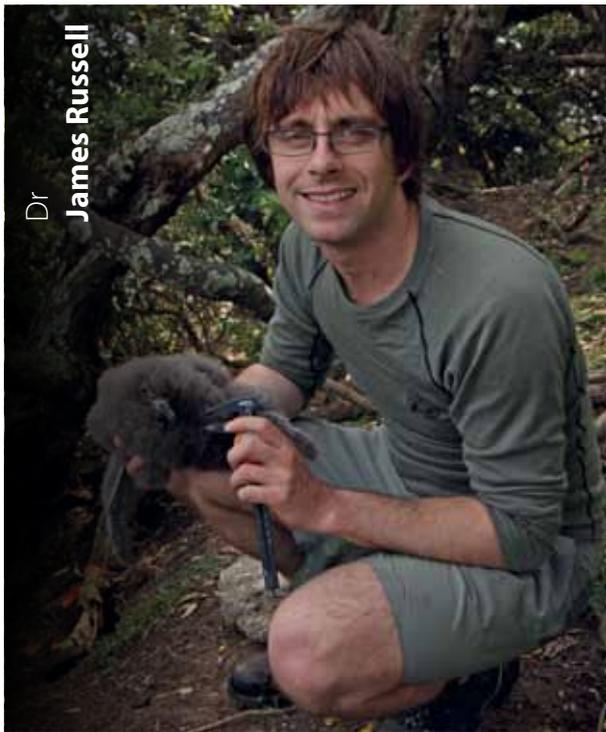




ALLAN WILSON CENTRE

free public talk at the
**Lawson Field
Theatre**

Is New Zealand the world's eradication hotspot?



New Zealand has a proud and enviable track record in eradication of invasive species. In 2014 we celebrate 50 years of rodent eradications (Norway rats from Maria Island in the Hauraki Gulf), and in 2015 we celebrate 100 years of ungulate eradications (goats from South East Island in The Chathams). But just how far have we come with eradications, how much further is there to go and how do we stack up against our international counterparts? Attitudes to pests and their control are playing an ever more important role in conservation decision-making.

In 1964, 0.5% of New Zealand's offshore island area (i.e. excluding the principal North and South Islands) was free of introduced mammalian predators. In the fifty years following we have increased that mammal-free island area to 10%, by eradication or natural die-off of mammals from over 100 islands (about a third of New Zealand's offshore islands).

The challenge is now pest management on inhabited islands. Recent research suggests island conservation will need to focus

on larger islands to mitigate the threat of climate change. On the North (Te Ika a Maui) and South (Te Wai Pounamu) islands some level of invasive mammal management occurs over 45% of land area. However, intensive management of invasive mammals to zero density, particularly through predator-proof fences, only currently occurs across 0.25% of both islands (56 eco-sanctuaries).

Beyond mammals, exciting advances in eradication of other species are also emerging. As for mammals, these advances are based on a solid scientific foundation of understanding the population biology of the target species to optimise control timing and methods. Bird and plant eradications have been recorded, while ant eradication is on the horizon. However, much more work is required on control and eradication of the whole suite of highly invasive species in New Zealand.

Join us at the Lawson Field Lecture Theatre, Gisborne, Thursday 11 September, 7-8pm
(preceded by drinks at 6.30pm). Email: awc-lectures@massey.ac.nz RSVP 05 September.