

Access Antarctica

Issue 36

Gateway Antarctica: Centre for Antarctic Studies and Research

July 2009

Directors Report

Later this year we will be celebrating 10 years of Gateway Antarctica with an Alumni Reunion Event and the relaunch of our Antarctic Research Endowment Fund – see overleaf for details.

Although it is not the right time to reflect on those 10 years it is appropriate to recognise the achievement of our longest serving staff member Michelle Rogan-Finnemore, who has recently been appointed the Executive Secretary of COMNAP – The Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs. Those of you who know Michelle will not be surprised by this appointment as she has been an extremely capable Centre Manager for Gateway Antarctica since its establishment in 1999. The good news is that Michelle will still be present at Gateway Antarctica as Gateway Antarctica will host the COMNAP Secretariat for the next 6 years. Hosting the secretariat is an outstanding development for Gateway Antarctica that will strengthen existing international relationships and develop new relationships with the many countries involved in Antarctic research.

I would like to thank Michelle for her outstanding contribution to Gateway Antarctica and for her personal support over the past 10 years and to wish her every success in her new endeavours with COMNAP.

Bryan Storey, Director

Conference Success

Three Gateway Antarctica Postgraduate students collected prizes at the recent Antarctica New Zealand conference (1-3 July 2009).

Erin Neufeld's innovative poster on 'New Zealand's Antarctica' rightly got the best poster award. Nikolai Krutzmann's poster on

using ground penetrating radar for analysing snow accumulation came a close second. Meanwhile Mette Riger-Kusk rounded off the awards with a second placing in the student presentations competition. Congratulations to them all in winning these awards at what was the largest ever Antarctica New Zealand conference.



GCAS graduates and tutors met at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK to discuss Antarctic Treaty issues in June 2009. From left – Victoria Salem (GCAS 2002), Prof David Walton (BAS), Prof Paul Berkman (Scott Polar Research Institute), Bryan Lintott (GCAS 2007). Front: Sherrie-Lee Evans (GCAS 2004) and Narelle Baker (GCAS 2005).

Antarctic Exploration 30 Nov – 10 Dec 2009

It is not too late to join the University of Canterbury trip to the Antarctic Peninsula on board the Lynbov Orlova. The trip will be led by Professor Bryan Storey (Gateway Antarctica). Further information is available from Jenny Ballagh (03 364 2987, ext 8246).



Antarctic Research Endowment Fund

Gateway Antarctica is delighted to announce that Antarctica New Zealand has provided \$50,000 assistance to establish an Antarctic Research Endowment Fund at the University of Canterbury. Gateway Antarctica aims to match the seed funding by launching the new fund at the Alumni Reunion event in October to provide financial support for the next generation of Antarctic researchers.

Gateway Antarctica Alumni Reunion weekend 2009

It is now 10 years since Gateway Antarctica was established in 1999. We would like to celebrate our 10 year anniversary together with a celebration of the long tradition of Antarctic research at the University of Canterbury by inviting you to our Antarctic Alumni Reunion Weekend, 9 – 11 October.

The anniversary events are:

- Cocktail reception, 6.30 – 10pm, Friday 9 October.
- Breakfast in the Scott Room of Warners Historic Hotel, 9 – 11am, Saturday 10 October.
- Tour of Quail Island with Antarctic expert Baden Norris & Picnic Lunch, 11.15am – 4.30pm, Saturday 10 October.
- Anniversary Dinner at International Antarctic Centre, 7.30 – 11pm, Saturday 10 October.

We have now over 200 graduates from our Graduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies (GCAS) programme. We hope as many of you as possible will make this a memorable occasion by joining the celebrations and renewing friendships. For further information contact the UC Alumni Office 03 364 2344.

Adjunct Appointment

Dr Regina Eisert from the Smithsonian Institute has been appointed as an Adjunct Fellow at Gateway Antarctica. Regina is working with PhD Candidate Crystal Lenky on Weddell Seals feeding habits using dietary biomarkers.

Antarctic Security Law and Policy Colloquium

A colloquium entitled *Responding to Contemporary Challenges and Threats to Antarctic Security: Legal and Policy Perspectives* was held on the 6th and 7th of July 2009.

It was organised by Karen Scott, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Canterbury and Donald R. Rothwell, Professor of International Law, Australia National University (ANU) and was attended by law and policy experts from New Zealand (Caroline Foster, Auckland; Alan Hemmings, Canterbury; Joanna Mossop, Victoria, Wellington); Australia (Sam Bateman, Wollongong; Marcus Haward; Julia Jabour, Mel Weber, Tasmania; Stuart Kaye, Melbourne); the UK (Duncan French, Sheffield); the US (Chris Joyner, Georgetown); and India (Sanjay Chaturvedi, Panjab University). Speakers explored a range of contemporary challenges and threats to Antarctic security such as military threats, environmental threats and risks associated with activities such as tourism, the exploitation of the continental shelf and scientific research. Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), Maritime New Zealand, the New Zealand Navy and Antarctica New Zealand and COMNAP (Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes) also attended and made valuable contributions to the discussion. This two-day event was made possible by generous funding provided by the New Zealand Law Foundation, MFAT, Maritime New Zealand, Antarctica New Zealand, the Law School, Gateway Antarctica and the International Law Group. A selection of the papers presented at the Colloquium will be published in the 2008 *New Zealand Yearbook of International Law*. A second event is due to be held in Canberra in 2010 and it is expected that all papers will be included in a collection of essays to be edited by D. Rothwell and K. Scott.



Colloquium attendees.

CCC Scholarship

PhD Student Phil Emnet has been awarded the Christchurch City Council Antarctic Scholarship at the University of Canterbury, valued at \$10 000. Phil's thesis is titled 'Do endocrine disrupting chemicals have an effect on Antarctic and New Zealand ecosystems? An investigation into the use of non-invasive sampling to monitor endocrine disrupting chemicals in seals and penguins'.



PhD Student Phil Emnet.

Director: Professor Bryan Storey
Senior Lecturer: Dr Wolfgang Rack
Administrator: Susannah Hawtin
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