

ISSN 1175-9321



The AusIMM NZ Branch Newsletter

Release 3 - 2002

Volume 27.3

AusIMM New Zealand Website - www.ausimm.co.nz



MERRY CHRISTMAS





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Branch Officers and Committee Members

Position	Name	Phone	Fax	E-Mail
Chairman	Roger Gregg	(04) 472 0030	(04) 499 0968	roger.gregg@med.govt.nz
Immediate Past Chairman	Tony Christie	(04) 570 4682	(04) 570 4657	t.christie@gns.cri.nz
Vice Chairman	Geoff Price	(03) 337 2614	(03) 337 2499	geoff.price@xtra.co.nz
Vice Chairman	John St George	(09) 373 7999	(09) 373 7428	j.stgeorge@auckland.ac.nz
Secretary Address	David Stewart PO Box 40388 Glenfield Auckland	(09) 483 3142	(09) 483 3618	minserv@clear.net.nz
Treasurer Address	Geoff Price PO Box 12-245 Beckenham Christchurch 8030	(03) 337 2614	(03) 337 2499	geoff.price@xtra.co.nz
Committee	Colin Douch	(04) 474 2609	(04) 499 0968	colin.douch@med.govt.nz
	Murray Stevens	(09) 522 8040	(09) 522 8041	stevens@ihug.co.nz
	Warren Player	(09) 419 9340	(09) 419 9340	graeme.fulton@xtra.co.nz
	Graeme Fulton Wendy Hampton	(09) 419 9340	(09) 419 9340	wendy12@clear.net.nz
Director and AusIMM Board Member	Vivienne Bull	(09) 445 3396	(09) 445 3397	vhbull@ihug.co.nz
Newsletter Editors	Graeme Fulton	(09) 419 9340	(09) 419 9340	graeme.fulton@xtra.co.nz
Students & Young Persons	Wendy Hampton			wendy12@clear.net.nz
Auckland	Wendy Hampton			wendy12@clear.net.nz
Wellington	Tony Christie	(04) 570 4682	(04) 570 4657	t.christie@gns.cri.nz
Christchurch	Geoff Price	(03) 337 2614	(03) 337 2499	geoff.price@xtra.co.nz
Dunedin	Ron King	(03) 467 2276	(03) 467 2236	
West Coast	Nic MacArthur	(03) 473 7255	(03) 473 7255	nic_macarthur@xtra.co.nz

Editor's Note

In this the final newsletter for 2002, we look back at the major event of the year the AusIMM Conference.

Most of you will be setting up your new 2003 diaries. To that end I have included the proposed 2003 calendar for the NZ Branch, along with a list of the planned AusIMM conferences.

I have included a new section for students. The purpose of this section is to allow students the opportunity to gain exposure for their research work. The NZ Branch is also re-launching the "Students & Young Professionals" section, now under the auspices of Wendy Hampton.

Look out for the special offer in the "Notices" section.

I would like to wish all members and their families a very merry Christmas, and a prosperous 2003.

Please notify the editor, if you have not already done so, should you wish to receive your newsletter electronically by sending an email to graeme.fulton@xtra.co.nz

I look forward to your articles and information.

Next Newsletter: March/April - 2003
Deadline for articles/letters – 1st March

NZ Branch Chairman's Report

Roger Gregg



The past year has been both memorable and successful for the Branch. The Branch implements the objective of the AusIMM, "Enhancing Professional Excellence for Professionals in the Minerals Industry". It has this as its overarching task. In implementing this objective we carry out a number of activities, notably in holding industry gatherings and fostering the development of the young professionals in the Institute. In the past year the branch has hosted the annual conference of the Institute for the fourth time in New Zealand. The event was a success by all standards, ranging from the quality of the papers, to the number of

delegates attending, to its financial profit, which is largely directed to the Branch's Educational Endowment Trust.

