

## LENScience Senior Biology Seminar Series Teacher Update Number 9 – 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2010

In this issue:

- Welcome to new Schools
- Seminar 6 next week
- Christchurch Video Conference

### Welcome to new schools

The LENScience Connect community continues to grow. We have now broken the 100 schools mark, with 101 schools involved in the seminar series. Welcome to the latest schools to join us:

- Marlborough Boys College
- Waikato Diocesan School for Girls
- Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu



### Seminar 6 next week: Harnessing Biodiversity



Next week's seminar is a little different from our previous seminars; for a start there's no DNA or biotechnology involved. This seminar looks at the range of services that ecosystems provide to support human society, and the importance of biodiversity in supporting ecosystems in the provision of these services. While this is based on biological concepts covered in Year 12, the thinking required is at a Year 13 level.

Like all of the seminars, the students need to integrate what they have learnt about ecosystems and ecosystem processes in Year 12 and use this understanding to analyse the context presented in the seminar—increasing biodiversity in ecosystems. We also picked this context for a seminar because ecology is one of the two key biological concepts specifically mentioned in the Scholarship Biology standard: “The student will analyse biological situations in terms of ecological and evolutionary principles and demonstrate integration of biological knowledge and skills”.

### Christchurch Video Conference

The presenter for the next seminar, Steve Wratten, is from Lincoln University, so we are going to video conference with students from Christchurch schools at the end of the seminar. Christchurch teachers: there is limited space in the seminar room that will be used for the video conference, so if you would like your students to be in the audience, please book a place with Rachel Wright email: [rachel.wright@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:rachel.wright@canterbury.ac.nz). We're looking forward to meeting some of our many Christchurch based participants by video conference and to hearing their questions.