

Landcare Research Activities for the International Year of Biodiversity

- 1) We will be highlighting various examples of our biodiversity research on our home page, which will feature a new section specifically for International Year of Biodiversity.
- 2) We will create a new biodiversity page providing a comprehensive list of links to the enormous amount of biodiversity research that is spread throughout our web pages. This will become a 'one-stop' shop for biodiversity web visitors
- 3) We are gathering up some of our spectacular biodiversity photos to create some slide shows ... possibly downloadable as a screen saver.
- 4) We will be adding video clips to our website about our biological collections and biodiversity events.
- 5) We are developing a blog site for "life & times of our field technicians" ... some of our extraordinarily fit, intrepid and dedicated staff who spend long periods doing field trials for the biodiversity research. Often they are working in isolation (following rigorous H&S procedures of course) in remote parts of the country where the terrain is only accessible by helicopter or jet boat. And they work through all weather. Despite all the hardship, they love what they do and love writing about it.
- 6) BioBlitz ... a 24 hour biodiversity search in an urban park setting. Tentative dates are 16th / 17th April 2010. This year we will be collaborating with Auckland Museum, the Department of Conservation, Auckland University, and other crown research institutes. Based on our previous BioBlitz events, we expect to have 50-60 biologists working through the event. Members of the public are encourage to attend and numerous 'field trips' will be organised during the daytime and after dark. We have already produced some posters such "what's an -ologist?" and "how scientists find things" and intend to add to this popular series (available on our website). **We would love to promote out BioBlitz on the CBD-IYB Partners web page to see if we can make contact with other BioBlitz events planned elsewhere in the world.**
- 7) We may also run another mini-BioBlitz in another part of NZ later in the year.
- 8) 22 May 2010 is International Biodiversity Day, with the theme of Biodiversity for Development. We hope to highlight some of our biodiversity / biosecurity work with the

University of the South Pacific (USP) herbarium, the Mekong countries, Band perhaps other countries as well.

- 9) We will be hosting or participating in a number of significant national and international biodiversity and ecological conferences this year.
- 10) We are key organisers of the annual Fungal Foray, which is a week-long mycology field trip to different parts of New Zealand. This event attracts a number of overseas mycologists and fungi enthusiasts.
- 11) We are co-developers of the NZ biodiversity recording network (NZBRN) where anyone in New Zealand is encouraged to enter biodiversity observations on-line. Over the Christmas-New Year holiday period, NZBRN promoted the 'I spy ...' game to families travelling off on holiday (I spy ... whatever plants, animals & road kill!; with records kept and entered at the end of the trip)
- 12) For local communities, we will be hosting various biodiversity walks, talks, trips etc.

Our plans are still a work in progress but we are very much committed to supporting the International Year of Biodiversity because it is such a fundamental part of our work. New Zealand has some wonderful biodiversity, including a remarkably high rate of endemism. We wish to promote the importance of biodiversity from the genetic to species to ecosystem level, and all the ecosystem services that it provides ... free but mostly under-appreciated.

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