

Geography in New Zealand 2012-2016

Michael Roche

With contributions from Maria Borovnik, Karen Fisher, Ian Fuller, Lynda Johnston, and Marcela Palomino-Schalscha

This national report on Geography in New Zealand 2012-2016 has been prepared for the International Geographical Union General Assembly in Beijing in August 2016. The report is organised into three main sections concerned with the broader institutional frameworks for geography, geographical education, and acknowledgement of past contributions

1. Institutional Frameworks and Geography

The period 2012-2016 has been one of slow rather than dramatic change during which there have been some moments for celebrate, for instance, the research quality of university geographers in New Zealand had been highly ranked in the National Performance Based Research Fund evaluations (2006-2012), while over other issues progress has been disappointingly slow, for instance over achieving parity between the credits earned for some geography assessment compared to that of allied disciplines in the secondary schools. The investigation of the Productivity Commission into the tertiary sector seems to hold the prospect of a further round of transformation change from 2017.

1.1 The Productivity Commission

The New Zealand Productivity Commission - Te Komihana Whai Hua o Aotearoa - is an independent Crown Entity established in 2011 to advise government on 'improving productivity in a way that is directed to supporting the overall well-being of New Zealanders, having regard to a wide range of communities of interest and population groups in New Zealand society.'ⁱ

In November of 2015 The Government asked the Productivity Commission to investigate how trends in technology, internationalisation, population, tuition costs and demand for skills might drive changes in models of tertiary education. This has been followed by the circulation of an issues paper early in 2016.ⁱⁱ The thrust of the document seems to be that the levels of government funding to the Tertiary sector are not providing a sufficient return on investment in productivity terms and that new models need to be explored. It is difficult to second guess what the Commission might recommend, but the key moment will be the release of its draft report in November of 2016.

1.2 Royal Society of New Zealand

The Royal Society of New Zealand is an independent statutory organisation that promotes and advances science, technology and the humanities in New Zealand. It dates, through predecessor organisations back to 1868, and it now operates under the Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1997. Under a 2012 amendment act the humanities have now been incorporated Royal Society of New

Zealand. Under the present legislation its stated purpose now is for 'advancing and promoting science, technology and the humanities in New Zealand'ⁱⁱⁱ.

The Royal Society of New Zealand is important to geographers in several ways that are not always fully appreciated. In terms of research the Society manages the Marsden Fund which was established by the government in 1994 to fund excellent fundamental research. This is a highly competitive and prestigious contestable fund. Human geography applications go to a Social Science panel and those in physical geography to an Earth Sciences and Astronomy panel. The Royal Society of New Zealand has long since recognized research excellence through the award of Fellowships. A small number of geographers have been made Fellows since Professor Kenneth Cumberland (Auckland) was elected in 1973.

As an affiliated member of the Royal Society of New Zealand since 1969, the New Zealand Geographical Society is part of the system of national delegates to the Royal Society of New Zealand and linked to the International Council Science of Unions. In addition the Royal Society of New Zealand is able to meet the International Geographical Union subscriptions as well as assist with delegate travel to International Geographical Union Congresses and to support Olympiad competitions for secondary school teams including geography.

In 2015 Emeritus Professor RD Bedford (Waikato University and Auckland University of Technology) was elected as President of the RSNZ for a three year term. A population geographer, with long experience as a migration specialist and government advisor Professor Bedford is the first social scientist to serve as President for 60 years. Another geographer Professor Richard Le Heron has served as Vice President Humanities and Social Sciences (2013-2016).

1.3 International Geographical Union

New Zealand has been a member of the International Geographical Union since around 1930, before university geography was established in New Zealand. Academic involvement really only began with the 1949 Lisbon Congress but has expanded steadily since the 1960s. A key event was the hosting of a regional conference in New Zealand in 1974.

Currently New Zealand geographers are involved on the steering committees of five IGU Commissions, these being the

Olympiad Commission
Lex Chalmers (Waikato) Co-chair

Dynamics of Economic Spaces Commission
Professor Michael Roche (Massey) Steering Committee

Commission on Gender and Geography
Professor Lynda Johnston (Waikato) Steering Committee

Indigenous Knowledges and Peoples' Rights
Dr Brad Coombes (Auckland) Chairperson of Steering Committee

Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses
Professor Etienne Nel (Otago) Steering Committee

New Zealand bid unsuccessfully at Krakow for the 2018 Regional Conference which will be hosted by Laval University in Quebec. The Dynamics of Economic Spaces Commission will be holding a New Zealand meeting in November of 2016.