That is was a success is because of the hard work of the organising committee chaired by Vivienne Bull and comprising Richard Barker, Tony Christie, Roger Gregg, Erin Hollinger, Jeff Mauk, Murray Stevens, Dave Stewart and John St George. Thank you for that effort.

The Educational Endowment Trust, comprising John St George (chairman) and committee members Richard Barker, Vivienne Bull, Roger Gregg, John Hogan and Stuart Rabone oversaw the award of the 2002 scholarships to Amanda Black and Craig Anderson of Otago University; Reece Harrison and Stephen Krippner of the University of Waikato, and; Ian MacIntosh, Josie Robertson and David Tillick of the University of Auckland. Congratulations to the successful students, kind wishes for the success of your studies and may you all enjoy working in a successful and prosperous mining industry.

We can look forward to the coming year with optimism. Because of the financial success of the post Annual Conference we can support the further activities of young professionals in our branch. We can also look forward to further local meetings and of course our next annual conference of our Branch to be held in Greymouth, in early September.

In the meantime, have a Merry Christmas and may 2003 be a great year for the entire Branch

NZ Branch Councillor's Report

Vivienne Bull



The AusIMM Board met in Brisbane on 5 December with a long agenda on Governance and Strategic items. First was the ongoing review of Central Services. The Board summed up its progress in the following statement published in this week's Week in Review.

- "The management review of Central Services, which has been underway for two months, is continuing and has been very positive. For example, last week the management team completed a two-day workshop and all staff will be involved in a full day meeting this Wednesday.



- The Board believes this process will result in a stronger Central Services team to continue with the excellent progress achieved following the Allen Review of 1999.
- Don Larkin and his leadership group have the Board's unanimous and total support in taking The Institute forward through this next phase of its development."

Other aspects covered at the Board meeting included:

- The ethics review: Members should add their views to those expressed in the article in this month's Bulletin. Ethics is fundamental to professionalism.
- Branch capitation fees were discussed in detail and four models will be put to the next Congress in 2003. Two themes that ran through this discussion were the special needs of small and remote Branches, and a means of providing incentives for Branches that work tirelessly to be the key contact point for Institute members.
- The recent Incorporation of MICA presents a number of opportunities and some challenges going forward, not only for MICA members, but also for all Institute members. Key amongst these is Professional Indemnity Insurance, with more members anticipated to join MICA to avail themselves of this benefit in the near term.
- Alan Moore, who has worked tirelessly with Institute Branches over the past three years, is moving back to Queensland. He has done an excellent job in rejuvenating the membership and was due to come to NZ next year. If you have any ideas about the attributes of the person we seek to fill Alan's shoes, or ideas of how this position in Central Services can better serve remote Branches, please let me know.
- Central Services is to introduce a more thorough Activity Based Costing approach.
- A review of achievements against the 1999 Allen Review recommendations and strategic priorities for 2003's strategy planning, in particular, with respect to Branch operations.
- To proceed with the International Transactions.
- A review of AusIMM membership of Australian Council of Professions.



- Approval to release the 2003 JORC Exposure Draft for comment on the AusIMM website. This will be put on the web after the JORC Meeting on Tuesday 10th December 2002.

On the way home I was on the Air New Zealand NZ 132 which had to return to Brisbane after losing parts in mid air - a terrible experience, which I hope I will never go through again.

AusIMM 2002 Conference Auckland – This was a successful event and I thank my committee for their considerable input and I also thank all the delegates who attended.

On a personal matter I have shifted my office from the City to Devonport. My new contact details in the newsletter.

