



Message from the Chairman

We are publishing this newsletter as Christchurch struggles. Sophie Bainbridge our Editor is in there and many of our friends are too. We'd like to have polished this more, but we don't have time. The rest of us need to keep on going and we have important notices to give. Our hearts and thoughts are with Christchurch and it's people.

Welcome to 2011 start of a big year for the resources industry, inaugural year for a new-look committee of young go-getters, kick-off year for New Zealand branch focus on Women in Mining, re-ignition year for local area meetings and an exciting year for the Visiting Lecture Series. We continue to work on communication with Minex, NZMIA and Straterra – which we see as imperative to the health of the New Zealand industry. And we have the NZ Branch Conference back-to-back with the AusIMM Mine Geology conference both in August 2011, both in Queenstown.

Young Committee

The 2011 Branch Committee includes a pleasing mix of “youth” and “experience”. The addition of so many new people into the group is welcome and important to the longevity and health of the organisation in New Zealand. The list of new committee members and their details is on the AusIMM web site (www.ausimm.co.nz). We urge you to contact them with any help or suggestions you may have. It is your Institute and only works best for you if you chose to engage in it.

Women in Mining NZ

Kirsty Hollis (Mill Manager, Newmont Waihi – Kirsty.Hollis@Newmont.com) has volunteered as the New Zealand champion for Women in Mining NZ and we are very pleased to have her. Kirsty is an accomplished professional and senior member of Newmont Waihi's management group.

Women in Mining is an important initiative with traction in Australia through WimNet, an AusIMM group (www.ausimm.com.au - go to “AusIMM Groups / Societies and Committees”). Kirsty has the “manna” and desire to push this kind of initiative with a little help from her friends. While she has accepted a position to the US on secondment, we think that Kirsty can still contribute strongly to the New Zealand scene as a regular return visitor. If you are interested and want to participate, please email Kirsty, Ellen Hiscock - Branch Secretary or myself.

[Continued Page 2](#)

Students: Attend AusIMM Branch conference

The AusIMM NZ Branch Conference will be held in Queenstown during 27 to 30 August, and will follow the AusIMM International Mine Geology Conference. Albeit with a weekend of skiing in-between! Les McCracken (mccrackenl@xtra.co.nz) is the NZ Branch conference chairman and John Taylor (john.taylor@solidenergy.co.nz) represents on the Mine Geology conference organizing committee.

Each year the AusIMM provides sponsorship for students to attend the Branch conference. This just requires submitting a poster on mine related studies. In addition the branch presents an award for the Best Student paper.

More details to come, watch this space and start thinking. The Queenstown conference is a great event and with a build up in the industry, students should be working hard to showcase your talent to prospective employers.

Special points of interest:

Record Membership

The NZ Branch has reached a record number of members at a total of 254. This is made up of: **34 Fellows, 9 Associates, 163 Members, 21 Graduates and 27 Students.**

Free AusIMM Membership for Students

Student membership is funded by the Branch so any students wishing to join should contact [Kerrin Allwood](#) for more information/ payment. A refund is also available upon proof of payment for students that are already members.

School Trips to Mine Sites

The Branch has \$1,500 available for funding school trips or visits to mining and mineral related sites (to cover both travel and relief teacher costs). The aim is to encourage schools to visit mining sites as part of the curriculum studies on non-renewable resources, but any school interested in exposing their children to mining or minerals related sites will be considered. For more information or to apply, please contact [Graeme Fulton](#).

Sponsorship of ROCKSOC

The Branch is pleased to be a sponsor of the very well organised University of Canterbury Geological Society (ROCKSOC) through their 2010 Calendar. We wish them all the best for the year ahead.

New Members

If you have any colleagues or friends who are not members then encourage them to sign-up as for each new member the branch receives \$50. For application forms, contact Ellen Hiscock.

Message from the Chairman (Cont.)

Visiting Lecture Series

Tony Christie and his team are advanced in their planning for this years Visiting Lecture Series. Timely and professional, we look forward to his latest offering.

Local Branch Meetings

Local branch meetings are important to develop a sense of “togetherness” and fraternity and there is a strong desire in the committee to try and get these moving again. It is a hard ask to be frank, so we have put some incentive on the table:

- “refreshments” will be donated by the NZ Branch for each local meeting held.

We want volunteer speakers, visiting “experts” or “interesting people” to give some focus to each of the meetings. We are also looking for help in each area to help get things rolling.

