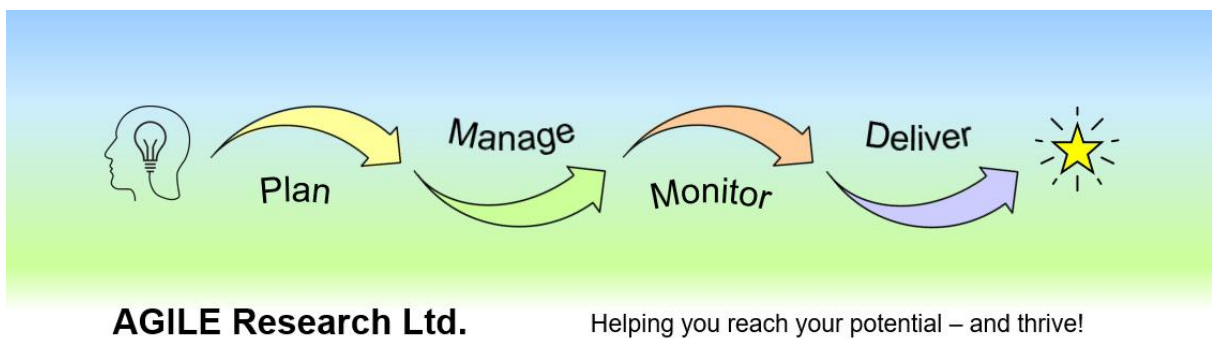




AGILE Research Newsletter

October 2026

Dear Colleagues / Tēnā koutou,

Welcome to the October 2026 issue of the AGILE Research Newsletter.

In this letter, we share with you information about our recent activities, outreach activities in Canada during June-July 2026, the upcoming (seventh) Compass Guide book and our refreshed website.

Feel free to share this newsletter with others. If you or your organisation would like to work with us, just get in touch and we would be happy to discuss your needs.

Kind regards from New Zealand / Ngā mihi nui,

Dr Sandra Mandic, PhD, PMP
Founder and Director, AGILE Research Ltd.



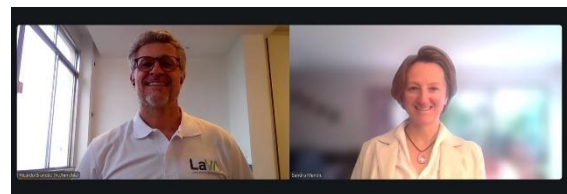
Our Recent Activities

It has been several busy months for AGILE Research Ltd. We delivered a range of courses and workshops, engaged in various outreach activities in Canada in June-July this year (see next page for details) and somewhere in between managed to finish writing the seventh Compass Guide book (more about that on the last page).

Some of the highlights include delivering a course “How to Write Scientific Journal Articles” – in Spanish for Universidad Castilla-La Mancha (Toledo, Spain) in June and in English for University of Rio de Janeiro State (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) in September. Many thanks to my colleagues Professor Susana Aznar Lain and Associate Professor Ricardo Brandão de Oliveira for their work behind-the-scenes to organise these courses for their university.

This month I delivered a course “How to Plan Your Research Project” to 20+ doctoral students enrolled in the Applied Doctorates Scheme in New Zealand.

Delivery of several more courses and workshops in New Zealand, Australia and Brazil is coming up in the upcoming weeks. Details about these activities will be provided in our next newsletter.



Associate Professor Ricardo Brandão de Oliveira (University of Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil) and Dr Sandra Mandic delivering an online course “How to Write Scientific Journal Articles” in September 2026.

Outreach Activities in Canada (June-July 2026)



In Victoria (British Columbia, Canada), I visited Camosun Innovates department at Camosun College and met with Dr Brendon Restall (Faculty Leader). I really enjoyed learning how Camosun Innovates partners with local businesses and community to help solve real world problems through design, building, prototyping, testing and improving a range of products and systems.



In Edmonton (Alberta, Canada), I visited Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). At NAIT, I met with Associate Professor Efrem Violato (Applied Research Chair – Simulation and Health) and Professor Terry Schlitter (Dean of Health and Life Sciences) for a fascinating tour of the Centre for Advanced Medical Simulation, Data Visualisation Laboratory and Motion Capture Studio.



