

President's Column

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Co-President

Welcome to this first iteration of our refreshed New Zealand Science Review - a process which, while it cannot yet be called complete, is now well underway with the journal's new online presence.

When I joined the NZAS Council in 2020, and subsequently was elected to the co-Presidency alongside Troy Baisden in 2021, it was immediately obvious that the Association and the journal were going through a time of great change and reflection about our place and purpose in Aotearoa New Zealand. The NZAS has now been advocating for our research and science system, and our scientists, for eighty-one years. There was a time during the infancy of our Association when we could count every scientist in New Zealand as a member - realistically, due to the fact that the science system was also in its infancy then in many ways. In 2022, we now operate in a much larger, dynamic, and more diverse science ecosystem. It is our responsibility to rise to those changes and challenges and remain a relevant and timely source of support, comment, and advocacy, in line with our registered aims as an organisation (New Zealand Association of Scientists, 2022a). Work such as our statement of support on mātauranga Māori (New Zealand Association of Scientists Council, 2020) is part of this approach.

Over the last year the Council has begun to put in place the structures that can support our Association to continue its work into the future. This has principally focused around the New Zealand Science Review. The NZSR has, for many years, provided a critical venue for debate and discussion around the science system and science policy in the context of our country. However, it has become increasingly obvious that its publication format, centred around a physical journal, is a significant financial drain on the Association. Older issues are not easily available in the digital formats researchers expect. There is also a lack of awareness of the NZSR as a site for science system discussion among our early and mid-career researchers, who have begun and carried out their careers in a world where the internet rather than the institutional library is the first port of call for literature.

In light of these issues, and of the retirement of long-standing editor Allan Petrey (now a life member of the Association), the NZSR has been handed over to a new editorial board led by Past President Craig Stevens (New Zealand Association of Scientists, 2022b) and also including myself, co-President Troy Baisden, Councillors Ben Dickson and Simon Hills, and independent ECR representatives Dr Tara

McAllister and Dr Alexis Marshall. The editorial board has overseen the setting-up of a new online home for the journal hosted on Open Journal System software by Victoria University; the review of the scope and submission guidelines; and intends to move the journal to a 'print on demand' system with primary access to the journal being online. When in place, this work will also result in a review and ultimately changes to the NZAS's membership structure, with a goal of broadening our reach. This is largely possible due to the work done over the last few years to transition the Association to a digital event and membership management system, for which I would particularly like to thank Troy.

Finally, all of the work of the last year and a half has taken place in the context of the ongoing Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways (TAPFP) review of the government-supported research system, beginning with the consultation 'green paper' released in 2021 (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 2022a) and continuing through a period of intensive consultation with the research community, culminating in the December 6 release of the white paper (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 2022c) setting out the Government's future direction and vision for our research system. The Association has been extremely active in this process including involvement in the TAPFP Reference Group (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 2022b), helping coordinate an online archive of grey literature which was available to consultation submitters (New Zealand Association of Scientists and Te Pūnaha Matatini, 2022), and of course our own organisational submission (New Zealand Association of Scientists, 2020). The white paper indicates that while the vision for the science system is now set, implementation will be phased in over the next several years and many details are not yet set in stone. The Council intends to continue the Association's active involvement in this space and to promote the NZSR as a journal of record for the public discussions that will need to take place. Our first 2023 issue will feature selected submissions on Te Ara Paerangi highlighting key issues of importance. In general, while we are heartened by the direction of the white paper, which accurately identifies the key issues facing our science system, the devil will as always be in the details. We will be there too.

Finally, thank you to all current and past members of the Council and Association at large who have made the NZAS what it is. I am incredibly excited about the opportunities

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we have ahead of us to effect real, positive change for science and scientists. And to those reading this who are not yet part of the Association - there has never been a better time than now to get involved. I hope to meet you soon.

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