



Institute for Governance and Policy Studies

A research institute of the School of Government

Annual Report 2020

2020 at a glance

	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Policy Quarterly</i> articles	49	56	45	57
<i>Policy Quarterly</i> abstract views (from OJS)	No data	No data (2019 first full year)	20,056	27,209
<i>Policy Quarterly</i> article views (from OJS)	No data	No data (2019 first full year)	13,824	19,853
IGPS events	37	30	24	7
Attendees at IGPS events	1785	1444	1390	310
Talks by IGPS staff	No data	No data	54	40
Staff op eds	2	11	23	17
Staff publications	1	6	7	12
IGPS Working papers	0	3	3	5

Overview

2020 was a difficult year for the IGPS, with activities considerably disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic in a wide variety of ways.

The first impact was an IGPS shift to working from home in response to the Level 4 lockdown and the weaknesses this revealed in some staff's internet connectivity.

The second major impact was the complete disruption of our events programme, twice – once in the Level 4 state and once in the Level 2 state around the time of the election campaign. In the latter case we had to cancel or re-schedule several major events relating to informing the public around the election process. As a consequence of the Covid-related decline in travel, far fewer speakers walked in the door and the need emerged to put more resources into active event curation. As a consequence, the number of IGPS events fell markedly compared to previous years.

Covid also had a considerable impact on our work programme. The special issue of *Policy Quarterly* on vested interests was postponed until 2021 and replaced with a special issue on Covid. The "Health of democracy project" scheduled for the run-up to the election had to be almost entirely postponed, as meetings of the working group of associates became impossible and IGPS resources were diverted to more pressing problems, including our successful lockdown survey work (undertaken in association with the Roy McKenzie Centre), which was very successfully organised at very short notice. Finally, our regular trust survey's dissemination programme was heavily truncated.

Covid also negatively influenced our ability to productively engage with associates, the Advisory Board and our donors.

Covid also had an impact on the IGPS financial situation via the large fall in international share markets in early 2020. Questions consequently arose regarding future IGPS income streams. Analysing the detailed financial circumstances that the IGPS faced absorbed an unanticipated amount of directorial attention. From this process, it became evident that the VUW Foundation Trust, which manages our capital asset, has not made enough of a return to accumulate a sizeable investment reserve in the good times on the stock market over

2012-2019 to cushion us against possible lean times. Thus, the director has an additional and unanticipated role in managing IGPS income risk in the foreseeable future.

Despite these constraints, the amount of published academic work and research papers by staff rose considerably in the 2020 year, which was a significant success. Use of Zoom technology also meant that we sustained an unexpectedly high number of public talks, lectures and presentations.

On another positive note, the IGPS's planned three-year strategic capitalisation of the PBRF money was successfully accomplished. Consequently, the size of the current long-term fund for generating income for the IGPS is now approximately \$13M, up from the initial total endowment of \$10M (the \$3M rise includes an inflation adjustment as well as capitalisation). This is a substantial achievement and will, as planned strategically, hopefully allow us to employ an additional staff member in 2021.

Many of our Senior Associates' letters of appointment expired in mid-2020. A number were reappointed, and the opportunity was also used by the director to identify and appoint a range of new Associates to better advance the charter.

A new Chair of the IGPS Advisory Board, Lyn Provost, was approached and appointed. The process of identification of an appropriate candidate took a significant amount of time, but we are extremely happy to have someone of Lyn's experience and expertise on board.

Despite the considerable challenges of dealing with this accumulation of one-off events and time pressures, staff managed to adapt to the complex and shifting situation, and a considerable amount of work was done in relation to the outcome and research objectives of our charter. Below, main activities undertaken by each staff member are summarised. In addition, the relevant activities of Associates are highlighted.

Unlike previous annual reports, no financial information is reported here. The Institute has not received a satisfactory set of accounts and explanations regarding the accounts from the university accounting system as at 25th of May 2021. The Director considers that the need to report on achievements has reached a point where it can no longer wait for accounts.

Simon Chapple

Op-eds

“How to drop big money from NZ politics”, *Newsroom*, 19 November 2020.

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/how-to-drop-big-money-from-nz-politics>

“Too weak, too short”, *Newsroom*, 16 May 2020.

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/ideasroom/2020/05/16/1174752/budget-2020-too-weak-too-short>

“Lift tax on the well-paid until we are through this”, *Newsroom*, 17 April 2020.

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/ideasroom/2020/04/17/1131752/lift-tax-on-well-paid-until-were-through-this>

“How much is a New Zealand Life worth?”, *Newsroom*, 17 March 2020.

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/ideasroom/2020/03/17/1087345/how-much-is-a-nz-life-worth>

“Keeping the reformed public service in check”, *Newsroom*, 5 March 2020.

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/ideasroom/2020/03/05/1067133/keeping-the-reformed-public-service-on-the-straight-and-narrow>

“The parenting myth revealed by lockdown”, *Newsroom*, 3 July 2020 (with Kate Prickett and Michael Fletcher). <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/ideasroom/the-parenting-myth-revealed-by-lockdown>.

“Time, family, work – and bored zombies. New Zealanders open up about life in coronavirus lockdown”, *The Conversation*, 26 June 2020. <https://theconversation.com/time-family-work-and-bored-zombies-new-zealanders-open-up-about-life-in-coronavirus-lockdown-140237> Also in the *New Zealand Herald*, 26 June 2020. (with Kate Prickett and Michael Fletcher).

Public submissions etc

Met Ginny Anderson MP to discuss issues surrounding the Public Sector Bill with Jonathan Boston, 19 February.

IGPS written submission to Justice Select Committee on political funding for the foreign interference inquiry, 28 February.

Oral submission (in person) on the public sector bill, 4 March.

Oral submission (via Zoom) Justice Select Committee on political donations, 4 June.

Other media

The Panel, Radio New Zealand on political donations 14 February.

Latvian national radio interview 26 July 2020 on Covid response and Jacinda Ardern.

The Panel, Radio New Zealand on political donations 21 June.

Talks and lectures

Lecture for Publ 113 on tax and social policy during lockdown.

