



The Great Australian Byte

The Newsletter of the Australian Geoscience Information Association (Inc)
June 2007, Volume 8 Part 1 ISSN 1325-3700

AGIA AGM

AGIA National AGM to be held at Brass Monkey (upstairs function rooms) with Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members, Summary of years events. Please join us for dinner afterwards

Date: Wed, 20th June
Time: 5.30pm for 6.00pm start
Venue: Brass Monkey, Williams Street, Northbridge
Cost: a la carte ordering
RSVP: to Lyn Trouchet Ltrouchet@Barrick.com

Summary of the 2006/07 year

- This year we have been busy raising the profile of AGIA by ensuring that the interests of AGIA Members are represented on committees such as the AGC. One outcome of particular significance is the commitment that AGC and its member societies (GSA, AIG, AUSIMM, ASEG, PESA, AAG, AGIA, IAH and AQA) have made to participate financially and scientifically in the 34th International Geological Congress in August 2012, to be known as AUSTRALIA 2102 (“the Event”).
- AGIA Seminar “*Geoscience Information 101*” was held on 16th March 2007 at CSIRO Floreat Park, Perth. Primarily pitched at the new geoscience researcher. See further details and links to abstracts in Newsletter
- GSA - affiliated membership finalised
- AIG approaches regarding membership alliances
- AESIS – progressing towards making it available via AusGeoref

Kind regards
Mari Sell
President
AGIA Inc.



CURTIN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI HONOURS BERNADETTE WAUGH

Dear colleagues and friends of Bernadette (Bernie)

Curtin University Information Studies Alumni committee have organised a special dinner for our much respected colleague Bernadette Waugh. Bernadette will retire in July 2007 from libraries and more particularly the CSIRO library at Floreat Park, WA. She is particularly remembered for her endless courtesy, good humour, willing support of students, the profession and colleagues. We hope you can come.

DATE: Friday 22 June 2007

TIME : 7 p.m. +

VENUE: Curtin on the Park, Building 104, Curtin University, Bentley WA - see map on Curtin website: http://www.properties.curtin.edu.au/your_campus/maps/. As this is an after hours function, you can park for free in Staff Yellow, Student Green or Visitors car bays.

COST: \$40 per person. Soft drinks and wine are extra.

If you would like a message passed onto Bernadette you can email/send it to Kerry Smith email: k.smith@curtin.edu.au and it will be given to Bernadette. If you wish to speak on the evening, then please let Kerry Smith know so that she can try and fit you in.

RSVP and PAYMENT ESSENTIAL BY TUESDAY 19TH June 2007 to:

Daphnie Wong
Curtin University Alumni
Curtin University of Technology
GPO Box U 1987
PERTH WA 6845.

Money order OR cheque made out to: CURTIN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY.
Please use the booking form available from this link:
<http://alumni.curtin.edu.au/events/documents/InformationStudiesRegistrationForm07.doc>



Here is Bernie being honoured by
AGIA President Mari Sell in December 2006



AGIA WEBSITE

Please visit the AGIA website at <http://agia.org.au/>

If you have suggestions for useful content on our website, then please send feedback to elizabeth.amann@bhpbilliton.com

AGIA Blog

We've had a suggestion to create an AGIA blog... .. members feedback on this suggestion is needed and welcome before we go a head and blog on!

AGIA MEMBERSHIPS

A friendly reminder to those of you who still need to send in your AGIA renewals. The renewals for 2007/8 will be sent out after the upcoming AGM. The current rates are as follows. They may be revised at the AGM if a resolution to do so is put through. This issue is often talked about at National Committee meetings, but has not been acted on to date.

Personal:	\$25
Corporate:	\$75
Student/Retired/Unemployed:	\$15
Overseas:	\$10 extra if airmail postage is required

Payment can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or direct deposit to the AGIA Bank Account. Please contact the Membership Secretary for further details:

Kerry Smith,
Co-ordinator Information Studies
Faculty of Media, Society & Culture
Curtin University of Technology
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AGIA ROUND-UP

AGIA Seminar Report

The AGIA seminar “*Geoscience Information 101*” was held on 16th March 2007 at CSIRO Floreat Park, Perth.

While this seminar was primarily pitched at the new geoscience research student, there was something in it for everyone. We had a good turn out with a mix of industry, university students and government attendees. Papers covered topics including:

- Data management issues – minerals and petroleum;
- Geological Survey WA data
- Geoscience information on the Internet and the WWW.

