
In this issue

In his article, *A review of the new MBIE Report on the Marsden Fund*, Geoff Chambers says that MBIE has done the scientific community a great service in putting this report together and has touched on most, if not all, of the difficulties that applicants have found when trying to secure research support from this source. However, it is also Geoff's view that MBIE is wide of the mark in their analysis and thus cannot be said to fully appreciate the frustrations of those they serve. Geoff lays out what he takes to be the key issues with the fund and offers some comments on addressing these issues, which he hopes will excite a debate around this most important resource for New Zealand researchers.

Recent reinterpretation of the geology of New Zealand indicates that it is part of a much larger and submerged continent – Zealandia – Mortimer & Campbell (2014: 116)* and dismisses an earlier proposed continent – Pacifica.

In *The Zealandia continent: a worthy replacement of Pacifica?* Peter Hodder traces, through citation analysis, the development and demise of the idea of 'Pacifica'. Based on this analysis, he suggests that 'Zealandia' is historically inaccurate and politically contentious. A politically acceptable name for the continent that does not kindle post-colonial dissent might be 'Vallardia', reflecting the sixteenth century Portuguese maps of the region.

He accepts, however, that 'Vallardia' is unlikely to find favour in this day and age. Revival of the name 'Pacifica' is offered as a solution to this conundrum

New Zealand's Antarctic science is organised into 'Events', each given a 'K' (for Kiwi) designation. The formative work for one of the better known and longer-lived Events, K131, took place in the 1980s. Timothy Haskell, then a scientist at the Physics and Engineering Laboratory, DSIR, along with Bill Robinson and Arnold Heine, developed methods to gauge the Erebus Glacier tongue's inner mechanical workings and how, and why, the tip would periodically calve.

In *K131 Antarctic sea ice science: A case study of infrastructure, strategies, and skills*, Craig Stevens, Natalie Robinson and Pat Langhorne trace the evolution of the team and infrastructure that evolved from this early Antarctic ice-ocean work.

As the authors rightly claim, over the past 30 years, K131 science has not only developed an understanding of the physical processes of how the components of an ice-covered ocean work, but also evolved robust operational methods for experimentation on ice-ocean interaction. The approach has brought together physicists of many flavours, engineers, mathematicians, oceanographers, biologists, biogeochemists, modellers and artists. It is a demonstration of how to do big science in serial-meandering mode.

In the short article, *Sleeping with the enemy: Science and the humanities still pass each other like ships in the night* re-published from The Asia Pacific Policy Society, Roger Bradbury muses on the help policy advisors might take from the latest science insights in complexity, tipping points and transfer entropy. If you care to share Roger's article with a policy advisor you might be given a copy of the new book by Terry Bossomaier and co-authors, *Introduction to Transfer Entropy*.

Our book review is of Richard Dawkins' *Science in the Soul: Selected Writings of a Passionate Rationalist* reviewed by Geoff Gregory, and the news items carried in this issue identify the 2018 Rhodes Scholars-elect and summarise the report released in December 2017 on Stage 2 of the Inquiry into Havelock North Drinking Water.

Finally in this issue we celebrate the 2017 NZAS Awards and note that Dr Ocean Mercier, of Victoria University of Wellington, is the winner of the 2017 Cranwell Medal. The Cranwell Medal, formerly the Science Communicator Medal, honours New Zealand botanist Lucy Cranwell (1907–2000), who during a long career spanning much of the 20th century developed a reputation as an engaging science communicator.

Allen Petrey
Editor

*Mortimer, N.; Campbell, H. 2014. *Zealandia: Our Continent Revealed*. London, UK: Penguin.