

Jane Michelle Foster

Distinguished Service Award 2019

Nominated and cited by Jane Evans, Louise Richards, Professor Tony Binns, Dr Mike Taylor, New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers.

Citation

The longstanding services Jane Foster has made in several areas of Secondary School Geography is recognised with this award. She has made a valued contribution to the Auckland Geography Teachers Association (AGTA), The New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers (NZBoGT) and attended the NZGS Branch Executive committee meetings as the teacher representative for many years.

Jane began her long service with the AGTA in 1997 when she joined the committee serving this committee for over 22 years. She moved on to being secretary for 13 years and helped enhance the association to become the largest regional association that now serves over 200 schools nationwide. As a result of the dedication and reliability she showed in this role she received the popular nomination of representing the Auckland Region on the New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers (NZBoGT) in 2006. In this representative role, she took on the portfolio as national coordinator of the annual Year 11 Maatangi Whenua Quiz - a role she continues to undertake to the present day. The success of this competition is largely due to her efficient organisation and it remains one of the most popular competitions for school geography in New Zealand. At the same time she also took on the role as Secretary of the NZBoGT, and hence, became an integral member of the Board's executive. So valued is she in this role that she was made a seconded member of the NZBoGT committee in 2014. Jane's willingness to be involved voluntarily in these many areas of geography is all the more remarkable considering she also has a busy full time role as Head of Department of the Marist College. Jane not only readily agrees to take on such positions but can always be relied on to turn up to meetings and meet any deadlines. She acts as a great liaison person between the secondary and tertiary sectors making as many meetings of the NZGS as she can to ensure teachers are well represented. Such meetings also created the groundwork for the Scholarship Workshops put on by the University of Auckland which have since become an annual feature and are much appreciated by students from schools from Whangarei to Hamilton.