More details of these and other topics discussed by the Board are on www.ausimm.com.au or contact me direct on vhbull@ihug.co.nz

NZ Branch Calendar of Events - 2003

- School Science Fairs - establish contacts (March)
- Call for applications to the Education Endowment Trust Fund (April)
- School Science Fairs - dispatch of prizes (May)
- AusIMM awards (applications close 30 June)
- AusIMM Congress (Perth, June, date to be announced)
- Call for nominations for NZ Branch Committee prior to 1 July
- P & H MinePro Services (Australasia) Travelling Scholarships (applications close 31 July)
- Education Endowment Trust Fund (applications close July-August, date to be announced)
- Notice of AGM (at least 14 days prior to AGM, i.e. mid August)
 - Includes: Minutes of previous AGM
 - Chairman's annual report
 - Audited statement of accounts
 - List of nominations for NZ Branch Committee
- Notice of motion to amend rules (at least 10 days prior to AGM, i.e. mid August)
- AusIMM Annual Conference, Greymouth (Sept 2003)
- AGM (at AusIMM Annual conference)

- Outokumpu Travel Grant for Metallurgists (applications close 30 September)
 - Audit of Branch finances (October)
 - Audit of Education Endowment Trust Fund finances (October)
 - Atlas Copco Scholarship (applications close 31 December)
-

News of Members

Introducing Mike Wort



Mike Wort is a Consulting Metallurgist formerly based in Perth, Western Australia, where he contributed to the Perth Branch of AusIMM as a committee member. He is a Fellow of the Institute and also a Chartered Professional.

Mike has an original background as a mining and exploration geologist, and worked on production operations for gold and diamonds in Ghana, and borate exploration in Turkey and Iran. He also spent two years in Papua New Guinea in the early development of the Bougainville Copper Deposit, and in the Solomon Islands on base metal exploration. He then qualified as a mineral processing engineer in which field he has more than thirty years experience, specialising in the recovery of gold and base metals, heavy mineral sands, iron ores, and industrial minerals. His process design experience includes copper flotation concentrators, heavy mineral sands plants, and a hard-rock diamond recovery plant.

Now based in Auckland, Mike is assessing NZ opportunities while continuing to service former clients in Australia.

AusIMM NZ Branch - Conferences

2002 Conference Summary

Extract from AusIMM Bulletin

Lindsay Clark

Publicity Advisor

Crown Minerals, Ministry of Economic Development

Mining leader John Dow, chief executive of Newmont Australia, told the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's 2002 conference in Auckland that the mining industry had to ask why there was such a concerted effort by governments in New Zealand and Australia to lock away



large tracts of land and make them unavailable to find any natural wealth which might lie below.

In a keynote speech to the conference, the New Zealand born and educated Mr Dow said that the mining industry was of greater economic significance in Australia where it accounts for 46% of exports, but in New Zealand mining had a long history too.

“So why then with economic figures like these do we face an increasingly uphill battle for visibility and relevance within the wider Australasian community?”

Growing awareness of the environment over the past 30 years has seen the minerals industry become a focus of many environmental groups because of the industry’s prior history of neglect. Sustainable development had also become firmly established on the international agenda in recent decades.

Mr Dow said that in tackling the issues of sustainable development, mining companies must focus on socio-environmental parts of their business as well as geology and engineering.

He said that as far as New Zealand was concerned the most critical reason why some potential mining investors tended to disregard it as a place to invest, was government policy of restricting access to many prospective areas.

Mr Dow said that a debate was long overdue in New Zealand on such issues as the value to the country of the valuable resource targets to which access is currently denied.

“I am not suggesting that all areas of New Zealand should be open to exploration – quite the contrary. But locking up 70% of the mineral endowment without careful consideration of the opportunity cost to the nation does not strike me as informed policy making.”

Other papers presented at the conference underlined the gold potential of New Zealand.

Newmont’s own Waihi gold operation in the southern Coromandel area of the North Island, is currently planning a new underground Favona gold and silver mine near its open pit Martha mine. Favona would have a gold production of about 100,000 oz a year from a preliminary production of about 300,000 tonnes of ore. Dave Ingle, general manager of Newmont



operations at Waihi told the conference that the aim is to operate the Favona mine as an extension of the existing Newmont Waihi gold mine.