Local area coordinators have again volunteered for West Coast (John Taylor or Hamish McLauchlan); Christchurch (Tony King); Central Otago and Dunedin (Ellen Hiscock and Ron King); Wellington (Tony Christie and Cam Wylie) and Auckland (John StGeorge). Please help where you can. We are nothing if not a fraternity of people and we should take pleasure in gathering and discussing the issues that affect us all.

Students and Young Professionals

Sophie Bainbridge and the team of Christchurch based “young turks” (Hayden Mackenzie, Courtney Briggs, Sophie Bainbridge, Andrew Klahn) have this one by the teeth. All keen, all passionate, they have the New Leaders Conference in hand with Campbell Ryland guiding) and great ideas to focus on New Zealand students. We are all excited by the energy of this young team.

Thoughts on Professional Development

This is an old chestnut of mine. New Zealand has too few Certified Professionals (CP, AusIMM) and very few Chartered Professional Engineers (CPEng) operating in the New Zealand mining scene. This is bad for our profession, and a poor example for professionals coming through. Public accreditation and recognition of competency is important, and which will become increasingly important in the future. Most countries are proud to boast their professional registrations, and many require that as part of a right to practice.

I invite feedback – I believe the NZ Branch of the AusIMM should become an affiliated technical member of the Institute of Professional Engineers NZ (IPENZ). This is the same status as the New Zealand Geotechnical Society (NZGS) for instance, and implies no other commitment than that we will support each other’s activities. It doesn’t help the geologists, I know that (and I am one as well as an engineer), but it does keep “mining” in touch with the “mainstream”, and in the information loop. I am very keen to move on a signing. What does anybody think about that (contact me at cwylie@rdcl.co.nz) ??

Honours for New Zealand AusIMM Members

We are very proud to announce that Tony Christie and Bob Braithwaite are joint recipients of the AusIMM Presidents Medal for their contribution to New Zealand geology, and that Roger Gregg will receive the Beryl Jacka award for services to NZ mining. All 3 individuals will be supported to attend the annual AusIMM congress being held in Tasmania in May. We congratulate all of these winners and thank them very much for their contribution to the branch and New Zealand.

Kind regards,

Cam

New Leaders Conference 2011

Each year the AusIMM fully sponsors a team of students and young professionals with an interest in the minerals industry to attend the AusIMM New Leaders Conference.

This year it will be held in Newcastle, NSW, and if the last few years are anything to go by will be a great success..

Application due dates have now been extended to March 5th.

Watch this space for a post-conference report and feel free to contact Sophie Bainbridge with any enquires at sbainbridge@golder.co.nz.

Notification of Area Meetings

Organisers are:

- West Coast (John Taylor and Hamish McLauchlan);
- Christchurch (Tony King—haven’t actually asked him again, but he did volunteer !);
- Central Otago and Dunedin (Ellen Hiscock and Ron King);
- Wellington (Tony Christie and Cam Wylie) and
- Auckland (John StGeorge).

We’ll throw the gauntlet - let Wellington start. Propose:

7 April, 5:30pm. Straterra offices. Their shout !!!

AusIMM Visiting Lecturer Series, 2011

The AusIMM NZ Branch plans to have two visiting lecturers in 2011: Dr Robert Seal of US Geological Survey will visit 27 March – 9 April and Dr Basil Beamish of the University of Queensland will visit in July. Both will present a series of short courses and lectures at various locations throughout New Zealand. Arrangements for Bob Seal's visit are nearly finalised, whereas the visit by Basil Beamish is still in the early planning stage and details will be notified later.

Dr Robert Seal

Bob Seal is a research geologist with the United States Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. He received his BSc degree from Virginia Tech, his MSc degree from Queen's University in Ontario, Canada, and his PhD from the University of Michigan – all in Geological Sciences, emphasizing economic geology. His current research focuses on environmental geochemistry related to mining. He is a fellow in Society of Economic Geologists where he is currently an associate editor for *Economic Geology*. Bob is also an associate editor for *Applied Geochemistry*. He has authored or co-authored over 90 publications. He is a technical advisor for the US Environmental Protection Agency for several mining related Superfund sites, and he is a member of several technical working groups related to the controversial Pebble deposit in southwestern Alaska.

A notice providing details of the times and locations for Bob's short courses and lectures will be circulated by email in late February.

Short Course Title: Environmental Geochemistry for Modern Mining

Description: This two-day short course will examine and summarize current topics in environmental geochemistry as they relate to modern mining. Environmental geochemistry is an important aspect of all stages of modern mining from exploration through permitting, production, and closure. An evolving regulatory environment and innovations in mining and ore-processing techniques necessitate an up-to-date, forward-looking approach to environmental geochemical issues related to mining.