Lecture for Publ 508 (MPs public policy course) on the mechanics of surveying the public during Covid.

Talk to Karori Labour Party on the trust survey, 29 June, 40 people in attendance.

Talk to senior public service leaders on Covid lockdown survey, 28 July (via Transparency International).

School of Government, Brown Bag talk on the Covid lockdown survey, 3 August.

“Life Under Lockdown: How Did New Zealanders' Experience Lockdown in Terms of Well-Being, Family Functioning and the Labour Market?”, IGPS event, 24 June.

“Life Under Lockdown: How Did New Zealanders' Experience Lockdown in Terms of Well-Being, Family Functioning and the Labour Market?”, MBIE event, 29 October.

IPANZ Zoom interview with Shenagh Gleisner on public sector bill monitoring, 14 September.

Talk on “Social investment in NZ A long good-bye?”, Community Services across the Tasman New Zealand/Australia Zoom online event, 6 September 2020.

“New Zealand’s housing crisis”, VUW Comms webinar via Zoom (introduced and chaired, with Mark Southcombe and Claire Achmad), <https://soundcloud.com/user-789166933/new-zealands-housing-crisis>.

Advisory Boards etc.

Centre for Labour, Employment and Work Advisory Board (4 meetings).

Expert Advisory Group, Commission for Financial Capability (3 meetings).

Outside expert advisor to Finance and Expenditure sub-committee of Parliament on Reserve Bank Monetary Policy and Financial Stability statements, December 2020.

Academic research

“Patterns of political donations in New Zealand under MMP: 1996-2019”, IGPS Working Paper 20/05, (with Tom Anderson).

“Results from the IGPS March 2020 Trust Survey”, IGPS working Paper 20/04.

“Work Circumstances, Job Loss, and Wellbeing During New Zealand’s Covid-19 Alert Level 4 Lockdown”, *New Zealand Economic Papers* (with Hanna Habibi, Kate Prickett and Michael Fletcher), forthcoming.

“Immediate employment and income impacts of Covid-19 in New Zealand: Evidence from a survey conducted during the Alert Level 4 lockdown”, *New Zealand Economic Papers* (with Kate Prickett and Michael Fletcher), forthcoming.

“What People Said about Life Under Lockdown”, *Policy Quarterly*, August (with Conal Smith, Kate Prickett and Michael Fletcher), 16 (3): 53-57.

“Social policy and tax book”, chapter for book edited by Graham Hassall and Girol Karacaoglu, forthcoming (in press).

“Life in lockdown: The economic and social effect of lockdown during Alert Level 4 in New Zealand”, IGPS working Paper. (with Prickett, Kate C.; Fletcher, Michael; Chapple, Simon; Doan, Nguyen; Smith, Conal).

PhD supervision of Toby Moore.

Michael Fletcher

Academic research

Fletcher, M. & Rasmussen, E. (2020). Commentary: Labour market change and employee protection in New Zealand in light of the ‘future of work’ debate. *New Zealand Journal of Employment Relations* 44(3), 32-44.

Fletcher, M. (2020). Government’s income support responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. *Policy Quarterly* 16(3) 73-77.

Fletcher, M., Prickett, K. C. & Chapple, S. (forthcoming). Immediate employment and income impacts of Covid-19 in New Zealand: Evidence from a survey conducted during the Alert Level 4 lockdown. *New Zealand Economic Papers*.

Fletcher, M., Maré, D. C. & Maloney, T. (forthcoming). The economic consequences of marital separation for Parents in New Zealand: Insights from a large administrative dataset. *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family*.

Fletcher, M. (2020). *Developments in social legislation and policy in New Zealand, 2019*. Social Law Reports Vol 4, Munich, Germany: Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy.

Talks and lectures

Fletcher, M. (2020). *Welfare reform, WEAG, poverty and the Labour-led Government: Jam yesterday, jam tomorrow, but never jam today?* Presentation to the Fabian Society, Connolly Hall, Wellington, 28 February.

Fletcher, M. (2020). *Comments on social insurance as an unemployment response for New Zealand post-Covid.* Presentation to Labour Party/Fabian Society virtual seminar, 20 June.

Media

Interview for *The Conversation* (Veronika Meduna) on the coronavirus package, 17 March.

Interview for Stuff *Deep trouble* 3-part interactive. June.

Interview for Pacific Breakfast Show, 531PI, 26 June.

Commentary *Kindness doesn't begin at home: Jacinda Ardern's support for beneficiaries lags well behind Australia's* The Conversation 3 June. [138,758 readers as at 20 Nov. the 4th highest for VUW for the year to 20 Nov]

Interview for Arrow FM. 5 August.

Interview for RNZ (Harry Lock) MSD benefit stats and UE. 11 September.

Interview for RNZ (Nita Blake-Persen) MSD benefit stats and UE. 15 October.

Interview for RNZ (Katie Todd) MIQ and lockdown costs. 11 November.

Other

Life under lockdown launch 24 June.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/431217/managed-isolation-quarantine-costing-2-point-4m-a-day-figures-show?fbclid=IwAR3PFv6DNDknDK8yeS0e4YOZknxtNkptzF2Ffhf2toUK62lqcA4KCYqvjMo>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/431217/managed-isolation-quarantine-costing-2-point-4m-a-day-figures-show?fbclid=IwAR3PFv6DNDknDK8yeS0e4YOZknxtNkptzF2Ffhf2toUK62lqcA4KCYqvjMo>

Mike Joy

Op-eds

“New New Zealand”, April 10. <https://pureadvantage.org/news/2020/04/10/new-new-zealand/>

“Open Letter Covid19: Calling For A Sustainable Economic Re-set”, *Scoop*, April 28. <https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO2004/S00267/open-letter-Covid19-calling-for-a-sustainable-economic-re-set.htm>

“NZ’s polluted waterways threaten our health”, *Newsroom*, May 8. https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2020/05/08/1162157/nzs-polluted-waterways-threaten-our-health?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Newsroom&utm_campaign=596d85405e-Daily+Briefing+08.5.20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_71de5c4b35-596d85405e-97857323&fbclid=IwAR1HZAuizNYFF7nH7YCI1kkOeUzU-yR85JoJWRHQ5fRrdGDcWB_1nUFEzo

“Environmental solutions must first address causes”, 16 May. <https://teu.ac.nz/news/environmental-solutions-must-first-address-causes>

“NZ government ignores expert advice in its plan to improve water quality”, *The Conversation*, 28 May. <https://theconversation.com/new-zealand-government-ignores-expert-advice-in-its-plan-to-improve-water-quality-in-rivers-and-lakes-139554>

“Freshwater crisis in 100 percent pure New Zealand”, *Smart Water Magazine*, 19 July. <https://smartwatermagazine.com/blogs/michael-mike-joy/freshwater-crisis-100-pure-new-zealand>.

