



NZGS NEWS

[NZ Geographical Society Exec Update]

September 2014

Report on Executive Meeting (8 September)

- NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGE: From Vice-President Harvey Perkins: It is likely that a national workshop will be held toward the end of September to develop the RfP for the National Science Challenge 11 —Building Better Homes, Towns and Cities. A press release on the challenge can be found at: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-science-challenge-build-better-nz> . The MBIE workshop will be by invitation only and each institution will have a science and a governance representative.

It is important that urban geographers wishing to be involved in this Challenge identify who from their institution will attend this workshop, and register their interest with MBIE <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/what-we-do/national-science-challenges> (see key documents and background information).

- Many thanks to all those of you who contributed to the Geography Society's submission on the National Statement of Science Investment (particularly Matt Henry and also Harvey Perkins, Richard le Heron and Mike Roche). Apparently well over 100 submissions were received.
- IGU bid: Despite our strong case, and the very professional and thorough proposal we put forward, we were unsuccessful – the 2018 regional Conference will go to Quebec. Further details will be advised. Nevertheless many thanks to the local organising committee at Auckland university, particularly Marc Tadaki and Nick Lewis.
- **TWO NEW STUDY GROUPS** have been proposed by Dr Ian Fuller. They are as follows:

1. **Proposed Working Group in Geomorphology**

Calling all geomorphologists in the NZGS: we have a very active community in NZ, but spread across several groupings including the Snow & Ice Research Group, Coastal Society, IPENZ Rivers Group, NZ Hydrological Society, and Geosciences Society. While we may try to come together for ANZGG meetings, these are biennial and only in NZ every 6 years. Regrettably, recent (biennial) NZGS conferences have also failed to attract much in the way of Physical Geography contributions, and yet geomorphology has much to contribute to the discipline of Geography in New Zealand. A Working Group under the auspices of the NZGS might provide a collective forum to develop a more coherent community of practice in geomorphology and raise the profile of this area of Physical Geography in NZ Geography as a whole, as well as develop an annual opportunity for meetings run by geomorphologists for geomorphologists. A model to follow might (ultimately) be the UK's BSG: <http://www.geomorphology.org.uk/>.

If you are interested in developing, contributing, or would like to simply support the notion of a Working Group in Geomorphology, please contact Ian Fuller: i.c.fuller@massey.ac.nz

2. Proposed Working Group in Pedagogic Research (PedRes)

We are all Reflective Practitioners as Geography educators, each of us is developing our own best practice as we teach a diversity of students in a range of contexts and reflect on what works, and what doesn't. This process can both inform and be informed by research into teaching and learning in Geography, and we have our own journal dedicated to this subject (*Journal of Geography in Higher Education*), as well as the GeoEd section of *NZ Geographer*. A PedRes Working Group might provide those of us wanting to do more with our reflective practice an opportunity to engage more deeply with our pedagogic research, as well as providing a forum for mutual encouragement and sharing of best practice in our community, not to mention the opportunity to facilitate write-ups and publication of our research that would arise from this activity. Connections / association could be made with the Higher Education Research Group affiliated with the RGS, which provides an example of an established PedRes grouping:

<http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Research+and+Higher+Education/ResearchGroups/Higher+Education+Research+Group.htm>. If you are interested in developing, contributing to, or supporting a PedRes Working Group, please contact Ian Fuller: i.c.fuller@massey.ac.nz

- **CONGRATULATIONS to the NZ Board of Geography Teachers and the Olympiad participants.** The team finished in 9th place overall out of 36 countries and individuals gained two Silver (Nic Wilson, Shirley Boys HS, Deena Parr, Otumoetai College) and two Bronze (Wan Zhi Tay, Burnside HS, Emily Moore, Wellington East Girls College). They also won the Geographic Poster Competition with a thoughtful exploration of the issues and possible solutions of how to redevelop the Christchurch residential Red Zone
- The *NZ Geographer* contract with our publisher Wiley is being reviewed by a subgroup.

2014 AGM

**In the Federation of University Women Room, Old Government House
AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY
on
19 SEPTEMBER at 4PM**

Save the Date: NZGS 2016 CONFERENCE Tuesday 2nd - Thursday 4th February Otago University, Dunedin with a Welcome reception: Monday 1st February – evening (Conference dinner: Larnach Castle (3 Feb); Field trips to be advised)

Careers for Geographers: To provide our secondary students with information on the very different careers geographers can enter, please send written information on *What Geographers Do* to me ann.pomeroy@xtra.co.nz (so that we can document career paths for the website and for careers advisors, etc), and send video clips of *Geographers in Action* to Matt Henry M.G.Henry@massey.ac.nz

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