General Lecture Title: Mining, Society, and the Environment - The Role of Geology and Environmental Geochemistry for a Sustainable Future

Abstract: Mineral resources are essential for the health and well being of society. The relationship among mining, the environment, and society have evolved to the point where environmental protection is an integral part of the mine planning and development process, and needs to be started at the earliest stages of the process insure the greatest effectiveness. A key feature that distinguishes mining from most other industrial activities is that the potential "contaminants of concern" are a natural part of the landscape prior to mining and may in fact be the commodities being sought. To make environmental management as effective and cost efficient as possible, it must begin at the earliest stages, even at the exploration stage or before. Knowledge of the underlying geologic characteristics of ore deposits the underlying biogeochemical processes that control the release, transport, and fate of elements and related compounds of concern are essential for accomplishing this goal.

Technical Lecture: Environmental Challenges for Modern Mining - Acid Drainage and Beyond

Abstract: Mining presents a number of environmental challenges of a geochemical nature. Acid generation and release in the form of acid-mine drainage has long been recognized as a significant issue. Sites with high potential for acid generation typically have a host of other element-specific challenges. Likewise, some sites without significant acid-generating potential can have significant geochemical issues. Case studies will be used to illustrate both. To effectively address these issues at future, current, or abandoned mines, a thorough understanding of the source, transport and fate of elements and related compounds, including pathways to specific bioreceptors including aquatic biota, terrestrial biota, and humans is required.

For more information, contact Tony Christie, email t.christie@gns.cri.nz or phone 04 570-4682.

AusIMM Societies and Groups—NZ Needs YOU

There is an increasing emphasis on Societies within the AusIMM with the most active that we know of being the Geoscience, Mining Engineers, Metallurgists, Women in Mining, Heritage and Consultants.

The New Zealand branch and branch members needs to be hooked into these groups. They are increasingly important as the membership in the Institute continues to grow. We are looking for local champions to "represent" and report back on activities. I think we have volunteered Les McCracken for the Mining society but he is busy. Help us out please. Call Cam Wylie, Ellen or any member of the Committee. And if you are already active in these groups, please let us know

International Exchange Lecturer Notice (SEG 2010 Lecturer)

March 2011 lectures by Dr Richard J. Goldfarb, U.S. Geological Survey

Auckland - Wednesday 9 March

12:00 - 12:55 pm: Supercontinent history and global metallogeny

Location: University of Auckland Science complex (Geology), room 301-254; second floor of the Science Complex, corner of Symonds St and Wellesley St, Auckland

6:00 - 6:55 pm: Orogenic gold deposits—Geology, exploration criteria, and global patterns

Location: University of Auckland Science complex (Geology), room 1060; first floor of the Science Complex, corner of Symonds St and Wellesley St, Auckland

Contact: Jeff Mauk, phone 09 373-7599 ext 87419 or email j.mauk@auckland.ac.nz

Wellington - Monday 14 March

11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Orogenic gold deposits—Geology, exploration criteria, and global patterns

Location: Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences Department, Cotton Building, Victoria University of Wellington, Room CO304 (Tea Room)

Contact: Julie Vry, phone 04 463-6432 or email Julie.Vry@vuw.ac.nz

Dunedin - Tuesday 15 March

1:00 - 2:00 pm: Supercontinent history and global metallogeny

Location: Geology Common Room, Geology Department, University of Otago

Contact: Dave Craw, phone 03 479-7529 or email dave.craw@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

Reefton - Friday 18 March

12:00 am - 1:00 pm: Orogenic gold deposits—Geology, exploration criteria, and global patterns

Location: OceanaGold's Globe Hill mine. Non OceanaGold people are welcome to attend.

If you are not familiar with the site, please drive to the conditions on the access road, be aware that heavy vehicles use it, and comply with the OceanaGold Drug and Alcohol policy.

Contact: Craig McIntosh, phone 03 769-8513 or email Craig.McIntosh@oceanagold.com

Abstracts

Supercontinent history and global metallogeny. Formation of major ore deposits has varied through time, in part reflecting evolution in the Earth's oceans and atmosphere, and in part reflecting global plate tectonic cycles. This talk reviews the supercontinent history of Earth, and critically compares how these tectonic elements influence formation of various orebodies.

Orogenic gold deposits—Geology, exploration criteria, and global patterns. Orogenic gold deposits are a significant contributor to the global production of Au. This talk reviews their geological characteristics, and global patterns of their distribution and occurrence, and also provides criteria for exploration.

