GOJH Field Trip to New Zealand
March 15-31, 2019

Trip organized by Mike Adler, arrangements done by Brent Schaffer & Marilyn Maier
Geology of New Zealand

• The land area of New Zealand is a small part of a largely submerged continental fragment that drifted away from Australia called Zealandia.

• In this diagram, continental crust is shown in orange, and thinner oceanic crust is blue.

• The plates are pushing against each other, causing uplift of the present land area.

• Up until 25 million years ago New Zealand was under the sea
Major Faults in New Zealand

- There are major fault systems running through New Zealand.
- Many of the larger faults are oblique strike slip faults, having a combination of sideways and vertical movement.
- The north/south running Alpine Fault is the major geological feature and is under constant stress from movement between the Pacific and Australian plates.
- In the South Island, the Marlborough Fault System is another series of major parallel faults.
- These join together further south to form the Alpine Fault which carries most of the total plate boundary strain.
- This is a very distinct feature along most of its length because of the Southern Alps that have been uplifted along its eastern side, making it clearly visible from space.
- It is considered to be at high risk of producing a major earthquake in the next 50 years.
- The fault zone responsible for the 2011 Christchurch is considered a minor one that historically is not very active.
Unlike Scotland and Iceland there is no really good geology guidebooks to New Zealand

The only current one is *The Field Guide To New Zealand Geology* by Jocelyn Thornton but it is expensive, eg $45 and not worth the money (my opinion). Mike Adler has a copy to share.

The best overview with good pictures and descriptions is the NZ website [https://teara.govt.nz/en/geology-overview](https://teara.govt.nz/en/geology-overview)

It has an overview and 12 additional references which offers a good summary of the entire history of the formation of New Zealand and its current situation.
The Trip Will be to the South Island

- Christchurch & Banks Peninsula
- East coast and far north including the Able Tasman National Park area
- West coast including Cape Foulwind area and the Oparara limestone arches
- Westland National Park with the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers and the alpine fault
- Southwest including Te Anau, Doubtful Sound and Lake Wanaka
- Southeast including Dunedin and the Otago Peninsula
- Oamaru and the Mt Cook National Park area
We have three guides from the Geology Department of the University of Otago which will do different parts of the trip.

**Dr & Professor Virginia Toy**

*BSc MSc(Auckland) MPhil(ANU) PhD (Otago, Geology)*

- structure of shear zones
- microstructure and texture analysis
- coseismic fault rocks
- SW Pacific tectonics

**Dr & Professor Michael Palin**

*BA(Calif State Fullerton) MS(New Mexico Tech) PhD(Yale)*

- Isotope Geochemistry and Geochronology
- Igneous Petrology
- Hydrothermal Mineral Deposits

**Dr Dushan Jugum**

*BS MSc(Auckland), PhD(Otago, Geology)*

- Dun Mountain Ophiolite Belt
- Geological Research, Geological Society of London,
Day 0,1 March 15,16 2019- Arrive and Stay in Christchurch, Rendezvous Hotel, Group Arrival Dinner, (Guide Dushan Jugum)

Geology
- Canterbury Earthquake fault scarps (2010)
- Banks Peninsula volcanic sequence and lookout
- Christchurch earthquake damage (2011)

Cultural
- Canterbury Museum
- Arts Center (Quake Museum)
- Shopping Tannery, New Regent St

Anglican church & Chalice sculpture, Cathedral Square- Before and After 2010 Earthquake

Canterbury Museum
• Image shows the Banks Peninsula, with the snow-covered Southern Alps in the background.
• Akaroa Harbour is at the centre left. Volcanic activity between 11 and 6 million years ago led to the formation of two overlapping volcanic cones.
• After this activity ceased, the volcanic complex became eroded to half its original height, and deep valleys formed.
• The present harbors at Akaroa and Lyttelton were formed when the valleys were flooded as the sea level rose to its present height about 6,000 years ago.
Overlooking Akaroa Bay and Onawe Peninsula
On the Onawe Peninsula, there are igneous rocks such as basalt, but there are also metamorphic rocks present. These are metamorphic rocks of a type called *Migmatite*, which has been formed by the igneous volcanic rocks being subjected to great temperatures and pressures, causing the rock to partially re-melt and start mixing the minerals. This produces a rock with bright colors and very interesting swirls and patterns.
Day 2 March 17 2019- Drive up East Coast and Stay in Nelson, Saxton Lodge

Geology
- Cliff exposures Cretaceous-Oligocene sedimentary rocks (seen along whole coast)
- Modern earthquake uplift (seen along whole coast)
- Kaikoura peninsula highly deformed Oligocene sequence

Cultural
- Shopping
- Cathedral and World of Wearable Art museum

Curious Seals and Greywacke-Amuri Bluff

Black Swans
Kaitorete Spit-Bangs Peninsula
Day 3 March 18 2019- Drive to North Coast and Stay in Takaka, Mohua Hotel

