



# The Great Australian Byte

*The Newsletter of the Australian Geoscience Information Association (Inc)*  
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**STOP PRESS**

## *The Autumn Breakfast*

Planned for 7:30 am  
Tuesday 3 June 2008  
has been cancelled.

Watch our website and newsletter for news of the next  
breakfast, planned for spring 2008!



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AGIA is a member of the Australian Geoscience Council



## AGIA EASTER BREAKFAST

The AGIA 2008 Easter Breakfast was held on Tuesday 18 March 2008 at the Etro Bistro in Shafto Lane, Perth in their al fresco dining area on the first floor, overlooking the lane.

The breakfast was a well-attended and pleasant affair with lots of animated discussion, and an excellent talk by John Tropea entitled "Knowledge management as an Ecosystem".

John spoke about the "organic" nature of the knowledge management community, and about how we are all part of the knowledge management system. To have a truly efficient and effective system, we need to recognise and reward those people who share information freely, not hoard it to themselves and use it as a source of power, which is what most businesses currently reward their staff for. We need to make use of all the tools that are available, or that are currently being developed, to share and communicate with our fellow workers, across the industries, as well as up and down the hierarchies that we work in. People need to share what they know, so they can be used as sources of knowledge when others are looking for assistance. The wider we share, the more effective we become.

The breakfast finished with thanks from the President, Liz Amann, to John for his interesting and thought provoking talk, which prompted many questions and later discussion from the audience. Thanks John!



John Tropea at Etro Bistro for the AGIA Easter Breakfast



John Tropea emphasizing a point

Liz introduces John



## AGIA BREAKFAST SERIES CALENDAR

The Easter breakfast was great! Come along and enjoy these events too!

Event	Date	Time	Venue	Speaker	Topic
Winter Warmer	7 Aug 2007	7.30am	eCucina, Hay Street, Perth	Jon Hronsky	"Competing with the big boys! " access to information & access inequities
Spring	16 Oct 2007	7.30am	Miss Mauds	Kerri Staples	"Deploying EDM: Mining & Resources..."
Christmas	4 Dec 2007	7.30am	Bell's Café Barrack Street Perth	No speaker	Xmas get together
Easter	18 Mar 2008	7.30am	Etro Bistro	John Tropea	" Knowledge management as an ecosystem"
Autumn	3 June 2008	7.30am	Bell's Café Barrack Street Jetty		Networking (no speaker)

## AESIS BOOSTS AusGeoRef

AusGeoRef is a bibliographic geoscience database that covers the Australian Geoscience, Minerals and Petroleum literature since 1840. In 2003, the American Geological Institute and Geoscience Australia began a cooperative arrangement to improve the coverage of Australian publications in GeoRef and makes this database available by subscription to organizations and companies.

References from the Australian Earth Science Information Service (AESIS) database have been added to the AusGeoRef database. The AESIS database was a complete index to all available Australian information written by an Australian or about Australia or Papua New Guinea covering the period from 1851 through 2001. The AESIS references complement the world's most comprehensive source of geoscience information regarding Australia.

Developed and maintained by the Australian Mineral Foundation (AMF), AESIS was Australia's leading geoscience, mineral and petroleum database until late 2001 when the AMF ceased operations. In 2003, the Australian Geoscience Information Association (AGIA, SA) acquired AESIS, and began working with GA to facilitate the inclusion of AESIS references into AusGeoRef.

AusGeoRef now includes more than 170,000 bibliographic references on Australia — with more than 74,000 new references incorporated from AESIS. It will provide greater coverage of geoscience literature specific to Australia (including the Antarctic regions) and Papua New Guinea. Many of the additional references relate to mining, mineral processing, mineral resources, and environmental protection. The references are drawn from the journal literature, meeting proceedings and abstracts, books, reports and maps. The database is updated on a weekly basis.

