
Communications Subcommittee Report for 2008/09

The NZAS Council Subcommittee on Communications was established in March 2008. Its members are James Renwick (convenor), Chris Sissons, Fiona McDonald, Kate McGrath, and Peter Buchanan. Three meetings were held in 2009. They covered regular reviews of topical events, assessment of the impact of recent media releases and appearances, and the scope for new releases. The Subcommittee also kept a watching brief on progress with the Survey of Scientists. On behalf of NZAS, the Subcommittee issued media releases on: the 2009 Budget, the Salinger sacking, and the appointment of Peter Gluckman as Chief Science Advisor to the PM. These releases were picked up in their entirety by online sources but also used as source documentation for subsequent articles.

Subcommittee members facilitated a visit to Council by Anthony Scott (Science New Zealand), and arranged for the Minister RS&T to attend and speak at the 2009 awards ceremony.

Additionally, as President I was interviewed several times during the course of the year on the issues mentioned above, by representatives from a range of media organisations including Radio, Television and Unions and was most recently interviewed by *The Listener* to comment on the most recent release from the Ministry: New Zealand's research, science and technology priorities.

James Renwick