In 2012 staff and students at the Learning, Behaviour and Welfare Research Unit involved in research with animals met weekly as a group both to discuss ongoing research and for formal research presentations. Research students met with their supervisors once per week for individual supervision.

In 2012 research was undertaken with humans, dogs, hens and possums. Research topics included timing, behavioural economics, choice and preference, mathematical principles of reinforcement, and the concept of the operant.

2012 was a productive year for the Learning, Behaviour and Welfare Research Unit. Seven students completed their Masters Theses in 2012. Twelve students who were undertaking their masters theses research in 2012 continued into 2013 and eight students continued working on their PhD research into 2013. Members of this Unit had eleven papers accepted in peer-reviewed journals and they were involved in twenty-seven conference presentations. The details of this work and the names of students involved are given below.

Staff actively involved in the unit in 2012 were Assoc Prof Bizo, Prof Foster, Dr McEwan and Dr Sargisson. Dr Starkey continued to contribute to the supervision of research students in the Unit.

**Publications**

Doolan, K. E., & Bizo, L. A. (*in press*) Reinforced behavioural variability in humans. *Psychological Record*


Conference presentations


Goldsmith, M., Foster T M. & James, McEwan J. Choosing to choose. Poster presented at the 9th annual convention of the New Zealand Association for Behaviour Analysis, Wellington, August 2012.


Jackson, S. M. K., Foster, T. M., McEwan, J. S., & Bizo, L. A. *Can type of maintenance diet act as an establishing operation to change demand for reinforcers with hens?* Poster
presented at the 37th annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis, Seattle, May 2012.


Noorland, J. Foster, M. T., & Messick, E. Errorless compliance training with children with special needs in New Zealand. Presented at the 37th annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis, Seattle, May 2012.


Stuart, S., Bizo, L., & McEwan, J. *Effects of a Delay to Reinforcement and Inter-trial Interval on Fixed-Ratio Schedule Performance.* Poster presented at the 9th annual convention of the New Zealand Association for Behaviour Analysis, Wellington, August 2012.


**Grants**

Sargisson, R. J. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Waikato, grant in the amount of $8,651.00 to support research project titled Strengths and Needs in the Early Years 2012
PhD Students in 2012 and ongoing into 2013

Clare Browne - Learning and delayed reinforcement with dogs
Kristie Cameron – Taste Preferences of the Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus Vulpecula*)
Kathleen Doolan - Operant Variability and Sequence Learning
Surrey Jackson - An Investigation into Establishing (Motivating) Operations
Kitt Kong - An Analysis of the Impact of Reinforcement on Behaviour Variability
Joshua Levine – The effects of rate building on retention with hens
Leanne Neshausen - Schedules of Reinforcement: Effects on Behaviour
Morton Osborne - An examination of teacher – pupil interactions in the classroom
Louisa Salmon – Bullying and Resilience (Student enrolled at Southern Cross University – Bizo holds an adjunct Senior Lecturer Position there and is a co-supervisor)

Master Thesis Students - completed in 2012

Sarah Lord - Dog Behaviour Effects of Delay to Reinforcement
Lauren Haylee Scafturis - Signalled delay to reinforcement in delayed matching to sample
Mark. McHugh - Determinants of timing performance on the peak procedure'.
Krystal Staples - The Role of Differential Outcomes on Gambling Behaviour
Ian Raymond Cronin - Possum Food Preferences Under Progressive-Ratio and Concurrent-Schedules of Reinforcement.
Toby Gwynne Campbell - Effect of Response rates on Non-Distracted and distracted conditional discrimination performance
Maree Cotton - An investigation of Catania's concept of the operant.

Masters Thesis students - ongoing into 2013

Louise Hay
Karmen Ngatai
Yi Zhang
Micaela Goldsmith
Laura Schroeder
Jessica Kelmere
Stuart Stacey
Christophe Stanley
Sarah Hoogstraten
Emily James
Demelza Crawford
Margaret Burch

Psychology Honours Projects completed in 2012

Courtney Good,
Nina Rakei,