AusGeoRef, and its parent database, GeoRef, have a combined global subscription of over 1200. Of these, most are universities, research organisations and companies with multiple-access subscriptions. References contain complete bibliographic information and URLs for documents published on the web. Thorough indexing, based on the controlled vocabulary found in the GeoRef Thesaurus, is included. Specific geographic locations are listed as place names, and, for principal locations, latitude and longitude are provided.

Learn more about [AusGeoRef](http://www.agiweb.org/georef/ausgeoref/index.html) or sign up for a free 30-day trial subscription on the Geoscience Australia website: <http://www.agiweb.org/georef/ausgeoref/index.html>.



Thanks to Mary Teague of Geoscience Australia and Julie Roberts of Santos for bringing this to our attention. Text modified from Geoscience Australia website



## **UPCOMING AGIA EVENTS**

### **AGIA AGM**

The AGIA AGM will be held on Tuesday 16 September 2008 at the Brass Monkey in Northbridge, commencing 6:30pm. The meeting will be followed by dinner in the restaurant. Put it in your calendar now!

## **FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

### **YOUR NEW EDITOR HAS MOVED**

I've moved from GSWA to Chevron Australia. See the new contact details below and at the end of the newsletter.

I could really do with some articles for the newsletter, so if you have any suggestions, or something to share with fellow AGIA members, please contact me or another member of the committee.

### **AGIA'S WEBSITE GETS A REVAMP**

We have recently updated the AGIA website, but it is still a work in progress. We are currently reviewing the content and format of our website (<http://www.agia.org.au/>). If you have any suggestions on how the site can be improved, or want to see a particular type of content, please forward your suggestions to me or another member of the committee.

**Jenny Mikucki**  
**Chevron Australia Pty Ltd**  
**Ph. 08 9485 5176**  
**Email: [jenny.mikucki@chevron.com](mailto:jenny.mikucki@chevron.com)**

## **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

It will soon be time to renew your AGIA membership and Membership Secretary Kerry Smith will be sending out the renewal email some time after June. If you missed yours for the current year, or would like to forward the opportunity to join to a colleague, we have included the membership form at the end of this newsletter. The Membership Secretary is:

**Kerry Smith,**  
**Co-ordinator Information Studies**  
**School of Media, Society & Culture**  
**Curtin University of Technology**  
**GPO Box U1987, PERTH WA 6845**  
**PH: (08) 9266 7217**  
**FAX: (08) 9266 3166**  
**Email: [k.smith@curtin.edu.au](mailto:k.smith@curtin.edu.au)**

## WEB SITES & MAILING LISTS OF INTEREST

### WAIN MAILING LIST

[WAIN@lists.curtin.edu.au](mailto:WAIN@lists.curtin.edu.au)

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

### GEONET

- Geonet mailing list: [Geonet@purdue.edu](mailto:Geonet@purdue.edu)
- <https://lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/geonet>

### GSA GEOINFORMATICS DIVISION

Have any of you joined the new GSA Geoinformatics Division?

[http://geoinformatics.sdsc.edu/gsa\\_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..."

### SNIP'ITS

#### GEMPET

Have you purchased a copy of GeMPeT (The Geoscience, Minerals and Petroleum Thesaurus)?

If you're not using GeMPeT and are looking for a controlled vocabulary to assist with managing your Geoscience information, please go to

<http://www.chartedinfo.com.au/thesaurus.html>.

Jane Edinger

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH HAS ARRIVED



The International Year of Planet Earth aims to capture people's imagination with the exciting knowledge we possess about our planet, and to see that knowledge used to make the Earth a safer, healthier and wealthier place for our children and grandchildren. It's not too late to get involved.

<http://yearofplanetearth.org/index.html>



## DATA METALLOGENICA ADDITIONS

AMIRA International's Data Metallogenica project has added the Australian Geoscience Thesis Database (over 10,000 entries, including over 50 theses on Canada and the USA) to its list of offerings. It has also upgraded many aspects of its commodity and deposits database. <http://www.datametallogenica.com/>

## NEW JOURNAL FROM NATURE

Nature has launched Nature Geoscience, a monthly multi-disciplinary journal aimed at bringing together top-quality research across the entire spectrum of the Earth Sciences along with relevant work in related areas. <http://www.nature.com/ngeo/index.html>



You can subscribe online now.

