



The Great Australian Byte

The Newsletter of the Australian Geoscience Information Association (Inc)
April 2011, Volume 12 Part 1 ISSN 1325-3700

*Easter may be late this year, but don't miss the
AGIA Easter Breakfast*

7:30 am
Tuesday 19 April 2011

Bell's Cafe
Barrack Street Jetty, Perth foreshore



Please RSVP to Lyn Trouchet (Ltrouche@barrick.com)
so we have an idea of numbers

Order and pay individually at the counter on arrival

Menu at <http://www.goodmoodfood.com.au/bells-cafe>

The Easter Bunny is on his way!

AGIA is a member of the Australian Geoscience Council





INSIDE

AGIA News 2

Geoscience librarians at the Information Online Conference, February 2011 3

Geoscience Information Research Project: 4

Data Quality 2011 Asia Pacific Congress, March 2011 5

Web Sites & Mailing Lists of Interest 6

Upcoming Conferences and Symposia 6

Snip'its 6

National Committee 2010–11 8

AGIA NEWS

AGIA IN THE FUTURE

In light of the falling membership numbers and the potential non-sustainability of the organisation, the AGIA National Committee has been considering the options for the future of AGIA, including the possible merger of our association with a larger geoscience association, perhaps as a special interest group. The Committee has reviewed the membership structure, requirements, benefits and costs of various professional organisations to determine if any could provide an alternative “home” for the geoscience information community. We will be undertaking another committee workshop to determine what the next steps should be and will be reporting back to members. We will then welcome any feedback, which can be provided by contacting one of the Committee members. Any proposal to the membership will be issued with adequate time for feedback and proper consultation before it is put to a vote.

National Committee

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

You may have noticed that in recent issues of the Great Australian Byte we are running a series of articles on geoscience information centres/information services. I am looking for the next article(s) in the series, so please get in touch if you would like us to feature your collection or service.

The Summer and Winter 2010 issues where the earlier articles appeared can be found at: <http://agia.org.au/resources/news/newsletter.htm>.

Any other items of interest will also be gladly accepted.

Jenny Mikucki
Newsletter Editor

GEOSCIENCE LIBRARIANS AT THE INFORMATION ONLINE CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 2011

The Information Online conference <http://www.information-online.com.au/?v=0415683F-1422-0982-EB704B0166C7AC13> held at Darling Harbour in Sydney gave those who attended a smorgasbord of plenary speakers and papers with much to choose from. Topics covered a wide range: metadata, taxonomies and database design; information literacy and how to engage with clients; designing innovative library spaces and web portals alike; and broader perspective views of where libraries are headed in the future. Full papers for many of the presentations are now available from the website above.

University presenters were well represented, but librarians from industry were rather thin on the podium and no papers this year were on geoscience topics specifically — room for thought by AGIA members, there. The closest, perhaps, was an energetic talk by Emma Taylor from Western Australia entitled “Sink or swim: the Water Corporation Library’s experiences from diving into e-services”. Here, presentation was very well received by the assembled and it is pleasing to note that Emma has now joined the team at Chevron. (There must be something in the water... Hayley Morton of the SA Water’s Learning Centre was presented with ALIA’s IOG Excellence Award for 2011 at the conference dinner, for developing their Brain Wave Learning Program for students and teachers —see <http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Education/LearningProgram/Brainwave.htm>).

There was also the usual large exhibition where you could catch up with suppliers and technological developments. Preliminary discussions were held with one supplier of online databases on the possibility of discounted pricing for members of an AGIA consortium. (Watch for further news.)



Attendees at the AGIA Dinner at Information Online 2011. From left to right: Alison Wiercinski (NTGS), Kerry Smith (Curtin), Sandra Daws (Woodside), Chris Nelson (GA Library), Elizabeth Fredericks (also GA), Emma Taylor (formerly Water Corp) and Glenys Artelaris (BHP Billiton).



But what of future Information Online events? Will they be the same? An announcement was made during the concluding ceremony that the long standing conference committee that has worked tirelessly over some years to organise this event has resigned, so we are left wondering what will happen next? All we can do is stay tuned.

