
In this issue

In this issue of the *Review* we carry a number of interesting and topical papers.

Julie Everett-Hincks' and Mark Henaghan's paper, *Gene editing pests and primary industries – legal considerations*, is a shortened version of their 2018 submission to the New Zealand Royal Society's Te Apārangi Gene Editing Panel established to consider the social, cultural, legal, ethical and economic implications of revolutionary gene-editing technologies for New Zealand.

The Royal Society's multidisciplinary panel, comprising some of New Zealand's leading experts, was convened after the 2015 International Summit of Gene Editing, which noted the impact of regulatory frameworks in determining the speed at which biotechnology moves from laboratory to research to marketed product. The lead author of this paper is well placed to comment on the considerations, drawing upon her experience both as an animal research scientist and one who recently qualified in law.

State of environment (SOE) reports aim to give people a summary of the environment through indicators. When an SOE report is associated with specific environmental goals, it is straightforward to develop indicators from the goals. However, it is difficult when there are no specific goals.

In *An ecosystem services approach to choosing environmental indicators for state of environment reports*, John Dymond and Anne-Gaëlle Ausseil explore the use of an ecosystem services framework to develop a general set of indicators for the land/water environment by considering a full range of benefits humans gain from the environment. Their analysis shows that the national SOE report, Environment Aotearoa, is missing many indicators required to draw a broader picture.

According to the authors, this gap in indicators is a reflection of New Zealand's low population and the limited resources that can be reasonably applied to data collection. However, they consider their analysis has application not only in New Zealand but also in other countries that are similarly data-sparse and face similar issues.

In *Some unremembered chemists: Francis Brian Shorland OBE, PhD, DSc (L'pool), Hon. DSc (VUW), FRSNZ*, the late Professor emeritus Brian Halton has provided insights into the life and work of his former colleague, Brian Shorland. One-time patron of the New Zealand Association of Scientists, Brian Shorland had a distinguished research career and, as a long-serving editor of *New Zealand Science Review*, was a frequent commentator on the changes to the research sector that commenced in the 1980s. One year after Brian's death in 1999, the Association established in his honour the Shorland Medal for lifetime contributions to scientific knowledge.

We report the 2018 Prime Ministers' Sciences Prizes in this issue. Now in their tenth year, the Prizes recognise the positive impact of science on New Zealanders' lives, celebrate the achievements of current scientists, and seek to encourage scientists of the future. The Association congratulates all the prize winners and warmly notes that Jim Renwick, past NZAS president (2009–2011) and Professor and Head of School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences at Victoria University of Wellington, has won the 2018 Prime Minister's Science Media Communication Prize.

Allen Petrey
Editor