
CURRICULUM VITAE

Marleen Baling

PERSONAL DETAILS

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Tel (W): 09 414 0800 ext 41515
Nationality: Malaysian citizen, New Zealand Permanent Resident.

PERSONAL OBJECTIVE

I am committed to expand my ability to work in a variety circumstances, both laboratory and fieldwork in animal ecology. I like to be challenged in my work and am enthusiastic on conducting and collaborating projects with other colleagues to produce good scientific research in conservation and management, particularly on New Zealand reptiles and birds.

SKILLS

I am capable of working either alone or part of a group, and have experience working in the forest, coastal and sand dunes, particularly in New Zealand and Australia. During these times, I have worked on a variety of species, from common to endangered species, small invertebrates, to reptiles and large birds such as kiwi. I have a strong ethic during animal capture and handling and am continuously attentive to their wellbeing. I also have experienced working in general and molecular biology laboratories and have good understanding of how they function, including safety and hazard protocols. I have good organisation and computing skills, and am very capable of implementing new systems for managing information and resources. My strong scientific background has led me to understand the need and effort to produce good quality research in a group.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

2001 - 2003 Masters of Science in Biology, First Class Honours.
The University of Auckland, New Zealand.
Thesis title: *Habitat preference, behaviour and population genetic structure of the chevron skink.*

1998 - 2000. Bachelor of Science in Biology.
The University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Outdoor First Aid Certificate 2001-current
Wildlife First Aid Course 2006
Certified to change kiwi transmitters
New Zealand Driver's License
Malaysian Driver's License

EXPERIENCES

EMPLOYMENT

- 2006 - current: **Research technician, Massey University.**
Managing of equipment, offices, laboratory and captive reptile facility at Albany Campus.
Managing of c. 25 postgraduate students in laboratory and field.
Field and laboratory assistance for 5 academic staff.
Principal investigator in research project: shore skink colouration.
Maintenance of the research group website.
Plan and assist in applications for administrative and research permits.
Responsible for research group budgeting and item purchasing.
- 2008: **Casual ecology contractor, Te Ngahere.**
Organising, conducting and report writing for lizard survey at property section in Rodney District.
Lizard rescue at property section in Rodney District.
- 2005 - 2007: **Casual ecology contractor, Auckland Regional Council.**
Rodent monitoring in four Auckland Regional parks.
Reptile monitoring at Tawharanui Regional Park.
Bird survey transect setup at Hunua Ranges.
Data analysis for reptile monitoring at Tawharanui Regional Park.
Data analyses for project reports on High Conservation Value areas.
- 2005 - 2006: **Research and technical assistant, Massey University.**
Designing and establishing a captive reptile facility at Albany Campus.
Organising and planning of reptile translocation and animal ethics permits.
Assisting staff and postgraduate students in the field.
Training postgraduate students in the laboratory.
Creating and maintaining the research group website.
Administration and maintenance of field gear.
- 2003 - 2005: **Contract research associate, The University of Auckland.**
Main researcher in laboratory/ genetic work.
Collecting tissue samples from wild tern populations in two countries.
Administrative work including fund budgeting, national and international research permit applications, laboratory work planning and research report.
- 2001 - 03, 2005: **Part-time computer/ technical support, The University of Auckland.**
Assisting undergraduate students with computer tasks and problems
General computer maintenance
- 2001 - 2002: **Undergraduate teaching demonstrator, The University of Auckland.**
Assisting and teaching students in undergraduate biology laboratory courses
Assisting and teaching students in biology fieldwork courses
- 2000 - 2002: **Part-time technical assistant, The University of Auckland.**
Laboratory equipment and consumables preparation for the Protein Structure and Function research laboratory at the Gene Technology Group
- 2000 - 2001: **Summer contract as technical assistant, Landcare Research.**
Sorting and storing invertebrate samples
Collecting invertebrate samples in the field
Data entry of sample results
- 1999 - 2001: **Part-time technical assistant, The University of Auckland.**
Laboratory preparation for undergraduate courses
Cleaning and storing laboratory equipment

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCES

- 2002 - current: **Principal investigator/ collaborated** for projects:
- Capturing, holding and translocation of ornate skinks (*Cyclodina ornata*) from Hen and Chicken Islands to Limestone-Matakohe Island.
 - Survey for green gecko (*Naultinus elegans*) on Tiritiri Matangi Island.
 - Capturing, holding and translocation of shore skinks (*Oligosoma smithi*) from Mimiwhangata to Limestone-Matakohe Island.

