In this issue

In his article, *Scientific research on introduced wildlife in New Zealand: For whom and at what cost?* Jamie Steer traces a short history of natural science research on introduced wildlife in New Zealand.

Using a critical discourse approach grounded in a social constructionist perspective, he argues that maintenance of public trust in New Zealand natural scientists will require: (1) more consistent self-reflection to identify and communicate the assumptions and predispositions of their research, and (2) more active endorsement and support for research that investigates the questions that are not considered useful to ask.

He uses a series of case histories to explore what has happened within this perspective over time in relation to introduced mallard ducks, deer, and trout.

In *How a farm boy from Wales gave the world pi* and *Pi might look random but it's full of hidden patterns*, Gareth Ffowc Roberts and Steve Humble, respectively, give us fascinating insights into one of the most important numbers in mathematics. Roberts acquaints us with the 18th century autodidactic mathematician William Jones, who gave us the Geek letter π or 'pi' for this number, and Humble points out that, despite an endless string of unpredictable digits that make up 'pi', it is not truly a random number – and that it actually contains all sorts of surprising patterns.

There a plethora of book reviews in this issue. Three are reviews from Bridget Williams recently introduced *BWB Texts* series – short books on big subjects. In the first, Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty reviews Mike Berridge's *The Edge of Life: Controversies and challenges in human health,* and Veronika Meduna's *Towards a Warmer World: What climate change will mean to New Zealand's future* and Ralph Chapman's *Time of Useful Consciousness: Acting urgently on climate change* are then reviewed by professional science editor Geoff Gregory.

In his extended review of editors Robert Geyer's and Paul Cairney's *Handbook on Complexity and Public Policy,* Paul Gandar examines their attempt *to improve the theory and practice of policymaking by drawing on the theory, concepts, tools and metaphors of complexity and to advance 'complexity thinking' as a means for understanding and explaining the policymaking world and as a basis for policy development.* These aims, pursued through 482 pages in 27 chapters, with a total of 40 authors, are critically examined and appraised by Paul. This is a must-read review from a reviewer who has an extensive front-line experience in public policy development as well as the natural sciences.

Finally in this issue, details are given of the 2016 NZAS annual conference *The Future for Scientists in New Zealand*, to be held Tuesday 26 April 2016 at Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington (see inside of back cover).

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Editor