As the photo on the previous page shows, geoscience information professionals were represented at the conference. Even though the program was very busy, some AGIA members and colleagues still found time to meet. We chose a particularly hot evening to meet for dinner, and as luck would have it, a particularly warm venue in which we did this. But this did not affect the networking and promises made by some to contribute to future issues of the *Great Australian Byte*.

Chris Nelson
Geoscience Australia Library
Chris.Nelson@ga.gov.au

Associate Prof Kerry Smith
Dept of Information Studies
Curtin University.
k.smith@curtin.edu.au

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION RESEARCH PROJECT: ACCESS TO AUSTRALIAN GEOSCIENTIFIC INFORMATION – A TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS?

Progress report – April 2011

The research journey is an interesting one. I don't have the luxury of lots of thinking time (this project is more of a professional interest and passion) so I take advantage of opportunities as they come, even if they might take the project's aims in another direction. If the idea is relevant, I use it.

Such is the case now. One of our Curtin University Department of Information Studies Masters of Information Management project students was interested in undertaking a study on the role of the librarian, now widened to information professionals, in the management of research data. Why not geoscience technical (i.e. research) data? Oh what a good idea we both thought and now she is off and running with it. If all goes well, there should be an interesting story to tell when the work finishes and this is planned for the end of this year. Part of her ferreting around for information has revealed a US publication: *Geoscience data and collections: National resources in peril*, the blurb for which includes this comment: "While the nation has assembled a wealth of geoscience data and collections, their utility remains completely untapped....Many resources are in imminent danger of being lost through mismanagement, neglect, or disposal". Where have I heard that before? A copy is now on its way to me.

Additionally:

- I now have, with thanks again to AGIA for the seed funding that enabled me to employ a research assistant, a list of Australian geoscience libraries and related entities.
- I've not made much headway with concept of a national approach to special library collections, but it is not forgotten.

Until next time.

Associate Prof Kerry Smith

k.smith@curtin.edu.au



DATA QUALITY 2011 ASIA PACIFIC CONGRESS, MARCH 2011

The Data Quality 2011 Asia Pacific Congress was held in Sydney at the Citigate Central Hotel, near Darling Harbour, on 28-30 March 2011. The congress was well attended with close to 150 participants, with a wide range of good quality speakers presenting on data quality issues across a broad spectrum of data types, from health information, to art cataloguing, to a single customer view.

The congress program had a strong focus on governance and the culture required in an organisation to achieve good data quality, and the papers presented included perspectives from within the Australian Defence Force, Australian Government agencies, such as the health sector, policing and civil aviation, oil and gas, and telecommunications, each with its own challenges around creating and maintaining a culture that leads to effective management of data quality in the organisation. Despite the broad cross-section of the data management community in attendance, it was a little disappointing to see only two E&P companies represented, and no-one from the mining space. Despite this, I found the congress well worth attending.

The congress included presentations by the two finalists for the Data Quality Asia Pacific Award 2011, Telstra, and ACT Health. Both presentations and projects described were of excellent quality, and it was hard to choose between them (a component of the award was decided by the attendees at the congress). The winner of the award was ACT Health.

The vendor displays and presentations had a pleasing focus on providing data quality solutions (as a whole package) rather than focusing solely on their particular technology offering, which was refreshing. Vendors included IBM, DataFlux, Zenith, Pitney Bowes, and Focus Strategies and Solutions.

The final day of the congress included several concurrent workshops. I attended one on communicating about data run by Danette McGilvray of Granite Falls Consulting, which was excellent. I came away from the workshop with some real actions and tools that I can use in improving data quality in my organisation.

Overall, I thought the conference was well run, had excellent content and the speakers were carefully selected and well worth paying attention to. I found I had much in common with many of the participants and made the most of this during breaks to extend my network of contacts in this area. I am currently working out how I can get to the next one in 2012!

Jenny Mikucki
Chevron Australia
Jenny.mikucki@chevron.com



WEB SITES & MAILING LISTS OF INTEREST

WAIN MAILING LIST

WAIN@lists.curtin.edu.au
lists.curtin.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/wain

GEONET

Geonet mailing list: Geonet@purdue.edu
lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/geonet

LIST OF GEOSCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

AGIA National President Camille Peters has compiled a list of geoscience associations, which is available on the AGIA website:

<http://www.agia.org.au/resources/GEOSCIENCE-ASS.htm>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

34TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS, BRISBANE, 2-10 AUGUST 2012

See: www.34igc.org

SNIP'ITS

LYELL COLLECTION SITE UPGRADE

The migration of book and journal sites on the Lyell Collection to an upgraded platform has been successfully completed. All sites, with the exception of Petroleum Geoscience (to follow in the (northern) spring), are now redesigned and on HighWire Press' H2O platform. The "umbrella page" from which all Lyell titles can be accessed has also been redesigned.