“Covid is not only a disease but a symptom”, *The Spinoff*, 24 August (with Catherine Knight), <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/24-08-2020/Covid-is-not-only-a-disease-but-also-a>

[symptom-of-the-global-environment-](#)

[crisis/?fbclid=IwAR27t8GJs22ohtbafVe4OYUBS0W5oVwGLZ_Nl0c2GsGpOZIZT1pdEYtTTAc](#)

<https://blogs.otago.ac.nz/pubhealthexpert/2020/08/10/reducing-the-health-burden-from-contaminated-drinking-water-in-nz-opportunities-arising-from-the-new-water-services-bill/>

<https://www.psa.org.nz/assets/Uploads/ProgressiveThinking-Dr-Mike-Joy-The-Future-of-Environmental-Regulation.pdf>

<https://www.psa.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Future-of-Public-Service-2020-Web2.pdf>

"NZ embraced the science on Covid, so why are we spurning it on water, *The Spinoff* .

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/science/06-11-2020/nz-embraced-the-science-on-Covid-19-so-why-are-we-spurning-it-on-water/>

"Covid is not only a disease but a symptom", *The Spinoff*, 24 August (with Catherine Knight).

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/mike-joy-my-message-to-jacinda>

Presentations and lectures

22/01	Tairāwhiti Climate Summit Gisborne, Presentation and panel discussion
23/01	Kariaka Marae, Ruatoria Presentation and Discussion on Marae
23/01	Hinemaurea Marae, Wharekahika
4/02	Lectures Law students
2/03	Carterton Rotary presentation on dams and Water Quality 35 attendees
8/03	Conference invited presentation on new water quality limits ODGP conference Lincoln University (150 attendees)
31/03	Sheep milk Conference
22/04	Zoom talk to Hut Valley Tramping Club 70 attendees
7/05	Guest lecture, Māori Resource Management lecture Maor301
26/05	Criminology Lecture Sarah Monod
16/06	Science and Scones - Mike Joy on Biophysical limits of growth talk to GWRC staff 50 zoom attendees
22/06	Climate Change Lecture to Myanmar Young Leaders (12)

8/07	Extractivism conference The biophysical limits of extractivism https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EMOEY4A_1uhvtPGcLnIzIzYU28-nHBDN/view
25/07	A better Future presentation at the Alternative Aotearoa Conference, Pipitea Marae (150 ppl) http://www.climatejusticeaotearoa.org/2020/06/30/alternative-aotearoa-seminar-25-july/
27/07	The currency of water panel and screening National Library 150 people https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfPFmcO3HT0
30/07	Lecture Contextualizing Covid-19: Centre for Science in Society Public Seminar Series The Covid Pandemic: Lessons for the future of food and energy
4/08	St Cuthberts School lecture to staff and senior students Reality check food and energy future (80 - 100 attendees)
4/08	Lecture to 5 th year Environmental Law students VUW Rm GO4 2 hr
4/08	Ecology & Evolution Seminar Series 2020 New Kirk Building, KKL301
26/08	PSA webinar (230 attendees) https://www.psa.org.nz/media/resources/progressivethinking/
5/09	Kaitiaki Wai - Panel discussion Pataka Gallery Porirua (80 attendees)
24/09	Panellist and presenter at Auckland University River Futures in Aotearoa event (50 attendees and online) https://youtu.be/Lakq2is6MAg
5/10	Massey Lecture BA
7/10	Geoff's Auckland talk
23/10	NZ property institute conference (150 people) https://propertyinstitute.nz/Attachment?Action=Download&Attachment_id=3979
11/11	Lecture Sci 101 summer semester VUW Rebecca Priestly
16/11	Lecture Govt 503 VUW
13/11	Organic Regenerative Webinar 65 people

Other activities

Technical workshops	3
Research working groups	2
Media interviews	
Newspaper	7
RNZ	6
TV	5
Doco	2
Podcast	5

Academic publications

Bănăduc, D., Joy, M., Olosutean, H., Afanasyev, S. and Curtean-Bănăduc, A., 2020. Natural and anthropogenic driving forces as key elements in the Lower Danube Basin–South-Eastern Carpathians–North-Western Black Sea coast area lakes: a broken stepping stones for fish in a climatic change scenario? *Environmental Sciences Europe*, 32(1), pp.1-14.

Joy M. K., Canning A. D. (2020) Shifting baselines and political expediency in New Zealand’s freshwater management. *Marine and Freshwater Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1071/MF20210>.

“Food for healing”, Chapter in book *The New Possible*, <https://www.amazon.com/New-Possible-Visions-beyond-Crisis-ebook/dp/B08KFSNG1Q>, ISBN 978-1-7252-8582-2

Senior Associates

As ever, the Institute received considerable and invaluable support in 2020 from our Senior Associates, and we thank them all for their individual contributions. This year marked the end point of three-year appointments for a large cohort. We farewelled Joey Au, Bryce Edwards, Elizabeth Eppel, Peter McKinlay, Geoff Rashbrooke, David Rea, Bob Stephens, and Antong Victorio. Returning for new three-year appointments were Geoff Bertram, Keitha Booth, David Bromell, Len Cook, Judith Davey, Marie Doole, Derek Gill, Kennedy Graham, Colin James, Catherine Knight, Adrian Macey, Murray Petrie, Max Rashbrooke, and Conal

Smith. We welcomed new Senior Associates Hannah Blumhardt, Paul Callister, Alison Dewes, Andrew Ecclestone, Bev Hong, Vanessa James, Toby Moore, and Rose Ryan.

