
In this issue

In, *The fight to resurrect Rutherford's mana in New Zealand* author, John Campbell highlights misconceptions, historical mistakes and simply silliness that have arisen in New Zealand about its Nobel Prize winning chemist Ernest Rutherford. One such misconception that seems to be peculiar to New Zealand is the belief that Rutherford won the Nobel Prize for splitting the atom and thus is associated with the development of the nuclear bomb.

In his account of his various skirmishes to correct views on Rutherford, John has successfully persuaded authorities to use portraits of Rutherford as a young vigorous researcher at the height of his powers rather than as an old man at the end of his career. Case in point, the portrait now used in the NZ \$100 note and first issued in 1992.

In *Science for policy: The need for a Commission for Science*, Shaun Hendy argues the need for new institutions to govern the way scientific research is used and conducted by government.

He suggests that a Parliamentary Commission for Science would fulfil such a role in New Zealand, being responsible for: reviewing the Government's processes for generating and utilising scientific evidence, and reporting on this to Parliament. In this manner, modern science would be practised under open scrutiny and transparent processes.

In the fourth part of his history of the Association, *A better way: New Zealand Association of Scientists 1992-2016*, author Geoff Gregory commences with the effect on government-funded science of the neo-liberal economic reforms initiated

in New Zealand by the Labour Government in the mid-1980s and continued into the 1990s by the National Government. He indicates that the resultant reorganisation of science-orientated departments, including the dissolution of the DSIR, preoccupied the Association's Council, involving its members in numerous meetings with politicians, officials and the preparation of submissions on a wide range of policy issues.

Following a review of its priorities in 1989, NZAS Council decided that it would concentrate its efforts on science policy, making issues of current concern the subject of its annual conferences.

From this point Geoff acquaints us with the vicissitudes of the science system from the 1990s up to the present and the role played by the Association on behalf of research workers and the wellbeing of New Zealanders. Geoff identifies the highs and lows for science through this period and the topics and situations that the Association felt compelled to act on. He also identifies the leadership role played by successive presidents and their Councils in stimulating public debate on science issues. In his concluding remarks Geoff identifies the continuing concerns the Association has with sexism in science, career development and stability and the right and responsibility of scientists to speak freely on issues of public concern in which they have expertise.

Finally in this issue we celebrate the 2016 NZAS medal awards noting the achievements of the medallists and that the Research Medal is now commemorated as the Beatrice Hill Tinsley Medal.

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Editor