# IAVCEI News 1999 No: 3

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VOLCANOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY OF THE EARTH'S INTERIOR



# MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT & SECRETARY-GENERAL

The 1999 General Assembly of IUGG at Birmingham provided the setting for the transition to the new Executive Committee with a new President and new Secretary-General. We felt it appropriate to introduce ourselves together for this first newsletter with IAVCEI under new management. Before outlining some of the initiatives and possible future directions of IAVCEI, we first would like to pay tribute to the outstanding contributions to IAVCEI of Grant Heiken and Wally Johnson. If we accomplish even a fraction of their work and achievements then we will be content.

R 2000

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# CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF ERUPTIONS OF ANDESITE VOLCANOES

A discussion meeting held at the Royal Society, London on 6 and 7 October 1999

Given the small size of the UK volcanological community, the continuing eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano on Montserrat, W I has made a big impact on it, involving many scientists directly and providing them with first-hand experience of a volcanic crisis. Many graduate students have also had the opportunity of working on the island and contributing to the monitoring effort. Although it is still much too early to declare the Montserrat eruption definitively 'over', the October meeting at the Royal Society provided a fine opportunity to stand back and review our current understanding of andesite eruptions in general. Loosely speaking, the



#### Steve Sparks

development of a supporting Secretariat and allowing the organisation to make more initiatives to support the volcanological community and the fundamental objectives of IAVCEI – to promote the science and its

applications for the benefit of societies affected by volcanoes. The key concept behind membership is, however, ownership of the Association by its community so that IAVCEI can reflect its members in activities, actions, words and initiatives.

In the last four years, Wally and Grant have worked tirelessly for IAVCEI to build up its

Wally Johnson has been Secretary General of IAVCEI for 8 years and, with the help of Presidents Gasparini and Heiken, has been responsible for some fundamental changes to IAVCEI. In particular Wally pioneered the introduction of personal membership, which has made an enormous difference to IAVCEI by giving the volcanological community a personal stake in this premier international organisation for volcanology. Personal membership has been an outstanding success and one that we intend to build on. The financial benefits of personal membership to IAVCEI are also considerable, allowing



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programme started in the mantle, looking at the origins and ascent of andesite magmas, and worked upwards, culminating at orbital altitude with papers on satellite monitoring techniques.

One issue, which emerged from many of the talks was how few 'andesite' eruptions have been closely studied. Speaker after speaker broadened the scope of their talks to include dacitic eruptions, and speaker after speaker cited Mt St Helens as a point of reference. **Continued on page 4:>>** 

infrastructure, to co-ordinate its activities and to promote its role as the international face of volcanology. Grant's development of the IAVCEI Web page has been a particularly substantial achievement. The Newsletter has also been an excellent initiative to communicate with members. We cannot do full justice here to all the hard work and achievements of the last few years under their leadership, but Wally and Grant can be sure that their efforts are well appreciated throughout the volcanological community.

The next four years involve many challenges and opportunities. Here we **Continued on page 2:>>** 

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# **MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT & SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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can only outline a few of the issues and areas that we expect to be involved with. The new Executive Committee consists of dynamic people and most of the IAVCEI Commissions are active and already achieving a great deal. With the Executive Committee, dynamic Commissions and the grassroots of the membership, we are confident that we can build on the recent progress of IAVCEI. One objective must be to expand membership substantially. We are convinced that the current 550 or so members is still only a modest fraction of the whole international volcanological community. Expanding membership will have benefits for everyone: fees can be kept down, IAVCEI can be more representative of the whole community, and the increased income can be used for more initiatives, as well as supporting scientists in financial need to attend international meetings. The benefits of membership are outlined in a separate article and we hope all readers will help by promoting membership to colleagues.

Another high priority issue will be to make sure that the Bulletin of Volcanology continues to thrive and to be seen as a premier place to publish volcanological research. The Bulletin has had a slightly difficult time recently and we are well aware of the concerns within the community. Solutions to the problems are, however, in hand with the appointment of Tim Druitt (Clermont-Ferrand, France) as Executive Editor beginning in September 1999. We are confident that with Tim's stewardship the Bulletin will quickly re-establish its reputation for efficient handling of manuscripts, prompt publication and distribution to subscribers. We do, however, ask for some patience amongst the membership in this transition. We would also like to thank Don Swanson for his outstanding efforts as Executive Editor in maintaining the scientific quality of BV and Chris Newhall for taking on responsibilities during the hiatus.