Associates were involved in a wide variety of work contributing to the fulfilment of the Institute's charter, both in terms of research and outcome objectives. The list below is not by any means comprehensive. However, it gives the flavour of the significant contributions which our associates were making throughout the year.

Geoff Bertram remained involved throughout the year in the Macro Group which met every second Friday except during Covid shutdowns, and which met with senior Treasury staff on 12 March. As usual he participated in various public policy debates during the year, as follows:

- 30 January Appeared before the Environment Select Committee to present submission on the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Reform) Amendment Bill. [Submission is at <http://www.geoffbertram.com/fileadmin/publications/Submission%20on%20ETS%20bill.pdf>)
- 13 April “Where to get the money? Just create it.” *New Zealand Herald*, April 13 2020, <http://www.geoffbertram.com/fileadmin/publications/Herald%20oped%2013%20April%202020%20scan%20and%20text.pdf> .
- April “Covid-19 response: time to power up the helicopters.” *BERL Economic Insights*, April 2020, <https://berl.co.nz/economic-insights/Covid-19-employment-and-skills-gdp-and-inflation-global-issues-government-and> .
- 12 May Affidavit for the plaintiffs in *Coromandel Watchdog v Minister of Finance and Associate Minister of Finance and Oceana Gold*, eventually decided as [2020] NZHC 2345.

- 13 May “Future of the New Zealand State Sector”, *Newsroom*,
<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/ideasroom/the-future-of-the-new-zealand-state-sector>
- 22 May Appeared as a guest contributor on Wallace Chapman’s “The Panel” on RNZ to introduce a discussion on monetary and fiscal policy
- 23 May Two-hour Zoom seminar for the Fabians on “How to pay for Covid-19”. Video is at <https://youtu.be/T2cEhUDfTII> . Slides are at https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1djAK_gZOH003P5VMRzozf-zmHNLTAxAljPx0Nfg4JY/edit#slide=id.p1 and at <http://www.geoffbertram.com/fileadmin/publications/Presentation%20May%2023.pdf> . Podcast at <https://soundcloud.com/user-281367389/how-do-we-pay-for-Covid-19-dr-geoff-bertram-23-may-2020> .
- June *Is the Commerce Act 1986 fit for purpose? A blueprint for a new Commerce Act*. IGPS Working Paper 20/02, June 2020.
- 7 July “Every degree of openness at the border adds risk.” *Newsroom*,
<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/ideasroom/every-degree-of-openness-at-the-border-adds-risk> .
- 8 July Seminar presentation to the PSA Progressive Thinking series on “Should we revive the Ministry of Works?” Paper is at <https://www.psa.org.nz/assets/Uploads/ProgressiveThinking-Geoff-Bertram-Should-we-revive-the-Ministry-of-Works.pdf> , webinar recording is at <https://www.psa.org.nz/media/resources/progressivethinking/#collapse302> . The paper appeared on pp.36-38 of *Ten Perspectives: possible futures for public and community services*, Wellington: PSA, October 2020 (the whole book is online at www.psa.org.nz/progressivethinking).
- 13 July “Power belongs to the powerful: counting the many ways New Zealand's electricity reforms have been misguided”, lecture to Lower Hutt University

- of the 3rd Age, slides at
<http://www.geoffbertram.com/fileadmin/publications/U3A%20Presentatio%2013%20July%202020.pdf> .
- 25 July Spoke at the “Alternatives Aotearoa” conference. Video is at
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BiyukoQmmHXWDkxg_QCZTmrmeZllzTPQ/view ; transcript is at
<http://www.geoffbertram.com/fileadmin/publications/Geoff%20Bertram%20transcript.pdf> .
- 19 August *What's wrong with the New Zealand electricity market?* Zoom presentation to Engineers for Social Responsibility, video online at
<https://youtu.be/bX0j1RvsBYk> , slides at
<http://www.geoffbertram.com/fileadmin/publications/ESR%20presentation%2019%20August%202020.pdf> .
- 25-28 August Exchange of letters in the *Dominion Post* newspaper, about the "iron cage of neoliberal legislation" that constrains policy in NZ.
<http://www.geoffbertram.com/fileadmin/publications/Dompost%20letters%20Aug2020.pdf> .
- August “Response to the Commerce Commission’s invitation to comment on Aurora Energy’s proposed new Customised Price-Quantity Path.” Submission to Commerce Commission, August 2020,
https://comcom.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/224502/Geoff-Bertram-Submission-on-Aurora-Energys-CPP-Issues-paper-18-August-2020.pdf .
- August “Why the Commerce Act 1986 is Unfit for Purpose.” *Policy Quarterly*, 16(3):80-87. <https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/pq/article/view/6562/5726> .
- 3 September “Money creation policy”, letter to editor, *Dominion Post newspaper*,
<http://www.geoffbertram.com/fileadmin/publications/Dompost%20letter%203%20September%202020.pdf> .

- 8 September “Breaking out of neoliberalism's iron cage”, *Newsroom*,
<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/breaking-out-of-neoliberalisms-iron-cage> .
- 14 September “Digital divide corroding society” letter to editor, *Dominion Post newspaper*,
<http://www.geoffbertram.com/fileadmin/publications/Dompost%20letter%2014%20Sept%202020.pdf> .
- 14 October Spoke in IGPS online seminar on biophysical limits to growth.
- 15 October “We need a wealth tax”, letter to editor, *Dominion Post newspaper*,
<http://www.geoffbertram.com/fileadmin/publications/Dompost%20letter%2015%20Oct%202020.pdf> .
- 26 October *Submission to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on the Overseas Investment Amendment Bill (No 3)*,
<http://www.geoffbertram.com/fileadmin/publications/Bertram%20submission%20to%20the%20Finance%20and%20Expenditure%20Select%20Committee%20on%20the%20Overseas%20Investment%20Amendment%20Bill%20No%203.pdf> .

