



GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
Newsflash 62
27 March 2008



The 2008 GSNZ National Committee: Alan Palmer (Manawatu), Kerry Stanaway (Newsletter Editor), Dan Hikuroa (Auckland), Rochelle Hansen (Waikato), Kate Wilson (Wellington), Kari Bassett (Canterbury), Janet Simes (Administrator), Keith Lewis (Immediate Past President), Jan Lindsay (Vice President), Nick Mortimer (President), Scott Nodder (Secretary), David Skinner (Treasurer).

2008 SUBS

Subscription renewals will be due on 1 April. The Society appreciates your continued support. An invoice will be posted to existing members (please renew quickly), and a new application form will shortly be available from branches and on the GSNZ website <http://www.gsnz.org.nz>

GEOSCIENCES '08 CONFERENCE

Venue and dates are now confirmed, so reach for your diaries. Geosciences '08, our Annual Conference joint with the NZ Geophysical Society and NZ Geochemical and Mineralogical Society, will be held at Te Papa in Wellington. The conference will commence with an Icebreaker on Sunday evening 23 November, and finish on Wednesday afternoon 26 November 2008. The convenor is Richard Wysoczanski of Victoria University of Wellington. Expect the circular to be published in the July newsletter. Information will also be posted on the GSNZ website.

NZ-TAIWAN SYMPOSIUM

“Convergent Plate Boundary Processes and Natural Hazards - from Subduction to Continental Collision”. GNS Science, Lower Hutt, 6-7 May 2008.

Fred Davey has issued a general invitation to participate in a joint Taiwan-New Zealand Symposium on Geosciences. This is in response to the RSNZ Agreement for Scientific Cooperation with the National Science Council of Taiwan. Geosciences was identified as an area for cooperation.

Five general topics for discussion have been agreed:

- From subduction to continental collision
- Seismicity, earthquake source, tomography
- Present strain (GPS), slow earthquakes, tremor, heatflow
- Structure-crustal, mantle lithosphere, asthenosphere
- Fault behaviour-active faulting, drilling

Taiwan will be represented by five geoscientists who will each make a 50 minute presentation on one of these topics:

Prof. Yue-Gau Chen, Dept. of Geosciences, National Taiwan Univ., Taipei, “Fault kinematics and earthquake geology: cases from Taiwan”.

Dr. Bor-Shouh Huang, Research Fellow, Inst. of Earth Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, “The Taiwan broadband seismic array and its research in Taiwan and surrounding area”.

Prof. Sun-Lin Chung, Dept. of Geosciences, National Taiwan Univ., Taipei, “Tibetan tectonic evolution inferred from pre- to post-collisional magmatic records”.

Prof. Kuo-Fong Ma, Dept. of Earth Sciences, National Central Univ., Chungli, Taiwan, “The Chelungpu-fault Drilling Project and Borehole Observatory”.

Dr. Cheng-Hong Lin, Research Fellow, Inst. of Earth Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, “Review of Tectonic Models for Taiwan Orogeny”.

The structure of the workshop is two days on presentations and discussions followed by a day field trip for the Taiwanese around the Wellington region. The presentations will be generally centred around the topics above with one Taiwanese presentation and up to two to three presentations by New Zealand scientists on their work on each of these topics. The latter (NZ) talks have basically been decided from the response to date, but an additional talk or two may be possible to be included if someone is keen to give one. Ample time will be available during and after the formal workshop sessions for discussion on the science and possible cooperative opportunities.

To progress with planning, Fred would very much appreciate hearing if you would like to attend the meeting. There is no fee but also no travel funds. Please contact Fred if you have any queries f.davey@gns.cri.nz

HOCHSTETTER SYMPOSIUM

“Ferdinand Hochstetter and the Contribution of German-Speaking Scientists to New Zealand Natural History in the 19th Century”. University of Auckland, 1-2 September 2008.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival in Auckland in 1858 of the Austrian frigate S.M.S. *Novara*. With the *Novara* came a young German-born geologist by the name of Ferdinand Hochstetter, who would spend ten months exploring the North and South Islands of New Zealand and later go on to become one of the most important nineteenth-century authorities on the young British colony.

To commemorate this event, the University of Auckland's Research Centre for Germanic Connections with New Zealand and the Pacific is pleased to announce an international interdisciplinary symposium that will consider the legacy of Hochstetter and the *Novara* visit to New Zealand's science history. While the symposium will focus primarily on the person of Hochstetter and his immediate circle during his visit to New Zealand, proposals are also invited for papers that will consider the contribution of other German-speaking scientists to the natural history of New Zealand in the wider 18th and 19th centuries.

Papers could include (but are by no means limited to) the following topics and/or individuals: Hochstetter's impressions of New Zealand; Hochstetter and New Zealand geology; Hochstetter and the Maori; Hochstetter on environmental change; ornithological results of the *Novara* visit; the artistic record of the *Novara* visit; Julius Haast and his scientific contacts; Karl Scherzer; the Forsters in New Zealand; Ernst Dieffenbach; Andreas Reischek; Otto Finsch.

Presenters will each have 30 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion/questions. Please send abstracts (250 words maximum) to James Braund (j.braund@auckland.ac.nz) by no later than 5 May 2008. The symposium will coincide with a special exhibition on Hochstetter to be held in the Auckland City Library (Heritage Floor Special Collections Exhibition Gallery) from 1 September to 23 November 2008.

PRESIDENT'S TOUR

I am currently touring the society's branches and some other centres giving a talk on "A Bluffer's Guide to Volcanic Arcs and Basins of the SW Pacific". The venues and dates are: Auckland 18 March, Hamilton 19 March, Dunedin 26 March, New Plymouth 31 March, Taupo 1 April, Palmerston North 2 April, Wellington 3 April, Masterton 12 June, Christchurch 17 June, Nelson 18 June.

Nick Mortimer
President