1.4 New Zealand Geographical Society

The New Zealand Geographical Society was founded in 1944. The Society is structured around a small head office, presently based at Massey University in Palmerston North. Office space for the Society's part time Administrative Assistant has been generously provided by the School of People Environment and Planning. The office holders are spread across the country. The current president is Emeritus Professor Harvey Perkins (Auckland University), the immediate Past President is Dr Ann Pomeroy and the Vice President (and president elect) is Professor Lynda Johnston (Waikato). Ms Sue Lynch is the Chair of the Board of Geography Teachers, a subcommittee of the Executive that specifically serves the needs of secondary school geography teachers. This points to a distinctive feature of the New Zealand Geographical Society in that it serves as a single umbrella organisation for secondary and university geographers and all others interested in the subject. The society is comprised of six branches (Auckland, Waikato, Manawatū, Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago) reflecting the early close associations of the society with the geography departments the universities. Branches run their own annual programmes. Activities include a mix of lectures, fieldtrips, post graduate presentations, and hosting of secondary school geography competitions.

The Executive committee holds regular monthly meetings (Via Scopia) which have enabled business to be dealt with efficiently. There is an annual face-to-face Council meeting in late May and in recent years this has been held in Wellington as the convenient central location.

A postgraduate programme was overtly included as part of the 2010 New Zealand Geographical Society conferences in Christchurch and this has been carried forward in association with subsequent conferences in 2012, 2014, and 2016. A conscious effort was made to make more provision for post graduates in the society from 2010. This has taken the form of a Post Graduate Network which has organised a series of 'webinars' drawing participants from all the university geography units. The content and structure of the post graduate programme at the conference has been student driven and has included both thesis research related and transition to work sessions. With the turnover of student office holders necessarily being high the challenge for the society and post graduates themselves is to ensure that there is a succession of students to sustain the activities of the network.

In 2012 the society initiated some changes to membership structure including new membership classes for postgraduates. These also included new systems for subscription renewals reminders and payments, the latter to reflect the widespread switch to electronic banking. As part of the new subscription categories the society has created a new class of member – a Fellow of the New Zealand Geographical Society (See 1.6). Other business that has stretched out over several years has been revision of the Society's constitution which had gotten severely out of date. New contract negotiations have been concluded with our publishers Wylie-Blackwell.

In order to facilitate wider New Zealand Geographical Society membership access to International Geographical Union materials (and for any other visitors to the New Zealand Geographical Society website) a specific International Geographical Union Tab has been created on the society webpages. Here International Geographical Union documents and resources are available. In addition a specific list server has been created for those on the New Zealand Geographical Society community list for direct receipt of International Geographical Union quarterly newsletters and the annual International Geographical Union Bulletin. Several dozen individuals across schools and universities signalled that

they would like direct receipt of these materials. The Royal Society of New Zealand has applauded this initiative in terms of the direct link it provides between New Zealand geographers and the International Geographical Union.

The New Zealand Geographical Society website has also been upgraded as the 'face' of the society. The Society is supporting the Institute of Australian Geographers in its bid to host the International Geographical; congress in Melbourne in 2024.

1.5 Study Groups

Around 2012 the New Zealand Geographical Society decided to support the establishment of study groups. This move was partly a response to the success of the Canterbury 2010 joint conference, where the sessions organised by Australian study groups was one of the features of the programme. Since then several study groups have been formed.

Freshwater Geographies: This group had a quite specific fixed term objective whereby sessions on Freshwater Geographies in New Zealand were organised at the 2012 New Zealand Geographical Society conference. These emerged from a series of conversations and a workshop about opportunities for more engaged public contributions from geographers about freshwater in New Zealand. These sessions gave rise to a Special Issue of the *New Zealand Geography* (70, issue 1), which comprised three research articles and two commentaries on the subject.^{iv}

Mobilities Study Group: The 'Mobilities Research and Study Group' was ratified by the AGM of the New Zealand Geographical Society in September 2015 as the first study group supported by the Society; it was launched at the New Zealand Geographical Society conference in Dunedin on 2 February 2016 with two panel sessions on *Mobilities Research in New Zealand*. Convenors are Maria Borovnik, Tara Duncan and Gail Adams-Hutchison. Geography research was also supported at the 7th Mobilities Symposium of New Zealand/Aotearoa at Massey University, in June 2016, with a *Transport and People-Centred Mobilities* theme. The Society provided funds to one geography honours student from Waikato University to participate in this symposium in exchange to presenting on her mobilities research in her geography department and to at least one secondary school once completed. This Study Group is currently working on a special issue for the *New Zealand Geographer*. The Mobilities Research and Study Group also networks with the Engaged Social Science (ESocSci) Mobilities Research Network of New Zealand, with the Centre for Mobilities Research (CreMoRe) at Lancaster University, UK, and the European Cosmobilities Network. There are also strong links to the emerging Australian Mobilities Network (OzMob).^v