Andrea Black served as the Policy Director and Economist for the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions. In that role she wrote the Monthly Economic Bulletin <https://www.union.org.nz/category/economic-bulletin/> which explored issues from a progressive viewpoint ranging from the labour market under Covid-19; the tax landscape and the disproportionate effect of rents on people with low incomes. She also wrote several op-eds on the strictness of the tax system and tax policy generally on salary and wage earners compared to other taxpayers.

She also explored how other user charges and cost recovery are a regressive 'non-tax' means of funding public services for the Public Services Association series on Progressive Thinking: Ten Possible Futures for Public & Community Services <https://www.psa.org.nz/assets/Uploads/ProgressiveThinking-Andrea-Black-User-charges-and-cost-recovery-in-funding-public-services2.pdf>"

Hannah Blumhardt [published an article in The Conversation](#), specifically calling out the way in which the plastics and packaging industry misuse LCA to imply that plastic packaging is the best option for the environment. It has [since been translated into French](#). She supported Mike Joy and Catherine Knight's work for Better Futures Forum as a Zero Waste Expert, work which included writing [this article](#) and [this podcast interview](#). She served on two MfE advisory groups on matters related to waste policy (the Technical Advisory Group for the Container Return Scheme, and the advisory group for the update of the New Zealand Waste Strategy and the Waste Minimisation Act). A great deal of her time in the year's final third went towards supporting the public to engage with government consultation on a proposal to phase-out a range of hard-to-recycle and single-use plastic items. This included the following:

- Coordinating and co-authoring [a joint submission](#) on behalf of a number of zero waste related organisations and businesses. She also co-authored individual submissions for The Rubbish Trip, Takeaway Throwaways, the Aotearoa Plastic Pollution Alliance and the New Zealand Product Stewardship Council.
- Working with a number of organisations to produce resources that simplified the consultation document, helped people make submissions by doing a question by question breakdown of the questions, and also supporting two organisations (Zero Waste Network and Greenpeace) to produce short template submissions that members of the public could just sign and send rather than having to write their own. The two sites she helped compile these resources were [The Rubbish Trip](#) and [Takeaway Throwaways](#). The Takeaway Throwaways process involved a large social media push to demystify the consultation and preparing associated imagery, text and design to go with it.
- With Liam Prince she ran three public webinars to help people make a submission. Two of these were held at Victoria University and were supported by IGPS: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3361100257308748>

Keitha Booth's activities throughout the year included:

February 2020: Published [the Independent Reporting Mechanism \(IRM\) Report on the Design of New Zealand's Open Government Partnership \(OGP\) National Action Plan 2018-2020](#)

This report highlights New Zealand's focus on three open government themes: participation in democracy; public participation to develop policy and services; and transparency and accountability; and applauds New Zealand's 12 commitments. It commends three of the government's OGP commitments: making New Zealand's secondary legislation readily accessible; developing an authoritative dataset of government organisations as open data for greater transparency; and reviewing government use of algorithms.

It points to continuing deficiencies around the scope and applicability of New Zealand's official information legislation and reports that Commitment Seven is testing the merits of undertaking a review of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and providing and publishing its advice to the Government. It notes stakeholder wishes for a full OIA review.

It recommends new activities for consideration during the development of New Zealand's fourth OGP national action plan: an enlarged multi-stakeholder forum; continuing to strengthen media reporting of local government; reforming official information law, creating a public engagement community hub, the next steps for civics education learning and continuing to make New Zealand's secondary legislation more accessible online.

The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) report on the implementation of this action plan was scheduled for release for public comment in December 2020. Due to the NZ Government now deferring its completion of the plan until 30 June 2021, this report will now be prepared in the second half of 2021 and released for public comment in December 2021.

16 March 2020: Presentation to Rotary Club of Wellington: Open Government Partnership - why public participation matters

This presentation provided detailed analysis of New Zealand's Open Government Partnership national action plan 2018-2020. It reveals that NZ has improved its response to routine OIA requests and increased its proactive release of official information, for example,

Cabinet papers; Ministerial diaries; open budget. There has been progress towards public policy co-creation, official information law reform, citizenship education in compulsory education sector, open procurement, regular open government data release, and work with youth.

Areas where NZ did not do so well were: its Global Right to Information Rating was 52nd out of 128 countries – the Official Information Act 1982 has a limited scope, for example, it allows information to be classified by other laws; 2018 Open Budget Index scored NZ 59% for public participation, noting there are limited opportunities for public engagement in NZ's budget process; the 2019 World Press Freedom Index scored NZ 7th, noting there is media pluralism and that media independence in NZ is under constant threat; and that little reporting of regional and local council meetings raises corruption concerns; At the 2017 NZ general election, there was increased voting by those aged under 35, but nearly half of those enrolled but not voting were aged under 40.

Members of the public sought commitments addressing major open government concerns: Official Information Act reform; political party donations; participatory budgeting, citizens' assemblies for joint creation of public policy; low youth enrolment and voting turnout; inadequate reporting of local government meetings (potential for corruption).

They also wanted commitments to cover existing transparency work underway outside NZ's OGP work, e.g., Protected Disclosures Act Review – led by State Services Commission, Beneficial Ownership - led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment.

April 2020. Published an article in Transparency Times: [Open Government: Persistent concerns must be addressed](#)

This article referred to the findings of the IRM OGP Design Report (see above) and proposed that the government and the public work together to resolve these issues and enable more New Zealanders to participate regularly in New Zealand's democracy. It noted that "creating even higher openness of government's business will help maintain the public's trust in the government as it leads New Zealand's Covid-19 response now and over the next years. The

[recent decision](#) to publish the fourth National Action Plan in mid-2021 allows good time to consider these recommendations fully”.

4 May 2020. Guest lecturer to Victoria University of Wellington MMIM532 Information Policy students.

Focussed on Global open government initiatives, with an emphasis on open data, New Zealand Government’s expectations, NZ’s open government data and information policies and platforms, Challenges/matters to address, Use cases, and Global open government monitoring.

July 2020. Published an article in Transparency Times: [Let’s sharpen NZ’s 2018-2020 open government commitments](#)

This article proposed new actions for New Zealand’s 2018-020 national action plan now that the government has another year to implement the plan. These suggestions were collated from the [IRM Design Report 2018-2020](#), which drew on 2019 and 2020 research and interviews with members of the public; [the public comments on the draft NAP](#); subsequent 2020 desktop research; action plan progress reports to the State Services Commission; and March 2020 meetings with government commitment leads.

