



*The Royal Society
of New Zealand*

SCIENCE DIGEST

Science & Technology Alert

September 1997

Welcome!

Members will be pleased to know that *Science Digest* has been reinstated as the main vehicle of communication between the Society and its many constituents. To cut down on paper, postage, and reading time, most of the articles here refer to fuller information on our webserver, The Gateway to NZ Science: <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/> If you want to receive this newsletter by email rather than on paper, email science.digest@rsnz.govt.nz This issue is being distributed by mail and email and we invite a response on any item of interest. If email or the world-wide web is not available to you, let us know by phone, fax or letter and we will send the information by conventional means.

Membership services

Become a member of the Royal Society and receive the following benefits:

- Regular copies of *Science Digest* in its new format
 - Considerable savings on subscriptions to the seven science journals published by SIR Publishing
 - Savings on registration fees for conferences held by the Royal Society
 - New initiatives on the World Wide Web
 - expanded daily news service
 - updated list of conferences held within and outside New Zealand
 - best site for the latest science and technology documentation
 - Marsden Fund and ISAT linkages
 - Royal Society Awards and registration details
 - science publication catalogue
 - Constituent Society Membership Services
 - hosting of web pages, membership administration over the Web
 - service for newsletter updates and production/distribution of Proceedings on-line
- services including newsletter posting, conference registrations, and room bookings will be made available to members on request.

Membership details at <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/about/index.html>

Our Council

Emeritus Professor Sir John Scott KBE FRSNZ of Auckland has been elected President of the Society under the new

legislation. Other Council members are listed at <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/about/council.html>

Marsden grants

The Marsden Fund, which is administered by the Royal Society, funds unprioritised, curiosity-driven research. The Minister of Research, Science and Technology has just announced the latest 58 new research grants, totalling \$7 million, out of a record 1170 applications. For details of the new funding see <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/marsden/>

International Science & Technology (ISAT) Linkages Fund

Guidelines for Applicants for the following sub-programmes of the ISAT Linkages Fund have now been released by The Royal Society of New Zealand: NZ/USA Co-operative Science Programme (CSP); Bilateral Research Activities Programme (BRAP); and the Profiles Programme. Further details at <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/isat/> or contact isat@rsnz.govt.nz

Our news service

A reminder that members can access (and search) our daily science and technology news service on our webserver; one of our plans is to provide this, in a summarised form, via email.

Royal Society mailing list

If you want to receive information about conferences, science reports that seek feedback, and other matters of importance, why not subscribe to our listserver; simply send an email to majordomo@rsnz.govt.nz with subscribe rsnz-list first name last name in the body of the message. So John Smith would put

subscribe rsnz-list John Smith

We plan to send out announcements about once a week.

The Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1997

We now have a new Act, which gives the Society a wider role than the 1965 legislation. Council members are now elected by the wider membership, and there is a Code of

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Home Page	NZ-wide Search	Awards & Funding	Education	Membership	Publishing	Standing Committees
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Ethics. The Act can be seen at <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/about/rsnz-act97.html>
the Code at <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/about/ethics.html>

Gene technology: benefits and risks

A summary of papers from this recent conference can be found at <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/ctees/genetech.html>. Printed proceedings will be available soon; contact sales@rsnz.govt.nz to register your interest.

UV radiation

... and its effects—an update is the title of a Society conference to be held in Christchurch on 4–5 December. Further details on <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/forms/uvconf97.html>

Animal ethics

ANZCCART is holding a conference entitled "Ethical approaches to animal-based science" at the University of Auckland on 19 and 20 September 1997. Substantial sponsorship of this conference has allowed the ANZCCART Board to subsidise the travel costs and registration fees for 35 postgraduate students to attend the conference.

More information is available at <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/ctees/anzccart/conf97/>

Survey of scientists & technologists

New Zealand's first major survey of views on science restructuring, science as a career, and other topics, was the feature of a recent conference at The Royal Society on human resources in science. The conference material can be seen at <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/nextsteps/>; the survey is summarised in *Profiles: a survey of New Zealand scientists and technologists* (60 pp, \$25 inc GST, p&p). Conference proceedings will be available soon; contact sales@rsnz.govt.nz to register your interest.

Science education

"BioLive", the conference for biology teachers, will be held at the Plaza International Hotel in Wellington 5–8 October. Contact Carolyn English at the Wellington College of Education: phone 04 476 3599; fax 04 476 7189.

"Get in the know", the biennial conference of the NZ Association of Mathematics Teachers, will be held on 5–8 October at Palmerston North Girls' High School.

Contact Glenda Anthony at g.j.anthony@massey.ac.nz

"From curriculum to classroom practice", the inaugural biennial conference of Technology Education NZ, sponsored by Telecom, will be held at Christchurch College of Education from 8 to 10 October. Contact paul.rodley@weka.cce.ac.nz

Science and Technology Fairs

Each year thousands of New Zealand school students involve themselves in science and technology projects, the best of which are entered into the Regional Science and Technology Fairs. To find out what is involved go to: <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/clan/scifairs/>

Publications

New Zealand Greenhouse Gas Inventory (\$20)

Industry Research Priorities for Climate Change (\$20)

Environmental implications of socio-economic and structural change in New Zealand (\$20)

Profiles: a survey of New Zealand scientists and technologists (\$25)

All prices include GST, p&p. For full details see http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/publ/series/misc_series.html

Royal Society of New Zealand Science and Technology Awards

These enable beginning scientists to attend their first overseas scientific conference; applications close on 1 October 1997. Full details at <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/awards/sandt.html>

International Centre for Antarctic Information & Research

ICAIR is incorporated within The Royal Society of New Zealand and applies the latest technology to environmental and scientific data handling, especially geographic information systems linked to world-wide computer networks. It is situated at the International Antarctic Centre in Christchurch. For more information about ICAIR enter <http://www.icair.iac.org.nz/>

Maori science

The third annual conference of the National Association of Maori Mathematicians, Scientists, and Technologists (NAMMSAT) is to be held at Massey University 2–5 October 1997. Further information available from Pauline Waiti, Box 503, Hastings (fax 06-856 8166).

Is your record correct?

You can correct your address on our database – and enter your skills and interests. These details are not given out to any third party without your permission. Send an email to database-query@rsnz.govt.nz for more details.

Feedback

We would like to hear what you think about the *Science Digest*, and whether there are any specific topics you would like covered. Write to Science Digest, PO Box 598, Wellington, or email science.digest@rsnz.govt.nz