

NOTICE OF FORMATION

Preliminary Meeting

At a meeting of those interested in the geological sciences, held in the Station Hotel, Auckland, on May 21st, 1954, (the last day of the Ninth New Zealand Science Congress), the suggestion was made that some form of Geological Society be formed. After considerable discussion a motion "That those present consider the formation of a society of geologists in New Zealand would be desirable" was put by the convener of the meeting (Mr. B.W. Collins) and carried by 33 votes to 4. An interim committee consisting of Dr. R.S. Allan, Messrs. J. Dredley, J.W. Brodie, J.P. Fox and B.W. Collins (convener), was set up to take steps to organize a society.

Negotiations with Royal Society

The interim committee co-opted Dr. M. Gage, and Messrs. J.D. Campbell and D.D. Wilson, and held several meetings in Christchurch as well as keeping in touch by correspondence with the members resident in Wellington. Following up suggestions made by several speakers at the Auckland meeting, the committee decided first to approach the Royal Society of New Zealand to see whether a Geological Society could be formed within the Royal Society itself. Parts of the letter sent to the Royal Society (on September 21st, 1954) are quoted in the Report of the Half-Yearly Council Meeting held on November 16th, 1954 (*Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z.*, vol. 82, pt. 5, p. Lxii, March 1955). A reply from the Secretary of the Royal Society was received on April 4th, 1955, in which it was stated that: "Member Body status for National Scientific Societies was considered at some length but the opinion of members of the Council was averse to its adoption". The letter also states that "The question of the Royal Society being a composite body reorganised in accordance with representation from different scientific disciplines has been carefully considered and rejected..... as being dangerous on account of the possibilities of disintegration" "The Council has, after much deliberation and examination of various methods of association, considered that..... a system of very simple and free affiliation with a minimum of obligations and a maximum of good will" would best serve the interests of New Zealand scientists.

Foundation Meeting

At the New Zealand Geological Survey Staff Conference recently held in Kaikoura, the convener of the Interim Committee (Mr. B.W. Collins) took the opportunity to call a meeting of geologists to discuss the question of the formation of a society. The meeting was held in the Adelphi Hotel, Kaikoura, on May 14th last. There were present 36 persons, including representatives of the Geology Departments of Auckland and Victoria University Colleges and the Auckland and Dominion Museums, as well as Geological Survey staff. Mr. R.W. Willett was elected chairman of the meeting, and Mr. Collins outlined the activities of the Interim Committee and read the letter from the Royal Society quoted above. After an extended discussion of the points raised in the letter, a motion "That this meeting decides to proceed with the formation of a Geological Society of New Zealand" was carried.

The meeting then adopted a constitution (a copy of which accompanies this circular) and elected the following officers and committee:

President: Mr.R.W.Willett (N.Z.G.S., Wellington)
Secretary: Mr.B.W.Collins (N.Z.G.S., Christchurch)
Committee: Dr.R.N.Brothers (A.U.C.)
Professor R.H.Clark (V.U.C.)
Mr.D.Kear (N.Z.G.S., Ngauruawahia)
Mr.G.G.Shaw (Dominion Museum, Wellington)
Mr.B.L.Wood (N.Z.G.S., Invercargill)

Resolutions to the following effect were also passed:

- (1) That the committee notify earth scientists not present at the meeting of the formation of the Society.
- (2) That all those joining the Society within the next six months be considered foundation members.
- (3) That the initial subscription be 2/6d.

The question of affiliation with the Royal Society of New Zealand was discussed, but no decision was made, as the Royal Society has yet to adopt concrete proposals.

Functions

There was general agreement that the Society should not compete in any way with the Royal Society; that its main functions would be to serve as a channel for the expression of the views of New Zealand geologists, to organize an annual conference, and to be responsible for the organization of the Geology Section of the New Zealand Science Congresses sponsored by the Royal Society; and that in the meantime there should be no attempt to publish a regular scientific journal.

Membership

Membership is open to all interested in the earth sciences (including all branches of geology, geophysics, seismology, oceanography, pedology, and hydrology); and there is only one class of membership.

If not already a member you are invited to apply for membership. All members and intending members are asked to fill in the accompanying form. If you have already paid your initial subscription of 2/6d, a receipt is enclosed, and the form is marked "paid" in the space provided. All those joining before November 30th, 1955, will be considered foundation members. New members are asked to send 2/6d with their applications.

This circular has been sent to all those listed in the "Directory of New Zealand Science" under the headings Geology, Geophysics and/or Seismology, and Soil Science (General), as well as to some others known to be interested. If you know of any prospective members of the Society who have not received the circular please write, or ask them to write, to the Secretary at the address given below.

For the committee,
Geological Society of New Zealand

B.W. Collins

(B.W. Collins)
Hon. Secretary.

N.Z. Geological Survey,
P.O. Box 374,
CHRISTCHURCH

June 29th, 1955

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

CONSTITUTION

(adopted at inaugural meeting in
Kaikoura, May 14, 1955)

1. Name. The name of the Society shall be "The Geological Society of New Zealand".
2. Objects. The objects of the Society shall be:
 - (a) To serve as a means of facilitating communication among members;
 - (b) To foster investigations in the various fields of earth science;
 - (c) To serve as a channel for the expression of the views of New Zealand geologists;
 - (d) To organize an annual conference;
 - (e) To participate in the New Zealand Science Congresses.
3. Membership. Membership of the Society shall be open to all those interested in the earth sciences.
4. Officers. The officers of the society shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer, or a secretary-treasurer, who shall be elected at a general meeting of the society and shall hold office until the next general meeting at which it is resolved to hold an election of officers.
5. Committee.
 - (a) The affairs and finances of the society shall be managed by a committee consisting of the officers and five members. Committee members shall be elected and hold office in the same way as officers.
 - (b) The Committee shall have power to fill any extraordinary vacancies that may occur among officers or committee members during its term of office.
6. Meetings. General meetings of the Society shall be held if possible annually, but in any case during each New Zealand Science Congress, or at the written request of twelve or more members.
7. Quorum. A quorum at any general meeting of the society shall consist of twenty members exclusive of officers.
8. Alteration to Constitution. This Constitution may be added to or altered only by a two-thirds majority of votes, either at a general meeting of the Society, or, in the discretion of the Committee, by a postal ballot.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name.....

Title, Honours, Degrees, etc.....

Institution to which you are attached (if any).....

Business address.....

Private address.....

(Indicate preference for mailing)

Subscription (2/6d).....

Branches of earth science in which you are interested.....

Comments (on constitution or activities of the Society etc.)

Names and addresses of other prospective members.....

Received by Secretary.....