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**Marj Davis Scholarship - Conditions**

Established in 2018, this scholarship commemorates Marj Davis, an active member of Birds NZ for over fifty years, whose generous bequest on her death in 2011 has enabled the Canterbury Branch to fund the scholarship. Marj had a keen interest in research, particularly in relation to waders, contributed to *Notornis* and was branch Librarian for many years.

One Marj Davis Scholarship may be awarded annually and shall have a maximum value of $1,500 (One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) only. The scholarship is intended to provide financial support to a student who is studying full time for a Masters or PhD degree and is conducting research in ornithology. To be eligible, applicants must either be studying at Canterbury or Lincoln Universities or studying at another New Zealand tertiary institution having previously lived in Canterbury/West Coast for a minimum of three years.

Eligible research projects must clearly be of benefit to ornithology in New Zealand and to New Zealand birds. Preference will be given to proposals for ornithological research that are expected to contribute to a greater knowledge of birds in the Canterbury/ West Coast region. The scholarship may be applied at the discretion of the successful student to provide financial support for field work, study-related travel, data analysis, reporting and living expenses (or any combination of these). The scholarship will not support attendance at conferences.

Applications will be reviewed and the successful applicant selected by a panel comprising a subcommittee of the Canterbury Branch committee together with at least one other person who has a PhD in a relevant scientific discipline and is a member of the society. In selecting an applicant, the panel shall take into account academic merit and other scholarships and bursaries held by the applicant. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate that they have a minimum of two years of experience with ornithology in New Zealand. All applicants must be current members of Birds NZ at the time of submission of an application. If a Birds NZ subscription is overdue, then a student is not eligible for consideration for the scholarship.

The successful student awarded will be eligible to accept funding from other sources. The Marj Davis Scholarship will not be awarded in the event that there are no suitable applicants and it shall only be awarded once to any one person.

Within 12 months of receiving the scholarship, the successful student must provide a short summary report on the project, suitable for publication in *Birds New Zealand* (max. 1 page). The student will be encouraged to publish the results of the research in a paper in *Notornis.*

Applicants shall fill in the application form and attach a project outline (max. 2 pages) that sets out the objectives and what is expected to be achieved from the study, the location, a clear description of the proposed research methodology and reporting, a proposed budget and a timeframe for the study. Applicants should enclose their *curriculum vitae,* evidence for accepted enrolment, and a reference from their supervisor.

Applications open **1 February** and should be made no later than **30 March** in the year when the scholarship will be awarded. Applications should be emailed to the Canterbury Regional Representative [birds.canterbury@birdsnz.org.nz](mailto:birds.canterbury@birdsnz.org.nz). Applications will be acknowledged by email. Further information is available at [www.birdsnz.org.nz/funding/marj-davis-scholarship/](http://www.birdsnz.org.nz/funding/marj-davis-scholarship/)



**Marj Davis Scholarship - Application**

**Contact details**

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| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Phone |  |
| Affiliation and contact address |  |

**Project Details**

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| --- | --- |
| Project title |  |
| Institution and degree programme |  |
| How far through the project are you? |  |
| Who are your supervisors? |  |
| Do you hold any other scholarships or bursaries? |  |
| Have you applied for any other Birds NZ funding? |  |

Please attach:

* A project outline that sets out the objectives and what is expected to be achieved from the study, the location of proposed research, a description of the proposed research methodology (including reporting), a proposed budget and a timeframe for the studies.
* Evidence for accepted enrolment.
* A short *curriculum vitae.*
* A reference from your supervisor.

Please email your completed application to the Canterbury Regional Representative: [birds.canterbury@birdsnz.org.nz](mailto:birds.canterbury@birdsnz.org.nz) by **30 March.** *Amended / June 2025*