KEA 208 – Earth's Materials and Interior - East Coast Tasmania Excursion 2014

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

Leaders: Dr Garry Davidson & Dr Michael Roach

Attendance at the full excursion is compulsory for KEA208 and any student who does not complete the excursion requirements cannot pass KEA208 and will be ineligible to proceed with third year earth science units. If extreme circumstances arise that prevent your attendance an alternative assessment will be devised.

Read this notice carefully!

An itinerary is listed below for your information, but is subject to changes at short notice to suit access, tides etc. A more comprehensive field guide will be provided at the pre-trip briefing on the morning we leave (see below).

Cost will be $250 per student. This covers accommodation and transport, but not food. Payment can be made by seeing Deborah Macklin at the School of Earth Sciences office prior to the trip. The trip is self-catering in cabin-style shared accommodation. Each cabin has a kitchen-lounge plus bedrooms. If you don't want to cook your own dinner, then there will be time each evening to eat a pub meal not too far away. We will allow limited time to do supermarket shopping en route to St Helens on Day 1 and again in St Helens at the end of Day 3.

Mini-buses will depart from the front of the Earth Sciences building at approximately 9.00 am on Monday 17th February and will return late (about 5.30 pm) on Friday 21st.

Please be at the department entrance a little earlier than 9.00 am in order to expedite loading and departure!

There will be a briefing in R211 (main lecture theatre) before we leave to explain what we will see and do on the trip. We will also be taking roll-call, so don't be late! Please be patient and listen for instructions during the load-up.

We will be using 7 and 12-seater buses for the trip. If you can, please stow your suitcases/packs etc into the designated transport bus prior to the briefing, (buses will be secured while the briefing is taking place), or leave you gear by the globe in the foyer. Buses should arrive outside the Earth Sciences entrance by about 8.30 am for loading.

There will be NO pickups en route. Every student MUST leave with the main group from the University. If you think you have a special case for being picked up then contact Garry Davidson. Private vehicles are not permitted.

We will be staying four nights in St Helens at Queechy Cottages (www.queechycottages.com.au) Accommodation at Queechy is in 3.5 star, comfortable, furnished cabins. We may need to allocate you to cabins prior to arriving, because (for legal
reasons) the management must have names for everyone checking in. It may be possible to re-arrange people once we have checked in.

The cabins have cooking facilities, or you can walk to shops and eat at a take-away or the pub. Supplies are available from stores in St Helens. You will need to bring a lunch to eat in the field most days, as we may not be close to shops. Be sure to carry ample drinking water as well.

We plan to commence each day at 8.00am and we will endeavor to be back at camp about 5.30 pm. There will be a compulsory meeting each night after dinner to discuss the day's activities. You will have work to complete most nights, and this will form part of your assessment (see below).

Cabins have bedding and towels, but you may want to bring your own beach towel.

**You must supply your own:**

* pens, erasers, and coloured pencils

* a rigid A4-sized board and 3 or 4 large bulldog clips

* everyone must have a hand lens!

* a geological hammer is desirable (if you intend doing 3rd year Geology definitely get one!)

* a magnet and a pocket knife/scratcher are very useful

* camera

* waterproofs and stout, comfortable footwear for extended walking, often in scrub or on coastal rocks; bare or uncovered feet are not permitted

* sunscreen lotion, insect repellant and a hat

* safety glasses or sun glasses, to eliminate the possibility of eye damage from rock chips.

*Students who are subject to allergic reactions and or have medical conditions eg. asthma etc MUST ensure that they carry the appropriate medication with them on the excursion, and notify their group leader.*

**DURING YOUR STAY AT QUEECHY COTTAGES & STEWARTS BAY, AND DURING THE EXCURSION WHETHER IN UNIVERSITY CARS, ON CROWN LAND, OR ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, YOU WILL BE SEEN AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA AND THE SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES. NO LARRIKINISM, EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION OR ILLEGAL DRUGS WILL BE TOLERATED. OFFENDING STUDENTS WILL BE SENT BACK TO HOBART AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE AND FAIL KEA208.**
FIELD NOTES, FIELD TESTS AND MEETINGS

Detailed field notes are to be taken. These should be written in the spaces provided in the field guide and may be examined and marked during the course of the trip. A number of field tests will be held at key outcrops/road sections. These will be done on paper provided, and must be handed in at the completion of the test. They will be returned to you and may be of useful in preparing your report. Sedimentary logs and mapping exercises will also be marked. Most evenings there will be a compulsory meeting to review the day's geology, and introduce the following day's program.

EXCURSION REPORT

A formal excursion report must be submitted by 5.00 pm Friday 20th March. These are to be placed in the slot in wall of the School of Earth Sciences Office (make sure a cover sheet – available from the container next to the slot - is attached to your report). This report is to be based on your own observations made during the trip and to some extent on relevant literature. Detailed information on the structure and content of the report will be given toward the end of the excursion.

You must write between 2000 and 2500 words (not including the reference list).

ASSESSMENT

The East Coast Excursion will count for 25% of your total KEA208 mark, broken down as follows:

Report (Due 5.00 pm Friday 21st March) 15%

Field tests, exercises & field notes 10%

Note there is a late penalty of 1 mark (out of 15) per day (up to 5 marks per week); no report will be accepted after 5.00 pm Friday 10th April (i.e., 3 weeks after the due date).

RECOMMENDED REFERENCES

There is no single reference that adequately covers the content and aims of this excursion. The principle aim of the trip is for you to learn a variety of field skills and begin to know how to recognise and describe rocks in the field. Best marks are obtained by people who adequately document their own observations made during the trip, and write in a fashion that clearly distinguishes OBSERVATIONS and DESCRIPTIONS from INTERPRETATION!

The excursion report is NOT a literature review, nor is it a 'stop by stop' travelogue!

A publication available from Mineral Resources Tasmania (www.mrt.tas.gov.au) called "Geological Survey Bulleting 72 The Geology and Mineral Deposits of Tasmania: a summary" provides excellent overview of Tasmanian geology, contains some useful diagrams and is an excellent place to start.

Other, more detailed descriptions of the geology of NE Tasmania can be found in Mineral Resources Tasmania geological maps and explanatory notes, and the Geological Society of
Australia special publication #15: Geology and Mineral Resources of Tasmania, 1989 (eds CF Burrett and EL Martin) is a systematic description of Tasmania's geology, but is becoming very dated in many areas. It is not necessary to read any of this before the excursion, but these will be helpful references for your report.