Abstracts have been posted on the AGIA website at <http://agia.org.au/resources/Seminars/geoinfo101.htm>

SOME AGIA HISTORY: the Occasional Paper series, ISSN 0816 - 6234

It would seem (and Des Tellis or other AGIA stalwarts might correct me on this) that just 4 AGIA Occasional Papers were produced. They tell an interesting history of activities that seems to be missing from the current AGIA agenda.

AGIA Occasional Paper No 1: Richard Young *Geochemical databases: the Western Mining Experience*, AGIA WA Branch Perth 1985. ISBN: 0 949231 02 9

This paper describes a talk Richard gave in which he outlines the history of WMC’s geochemical databases up to that time:

- Version 1 in the 1960s when an IBM 1130 was purchased. Limited disk storage and much of the data on punched cards;
- Version 2: advent of first CYBER computer, more disk storage which enabled reformatting of the data.
- Version 3 “coincided with advent of database technology in the computer industry” (p. 2) and the advent of rigorous data analysis before the data was input.

• The discussion at the end of this seminar is also recorded and included questions on:

- available software packages at the time,
- database structure and management,
- number of transactions to be managed,
- database security,
- linkage to all WMC offices and associated transmission rates and speeds,
- telecommunications, including dedicated or dial up access,
- data integrity.



AGIA Occasional Paper No 2: *Papers presented at the AGIA Map workshop on 24 July 1985 at the Australian Mineral Foundation Adelaide.* AGIA SA Branch, Adelaide, 1986. ISBN: 0 949231 04 5

The three papers were:

- Delhi petroleum map filing system – DRA Owen, Supervising Draftsman, Delhi Petroleum Pty Ltd;
- The need for a central map filing system – J Wilson & C Nagy – SA Dept of Lands, Mapping Branch; and
- A map by any name... - M Foale – map librarian/cartographer, Dept Geography, University of Adelaide.

This collection of three papers is prefaced by the late Lorraine Gerdes, who was AGIA SA President at that time. Lorraine states: “the workshop [was] organized by AGIA to determine how best to index, control and retrieve maps...The workshop initiated a map working group to further address this problem” (p. ii).

AGIA Occasion Paper No 3: *Directory of geoscience information sources for Western Australia* Edited by Stephen Lipple. 2nd edition. AGIA WA Branch, January 1990.

Stephen states in the Introduction: “This directory was first issued in September 1987...This second edition is published as a revision and extension of that first edition” (p.i). [Not only were hardcopies made available for sale, but you could also purchase an IBM compatible (MSDOS) Floppy Disk – “please specify size and density of disk required, (eg. 5 ¼ DSDD)” p..ii].

AGIA Occasional Paper No 4: *Guidelines for geoscience bibliographical databases.* Lorraine Gerdes and Kerry Smith. AGIA, Perth 1990. ISBN: 0 949231 06 1.

The contents were an update of a paper given at AGIA seminar of the 9th Australian Geological Convention of the Geological Society of Australia held in Brisbane in February 1988.

The NOTE makes interesting historical (and possibly meaningless to some of you), reading: “These guidelines were developed and this paper prepared when key publicly-available geoscience databases were mounted on the CLIRS Information Services network by the Australian Resources Industry Database. CLIRS Information Services has now been restructured and renamed Info-One International Pty Ltd and ARID has been renamed GEOPAC” (p. ii).

The document explains that “three bibliographical databases – MINFINDER (NSW Dept Mineral Resources, AESIS – Australian Mineral Foundation and SAMREF – SA Dept Mines and Energy – are currently available on the Info-One International information network” and recommends conformity of data entry to these databases to make them easier to use (p. 1).



Discussion

Are there any lessons to be learnt from these documents? I believe there are. The heady days their contents describe are still with us yet there is very little movement amongst geoscience information professionals to tackle them.

