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**Book review**

**Veronika Meduna**

**Science on ice: Discovering the secrets of Antarctica**

**Review by Neil F. Curtis**

Wellington

Veronika Meduna\* is a science journalist who has made a number of professional visits to Antarctica, mainly to the McMurdo Sounds region where most of New Zealand's research activity occurs. This work is a composite of her impressions, and of interviews with scientists both in the field and back in the laboratory. These are extended by accounts of related studies by scientists from other countries, usually with some New Zealand connection. It includes physical, geological and biological aspects and is laced with relevant historical anecdotes.

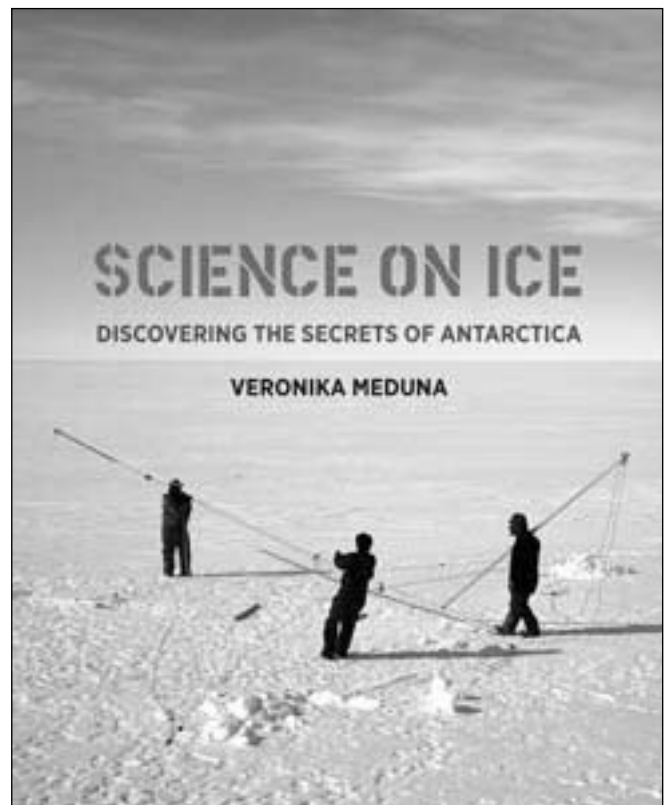
The study provides a useful introduction to New Zealand Antarctica, but falls between two stools, probably including more scientific detail than the casual reader would like, but less than an interested scientist might appreciate.

The book is very well produced with many brilliant photographs and would grace any intelligent coffee table and be an asset in any school library.

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*\*Veronika Meduna trained and worked as a scientist, working on soil microbiology, before becoming a science journalist. A presenter and producer on Radio New Zealand's Our Changing World programme, she has told hundreds of science stories, as well as writing for the New Zealand Listener, New Zealand Geographic and Te Ara The Encyclopedia of New Zealand. In 2006 she co-curated an exhibition for the National Library of New Zealand about the history of science in New Zealand, which was subsequently published as Atoms, Dinosaurs and DNA: 68 Great New Zealand Scientists by Random House (2008), winning the Elsie Locke Award for non-fiction at the 2009 LIANZA awards.*

*Meduna's work has earned her several other awards and grants, including the 2000 Association of Crown Research Institutes Journalism Award and an appointment as Chevening David Low Fellow at Green College, Oxford University.*



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Meduna, Veronika 2012.

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