

# Editorial

## of mice and men

by Stephen McKeown

One of the joys of working in conservation education is that you really do learn something new every day. Recently I came across a whole species I had never heard of before – the Indefatigable Galapagos Mouse (*Nesoryzomys indefessus*) from the island of the same name, more recently known as Santa Cruz, in the Galapagos archipelago. Sadly, I didn't have to read much about it before I found that no specimens have been seen since 1934 and it was declared extinct a few years ago. The usual suspects were to blame – House Mice, Black and Brown Rats and domestic cats had all been introduced to Santa Cruz and a combination of competition, predation and disease meant that the Indefatigable Galapagos Mouse's number was up.

I don't suppose that the IGM was a particularly stunning creature (I haven't been able to find any pictures of it) or that many people, apart from scientists, paid it much attention but what a great educational opportunity! Everyone knows about the A-list extinction celebrities like the Dodo (and I sometimes wonder whether we package the problem rather too neatly in using the same examples) but surely we can get even more people on our side by telling stories featuring the small guys as well.



Editor  
Stephen McKeown



Former IZE President the indefatigable Rob Ollason

During the summer I was greatly privileged to be invited to a select gathering in Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, to celebrate Rob Ollason being honoured by HM The Queen for services to education. Rob, who recently retired after twenty seven years as Head of Education at Edinburgh Zoo, was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE), receiving his medal from Her Majesty at a ceremony in Holyrood Palace.

Those of you who know Rob can imagine how modest he continues to be about his considerable contributions to zoo education but I hope he won't mind me saying, on behalf of the zoo education community, a huge thank you for his dedication to 'the cause' and for setting so many people, myself included, on course to our current positions!

Finally, this is my last issue as Editor – Martin Serafini (another Ollason protégé!) will be taking over from me henceforth and I know he will do an excellent job. I should like to express my thanks to Martin and the rest of the editorial team for their hard work and support on the past three issues and to the membership for your suggestions, appreciations and the all-important contributions!