
Book notice

Communicating Science: A Global Perspective

A new book 'Communicating Science. A global perspective' was released on Monday 14 September, which was coincidentally during Māori Language Week.

It is a huge book of 996 pages, documenting the global emergence of modern science communication in 40 chapters, with 108 authors, and covering 39 countries. It is the first study describing how science communication has developed around the world and covers all regions and all cultures, including nations across Europe, Asia and the Americas, and emerging economies like Russia, Jamaica, Estonia, Iran and Pakistan.

One of the first chapters, entitled 'Participatory science and bicultural knowledge communication' is on Aotearoa New Zealand. This chapter was written by Jean Fleming (Centre for Science Communication, The University of Otago), Nancy Longnecker (Centre for Science Communication, The University of Otago), Rhian Salmon (Centre for Science in Society, Victoria University of Wellington and Te Pūnaha Matatini) and Daniel Hikuroa (University of Auckland, Te Pūnaha Matatini and Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga).

The last twenty years has seen a steady increase in the collaboration of mātauranga Māori with western science, at a time of heightened environmental issues. Māori researchers have pushed to widen the perspectives of the scientific community, using dialogue initially, but increasingly by engaging communities with mātauranga. Māori have taken science communication in Aotearoa New Zealand in new directions, with an increasing emphasis on inherent values of the science being communicated. Coincident with those efforts has been an increase in the use of Māori language in scientific endeavour, including abstracts in Māori. A recent rise in education, jobs and funding opportunities in science communication in Aotearoa has also led to a substantial increase in the number and diversity of science engagement initiatives and participatory science programmes, a good proportion concerning environmental protection and restoration. As a result, Aotearoa's communities are engaging more with science, hopefully resulting in more science-literate publics and a more public-literate and bicultural science community.

Author Jean Fleming says 'The Aotearoa New Zealand chapter stands out in this important book, highlighting two areas where our scientists now listen to and accept the views and data of others more and more. I am delighted that this chapter is being launched during Te Wiki o te Reo Māori'.

'Communicating Science. A Global Perspective' is available for free download at ANU Press:
<https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/communicating-science>.

Hard copies will be printed on demand.