Kia or koutou

Welcome to this update on the Science in society research theme.

We are meeting with the Associate Dean Research and the other research theme leaders later in June for an informal stock take of how the research themes are working across the faculty. Although we are still at an early stage, we are looking forward to sharing our progress with the group. Following are some of the initiatives we will be highlighting.

Our **Steering Group** has given us enormous support and we are delighted to welcome Dr Stephanie Dawes to our group. We look forward to collaborating with Stephanie and through her the School of Biological Sciences.

Our first **seed funding project - the Science Shop Feasibility Study** led by Marie McEntee – is making good progress. A research assistant has been hired to undertake the literature review and look at a variety of Science Shop models including the [University of Technology Sydney Shopfront](http://www.engineering.usyd.edu.au/Science-Shops/) model. A good overview of Science Shops is available on the [Living Knowledge website](http://www.livingknowledge.org/). We are investigating a number of training opportunities that we think would be of interest to theme members.

The [Science Media Centre](http://www.science-media-centre.org.nz/) offers **media skills training for researchers**. The next two-day workshop in Auckland is 21-22 November with applications opening later this month. Cost is $595. Karen attended a Science Media workshop a couple of years ago and thoroughly recommends it. We are looking at the possibility of bringing Science Media training to the University. If you are interested, please email Kathryn Howard for further information.

We are hoping to organise **wananga facilitation training** for theme members, followed by a holding a wananga with a selected group of stakeholders – possibly around the Science shop feasibility study outcomes. We are in consultation with Jason Tutara, Faculty of Science Kairahi. If you are interested in wananga training, please contact Kathryn Howard.

We are looking at establishing **dialogue with Government and other partners**. We have reached out to the [Centre for Science and Society at Victoria University Wellington](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/centre-for-science-and-society) to see if there any shared learning and collaboration opportunities. Jenny met with the Ministry of Transport this week to foster a greater understanding of the Government’s priorities in transport policy, research and strategy. We are also in contact with [SouthSci](http://www.southsci.org/), a participatory science platform in south Auckland which is looking at a new way of connecting schools and communities with science by supporting them to develop research projects around questions that matter to them.
Watch this space for a week of hands on events and speakers which we are looking to hold later in the year.

It’s been a busy six months so far and with your ongoing support we hope to bring some of our ideas to fruition over the next six months.

Karen Fisher and Jennifer Salmond – co-theme leaders

Kathryn Howard – Research programme manager