Women and Gender Geographies Study Group: In May 2016, the New Zealand Geographical Society Council approved the proposal to establish the Women and Gender Geographies Study Group. The Convenors of the Group are Helen Fitt (Canterbury) and Alison Watkins (Canterbury). The Women and Gender Geographies Study Group has its roots in the Women and Gender Geographies Research Network (WGGRN), which began in 2013. The WGGRN is an eSocSci network that runs bi-monthly videoconference meetings. Members of WGGRN have organised conference sessions (Institute of Australian Geographers Conference in 2014 and the New Zealand Geographical Society Conference in 2016), and two national workshops (both in 2016). The formation of the Women and Gender Study Group provides a formalised arrangement to enable ongoing collaboration between members of WGGRN and the New Zealand Geographical Society, and acknowledges the role played by the New Zealand Geographical Society and its members in establishing the WGGRN. Future activities focus on workshops, writing retreats, publications and participation in conferences.^{vi}

1.6 Fellow of the New Zealand Geographical Society (FNZGS)

Following on from discussions in 2012 the Society has reorganised its membership categories. This has enabled the society to recognise the efforts of some of its membership by enabling themselves forward or be nominated to be a Fellow of the society. This rearrangement has also mean that a number of Life Members, previously one of a small number of categories available to the society to recognize efforts and achievement have been redesignated as Life Fellows. These changes have been part of a larger reorganisation of membership categories as the journal moves to electronic only status (See 1.8).

1.7 New Zealand Geographical Society Conference

Since 1955 the New Zealand Geographical Society has held conferences, these were for a decade or so held every three years, but from 1977 have been scheduled biennially. Conferences are hosted by the regional branches of the New Zealand Geographical Society. In 1992 a joint meeting with the Institute of Australian Geographers was held in conjunction with the 16th New Zealand conference held in Auckland. Since that time joint meetings have been continued to be held at approximately four yearly intervals on alternating between New Zealand and Australia. The 2012 conference 'Connecting Landscapes' was held in December of that year, later than usual and thus falls into the 2012-2016 reporting period. This meeting for the first time featured a non-university city venue – that of Napier in Hawkes Bay. A public lecture was also re-instated as part of the programme in order to try and engage with the local community. While no conference proceedings were published, the society dispended with producing these in 2003, an edited volume based on paper originally presented at the conference and entitled *Engaging Geographies, Landscapes, Lifecourses, and Mobilities* was published.

Nearly 20 people took part in a three day marae-based Indigenous geography pre-conference meeting between. The meeting was held at Matahiwi Marae, Clive, Hawke's Bay, and brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous geographers and whanau interested on Indigenous issues from around Aotearoa New Zealand, Hawaii, Oregon, Australia, Chile and Colombia. It was an amazing experience where, following a loose schedule allowing plenty of time for informal interactions, the group heard from people involved in Treaty claims in the area, visited places of significance for the local Iwi, and engaged in conversations about our interests and the challenges we face. With a wide range of participants, involving from Masters students to well-established academics, and people with little knowledge of Maori culture to a respected kaumatua, there was always something to share and learn. It was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the tangata whenua of the place where the New Zealand Geographical Society conference took place, and to strengthen Indigenous geographies in Aotearoa and beyond. At the end of the meeting, we all left feeling inspired and supported, gained new knowledges and made new connections. These conversations and connections carried on to the main conference, in particular the two Indigenous geographies sessions. We are very grateful of our hosts at Matahiwi Marae, specially Tom Mulligan, as well as the meeting organisers Marcela Palomino-Schalscha (Victoria University of Wellington) and Garth Cant (University of Canterbury).^{vii}

The 2014 conference, a joint one with the New Zealand Geographical Society and Institute of Australian Geographers, was held at the University of Melbourne in July. Participation by New Zealand geographers from across all the university groups was good. The New Zealand Heads of Geography units also convened a meeting at the conference to discuss matters of mutual interest around post graduate examining and the new 180 credit MA/MSc proposals (i.e. a one year Masters including a reduction in the papers and thesis value as opposed to the existing two year model

The 2016 conference was hosted by the Otago Branch of the Society at the University of Otago in Dunedin. The conference theme was 'Geographical Interactions' and the programme featured key note

speakers from Australia, GB and New Zealand. The organising committee for the 2018 conference is now in place and the Auckland Branch of the society will be hosting what will be another joint meeting with the Institute of Australian Geographers at the University of Auckland.

1.8 New Zealand Geographer

The first issue of the *New Zealand Geographer* appeared in 1945 a year after the society was founded. The Society regards the journal as a general purpose publication with a focus on 'New Zealand the South Pacific, and the wider Australasian region' although it does not limit itself to papers concerned with this part of the world. The journal publishes papers on human and physical geography as well as geo-education articles. In consequence, as a society based regional journal it will always suffer somewhat with respect to impact factor rankings. Since 1945 there have been six different cover designs and three different sizes until in 2015 the journal is now effectively available in only an electronic form. While there might be some regrets involved in moving to entirely electronic form this is compensated for by the increased reach of the journal which is now accessed much more widely than in previous years (some 200 overseas library subscriptions when paper based to over 4000 as part of the bundle of subscriptions provided by Wiley). The journal appears three times a year with one of these being a themed special issue.

