

Geological Society of New Zealand
NEWSFLASH 51
22nd December 2005

50th KAIKOURA 50 – CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GSNZ.

It was inevitable that there would be the odd hitch with holding a conference away from the main centres, in a small town without recognised conference facilities. But Kaikoura it had to be. That was where the Society started in 1955. It was almost as inevitable, with spectacular scenery/geology, country hospitality and Jarg Pettinga and his team organising it, that it would also be resounding success. And it was! Even the last minute switch in venue, to the primary school where the 1955 meeting took place had a certain ... symmetry. The whole meeting (28th Nov – 1st Dec 2005) was a chance, not only to celebrate the “Olde Timers”, but also to recognise just how far we have come in 50 years.

Next year’s meeting will be organised by convened by Jerome Lecointre of Massey University in Palmston North.

SOCIETY AWARDS MADE AT THE CONFERENCE

McKAY HAMMER for the most meritorious publications in the preceding three years (2002-2004) was award this year to Chris Hollis of GNS for a suite of papers on the environmental changes, from terrestrial to deep-sea, associated with the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary catastrophe in the Southwest Pacific. The papers are important internationally because the location is remote from the inferred impact site and from well studied environments in the northern hemisphere. Of special note were the 6 papers, 4 of them as first author, that appeared in a Special Issue of NZJGG, which Chris convened and edited.

HOCHSTETTER LECTURER for 2006, who must present recently completed and largely unpublished finding and have a reputation as a good speaker, is Bruce Hayward of Geomarine Research. Bruce has “some exciting new stories to tell” (a member of the Awards Subcommittee commented “when didn’t he have?”) on Quaternary environmental changes, including those associated with major earthquakes, ocean currents, and human impacts, deciphered with the aid of foraminifera. Bruce will probably be visiting a centre near you in July or August.

KINGMA AWARD for the Earth-science technician who has made an outstanding contribution to work of their team, was award this year to Steve Wilcox of NIWA for his efficiency in assembling, operating and repairing a vast range of state of the art electronic equipment in extremely hostile conditions at sea with both good will and good humour.

WELLMAN RESEARCH AWARD, which supports innovative research proposals by young scientists, was awarded to Katherine Holt of Massey University for field work on the Chatham Islands that will log a 40m thick Quaternary sequence of buried soils that may provide the longest terrestrial record of climate change at a site critically affected by changes in oceanic circulation.

WELLMAN PRIZE, awarded by the president for an outstanding fossil discovery went this year to Jane Hill (P.O.Box 112, Whareora, Whangarei) for the recent discovery of a fossil marine turtle of the family Cheloniidae, because it suggest a cosmopolitan distribution of a genus

previously know only from western Europe and because turtle remains are very rare in the NZ Tertiary.

HASTIE SCHOLARSHIPS, to assist students undertaking postgraduate research were awarded this year to:

Auckland: Katy Ward - subject not yet supplied

Waikato: Jeremy Titjen - limestone dykes on the Chathams

Victoria: Hannu Seebeck - geometry of active normal faults in Taupo rift

Canterbury: Rose Turnbull - mafic-feldspathic mingling on Stewart Island

Otago: Emilie Guegan - magma flow in igneous dykes, Antarctica.

Massey: Leila Chrysall - hydrogeology of Foxton

STUDENT AWARDS FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

ORAL PAPERS:

Best Paper: Ruth Wightman – Victoria University

Merit Awards Rachel Crimp – Massey University;

Samuel Marx – University of Queensland;

Cathy Joanne – University of Nice, France.

POSTER PAPERS:

Best Poster: Jeremy Cole-Baker – University of Waikato

Merit Awards: Tariq Rahiman – Canterbury University;

Tracey Bear – University of Waikato.

2005 AGM

The AGM was held in the Kaikoura Cinema and the following were elected as officers of the Society:

President: Keith Lewis

Vice President: Nick Mortimer

Secretary: Helen Neil

Treasurer: David Skinner

Committee: Kari Bassett, Ursula Cochran, Penelope Cooke, Hugh Grenfell, Alan Palmer.

In addition, Mike Johnston is the Immediate Past-President and Kerry Stanaway replaces David Smale as Newsletter editor. Julie Palmer stands down from the committee having served us in every office on the committee since 1993. David Smale stands down after an outstanding 7 years as editor of the Newsletter.

AWARDS TRUST

Julie Palmer and David Smale stepped down as a trustee and Nike Mortimer and Ursula Cochran were elected in their place. Other trustees are Mike Johnston and David Skinner, by virtue of holding the offices of Immediate Past-President and Treasurer, respectively.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

No change was made to subscriptions, which remain at:

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 significantly reduces the work and cost for the Society if subscriptions are paid promptly (before the end of June). Please forward subscriptions, along with any address changes to Beth Wallace, GSNZ Administrator, P0 Box603, Te Awamutu, New Zealand (email gsnz at paradise.net.nz).

Keith Lewis
President