
In this issue

In the issue, postdoctoral researcher Jenni Hopkins gives a detailed description of the Auckland volcanic field (AVF). It is made up of lots of individual volcanoes that generally only erupt once, and are hence called ‘monogenetic’. Globally, monogenetic volcanic fields are poorly understood, and whilst these little single eruptions may seem less threatening to human life than a large imposing volcano like Mt Ruapehu or Mt Taranaki, the frightening thing is that the location of the next eruption is completely unknown. When you couple this unknown with a large urban population and nationally dependent infrastructure, the potential threat to humans of a future eruption dramatically increases. As Jenni explains in her article, in order to reduce the unknowns, reconstructing the past eruptive history of the entire field can uncover patterns or trends in eruptions and thus allow better-informed predictions about future eruptions.

Service to the community is one of the three major goals of New Zealand’s universities. The University of Otago has been taking science to the community for over thirty years. Over that time, strong programmes of outreach to school students and the general public have developed. School programmes, such as Hands-on Science, Science Wānanga and the Advanced School Sciences Academy, present science in accessible and exciting ways and encourage careers in science. The paper by Otago University’s Jean Fleming, Steve Broni, Sandra Copeland, Davina Hunt and Rose Newburn outlines the history of science outreach at the University of Otago.

Philip Yock and Nicola Gaston review two recently published books.

Philip reviews the biography of Enrico Fermi by husband and wife team Gino Segrè and Bettina Hoerlin. Fermi was one of the towering figures of twentieth century physics and often considered the last person to have known all of physics. Not for him the title ‘theoretical physicist’, or ‘experimentalist’ – his realm was physics.

Nicola reviews Alice Galletly’s *How to have a beer*, a recent book in Awa Press Ginger Series which is themed around the idea of introducing ‘how to ...’. As Nicola says, ‘I started reading... out of simple curiosity, sparked in part by the apparent novelty of a woman daring to flaunt her credentials as a beer expert in public, but went away musing on how interesting it is to see scientific knowledge being communicated in such a low key, but generally useful way. It’s a fun read.’

Registrations are now open for both the NZAS Annual Conference 2017 – Beyond the Usual Suspects: NZ Science at Large – to be held Wednesday 21 June 2017, 9 am to 7 pm at the Royal Society in Wellington (www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/the-new-zealand-association-of-scientists-annual-conference-registration-32944768690) and Celebrating Female Scientists – AWIS2017 on 13–14 July at the Heritage Hotel in Auckland at <http://www.scienceevents.co.nz/awis2017>

Finally, *vale* Dora Suuring, Dutch resistance fighter, chemist, lecturer, teacher and NZAS council member who died in March this year aged 102. Dora joined the Council of New Zealand Association of Scientists in 1979, at the invitation of John Offenberger, who was Vice-President of the Association at the time. She served on Council for 11 years, acting as Secretary for three of these.

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