

## Citation for Jeff Pepper

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Tonight we meet on a very special occasion to celebrate and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of Jeff Pepper and to present him with a Life membership to the New Zealand Geographical Society. As President of the Canterbury Branch I have the privilege of sharing with you all a little bit about Jeff. Before I go any further, I must also acknowledge Jeff, your friends and colleagues who have helped me prepare this citation, in particular John Macaulay and Murray Fastier.

There are teachers and then there are those who are educators, passionate about what they do and professional in their approach where their students as well as their profession are a priority. Jeff is by this definition an educator. At College while training to be a teacher, Jeff was an outstanding student. Since then he has set the standards, written the curriculum and demonstrated a real commitment to Geography and Social Studies. For those of you who do not know Jeff I have been well informed that while appearing to be the tough guy, and black and white about many things. Underneath he is mere marshmallow and always come to the aid of his colleagues. They all speak very highly of you Jeff.

As not everyone here really knows Jeff, I will begin with a brief outline of Jeff's career and some of the other significant contributions he has made to Geography and Social Studies education.

- After attending Hastings BHS Jeff graduated with a B.A (honours) degree in Geography from Victoria University... and in
- 1970 he majored in geographical education at Christchurch Teacher College, as it was then. It must be noted that Jeff was one of the most promising teacher trainees in his year.
- In 1970 he joined the staff of Cashmere HS where he quickly gained a reputation as a competent and innovative teacher. While at Cashmere he wrote a popular Form 3 text on Apartheid in South Africa.
- In 1981 Jeff joined the foundation staff of Ellesmere College as HOD Social Science, teaching Social Studies and senior geography and history. During this period he served for several years on the Christchurch Geography Teachers Assn, including a term as Chairperson and also held the office of Secretary of the Federation of the Social Studies Assn of New Zealand.
- Also during his time at Ellesmere college Jeff made a major contribution to secondary geography education through his innovative work on geography grade-related school trials in 1986-87, and the training of geography teachers in 1988-89.
- By 1991 Jeff had been appointed to the position of senior lecturer in Social Science education at the Christchurch College of education. During this time he was the College of education representative on the New Zealand Board of Geography teachers.
- From 1991 – 1993 he was the moderator for Bursary geography
- As well as his work at the Christchurch College of Education and moderating Jeff was involved in the development of the geography unit standards assessment during 1992 – 94 and was also Chairperson of the geography Advisory board. This led on to his work at NZQA.
- If this wasn't enough, also in 1993 while still at Christchurch College of Education he was one of a team of three given the monumental task of writing the first draft of the *Social Studies in New Zealand Curriculum* document.

- 1994 Jeff was the SC assistant chief examiner and was appointed to the staff of the NZQA specialising in the developing moderating systems for grade related and Unit Standards assessment of secondary school subjects besides geography.
- 1999 he rejoined the Christchurch College of Education staff as Academic Dean, of the School of Secondary Teacher Education. And from 1999 – 2001 was a member of the Ministry of Education Qualifications Development Group (QDG) that developed the Social Studies Achievement Standards for NCEA.

Now for those of you feeling inadequate right now and thinking that Jeff is beyond even super-human or wondering if it Jeff and Lyn ever saw each other, I have a wee tale to tell.

This story begins in the middle of SC marking. Before I begin this story – I would just like to point out for those of you who have never been involved in this undertaking – that your house is completely taken over by very large and very heavy mail sacks full of scripts. To save yourself from going crazy and ensuring you meet your deadlines you set yourself targets. As the wife of a marker there is a definite need to keep them on task – if only to reclaim your home again.

On one occasion in the middle of SC marking, Jeff and Lyn went out for the evening. Upon returning home Lyn suggested that Jeff go and do some more marking. He marked steadily for 2 hours – non-stop and was way ahead of his target. Unfortunately, in the light of day he found the marking was full of mistakes and had to remark the lot. All I can say is that it must have been a wonderful evening.

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Maree Hemmingsen, 2005

Jeff it is my privilege to award you this Honorary Life membership to the New Zealand Geographical Society in recognition of the following contributions and achievements.

- Your contribution to geographic education in New Zealand, as an educator and a researcher publishing in the NZ Journal of Geography
- For your contribution to teacher education, through the workshops you developed and conducted, particularly for Achievement Based Assessment.
- Your contribution to the systems and processes of NCEA; implementation and particularly moderation
- Your contribution to the Canterbury Branch of the Society and your contribution as an individual to geography in Schools has been huge and it is appropriate that the society recognises it.

Congratulations.