

WELCOME ALL GEOGERS!

READ OUR CURRENT E-NEWSLETTER

The following notes outline our programme for 2009, with a comment on the various things we get up to. You are welcome to attend, and the best way to find out about what we are doing is to e-mail the Secretary of the Branch, Lynne Garnham at lynne.garnham@gmail.com

12 February, Thursday. *The Challenge of Promoting Geography: Agency and Priority*. Michael Solem, Association of American Geographers. 7:00 pm Room I2.22, Department of Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning, University of Waikato.

Michael talked to a group of geographer staff and teachers about the difficulties the Association of American Geographers faced in 2000, and how some strategic investment and appointments revived the Association, and made material contributions to the impact of Geography in Schools

26 March, Thursday. *Changing Relationships between Town and Country: Farmers' Markets*. Lex Chalmers. Presidential address to the NZGS Waikato Branch AGM.

After the election of committee members (see related page on this site) and the approval of the Chairperson's and Treasurer's reports, Lex spoke to members about some research he was doing that related to Farmers' Markets in New Zealand. He suggested that the first cycle of growth in the number and size of Farmers' Markets, the consolidation phase had begun. In this era, Farmer's Markets had potential to become an important part of the local economy and food system.

23 April Thursday. *Graduate Student Geography Graduate Student/Staff Barbecue* at Ruakura. 4:30pm. Lynda Johnston (Geography Department) and Tony Hall will host the event at the Ruakura Social Club. Committee Meeting at 7:00pm.

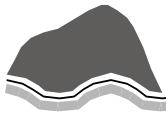
Toni White hosted the Branch Barbecue at the Ruakura Social Club. A mix of students, teachers and staff from the University enjoyed a relaxed late summer evening

27 April, Monday. Notice to be delivered in schools about the Year 12 IGI in-class *Photography Competition*. Guidelines prepared by the Branch, photography provided for member schools, with submission date of 25 May.

The Branch distributed a stunning aerial image of the central Waikato basin to all member schools that entered the competition. Copies are still available. The in-class competition activity required students to write 150 words on any identified IGI that could be used with this photograph.

1-2 May Friday Saturday. *NZBoGT Annual Meeting* in Wellington. Lex was the Branch Delegate.

This is the main decision making activity of our host Society, the NZ Geographical Society. The annual report of the Branch was presented and the Conference we intend to offer in 2010 was spoken about at



length. The conference is called *Positioning Geography: Strategic Issues in Geographical Education*. Members of the Branch committee were provided with a detailed report.

8 May, Friday. **Open Day** on Campus: Geography activities to be arranged by the Department of Geography. An “orienteeing” activity has been arranged.

The Geography Department had a table in a prominent position in the foyer. However, the orienteeing competition was won by some one with no geographical experience!

12 June, Friday. Report on the NZPPTA Waikato Curriculum Support Day.

Brian Kendrick was the facilitator of this meeting. He has provided a report on the activities of the day at Diocesan. It is appended to this report.

13 June (Saturday) Teachers’ visit to **Fieldays** with dairy industry theme focused on sustainability and dairying. Fonterra and DairyNZ contacts make a supported lecture and display other activities.

We were grateful for sponsored tickets from the University of Waikato and DairyNZ. Brian Kendrick attended along with a party of teachers and students who filled the space available at DairyNZ. Brian produced a report that will be of interest to teachers; it is appended to this Newsletter.

16/18 June, Tuesday/Thursday. The regional round of **Maatangi Whenua** at Otumoetai College and the Melville High School Library.

There were not as many schools as in previous years, and some withdrawals in the face of the Swine flu risk. Hamilton Boys’ High School were the aggregate winners and will travel to Wellington in September to represent the Branch

23/25 June, Tuesday/Thursday. Consultation on Secondary **Achievement Standards Alignment**. Nick Page will talk about the process, and then the assembled teachers will complete the consultation process using computers in the Otumoetai College Library or Geography Department.

Achievement Standards Alignment. Nick made a very useful contribution to the discussion, outlining the process to date, talking about the finer details of the matrix, and answering questions. We were encouraged to provide feedback using the Ministry internet portal, noting that this should be done by Friday 3 July. Thanks to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Waikato for making it possible for Nick to offer a workshop for 20 people in Hamilton.

Images and IGIs Competition Winners. The entries to this competition were judged by Toni White and her subcommittee. The results were confirmed at the meeting on 25 June. The winner was Jess Silich from Hamilton’s Fraser High School; her prize will be \$100. Second place (\$50) was awarded to Philippa Mills of Sacred Heart Girls’ College. Congratulations to all entrants for some great work with the stunning image of the Ngaruawahia at the confluence of Waikato and Waipa rivers.

16 July, Thursday. **From Graduate to Employee.** Work transition evening for graduates. Meeting facilitated by Kathryn Carter, Chris Pellowe and Toni White. Committee Meeting at 7:00, Room I2.22 at the University of Waikato.

23 July, Thursday. Christine Ralph, Senior Planner, BECA, will talk about **Urban Planning and aspects of New Urbanism**. 7:00pm. Otumoetai College. Transport will be provided from Hamilton if number warrant it.



20 August, Thursday. *Academic Presentation* (topic to be announced) from visitor/faculty to Department of Geography. Committee Meeting at 7:00, Room I2.22 at the University of Waikato.

24 September, Thursday. *Innovative Graduate Research*. Presentations of three papers from current graduates. Committee Meeting at 7:00, Room I2.22 at the University of Waikato.

20 October, Tuesday. *NCEA day for senior school geographers*. Support is offered by the faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (including Geography) for those students sitting Level Three NCEA papers.

19 November, Thursday. Committee Meeting and Final activity for 2009.

20-23 January 2010. National offering of a *Geographical Education Conference* at the University of Waikato.

Every Geogers e-newsletter we will be targeting different jobs that have a Geography background...

Note that Tony or Tone as he is also known is the Branch Committee Chairman...

Name: Anthony (Tony) Hall
Job title: High School Teacher (Geography & Social Studies)
Employer: Hamilton's Fraser High School
Qualification: BA; CELTA; Grad Dip Teaching

I have been in the job: 18 months

My general day at work involves... planning, teaching, getting to know my students and, unfortunately, paperwork.

What I like most about this job... is when I see things click into place in the minds of my students - an amazing feeling!

What I find difficult about this job... keeping on top of paperwork and finding ways to keep geography fresh and relevant in the eyes and minds of my students.

My favourite place in the world is... such a hard question to answer! So many cool places in the world. But if I have to choose - Kobe, Japan. Kobe was the first place I visited outside Australia. It's so interesting in terms of geography as it was one of the first places in Japan that was opened in to foreigners in the 19th century so it's really cosmopolitan. In terms of physical geography Japan is an extremely geologically active place and Kobe sits on a series of very active fault lines. This makes Kobe a wonderful example of the effects that the natural environment have on the cultural environment. And vice-versa! It's also important sentimentally, because it's where I met and married my wife Melanie.

Geography is... going places. Heehee! Sorry that's a poor geographic pun. I think geography is about trying to explain where things are, why they're there and how this affects both the natural and cultural environments.



GEOGERS

Waikato Branch New Zealand
Geographical Society

The University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105, Hamilton
Te Whare Wananga o Waikato

Websites of interest...

- Information on becoming a Geography Teacher
<http://www.waikato.ac.nz/learning/bachelors/btchg.shtml>
- New Zealand Geographical Society <http://www.nzgs.co.nz/>

How to join the Geographical Society <http://www.nzgs.co.nz/Join.aspx>

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NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS CONTACT
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