



Biology Educators' Association of New Zealand Te Rōpū Whakaako Koiora o Aotearoa

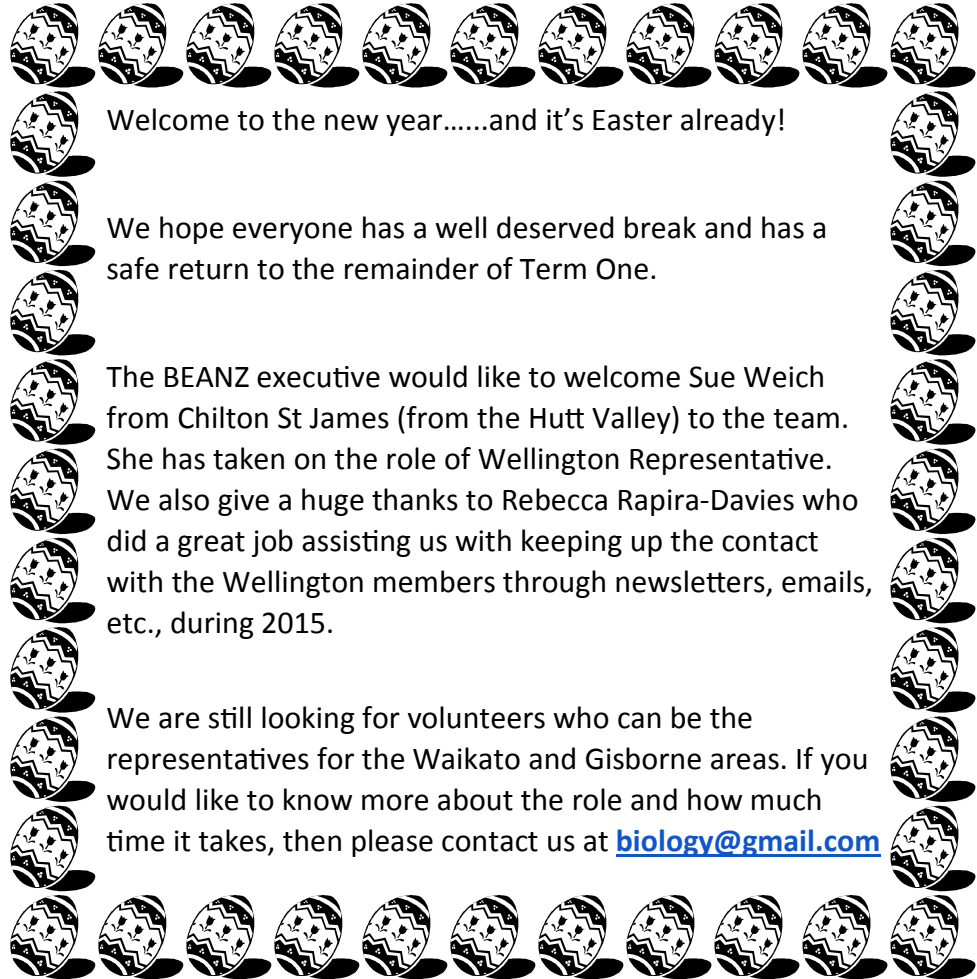
March 2016 Newsletter

web: beanz.nzase.org.nz

email: biology@gmail.com

Inside this Issue

Welcomes	1
sciCON - Earlybird Registrations and scholarships	2
BEANZ Subscriptions and Contact details	2
Bite sized bits and little nibbles	2
Sustainable Coastlines and Education	2
Conditions of Assessment	3
Nina Valley Eco Blitz 2017	3
Meet the Exec	4
Sharyn Varcoe	
Mike Cotsilinis	
Regional Representatives	5
sciCON 2016 Poster	6



Welcome to the new year.....and it's Easter already!

We hope everyone has a well deserved break and has a safe return to the remainder of Term One.

The BEANZ executive would like to welcome Sue Weich from Chilton St James (from the Hutt Valley) to the team. She has taken on the role of Wellington Representative. We also give a huge thanks to Rebecca Rapira-Davies who did a great job assisting us with keeping up the contact with the Wellington members through newsletters, emails, etc., during 2015.

We are still looking for volunteers who can be the representatives for the Waikato and Gisborne areas. If you would like to know more about the role and how much time it takes, then please contact us at biology@gmail.com

sciCON 2016

Registrations have been open for a while. **Early bird** prices end on 15 April, so get in quick. NZASE conference **scholarship applications** will again be available and you can apply for these from mid-March. Details are on the website: <https://innovators.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/scicon-2016/scicon2016>

Calls for workshops have been made and are now open. Whether you have some "earth shattering science" that you would like to share or just some

ordinary incredible stuff, get in touch with the conference organizer and submit an abstract.

