

N R E S i



"Our environment is our future"

## RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

### Dr. Anna Thompson

Department of Tourism / Centre for Recreation Research  
University of Otago, New Zealand



**Friday**  
**Sept 24, 2010**

**3:30 - 4:30**

**LECTURE THEATRE**

**7 - 150**

## CONSERVATION PARKS: lands of opportunity for families in the outdoors of Aotearoa, New Zealand

Dr Anna Thompson (nee Carr) is a senior lecturer in the Department of Tourism. She has worked at Egmont, Tongariro and Aoraki/Mt Cook National Parks with Lands and Survey and then the Department of Conservation. Anna has also been co-owner/operator of two adventure tourism companies. She sits on the NZ Mountain Safety Council National Research Committee, National Ecotourism Advisory Committee and is a director of Te Ana Whakairo (Ngai Tahu Maori Rock Art Centre Trust). Anna is also co-director of the University of Otago's Centre for Recreation Research (<http://www.crr.otago.ac.nz>). The centre aims to develop theoretical and practical knowledge about commercial and non-commercial outdoor recreation in rural, urban and natural areas, both in New Zealand and overseas.

Anna has published in the fields of eco tourism, adventure tourism, entrepreneurship and visitor interpretation. Her PhD examined the management of visitors' experiences of cultural values for landscapes in New Zealand, with a focus on integrating cultural values within interpretation. From 1999 to 2002 Anna worked on a nationwide FRST funded project investigating *Ecotourism in New Zealand: profiling visitors to New Zealand ecotourism operations*. Recent externally funded work includes research for the Department of Conservation in the Hakatere, Ahuriri and Ruataniwha Conservation Parks. With a number of collaborators Anna has also received SPARC funding for two projects - 'Family preferences, experiences and benefits associated with outdoor in Aotearoa' and 'Immigrants and the Outdoors'.