Hamish CAMPBELL

GNS Science

Hamish Campbell is a senior scientist with GNS Science based in Lower Hutt, New Zealand. He commenced his professional career as a Mesozoic macropalaeontologist with the New Zealand Geological Survey (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) in 1978; this position had previously been that of Sir Charles Fleming who retired in 1977. Hamish has qualifications in geology from the University of Otago (Dunedin; BSc (Hons) 1976), the University of Auckland (Auckland; MSc 1979) and Cambridge University (England; PhD 1985). As a 'survey palaeontologist', he studied Permian, Triassic and Jurassic macrofossils relating to 1:50,000 mapping of key areas in New Zealand, mainly in the South Island but also in the North Island, as well as New Caledonia.

In 1996 his role changed and he became involved in science communication. He has been the GNS Science 'geologist in residence' at Te Papa, the National Museum of New Zealand, in Wellington, since it opened in February 1998. Through this role, he has become a well-known geologist to the New Zealand public in the context of museum exhibitions, popular books and the media (magazines, radio and film). In 1999 he received the Science Communicator Award from the New Zealand Association of Scientists and 2008 he was made Companion of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

His current research interests are primarily concerned with the origin (provenance) of the older sedimentary and metamorphic rocks of New Zealand, and the geological constraints on the origin of the native biotas of New Zealand and New Caledonia. He has strong connections with Asia and served as the GNS Science representative based in Bangkok in 1994, subject to an Asia 2000 Fellowship. His latest book is entitled 'Zealandia: our continent revealed' and is published by Penguin.