These included strengthen school-aged students’ ability to pre-register to vote; work with the Department of Internal Affairs to carry out Cabinet’s directive to explore options for making local authorities’ legislation and by-laws more accessible to users; develop a centralised government platform for proactive and OIA releases; document all algorithms used by government and release the register; work with the public and government agencies to cover all awarded government contracts and historical contract data; and adopt the Open Contracting Data Standard.

12 October. Facilitator at Trust Democracy’s [Build \(Back\) Better Democracy Workshop](#), an online side -event of Nethui 2020.

This workshop reflected on the state of New Zealand democracy and discussed whether we need to build it back the same or build it back better – and considered whether it is not just

our economic and social systems that have been disrupted by the Covid-19 crisis. There was discussion of whether we can realise the early hope that the internet would strengthen democracies, digital divides, fake news, political manipulation and polarisation.

David Bromell co-taught GOVT539 (Politics, philosophy and public policy) with Prof. Jonathan Boston in the first semester. He continues to be a member of the editorial board of *Policy Quarterly* and contributed to policy capability building for local government in Canterbury and to a Sustainable Development Goals leadership development regional conference for Nagano Senior High School, Japan, in May 2020. In October he took up a research fellowship (until March 2021) at the Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS) in Bochum, NRW Germany. His [research project](#) focuses on the Christchurch Call and related issues of censorship, social media regulation and ‘harmful speech’.

Len Cook published and presented a range of charter-relevant work throughout the year, including:

Published

- Cook, L. *Evidence, accountability and legitimacy: The oversight of child welfare services. Statistical Journal of the IAOS* 36 (2020). 365–373 DOI 10.3233/SJI-190583
- Cook, L. Gray, A. *Official statistics in the search for solutions for living with COVID-19 and its consequences. Statistical Journal of the IAOS* 36 (2020) 253–278. DOI 10.3233/SJI-200671

In Publication

- Cook, L. *A Statistical Window for the Justice System: Putting a Spotlight on the Scale of State Custody across Generations of Māori.* VUW IPS Working Paper 2020
- Cook, L. *The Census and Administrative Records – What Form of Consensual Union for 2023?* *New Zealand Population Review*,46, x–xx.

Presentations

- *Missing in Action – A statistical window on prisons*. Speaker at New Zealand Statistical Association Conference, Auckland, 2020
- Provided two affidavits to the Waitangi Tribunal hearings on Oranga Tamariki
- Presented to Select Committee hearing on the Public Service Bill, February 2020

Peer reviewer

- Two papers of the Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics
- Two Government Agency Research Reports (Housing, Justice)

Judith Davey's research in 2020 included work for the MBIE-funded Massey University research programme “Maximising Workforce Participation for Older New Zealanders”. The research question for this programme is “How can government, employers and workers maximise older New Zealanders participation in paid employment. It therefore has a strong emphasis on policy and economic activity. She has a role in two strands of this research:

Senior entrepreneurs – here the programme conducted 20 face-to-face in-depth interviews selected from respondents to the longitudinal HART survey. These respondents were people who had started a new business at age 50 plus – a growing world-wide trend. The analysis of these interviews took up the first half of 2020; subsequently 7 participatory workshops were held in 6 centres where the findings were presented to stakeholders, business development agencies, local government, and senior entrepreneurs themselves. Further consultations, report-preparation and publications based on the findings of the interviews and workshops will take place in 2021.

Case Studies of large employers and how they are responding to workforce ageing. Two case studies, one with a port company and another with a DHB took place in 2019 and in 2020 the findings were reported back to the organisations, with approved reports published on the Massey University HART study website. The selection of a third case study has been delayed by Covid-19 events.

The analysis of case study data gives special attention to the policy implications, including exploration of possible government response in the context of an ageing workforce.

Judith is also a member of the **Ageing Well through Eating, Sleeping, Socialising and Mobility (AWESSOM)** project, which has received funding from the National Science Challenge - Ageing Well. The team is tasked with exploring and analysing the policy implications of the research findings. In 2020 she attended preliminary group meetings for this project, including one with the International Science Advisory Board, as well as zoom meetings on questionnaire development and research planning. Judith also analysed the evaluation sheets for Age Concern Wellington presentations on a volunteer basis, two on Sleep and health and one on Emergency Preparedness among older people.

Judith's publications in 2020 included:

Judith A. Davey, Hannah Phillips, Fiona Alpass (2020) Chapter 27 Country Experiences - New Zealand p.351-361 in *Extended Working Life Policies. International Gender and Health Perspectives*. Áine Ní Léime, Jim Ogg, Martina Rašticová, Debra Street, Clary Krekula, Monika Bédiová, Ignacio Madero-Cabib (eds.) Springer Open.

Judith A. Davey and Chris Cunningham (forthcoming) "Siblings in Maori myth, culture and present-day society" In Ann Buchanan & Anna Rotkirch (Eds). *Brothers and sisters - Global perspectives on the longest enduring relationship*. Palgrave Macmillan publishers.

Judith's presentations in 2020 included:

Massey University HART webinar – *Later Life Entrepreneurial Activity*, May 2020

NZAG Conference – *The Rise and Significance of Senior Entrepreneurs* – accepted but conference postponed twice because of Covid 19

Organised IGPS seminar for Prof. Sue Yeandle, Professor of Sociology, Sheffield University UK, Feb 13 2020. *The Origins and Characteristics of the Care crisis in the UK*.

Participant in numerous on-line and face-to- face seminars organised by the IGPS, Health Services Research Centre, NZ Association of Gerontology, Australian Association of Gerontology.

Judith continued to blog at the Age Concern New Zealand website. Topics this year, on policy and research related to ageing have included – social isolation, shared housing, redundancy among older workers, how to make businesses age-friendly, older men and suicide, effects of Covid 19 on older people and in residential care, telehealth and ageism.

Judith is a member of ACCs advisory committee for older people, and an invited participant for Office for Seniors, MSD on the development of their web site.

