

President's Award for the Best Doctoral Thesis in Geography

Eugene Rees

On behalf of The New Zealand Geographical Society it is my pleasure to present Dr Eugene Rees with the President's Award for the Best Doctoral thesis in Geography. This award requires not only that the thesis has been achieved but that this has been accomplished in a way that makes a distinctive contribution, in areas such as methodological innovation, critical evaluation, and advancement of understanding.

Dr Rees' thesis *'In what sense a Fisheries problem'* assesses whether or not fisheries policy in New Zealand, since the introduction of the Quota Management System in 1986, has effectively addressed the hypothesis that even renewable resources experience booms and busts, and ultimately depletion. He examines the behaviour of fishing companies and other industry groups and critically evaluates their performance in the light of economic and ecological theory.

His thesis demonstrates mastery of social science techniques ranging from quantitative analysis to in depth interviews. His approach to research on fisheries is considered innovative and penetrating.

Evaluations of this thesis characterise it as leading edge research on a subject of both national and global significance.

The New Zealand Geographical Society wishes to recognise the outstanding contribution of this thesis by presenting Dr Eugene Rees with the President's Award for the Best Doctoral Thesis in Geography.

M J Crozier (President)

Christchurch

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