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# VOLCANOES

OF VOLCANOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY OF THE EARTH'S INTERIOR



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Jack Lockwood went to a fair bit of effort to place the IAVCEI calendar on his Website Store in an attractive way that shows the individual months. <a href="http://www.volcanostore.com/pages/calends.html">http://www.volcanostore.com/pages/calends.html</a> With his 15% IAVCEI Member discount he will again beat Amazon.com.

John P 'Jack' Lockwood, Consulting Volcanologist, P.O. Box 479, Volcano, Hawaii 96785, USA Phone: +1 808 967 8579 Fax: +1 808 967 8525 E-mail: geohaz@aloha.net, Web Pages: http://www.volcanologist.com

Calendars are also available from <www.amazon.com> and from the publisher <www.browntrout.com>.

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### IAVCEI SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

#### January 23-28 2000

State of the Arc 2000

Commission on Arc Magmatism Workshop Contact: Ian Smith

Dept. of Geology, The Universitsy of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND Phone: +64 9 373 7599 x 7416 Fax: +64 9 373 7435 E-mail: ie.smith@auckland.ac.nz http://centre.ess.ucla.edu/iavcei/iavcei\_home.html July 18-22, 2000

*IAVCEI General Assembly Bali, Indonesia Contact:* Raden Sukhyar IAVCEI General Assembly 2000 Volcanological Survey of Indonesia Jalan Diponegoro 57, Bandung 40122, INDONESIA Phone: +62 22 77 2606 or +62 22 774706 Fax: +62 22 70 2761

# CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF ERUPTIONS OF ANDESITE VOLCANOES >>Continued from page 1:

Nearly twenty years on, the 1980 eruption of Mt St Helens continues to provide valuable insights into volcano eruption mechanisms: a tribute to the outstanding monitoring effort carried out by the USGS and other agencies. It was good to see several of those most closely involved at the London meeting. It was also clear how much the science of volcanology and the technology of monitoring have moved on in the last twenty years: the Soufrière Hills eruption has offered an opportunity to test ideas, models and hardware in a very challenging and rapidly changing situation.

No science, least of all volcanology, can be carried out in a social vacuum. Three talks, which generated lively discussion focussed on volcanic hazards, and the responses of communities and authorities to eruptions. While scientists have developed a sophisticated understanding of volcanoes, this is of little value if it cannot be conveyed meaningfully to the civil authorities – and if these are unable or unwilling to respond. Public education remains an important goal for volcanologists. The meeting closed with the showing of a new educational video 'Montserrat's Andesite Volcano', aimed at providing an up to date summary of andesitic volcanism for undergraduate audiences. In addition to containing some remarkable shots of pyroclastic eruptions and pyroclastic flows, this video also offers unique opportunities to see the President of IAVCEI sporting some very fetching headgear. It should not be missed.

E-mail: iavcei@vsi.dpe.go.id http://www.vsi.dpe.go.id/iavcei.html February 12-18, 2001 *IAVCEI 'Cities on Volcanoes 2' Workshop* Auckland, New Zealand *Contact:* 'Cities on Volcanoes 2',

Wairakei Research Centre, Private Bag 2000, Taupo, NEW ZEALAND

Fax: +64 7 3748199

E-mail: citiesonvolc2@gns.cri.nz

http://www.gns.cri.nz/news/conference/cities.html

May 8, 2002

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IAVCEI 2002 Centennial Workshop

Mount Pelee, Martinique

Contact: Jean-Louis Cheminee & Georges Boudon Observatoires volcanologiques de l'IPGP Boite 89, 4 Place Jussieu, Paris Cedex 05 F075252, FRANCE

Phone: +33 144272400 Fax: +33 44272401 E-mails: cheminee@ipgp.jussieu.frobs or volcanologiques@ipgp.jussieu.fr July, 2003

*IUGG General Assembly Sapporo, Japan* Other details to be determined **Peter Francis** 

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et le monde des volcans

# ERRATUM

Unfortunately the author *Santo La Delfa* was omitted in the acknowledgements for the article *The Present Activity* of *Etna* which appeared in IAVCEI News 1999/2.

