**JUST HOW ON EARTH DO WE KNOW WHAT MARS IS MADE OF?**

**James Scott (University of Otago), President of the NZ Geoscience Society**

Suncourt Taupo

Motutaiko Room

Wednesday 29th July

7 pm

Gold coin donation to cover the cost of the room, please.

Right now there is the NASA Mars InSight programme to help understand the interior of our neighbouring Red Planet. Humans haven’t retrieved rocks from Mars, but we do have rocks on Earth from Mars... How is this possible? What is Mars made of? Are Mars rocks unique? Are geological processes operating on Mars different to those on Earth? What is the prospect that life occurs (or has occurred) on the planet? I will explain just how on Earth we know about Mars, I will summarise some of my research and I will show some (very small) Martian meteorites.