In the South Island New Zealand's largest gold producer and Perth-based GRD Macraes Ltd expects to double its present gold production to about 350,000 oz a year by 2007, the company's chief operating officer Len Jubber said.

"GRD Macraes is entering an exciting and significant period of growth with a number of projects currently in progress," he said.

GRD's Macraes mine in east Otago was on target this year to produce 170,000 oz of gold and the company's Globe-Progress mine at Reefton was set to add another 70,000 to 80,000 oz of gold a year when it opened about the end of 2003.

The company was also looking at reopening the underground Blackwater mine at Reefton — the largest producer of gold on the Reefton fields until it closed in 1951. The Blackwater mine's narrow Birthday Reef had an historical average grade of 21.9 grams a tonne, and was mined to a depth over 830m. GRD Macraes drilling has intersected the reef at about 1000m down with more exploratory holes planned. Blackwater has an estimated resource of 500,000 oz with targeted total production of 350,000 oz. In addition the company holds other prospects at Reefton while further expansion is planned at the Macraes mine and a prospect is being developed in the Nelson area.

The conference also saw the release of a major compilation of geoscientific data, examining the potential for new discoveries of mesothermal gold mineralisation. This prospectivity interpretation, published by Crown Minerals, in conjunction with the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Ltd, highlights significant potential for the discovery of new gold deposits in the South Island.

In coal papers, Solid Energy chief executive Dr Don Elder said his company is now focusing on long-term sustainable growth with plans to double coal production from current levels of about 3.5 million tonnes to 6.5 million tonnes over the next few years.

Solid Energy's new large underground Spring Creek mine, near Greymouth, which has just reopened after initial geological difficulties, is scheduled to



produce up to 800,000 tonnes per annum of low sulphur, low ash semi-soft coking and thermal coal.

2003 Conference

The 2003 Conference is currently planned to take place in Greymouth sometime early in September.

Look out for further information in the New Year and in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Education Endowment Fund

AusIMM Education Endowment Trust Awards and Sponsors

Shortly prior to the September Conference the Trust received applications for Scholarship Awards for the 2003 year.

Four scholarships were awarded, to John Morton of Dunedin, Kirsty Macorison of Auckland, Lucy Hewlett of Dunedin and Michael Fitzgerald of Hamilton. An *ex gratia* award was also made to Samuel Bogue of Auckland.

John Morton is completing a co-joint BSc (Hons) degree in Law and Geology at the University of Otago, and plans to study structural controls on gold-scheelite mineralisation in Western Otago for his BSc Honours project.

Lucy Hewlett is studying the hydrology and geochemistry of the Reefton area for her MSc research at the University of Otago. Her research will build on previous studies carried out by students from Auckland and Dunedin.

The Lloyd S Jones Scholarship was awarded to Kirsty Macorison who is carrying out research on the stratigraphy of the Taharoa Ironsand deposit at the University of Auckland. Her research aims to achieve a better understanding of the variation and provenance of this deposit.

Michael Fitzgerald is completing an MSc degree at the University of Waikato, and plans to investigate the structure and hydrothermal zonation of the epithermal mineralisation in Ohui in the southeast of the Hauraki Goldfield.

Samuel Bogue is currently completing MSc thesis research at the University of Auckland on stream sediment geochemistry in the Golden Cross mine area in the Waitekauri valley near Waihi.

The continued support of student research through these awards has been made possible through the generous support of a number of sponsoring organisations and individuals. The Trustees are very appreciative of this support and would particularly like to thank the Waihi Gold Mining Company (Newmont Waihi), which has contributed to the Trust continuously since its inception, and other groups including GRD Macraes, the NZMIA, and IGNS for their continued support.

A number of individuals have also contributed, and we particularly thank Lloyd Jones in this regard, and all those who have assisted through the auction at the recent Conference. The support of all Branch members who are able to contribute continues to be greatly appreciated.

