



# 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. See this month's abstract on Page 2.

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.

Congratulations to Francis Collins who was 1/10 recipients of the Rutherford Discovery Fellowship. This is a rarity for social sciences and humanities and he is the first geographer.

## 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 Etherington
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 sixth meeting

### Wednesday 22 October

University of Auckland  
School of Environment  
Room 731

The speaker will be  
Igor Drecki, followed by  
Mary Robinson

4.30pm to 6.30pm

**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 on 22<sup>nd</sup> October with a presentation from last year's winner (see above)**

## For your diary:

Monthly Geography Dialogues with Wine  
22<sup>nd</sup> October, 19<sup>th</sup> November



## **New Zealand Cartographic Heritage: Uncovering the national treasure**

Igor Drecki, i.drecki@auckland.ac.nz  
School of Environment, University of Auckland, New Zealand

The comprehensive digitization programme of the New Zealand government maps undertaken by the University of Auckland and the National Library of New Zealand provides a unique insight of the New Zealand cartographic heritage. Approximately 22,000 sheets are being systematically scanned and catalogued with almost 75% completed to date.

These authoritative maps of the country's natural and social environment, together with maps of South Pacific nations and Antarctica, have been produced by the Department of Lands and Survey (later called Department of Survey and Land Information, and recently Land Information New Zealand) since the 1840s. They cover a wide range of themes, from general and miscellaneous to topographical, aeronautical, mosaic and cadastral maps. The government was also responsible for maps and charts for military and defence purposes.

These maps reveal fascinating stories concerning land development, landscape changes, social trends and cultural events, country planning and political decisions. They provide evidence of technological shift in map production, as well as in advancement of cartography. They are a testimony to hundreds, possibly thousands of people that invested their talents and dedication to create them.

This talk tries to encapsulate what we discovered during our digitization journey so far. It looks at the state of government map collections and their completeness. It suggests building a knowledge base concerning New Zealand cartographic heritage and its promotion to the public. The potential application of the digitised maps and charts is left to your imagination.

### **From the judges' comments for the winning entry submitted by St Cuthbert's College (Mary Robinson) for the NZGS Auckland Branch Innovative Field Trip Competition 2013:**

"This field trip is thoroughly geographical as it requires the students to travel around Auckland, and to connect Auckland/New Zealand to other parts of the world through the examination of a 'global' issue. Taking a topic such as the global spread of disease with an emphasis on HIV/Aids and seeking to introduce students to the worlds of the disease from Auckland/New Zealand is a huge challenge. This fieldtrip is a creative and imaginative way to enable students in Auckland to think about the global movement of HIV/Aids and to explore stories and experiences in particular locations around the world. Connecting these stories to sites in Auckland (shops, food outlets) was a clever way to travel the world locally. The spatial and temporal patterning provided by the fieldtrip set the stage for thoughtful inquiry leading to changing perceptions and changing understandings of disease dynamics and implications. The scavenger hunt design and use of QR codes/smartphones was an innovative way of facilitating student learning and engagement, which would appeal to technologically savvy young people. The fieldtrip also had opportunities for having fun and to take control of their learning – important elements in student learning.

Complementing the student-led experience with an opportunity to hear from researchers at the University of Auckland provided opportunities for students to learn more about the medical and research responses to HIV/Aids including understanding how the virus functions, drug trials, development of drug therapies, epidemiological studies of disease transmission, among others. Scope was given for the generation of questions from the class on highs and lows in the patterns, shifts and stabilities in patterns, sudden changes in level of incidence, possible changes in defining and describing the disease that complicate the portrayal of national level data and its interpretation and so on. Such challenges allow meaningful discussion of how patterns are constructed through the collection of data at particular geographical scales using particular definitions and how as medical and public health research has investigated the disease many assumptions of origin, mobility, incidence, prevention strategies, palliative therapies etc. are revealed.

The judges feel sure this fieldtrip would have enhanced student learning about the global scale of disease/spread of disease and provided opportunities to gain confidence in using geographic skills and knowledge to understand a complex global issue."