This great article was actually written by Jean-Claude Tanguy, Santo La Delfa and Giuseppe Patanè.



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# **INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION**

# PROGRAM FORUM, Geneva, Switzerland July 5-9, 1999

As the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) concludes, the international community is increasingly aware that natural disasters are a major threat to social and economic stability and that disaster prevention is the main long-term solution to this threat. The biggest challenge of the Decade lies, therefore, in the creation of a global culture of prevention. It is in this context that the IDNDR Secretariat in the United Nations has recently organised the IDNDR Programme Forum 1999. Within the closing event of the Decade the IDNDR program is coming to an end. With regard to natural disaster reduction, the participants were invited to answer the following questions:

- 1. What are the lessons learned?
- 2. Which major activities were they engaged in disaster management?
- 3. What are their recommendations for the future?

A poster session was organised during the IDNDR Program Forum. Twenty projects were selected to illustrate ten years of Disaster management all over the world. IAVCEI was represented by the European Volcanological Society (SVE). The IAVCEI-SVE poster emphasised volcanologic research and outreach work during the IDNDR and particularly the accomplishments of 16 Decade Volcano Projects, to illustrate a range of scientific studies and mitigation efforts. A booklet (in French), published by the SVE, with further details about each Decade Volcano Project, was available for the participants during the Program Forum. Results of the Programme Forum will constitute a major input to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) deliberations on IDNDR. The IDNDR Programme Forum 1999 offered more than 40 thematic sessions in support of natural disaster prevention, including 3 tracks of concurrent sessions as well as a Sub-Forum on Science and Technology organised by WMO and UNESCO. In addition, panels, poster sessions, exhibits and an open public forum were organised, thus providing a comprehensive overview on the broad spectrum of IDNDR achievements at all levels. Emphasis was placed on: education and socio-economic concerns; development and environmental concerns; scientific and technological concerns; and action towards the 21st century.

### Henry Gaudru Email: HGaudruSVE@compuserve.com

# **BOOK REVIEW**

#### L'Etna et le monde de volcans - Etna and the World of Volcanoes J-C Tanguy & G Patanè, Published by Diderot Multimedia, Paris, 1996, 288 pp. ISBN: 2-84134-033-3 (pbk)

Mt Etna is one of the best known and well studied volcanoes in the world, yet the authors have nevertheless succeeded in bringing to light new insights and understanding. It is a beautifully illustrated and easily readable book, which although technical in some parts, nevertheless appeals to a broad audience. However, an English translation would reach a broader audience.

Although concentrating mainly on Mt Etna, the authors take time to explore many aspects of volcanology, using Mt Etna as a key example. The first chapter starts by looking at Etna in holistic fashion, describing the origin of the name Etna, the approach to the summit, neighbouring villages, flora and fauna, the Central crater and styles of eruption. This is followed in chapter two by a simplified yet useful introduction into the theories behind the mantle as a source of magmas, the causes of volcanism, and plate tectonics, especially the Afro-European collision in Sicily.

The authors then go into detailed geological history of Etna which is followed in chapter three by the history of volcanic activity. This goes back to the earliest recorded mention of Etna, by the ancient Greeks, some 2500 years ago. The authors follow the development of the first theories of volcanism, through the Roman period, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance with detailed descriptions of virtually every recorded eruption. Chapter four continues into modern times again describing the periods of activity up until the 1993 eruption. At the same time, they discuss the development of modern scientific theory and its implications to the understanding of volcanic and tectonic activity at Mt Etna. Chapter five then briefly covers some of the techniques currently used in the surveillance of Mt Etna and the work that has been done in risk assessment and hazard mitigation, with colourful descriptions of the attempts to redirect Mt Etna's lava flows. Finally, the book finishes off with a brief discussion on the eruptive mechanisms and quite interestingly for a book of this type, a volcano-tectonic model for Etna is put forward.