- Monitoring of translocated shore skinks (*Oligosoma smithi*) on Tiritiri Matangi Island, Motuora Island and Tawharanui Regional Park.
- Capturing, holding and translocation of Duvaucel's gecko (*Hoplodactylus duvauceli*) from Korapuki Island and shore skink from Tawharanui Regional Park translocation to Tiritiri Matangi Island, Motuora Island and into captivity.
- Pre-translocation survey, blood sampling and disease screening in existing reptile populations on Tiritiri Matangi Island and Motuora Island.
- Set up of rodent tracking tunnels in Waitakere Ranges, Hunua Ranges and Atuanui.
- Reptile survey at Tawharanui Regional Park for three seasons.
- Translocation of rescued geckos to Tawharanui Regional Park.
- Survey, capture and feather sampling of fairy terns (*Sterna neries* spp.) in southern New Caledonia and four states in Australia.
- Survey, capture and tissue sampling of copper (*C. acnea*) and ornate (*C. ornata*) skinks on Great Barrier Island (MSc project).
- Set up captive enclosures and behavioural observation of endangered chevron skink (*Oligosoma homanotum*) at Auckland Zoological Park (MSc project).

2000 - current: **Volunteered/ assisted** in:

- Mistnetting (> 200 birds), banding, taking morphological measurements, blood and feather sampling of various native birds (e.g. grey warbler, fantail, hihi, silvereye, saddleback, bellbird, North Island robin, kingfisher, red-fronted parakeets, tui, morepork) and introduced birds (e.g. sparrows, chaffinch, magpie, blackbird) at various locations in New Zealand (e.g. Albany, Tawharanui Regional Park, Tiritiri Matangi Island, Little Barrier Island) and Mexico (Chamela Biosphere Reserve).
- Reptile surveys at Motuora Island, Tawharanui Regional Park, Shakespeare Regional Park, Little Barrier Island, Whale/ Motuohora Island for two seasons and Rodney District.
- Mistnetting and capturing endangered hihi (*Notiomystis cincta*) for translocation from Tiritiri Matangi Island to ARC in the Park (group leader).
- Monitoring of radio-transmitted endangered orange-fronted parakeets (*Cyanoramphus malherbi*) on Maud Island.
- Taking photos of endangered grand skink (*Oligosoma grande*) and endangered otago skink (*Oligosoma otagensis*) for ID at Macreas Flat, Dunedin.
- Survey and monitoring for endangered chevron skink on Great Barrier Island by Department of Conservation staff.
- Surveying, capturing, taking muscle and blood samples, and monitoring of radio-transmitted Duvaucel's gecko on Tiritiri Matangi Island, Motuora Island, Korapuki Island and Ohinau Island.
- Surveying, capturing and blood sampling of tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*) on Tiritiri Matangi Island and Whale/Motouhora Island (capture only).
- Survey, capturing, measuring tracking and changing radio-transmitters on North Island brown kiwi (*Apteryx australis*) on Ponui Island.
- Hochstetter's frog (*Licopelma hochstetteri*) survey in the Hunua Ranges and Waitakere Ranges.
- Distance transect survey on land and sea; nest surveys; capturing, changing and monitoring radio-transmitted, and GPDs on little blue penguins (*Eudyptula minor*) on Tiritiri Matangi Island, Leigh Marine Reserve (survey only), and Tawharanui Regional Park (survey only).
- Survey and behavioural observations of North Island tomtits (*Petroica macrocephala*) in the Hunua Ranges, grey warbler (*Gerygone igata*) nests at Tawharanui Regional Park, and red-fronted parakeet (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*) nests at Tiritiri Matangi Island.
- Capturing and banding of caspian tern (*Sterna caspia*) and crested tern (*Sterna bergii*) chicks for the Australian Wader Study Group in Victoria, Australia.
- Vegetation survey for potential native bat roost on Tiritiri Matangi Island.
- Invertebrate sampling at Waitakere Ranges.

OTHER WORK/ EXPERIENCES

- Committee council member of Society for Research on Amphibians and Reptiles in New Zealand (SRARNZ).
- Presented public talks at the New Zealand Forest and Bird Society meeting (2008), New Zealand Herpetological Society Meeting (2007) and the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (OSNZ) meeting (2006).

- Laboratory experience includes maintenance, PCR and sequencing, using both mtDNA and microsatellite loci.
- Previous Ecology Laboratory webmaster (University of Auckland).
- Committee member for the New Zealand Ecological Society Conference 2003 held in Auckland: aided in organising the student day and also a role as technical support during the conference days.
- Co-supervisor to an undergraduate student working under the Science Department (the University of Auckland) summer studentship in 2003. Contributions included idea of a project and in offering advice in undertaking it.
- Guest student presentation in an undergraduate ecology course (BIOSCI 394) in 2002, 2003 & 2004.
- Invigilator for several undergraduate biology tests between years 2001 - 2003.
- Approximately 10 years experience in doing research of scientific literature sources, including electronic, books, journals and by personal communications.