Key note speakers include:

Michael Fenton (Open Polytechnic)
Kevin Hackwell (Forest and Bird)
Rose Hipkins (NZCER)
Alom Shaha (Teacher, film maker, writer)
Ben Wright (Physicist)
Michael Pearson (MIT Planetary Astronomy Laboratory)

SCICON 2016

LOWER HUTT 10-13 JULY



BEANZ Subscriptions and Contact details

HoDs, TiCs, and Executive Officers. You should have received an invoice for membership to NZASE, and consequently to BEANZ.

As a school, if you have paid your NZASE subscription, then you are automatically part of BEANZ. You can also join as an individual member if you are not part of a school.

If you haven't yet received an invoice for 2016, you can download an subscription form from <http://nzase.org.nz/membership/>. Your membership helps BEANZ plan, organise, and run the workshops that we provide throughout the country.

As a part of your membership application, can you please ensure that you provide an email address that will ensure communications between BEANZ and your school gets to all of the relevant staff. Many schools have been setting up generic email addresses that all department staff can read, and therefore get mail even when there has been a change of HoD or TiC. An example could be **science@yourschool.school.nz**. Talk to your IT people about it, as it is very easy to set up and manage.

Bite sized bits and little nibbles

If you're looking for inspiration for a field-based interactive project for your students, then remember to look at the [Marine Metre Squared](#) project. Run by the University of Otago NZ Marine Studies Centre, the aim is to encourage everyone to participate in long term monitoring of their marine environment.



[The Garden Bird project](#) is a citizen science project established to monitor

the population trends of common garden birds in New Zealand. It attempts to answer the question, "Are garden bird populations increasing, decreasing, or remaining stable?"

Held annually between late June and early July. The 2016 survey will be held between 25 June and 3 July 2016.

Want to stay in touch with other Biology teachers? Need advice on what to put in an assessment? Remember to join the Facebook group [\(NZ Biology Teachers\)](#)

Disclaimer: BEANZ does not moderate nor run this group, and is not affiliated with it in any way. Opinions expressed in the group are those of the individual expressing them, and do not represent BEANZ or any other group.

Sustainable Coastlines and Education Station

Sustainable Coastlines (<http://sustainablecoastlines.org/>) is a young, multi-award winning New Zealand charity run by a small team of hard-working staff and a network of passionate volunteers and interns. Our mission is to inspire, educate and enable others to look after the places we love. We love our coasts and we work with our sleeves rolled up to keep them beautiful. We coordinate and support large-scale coastal clean-up events, educational programs, public awareness campaigns and riparian planting projects.

Our focus on education is straight forward: create large-scale awareness of the problem and provide achievable solutions. We teach simple steps and creative changes that anyone can make to prevent litter from getting to our coastlines in the first place. In other words: the fence at the top of the cliff, not just the ambulance at the bottom.

We deliver educational presentations to schools, community groups and organisations around New Zealand and the Pacific that bring to light the effects of rubbish on our marine environment and motivate communities to work on simple solutions to address it. We are also developing a series of training workshops that will teach anyone how to impart this knowledge to others.

See link for what it is all about. <http://sustainablecoastlines.org/services/education-station/>

Nina Valley EcoBlitz 10-12 March 2017

In March 2014, the first ever EcoBlitz was held in the New Zealand in the Nina Valley, Lewis Pass, Canterbury.

The aim of the EcoBlitz was to transform how secondary students connected with and learned about nature, valued biodiversity, and understood ecological issues. The EcoBlitz brought together 130 scientists, teachers, and conservation professionals with 170 senior high school students from multiple schools to record biodiversity in a robust and repeatable way to monitor change over time.

The event, which included a follow-up day at Lincoln university in October that year, won the [Ministry for the Environment 2014 Green Ribbon Award](#) for Education and Communications and also the **Paramount Green Ribbon Award**.

The next Nina Valley EcoBlitz will be taking place in March 2017.



Revised Conditions of Assessment

The Ministry of Education has revised and updated the Conditions of Assessment (CoA) in all subjects.

The CoA provides **guidelines** for assessment against internally assessed standards. Guidance is provided on:

- assessment design
- appropriate ways of, and conditions for, gathering evidence
- ensuring that evidence is authentic
- any other relevant advice specific to a standard.

The purpose of the revision is to ensure a consistent approach and message across all subjects. It is important to note that the CoA is not a set of rules. It provides **guidance** to schools and teachers.

The main change is the addition of a generic section at the start of each CoA that provides a common message across all subjects.

There have been some very minor changes in a few subjects – mainly to remove any suggestions that evidence must be collected in a particular way and to emphasise the flexibility that exists for collection and presentation of evidence, including the use of digital tools.