Glyn Williams-Jones, Email: G.Williams-Jones@open.ac.uk

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#### PETER WILLIAM FRANCIS 1944 – 1999

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal" – Albert Pine



the next three years working on his Ph D on the structural geology of Barra Isles, Outer Hebrides, under the tutelage of Professor Janet Watson. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1969, he joined an Imperial College graduate trip back to the Central Andes in 1970. He devoted the best part of the next three decades to his seminal research there.

In 1971, Peter was appointed to the faculty of the fledgling Open University. There, his early work involved geochemical and petrological studies of volcanic rocks in Sudan and the Central Andes (with Richard Thorpe and Chris Hawkesworth). The work in the Central Andes was instrumental in recognising the importance of assimilation and fractional crystallisation (AFC) in the evolution of the andesites and dacites that dominate the region. In the late seventies, Peter recognised that the superb exposure and preservation of volcanic structures in the Central Andes offered an unparalleled natural laboratory for the application of remote sensing techniques to understand volcanic processes. Working first with Landsat MSS, and then TM data, Peter's work (with Mike Baker) identified many major caldera complexes and associated ignimbrite sheets and established the Central Andes as one of the premier volcanic provinces in the world. The crown jewel of this work is arguably his efforts on the Cerro Galan caldera of NW Argentina. Here, teamed up with Steve Sparks, and the British Army, he scored not only a scientific, but also a logistic coup that has established Cerro Galan as one of the premier resurgent calderas in the world. This work is central to debates on how calderas form and resurge, the origin and subsequent evolution of large volumes of silicic magma, and the eruption, transport, and emplacement of large ignimbrites.

The untimely death of Peter Francis of a massive heart attack on Saturday, the 30th of October, brought to an end one of the most illustrious and innovative careers in modern volcanology. Peter Francis was 54, the author of 5 books, and over 90 peer-reviewed papers. He was a mentor to several students and post-doctoral fellows from all over the world, many of whom have gone on to successful careers of their own. His most valuable contributions arguably stemmed from his rare ability to make science accessible to the public. He was a superb writer and had an acute and holistic understanding of science. This led to numerous popular science articles on topics as disparate as the 'Geology of Whisky Galore' to 'Giant Volcanic Calderas'. His 1976 book 'Volcanoes' for Penguin remains a classic and is the exemplar of his philosophy of producing "books" that should be read rather than consulted" as he says in the preface of his 1993 book, entitled 'Volcanoes – a planetary perspective'. These books adorn many a professional and amateur bookshelf, and both have been utilised as classroom texts. As he wished, many copies probably lie dog-eared and well thumbed in the corner of bathrooms and bedrooms around the world. He was also an accomplished planetary scientist and author of 'The Planets' (1981)

Soon after, he was appointed a Senior Visiting Scientist at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, in Houston where funded by NASA his research increasingly focused on remote sensing in volcanology. Highlights of this work include the identification of numerous debris avalanche deposits related to sector collapse of composite edifices, the ongoing detailed study of the spectacular Socompa debris avalanche deposit (with Steve Self), developing thermal remote sensing using Short-wavelength infra-red bands of Landsat and similar satellites (in collaboration with David Rothery), and 'Volcanoes of the Central Andes' a synoptic survey of all the volcanic features of the Central Andes (with Shan de Silva). This work led to him joining the Planetary Geosciences division of the U of Hawaii and his subsequent pivotal role in NASA's Earth Observing (EOS) Interdisciplinary Science project on volcanology.