Andrew Ecclestone joined the IGPS in the last quarter of the year. He has been awarded a grant by the New Zealand Law Foundation to analyse the systemic issues around open government in New Zealand. He's created a website for the project (www.opengovt.nz) and will be producing an issues paper, followed by topic papers and a report next year. He gave a presentation on the history and broader context of access to information laws to the Public Service Commission's forum of officials who respond to Official Information Act requests. He continues to contribute to some of the commitments in New Zealand's Open Government Partnership Action Plan, most recently that on building an authoritative and open dataset of government organisations. Andrew also participated in a UNESCO meeting of experts to consider how the UN should monitor and report on countries' progress against SDG indicator 16.10.2, which measures the enactment and quality of implementation of access to information laws.

Penny Ehrhardt continued to work primarily on the realisation of the economic, social and cultural rights of single-parent families. She was interviewed by Radio NZ on the impacts of New Zealand's COVID lock-down on single-parent families, and changes needed in government policy and messaging (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/413996/Covid-19-lockdown-sole-parents-dealing-with-a-lot-of-stress>.) She presented a seminar to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on *Making society work for single-parent families*, and congratulated the Ministry on its single-parents' network. She was appointed to the Expert Advisory Group of Birthright (New Zealand's only social services organisation that specialises in families led by one person).

Penny has engaged in comparative discussion to better understand and respond to family violence globally. She was asked to become a founding member of the Domestic Violence

Evidence and Practice Network, an initiative being run from the Universities of Oxford, Oxford Brookes, and the West Indies. She presented on *Decolonising responses to family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand* (<https://www.hmppsinsights.co.uk/videos/>) at the Global Perspectives on Domestic and Interpersonal Violence: Courts, Challenges, Solutions Seminar as part of Her Majesty's Prison Service (England and Wales)'s Insights programme. She is contributing the New Zealand chapter to an Oxford University Press book on 'Domestic Violence a Shadow Pandemic: The International Response'.

She assisted the World Bank with its annual reviews of *Women, Business and the Law* and *Family Law*. Penny continues to be involved with the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights as Secretary of the Oxford Children's Rights Network.

Penny shared the New Zealand experience with proportional representation as Guest Speaker at Fair Vote Canada's Annual Conference (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5X5qsK2BAKM>).

She also serves on the Toda Peace Gallery Working Group organised by Soka Gakkai New Zealand to open a Peace Gallery in Central Wellington. In August, Penny took over as Chair of the Secular Education Network with a focus on ensuring that state schools operate in a way that respects human rights, and non-discrimination.

Derek Gill's main research focus in 2020 has been on International Regulatory Cooperation. During the year an e-book on International Regulatory Cooperation in ASEAN + New Zealand was released <https://www.eria.org/publications/interconnected-government-international-regulatory-cooperation-in-asean/> The research draws on a series of country reports which included case studies, interviews, and a survey of key decision makers and opinion leaders in all ASEAN member states, as well as New Zealand. This book is culmination of a project that build on a series of four IRC case studies <https://nzier.org.nz/publication/international-regulatory-cooperation-case-studies-and-lessons-learnt>.

A summary of the research was published in the November in the special International Issue of Policy Quarterly <https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/pg/article/view/6631>

Bev Hong researched the use of art for effective anti-racism (and pro-inclusion) campaigns and jointly led the trialling of the Aotearoa Poster Competition as a positive collaborative community-based initiative. This initiative prompted New Zealanders to enact and reinforce the social values of Aotearoa New Zealand as a diverse and inclusive (non-racist) society. For 2020 – the main aims were to respond to the heightened racist sentiments and activities towards Chinese people in New Zealand sparked by the Covid-19 pandemic by running a nationally profiled poster competition. This initiative included a website (AotearoaPoster.com) with anti-racism and Chinese Kiwis resource pages and public engagement through a popular vote. Bev led an analysis of 2018 Census data *The Chinese population in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2018* which was published on the website as part of this work. The national relevance of this initiative is highlighted by the acquisition of the four winning posters by Te Papa for their Asian History collection.

The initiative aimed to:

- raise awareness and discussion about the diverse Chinese communities in New Zealand and promote what people can do when they witness racist behaviour
- foster an increased sense of belonging and inclusion for Chinese (and Asian) Kiwis
- signal and promote New Zealand's inclusive social values with respect to Chinese international students and other temporary visitors to our country.
- support the visual arts in New Zealand through providing artists with an opportunity for expression with winning artists being profiled nationally.

Colin James' year was again mostly taken up with the 50-year political history he has been writing.

Otherwise, he chaired a roundtable in October organised by the Institute of Public Administration on the 'no surprises' requirement on public servants which by 2017 had induced such subservience to ministers that the private superannuation details of New Zealand First leader Winston Peters were given to the Ministers of Social Welfare and State Services. The roundtable engaged a small number of senior public servants, two former senior public servants, the Privacy Commissioner, Human Rights Commissioner and a former Chief Ombudsman, a local government official, a former minister and two academics. The

discussion was illuminating and instructive. It is intended to follow up this with recommendations for change in 2021.

Colin gave a talk to the Wellington Club on 3 November contextualising the 2020 election in (a) the current geo-economic and geopolitical rebalancing and turmoil, climate change, ecosystem damage and impacts of digital and gene-editing technologies on societies and individuals and (b) the longer-term societal, economic and so policy challenges New Zealand politicians face as the 2020s unfold. <https://democracyproject.nz/2020/11/05/colin-james-beyond-jacinda/>

He will again, for the last time, contribute to the triennial Victoria University post-election conference in December. This will scan 50 years of elections for echoes and distinguishing points.

He wrote a few articles and did a few briefings leading up to the election and one post-election article.

