

## The Waran Report

### A Newsletter from the NAEAC Chair

#### A Note from Nat

I can't believe we are past the midpoint of 2022. Although this year seems to be slipping away your NAEAC colleagues have been busy with planning online workshops, the training day for AECs and visits with AECs. We've also been working

on initiatives to communicate our commitment to the 3Rs and the good work being done across New Zealand RTT institutions to advance these. Over the past few months NAEAC subcommittees have been progressing a number of workstreams. One of these is focussing on how Mātauranga Māori can be

incorporated across the NAEAC portfolio of work including the CEC template and reporting. This will be discussed at one of the workshop sessions at the AEC training day in October. We have also been working with MPI colleagues to plan for a 2023 workshop to continue the discussion around Mātauranga Māori in relation to the use of animals in RTT that we started at a previous workshop. ANZCCART and NAWAC will



be invited, and this will provide us with an opportunity to share and develop our thinking with our colleagues in Australia and New Zealand. We are also planning for our big code of ethical conduct review/approval session in September which we hope will (COVID situation willing) be our first kanohi ki te kanohi hui since the start of the year. Finally, I am delighted that despite only being able to be virtually present, I was able, on behalf of NAEAC to thank our AEC colleague, David Peart, for his very long and committed service to supporting the development process and practice in relation to the ethics of animal use in RTT in New Zealand. Ka Pai David and thank you for your 40 years of work in this important space.

Ngā mihi nui

Nat

#### Team Spotlight

##### *Professor Laura Bennet*

Laura is head of the Department of Physiology and co-director of the Fetal Physiology and Neuroscience Group in the Department of Physiology at the

University of Auckland. Laura is a research scientist in the areas of perinatal physiology with a specialist interest in preterm foetuses and newborns. Her research focuses on understanding how adverse events like oxygen deprivation and infection cause injury and illness, and the development of



treatment strategies. She is the current deputy chair of the animal ethics committee at the university and has served on the Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals and Research and Teaching (ANZCCART).

Laura and her family live in rural Clevedon, south of Auckland, on a couple of acres they have transformed from farmland back to bush. They share their lives with 3 crazy rescue cats (a brother and 2 sisters who are now one and half years old), a wonderful stray bush cat, and Pepper, the next-door neighbour's Labrador who comes to help the cats with their food. While the animals rule the house, the humans are content to sit out on their deck with great views and enjoy a good Clevedon wine or two.

### *Rachel Heeney*

Kia ora - I'm Rachel Heeney and I am currently loving my roles as Head of



Biology at Epsom Girls and mother to my 15-year-old daughter, Amelie, one-eyed rescue cat, Maia, and Vizsla pup, Nalu. My tūrangawaewae is Kawakawa, Northland, where I've lived since I was four. Having had many animals for pets in the past ranging from rodents to fish to a range of mammals I was delighted to be nominated from the Ministry of Education for this role on the committee. This is my second of two terms with NAEAC and I have enjoyed the role very much. Being a teacher for the past 30

years has given me the knowledge around how and where animals are used in a teaching context. Our

ākonga have changed over the past few decades and are very keen to learn about how animals are used and to see things as fair, just and necessary. I find the committee quite inspiring and the discussions robust, thought provoking and, at times, entertaining. Nalu, my Vizsla, has attended many zoom meetings now and I am pleased the committee can soon meet up again. I hope my knowledge of education, including the review of achievement standards and work with teacher professional development (with the Maurice Wilkins Centre), will aid me in supporting the committee. I am also keen to support the update of the website and the introduction of more Mātauranga Māori into our work.

### **NAEAC AEC Service Award**

NAEAC would like to recognise the outstanding contribution of David Peart and his long-standing service with the AgResearch Animal Ethics Committee.

David has served in the animal ethics space for more than 40 years. In 1982 David became the President of Waikato Federated Farmers and the new appointee on the Ruakura Animal Ethics Committee chaired by Dr Ron Kilgour. Since this time David has continued to serve on the committee at the request of the various Chairs over the years due to his wealth of knowledge ranging from farming to research as well as a strong grasp of ethical issues. Over the years he has seen huge changes in the animal ethics landscape in New



Zealand and changes in public acceptability of research practices. David continues to provide a perspective that is totally unique due to this vast experience and his ability to apply that knowledge. This has been invaluable to his ethics committee colleagues as they consider factors impacting and influencing manipulations.



### Sharing of tissues for use in RTT

MPI and NAEAC recognise that some experimental work requires the use of animal tissues. However, instead of breeding animals to be euthanised so their tissues can be used MPI and NAEAC encourage appropriate sharing of animal tissues. These would come from animals that had been used for another purpose under an animal ethics approval. If tissues are available, researchers should seek out opportunities to share them between laboratory groups. This will reduce the number of animals that need to be bred for use of their tissues.

### Insect Sentience Workshop

NAEAC and its sister committee, the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC), are hosting a joint workshop on 17 August 2022 to bring the committees together to learn more about insect sentience.



