**New Zealand Science Teacher contributor guidelines**

New Zealand Science Teacher (NZST) – [www.nzscienceteacher.co.nz](http://www.nzscienceteacher.co.nz) – is a unique website and journal that proudly celebrates local scientific and education endeavour. There is no other publication of its type in New Zealand. New Zealand Science Teacher welcomes contributions from science teachers, educators, scientists, and other interested parties. Formal qualifications are not required – just an active interest in the areas you wish to write about.

NZST’s readers are science teachers and technicians (members of the New Zealand Association of Science Educators), so articles should be aimed at their level of knowledge and related to science education. All articles, whether they are academic or informal, will be edited by NZME Educational Media staff and must be approved by the NZASE Editorial Advisory Group (a panel of peers). In some cases, substantive rewrites may be requested, but you will be guided in this process at every step of the way.

**Article topics**NZST articles are arranged in the following categories (refer to the website to get a feel for the type of articles that fall under each category):

* Science Curriculum/Scientific Literacy
* Learning in Science
* Pūtaiao
* Science Education and Society
* Assessment
* Teacher Education in Science
* Safety
* News

Current NZST editorial themes are:

* **Human health** (to 4 July 2014)
* **Light** (2015 is International Year of Light) (to 26 September 2014)
* **Climate change/sustainability** (to end of the school year)

Article submissions on these themes are particularly welcome, but other science topics are also welcome.

**Article types**

* **Academic articles (peer-reviewed)**
* **Opinion piece**
* **Teacher-written feature**
* **Student-written feature**
* **Teacher-led feature (teacher-driven but written by editor)**
* **Link/event of interest (heads-up)**

 **For all articles:
Audience:** NZST includes material of interest to all sectors of the science education community – primary, secondary, tertiary, researchers, and trainee teachers. Articles should be easy to read, and relevant to the classroom, and could provide practical ideas and suggestions for further reading.
**Key points:** Include 4-6 bullet points, outlining the key points of your article.
**Biographical details:** Include a brief description about yourself and your current position.
**Copyright:** Copyright belongs to individual authors, but will be assigned to NZASE.

**Academic article**Academic articles are referenced articles on a specific science education topic. Formal academic conventions are not mandatory. For example, the use of the first person can be desirable in the interests of clarity and audience engagement. However, rigour is still important. The basis for claims should be carefully developed, with supporting evidence where appropriate. It is advisable to seek informed and critical peer feedback *before* submission. Appoint a private mentor to check that you are presenting your ideas in a concise way, claims are supported, and the text is free of spelling and grammatical errors.

**Length:** 1000 – 3000 words.
**Abstract:** Include an abstract of about 100 words.
**References:** Use the APA style for references

**Opinion piece**This type of article should be thought-provoking, aim to generate discussion amongst your colleagues, and may be political in nature – as long as it is respectful, and the content is relevant to science education.

**Length:** 500 to 2000 words

**Teacher-written feature, and student-written feature**These articles include stories or descriptions of innovative, exciting science practices taking place at your school. Articles may be written by teachers, or students, or collaboratively.

**Length:** 500 to 2000 words

**Teacher-led feature**
If you don’t have time to write a feature article yourself, the editor will write the article based on information from you. This may involve interviews and follow-up emails.

**Link/event of interest**An opportunity for you to share a link or information about something relevant to science educators in New Zealand, and simply involves emailing the details to the editor.

 **Submitting your articles and information**Please send all queries, media releases, or material, (including photos) to NZST journalist/editor Melissa Wastney, or email melissa.wastney@nzme-ed.co.nz