Phew, we made it! That was probably the collective thought going through the minds of the teaching staff last week - the end of most formal teaching for the year. Of course there is now the examination period to deal with, but last Friday had symbolic significance, as one particularly busy phase of the Department’s activities was successfully completed. It remains now to wish our students good luck for the examinations.

This week Micro-News profiles Yvonne King. Also, Sandy Smith has provided us with an Historical Profile of Professor Margaret Loutit, who retires from her position as Director of the University of Otago Research and Development Office early next year. The contributions that Margaret Loutit has made to Microbiology in particular and to this University in general are legendary. A great number of the students and staff who have passed through this Department are grateful to Margaret and John Loutit for the encouragement and friendship that they have extended. This item completes our current series about the past Professors in the Department of Microbiology at Otago.

Since we are now out of the regular semester period Micro-News will not necessarily be published on a weekly basis. In future we will wait until there seems to be sufficient material on hand to justify assembling a new issue.

**GOOD LUCK FOR THE EXAMS**

- John Tagg

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**Meetings this Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal Club</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12.10 pm</td>
<td>8th floor</td>
<td>Ross McDonald and Frank Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post grad colloquia</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4.15 pm</td>
<td>8th floor</td>
<td>Els Maas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Micro-News Flashes**

* 4th year students who have not yet collected their copy of the group photo should see John Tagg. The only catch is that you will have to listen to him while he lists some of the compelling reasons for joining the New Zealand Microbiological Society now. These include:

1. Joining now means you are listed as a new member in 1994, but will not have to pay subs again until the end of 1995.

2. Judith is preparing a special profile of new student members from Otago University to be published in the November edition of the NZMS Newsletter.

3. You must be a paid-up member for at least 12 months before being eligible for any awards to support attendance at NZMS conferences. So if you are possibly interested in attending the combined NZMS? ASM meeting in Christchurch in 1996 you should join now.

4. NZMS provides a forum for microbiological interactions within New Zealand. If you plan to work in Microbiology it is sensible to list membership of NZMS in your C.V. The Newsletter and attendance at some of the Annual meetings will keep you in touch with Microbiology Matters nationally.
5. We would like to demonstrate to the Australians when we meet with them in 1996 that our Society is in 'exponential growth phase'.

P.S. Others on the staff of the Department of Microbiology may also wish to renew their membership of NZMS. Application forms are available from John Tagg or Clive Ronson. Please support your Society.

NZMS NEEDS YOU

* Note that even though the formal seminar programme has now finished for the year the Journal Club and Post-grad Colloquia will be continuing for a few more weeks.

* Summer Vacation Bursary - Student required. Cathy Shave (Biology Co-ordinator) in Zoology Dept. has an 8-week bursary ($2400) for a student to review the Biology 111/112 teaching videos.

* Mallinckrodt Veterinary Ltd. (Upper Hutt) have a holiday project for a 3rd or 4th year student involving production of monoclonal antibodies. Applications close 30 October.

* Fiona has a Milazo 21-speed mountain bike for sale. Still under warranty. Includes helmet, lights, D-lock and water bottle. Price $550 (negotiable). See Fiona or leave message in Tagg lab.

* Don't forget to start planning now to be at the Departmental Party on November 4 in the Goblin Bar. See the Back Page for further information.

Quote of the Week

"Backward, turn backward o'Time in your flight,
And tell me just one thing I studied last night"

-Hobart Brown

THANK YOU

To all the 'Girls and Guys' from Stage 3 for the kindness and wonderful 'goodies'. All the very best of luck with Exams and have a great Xmas - Cheers, Hurene.

Special thanks also to Clinton for his thanks and gift. Good luck with your new venture at Med-School in Auckland next year - Cheers, Hurene.

Recent Publication


This is the much awaited paper which describes the diagnostic test for tuberculosis which was developed in the deer research laboratory in the late 80's. The paper gives the methodology behind the test and how the results are interpreted in order to generate the high sensitivity and specificity associated with the BTB.

The publishing of the paper should serve to disarm those critics who have dismissed the BTB as a methodology which had not been critically reviewed.
Margaret Loutit obtained both her BSc and MSc degrees from Adelaide University. Her early training was as a botanist, and she has retained a keen interest in plants and gardening. In 1955 she and her husband John left Australia to come to Dunedin, and so began an association with the University and the Department of Microbiology which has spanned a period of 40 years.

Margaret’s first decade in Dunedin was devoted to the rearing of their family of three young sons. However, during this period she still managed to find time to hold part-time appointments at the University and to complete a PhD degree. Her appointment to a full-time lectureship in microbiology in 1967 was followed by rapid promotion to a personal chair in 1982. She left the Department in 1990, taking up the position, initially part-time and more laterly full-time, as Director of the Research and Development office. I gather she will be retiring from this post at the end of 1994.

