



# newsletter

Issue 1 March 2008

In this month's issue...

## A midlife crisis? Or just another step in the journey of life ?

*Sarah Wilcox* thanks AWIS for helping her shift her science career, from process development chemistry to creative conservation science in the Te Papa Museum.

## By Design or Accident?

*Karen Hartshorn*, of National Centre for Lifecourse Research (NCLR), relates what brought her into her current science communication role.

## Careers in Science

*Franca Ronchese* of the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, Wellington, describes how science took her places world wide, how she entered immunology and how her teenage daughters make sure that other aspects of life are fulfilled as well.

## Making sense of data

*Katarina Domijan*, Trinity College, Dublin, writes about her research career in investigating and interpreting data and how she changed her research direction from statistical applications in New Zealand agriculture and biotechnology to a large collaborative EU Network of Excellence research project MUSCLE.

## 2007 Marsden success: A winding road

*Sharon Browning* of the University of Auckland shares with us her path into biological application of statistics and, in particular, statistical genetics, which stood out to become her particular research interest.

## 2007 Marsden success: Zebrafish on the Mainland

*Julia Horsfield*, of the University of Otago, tells us how the questions WHY kept her interest in science going. Julia uses zebrafish to investigate changes in developmental gene expression.

## 2007 Marsden success: The secret to success — finding the thing that makes me tick

*Debbie Young* of Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, the University of Auckland, shares with us many turning points in her search for the job that she loves — biomedical research of the brain.

## Striking a Balance — AWIS Conference 2008

*A taste of what is planned for the conference – Keynote Speakers, Plenary sessions, Workshops.*

## Branch News

*Jilly Evans* – Overseas News

*Liz Carpenter* – Waikato News

## From the National Executive

*Malina Storer* encourages discussion about the future of AWIS, invites all to join the conference in Christchurch and congratulates Hazel Gatehouse on her new DOC job.

## Being an ecologist — a life spirit

*An ecologist by profession and heart, AWIS member Cilla Wehi* talks about choices she has made and challenges she faced in her science career.

## A tiny wasp to control the clover root weevil

*AgResearch entomologist Pip Gerard* shares her research in unleashing a biological weapon (a tiny wasp) to counteract an alien invader (the clover root weevil).

## The volunteer experience at Hawaii Volcano Observatory

*New Zealand Science Mathematics and Technology Teacher Fellow Sandy Talbett*, of Hillcrest High School, Hamilton, spent three months working for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) at the Hawaii Volcano Observatory (HVO). Sandy shares her amazing experiences with us.

## Congratulations

*Professor Margaret Brimble, Professor Alison Jones and Dr Diana Martin* who have been appointed as new members to the Marsden Fund Council.

## What is Your Response

*A new column in which we pose your individual concern and invite you all to respond. In this issue Natalie asks Shall I do a PhD?*