Geology (Dun Mountain Ophiolite and Karst geomorphology, our guide’s PhD thesis)
- Maitai Valley, Permian stratigraphy following the path of New Zealand’s first geologist (Von Hochstetter 1859)
- Maitai Valley, view and stream sampling of international type locations of Dunite and Rodingite
- Harwoods Hole (50m wide and 183 m deep karst hole in Ordovician marble) 1.5 hour return walk

Cultural
- Interesting Shops and Cafes, Nicest little town in New Zealand
- Able Tasman National Park
Able Tasman National Park
Day 4 March 19 2019- Stay in Takaka, Mohua Hotel

Geology (Bluffs and wave cut geomorphology and Palaeozoic terranes)
- Fairwell spit
- Wharariki Beach (40 min walk)
- Pupu Springs (outflow from karst network)
- Cobb Valley Palaeozoic terranes and trilobites, with a little imagination or Able Tasman National Park granites

Cultural
- Interesting Shops and Cafes, nicest little town in New Zealand
- Golden Bay Museum (7 min walk)
- Able Tasman National Park
Cretaceous (100 Mya) Sandstone,
Cape Farewell - Northern Most Point on the South Island
Day 5 March 20 2019- Drive and Stay in Westport, Chelsea Gateway Hotel

Geology
• Buller Gorge (Cretaceous Hawks Crag Breccia) New Zealand’s best source of Uranium
• Maruia Falls (waterfall exposed via earthquake 1929, with drop stones and trace fossils)
• Nelson Lakes (glacial valley lakes)

Cultural
• Mining and earthquakes and a little New Zealand (and family) history

Murchinson-Eroded Oligocene (30Mya) Sandstone
Buller Gorge, Paleocene (60 Mya) limestone over Devonian (400 Mya) Karamea granite
Day 6 March 21 2019- Stay in Westport, Chelsea Gateway Hotel

Geology
• Natural arches exposing an unconformity between granite and limestone
• Kohaihai Bluff
• Oparara limestone arches (small bus or mini vans preferable)
• Walk in cave with cave wetas and spiders (optional)
• Cape Foulwind gneiss

Cultural
• Seal Colony
• Kawatiri River Trail

Cape Foulwind Seal Colony
In 1770 Captain Cook named this place, Cape Foulwind after persistent rain, and gales. The name has persisted.
A sheet of limestone was deposited over much of the South Island in the late Oligocene period, about 25 million years ago.

As the land began to rise, about 10 million years ago, much of the limestone was eroded, and only remnants are left.

Image shows a thin, resistant band of limestone that forms Kohaihai Bluff, north of Karamea.

Originally horizontal, the limestone has been tilted up to 50° by uplift of the granite mountains (right).

The same limestone band, lying almost horizontal, is found beneath the sea floor to the left.
Oparara River Arches

- Oparara limestone arch is the largest natural rock arch in the southern hemisphere
- It is 220m long, 43m high, and 79m wide
- The limestone was formed 30 Mya below the sea on top of 350Mya Devonian granite that once was a part of Gondwana
- At that time New Zealand was largely under water drifting away from Gondwana, stretching and thinning, losing buoyancy and sinking
- Starting 20Mya the Australian and Pacific plates starting moving together and in the process created the present New Zealand
Day 7 March 22 2019- Drive and Stay in Hokitika, Stumpers Accomodation,

**Geology**
- Gneiss and granite pegmatites at Little Beach, Charlestown
- Trueman track (30 min return) fossils and native forest
- Pancake Rocks (blow hole and obligatory stop)
- Oligocene limestone at Greymouth

**Cultural**
- The best coastal road in Australasia
Charlestown on west coast- Precambrian gneiss, oldest rock in New Zealand
• Pancake Rocks has irregular chasms and ridges, typical of limestone country.
• The layers of resistant bands of limestone are separated by softer, thin, mud-rich layers
• This type of layering, found in limestones worldwide, is called stylobedding.
Day 8 March 23 2019- Drive and Stay in Franz Josef, Alpine Glacier Motel (Guide change, Virginia Toy)

Geology (Alpine Fault bedrock geology + Alpine Fault Drilling Project)
- Ross Mine (open cast gold mine right by the town/road – also don’t miss out on ‘Flossie’s Cafe’)
- Pseudotachylytes (fossil earthquakes) at Harold Creek
- Natural hot springs in Wanganui River
- Whataroa Valley and site of phase 1 of Alpine Fault Drilling Project
- Alpine Fault outcrop at Gaunt Creek (with [www.alpinefaulttours.co.nz](http://www.alpinefaulttours.co.nz) and site of phase 1 of Alpine Fault Drilling Project

Cultural
- Westland National Park
- Fox Glacier & Franz Josef
- Glacier Hot Pools
- Tartare Tunnel Walk
• The major geological feature of New Zealand is the Alpine Fault
• The Alpine Fault is remarkably straight, bisecting the South Island and forming the western edge of the Southern Alps
• It was not recognized until 1941 because the area was rugged and isolated, and earlier generations of geologists did not have the advantage of having an aerial view.
Gaunt Creek site is near Franz Josef

- Greenish rock is the Pacific plate and the gray rock is the Australian
- The Pacific plate rock lies over the Australian plate on the South Island even though it subducts the Australian plate on the North Island
- This would be the normal situation since the ocean crust is heavier than the continental crust
Alpine Fault Activity

