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## In this issue

In our first article in this issue, *Pied-pipers wanted: The search for super-lures of New Zealand mammal pests*, Wayne Linklater and colleagues introduce us to super-lures that target the wary pest over considerable distances and are proposed as the tool to be used after traditional approaches have done the easy killing.

However, the discovery of these super-lures requires the identification of lure candidates, developing and implementing rapid bioassays, and field experiment design and interpretation, all of which is a challenge. Nevertheless, as was revealed at a workshop in April 2013 at Victoria University of Wellington's Centre for Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology, a strong start in the search for such lures has been made in New Zealand by multiple research groups that have approached the problem in different ways. As the authors indicate, it's this diversity that will ensure a robust search, especially if the different groups come together periodically, as they did in April.

Staying with pests (and disease), our second paper, *Research on invasive pests and diseases in New Zealand*, by David Teulon and colleagues, indicates that two New Zealand statutes have important implications for research with organisms not previously found in New Zealand and either incidentally or illegally introduced. The Biosecurity Act 1993 and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) 1996 define the legal framework and allowable activities for 'unwanted' and 'new' organisms, respectively.

In their article, aspects of these Acts relevant to research activities are summarised and discussed, along with the legal restrictions placed upon researchers when undertaking such research.

The authors highlight the need for accurate, detailed and accessible lists of 'unwanted' and 'new' organisms, and the need for the regulating authorities to respond rapidly when the status of any of these organisms is changed. The authors also

suggested that changes to the legislation with respect to 'new' organisms are needed in order that appropriate research can be initiated and conducted much more rapidly than at present.

New Zealander, Professor Guy Dodson FRS, died in York, England, on Christmas Eve 2012. In a moving tribute, his wife Eleanor, twin brother Maurice, and life-long friend Murray Wilton describe Guy's distinguished career. Born in Palmerston North, we are told about his early education at Dilworth School, his postdoctoral period at Oxford, his appointment in the Chemistry Department at the University of York and his enduring research legacy of structural biology research at York.

In our third article, Horace Moore addresses 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 reasons for undertaking such action include the prohibitive costs associated with international patent holdings, lack of domestic financing to build and test a product prototype, and the smallness of the New Zealand marketplace. After outlining the potential pitfalls in such activity, Horace shares with us the various ventures that he and his consultancy TechTran have been involved with over the years.

Finally in this issue we have Hamish Campbell's review of Sir Lloyd Geering's new book, *From the Big Bang to God – our awe-inspiring journey of evolution*. In what can only be described as an extensive review of Lloyd's book Hamish says,

'I fully endorse this book as a must-read by every sentient being, not just scientists but everyone. Sir Lloyd has explained the seemingly inexplicable: the origin and biological significance of religion.'

**Allen Petrey**  
Editor