Our publisher has readily supported the creation of virtual special issues. Those since 2012 have recognized the contribution to New Zealand geography of Emeritus Professor Kenneth Cumberland (University of Auckland) who died aged 97 in 2011, addressed the themes of the Krakow regional congress in 2014 by providing a commentary on papers in the journal over the previous five years that spoke to the conference theme of 'challenges, changes, and responsibility' and, in 2015 brought together a commentary and selection of papers from the first 70 years of the *New Zealand Geographer* as way of marking the work of over two generations of geographers.

Virtual special issues

Kenneth Cumberland (1913 - 2011) (Cumberland Commemorative issue 2012)

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1745-7939a/homepage/kenneth_cumberland.htm](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1745-7939a/homepage/kenneth_cumberland.htm)

Karkow IGU Conference virtual issue

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1745-7939a/homepage/changes__challenges_and_responsibility__a_virtual_issue_of_new_zealand_geogra phe.htm](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1745-7939a/homepage/changes__challenges_and_responsibility__a_virtual_issue_of_new_zealand_geogra phe.htm)

Seventy Years of the *New Zealand Geographer*

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1745-7939a/homepage/virtual_issue_2016.htm](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1745-7939a/homepage/virtual_issue_2016.htm)

The Managing Editor is Professor Etienne Nel (Otago University) and remainder of the editorial team is for human geography Associate Professor Nick Lewis (Auckland University) and Associate Professor Juliana Mansvelt (Massey University), physical geography Associate Professor Mike Hilton (Otago) The book review editor is Dr Maria Borovnik (Massey University).

1.9 Asia Pacific Viewpoint

This journal was established as *Pacific Viewpoint* by Professor Keith Buchanan of Victoria University in 1960, and published by the Department of Geography at Victoria, in order to provide a home for research on the changing geography of the Asia Pacific world. From inception it had an interdisciplinary focus and for many years was edited by geography staff from the founding department. *Pacific Viewpoint* became *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* in 1996 and was published by Blackwell (now Wiley Blackwell). The name change brought the journal into closer alignment with its content the journal. *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* always had a critical interdisciplinary orientation.

Asia Pacific Viewpoint describes itself as publishing 'academic research in geography and allied disciplines on the economic and social development of the Asia Pacific. Particular attention is paid to the interplay between development and the environment and to the growing interconnections between countries in the region'^{viii} ([http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1467-8373/homepage/ProductInformation.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1467-8373/homepage/ProductInformation.html))

The Editor-in-Chief is currently Associate Professor Lisa Law (James Cook University) with Dr April Henderson (Victoria University) Dr Fiona Miller, (Macquarie University) and Professor Warwick Murray (Victoria University) as editors. The journal appears three times a year with one of these being a themed special issue.

The *New Zealand Geographer* and *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* are now both well-established journals that are complementary in character.

1.10 New Zealand Geographical Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

The New Zealand Geographic Board in its present form dates back to 1946. The statute under which the Board operates was revised in 2008. The Te Reo Maori part of its name means "the memorial markers of the landscape". The Board 'is New Zealand's national place naming authority responsible for official place names in New Zealand, its offshore islands and continental shelf, and the Ross Dependency of Antarctica'^{ix}. The New Zealand Geographical Society has a representative on the Board alongside nominees from the Federated Mountain Clubs, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Local Government New Zealand, Ministry of Maori Development (2), and the Ministry of Land Information (2), the National Hydrographer at LINZ is also a board member. The Board is chaired by the Surveyor General. The Board has three sub committees, namely, the Antarctic Names Committee, the Māori Names Committee and the Undersea Feature Names Committee, which meet annually to advise and make recommendations to the Board. There is a considerable backlog of undersea names informally applied that now have to be ratified.

Since 2012 over and above its statutory functions, of assigning official names to features and places, approving recorded names (unofficial names shown in at least two publicly available authoritative publications or databases), altering official or recorded names by correcting the spelling or substituting a new name, discontinuing the use of official or recorded names, investigating and decides on the position and extent of named features, and reviewing and concurs with proposals for Crown protected area names from the Department of Conservation, the Board has been particularly busy particularly in terms of providing advice on Māori place names where these are part of cultural redress aspects of historical claims of breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi signed in 1840 and which opened the way for the British colonization of New Zealand.^x The Board is not a direct part of the Treaty settlement process but provides advice to the Minister of Treaty Settlements about names that claimants are bringing forward; on occasions the Board may have 'concerns' about the veracity of names that are proposed

for restoration. In most other instances the names have a clear historical provenance and conform to good naming principles and there are 'no concerns'. In some instances the Board may have 'no concerns' that features may as part of the settlement have a dual Māori and European name or than a Māori name might replace a European one.

