
In this issue

The first article in this issue of *New Zealand Science Review* arose from a presentation at this year's annual NZAS conference*.

In *Trapped in the postdoctoral void: Lack of postdoctoral opportunities in New Zealand forces emerging researchers to exit science or seek employment overseas*, authors Melanie Massaro, Krithika Yogeewaran and Amanda Black share their concerns about the current New Zealand science system and the plight of PhD graduates attempting to secure appropriate postdoctoral training.

The authors point out that the common belief – that emerging New Zealand researchers go on after PhD completion to undertake 1–3 years of postdoctoral training after which they transition into continuing, full-time positions – is far from the truth. Rather, to successfully compete for the limited full-time research positions, emerging researchers need to have received both *dependent* and *independent* postdoctoral training. This can take up to 10 years before they have sufficient research experience and publications to be competitive for a permanent position. The lack of such postdoctoral opportunities in New Zealand forces many talented emerging researchers to go overseas to remain in science.

The authors present an array of suggestions to alleviate the current problems facing 'postdocs' through reform of New Zealand's tertiary education system and changes to current funding models.

A 1992 government-instigated *Review of Science in New Zealand* stated: 'Revised geological mapping at a scale of 1:250 000 is urgently required.' (MoRST 1993). After a successful bid for funding from the then newly created Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, the QMAP (Quarter-million MAP) project began.

In *Completion of a new national geological map series – the QMAP project*, Mark Rattenbury describes the 18-year project that has resulted in a world-first example of a national geological map series conceived and implemented using GIS technology. The high degree of logical consistency between the 21 individual map sheets that were developed and the early

adoption of controlled terminology has facilitated production of the combined QMAP Seamless GIS dataset.

Ray notes that the project began early in the era of competitive Public Good Science Funding administered by FRST. Starting with the initial bid in 1993 followed by two periods of re-bidding in 1998 and 2004, with intervening funding roll-overs (requiring new contracting) in 1996, 2000 and 2002, the QMAP project had on-going financial support from FRST. While the episodic bidding, reviews, and negotiations were distractions from a highly focused, prescriptive, long-term project, the competitive funding model requirements contributed to the successful project outcome and completion.

In *Patents and innovation: Why is government policy for one so badly out of alignment with the other?* Patent Attorney Doug Calhoun shares insights into the connection between innovation and patents. Drawing on his 32-year career in New Zealand, he provides us with a primer on patent economics, an account of recent government-initiated reports and analyses, and impending patent legislation, and offers suggestions for an integrated innovation/patent policy for successful technology transfer. The latter, Doug hopes, will rise from the recent formation of the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment.

In memory

Finally in this issue of the *Review* we carry an obituary for Dr Barbara Louise Ryan. Louise made an outstanding contribution to the New Zealand Association of Scientists, from her election to Council in 1978 to her resignation for health reasons in 2006. Initially she served as Hon Secretary, and then from 1982 as Hon Treasurer, a position she held until 2005. In addition to managing the finances, Louise took responsibility for NZAS membership and the distribution of the *Review*. Louise's contribution to the Association, along with her services to the general community and public understanding of Parliamentary electoral matters exemplified unassuming greatness.

Allen Petrey
Editor

MoRST 1993. Review of geology and energy research. *MoRST Science Review* 7. Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, Wellington

***Presentations from NZAS 2012 Conference 'Do Emerging Scientists Have a Future in New Zealand?' are available at:**

<http://www.scientists.org.nz/posts/2012/04/nzas-conference-2012-speaker-presentations>