



# 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.

This year we are hosting the **NZGS AGM** on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September since Auckland has four 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 Etherington

## 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 Mouldy

### 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 fifth meeting

**Wednesday 17 September (not  
24<sup>th</sup>)**

University of Auckland  
School of Environment  
Room 731

The speaker will be  
Gary Brierley with Carola Cullum  
and Michelle Reeve

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

### For your diary:

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

### NZGS AGM (Auckland this year!)

4.00pm **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**, Old  
Government House (upstairs)  
4.30pm **Drinks and Nibbles**  
5.00pm **Awards Ceremony**



## **Te Awaroa – Steps towards the development and use of river ethnographies**

Gary Brierley, Carola Cullum and Michelle Reeve

School of Environment, The University of Auckland

People care passionately about their rivers. They are often a core part of their identity and their wellbeing. How we relate to our rivers, and how we live with them, are key determinants of social and environmental health. These issues and relationships are deeply embedded within the New Zealand psyche. Each river has its own set of stories.

Human impacts have brought about widespread degradation of river systems. However, an era of river repair is underway in many instances. The baseline of societal expectations has now shifted, such that former (degraded) conditions would no longer be considered to be socially acceptable, as ongoing improvement in condition is sought.

Concerns for river condition are framed largely in relation to how we know our rivers. Te Awaroa is an inspirational project that explores these relationships in New Zealand. It provides a platform for sharing perspectives and stories about connections to rivers, understandings of diversity and evolutionary trajectories, values and meanings of rivers, and aspirations for future states (and behavioural regimes). Recognizing that future conditions will most likely reflect a 'no analogue' state, the Te Awaroa project seeks to establish inclusive approaches to the development of river ethnographies in efforts to scope likely futures and work towards desirable and achievable states.

This 'Geography Dialogues with Wine' session will focus upon various dimensions of the Te Awaroa project, building upon foundations laid by Dame Professor Anne Salmond and an initial trial project in the Waimata Catchment at Gisborne. It will include discussion of local and scientific knowledges of rivers, analyses of evolutionary trajectories and shifting baselines, approaches to development of shared understandings, platforms to negotiate moving targets for river futures, and steps that might be taken to maximize prospects for healthy river futures.