- There was **considerable professional commitment** to AGIA from across Australia. This meant that AGIA could hold national and state seminars involving the variety in its membership such that issues of common interest which spread across discipline boundaries could be worked on.
- As well as the Occasional paper series, AGIA also produced, often in partnership, or tagging along side the AMF, conference and seminar proceedings. These **records of papers given at professional meetings** were much more than the power point slides we now see on the AGIA website. The papers contained real information that could be referred to, learnt from and referenced. This facility has gone. Should we bring it back? In another role, I am being told that speakers do not “have the time to write a formal paper” and that one is even lucky to obtain a set of power point slides. They might be adequate for product reviews, but what about the issues where some academic thought is required? How do we know the flavour of the speaker’s intellectual direction with a series of dot points?
- The AMF and its **facilitating capacity** has gone. Much of this responsibility now falls on the shoulders of the professional associations like AGIA and numbers are dwindling through lack of professional interest amongst upcoming geoscience and information professionals. There appears to be very little professional dialogue between national agency/ies and groups like AGIA – Geoscience Australia has decided not to be a member. The Geological Survey of WA is the only state agency with AGIA membership. What is going on?

Conclusion

Is there a conclusion? I hope not. AGIA has put its name forward to organise/participate in a session/seminar on geoscience information at the 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention in Perth WA. If the event comes to pass it should offer an opportunity to get some thinking back into geoscience information and some papers into a new AGIA Occasional Paper.

Kerry Smith
AGIA Membership Secretary



UPCOMING EVENTS

AGIA AGM!

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Apologies to our Eastern states members who might not be able to fly over for this happy occasion!

Winter Breakfast

TBA – in July somewhere warm and cosy

ADVANCED NOTICE – mark your diaries now!

AGC 2008

19th AGC – Australian Earth Sciences Convention 2008, Perth 20-24 July 2008

The Australian Earth Sciences Convention 2008 will be held in Perth, Western Australia – during International Year of Planet Earth – to highlight Australian geosciences in a global context. Held in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Geoscientists, expert international speakers at the 2008 convention will feature in a program created to address contemporary world Earth science issues. More details at <http://www.gsa.org.au/events.html>

AGIA will be presenting a session at the AGC - **"Solid as a rock: issues in geoscience information"**



SNIP'ITS

Gibb Maitland Medallist 2007

The Geological Society of Australia, WA Division Committee awarded that the 2007 Gibb Maitland Medallist to Dr Peter Eadington, Team Leader of Fluid Inclusion Technologies at CSIRO Petroleum.

Dr Eadington has developed an innovative suite of techniques based on fluid inclusion analysis that reveal the step-wise fill history of petroleum which has led to important new insights into oil migration and time-specific fluid histories, enabling reconstruction of past migration events, including filling and leakage of reservoirs, and identification of generative source rock horizons. Application of these techniques allows basin prospectivity and exploration risks to be more clearly recognised and evaluated, and is acknowledged to have contributed to new discoveries and increased production. The Fluid History Analysis technology developed by Dr Eadington and his team has been widely adopted by the petroleum exploration industry in Western Australia, and is now routinely used in the evaluation of exploration wells both onshore and offshore in the Canning, Officer and Perth Basins, North West Shelf and the Vulcan sub basin of the Timor Sea. It is also applied extensively elsewhere, both in Australia and internationally (inter alia New Zealand, Canada, India, Brazil and the North Sea). The technology has been documented by a number of well-cited publications and three patents.

The Lyell Collection, Geological Society of London

The Geological Society of London launched a major new online resource for the worldwide Earth Science community - the Lyell Collection, in May 2007. It represents the combined current and archive content of the Society's own journals, Special Publications and key book series. Over 14,000 original research articles and 230,000 full-text pages are included in the Collection, which are hosted on HighWire Press. Libraries can purchase the Lyell Collection for an annual subscription charge, the first full subscription year being 2008. There will be free trial access during the summer, and libraries subscribing in 2007 will receive full access from September. Full details are available at www.geolsoc.org.uk/lyellcollection.

To register for updates and news on the launch of the Lyell Collection, please send an email to 2007@geolsoc.org.uk

British Library Partners in Development of Science World (from Online Currents, 2007, v. 21, p. 261.)

In January 2007, the United State Department of Energy (DOE) (<http://www.osti.gov>) and the British Library (<http://www.bl.uk>) signed an agreement to collaborate on the development of a global science gateway. The gateway will eventually make science information of many nations accessible via a single internet portal. The gateway.... is to be called *Science.world*....and will follow the model of *Science.gov*.



GeoRef Usage

American Geological Institute (AGI) posted the following on GEONET.....

“GeoRef receives usage data from some of the GeoRef vendors and while we don't receive much in terms of detailed user-by-user analysis, we do receive some combined usage data.