The revised CoAs will be published in the next few days on the TKI NCEA subject pages at <http://ncea.tki.org.nz/Resources-for-Internally-Assessed-Achievement-Standards>

If you have any particular concerns regarding this change please contact Geoff Gibbs who will be happy to discuss this further. Geoff.gibbs@education.govt.nz or 04 4638546.

Once again, the event is open to :

- **High school students in Years 11-13 (in 2017 - by invitation only through their schools/home schools)**
- **Conservation professionals and scientists**
- **Assistants (parents or participating children, teachers, and university students)**

Please Note:

This is a **free** event for Year 11 - 13 students from the **top of the South Island**, and an awesome opportunity for you and your students to work together with scientists in the field.

Places will be limited and the EcoBlitz team are currently inviting 10 students per school.

Register your interest today to reserve a place for your school.

See www.ninavalleyecoblitz.com for the full details and contact information.

Meet the Exec This is a new section, introducing some of the members of the BEANZ executive to you.

Sharyn Varcoe



Involved in education since 2003, I passionately believe that professional development of educators is one of the keys to improved outcomes for all learners. This led to my involvement in BEANZ, initially as Canterbury regional representative and co-chair of the BioLive2013 conference and latterly as president.

I am also currently Head of Science at Riccarton High School, a co-educational state school of almost 1000 students in west Christchurch. In my spare time I can usually be found making the most of the amazing environs of Canterbury with my partner and grown-up children.

I never wanted to be a teacher! I wanted to be a Marine Biologist and so I did. But fate decreed otherwise, with everyone I knew being a teacher and every job I had saw me training and educating people. So I did the only logical thing and became a teacher as well. I love it!

I started teaching in 2004, and ever since then I have been impressed with the collegial nature of teachers. With the constantly changing face of education, changing pedagogy, and ever increasing burdens on teachers' time, being able to call on others and share ideas and resources is super important to our well-being and to providing quality education to our students.

So, giving something back sees me as the Publications Coordinator for BEANZ since 2014, as well as providing a supporting role in the BioLiveChemEd Conference committee in 2015. I am currently the Treasurer for Capital City Science Educators in Wellington and am working with the great team of people organising sciCon 2016.

I am currently the Assistant HoD of Science at St Mary's College in Wellington. In my spare time I use my Search and Rescue skills in my back yard trying to find eggs hidden by my chickens., and juggle the attention of my three children primary school age children.

BEANZ Executive 2015/16

President (NZASE Rep)	Sharyn Varcoe
Senior Vice President	Kate Rice
Junior Vice President	Matt Easterbrook
Treasurer	Peter Sutton
Secretary	Helen Mora
Publications Co-ordinator	Mike Cotsilinis
Website	Carmen Kenton, Ben Himme
Curriculum Support Team	Terry Burrell, Penny Daddy, Jo Hurst
Primary Biology Education	Hazel McIntosh
Tertiary Biology Education	Hamish Spencer
Assessment Project	Bill van den Ende
Science Facilitators	Mikhal Stone
Regional Rep. Coordinator	Sharyn Varcoe
Rural and Isolated Schools Rep	

Mike Cotsilinis



Regional Representatives

Region	Name	Email Contact
Northland	Julie Harrisson	JHarrisson@kerikerihigh.ac.nz
Auckland	Mike Stone	m.stone@auckland.ac.nz
	Penny Daddy	pennyD@stcuthberts.school.nz
Waikato	Rep required	
Bay of Plenty	Jean Grattan	jgrattan@otc.school.nz
Central North Island	Carrie Vander Zwaag	cvanderzwaag@reporoa.school.nz
Gisborne	Rep required	
Hawkes Bay	Marcia Hengst	mhengst@nghs.school.nz
Taranaki	tbc	
Manawatu-Wanganui	Chris Corser	c.corser@pnghs.school.nz
Wellington Region	Sue Weich	sweich@chilton.school.nz
Nelson Marlborough	Sarah Johns	sarah.johns@ncg.school.nz
West Coast	Erica Jar	erica.jar@buller.ac.nz
Canterbury	Matt Easterbrook	est@linwoodcollege.school.nz
Otago	Pru Casey	pru.casey@gmail.com
Southland	Lee Pirini	lee.pirini@southlandgirls.school.nz

SCICON 2016



HUTT CITY
10-13 JULY
scicon2016.org

Questions?
scicon2016@southevents.co.nz

Capital City Science Educators invites you to join us for "Earth-shattering Science!" in Wellington's beautiful Hutt Valley – the heartland of NZ Science...

KEY DATES

15 April - Earlybird registrations close

16 May - Call for presentations closed



Photo: Lloyd Homer (GNS)

Supported by Principal Sponsors:

