

---

## In this issue

In this issue of *Science Review* we have two keynote presentations from the NZAS 2015 Annual Conference. The Conference, held at the Royal Society in Wellington on 10 April, addressed the issue of scientists speaking publically on difficult issues.

In the first, NZAS president, Nicola Gaston, indicates that the issue of scientists speaking out publically is one that has become increasingly important in the 18 months of her presidency. Nicola traces the origin of this including the mention in the draft *A Nation of Curious Minds*<sup>1</sup> calling for a code of public engagement for scientists and Ministerial criticism<sup>2</sup> about the August 2014 survey conducted by the Association. In her presentation Nicola addresses the uneasy intersection of evidence with policy and politics and the difficulty this has presented to scientists in New Zealand and elsewhere. She concludes by affirming the Association's support for scientists 'going public'.

In *Trusting the scientist*, the second keynote address, Peter Gluckman points out that we live in a world characterised as a 'post-trusted society' where information may be accessed from a multitude of sources and manipulated for particular goals. Yet equally there is an urgent need and public expectation for scientific knowledge and expertise to be applied in the processes of developing societal consensus in governing and law-making.

Peter suggests ways we can reconcile these tensions and ensure an appropriate place for scientists and science in societal decision-making. And while there are no easy answers and no absolute rules he believes the solution, while always nuanced, will depend on individual integrity and trust.

In *Female student participation in New Zealand universities: Forty years on*, authors Paul Stock, David Penny and Ema Alter discuss the participation of women students at New Zealand universities. In their introduction they tell us that universities in this country have always been open to female students, although there were initially some classes restricted to males. However, after a memorandum 'signed by 194 ladies' in 1871 women were admitted to all classes.

They present data from the Ministry of Education statistics of the last four decades which they believe presents a dynamic picture of participation. Factors involved are cultural, social, political and economic, and all have contributed to the continued positive trend of female participation at New Zealand universities in the last forty years.

In the commissioned article, *New marine species in New Zealand – an institutional snapshot*, Denis Gordon treats us to a feast of marine wonders from NIWA's collection of marine invertebrates. He provides examples (Figures 1–9) of some recently identified endemic species and mentions that New Zealand is still in the discovery phase concerning our diverse marine biota. This phase, dependent on continuing funding, will need to continue until the end of this century – for eukaryotes at least.

*The role of social media in science* is discussed by Shaun Hendy, who started blogging in 2009. More recently he has started tweeting about science matters. In addition to describing some of the pitfalls that he has discovered along the road of social media, Shaun offers advice on the balance needed in using social media vis-à-vis more traditional academic publication. Shaun also identifies other New Zealand scientists who have made effective use of social media.

Readers interested in the role of social media and science will also want to catch up with the 2015 PhD thesis of American blogger Paige Brown Jarreau. Paige's thesis, entitled *All the science that is fit to blog: An analysis of science blogging practices*, is available on-line at <http://etd.lsu.edu/docs/available/etd-04072015-094935/>

Mike Berridge reviews Nick Mortimer's and Hamish Campbell's new book, *Zealandia, Our Continent Revealed*. As Mike says, Zealandia is not yet a household name in New Zealand or worldwide, but if Nick Mortimer and Hamish Campbell had their way, the tattered and anachronistic New Zealand flag would metamorphose into a new emblem that boasts the reality of Zealandia, and this flag would flap from our flagpoles.

In Mike's opinion, the authors have masterfully woven the past, the present, and the future into a very readable and engaging scientific story about the discovery of Zealandia.

Finally in this issue, mention is made of the special supplement of the *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* devoted to the control of bovine tuberculosis in the face of a wildlife host. This review of 50 years of programme policy, design, and research is available on-line at <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tnzv20/63/sup1#.VaGi6Lkw9Mw>

**Allen Petrey**  
Editor

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.msi.govt.nz/update-me/major-projects/science-and-society-project/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/251457/surveyedscientists-criticise-challenges>