

Antarctica New Zealand Science Update (30) April 2008

- 1. Science Strategy:** The first draft of the science strategy document is making the rounds through the Officials Antarctic Committee membership at the moment. Once the OAC has made comment the Antarctic Strategic Advisory Committee will meet to incorporate these and other comments. Following that meeting the document will be sent out for wider consultation. The final document will be used to form a Cabinet paper on Antarctic research and be used to create a whole of Government approach to Antarctic research in the future.
- 2. End of Season:** A two-day End of Season review meeting has just been held at Antarctica New Zealand. This review looked at the Focus group information from Scott Base staff as well as the End of Season reports and debriefs from events this past season. A letter outlining the main issues and action points is currently being compiled and will be circulated shortly. Erik and Dean will also be visiting each research organisation over the next few months to have group discussions on these broader issues. This will be an opportunity to talk about the past season, how it was supported, what went well and what needs to be changed. This will be separate from the regular PI tour. Stay tuned for a schedule on the 'tour' soon.
- 3. Extended Antarctic Season Over:** Ian Hawes and Karl Safi have just returned from their extended season work for NIWA on Bratina Island. From early February to early April the pair studied how the onset of winter conditions affected the physical and chemical conditions of the Bratina Island ponds, and how these changes affect the planktonic and benthic microbial communities within the ponds – something that has not been achieved before. Congratulations to the IPY team and to all those who made this valuable research possible. For the TV3 news story on this go to:
<http://www.tv3.co.nz/Home/News/Display/tabid/209/articleID/52708/Default.aspx?src=email>
- 4. Antarctica New Zealand's 2008 Annual Antarctic Conference** – 'International Polar Year and the Next Generation' hosted by the University of Otago's Polar Environments Research Theme from June 30th to July 2nd. Online registration will open May 1st. Go to:
<http://www.antarcticanz.govt.nz/article/10566.html#19289> for more details.
- 5. SCAR-IASC Open Science Conference** early bird registration deadline extended to 30th April. Go to: <http://www.scar-iasc-ipy2008.org/>
- 6. SCAR March Newsletter** available from:
<http://www.scar.org/news/newsletters/issues2008/mar08.html>
- 7. APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists) April Newsletter** can be downloaded at:
<http://arcticportal.org/apecs/documents/apecs-april-newsletter.pdf>
- 8. Great article on APECS:**
[http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_development/previous_issues/articles/2008_04_04/caredit_a0800049/\(parent\)/158](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_development/previous_issues/articles/2008_04_04/caredit_a0800049/(parent)/158)

9. **Publishing** (forwarded on behalf of Nick Mortimer, GNS Science): When you're considering where to publish your research findings then bear in mind the bimonthly Cambridge University Press journal Antarctic Science. Antarctic Science accepts papers on the biological, earth and physical sciences. They can be review or data papers with no limits on length, two page short notes on technical developments or recent discoveries, or book reviews. To submit a manuscript visit <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=ANS>.

Publications Submitted to Ant NZ this month:

Please do send us your publications once they are released so we can include these in our bibliography.

Green, T.G.A, Schroeter, B. Sancho, L.G.

Plant life in Antarctica.

in: Functional Plant Ecology / eds Pugnaire F., Valladares, F. – Boca Raton, Fla : CRC Press, 2007.
pp.389-433.

Sancho, L.G. Green, T.G.A. Pintado, A.

Slowest to fastest: Extreme range in lichen growth rates supports their use as an indicator of climate change in Antarctica.

Flora 202: 667-673, 2007.