

Distinguished Service Award, Dr Maria Borovnik (Massey University)

Nominated by Prof. Lynda Johnston, Prof. Harvey Perkins, Dr Gail Adams-Hutcheson and endorsed by Prof. Tony Binns and Dr Aisling Gallagher



Photo: Dr Maria Borovnik

Citation

From 2011 to 2019 Maria served as the NZGS National Secretary. She took this role - and its many responsibilities - seriously, devoting a great deal of her time and energy to the Society. Maria became Secretary when the NZGS Head Office moved from Auckland to Palmerston North. This was a major change to manage, not only location, but also new Executive roles. She was instrumental in setting up new systems for communication, information recording and distribution, meeting protocols, revising the Constitution, record keeping, and establishing Society study groups. The role of the Secretary is a busy and demanding one. Maria was fast to learn the internal and external workings of the Society and was very generous with her time when new executive members needed to understand processes. The list of 'usual' tasks for Maria revolved around organising Executive; Council; and AGM meetings, as well as Head of Geography Programme / Departmental / School meetings; liaising between the Executive and New Zealand Board Geography Teachers and the Postgraduate Network; keeping branch details up to date and liaising with branch committees; dealing with awards nominations and awardees; and being available for communication between the NZGS and external societies.

As a Senior Lecturer at Massey University Maria is always supportive of graduate students and new and emerging scholars, helping them to excel through successful supervision, co-publication, and examination. We note that Maria is in high demand as an examiner. To date she has examined 13 PhD theses and 76 Masters theses. This work not only highlights Maria's international status in her field, but also her generosity

and support for new and emerging geographers. Maria is a generous contributor to scholarly networks. She – alongside Dr Gail Adams-Hutcheson – founded the NZGS Mobilities study group. This is an active group that has produced themed journal issues following their very successful Mobilities' symposia. Quite simply, Maria has been instrumental in sustaining the Aotearoa Mobilities Network and its scholarly outputs. This research, and Maria's collaborations with national and international leaders in her fields of study, are gaining significant traction through publication in leading geography journals. Maria is a very worthy recipient for the NZGS Distinguished Service Award and is strongly positioned to continue to lead and promote geographical activities in Aotearoa and beyond.