

## Geological Society of New Zealand

NEWSFLASH 46

23 December 2004

### GEO 3 - GSNZ CONFERENCE 2004

The GSNZ conference was held in Taupo between 7-9 December 2004 in conjunction with the NZ Geophysical Society and the 26th NZ Geothermal Workshop. The conference, under the auspices of the Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences and with Vern Manville as convenor of the organising committee, was an outstanding success and attracted over 340 delegates, including a large number of students. Pre and post-conference field trips were to the Taupo Volcanic Zone and further afield.

The next conference will be in Kaikoura from 28 November to 1 December 2005, and will be organised by the Canterbury Branch. Jarg Pettinga of the University of Canterbury is convenor with Keith Lewis as co-convenor. Kaikoura was chosen as it was there, during a Geological Survey conference in May 1955, that the decision to form the Geological Society was confirmed. In addition to the conference, a sub-committee, under the convensorship of Keith Lewis, is looking at other ways of commemorating this important landmark in the history of the Society.

### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AWARDS 2004

MCKAY HAMMER (for the most meritorious publications in the preceding three years): The Society's premier award for 2004 was awarded to Phil Shane of Auckland University for his prestigious publications on tephrostratigraphy, geochemistry and paleoenvironments of New Zealand's Quaternary record. Amongst some 15 papers published during this period, one was chosen for special mention; the paper in Quaternary Research 59 by Shane & Sandiford (2003): Paleovegetation of Marine Isotope stage 4 and 3 in northern New Zealand and the age of the widespread Rotoehu Tephra.

### HOCHSTETTER LECTURER

This lecture, in addition to commemorating the pioneering and wide-ranging contributions to New Zealand geology of Ferdinand von Hochstetter nearly 150 years ago, is to inform research scientists and students of developments in New Zealand Earth Science. The 2005 Hochstetter Lecturer is Jamie Shulmeister of Canterbury University. Jamie is an energetic speaker and his topic will be drawn from his work on Late Neogene climate forcing factors and paleoclimate proxies.

### KINGMA AWARD

The award, to the outstanding New Zealand earth science technician of 2004, was to Rob Spiers of Canterbury University for his work in the cosmogenic isotope laboratory, the thin section facility, and for his all-round technical skills.

### PULLAR PRIZE

The prize commemorates the pioneering work of Alan Pullar and is awarded to the author of the most meritorious contribution to tephrochronological research in New Zealand in 2001-2003. The award

was to Alan Palmer of Massey University for his recent work on onland and offshore tephras that underpin important advances in understanding New Zealand's Quaternary history.

#### WELLMAN RESEARCH AWARD

The Wellman Research Award and Wellman Prize commemorate the huge contribution made by Harold Wellman to earth sciences and were established through the generosity of the Wellman family. The research award recipient is Alex Winter-Billington of Victoria University of Wellington.

#### WELLMAN PRIZE (for outstanding fossil discoveries)

Richard Kohler of Central Otago was awarded the Wellman Prize for his finding and extraction of an amazingly well preserved fossil fish from Late Cretaceous strata of Pitt Island.

#### HASTIE SCHOLARSHIP

Through the magnanimity of the late S J Hastie the Society has established scholarships to assist students undertaking postgraduate research. Scholarships were awarded this year to:  
James Scott (Otago): Geology of the Murchison Mountains, Fiordland.  
Joanna Graaf (Auckland): Thermal activity, Raoul Island.  
Matthew Hughes (Lincoln): Soil organic storage.  
Rodney Milner (Waikato): Middle Miocene strata, Mokau and Awakino.  
Joanna Lea (Canterbury): Influence of cleating on coal strength.  
Andrew McCarthy (Victoria): Glacial & climatic history, Boulder Lake, Nelson.  
Kim Martelli (Massey): Topic yet to be finalised.

#### 2004 CONFERENCE AWARDS TO STUDENTS

Best Oral Paper: Vicky Smith (Auckland)  
Merit awards: Bridget Lynne (Auckland); James Scott Otago  
Best Poster: Karl Spinks (Canterbury)  
Merit awards: Kate Bodger; Jeff Fraser (Canterbury)

As in previous years the student presentations were to a high standard and the Awards Sub-committee, in addition to the above, made reference to the following students:

Oral Presentation: Josh Mountjoy (Canterbury), Chris Hughes (Auckland) and Julie Knauf (Victoria)  
Poster Presentation: Roseanne Coulter (Otago), Jonathan Procter (Massey) and Anke Zernack (Massey)

#### FELLOWSHIP OF ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

Congratulations were extended at the conference to Jim Cole of University of Canterbury on being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and to Joan Wiffen for receiving the Morris Skinner Award from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists.

#### MARSDEN MEDAL

The New Zealand Association of Scientists prestigious Marsden Medal was this year awarded to Peter Barrett of Victoria University for his research into the geology and climatic history of Antarctica. Peter was nominated by the Geological Society.

#### 2004 AGM

The AGM was held during the conference and the following were elected as officers of the Society:

President: Mike Johnston  
Vice President: Keith Lewis  
Secretary: Helen Neil  
Treasurer: David Skinner  
Committee: Kari Bassett, Ursula Cochran, Penny Cook, Hugh Grenfell,  
Nick Mortimer  
In addition, Julie Palmer is the Immediate Past-President and David  
Smale is Newsletter editor

#### AWARDS TRUST

Simon Nathan has stepped down as a trustee and David Smale was  
elected in his place. Other trustees are Julie Palmer and David  
Skinner, by virtue of holding the offices of Immediate Past-President  
and Treasurer respectively, and Mike Johnston.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

After several years bordering on the threshold to register for GST  
the Society is now in the situation of having to pay this tax. To  
accommodate this, subscriptions for ordinary members were increased  
by \$5.00. Remaining categories were unchanged but all subscriptions  
will be reviewed during the coming year once the impact of GST is  
determined. Subscriptions for the coming year are therefore:

Ordinary member: \$70 (\$80 if paid after 1 July 2004)

Retired member: \$40 (\$50 if paid after 1 July 2004)

Student member: \$30 (\$40 if paid after 1 July 2004)

Subscriptions are now due. It helps reduce the work, and cost to the  
Society if subscriptions are paid promptly. Please forward  
subscriptions, along with any address changes to Beth Wallace, GSNZ  
Administrator, P0 Box 603, Te Awamutu, New Zealand (email  
gsnz\_AT\_paradise.net.nz).

Mike Johnston  
President