The Board since 2014 has also searched for World War One related names in New Zealand. This work has established that there are a number of World War One related names, mostly, but not exclusively, taking the form of features named after imperial figures. Many of these names on closer inspection have been found to be in recorded names but have not been officially gazetted. As part of the Board's contribution to the WW100 programme these names are now being officially recognized.

1.11 Research

Since 2012 University geographers in New Zealand have had some success in a highly competitive national funding environment. Some of the highlights are listed below.

2014. Dr Frances Collins (Auckland) Rutherford Discovery Fellowship 'Nation and Migration: population mobilities, desires and state practices in 21st century New Zealand.' This is a prestigious five year fellowship for early to middle career researchers.

2014 Marsden Fund Awards

Professor John Overton (Victoria) Marsden 'Educating for emigration? Searching for appropriate education policy in the Pacific Islands'

Professor Warwick Murray (Victoria) Marsden 'Re-placing commodity dependence: alternative sustainable and ethical value chains in the resource periphery'

Dr Ailsing Gallagher (Massey) Marsden Fast Start 'The business of care: constructing a childcare market in Aotearoa/New Zealand'.

2015 Marsden Fund Awards

Dr Karen Fisher and Dr Meg Parsons (Auckland): 'Rethinking the future of freshwater in Aotearoa New Zealand'.

Professor Paul Kench (Auckland): 'Putting the Pacific Ocean to the litmus test: resolving a multi-millennial record of ocean pH from corals with the boron isotope proxy'.

The results of the 2016 Marsden round will not be known until around September

1.12 Research and the Performance Based Research Fund

In the early 2000s the New Zealand government chose to unbundle the teaching and research money that it provided to the universities. The funding for teaching for a time was provided on the old basis of more students attracting more money, but was subsequently adjusted in favour of system of caps which if exceeded the institution can take the extra students but will not attract additional funding and likewise not reaching the cap can result in financial penalties. The research money, approximately 25% of the

total was to be reallocated on the basis of a national research assessment exercise, known as the Performance Based Research Fund (usually referred to as the PBRF). The actual assessment involves all eligible academic staff submitting portfolios to expert panels, listing four main research outputs, with some text situating the research along with a list of other research outputs and lists of peer esteem and contributions to research environment. Evidence of the latter have to be separately kept and a number of portfolios are randomly audited as part of the process. The portfolios are graded, new researchers' apart, into three classes, 'A' international, 'B' national, and 'C' research active each of which attracts a different levels of funding. Aggregates of the scores along with some other weightings for external funding, graduate completions etc. enables each institutions share of the research money to be allocated. The intention was to reward research excellence. The system also ranks research areas across institutions and against each other across 42 subject areas. Not unexpectedly there has been some gaming at the institutional level around the construction league tables, which is often not that meaningful when there are only seven universities. That staff rather than academic units are individually ranked as researchers, although staff may request not to be informed of their scores, is a not uncontested feature of the New Zealand exercise. Geographers have been amongst those who have written of the scheme but who also see it as more than being just a Neoliberal audit exercise but one which opens up some new space for recognising and valuing geographical research.^{xi}

The third PBRF evaluation round took place in 2012. Geography has been split between Social Sciences for human geographers and Earth Sciences for physical geography. It is also impossible to disentangle the research performance of the physical geographers from the other earth scientists. The 2012 results point, however, to the quality of geographical research being undertaken in New Zealand. Human Geography emerged as second ranked of 42 subject areas taught across the university sector, behind Pure and Applied Mathematics and immediately ahead of Physics, Philosophy, and Psychology. Earth Science was ranked 19 of 42 subject areas.^{xii} Over 68% of the human geographers were 'A' and 'B' ranked i.e. internationally and nationally significant. This result is a long run consequence of the commitment of the founding generation of university geographers to research in the 1930s to 1960s. It also reflects the age structure of the discipline with a cohort of mid-career to senior researchers performing at the highest level. Although there was a concentration of A's at the University of Auckland it was noteworthy that the 'A' grade researchers are spread across all the geography units in New Zealand which also indicates that the quality research is being done across all the programmes and is not just restricted to one or two institutions.

2 Geographical Education

This section briefly summarizes developments in secondary school and university geography.

2.1 Board of Geography Teachers

The Board of Geography Teachers, a sub-committee of the Executive of the New Zealand Geographical Society continues to act as the subject association for geography. There are also regional geography teacher associations across the country.

Board of Geography Teachers has made available funding to support teachers' professional development and recognize excellence in geography teaching. In 2014 funds were set aside to create a conference attendance fund and in 2015 a small sum was made available for professional development. Board of Geography Teachers was a bronze sponsor for the Soc-Con – the teachers' NZ Social Sciences conference in Nelson in September 2015. This meeting has now assumed some considerable importance on the teachers' calendar.