The following speakers will join to share their knowledge and experience around insects: Dr Andrew

Crump, Professor Phil Lester, Professor Greg Neely and Mateus Detoni.

They will cover topics including:

- What insects bring to the world
- Insect sentience
- Pain responses in insects
- Bee health
- Emotion in invertebrates

If you would like to register to attend this workshop, please email [naeac@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:naeac@mpi.govt.nz).

### ANZCCART NZ LinkedIn

Check out the new [ANZCCART NZ LinkedIn page](#)! Read about the Openness Agreement on Animal Research and Teaching in New Zealand, and other pieces of work ANZCCART NZ is pursuing as it considers the ethical, social and scientific issues relating to the use and wellbeing of animals in research and teaching.

Be sure to follow the page and post any stories about openness in animal research and teaching you would like to share.

### **The Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield Three Rs Award 2022 – now accepting applications**

The biennial award is jointly offered by the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) and the New Zealand board of the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART(NZ)).

This award recognises people and institutions that are proactively finding ways to replace, reduce, or refine the use of animals in research, testing, and teaching in New Zealand.

Please read our Terms of Reference before completing the application form (read more on the [NAEAC website](#)).



### **The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee**



Applications or nominations (with knowledge of nominee) should be sent as an electronic attachment (Word or PDF) to the NAEAC Secretariat via email [naeac@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:naeac@mpi.govt.nz).

**Applications close on 30 September 2022.**

### **Advances in 3 Rs**

*Benchtop method for fabricating organ-on-a-chip devices wins International 3Rs Prize*

Congratulations to Dr Daniel Ferreira at the Instituto de Investigação e



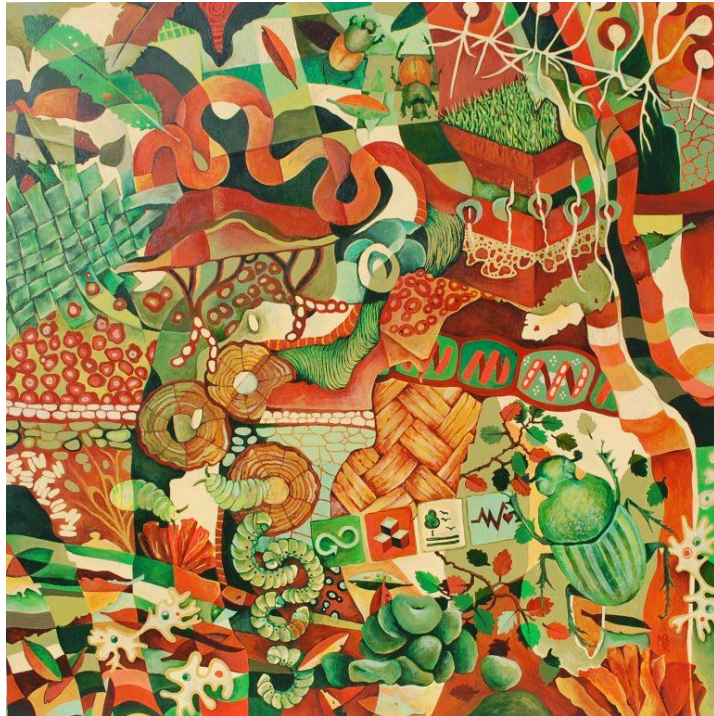
Inovação em Saúde, Portugal, who was awarded the International 3Rs Prize for his [publication](#) in Advanced Science. Daniel and colleagues have adapted a method to enable organ-on-a-chip systems to be designed, developed and printed with commercially available equipment and materials.

**Visit the NAEAC website – [www.naeac.org.nz](http://www.naeac.org.nz)**

Check out the NAEAC website to learn more about the work of the committee and how you can get involved.

### **ANZCCART Communication Competition – submissions due 29 August**

The ANZCCART Communication Competition is currently seeking submissions. The purpose of the competition is to encourage thinking about communicating the role animal research and teaching plays in today's society, in an engaging way. This competition is open to organisations and individuals, as well as tertiary and secondary education students. Entries can include: animation, painting, sculpture, music, video, presentation, dance, writing or cooking.



Conditions of entry and other details for the Competition can be found on the ANZCCART [website](#).

### **Nature journals raise the bar on sex and gender reporting in research**

With growing awareness around the importance of considering sex and gender in scientific research *Nature* now requires researchers to describe how they've considered sex and gender in their work.

You can read more about this initiative at: [Nature 605, 396 \(2022\)](#).



### **Increase in number of experiments on animals - UK**

RPSCA (UK) is urging the Government to commit to a clear strategy for phasing out the use of animals in research and teaching while phasing in humane alternative methods. You can read more about the survey work they undertook to understand public perceptions around animals used in RTT on their [website](#).

### **Need to get in touch?**

If you need to contact NAEAC please send us an email at [naeac@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:naeac@mpi.govt.nz).