

## Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangi December 2022 Newsletter

Dear Member,

We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

My apologies for the absence of a November newsletter. Being away, and then computer problems, meant that it seemed November disappeared before one's eyes.

### Talks and events

It's now the end of the year and it was reasonably successful. We held for the first time in many years, a series of regular talks in Christchurch and while the attendance was not as great we had hoped, the podcast recordings have been well received. See below for the stats up to the end of September.

Episode 1: A multimodal digital assistant for a smart food processor	59
Episode 2: Keeping our borders safe	139
Episode 3: Heart stopping action	150
Episode 4: International spider adventures	30

Don't forget that you can hear them on Plains FM website:

<https://plainsfm.org.nz/Prog/ScienceAndSociety2022>

Last Monday's talk by Dr Gary Morrison, Head of Classics, University of Canterbury on **World War I and the ancient world** was the final one for this year and it was well attended. His coverage of the Bridge of Remembrance and the story it tells may leave many wanting to visit. Maybe we can arrange a field trip next year to look at its architecture, etc.?

Many thanks to Rob, Grant, Mike, and Krishna who arranged the talks and the zoom.

There will be talks again next year, but we will be reviewing the results from this year and the format might change.

Timaru only held three talks this year, with an average audience of about 20 per talk. This was down on previous years and again we will look at the results to see if there should be any changes. The last talk, by our own Cor Vink, saw a night visit to the local wetlands after the talk for look for spiders.



Photos taken by the South Canterbury Museum of Cor and some of those who came along to the wetlands.

### **Carbon dioxide monitor**

We purchased a CO<sub>2</sub> monitor earlier this year that can be borrowed by members and has been in regular use. If you'd like to borrow it, please contact us and we can arrange for you to pick it up. A guide to recommended CO<sub>2</sub> measurements can be found at <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/in-depth/470690/whose-breath-are-you-breathing>. All we ask in return is that you post your findings on either the branch Facebook page or Twitter.

### **RSNZ activities**

I attended the RSNZ Branches Forum in Wellington and discussed with the Otago, Hawkes Bay, and Wellington Branches some ideas that we can collaborate on, such as expanding the scope of our podcasts. It was helpful to see where the other branches are and there are things we will undertake next year that will help to build the Branch up again. Many thanks to the RSNZ Te Apārangi who hosted and funded the travel costs to the Forum.

I also went to the RSNZ Te Apārangi Research Honours Awards in Dunedin and spoke to some of the award recipients who may be willing to give us presentations on their work. This is something we will look at again in the new year.

### **Next year**

The Branch Council is already looking at the new year. We are planning a strategy meeting in February to look at many aspects of the Branch. This is important as we look to see if there are any changes needed to our constitution arising from the new Incorporated Societies Act. We will also be looking at who we are, who we want to serve, and what tangible benefits we can offer to members.

We will see the launch of a new Branch website early in the new year, and we are planning talks in Christchurch, Timaru, and perhaps also Ashburton.

With all these activities, we will be looking for members' feedback, so please do let us know if you have any ideas.

Our AGM has been set for the evening **Monday 27 March 2023**, so please keep that date free. We will be combining the AGM with a talk from John Campbell about Ernest Rutherford, which we have been trying to schedule since the sesquicentennial anniversary of his birth in 2021! Covid has scuppered our plans for this talk more than once, so we are really looking forward to finally seeing it.

Finally, before we close, I'd like to thank your Council for all their hard work and the help and support they have given me. They are all enthusiastic and want to build on the legacy the Branch has from its founders and its place in Canterbury's society. To all the speakers in Christchurch and Timaru, but most of all, to all of you, the members, thank you for your support.

You can keep updated on our Facebook page Canterbury RSNZ Branch or Twitter @CanterburyRSNZ.

If have any suggestions for speakers, field trips ideas, etc. please contact us. I am always willing to discuss anything regarding the Branch with you.

Season greetings to you all, keep safe and well over the coming weeks and we will see you in the new year.

Regards  
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...and finally, an announcement from our friends at the Entomological Society of New Zealand...

## **New Zealand Bug of the Year 2023**

Aotearoa is home to over 20,000 species of insects and spiders – and there are still more that need to be discovered! The [Entomological Society of New Zealand](#) wants to make sure YOU have the tools to discover the insects and spiders that are living all around you!

We have 24 nominees vying for NZ Bug of the Year. Learn more about the nominees by clicking on the image on [our website](#) or going to the [iNaturalist.nz Project Page](#) to find more info and images of each of the nominees. Then, follow (or initiate) campaigns for your favourites on social media (use #BugOfTheYear2023 and tag us @NZEntoSoc).

Voting opens 14 Nov 2022. Winner announced 14 Feb 2023.

More information here: <https://bugoftheyear.ento.org.nz/>