

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSFLASH 52

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Geosciences'06: Our Planet, Our Future

Planning is well underway for the 2006 Conference at Massey University - Mon 4th December to Thurs 7th December. Full details in the next newsletter and soon on the Society's web-page.

This year's conference will be held jointly with the NZ Geophysical Society. Theme "Geosciences'06: Our Planet, Our Future". Accommodation will be at four brand new student halls.

Updating the Society

On 14th June, preceding its mid year meeting, the National Committee has set aside a day to discuss how the Society's nature and needs may be evolving. The starting point will probably be the remarkable results of the 1998 survey of members, and the recommendations that flowed from it. If you have any suggestions, please contact any member of the committee very soon.

Next Newsletter

Help stop the editor adding any more of his verses (its OK this came from Kerry). Fill the Newsletter with geology ? new and/or controversial is good!.

Deadline 12th June. Contact the editor if you have something in the pipeline. Question! Are the Oil Peak and Climate Change debates now over? See Peter Ballance's article in the last Newsletter or Peter Barrett's article on the Society's website: www.gsnz.org.nz/gs_archive/gsprpb.htm.

Past and Future of NZ Geosciences: new book

Ian Graham's dramatic new book "A continent on the move: New Zealand geosciences into the 21st century", to be published by the Society in conjunction with GNS, is nearing completion. It looks to be an easy to read, almost funky, but nevertheless an authoritative summary of where New Zealand Geosciences are at, and where they may be going. Only a few contributors are still dragging the chains.

Auckland Branch online ? Geocene Magazine

Check out what the Auckland branch is up to (if you have broadband) at: www.gsnz.org.nz/auck_branch/geoclub_pages/gsnzauck.htm.

GeoGenes meeting

Every 3 or 4 years, the Society sponsors a get together of geologists and biologists to discuss advances in understanding the origins of New Zealand's flora and fauna and its diverse ecosystems. There are papers (with abstracts in our Miscellaneous Publication series) but it's all pretty informal with lots of discussion. This year's meeting is on 14th July at the Royal Society Rooms in Wellington with registration required by 30th June. For additional information see: www.gsnz.org.nz/gscal.htm

NZJGG digitising back-numbers

The Society has sponsored digitising further back-numbers of the New Zealand Journal of Geology and Geophysics. We are hoping that this will encourage additional funding for this important task. To view what has been done so far (papers from 1994 to 2005) see: www.rsnz.org/publish/nzjgg

Congratulations Bruce Hayward

In the 2006 Queen's Birthday Honours List, announced yesterday, Bruce

Hayward was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Earth Sciences and Conservation. Our heartiest congratulations to Bruce who thoroughly deserves this accolade.

RSNZ Awards and Nominations

Do any of your colleagues deserve recognition by the Royal Society?

Details are on http://www.rsnz.org/awards/academy_awards/. If you would like to suggest that a nomination be made through GSNZ then

please contact Nick Mortimer (Awards Subcommittee Convenor n.mortimer@gns.cri.nz) ASAP. Rutherford, Pickering and NZ Science and Technology Medal nominations are due on 30 June. The others, including the Hatherton Award are due 4 August.

Auckland Island Bicentenary Symposium

On 18th August, there will be a one day symposium on the Auckland Islands, one of New Zealand's remote SubAntarctic possessions. It is being organised by Mary McEwen, whose father, Sir Charles Fleming, was a member of the coast-watcher there during WW2. The Society has helped sponsor publication of the Charles Fleming's notebooks of the geology and unique fauna of the islands. As someone privileged to have been there in the mid 60s, this is a fascinating place. For more details email mary.mcewen@xtra.co.nz

2008 is International Year of Planet Earth

The U.N. General Assembly has designated 2008 "International Year of Planet Earth". As the "Easter Island syndrome" starts to penetrate human consciousness this might be opportune. For preliminary information see: www.yearofplanetearth.com.

Stewart Island house sale? contact info

Contact details for Bill Hick's idyllic property on Stewart Island were not included in the ad on page 28 of the last Newsletter. Email either Bill at: georegon@aol.com or agent Diane Smith at philldismith@xtra.co.nz .

New members of the National Committee.

Penny Cooke is leaving for the UK to start a post-graduate diploma in forensic archaeology, specifically on genocide sites (Yes, Wow!!!!), so she is standing down from the national committee. Her input of new ideas and her willingness to help have been absolutely invaluable over the last 3 years. We will miss her. We wish her well in her new career. At the suggestion of Waikato members, Richard Smith will be co-opted onto the committee until the next AGM elections.

Kari Bassett is temporarily absent, tending for a new member of the geological family; Charlie arrived a few weeks early but is now in fine form. We are concerned by rumours (not to mention Pumpkin Patch catalogues hidden under the Agenda) that Kari's "affliction" may be contagious in the national committee.

Keith Lewis
President, Geological Society of New Zealand