Stuart Rabone
Hon. Secretary/Treasurer

Students & Young Professionals – NZ Chapter

Wendy Hampton



I am the 2003 Representative for the NZ Student and Young Professionals Chapter established recently by Georgia Manning. I graduated in September 2002 with a Master of Science (Hons) from the University of Auckland.

I will be keeping you informed of events and meetings in your area. So far the Auckland and Christchurch regions are already planning a full year of meetings with interesting talks and regular social get-togethers. At times these sessions may be combined with local University activities and presentations. The Auckland region is also organising two or three field trips during the year. Watch this space and your emails for further details.

The annual NZ AusIMM branch conference in 2003 is to be held on the West Coast of the South Island. There will be a special function for all students and young professionals, probably a lunch, where you can mix and mingle with those in the industry and discuss your options and ideas. Details are



still to be finalised. All students are strongly encouraged to attend any conference they can as registration is always discounted for them.

If interest is sufficient, a NZ wide annual function/event could be arranged.

Keep an eye out for events in Australia too. The AusIMM Youth Congress 2003 is calling for papers for the five day, The AusIMM Young Leaders Conference and the University of Queensland National Student Games. This will be held at the Sheraton, Brisbane 30 April to 2 May 2003. If you want to present a paper (less than 300 words) please email it to Donna Edwards, Events Department, AusIMM dedwards@ausimm.com.au. If you would like to attend, but not present please email Martin Ross, Chairman, AusIMM Southern Qld Student Chapter s363209@student.uq.edu.au

I welcome any comments or suggestions you may have. Please email me at wendy12@clear.net.nz.

Student Section

This section provides an area for the publication of student research paper summaries or lists. Should you wish to submit a synopsis of your research work, please send to the newsletter editor.

Textures and mineralogy of Pliocene silica sinter at Whenuaroa, southern Puhipuhi, Northland

W.A. Hampton

Master of Science in Geology

Geology Department, University of Auckland

Supervisors: Assoc. Prof.'s K.A. Rodgers and P.R.L. Browne, Dr K.A. Campbell

This research investigates the mineralogy of sulfide and silica minerals along with preserved stromatolitic fabrics to better understand the hydrology of this ancient hot spring. The two Pliocene silica sinter masses, Mt Mitchell and Plumduff, consist predominately of quartz with, locally, <9% moganite. Mt Mitchell is a 600 x 400 m intact sinter sheet up to 23 m thick. Plumduff, ~0.5 km to the NE, consists of sinter breccia boulders, up to 4 m diameter, strewn over 160 x 120 m. Boulders consist of silica-cemented, mostly matrix supported, sinter clasts, that vary from 0.5 m across and up to 2 m long, to angular and sub-angular sinter fragments <120 mm across. Some consist of a distinctive translucent blue chalcedony. Primary

depositional features of the sinters are similar to those seen in Yellowstone National Park (USA), the Taupo Volcanic Zone (New Zealand) and the Drummond Basin (Queensland, Australia). Stromatolitic fabrics abound throughout with rare well-preserved vascular plant cellular structures and common microbial fabrics such as palisade. Columnar fabrics indicate depositional temperatures of $>75^{\circ}\text{C}$, with temperatures of $60\text{--}30^{\circ}\text{C}$ implied by the palisade and plant-rich facies. Both the breccias and stromatolitic fabrics are permeated by cinnabar, stibnite and minor pyrite with electron microprobe analysis showing minor Au and Ag present in both cinnabar and stibnite. Dissolution textures are common amongst quartz with opal-A present upon corroded crystal faces, and, together with the sinter fabrics, breccias, and sulphide mineralization, point to a complex and protracted hydrological history for the deposits that continues today. This is the first report of moganite, a distinctive monoclinic polymorph of silica, in sinters older than Quaternary.

Member Promotion

This section is for members who wish to promote their services and skills. It is envisaged that this will be in the form of business cards. Additionally, students may wish to place permanent or vacation employment requests. Please note this section is intended for members and not companies/organisations. Please forward your business card or advert to the editor.