COMPUTER EXPERIENCES

- Excellent knowledge on using and maintaining both *IBM/PC* and *Macintosh* computer and peripherals.
- Good level of understanding on basic softwares for both types of computers including database, word processors, analytical softwares (e.g. *MS Office v98-2003*, *OpenOffice*, *TextEdit*, *Endnote v4-10*); internet navigation (*Internet Explorer*, *Netscape Navigator*, *Safari*, *Mozilla*) and Adobe programmes (*Adobe Reader v4-7*, *Adobe Photoshop v7*, *Adobe Illustrator*).
- Good level of understanding on specialised software for data/literature collection (Biological databases, *Boxcar Pro*, *SequencherTM 3.1.1*, *310 GeneScan 3.1*); statistical analysis (*Statistica 6.0*, *Arlequin*, *DnaSP 4.0*, *TreeView*, *SAS*, *R*, *C+*) and web design (*Macromedia Dreamweaver MX*, *Netscape Composer*, *MS Frontpage*).

PUBLICATIONS/ REPORTS/ MEDIA ARTICLES

- Baling M**, Brunton DH, Jeffries D & Barré N (**accepted**). Fairy Tern (*Sterna nereis*) breeding success on two islands in southern New Caledonia 2004. *Emu*.
- Baling M**, Brunton DH & Jeffries D (**accepted**). Marine bird survey of islands in the Southern Lagoon, New Caledonia. *Notornis*.
- Baling M** 2008. The search for the elusive skinks. *Dawn Chorus*.
- Baling M**, Ji W, & Brunton DH 2007. Categorising shore skink pattern at Tawharanui Regional Park (abstract only). *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 34: 259-272.
- Ji W, **Baling M**, Barry M, van Winkel D, Wedding C, Barr B & Brunton DH 2007. Translocation of Duvaucel's gecko and shore skinks to Tiritiri Matangi Island, Motuora Island and Massey University Captive Breeding Facility (abstract only). *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 34: 259-272.
- Baling M** 2007. Duvaucel's gecko and shore skink translocation to Motuora and Tiritiri Matangi Islands. *Moko* June: 9-10.
- Baling M** & Brunton D 2005. Conservation genetics of the New Zealand fairy tern (*Sterna nereis davisae*). Unpublished report to the Auckland Conservancy, *Department of Conservation*. 32 pp.
- Baling M** 2005. A fairy-terning tale. *South Coast Shorebird Recovery Newsletter: Sharing the shoreline*. April 2005: 8.
- Baling M** 2004. Microhabitat use by the endangered chevron skink (*Oligosoma homalonotum*) in captivity: applications to the wild (abstract only). *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 31: 91 -111
- Baling M** 2004. Population genetic structure of the ornate (*Cyclodina ornata*) and copper (*C. aenea*) on Great Barrier Island: applications to the endangered chevron skinks (*Oligosoma homalonotum*) (abstract only). *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 31: 91 -111
- Baling M** 2002. Rat Chat Column. *Barrier Bulletin*. 356: 7.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

- 2008: **New Zealand Ecological Society Conference**, Auckland, New Zealand.
Talk presentation.

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- 2007: **Australian Society for Herpetology conference** in Albany, Western Australia. Talk presentation.
- 2007: **Conserv-Vision: The next 50 years** (Celebrating 20 years of Department of Conservation) in Hamilton, New Zealand.
- 2007: **Biennial Conference SRARNZ** (Society for Research on Amphibians and Reptiles in New Zealand) in Dunedin, New Zealand. Poster presentation.
- 2006: **Joint New Zealand Ecological Society and Ecological Society of Australia**, Wellington, New Zealand. Talk presentation.
- 2005: **The Annual Society for Conservation Biology Conference 2005** in Brasilia, Brazil. Poster presentation.
- 2005: **The joint ASH/SRARNZ/FiSH Conference** in Gold Coast, Australia.
- 2003: **Biennial Conference SRARNZ** in Whakatane, New Zealand. Poster and talk presentations.
- 2003: **New Zealand Ecological Society Conference** in Auckland, New Zealand, November. Talk presentation.
- 2002: **Ecology Conference 2002** in Cairns, Australia (Joint New Zealand Ecological Society & the Ecological Society of Australia). Poster presentation.
- 2001: **New Zealand Ecological Society Conference** in Christchurch, New Zealand. Poster presentation.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Ornithological Society of New Zealand (OSNZ): 2006 - current
New Zealand Herpetological Society (NZHS): 2004 - current
Supporter of Little Barrier Island: 2004 - current
Society for Research on Amphibians and Reptiles in NZ (SRARNZ): 2003 - current
Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR): 2002 - 2004, current
New Zealand Ecological Society (NZES): 2001 - current
Society for Conservation Biology (SCB): 2005 - 2007

LANGUAGES

English Language: Fluent in both spoken and written
Bahasa Melayu (Malay Language): Fluent in both spoken and written
Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian Language): Good understanding
Chinese Language (Dialect: Mandarin, Cantonese, Fuchow, Hakka): Moderate understanding
Maori Language: General understanding