



# Geography Auckland



## Kia ora tatou ...

The Auckland branch of NZGS promotes the activities of geographers and the development of the discipline in the Auckland region. It has proven an effective platform for hosting and sponsoring public seminars and workshops, and talks by prominent local and international geographers; running competitions for schools; providing opportunities for young geographers to attend conferences; and for bringing geographers together to discuss issues of public and disciplinary concern. One recent initiative is to seek better links with professional geographers beyond the university and schools. One recent success has been the Innovative Fieldtrip Competition (see News for Teachers).

The Auckland Branch activities now include Monthly Geography Dialogues with Wine. The Branch invites any members with ideas for other activities to bring them forward for discussion and development. It also encourages new members to join. Membership of the New Zealand Geographical Society includes branch membership.

As mentioned earlier this year, the UoA has welcomed a cluster of new geographers to the School of Environment, including: Murray Ford, John Tunnicliffe, Francis Collins, Annie Bartos, and JC Gaillard. Professor John Morgan has joined the Education Faculty. All bring fresh ideas and talents to our community.

**MORE CONGRATULATIONS** - for 2014 NZGS awards:  
**NZGS Distinguished Geographer (Medal):** Robin Kearns  
**NZGS Distinguished Service Award:** David Hayward  
**Best Masters Thesis in Geography:** Hayley Sparks  
**Best PhD thesis in Geography:** Thomas Hetherington

These awards will be presented at the NZGS AGM in Auckland in September

## Auckland Branch Executive

### Executive Office Holders

President	Graeme Campbell
Vice Presidents	June Logie, Mary Flaws
Chair	Karen Fisher
Secretary	June Logie
Professional Geography Liaison:	Kiri Le Heron
Treasurer	Thomas Hetherington
Honorary Auditor	Nihal Jayawickrama
BoGT Rep	Steve Mouldey

### Committee Members

Jane Evans	Jane Foster (AGTA)
Richard Le Heron	Daniel Exeter
Ward Friesen	Lyndsay Blue
Erena Le Heron.	David Hayward
Pippa Mitchell	Annie Bartos
Regan Solomon	JC Gaillard
Nick Lewis	

## What's on?

### MONTHLY GEOGRAPHY DIALOGUES WITH WINE

These meetings give a chance for Geographers to talk informally about their research.

The Auckland Branch invites you to attend the third meeting (N.B. not 30<sup>th</sup> July)

#### Wednesday 6 August

University of Auckland  
School of Environment  
Room 731

The speakers will be Alana  
Wylie, Anya Leenman and  
Nicola Jones - 701 students

**'Is Physical Geography at a  
Dead End? – a student  
perspective'** – see paragraph on  
P.2

4.00pm to 5.30pm

**Celebrate Geography,  
Get excited**

Karen Fisher (k.fisher@auckland.ac.nz)

[June.logie@me.com](mailto:June.logie@me.com) (secretary)

## News for teachers:

**2015 Innovative Field Trip Competition will be  
launched later this year**

## For your diary:

Monthly Geography Dialogues with Wine

20<sup>th</sup> August, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
October, 19<sup>th</sup> November



Alana Wylie, Anya Leenman and Nicola Jones will be speaking at the monthly Geography Dialogues with Wine event on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August:

'Is Physical Geography at a Dead End? - a student perspective on transitions in Geography: from high school to postgraduate study.'

The AAG's president's column in their June 2014 newsletter was entitled "The Future of Physical Geography". In this article President Julie Winkler expressed concerns for the place of Physical Geography in academic institutions, given recent changes in the focus of teaching at undergraduate level. Similar changes are underway at the University of Auckland with the emergence of Earth Science and Environmental Science as majors. Thus new options are available to undergraduate students, taking away focus on Geography as a core landscape science subject. Julie Winkler discussed the rebranding of Geography Departments as having the potential to dilute Geography's identity.

As a response to this column this dialogue will incorporate student perspectives and will involve discussion of the factors underpinning people's choices in the uptake and application of Physical Geography. It will question the place and future of Physical Geography in current institutions and query whether in fact the discipline is dead.