During the 2015 there was been some useful dialogue with the Ministry of Education over aspects of the new curriculum and about the realigned NCEA achievement standards. Progress has been slow. National secondary school curriculum developments in 2016 include the laying down of various 'curriculum principles'. One of these 'future focus' states that the curriculum is to encourages students to look to the future by exploring future oriented issues such as sustainability, citizenship, enterprise and globalisation. Geography teachers see all of these issues as relating well to geography and able to be made explicit in classroom teaching. However, the Board of Geography Teachers is mindful that Education Review Office inquiries have shown that 'future focus' is the least apparent of the curriculum principles in class room practice. For all that the Board considers that this new curriculum principle provides opportunities for the place of geography in the secondary school.

The Board of Geography Teachers quarterly newsletter 'The Network' is now a substantial document that has actively promoted pedagogical discussion and circulates informed interpretation about the curriculum as well as moderators' comments on NCEA performance. Teaching material on sustainability, in a number of contexts, which is one of the key concepts in the new curriculum has been circulated. This has also included some 'how to' guides for GIS and accessing other infometrics (e.g Statistics NZ) for map work.

The year 11 Maatangi Whenua competition remains popular. In response to the governments 'priority learners' strategy the Board of Geography Teachers has explored ways in which the curriculum can be made, by judicious selection of topics, more relevant to Maori and Pasifika learners. In 2014 many teachers have also used Maori Language week as an opportunity to pay attention to the correct pronunciation of Maori place names.

The performance of the New Zealand team at the Geography Olympiad in Krakow was meritorious with two silver and two bronze medals. This was the most successful Olympiad performance so far easily surpassing the previous New Zealand best of two bronzes at Cologne in 2012.

A 'Geography Awareness Week' usually held in the middle of the year is another promotional activity that is part of the school calendar. Another offshoot of Board of Geography Teachers activities has been the publication of *Geography in Focus*^{xiii} which fills a gap as far as curriculum and assessment is concerned, but also considers the pros and cons of issues based approaches.

2.2 University Geography

University restructuring and the creation of schools has typically seen geography subsumed into larger administrative units, based in Sciences or Social Sciences where the disciplinary name is not part of the school title. One disadvantage of this is the comparative invisibility of the discipline and its graduates. Despite these complications university geographers have continued to teach sizable number of students and to be active researchers. All programmes offer bachelors and post graduate degrees to the PhD level. The various geography programmes are beginning to position themselves somewhat differently.

Auckland: Geography was established at Auckland in 1946. For some time Auckland geographers have been part of a larger entity, the School for Environment. Professor Paul Kench is the Head of School. They are still the largest geography group in New Zealand of over two dozen within a still larger school. Geography at Auckland is presented as 'exciting, challenging and relevant to today's world. Geographers study the natural processes of the physical environment, as well as the activities and consequences of humans in this environment. Some geographers specialise in Coastal, Glacial or Fluvial Processes and Landforms, Climatology, Biogeography, Hydrology or Environmental Change.

Others study Regional Economics, Population Change, the problems of rural or urban areas, or the experience of particular groups such as Māori. Still others, specialising in Spatial Analysis, bring the power of geographic information science to bear on a wide range of research problems. Increasingly, these varied interests are coming together in the study of environmental problems and Geographers lead the way in resource management'.^{xiv}

Waikato: The Geography Programme at the University of Waikato was established in 1964 and is distinctive nationally for being essentially a human geography group. They are committed to: understanding relationships between natural systems and human societies to inform collective futures; identifying interconnections between space and place, through creative, critical, ethical and reflexive thinking about geographical issues; integrating geographical perspectives on social, cultural and environmental justice to contribute to innovative problem-solving; analysing, evaluating and developing representations of space and place using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods; developing knowledge and appreciation of Māori geographies, feminist geographies, environmental geographies and geographic information systems; engaging with complex regional geographies and their national and global connections. The University of Waikato's feminist geography, has, over the past two decades been at the forefront of human geographical research nationally and internationally. Waikato is the only University to offer Māori Geography and Māori Environmental Planning. Professor Dame Evelyn Stokes' appointment as a foundation staff member at the University was vitally important as she established geographical scholarship on Māori and gender. Dr Naomi Simmonds now anchors Māori.^{xv} Dr Colin McLeay is the Convener of the Geography Programme.

Massey: Geography at Massey dates back to 1960 and the days of Palmerston North University College. A series of Departmental mergers led to the establishment of the School of Global Studies in 1999 which expanded further in the early-2000s to become the School of People Environment and Planning in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Around 2011 the physical geographers joined the Institute of Agriculture and Environment in the College of Sciences. Geography at Massey University is described as 'a study which examines the surface of the Earth as peoples' home. Human geography focuses on social processes and people, and physical geography is concerned with patterns and processes in the natural environment'.^{xvi} Currently the human and physical geographers continue to teach into courses that are part of majors in both the BA and BSc degrees. In 2015 Dr Jia Ye was appointed to human geography position at Massey's Albany campus in Auckland. Dr Kat Holt chairs the cross-college Geography Discipline Committee.