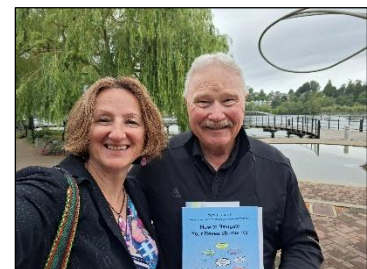
It was a pleasure to meet with Professor Shawn Fraser from Athabasca University in Edmonton, (Alberta, Canada). Shawn is a former colleague from my postgraduate years at University of Alberta in Edmonton. We exchanged experiences in developing resources and delivering professional development training for postgraduate students and their supervisors. Looking forward to opportunities for collaboration in that space.



I also had a pleasure to meet in person with the members of the Project Management Institute Vancouver Island Chapter in Victoria (British Columbia, Canada). It was an honour to deliver a workshop “Secrets of Successful Cross-Sectoral Collaborations Seen Through the Project Management Lens” as part of their Annual General Meeting in June this year.



At University of Victoria in Victoria (British Columbia, Canada) I met with Adjunct Assistant Professor Jennifer Hall – a professional connection from the Transport and Health Science Group Board. Jennifer and I had great discussions about the policy and governance world and enjoyed exciting planning of a new joint project together. More about that in due course.



One of the highlights of this business trip to Canada was meeting my PhD and Master's mentor Professor Emeritus Art Quinney and his wife in person – after many years. It was a joy to gift him a copy of my book Compass Guide for Postgraduate Students (and Their Supervisors) which is dedicated to him. Art's superb mentorship and role modelling created signposts which have guided me well beyond my PhD journey.

New Compass Guide Book is Coming in Early 2027: “Compass Guide: How to Write Research Grants”

Writing effective research grants is both art and science – and an essential skill for academics and researchers.

In this Compass Guide book, I share insights from my own 20+ years learning journey of mastering research grant writing skills and securing over NZD \$2 million in research funding.

This book covers the following areas:

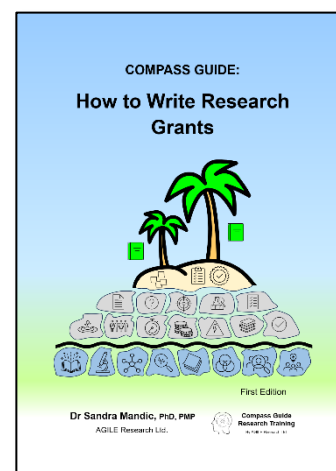
- Essentials of research grant writing
- Research grant proposals: What good looks like
- Supplementary information to strengthen research grants
- Navigating the research grant environment
- Strategies for mastering research grant writing skills

This 111-page book is written using the same unique writing style as other Compass Guide books with infographics and various examples from real world successful research grant applications and **no** use of artificial intelligence tools.

This book focuses on providing guidance for writing effective research grant applications to support academic research. However, many of the principles and best practices discussed in this book are also relevant to research funding applications in other sectors, including government, public sector, industry and not-for-profit organisations.

I sincerely hope that this book will serve many as a valuable guide as they navigate challenges of securing research funding, celebrate successes and embrace lessons learned along the way.

The book is currently being peer reviewed and will be released in early 2027.

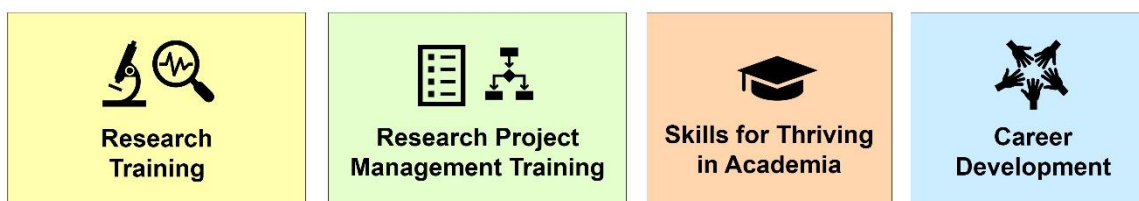


Check Out Our Refreshed Website

We have refreshed our website.

- Now you can find information about our current activities at the [Current work](#) web page.
- We have reorganised our training courses and workshop across four focus areas: research training, research project management, skills for thriving in academia and career development (see the infographic below).
- Brochures for all our training are available from the [Compass Guide courses](#) web page.
- We have also updated the [Compass Guide Research Training Catalogue](#).

Focus Areas of Compass Guide Courses



Get in touch to discuss your organisation's professional development needs.

Find out how we can work together to help you and your organisation reach your goals – and thrive.