



**Zoological  
Society**  
of Auckland Est. 1929

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**ZOO**

# And the world's largest temperate lizard fauna is.....New Zealand

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June**  
**6:30pm start**

Grasslands Lecture Theatre, Auckland Zoo  
Entrance is to the left of the Zoo Shop, doors open 6:10pm

By David Towns  
AUT

New Zealand has a huge fauna of lizards with around 100 species recognised. No other temperate landmass has a fauna this large. Lizards played a prominent role in the Maori world, but were poorly appreciated by early Europeans and legal protection was not provided until 1980. Over 80% of the fauna is now regarded as threatened or at risk. This talk will briefly introduce the fauna, give examples of species where conservation actions have been effective, and describe some of the difficulties and potential solutions over the long term.

David Towns is a Research Associate at the Department of Conservation and Adjunct Professor of Applied Conservation at Auckland University of Technology. He has been involved in the ecology and conservation of New Zealand lizards since the early 1970s.



**\$10** General admission  
**\$5** Concession  
**Free entry** for ZSA  
members & zoo staff