

Micromounters Hall of Fame

Jocelyn M. Thornton

Inducted in 1999



Jocelyn Margaret Henrici was born in Wellington, New Zealand, where she still lives. With a masters degree in English, she worked as a journalist until her marriage to Geoffrey Thornton. They have three children. Seeking a family hobby, she began to collect rocks and minerals in 1965, joining the NZ Mineral Club and taking adult education courses until she returned to university in 1977 to obtain a BSc in Geology. She then spent 12 years as honorary curator of the Alexander Mackay Geological Museum at Victoria University of Wellington.

She has written two guidebooks: Mobil Guide to New Zealand Gemstones (1985) and Field Guide to New Zealand Geology (1985, and reprinted since), and she edits Micro-Scope, the newsletter for the micro-mineral collectors of New Zealand. Her drawing and photographic skills are used to great advantage in her lectures and publications on micromounting. Her articles in the Micro-Scope document many previously unrecorded New Zealand minerals and localities.

She has collected in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, where she has also lectured, exhibited in mineral shows, and engaged in micromount competitions, while building up a collection of some 3,000 micromounts.

Jocelyn is noted not only for her generosity as a micromount trading partner, but in many other ways. She has provided hospitality to foreign collectors, arranged contacts, and carried microscopes to symposia to help overseas participants. Acting as a link between micromounters in New Zealand and those overseas, she has attended symposia and other micromount meetings in California, Arizona, Maryland, Australia, Canada and England. Her personal drive and knowledge have contributed to the advance of micromounting in New Zealand.