

# IGCP

## Report from New Zealand on activities in 2018

Hamish Campbell (IGCP National Secretary, New Zealand)

### IGCP Projects

As for last year (2017), New Zealand earth scientists are currently involved in at least five active IGCP projects: project numbers 628, 630, 632, 640, 653. NZ earth scientists are almost certainly involved in a range of other projects such as 608, 609, 630, 639, 652, 653 and 655, which are all relevant to New Zealand geology.

NZ earth scientists have been particularly involved with IGCP projects 628 (Gondwana map), 632 (Jurassic crises) and 640 (subaqueous landslides) in the past year.

As is customary, the New Zealand national committee meets once a year and did so at the annual Geoscience Society of New Zealand (GSNZ) conference held in Napier (east coast of the North Island), New Zealand, from Tuesday 27 November – Friday 30 November 2018. As IGCP National Secretary, New Zealand, I was approached this year for a letter of commendation with respect to at least one new IGCP project proposal.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium of IGCP 632: Napier, New Zealand

At the behest of Professor Jingeng Sha (Nanjing, China) and Professor Vivi Vajda (Stockholm, Sweden), leaders of IGCP 632, I organised and convened the 7<sup>th</sup> IGCP 632 Symposium at the '2018 Geosciences' conference (the annual GSNZ) held in Napier, New Zealand. This was immensely successful and was well-attended. The 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium comprised 25 oral presentations and four posters. A seven-day post-conference excursion (FT6) was organised specifically for participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium from Friday 30 November to Thursday 6 December. International earth science conferences are relatively rare in New Zealand given that it is so remote. This was an opportunity for international participants from China, Argentina, Sweden, Japan, Italy and Russia to consider a Jurassic sedimentary record that accumulated on the southeast margin of Gondwana, within ten degrees latitude of the South Pole. I shall now prepare a report on the activities of this IGCP 632 for *Episodes*.

### Geoparks

New Zealand has no Geoparks. However, during 2018, the Geoparks Steering Committee (of which I am a member) under the leadership of Dr Geoff Hicks, convened on several occasions and deliberated on the merits of several proposals. One of these proposals (Whitestone) has been developed and formally submitted for consideration by UNESCO in Paris.

### IGCP Natural Geohazards Theme projects

I am a member of the panel (led by Prof. Carlos Alberto Vargas Jimenez) that deliberates on the merits or otherwise of new project proposals and annual progress reports of existing projects within the Geohazards Theme. I completed my role as usual in early January this year.

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