

NEWSLETTER

New Concepts In Global Tectonics

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OUR BATTLE CONTINUES We have to reluctantly announce the sad news at the beginning of this number that Dr. James Macgregor (Mac) Dickins, leader and one of founders of the NCGT group as well as a Co-Editor of this Newsletter, passed away on June 8, 2005 in Canberra. This number became the last issue with his editorship. We have lost another great geologist. He was a talented organizer and a tenacious fighter for justice and democracy both in global geology and local community affairs. He cared about the NCGT group's activities and future until the last minute of his life. Mac Dickins lived in the golden time of geology when geologists had a direct touch with field; mapping geology, examining stratigraphy, petrology and fossils, clarifying geological structures, and reconstructing paleogeography and geological development of the given regions. It was the time when great field geologists/minds had been born and brought up. Mac Dickins was one of them. He revered traditional geologists, such as Stille, Belousov and Meyerhoff, who spoke based on vast amount of field data from all corners of the globe. I spent a lot of time with him in the last 20 years. We discussed all aspects of geology which led to the great concern about the current status and the future of geological sciences: We have to overcome the September 7, 1923 – June 8, 2005 plate tectonics dogma! Toward this goal the organization of New Concepts group was contemplated and finally brought to realization in 1996 at the 30th IGC, Beijing. Mac had been always at the heart of the group and led the group in a right direction. His opinions and ideas have been repeatedly expressed in Editorials of the Newsletter and papers as well. His approach was holistic. He denounced dogmatic manners and ideas, emphasized the team work and open-mindedness in geological thinking, and tried to base his ideas on hard evidence from the real Earth. Under his leadership the group has successfully organized several international conferences and kept producing this quarterly Newsletter which reached the number 35 with this issue, currently having more than 200 individual and library readers worldwide. The number of readers is continuously increasing. (continues to the next page

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