be designated as a PSSA, countries must identify the ecological, socio-economic or scientific values of the area and the area's vulnerability to the impacts of international shipping and proposed measures to control shipping movements or discharges. Attendees received training to identify potential marine areas suitable for designation as PSSA's and the development of a four year national action plan. For further information visit: <http://www.sprep.org/waste-management-pollution-control/preparing-for-the-designation-of-the-pacific-regions-first-particularly-sensitive-sea-area>

PROTECTED AREAS WORKING GROUP'S COMMITMENT to BIOPAMA

The recent Protected Areas Working Group (PAWG) meeting advanced BIOPAMA's commitment to facilitate regional co-ordination, information sharing and strengthened partnerships.

Speakers from Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Fiji and Samoa presented on their experiences in moving toward better protected area networks that rely almost exclusively on governance and management by local communities. The meeting also committed to some important actions and identified specific sub-groups and timing to ensure follow through.

Identified actions are linked to data information, sharing and management of the proposed Regional Reference Information System (RRIS) and the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal (PIPAP), the development of several tools, guidelines and analysis to provide a vision of protected and other conserved areas. These tools are linked to management, capacity development, key issues, realities, challenges and opportunities, management effectiveness and improved recognition of these areas. For further information, visit: http://www.iucn.org/news_homepage/all_news_by_theme/protected_areas_news/

6. UPCOMING

6TH AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND CLIMATE CHANGE AND BUSINESS CONFERENCE, AUCKLAND, 20 & 21 OCTOBER 2015

This conference aims to bring together business and policy makers in Australasia. Many companies work in both countries, yet the climate change policies in the two countries are evolving in different ways. The conference will also provide opportunities for discussion and exchange of views on each country's international targets which will have been announced in advance of December's COP. More information about this conference can be found by visiting the website: www.climateandbusiness.com/

CONSERVATION WEEK, 1- 8 NOVEMBER 2015

This is an annual event run by the Department of Conservation to raise awareness of the benefits of conservation and encourage people to get involved. Conservation Week is an opportunity for the New Zealand public to celebrate the natural environment and connect with local special places. Other groups, businesses, councils and agencies are also encouraged to run events of their own. This year's theme is "Healthy Parks, healthy People". Find out more at: www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/events/conservation-week/

NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY, CHRISTCHURCH, 16 – 19 NOVEMBER 2015

The formal programme begins on 17 November with a half-day symposium on non-government conservation initiatives. A wide range of other topics will be covered in the conference, including the National Science Challenge on Biological Heritage, invasive invertebrates and pathogens, ecological networks, forests and alpine biodiversity, to name just a few. Abstracts are invited until 1st September. Further information can be found at: <https://innovators.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/nzes2015/home>

NATIONAL PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION FORUM, LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE. 3-4 DECEMBER 2015

Mind the date. The Forum is the realisation of a recommendation by the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) based on consultation and engagement undertaken in 2013 with stakeholders, considering how Australia can achieve a national approach for private land conservation.

The ALCA will host the forum, bringing together representatives from Indigenous groups, landholders, environmental NGO's, the corporate sector, production sectors and government.

It is anticipated that the forum will build a wider network for land conservation in Australia and to explore issues of mutual interest to participants. For further information contact the ALCA. More details in next newsletter.