



# Jessie McKenzie

*Jessie McKenzie recently left the Royal Society Te Apārangi after 14 years of service. NZASE Science Communicator Mike Stone outlines her work with and for teachers and for science education.*

## Jessie's career

Jessie was a primary school teacher with a passion for science and technology who received a Royal Society New Zealand Science, Mathematics and Technology Teacher Fellowship. She became a Deputy Principal, and then Principal of Brentwood School in 1992.

Jessie began working at the Royal Society Te Apārangi in 2006, involved in the organisation's connections with teachers. This role later became the School Programmes Co-ordinator.

Jessie led the work on CREST, an international awards scheme, where students to year 13 can work at a programme of increasingly difficult science and technology challenges. Each individual student is linked with a scientist mentor on a project of the student's choosing. Jessie evolved and maintained CREST systems and supported the teachers involved.

She facilitated networking activities and wrote e-newsletters to support mathematics, science and technology teachers and those participating in CREST.

Jessie led the Advancing Primary Science programme, designed to raise the profile of science teaching and learning in schools, and ran several primary science teacher conferences.

Jessie project-managed the Teachers in Industry programme, connecting schools and

*Photo: RSNZ*

kura with science or technology-intensive businesses in their various communities. In this programme teachers/kaiako could spend time with participating businesses to gain industry experience, enabling them to develop business and science-relevant curriculum content for the classroom.

*"Jessie always brings a thoroughly professional and enthusiastic approach to what she does."*

**Donald Reid**

*"Jessie is a great supporter of primary science. She motivated me and others to start an association to support Primary teachers, NZAPSE. Over the years she suggested things that needed to be done and gently kept reminding you till it was done. Jessie made contact with every school she could, finding out who championed science within the school, making a personal connection and offering support. She walks alongside us as an encourager and is a great help when we get stuck."*

**Sandy Jackson, Kings School**

*"Our school did silver CREST with L1 extension students, rather than accelerating them. Jessie was a great support to our teachers helping find mentors and responding to queries promptly to ensure they had all they needed to make it work. For many years she also ran expos, giving LEOTC providers and Wellington teachers a chance to meet – allowing providers to show what they can offer and primary and secondary teachers to see what was available. I appreciate Jessie for her institutional knowledge, warm support and absolute can-do attitude."*

**Former HoD**

*"I got to know Jessie in the Peter Spratt days, and then we worked together closely in 2008 when she was the mentor for my Royal Society Teacher Fellowship. We discussed and collaborated on many science education issues and initiatives over the years. I appreciate Jessie's solid professional presence, her support and suggestions, and her genuine interest in science education."*

**Jenny Pollock**

Jessie has given huge support to teachers, and NZASE wishes her well in her future work in the education sector.



**NZASE**

New Zealand Association of Science Educators

Representing the needs of science teachers