RICHARD BARKER

MSc (Hons) MAusIMM

Independent Consulting Geologist

P O Box 54-094 Bucklands Beach
Auckland, New Zealand

Tel (64) (9) 535 8955 Fax (64) (9) 537 0463
Mobile (025) 416 231 Email: rbarker@ihug.co.nz



Terra Mining Consultants

Graeme Fulton

BSc. (Hons) Mining & Petroleum Eng., MAusIMM

Mining Engineering Consultant

5 Vonnell Place, Birkdale, Auckland, 1310, New Zealand

Tel/Fax: +64-9-419-9340; Mobile: +64-21-293-0108
Email: graeme.fulton@extra.co.nz



Richard Ruddock
BSc PhD MAusIMM
CPGeo

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Tel: +64 09 623 1223 Fax +64 623 1134
Email: richard.ruddock@matrix.co.nz
www.matrix.co.nz

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MURRAY STEVENS

BSc, MSc (Hons), Dip Geol Sci, M Aus IMM

GEOLOGICAL & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANT

68 LINGARTH STREET, REMUERA, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

PHONE: +64 9 522 8040 FACSIMILE: +64 9 522 8041
EMAIL: stevens@ihug.co.nz

Phone / Fax 09 638 5136

Mobile: 021 682 073

Mike Wort
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Unit 26, 49 Esplanade Road Mt Eden, Auckland 1003 NZ.
Email: mikewort@xtra.co.nz

Notices

Monograph 9 *Field Geologists' Manual 4th edition 2001*

NZ Branch Special – only while copies are available

Monograph 9 - hard copy NZD77.50 each

Monograph 9 - CD NZD72.50 each

Please contact vhbull@ihug.co.nz if interested

AusIMM Conference 2002 Proceedings Volume

150 Years of Mining – 1-4 September 2002

Copies of the recent conference volume are available for \$50.00

Please contact vhbull@ihug.co.nz if interested.

New Contact Details – Vivienne Bull

Telephone: 09-445-3396

Facsimile: 09-445-3397

Mobile: 027-492-2110

Postal Address: P.O. Box 32-072, Devonport, Auckland



Conferences, Functions & Courses

AusIMM Events and Conferences for 2003

- March 3 - 6** [Yazawa International Symposium on Metallurgical & Materials Processing](#)
San Diego, CA. Co-sponsored by The AusIMM
Contact: **Flogen Technologies Inc**
Telephone: +1 514 344 8786 x 220
Facsimile: +1 514 344 0361
 - April 23 - 25** [12th International Symposium on Mine Planning and Equipment Selection](#)
Contact: **Professor Peter Lilly**
Telephone: (08) 9088 6150
Facsimile: (08) 9088 6151
 - April 30 - May 2** [AusIMM Young Leaders' Conference 2003](#)
Contact: **AusIMM Events Department**
Telephone: (03) 9662 3166
Facsimile: (03) 9662 3662
 - July 14 - 18** [ICARD 2003 - International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage](#)
Cairns, Qld
Contact: **AusIMM Events Department**
Telephone: (03) 9662 3166
Facsimile: (03) 9662 3662
 - July 21 - 23** [Mill Operators' Conference 2003](#)
Contact: **The AusIMM Events Department**
Telephone: (03) 9662 3166
Facsimile: (03) 9662 3662
 - September 9 - 12** [AusIMM 2003 - Managing Risk in Mining Projects](#)
Sydney, NSW
Contact: **Chris Sabin**
Telephone: (02) 9416 0448
Facsimile: (02) 9416 0617
 - October 13 - 15** [Water In Mining 2003](#)
Brisbane, QLD
Contact: **AusIMM Events Department**
Telephone: (03) 9662 3166
Facsimile: (03) 9662 3662
 - November 3 - 6** [Large Open Pit Mining Conference 2003](#)
Contact: **The AusIMM Events Department**
Telephone: (03) 9662 3166
Facsimile: (03) 9662 3662
 - November 17 - 19** [Mine Geology 2003](#)
Contact: **AusIMM Events Department**
Telephone: (03) 9662 3166
Facsimile: (03) 9662 3662
-



Branch News

Listed below is news from the local branches covering future activities and feedback on events. Should you wish to organise an event, social function or field trip, please contact your local area organiser – contact details are listed at the beginning of the newsletter.

