
Editorial Committee Report for 2012/2013

New Zealand Science Review is the official journal of NZAS, and within the New Zealand science and innovation sector serves as an independent forum for the exchange of views on science and science policy.

NZAS is committed to the production of four issues of *Science Review* per annum and has managed to accomplish this in the 2012/13 year.

Accordingly, the NZAS membership has been able to enjoy a high-quality diet of interesting articles on diverse science topics, plus thought-provoking and stimulating commentary with particular emphasis on matters of science policy.

In February this year the attention of the Association was drawn to the digitalised holding of past issues of *Science Review* by the Hathi Trust Digital Library based at the University of Michigan. While not a complete holding of past issues, on-line open access to these journals now allows members to read and research the early history of the Association and its advocacy within the sector: <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008333763> refers.

More recent issues of the journal (2003–2013) are also held on the Association's website at <http://www.scientists.org.nz/journal> and, since the decision taken at the 2009 AGM, have been openly available to viewers. A limited number of hard copies of most issues of *Science Review* are also housed in safe and secure long-term storage facilities at GNS Science (located at 1 Fairway Drive, Avalon, Lower Hutt), along with NZAS archives. NZAS is especially grateful to GNS Science for this generous free service.

The *Science Review* Editorial Subcommittee currently comprises Hamish Campbell (convenor), John Clare, Mike Berridge and Allen Petrey (Editor). Our long-standing Production Editor is Geoff Gregory.

Of special note this year is Geoff's commencement of the series of articles on the history of NZAS. In the first – *Not to be forgotten: New Zealand Association of Scientific Workers* – Geoff describes the early history (1941–54) of NZAS and the people who made up the membership of the early Association.

Geoff has delved into past issues of *Science Review* and committee minutes to bring us a fascinating story of the New Zealand science sector at the time. We meet notable figures from the past such as Drs Bill Sutch, the first president of the Association, Charles Fleming, the first recipient of the Research Medal, and Ernest Marsden, the first patron of NZAS (See Vol 70 (1), 2013). Geoff's second article – *The mechanism of prosperity: New Zealand Association of Scientists 1954–73* – is published in this issue.

The content of the 2012/13 issues of *Science Review* published since the 2012 AGM is summarised as follows:

First issue – Vol. 69 (4) 2012

This issue commenced with an article by GNS senior scientist Paul White discussing water management and property rights and their associated economic implications in New Zealand.

This was followed by a discussion paper on pluralism in scientific method, by Otago University's John Ashton, which draws our attention to two approaches to science. The first he

calls 'classical' science, and the second, after Kuhn, 'normal' science, which includes operational and applied research, industrial research, and any kind of puzzle-solving research carried out on a big industrial model. He defines classical science to mean the quest to discover explanations of the way the universe we live in works. John argues that the distinction is real and useful and that both approaches have particular strengths for particular aims

There were two important short contributions in this issue of *Science Review*. The first was from Nicola Gaston, who reported on the Australian Academy of Science's inaugural meeting of the Early/Mid Career Researcher Forum, which was held in Canberra in September 2012.

The second was Lara Shepherd's introduction to the Wellington early- and mid-career researchers group (WEMCR), which was launched in 2012.

The issue concluded with news of the NZAS Awards for 2012, the Association's President's Report for 2011/12, Subcommittee Reports and the Financial Report for the year ending 31 July 2012.

Second issue – Vol. 70 (1) 2013

This issue carried two of the presentations from NZAS' annual conference. The first, by Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, examined the value of science and matters affecting this value in the minds of the public and government. The second was by Dr David McNamara, an early-career emerging researcher, on his personal view on science's value and why he chose research as a career.

Then, in his first instalment of the history of NZAS, Geoff Gregory describes the early history (1941–54) of NZAS and the people who made up the membership of the early Association.

The issue concluded with the obituary of Robert Martin (Robin) Williams CB, CBE, and also a review of the seven essays of the late Paul Callaghan GNZM, FRS, FRSNZ.

Third issue – Vol. 70 (2) 2013

This issue commenced with Wayne Linklater and colleagues at Victoria University of Wellington introducing us to super-lures that target the wary mammalian pest species over considerable distance and are proposed as the tool to be used after traditional approaches have done the easy killing.

Staying with pests (and disease) this issue's second paper, by David Teulon and colleagues in Plant & Food Research Limited, discusses aspects of the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) 1996 that have important implications for research with organisms not previously found in New Zealand and either incidentally or illegally introduced.

Then followed a moving tribute to New Zealander, Professor Guy Dodson FRS, who died in York, England, on Christmas Eve 2012

In the third article in this issue, consultant Horace Moore addressed the case of technology transfer involving the granting of proprietary rights to a foreign national, under a licence agreement, to commercialise a patented invention based on New Zealand technology.

The issue concluded with Hamish Campbell's review of Sir Lloyd Geering new book *From the Big Bang to God – our awe-inspiring journey of evolution*.

Fourth issue – Vol. 70 (3) 2013

The final issue for this 12 months commenced with Adam Jaffe, the new Director of Motu Economic and Public Policy Research, Wellington, and Fred C Hecht Professor of Economics at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, discussing a science and innovation policy for New Zealand

This was followed by a paper, by Tony Smale of Forté Business Group, on why understanding national culture is necessary in order to understand innovation performance in New Zealand.

There were two book reviews in this issue. The first was a review of Mark Roeder's *Unnatural Selection: Why the Geeks will inherit the Earth*, by Nicola Gaston, and the second of Shaun Hendy's and Paul Callaghan's *Get off the grass: Kickstarting New Zealand's innovation economy*, by Grant Scobie.

The issue concluded with an obituary for Malcolm Leitch Cameron CMG, who was a former Director-General of Agriculture and Fisheries and Chancellor of Lincoln University.

Preliminary notice

NZAS 2014 Conference

Science and Society

Faculty of Engineering, University of Auckland, Symonds St

4–5 April 2014

In November 2013 the Government announced an additional National Science Challenge – the Science and Society Project, a response to the Peak Panel's leadership challenge to improve the understanding, skills and adoption of science and technology in New Zealand.

Taking 'Science and Society' as our theme, for this year's New Zealand Association of Scientists annual conference we invite speakers to discuss how they are engaging the community with science, and increasing science literacy. The conference will be held at the University of Auckland, on Saturday 5 April. Speakers will be announced on the NZAS website in the coming weeks.

To celebrate science and society, the conference will be preceded by a gala public screening on Friday 4 April at 6 pm of the documentary *Thin Ice*, by 2013 NZAS Science Communication awardee, Dr Simon Lamb. This will be followed by a panel discussion with Dr Lamb, Prof Shaun Hendy and Dr Siouxsie Wiles on the importance of communicating science.

Speakers will be announced shortly on the NZAS website.

For further information, see www.scientists.org.nz

contact s.wiles@auckland.ac.nz and

follow us on twitter [@nzscientists](https://twitter.com/nzscientists)