

Essays, Letters and Comments

Herein we bring together various essays, letters and comments that I have written. Most have been published. The notable exception is the article "*The Jones polynomial and Public Good Science*". This represented my response to the repeated restructuring of science and technology policy in New Zealand. It was sent to the Royal Society of New Zealand for publication but was rejected as too likely to rock the boat and to upset those negotiating such matters. While written in 1991 I believe it is still relevant.

The *Parable of Copernicus and Ptolemy* I first told at a quantum chemistry meeting in Vancouver drawing encouraging comments from the late C. A. Coulson. I repeated the parable in Izmir, Turkey.

The *The Heritage of Sophus Lie* arose at a meeting in Rachiv, Ukraine. I was told 20 minutes before the meeting to give some comments on Sophus Lie.

Guesses - Hunches - Formulae - Discoveries was written to honour the 60th birthday of my friend and supporter, Prof. Geerd H. F. Dierksen and reflects my belief that the pathways to discovery are seldom direct nor planned.