<http://www.lyellcollection.org/>

To subscribe please use the following contacts:

- In UK and Europe contact Accucoms: geologicalsociety@accucoms.com
- In North American contact PCG: geologicalsociety@pcgplus.com
- In the rest of the world contact: sales@geolsoc.org.uk



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF GEOSCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

A paper was recently published on "[Improving the quality of geoscientific information](#)" by Matt Yacopetti and Stephen Mundell as part of the Bowen Basin Symposium 2010 'Back in the Black' Proceedings volume.

It has been reproduced on the AGIA site with the permission of the Authors (<http://www.acquire.com.au/>) and the [Geological Society of Australia - Coal Geology Group](#).

NEW HOME FOR GEMPET – YOUR HELP NEEDED!

The rights to publishing and managing the GeMPet Thesaurus (previously the AMF Thesaurus) have recently been purchased by the Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA) after the previous owners, Chartered Information Services, decided to move out of geoscience information.

As a thesaurus is an evolving document, the GSWA would like to establish contact with all users of the thesaurus so that proposed term changes can be discussed and disseminated.

Please email robin.bower@dmp.wa.gov.au with your contact details if you are a user of the GeMPet Thesaurus.



AUSTRALIAN GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION ASSOCIATION INC.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2010–11

<p><u>PRESIDENT</u> MARGARET ELLIS Coordinator Exploration Incentive Scheme, GSWA, Department of Industry and Resources, 100 Plain Street, EAST PERTH WA 6004 PH: (08) 9222 3509 FAX: (08) 9222 3893 Email: margaret.ellis@dmp.wa.gov.au</p>	<p><u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u> LIZ AMANN BHP Billiton Nickel West Central Park Level 17, 152–156 St Georges Tce PERTH WA 6000 PH: (08) 6274 1339 FAX: (08) 6274 1339 Email: elizabeth.amann@bhpbilliton.com</p>
<p><u>SECRETARY</u> LYN TROUCHET Barrick Gold of Australia Limited Level 10/2 Mill Street PERTH WA 6000 PH: (08) 9212 5880 FAX: (08) 9322 5700 Email: Ltrouche@barrick.com</p>	<p><u>TREASURER</u> ANNE PHILLIPS Information Management Officer Nido Petroleum Limited Level 3, 1 Preston Street COMO WA 6152 PH: (08) 9474 0011 FAX: (08) 9474 0099 Email: APhillips@nido.com.au</p>
<p><u>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</u> KERRY SMITH Head, Department of Information Studies School of Media, Culture & Creative Arts Curtin University of Technology GPO Box U1987, PERTH WA 6845 PH: (08) 9266 7217 FAX: (08) 9266 3152 Email: k.smith@curtin.edu.au</p>	<p><u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</u> JENNY MIKUCKI RMIA Project Manager, Chevron Australia Pty Ltd L3, QV1, 250 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6000 PH: (08) 9485 5176 FAX: (08) 9216 4353 Email: jenny.mikucki@chevron.com</p>
<p><u>COMMITTEE MEMBER</u> CAMILLE PETERS Information Officer Apache Energy Ltd 100 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6000 PO Box 477 WEST PERTH WA 6872 PH: (08) 6218 7253, FAX: (08) 6218 7200 Email: camille.peters@apachecorp.com</p>	<p><u>COMMITTEE MEMBER</u> ANGELA RIGANTI WA Geology Online Content Manager GSWA, Department of Industry and Resources, 100 Plain Street, EAST PERTH WA 6004 PH: (08) 9222 3063 FAX: (08) 9222 3633 Email: angela.riganti@dmp.wa.gov.au</p>
<p><u>AGC REPRESENTATIVES</u> MARGARET ELLIS, LIZ AMANN</p>	