Catherine Knight's activities in 2020 included establishing the Better Futures Forum <https://bff.org.nz/>, with Dr Mike Joy as co-founder. She was interviewed for the TVNZ documentary "Cowland", exploring the history of dairy farming in New Zealand and its impacts on the environment. She co-authored an article for the Spinoff examining the environmental roots of the Covid pandemic and the need to act urgently to avoid further crises: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/24-08-2020/Covid-is-not-only-a-disease-but-also-a-symptom-of-the-global-environment-crisis/>

November saw the release of Catherine's book "Nature and Wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand" (Totara Press) <https://www.catherineknight.nz/nature-wellbeing>, which has as one of its key objectives the influence of policy and planning and decision makers in those spheres. The release generated substantial media interest, and she was invited to present alongside Dr Ashley Bloomfield at a symposium exploring wellbeing research in November. She received a request to reproduce hermy Policy Quarterly article "A potted history of freshwater management in New Zealand" <https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/pg/article/view/5681> in New Zealand Science Review. She was also advised that the Principal Environment Court

Judge, Laurie Newhook, purchased copies of her book "Beyond Manapouri: 50 years of environmental politics in New Zealand" (2018) for every Environment Court Judge and Commissioner for their reading and reference. A fairly strong endorsement!

Adrian Macey's 2020 activities included:

Completed stay at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Nantes, France, returning to NZ in January.

Research and publication

Ongoing efforts with VUW, Oxford and Cranfield university colleagues relating to metrics, 'net zero', methane and agriculture. Several papers in the pipeline. Relevant to decisions awaited on an important part of NZ climate policy.

Chapter in VUW publication from the 2018 Pacific Climate Change Conference. "The Paris Agreement: Fit for Purpose for the Pacific?"

Engagement

Managed visit of Dr Robert Charnock, Birmingham Business School, and the Centre for Sustainable Business, UK, focusing on greenhouse gas accounting and the role of the business sector. Included roundtable with govt officials, meetings with forestry sector, climate scientists, students, and a public lecture.

Discussions and regular engagement with PCE, the Climate Change Commission, Ministry for the Environment, MPI, and sector groups (Beef and Lamb, Dairy NZ, Meat Industry Association). Aimed at promoting effective govt policy and, equally, positive contributions from the farming sector, as a better alternative than lobbying for special treatment.

Lecturing and public speaking

- Chaired public presentation at VUW by the French Climate Change Ambassador.
- Panellist on climate event to mark Paris Agreement 5 years, hosted at VUW (December – next week)

- NZ Defence Force – climate change and security
- ESCI
- VUW security course for senior officials
- Probus (Wellington)

Media

Responses to journalists e.g. Stuff seeking comment and background on the Climate Change and Business Conference

Mike Hosking NewstalkZB, comment on climate emergency declaration

Toby Moore published several op-ed pieces on rethinking the Government’s focus on public debt (“Fixation on public debt comes with trade-offs”, *Stuff*, 23 April 2020) and on a more ambitious role for the state in shaping a post-pandemic economy (“Recovering from our Muldoon-shaped hangover”, *Newsroom*, 9 October 2020, with Max Harris). He was a panellist on the Victoria University spotlight series panel “What now? The short-term economic responses to Covid-19”, chaired by Alan Bollard (12 May 2020). Toby also convened the fortnightly IGPS Macro Group meetings throughout 2020, bringing together IGPS associates and other economic policy experts to discuss new economic thinking of relevance to public policy in New Zealand.

Murray Petrie’s activities in 2020 were severely constrained by Covid on the one hand, and the time requirements of writing a book on environmental governance for Palgrave Macmillan, on the other. He did some pro bono work for the Ministry of the Environment, on environmental governance in New Zealand. He contributed to issues of public sector integrity (the quality of democracy project that did not proceed further due to Covid, the public trust survey).

Max Rashbrooke’s 2020 work included:

Commentary drawing attention to the problems raised by political donations and urging action: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/politics/09-03-2020/the-two-step-solution-to-fixing-our-donations-mess/> and <https://thespinoff.co.nz/politics/04-03-2020/a-brief-history-of-new->

[zealand-donations-scandals/](#)

Commentary in the New Zealand media on economic inequality and related issues, for instance: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/428606/comment-jacinda-ardern-has-huge-majority-but-that-may-not-be-much-use-to-her>

Commentary in the international media on New Zealand politics, for instance: <https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/world/jacinda-ardern-the-god-of-small-steps>

Public discussion of the initial results of my current investigation into wealth inequality: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/31/new-zealands-astounding-wealth-gap-challenges-our-fair-go-identity> and <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/money/2020/10/revealed-how-your-wealth-ranks-compared-to-other-new-zealanders.html>

An IGPS working paper on wealth inequality, due for publication shortly.

He was appointed to the Statistics New Zealand expert advisory group on the redesign of the Household Economic Survey.

He appeared the Covid-19 Epidemic Response select committee discussing economic inequality: <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2020/04/watch-live-as-Covid-19-epidemic-response-committee-hears-from-auditor-of-government-s-contact-tracing.html>

Publication of TEDx talk on the need for a "democratic reset": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AYpldladPc&t=3s>

Bill Rosenberg presented a paper on “Unions and the Evolution of Trade and Industry Policy under the Ardern Government” at the 2020 Annual Conference of the Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand in Queenstown in February, and contributed a paper on the same subject for a special issue of the journal *Labour &*

Industry: A Journal Of The Social and Economic Relations of Work (due for publication in April/May 2021). Also in February, he spoke to a symposium on *Improving housing standards for co-benefits for energy efficiency, carbon mitigation and health* organised by the University of Otago, Wellington on “Improving housing standards in the context of the future of work” and provided a chapter to a monograph based on the proceedings from the symposium (forthcoming). He contributed a paper for a special issue of *Policy Quarterly* in August 2020 on New Zealand’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic, “Support for Workers in the Covid-19 Emergency: what can we learn?”. Bill was also a member of the IGPS macroeconomics group, and was appointed a Commissioner of the Productivity Commission as from September 2020. He was also working at the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi as Future of Work Director.

Conal Smith published an article in the Spring 2020 International Productivity Monitor on trust and productivity. He presented to the Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association on wellbeing – the lecture is available online: <https://www.anzea.org.nz/anza-online-presentation-with-conal-smith-2/>

He participated in the Policy Project's workshop on long term briefing papers under the new Public Service Act 2020. He published a working paper on a wellbeing framework for Te Taihū (Marlborough, Nelson, and Tasman district councils).