

April 2021 update

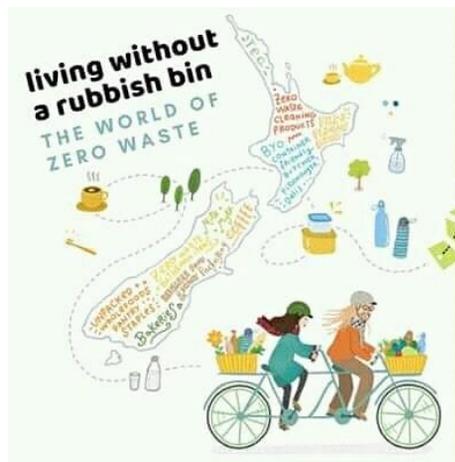
FROM THE PRESIDENT:

We had two events in March starting with Brad Scott (GNS) give a fascinating presentation on 'The geological history and hazards of the Rotorua District'. It was really interesting to see how the landscape changed over time, giving rise to the geographical feature we see today. Here is a short video where Brad talks more on geothermal features around Rotorua:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdNi43qQa7o>

We also co-hosted 'The Rubbish Trip' presenting on 'Living without a Rubbish Bin: The world of zero waste' as part of Envirohub's 2021 Sustainable Backyards programme. The down to earth duo, Hannah Blumhardt and Liam Prince have a real can-do attitude to reducing rubbish, and simply want to show people how easy, fun, and fulfilling waste reduction can be. They have done a lot of research and all their resources can be found here: <https://therubbishtrip.co.nz/>



They talked about the waste-free shopping options in the Bay of Plenty. Here is the link: <http://therubbishtrip.co.nz/regional-shopping-guide/zero-waste-in-the-bay-of-plenty/>

Here are some things I have come across and thought some members might be interested in:

The value of science:

In advance of the 2022 Nobel Prize Dialogue in Brazil, this online discussion (led by Nobel Prize laureates May-Britt Moser and Serge Haroche) will explore what science, and scientists, can contribute to society, and in turn, what society can contribute to science.

<https://www.nobelprize.org/events/nobel-prize-dialogue/brazil-2021/#tab-content/>

American Chemical Society has put up free learning resources Chemistry at Home:

These resources focus on five topics — The Earth, Water, Food, Health & Your Body, and The Periodic Table — and put a spotlight on the connection between chemistry and everyday life.



<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/resources/topics.html>

Webinar: Wasp Busting Biocontrol – new agents to be released

Dr Bob Brown (Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research) discusses the science of wasps as well as the new beetle and hoverfly, explains how and why the biocontrol will work, outlines the potential risks and benefits, and discusses the next steps in the programme.



<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5930843099718849804>

Another friendly reminder that membership for 2021 is now due. We rely on member subscription to partly support the cost of bringing top speakers to Rotorua. Membership is only \$20 per year for individuals or families and this gets you on our mailing list for information on upcoming lectures, and a chance to hear about topical science issues presented by New Zealand's leading science researchers.

A membership form is available on our web site www.rotoruasience.org/membership/ make sure to your email address is clear so we can send you information. You can pay by cash at our meetings or by electronic banking. Our bank account details are as follows:

Westpac – Royal Society of NZ Rotorua 03 1552 0093123 00

Please make sure your name is clearly shown in the reference box when setting up the payment.

Programme for 2021

Tuesday 16th February – Douglas Gaunt (Scion, Rotorua) '*Structural aspects of Te Whare Nui o Tuteata*'

Tuesday 9th March – Brad Scott (GNS, Rotorua) '*The geological history and hazards of the Rotorua District*'

Tuesday 16th March – Hannah Blumhardt and Liam Prince (The Rubbish Trip, Wellington) '*Living without a rubbish bin – the world of zero waste*' Co-sponsored with Envirohub's Sustainable Backyard programme

Tuesday 13th April – Gretel Ingrid Boswijk (University of Auckland) '*Talking tree rings: recent dendrochronology research in New Zealand*'

Tuesday 11th May – Anthony Poole (University of Auckland) '*Origins of DNA*'

Tuesday 8th June – Neil Gemmell (Otago Uni, Dunedin) '*Tuatara genome*'

Tuesday 13th July – Dr Cynric Temple-Camp (Medlab Central) '*Reflections from a potpourri of death*'

Tuesday 10th August – Shirley Kerr (author of 'Exploring the Kaimai bush', Rotorua) '*Exploring fungi from Rotorua/Kaimai bush*'

Tuesday 14th September – Anne Jaquiere (University of Auckland) '*Neonatal and paediatric nutrition*'

Tuesday 12th October - Paul Kilmartin (University of Auckland) '*Wine research into New Zealand Sauvignon blanc*'

October/November - Marcus Vandergoes (GNS) '*Lakes 380 project*' TBD



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Lecture for 13th April 2021

Talking tree rings: recent dendrochronology research in New Zealand

Dr Gretel Boswijk,
School of Environment,
The University of Auckland

ROTORUA | Tuesday 13th April, 6pm.
Rimu Room, Scion (new Scion entrance,
Entry from Tītōkorangi Drive (Long Mile Rd)
Please be there promptly before 6 pm.

Free entry for members – please sign in at the door.
\$5 donation for non-members – please pay at the door.
All welcome.



Trees are valuable repositories of past environmental information and can also provide chronological frameworks for reconstructing environmental and social change. In this talk, Gretel will discuss the development of a 4500-year tree-ring chronology from kauri (*Agathis australis*) and highlight how parts of that record are being applied to enhance understanding of past environmental and social change in New Zealand. This includes using calendar dated kauri tree rings to develop high resolution radiocarbon records to improve precision when dating of wooden objects from archaeological sites and new research investigating the use of stable isotope-assisted dendrochronological dating in New Zealand.



Remember there is a new entrance to Scion



To get to the venue please drive all the way down Titokorangi Drive (formerly Long Mile Rd). The three-storey wood framed building 'Te Whare Nui o Tuteata' will be clearly visible and parking is available to the left of the building. We will escort you from the entrance to the Rimu room.

<https://www.scionresearch.com/about-us/about-scion/location-and-contact>



Looking forward to seeing you all at our next event,

Laura Raymond (PhD)
Branch President
The Rotorua Branch of the Royal Society Te Apārangi