Auckland

Wendy Hampton

The Auckland region has a full year of great talks and social meetings planned for 2003. The first talk will be in March with details available soon. Two or three field trips are being organised through the year.

Keep an eye for future emails of up coming presentations and other events.

Wellington

Tony Christie

The Wellington section meets in the Staff Club at Victoria University of Wellington.

On Tuesday evening 10 December 2002, Kristina Temel and Evelyn Cole gave a presentation entitled: "Review of Minerals Programmes - ten years on, how have they delivered?"

Kristina began with an introduction on what the minerals programmes are, the purpose of having them and what they currently provide in terms of:

- the fundamental policy objective,
- Treaty of Waitangi,
- land available for permit allocation,
- methods of allocating permits,
- criteria for allocating prospecting, exploration and mining permits, and
- royalties.

She then introduced the upcoming review of the minerals programmes for minerals and coal and the sorts of issues that will need to be looked at as part of the review including:

- the fundamental policy objective,
- work programme bidding,
- "a cooling off period" following expiry of a permit and during which no applications for new permits over the specific area would be considered,



-
- applications received during the same 24 hour period being evaluated competitively,
 - overlapping permits for different minerals in certain circumstances,
 - more categories of exclusive mining permits,
 - problems currently encountered in dealing with sand and shingle,
 - the implementation of the royalty regime, and
 - the management and allocation of rights to coal bed methane.

The review of the minerals programmes for minerals and coal will kick off in April 2003. AusIMM members and other stakeholders will have opportunities for input during April 2003 - November 2004 in response to any discussion papers that go out on particular topics and also September-November 2005 during the public consultation process.

Following Kristina's presentation, a group of the members reconvened at the Holy Cow Restaurant of India in Kelburn for a great dinner and several excellent wines.

Special Features

The special features section will include any information or articles of a special or once of nature.

AusIMM New Zealand Branch

Business Plan 2003

Technical Events

- AusIMM NZ Branch Annual Conference, Greymouth, South Island, August/September 2003 (Mark Pizey, Organising Committee Chairperson)
- 4 evening lectures in Auckland spread through-out the year - Wendy Hampton (local organiser)
- 4 evening lectures in Wellington spread through-out the year - Tony Christie (local organiser)
- Evening lectures in Christchurch - Geoff Price (local organiser)

Social Functions

- Social functions associated with Annual Conference
- Dinners associated with evening lectures in Auckland and Wellington
- Social functions associated with evening lectures in Christchurch or in lieu of lectures



Students

- Student paper prize at Annual Branch conference - subcommittee
- Initiation of Students & Young Professionals network – Wendy Hampton

Young Professionals

- Initiation of Students & Young Professionals network – Wendy Hampton

Membership Drives

- Ongoing, but focus at NZ Branch annual conference - Vivienne Bull
- Site visits by Alan Moore of Central Services

Education

- Extractive Industries Training Organisation Board Membership - Vivienne Bull
- School science fair prizes and judges where appropriate (23 regions) – Tony Christie
- Geological field trip associated with Annual Conference

Other

- NZ Branch Newsletter (3 issues per year) - Graeme Fulton (Editor)
- NZ Branch Website - John St George (Website co-ordinator)
- "Reprint" of monograph 4 "Economic Geology of NZ" on CD-ROM - Murray Stevens (co-ordinator)
- Planning of successor to monograph 13 "Mineral deposits of NZ" - Tony Christie (co-ordinator)