• The fault runs 600km up the spine of the South Island and has moved 30m in the last 1000 years.
• Earthquakes have occurred 4 times in the last 800 years, the most recent was in 1717AD.
• Each time the fault ruptured it also moved vertically raising the southern alps.
• In the last 12 million years the alps have uplifted by 20km.
• The peaks have remained below 4000m only because of erosion.
• Another earthquake is expected soon? since the average time between each is 300 years.
Day 9 March 24 2019- Stay in Franz Josef, Alpine Glacier Motel

Geology (Franz Josef Glacier Geology)
• Franz Josef Glacier Valley bedrock geology
• Walk on Franz Josef Glacier with a tour company – OR helicopter flight
• Franz Josef township ‘hazard and risk’ tour

Cultural
• Sunrise over Lake Matheson
• Shop Fox Glacier and Franz Josef villages

Mt Tasman (left) & Mt Cook (right) reflected in Lake Matheson at dawn
Mt Tasman(left) & Mt Cook(right) reflected in Lake Mathesons
Mt Cook 12,290’, from the Air
Day 10 March 25 2019- Drive and Stay in Wanaka, Edgewater Resort (Group dinner at hotel)

**Geology (Southern Alpine Fault + Haast-Otago Schist)**
- Tertiary sequence at Moeraki
- Likely to see Fiordland Crested Penguin on the coast
- Quaternary record of Alpine Fault activity in the Haast area
- Alpine → Haast Schist transition in roadside outcrops across Haast Pass and shores of Lake Hawea

**Cultural**
- Wine tours
- Lake Wanaka

Central Otago Wine Country
Cretaceous (100 mya) Schist - Lake Wanaka, Central Otago
Overlook of Lake Wanaka
Day 11 March 26 2019- Drive and Stay in Te Anau, Fiordland Hotel (Change in guide, Dr Mike Palin)

**Geology**
- Gold mining history of the Wanaka – Queenstown area
- Dun Mtn ultramafics in Mossburn area (either at Quarry or Mavora Lakes – also a famous Lord of the Rings site)

**Cultural**
- Fiordland National Park Visitor Center
Most of the large lakes in the south of the South Island occupy depressions formed by glaciers. Most glaciers pile up a belt of rock debris in front of them (called a terminal moraine), and this often acted as a dam, holding a lake in a depression that had previously been filled with ice.
Day 12 March 27 2019- Stay in Te Anau, Fiordland Hotel

Geology

- Doubtful Sound boat trip and geology
Doubtfull Sound from Wilmot Pass, 2200’
Doubtful Sound - Waterfalls and Pre-Cambrian Gneiss
Doubtful Sound Birds

- Buller’s Albatross
- Western Weka
- Paradise Shelduck
Day 13 March 28 2019- Drive and Stay in Dunedin, Victoria Hotel

Geology (Southland Geology)
• Tuatapere to Riverton mingled magmas, pillow basalts, scenic coastline
• Cosy Dell fossil location south of Gore (Presidential Highway to Clinton)
• Gabriel’s Gully normal fault and fault scarp breccia and history of gold mining

Cultural
• On way tour and shop Queenstown
• Heritage Building (or City) Walk & The Octagon
• 2019 NZ BagPipe National Championships
Day 14 March 29 2019- Stay in Dunedin, Victoria Hotel

Geology (Dunedin Geology)
• Dunedin volcanic history on two trips – Tunnel Beach and Aramoana
• Otago Peninsula-Organ Pipes basalt columns
• Albatross colony + penguins

Cultural
• 2019 NZ BagPipe National Championships
• Heritage Building (or City) Walk & The Octagon
• Tour and Shop Dunedin
Organ Pipes- Mt Cargill, Otago Peninsula

Miocene (20 Mya)
pentagonal basalt columns
Day 15 March 30 2019- Drive and Stay in Oamaru, Brydone Hotel

Geology
• Moeraki Bounders
• Oamaru pillow basalts
• Vanished World Trail (amazing vertebrate fossils among other things – see http://www.vanishedworld.co.nz/)

Cultural
• Blue Penguin Colony
• Oamaru Victorian Precinct & Public Gardens
Day 16 March 31 2019- Drive and Stay in Christchurch, Rendezvous Hotel

**Geology**

- Accretionary prism sequence at Benmore Dam
- Dam building in a tectonically active region (on active faults!)
- Mt Cook.

Mt Cook, Mt Tasman, Mt Sefton, Lake Tekapu
# New Zealand Overview

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New Zealand - 17 days
Trip Summary

• 6:30 dinner on March 15 – 1 block from hotel
• All hotels and most meals are covered. We are on our own for 9-10 meals. (~6-7 dinners and 3 breakfasts)
• We provide transportation from the hotel back to CHC on April 1st
• You will need “Type I” outlet adaptors as NZ operates at 220V 50 Hz and has a weird plug:
  • Most electronics will work at 220V 50Hz so all you really need is the plug adapters which are readily available and will also work in Australia