During her long association with the Department of Microbiology, Margaret contributed greatly to teaching, research and administration. She was a gifted and respected undergraduate teacher, known for her care and concern for students. As a postgraduate supervisor and teacher she was responsible for the training of a large number of young scientists who have gone on to make their mark in many different fields of microbiology.

In addition to her many other commitments, Margaret continued to run a productive research group, which focused on investigating problems in soil and water microbiology; she published more than fifty scientific publications in this field. Her early studies involved the effects of bacteria on the uptake of metals by plants. This lead on to further work in the role of bacteria in the transfer of metals through the food chain. More recent studies were centred on the survival of microorganisms in aquatic environments and their significance in assessing water quality and public health.

However, Margaret is probably best known for her enormous contribution to administration and management, both within the University and to many and various bodies outside of the University. It is here, that her energy, efficiency and organisational skills were most apparent.

Margaret made contributions in several important areas in the University. As a long standing member of the works committee, she was involved in many important aspects of campus planning and development. A second area, in which she made a notable input, was in fostering marine science, aquaculture research and Antarctic research. For many years she served as the Director of the Aquaculture Research Centre and as a member of the Portobello Laboratory Management Committee. A third area in which she made a very considerable contribution was in the establishment of advising and consulting services in the University. In particular, she played a major part in the setting up of UNIVORD, and the Research and Development Office, which she has continued to direct with tireless energy and great expertise.

Margaret has also acted as a consultant, and served with great distinction on many committees and bodies outside of the University; e.g. water resource and biosphere management, conservation, technology and human resources management. In addition, she was also active as a member of the executive of the New Zealand Microbiological Society, having served terms on the committee, and as vice-president and president.

In the international arena, Margaret was a long serving member of the executive of the Bacteriology Division of the International Union of Microbiological Societies, having at one time or another, held the positions of secretary-treasurer, vice-president and president. She has also been an active member of the International Committee on Microbial Ecology and has served terms as both secretary and chairman. As such, she was responsible for the inaugural International Congress in Microbial Ecology held in Dunedin in 1987.

In a brief sketch like this it is not possible to do justice to the tremendous contributions Margaret has made to both the Department of Microbiology and to the University. It is hard to imagine Margaret settling into the quiet life of retirement – needless to say she will continue to serve on national bodies and with John to visit their two eldest children in Australia and the United States. -Sandy Smith
CONGRATULATIONS

To Ross MacDonald and Kirsty Merriman. Yep, the rumours are true - one of Dunedin’s most eligible is no longer on the market. The lovely couple went public about their engagement during Kirsty’s recent visit to ‘Duno’s’. The Dairy Board were hoping this may reduce their phone bill. However, the big day isn’t until August 12 next year, so they may be out of luck! Good Luck for the future and we hope the pressure of having to finish your thesis by mid-95 isn’t too great Rosco!

-Bart

4th Floor News

The last meeting for the year of the Otago Medical School Research Society was a great success.

Both Howie Christian and Anthony Thomson gave stirring talks and only narrowly missed out on the young researchers award ($100) to Rebecca Grainger from Pathology. Once we all got over the disappointment that Howie wouldn’t be shouting the drinks we partook of the free food and drink supplied afterwards. For those of you who are completing some work or have interesting material that doesn’t quite make the publication grade, this is an excellent forum.

It would appear that Sam Hou’s partner (Lisa) has arrived safely in Dunedin as we haven’t seen Sam since.....

-G.B.

FROM ‘THE DID YOU KNOW?’ FILE

Work has started on the “swipe” card system for the front door and you will see Graham in red overalls, from Security Specialists, in and out of ducts as he runs the cables etc. The entrance to Science 3 building is being done at the same time.

The latest version of the key saga is out and although you are probably fed up deciphering the codes it is important we get it right. I think its right but do you?

We are the last building on campus with Union locks and Works and Services and the Fire Department are "encouraging" us to change. The lockwood system is apparently much better.

We will have some new microscopes available this week to be evaluated for undergraduate teaching (there is a remote chance we may get some money). If you have an interest in checking them out they will be set up in the 2nd floor store room. There is an assessment sheet that you can fill in if you wish.

-BT.

Mike’s Back Home

Some preliminary quotes - more next issue of Micro-News!

"Safe home, no more breathing canned swamp-air. Had been on my feet 45 hours (incl. 28 h flying time) since woke up at Ft L."

And regarding the conference...

