

## Nomination of Professor Jacqueline Rae Beggs as a Fellow of the Entomological Society of New Zealand

Jacqueline Rae Beggs (English, Scottish, Irish, and Ngāti Awa) was born in Palmerston North, schooled in Waiouru, Linden, Tawa, and eventually Rangitoto college where she attended the University of Auckland. Jacqueline completed a B. Sc. before moving to Nelson where she found work building nest boxes for kākā. Ecology was a passion and Jacqueline returned to research to complete a M. Sc. (1<sup>st</sup> class hon) studying the ecology of kākā in Nelson. Jacqueline's early research work on kākā and the impact of invasive wasps set the foundations for her future career and arguably her most important scientific contributions.

From 1992 to 2003 Jacqueline led the invasive wasp research programme at Landcare Research in Nelson. During this time, she juggled extensive work commitments, part-time PhD study and raising her two boys (Hamish and Russell). Having worked on invasive vespid wasps for over 30 years Jacqueline has studied multiple aspects of the beech honeydew ecosystem with a particular focus on the impacts of invasive species of *Vespula* and introduced mammalian predators. Authoring over 40 papers examining aspects of wasp invasions, this comprehensive life-time achievement includes the quantification of honeydew production by scale insects, population dynamics of wasps, and the many aspects of their impact on the beech ecosystem, particularly predation. Early work on biocontrol, particularly *Sphecoxenus vespary* was a strong focus of the work in the 1990s as Jacqueline and her team worked towards the elusive endgoal of reducing the ecological impacts of vespids. Recognized internationally for this work Jacqueline's research has contributed to the management of invasive wasps both here and internationally, particularly South America. Biosecurity is frequently at the core of Jacqueline's work, with understanding and preventing invasions to reduce the impact on our natural environment a common thread in both her personal research and that of her students.

Jacqueline has always supported women in science, researching gender-based issues throughout her career, including an auspicious 1980s paper in the NZ Entomologist entitled "Are wasps more likely to sting men than women". More recently Jacqueline contributed to an analysis of cultural and gender diversity within the New Zealand Ecological Society as part of a special issue. Indeed, Jacqueline describes the holistic approach of Mātauranga Māori as one of the reasons that she is drawn to ecology as a discipline. Jacqueline has advocated for both gender and cultural issues as part of public policy and within the media.

Jacqueline has been an active supporter of the Entomological Society. She has served as President of the society and helped organize conferences in Auckland. Her service to science and its application in New Zealand is both varied and distinguished, serving as ministerial appointees to the Biosecurity Ministerial Advisory Committee, as convener of Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour Panel of the Marsden Council, as well as chair of the Kākāpo recovery group for the Department of Conservation, co-Executive Director of Ngā Ara

Whetū UoA's research centre on Climate, Biodiversity and Society, and Director of Centre for Biodiversity and Biosecurity.

Jaqueline has published over 100 papers that have significantly advanced our understanding of the ecology of invertebrates and other fauna in New Zealand and afar. Her most enduring legacy will be her passion for teaching and the collective knowledge from her career that has been passed down to thousands of undergraduate students at the University of Auckland since 2003. She has supervised 21 PhD, 23 MSc and 3 BSc(hons) with 8 additional current students. Many graduates have presented their work at society conferences and the society is stronger for Jacqueline's mentorship with many taking positions of service within the society and other academic societies and institutions.

Outside of work Jacqueline has a passion for sailing. Introduced to boats by her parents Jacqueline learnt to 'drive outboard motors before cars' – apparently with interesting consequences. The sea has also influenced work, with Jacqueline working on penguins in Antarctica and various projects in the islands of the Hauraki Gulf. Jaqueline has a passion for promoting science through social media, however if you look hard enough you will also find colorful tales of her exploits aboard 'Fe Orca'.

In recognition of Jacqueline's enduring contribution to science (particularly entomology, ecology, and biosecurity) and to teaching, it is our pleasure to submit Jacqueline Rae Beggs to you for consideration by the executive council and broader membership for the title of Fellow of the Entomological Society of New Zealand - a most worthy nominee.

### **Nominators**

Stephen Pawson, PhD, Honorary Member of the Entomological Society of New Zealand, Assoc Professor of Forest Health and Biosecurity, School of Forestry, University of Canterbury.



Darren Ward, PhD, Senior Researcher – Entomology, Landcare Research, and Associate Professor, University of Auckland



Richard Toft, Principal Insect Ecologist, Entecol Ltd.



## Publication List

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