Born in North Rhodesia (now Zambia), Peter returned to England and attended Bournemouth Grammar and Reading Boys School. In 1966, he received a B.Sc. with Honours (1st Class) from Imperial College, London. It was here that he was first exposed to the austere beauty of the Central Andes and its spectacular volcano-dominated scenery. He first travelled through this region as the equipment officer for an undergraduate field trip to Bolivia in 1966. He spent

Most recently, Peter's research at the Open University was driven by the realisation that our understanding of the compositions of large volcanic plumes was inadequate. He became a pioneer in the use of open path FTIR spectroscopy for remotely measuring a wide range of volcanic gases. In 1994, work done in collaboration with Clive Oppenheimer, on Etna, Stromboli, and Vulcano led to the discovery that SiF4, previously unmeasured, could provide valuable insight

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into plume temperatures. FTIR spectroscopy is now widely used in volcanology. Peter was project co-ordinator of an ambitious multi-disciplinary European Community funded project to develop the capability to detect, characterise, and monitor tropospheric and stratospheric eruption plumes from European volcanoes. During the current crisis, he gave freely of his time to help at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory, where he was three times senior scientific advisor.

Those of us who knew him personally hold his memory dear. His support for his mentees was almost paternal and unconditional, and although an often tough, uncompromising, and demanding mentor, he was a truly generous and kind spirit. Many of us have benefited greatly from his professional and personal generosity. He is remembered for his wry, mischievous, and often wicked sense of humour delivered with a twinkle in his eye, his collection of erudite aphorisms, his unique grin/grimace, and his unmistakable laugh. Nowhere is his sense of humour better expressed than the dedication of his 1976 book 'Volcanoes' to his (fictitious) cat, Jeoffrey.

Peter was an avid and accomplished sailor, held a private

#### **MARIO MAZZONI 1943 - 1999**

Dr Mario Mazzoni died suddenly on Friday October 1, 1999 of a heart attack, in Quilmes, Argentina. Mario was 56 years old. He received his PhD from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP), Argentina, and there, together with a few associates, established the Centro de Investigaciones Geologicas (Center for Geologic Investigations). He was also a senior scientist with CONICET (Consejo Nacional de Investigacion Científica y Tecnica: National Consortium for Scientific and Technical Investigation) and Professor of Geology at UNLP.

Mario went to the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1982 to do a post-graduate fellowship with R V Fisher. He began a long-term collaboration with R V at that time, and in 1988 came back to Santa Barbara to join a group of us travelling around the western US looking at calderas and stratovolcanoes. Mario loved to travel, and welcomed colleagues from around the world to Argentina. He was the premier authority on volcaniclastic rocks in Argentina, most recently beginning investigations of Quaternary Copahue volcano and a proposed Caviahue caldera.

pilots license, and was a collector of antique books and art on volcanoes. He was a truly multi-faceted individual and an academic in the best sense. He constantly strove to understand the 'big-picture' and encouraged and cajoled students and colleagues to take a more holistic view of science and transcend traditional discipline boundaries. Where he led by example, we can but hope to follow.

Peter is survived by his wife of eight years, Mary Francis.

Shan de Silva E-mail: desilva@earthlink.net Mario was a kind, gentle, generous person and is sorely missed by those of us who were fortunate enough to be able to work with him, or just cross paths. He is survived by two daughters and a son.

Condolences may be sent by e-mail to <mmaz@arnet.com.ar>.

Nancy Riggs E-mail: nancy.riggs@nau.edu

# MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT & SECRETARY-GENERAL

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The establishment of the new Executive Committee does allow an opportunity for review and thought. We plan to make a thorough review of both the Bulletin of Volcanology and the Commissions at the Bali meeting next year. The Commissions are the lifeblood of IAVCEI. They emerge from the grassroots and it is the enthusiasm and hard work of Commission members that drives much of what IAVCEI achieves. Many of the IAVCEI Commissions are outstanding, but it is important to assess their roles and existence from time to time. Commissions are relatively easy to create: all the proposers need is a good idea and to convince the IAVCEI Executive that there is an enthusiastic cohort of individuals ready to take it forward. Commissions of course have to be concerned with matters broadly related to IAVCEI's objectives and interests. Bringing a Commission to an end is not so straightforward and, indeed, for many Commissions not even desirable. However, an inactive Commission can be a negative feature because it can prevent others taking on an important area of IAVCEI activity and can inhibit initiatives. The Executive Committee will review all Commissions at Bali and will be

looking for evidence that Commissions are still fulfilling a useful function, are active and have mechanisms in place for renewing their vigour and the engagement of the community's enthusiasm and support. Reports on Commission's activities will be highlights of the next few IAVCEI newsletters.