....[and] we decided to take a closer look at data from the last three years. We were able to compare the combined usage for the first four months of 2004 with the same period in 2006 using search query totals for approximately 150 institutions and 15 consortia. We calculated the average number of search queries by institution for each month. We found that the average had increased by about 200% during this time period. Meaning that, on average, usage of GeoRef when measured by number of search queries within an institution roughly doubled.

Because our data is combined across many institutions, we could only do very general calculations. We can't determine if usage trends vary by type or size of institution or even by platform or interface. We also don't know if the number of search queries is a good measure of database usage. However, we thought it might be of interest in light of the Geonet discussion.

Regards,

Sharon Tahirkheli

Director, Information Systems (GeoRef)

Manager, Cold Regions Bibliography Project American Geological Institute

snt@agiweb.org

AGU Makes Research Available Sooner – email 3 April 2007

Beginning 2 April 2007, AGU journal articles will be posted within days of acceptance making new research results available sooner. With the introduction of *Papers in Press*, online library subscribers can access the PDF files of accepted manuscripts prior to copy editing and formatting. Articles at this stage are considered “in press” and are citable with the DOI for future linking. Each AGU journal has its own list of *Papers in Press* updated daily; these article listings can be sorted by first author or by date of acceptance. Navigation to *Papers in Press* will be on the top page of each journal.

Papers in Press content does not have any of the enhancements or features of the final articles. Open abstracts, reference links, animations, and supporting materials become available upon publication, at which time the “in press” article is removed from the site. For more information on *Papers in Press*, visit

www.agu.org/pubs/pip.html

Nina Tristani

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Web Sites & Mailing Lists of Interest

Information Online 2007

30 January – 1 February 2007, Sydney NSW

Abstracts available

<http://www.information-online.com.au/>

WAIN mailing list

WAIN@lists.curtin.edu.au

<https://lists.curtin.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/wain>

GEONET

- Geonet mailing list: Geonet@purdue.edu
- <https://lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/geonet>

GEONET: Outstanding web site, 2007 winner

The GSIS Web Site Committee awarded Ocean World: <http://oceanworld.tamu.edu/>

the winner of their Outstanding Web Site Award for 2007. GSIS chose this site because it had an impressive array of visuals, informative sections on an interesting variety of ocean-related topics as well as easy and straightforward navigation.

For more information about the Outstanding Web Site Award please see:

<http://www.geoinfo.org/bestwebsite.html>

GSA Geoinformatics Division

Have any of you joined the new GSA Geoinformatics Division?

http://geoinformatics.sdsc.edu/gsa_division/

"The Division actively promotes and sponsors short courses, symposia and Special Publications that emphasize [sic] information technology supported discovery and integration of geoscience data..."

They are proposing several sessions at GSA for

2007: http://geoinformatics.sdsc.edu/gsa_division/news/GSA07_sessions.html



Upcoming Conferences

11&12 July 2007

2007 World Conference on Science and Technology Education, Sheraton Perth, WA

Web: www.worldste2007.asn.au/

Email: STE2007@congresswest.com.au

22 June 2007

Google Earth Workshop, Melbourne

brochures and registrations forms contact Jacinta Green at training@crcsi.com.au

or visit the website at <http://www.crcsi.ecampus.com.au/course/category.php?id=2>

18 July 2007

3rd AWA Water Reuse and Recycling Conference , The University of New South Wales, Sydney

Web: <http://www.cwwt.unsw.edu.au/reuse07>

23-25 July 2007

Mining Infrastructure Summit 2007 , Medina Grand Hotel, Perth, Western Australia

Web: www.lawfinance.com.au/OPM/index.htm

Email: eureka@TonkinCorporation.com

25-26 July 2007

Australian Uranium Conference, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia

Web: www.verticalevents.com.au/uranium

29 July- 6 August 2007

International Union for Quaternary Research, Cairns, Australia

Web: www.ansto.gov.au

1-2 August 2007

3rd Annual Hot Rock Energy Conference, Stamford Grand, Adelaide, South Australia

Web: www.informa.com.au/hotrockenergy

Contact: registration@informa.com.au

20-22 August 2007

Iron Ore 2007, Sheraton Hotel, Perth, Western Australia

Web: www.ausimm.com/main/ironore2007

Contact: [Alison McKenzie](mailto:AlisonMcKenzie)

20-24 July 2008

19th AGC – Australian Earth Sciences Convention 2008, Perth

Web: <http://www.gsa.org.au/events.html>



Australian Geoscience Information Association Inc.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
2005/06

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