Victoria: Founded in 1946 the department has been for some time part of a larger School of Geography, Environment and Earth Science. The discipline is positioned in the following terms 'Geography at Victoria is about the place where we live and who we are, and the interactions between them. Our courses tackle the big questions that relate to our future and appreciation of local impacts, as well as a truly global knowledge base'.^{xvii} Associate Professor John Townend is the Head of the School for Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences. The Director of our Geography Board of Studies is Dr Bethanna Jackson.

Canterbury: The University of Canterbury geography department is the oldest in New Zealand being established in 1937. Along with Otago it remains as a standalone department where it is based in the College of Sciences. At Canterbury geography is described as 'a distinctive discipline and one with a special place in the university. It encourages students to take a holistic view of the world and their place in it: it's about putting knowledge together, rather than taking it apart. It focuses on the relationships between people, their places and their environments, and the ways in which these can be made more sustainable for the future'.^{xviii} Associate Professor Peyman Zawar-Reza is the Head of Department.

Otago: At Otago University Geography was established in 1946 and is based in the Division of humanities. The discipline positions itself as 'Nau mai, haere mai ki Te Iho Whenua. Geography is an environmental science concerned with the causes and organisation of natural and human phenomena across the globe'.^{xix} The department notes, 'We live in an interdependent world caught up in chains of events which span the globe. We depend upon increasingly fragile human and physical environments, whose complex interactions require sophisticated analysis and sensitive management. These issues present intellectual and practical challenges of the first importance and they are amongst the central problems of modern geography. Te Iho Whenua – the connection between people and the earth. Our name in te reo Māori is derived from an important tikanga (custom). The identity it suggests, speaks of the pivotal relationship between people and the earth (Papatūānuku). Traditionally, it has been common to bury or return the placenta (whenua) of a newborn child to Papatūānuku, thereby connecting the child with the land (also 'whenua'). This practice is known as iho whenua and is central to the concept of being tangata whenua (people of the land). For us as a Department of Geography, the name Te Iho Whenua symbolises our focus on the interwoven human and physical processes that together constitute the environment'.^{xx} Professor Sean Fitzsimons is the Head of Department

3. Acknowledging Past Contributions

The New Zealand Geographical Society makes a number of awards to secondary and university geographers in the areas of teaching excellence, distinguished service, and research. Obituaries are also on occasion published.

3.1 Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Medals

This is the Society's premier award. It has been awarded annually since 2001 and only a few occasions has more than one award been granted in a single year.

2013 Emeritus Professor Robert (Bob) Kirk (University of Canterbury): His research and publications as physical geographer specialised in the science of coastal landforms and lakeshores, and the physical processes that form and change them to the science of Coastal Geomorphology since 1965. He has a deep interest in the relationships individuals and communities have with the sea and coastlines and associated issues as concerns coastal management. He has published 86 papers in international and national peer reviewed scientific journals, such as *Progress in Physical Geography*, *Coastal Engineering* and *Nature*, books and conference proceedings and 145 technical reports. He has frequently appeared in Court as an expert witness leading to precedents that have influenced coastal management in New Zealand.

2013 Professor Philip Morrison (Victoria University): His research articles are in a wide variety of prestigious journals including *Urban Studies*, *Housing Studies*, *Labour Economics* and *Geoforum*. He also has an excellent co-edited book – *Geographies of Labour Market Inequality*, published by Routledge Press which followed his book, *Labour Adjustment in Metropolitan Regions*, published by the Institute of Policy Studies and Victoria University Press. His work on housing and labour markets is ground breaking and important, not just in Geography, but more broadly across the social science disciplines.

2014 Professor Robin Kearns (University of Auckland) His excellence as a socio-cultural geography researcher is exemplified in his remarkable publication record and in the high esteem in which he is held by the global geography community. Over the past 27 years, Robin has published more than 130

journal articles, two books, 39 book chapters, 14 papers in edited conference proceedings, and 30 significant other publications. Among other leading journals, Robin has published in *Social and Cultural Geography*, *Antipode*, *Geoforum*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Journal of Rural Studies*, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, *Area*, and *Progress in Human Geography*. He has explored the links between culture, health and place. His work is empirical and theoretical and ranges across rural, urban, coastal and health system spaces. It is given meaning by a deep humanist politics.

