
In this issue

In this issue, Peter Hodder, from HodderBalog Social and Scientific Research, gives us a fascinating account of the history of the management of science in New Zealand, set against the background of the development of DSIR in the 1920s and the science reforms of the 1980s–1990s. The Cawthron Institute in Nelson is used as a case study in this account.

In her article *Science and evidence informing policymaking in New Zealand: The meth contamination story*, University of Auckland's Anne Bardsley provides a brief overview of the complex story that led to the report produced during Peter Gluckman's tenure as the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor – 'Methamphetamine contamination in residential properties: Exposures, risk levels, and interpretation of standards' (Gluckman *et al.* 2018*). Release of the report rapidly shifted policies across a number of government agencies and abruptly curtailed the predatory practices of an industry which had flourished because of a particular failure in the science-to-policy exchange: no one had asked the right question. Dr Bardsley's paper is based on her presentation at the Association's 2018 Annual Conference in Auckland.

From *The Conversation* we carry an article from Bangor University's Julia Patricia Jones, *More experiments may help explore what works in conservation*, in which she indicates that there is growing awareness that conservationists have not always done a good enough job at evaluating whether the things they do really work. She suggests that more high-quality evaluations (which won't always be experiments) are certainly needed and only by learning from current practice can the future effectiveness of conservation be improved.

Also in this issue are the New Zealand Association of Scientists *Co-Presidents' Report for 2017/18*, the Association's Awards for 2018 and the results of election of Officers and Council Members for 2018/19 held at the AGM in Auckland in November. Congratulations to the medal winners and the newly elected Councillors.

Allen Petrey
Editor

* Gluckman, P.D., Bardsley, A., Low, F. 2018. *Methamphetamine Contamination in Residential Properties: Exposures, risk levels, and interpretation of standards*. Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Auckland.