"We began in an atmosphere of determined, if confused, goodwill, Nancy circulating with a roving microphone like a TV compere through a studio audience. The incomprehension of her aims quickly became apparent and reached a head with two earnest but fuddled European delegates who clearly had not cracked some semantic barrier, since one thought it was a forum for data presentation and the other a sort of super-group-therapy meeting."

A.N.Z.M.E.
Personal Profile
- Yvonne King.

Although born in Palmerston North as a war baby (year indefinite) I have spent the rest of my life in Dunedin. I grew up in an extended family of grandmother, parents and three younger sisters and early memories encompass long idyllic summers spent at the family cribs. When I first started school it was the trams that transported me there and I think I must have been a "bit cute" in those days because I could never persuade the conductors to accept my penny fare. Having acquired a conscience along with a Catholic education made it necessary for me to slip the penny into the honesty box on the way out.

I always consider myself well organized and am a firm believer in forward planning but sometimes there are glitches in between, so after a 3 year academic course at St.Philomenas I became a clerk on leaving school. This was in the days of full employment when you chose your job, applied for it and started next week. How things have changed.

My forward planning at this stage included frantically saving for my big OE and my first car-- the OE came in 1988 and my first and only car in 1990. In between the planning and the realisation I married, raised three children and had a series of part-time "international" jobs like working for a Chinese greengrocer and becoming caretaker for the Jewish synagogue in Dunedin.

In 1974 I joined the Virus Lab. as a part-time lab assistant and at first most of my day was spent cleaning glassware, scrubbing out 1,000s of rusty metal mouse cages, feeding, bleeding and eventually dissecting their inhabitants and manually turning fertile eggs in the incubator five days a week. How the embryos survived the weekends unturned I don’t know. The switch to full-time work in 1977 coincided with the arrival of disposable plasticware and the scaling down of the animal work, so I had lots more time to do real lab work and to continue my education.

I enrolled in a 2 year part-time Polytech course in Animal Science and Technology and enjoyed it so much I decided to do my NZCS starting with UE English as I hadn't got that far earlier.

Another of those glitches occurred then as I discovered anyone over 21 can apply for admission to University so the NZCS, 7 part-time years later, turned out to be a B.A. in English with a smattering of History and Philosophy thrown in.

After spending many long, cold winters transporting and encouraging my sons with their soccer I decided if you can't beat them join them was the best idea and at age 36 joined the soccer scene and spent the next 10 years as a fullback being encouraged and supported by all my children. Nowadays I'm a bit older and wiser about contact sports and have opted for competitive cycling instead, much less damaging to the body, except for being knocked off my bike by a hit and run driver and also by a student playing rugby in the middle of Castle St. I was never a great appreciator of rugby even before that.

My interest in cycling was kindled during an eight day tour from Westport to Haast last year with Clubs & Socs. This increased my fitness and prompted me to enter the Masters Games in February and determined to set myself a real challenge I entered the 3 day 345 km race from Timaru, via everywhere, to Dunedin. A gold medal for this and another for the 25km sprint were good rewards for all the serious training and the not-so-serious social side to the games.

My big OE, even though 25 years late, was aided by my long service leave in 1988 and I spent 9 weeks exploring and enjoying lots of Europe. I was just as spellbound and probably a lot more appreciative than I would have been at 19. If I wasn't a lab technician I would like to work for an airline or on assignment for National Geographic. Dreams, eh!!
Dr Luming Ma joined the Waste Technology Research Centre on 3 October 1994 and will stay until 15 December 1994 as a research engineer, sponsored by the United Nations Biotechnology Action Council. Luming chose the WTRC at U of Otago to study modern biotechniques for toxic waste treatment. He received his PhD in engineering science from Tongji University in 1988 and is now Ass. Professor in Environmental Science and Engineering at the East China Technical University of Chemical Technology in Shanghai and Associate Dean of Science in his department.

Luming is a very experienced engineer, was research leader of 6 research programmes for the Shanghai Comittee for Science and Technology and the Shanghai Petrochemical Complex and has 14 publications in highly recognized chinese environmental journals. His university is among the 36 great universities in China.

In addition to scientific interests that brought him to New Zealand Luming is interested in foreign languages (english and german), speaks fluently german and certainly would like to improve his knowledge of the english language. We all wish him a pleasant stay in our department.

- J.T.

Happy Birthday
Els Maas  20 October

Jim Kalmakoff has been doodling some potential logos for the Newsletter.
Departmental Party

The Party is to be organised by the 4th and 5th Floor

When: 4th November at 5.15 p.m. onwards
Where: Goblin Bar, down stairs in the Union
Theme: Fairies, Goblins anything mystical or mythical

Competitions will be held including:

Air Hockey
Pinball
Soccer
Pool
Boat Race
Others??

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Be there or be square

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