Dr Richard J. Goldfarb

Rich Goldfarb is a senior research geologist with the Mineral Resources Program of the U.S. Geological Survey, where he has been employed for more than 30 years. Rich's major expertise has been on the geochemistry and geology of ore deposits with emphasis on Phanerozoic lode gold. Much of his earlier career work was concentrated on the Tertiary orogenic gold deposits of southern Alaska. Results from this work were used to develop ore genesis models for giant gold deposits elsewhere in Alaska and in other parts of the North American Cordilleran. In recent years, Rich has conducted detailed studies on the understanding of the distribution of gold deposits through space and time, compiling the most comprehensive global description of their distribution and evaluating the controlling tectonic/geologic features. He has senior-authored and co-authored more than 190 refereed publications in economic geology. Rich has served as President of the Society of Economic Geologists, is a past Silver Medalist and Thayer Lindsley lecturer of the society, has served as chief editor of *Mineralium Deposit*, is presently on the editorial boards of *Economic Geology* and *Gondwana Research*, and was one of the co-editors of the *Economic Geology One Hundredth Anniversary Volume*. He received his BS in geology from Bucknell University, MS in hydrology from MacKay School of Mines, and PhD in geology in 1988 from the University of Colorado.

AusIMM Awards 2010

The AusIMM New Zealand branch did well in the 2010 AusIMM Awards, with three of our long-standing committee members being acknowledged for their efforts.

Joint Presidents Awards

Tony Christie and Bob Brathwaite are joint recipients of The AusIMM President's Award for 2010 in recognition for their notable achievements in the industry. They were joint editors and lead or contributing authors for 20 of the 47 papers in AusIMM Monograph 25 'Geology and Exploration of New Zealand's Mineral Deposits'. Along with AusIMM Monographs 4 and 13 'Economic Geology of New Zealand', this ranks as a milestone publication in documenting part of Australasia's mineral occurrences. Tony and Bob continue their reporting work on New Zealand mineral deposits, regularly contributing at the New Zealand Branch Annual Conference and to articles for The AusIMM Bulletin, amongst other technical publications.

While Bob has now retired, Tony continues to be active in organizing the local visiting lecturer series and participating strongly in Branch activities. They are both long term AusIMM members, of over 30 years standing and have both been New Zealand Branch Chairs.

Beryl Jacka Award

Roger Gregg FAusIMM Roger Gregg has been an active member of the New Zealand Branch of The AusIMM for more than 40 years. His service includes two terms as an AusIMM Director (2005-2007 and 2008-2010). He was Chairman of the NZ Branch (2001-2003) and a Branch committee member for a large part of his total time as an AusIMM member. Roger has been a NZ Branch conference organising committee member since the early 1990s. He organised joint conferences with the Ministry of Economic Development and was Chairman of the NZ Minerals conferences in 1997, 2000 and 2005. He has made an enormous contribution to the NZ Branch conferences, and continues to do so. Roger has secured support and sponsorship from the minerals industry for these conferences, which in turn have made a major contribution to the ongoing financial and mentoring support for NZ university students through the NZ Education Endowment Trust.



Bob Brathwaite and Tony Christie.

Congratulations Bob, Tony and Roger!!

Minerals Industry Scholarship

In addition to the EET Scholarships, a Mineral Industry Scholarship is available through the Branch. This scholarship is aimed at students who wish to study minerals related courses not available in NZ (Mining Engineering, Metallurgy or Mineral Processing). While the scholarship has been primarily aimed at courses in Australia, any other recognised program of study will be assessed on a case-by-case basis as applications are received.

For more information or to apply, please contact Vivienne Bull.

AusIMM NZ Branch Working Groups

The AusIMM New Zealand Branch working groups are made up of at least four members that communicate regularly on issues that affect the group of the New Zealand membership. All of the working groups would welcome the addition of new members from the Branch that wish to contribute to the group in any way. To express your interest, please contact the leader of the working group directly by email using the links below.

Working Group	Leader	Contact email address
Students and Young Professionals	Campbell Ryland and Sophie Bainbridge	campbellryland@gmail.com ; sophie.bainbridge@golder.co.nz
Minex, OSH and 2011 Conference	Les McCracken	mccrackenl@xtra.co.nz
Visiting Lecture	Tony Christie	t.christie@gns.cri.nz
Website	John StGeorge	J.stgeorge@auckland.ac.nz
Advocacy	Peter Nicholson	Peter.nicolson@xtra.co.nz
Liaison with Professional Groups	Cam Wylie	cwylie@rdcl.co.nz
Treasurer	Kerrin Allwood	kerrin@geomodelling.co.nz
Secretary	Ellen Hiscock	ellen@engen.co.nz