2015 Emeritus Professor John Flenley (Massey University): He has made significant contributions to scholarship in the field of biogeography and palynology in particular and he has continued to write and supervise after his formal retirement from Massey University in 2001. Using palynology techniques he has reconstructed the environmental history of Rapanui Easter Island and more recently been involved in refining the palynology techniques employed during this time, culminating in the development of automated means of identifying fossil pollen grains. Automation has the potential to revolutionize the field as it will significantly alter the time spent on identifying and counting fossil pollen grains in the lab allowing more time for interpretation. Several prototype machines have been sold overseas and the development is being carried further by some of former students.

2015 Emeritus Professor W.A.V Clark (UCLA): His work which is reported in more than 400 research articles, reports and 9 books examines the impacts of urban structure on population flows between cities and suburbs, white flight and the impact of legal intervention on the urban mosaic, and analyses of the local outcomes and impacts of large scale international migration, especially in California. He has combined his dual interests in geography and demography to study residential segregation in U.S. cities, as well as patterns of migration, mobility, and labour force participation, especially of two-worker households. Recent papers link mobility and migration in US and British housing markets and confirm much of the current research on why families and individuals move their residence. To the long-standing arguments about race and class in residential segregation, his recent papers demonstrate that class is a powerful explanation for patterns of separation for both the foreign born and native born residents.^{xxi}

3.2 Obituaries

John Ure Macaulay (1925-2014): DNZG 2001 John Macaulay gave meritorious service to successive generations of secondary school teachers and pupils in New Zealand. He completed a BA in geography from the then Canterbury University College in 1948 and graduated from Christchurch Teachers' College. He combined teaching with part-time study for an MA (1952). After teaching in Auckland he joined the Christchurch College of Education in 1968, retiring in 1983. He wrote numerous school text books and played a pivotal role in the development and operation of the Geography Resource Centre (1974 to 2000) which supplied teaching materials to secondary school geographers. He was an active member of the New Zealand Geographical Society as a committee member, journal editor and member of the Board of Geography Teachers.

Emeritus Professor Harvey Franklin (1928-2015): He completed a BCom (Geog) at Birmingham and was appointed Junior Lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington in 1951 retiring as Professor in 1993 and becoming Emeritus Professor thereafter. He had an international reputation for his work on Europe (*The European Peasantry*- 1969) and his interpretation of New Zealand economy and society (*Trade Growth and Anxiety* - 1978 and *Cul De Sac* - 1985). He was elected a FRSNZ in 1995, one of only three at the time. *Trade Growth and Anxiety* offered some rich insights into the structural legacies of New Zealand's colonial past as one of Britain's overseas farms. His work was characterised by a command of an array of ideas many taken from beyond the conventional bounds of geography at the

time and by an ability to take the mundane events and interpret them in a much larger context. His work reached out far beyond the disciplinary boundaries of geography.

ⁱ <http://www.productivity.govt.nz/about-us/the-commission>

ⁱⁱ New Zealand Productivity Commission. (2016). New models of tertiary education: Issues paper. Available from www.productivity.govt.nz/inquirycontent/tertiary-education. ISBN: 978-0-478-44031-7 (online)

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/organisation/about/act/>

^{iv} Blue B, Gregory C, McFarlane K, Tadaki M, van Limburg-Meijer P, Lewis N (2012). Freshwater geographies: experimenting with knowing and doing geography differently. *New Zealand Geographer* 68, 62–6.

^v Text Provided by Dr Maria Borovnik (Massey University).

^{vi} Text provided by Dr Karen Fisher (University of Auckland).

^{vii} Text provided by Dr Marcela Palomino-Schalscha (Victoria University of Wellington).

^{viii} [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1467-8373/homepage/ProductInformation.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1467-8373/homepage/ProductInformation.html)

^{ix} <http://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/place-names/about-new-zealand-geographic-board>

^x <http://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/place-names/about-new-zealand-geographic-board>

^{xi} Cupples J. and Pawson, E. 2012. Giving an Account of oneself: the PBRF and the neoliberal university. *New Zealand Geographer* 68, 14-23.

^{xii} PBRF 2012 Table A-3 Subject Area Results – all subject areas 2012 p. 89-10

^{xiii} Taylor, M. Richards, L. and Morgan, J. (eds.) 2015. *Geography in Focus*. NZ Council for Educational Research, Wellington.

^{xiv} <http://www.env.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/our-school/programmes/geography.html>

^{xv} Text provided by Professor Lynda Johnston (University of Waikato).

^{xvi} <http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/departments/school-people-environment-planning/study/subjects/geography.cfm>

^{xvii} <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/programmes-courses/subjects/geography>

^{xviii} <http://www.geog.canterbury.ac.nz/prospect.shtml>

^{xix} <http://www.otago.ac.nz/geography/index.html>

^{xx} <http://www.otago.ac.nz/geography/index.html>

^{xxi} These are condensations of fuller citations available on the New Zealand Geographical Society Website. <http://www.nzgs.co.nz/awards/distinguished-new-zealand-geographer>