Of course, we have other ideas that will emerge as we gain

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experience and understanding of how IAVCEI works. However, the most important part of our job will be to serve the membership and make sure that IAVCEI is functioning for the good of the subject and the scientific community. We welcome your ideas and comments and look forward to a strong partnership between the Executive and the membership.

Steve Sparks, President E-mail: Steve.Sparks@bristol.ac.uk

Steve McNutt, Secretary-General E-mail: steve@giseis.alaska.edu

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE THORARINSSON MEDAL FOR 1999

The IAVCEI Awards Sub-Committee is calling for nominations for the Thorarinsson Medals, to be awarded at the IAVCEI General Assembly in Bali, Indonesia, July, 2000.

The Thorarinsson Medal honours the memory of Professor Sigurdur Thorarinsson, of the University of Iceland, who died in 1983. The medal is awarded to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the general field of volcanology. This is the most prestigious award in volcanology given by IAVCEI. Previous medallists have been R L Smith, G P L Walker, H U Scmincke and R V Fisher.

A nomination package should include: (1) a formal nomination letter, not to exceed three pages; (2) a curriculum vita; and (3) at least three supporting letters.

Nomination packages are due **January 31st 2000** to IAVCEI Awards Sub-Committee, c/o R S J Sparks, Dept. Earth Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol BS81RJ.

If possible, a copy should be sent by e-mail to <Steve.Sparks@Bristol.ac.uk>.

#### IAVCEI PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2000

#### February 15, 2000

- deadline for newsletter I for 2000
- review of 1/2 commission activities
   March 15, 2000
- March 15, 2000
- newsletter I for 2000 distributed June 15, 2000
- deadline for newsletter II for 2000
- review of other 1/2 commission activities July 15, 2000
- newsletter II for 2000 distributed July 18, 2000
- formal review of commissions at Bali meeting

#### October 15, 2000

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- deadline for newsletter III for 2000
- report of commission review
- regular review of first 1/2 commissions November 15, 2000
- newsletter III for 2000 distributed

# NEW EDITOR OF THE BULLETIN OF VOLCANOLOGY

# **IAVCEI VOLCANO VIDEOTAPES**

The videotapes, *Understanding Volcanic Hazards* and *Reducing Volcanic Risk*, are now available for purchase from the Northwest Interpretive Association for US\$19.95 plus postage (see rates below). The videos are available in English and Spanish in either NTSC or PAL video format. The late Maurice Krafft for IAVCEI uNESCO produced the video.

*Understanding Volcanic Hazards* features stunning images of seven types of volcano hazards: ash falls, hot ash flows, mudflows, landslides, volcanic tsunamis, lava flows, and volcanic gases. This program is intended to help prevent future deaths from volcanic eruptions by showing compelling images of destructive volcanic activity. Hopefully, people who understand these hazards will avoid them in the future.

The Northwest Interpretive Association (NWIA), a non-profit organisation, is selling the video for IAVCEI. Orders can be placed by mail with an enclosed cheque or by phone with VISAcard. Add US\$5.00 for postage in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. For all other destinations, add US\$13.05 for airmail postage or US\$5.55 for surface postage.

Northwest Interpretive Association (NWIA), 3029 Spirit Lake Highway, Castle Rock, WA 98611, USA Phone: +1 3602742125 Fax: +1 3602742101

IAVCEI is pleased to announce that Tim Druitt has been appointed Chief Editor of the Bulletin of Volcanology. His contact details are: Universite Blaise Pascal Departement Sciences de la Terre 5 rue Kessler, 63038 Clermont-Ferrand FRANCE Phone: +33 473346718 Fax: +33 473346744 E-mail: druitt@opgc.univ-bpclermont.fr Make checks payable to NWIA. Be sure to specify English or Spanish, and NTSC (US and Japanese standard) or PAL (European standard). Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery.

# IAVCEI NEWSLETTER REGIONAL EDITORS 1999-2000

Region Asia South & Central America Europe North America Oceana Editor Raden Sukhar Hugo Moreno Hazel Rymer Jim Gardner Jocelyn McPhie

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