## WHAT OUR USA GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION COLLEAGUES ARE UP TO

The USA "Geoneters" are preparing their abstracts for the Geoscience Information Society's (GSIS) oral and poster topical sessions of this year's Geological Society of America meeting in Houston, Texas October 5-9, 2008.

<https://www.acsmeeetings.org/2008/>

Abstracts for oral, poster, or both can be submitted online at <http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2008AM/index.epl>

### 2008 Oral Session Theme:

T198: "Libraries in Transformation: Exploring Topics of Changing Practices and New Technologies"

<http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2008AM/index.epl>

How Geoscience information is created, disseminated, organized, accessed, used and archived is rapidly changing. This session will discuss the practical, theoretical and technological way in which libraries have "transformed" in response to this change?

Questions being considered:

- How are data issues in the Geosciences being addressed?
- What new technologies will help libraries organize data better?
- How are print archives of books, maps, and journals being preserved and made accessible in new ways?



- Do electronic databases and digital sources change the teaching, learning, and understanding of information?
- How are researchers and information seekers adapting to the changing practices of the Geoscience library?
- How has your library transformed itself to stay in touch with your users needs?

**2008 Posters Session Theme:**

T199: "Moving Mountains: Data Mining and Digital Repositories in the Geosciences" <http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2008AM/index.epl>

Researchers in the Geosciences are continuously uncovering important discoveries in their quest toward understanding our planet. We address the issues of storing and accessing the vast amounts of information from the past, present, and future.

Examples of efforts include the creation of an institutional repository; the digitization of archives and journals, books, maps; the management of data sets and/or GIS information; the mining of digital libraries, databases and web pages; or the reuse/recycling of Geoscience data for new research and learning.

Their contact is:

**Lisa Johnston**

**Physics, Astronomy and Geology Librarian Walter Library 108 University of Minnesota**

**PH: 612 624.4216**

**FAX: 612.625.5583**

## **UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA**

### **33RD IGC — INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS, OSLO, 2008**

There is a category for Geoscience Information. <http://www.33igc.org/>  
(downloads: Programme updates and circulars> Science Programme Division 10.04.08)

**Important Dates:**

**30 April 2008:** End of early registration and payment (€560/410) – extended from original date of 15 April!

**May 2008:** Detailed program on the web – Final timetable for the program

**15 July 2008:** End of intermediately priced registration (€610/460)

**After 15 July 2008:** Registration fee €660/510

**July 2008:** Abstracts available on the website

**August 2008:** Program (hard copy) and Abstracts (CD) for all participants



**19<sup>TH</sup> AGC — AUSTRALIAN EARTH SCIENCE CONVENTION  
2008, PERTH CONVENTION CENTRE, 20–24 JULY 2008**

A pleasing number of abstracts has been received for the Geoscience Information session for this conference and you are urged to attend, if not the whole conference, then this session. The provisional program is available from the conference website and is subject to change.

<http://www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008/program.html>

The Geoscience Information session will be all day Tuesday 22 July 2008 and speakers listed to date are:



<b>KEYNOTE — Robert Woodcock</b>	CSIRO ARRC Perth	<b>Auscope: earth science information infrastructure for Australia</b>
<b>Adele Seymon</b>	GeoScience Victoria	<b>The Australian mineral occurrence data exchange model</b>
<b>Elizabeth Amann<sup>1</sup>, Sue Grennan<sup>1</sup>, &amp; Margaret Ellis<sup>2</sup></b>	BHP Billiton <sup>1</sup> Geological Survey of WA <sup>2</sup>	<b>From takeover to take off: Issues in managing data transfers and migration in the current frenetic M&amp;A environment</b>
<b>Dr Ian Lambert</b>	Geoscience Australia	<b>The 34th International Geological Congress: progress and prospects</b>
<b>Dr. Jon Fawcett</b>	Department Of Primary Industries, Vic	<b>Joining forces for (geoscience) knowledge - Groundwater and mineral exploration, same approach, different targets</b>
<b>Dr Jon Fawcett</b>	Department Of Primary Industries, Vic	<b>Application of mineral exploration mapping tools and concepts to groundwater resource evaluation</b>
<b>Alexandra Stevens</b>	Department Of Applied Geology Curtin University	<b>Coastal Geographic Information System for the Northern Agricultural Region of the Western Australian Coast</b>
<b>Dr June Hill</b>	CSIRO Petroleum	<b>Geosyntax: a new computing language for geology data</b>
<b>Bruce Simons</b>	GeoScience Victoria	<b>The GeoSciML logical data model of geological concepts</b>
<b>Keith Sircombe</b>	Geoscience Australia	<b>A prototype information model and markup language for geochemical and geochronological information</b>
<b>Chris Kojan</b>	Geological Survey of WA	<b>The role of land use geoscience in urban planning and development in the Goldfields of Western Australia</b>
<b>Stuart Robertson</b>	Geological Survey Branch, PIRSA Minerals & Energy	<b>Resource mapping: a key ingredient for the mineral resources and development balancing act in South Australia</b>
<b>Dr Lee Hassan</b>	Geological Survey of WA	<b>Mineral potential mapping: geoscientific advice for public policy — an example from Western Australia</b>
<b>Warren Ormsby</b>	Geological Survey of WA	<b>Titanium-zircon minerals: using geoscience in Western Australia to ensure future resource extraction</b>

**Kerry Smith**



**AUSTRALIAN GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION ASSOCIATION INC.  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2007–08**

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<p><b><u>AGC REPRESENTATIVES</u></b></p> <p><b>LIZ AMANN, MARGARET ELLIS</b></p>	



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2007–08

**Dear colleague**

Your membership to AGIA is due for renewal. The membership year is from 1 July to 30 June. Subscriptions are payable by September 30. Subscription rates include receipt of the AGIA newsletter. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in geoscience, minerals or petroleum information. The fees are:

\$25.00 Personal;                      \$75.00 Corporate;                      \$15.00 Student/Retired/Unemployed

**The National Committee** Western Australia now has responsibility for the National Committee which rotates among the branches, for a maximum of three years. The National Committee members are:

**President**                                      Liz Amann, Senior Information Researcher, BHP Billiton - Minerals

**Vice-President**                                Margaret Ellis, Manager – Exploration Data, WA Dept. Industry & Resources

**Acting Secretary**                             Lyn Trouchet, Records Manager, Barrick Gold Australia Ltd

**Treasurer**                                      Sue Grennan, Information Consultant, BHP Billiton - Petroleum

**Editor**     Jenny Mikucki, WA Dept Industry and Resources

and representatives from each of the Branches.

Ex-officio members are the retiring President and until its demise, the Australian Mineral Foundation. National Committee members include a Membership Secretary: Kerry Smith, Curtin University; Sue Cook, CSIRO and Rose Hockley from BHP Billiton.

AGIA's activities include:

- the AGIA website at: <http://www.agia.org.au>
- the AGIA newsletter *The Great Australian Byte* which informally communicates topics of interest and the activities of the National Committee and the Branches;
- geoscience information seminars;
- collaborative social gatherings and events in conjunction with conferences
- a session at the Australian Earth Sciences Convention, 2008 in Perth "Solid as a rock: issues in geoscience information".

**Objectives:** The Australian Geoscience Information Association (AGIA) was formed at a Geoscience Information Seminar in Adelaide in 1975 and has since grown in size and scope, with members all over Australia and overseas. Its aims are to:

- Initiate, aid and improve the exchange of information in the geoscience, minerals, petroleum and related subject areas.
- Encourage mutual co-operation among users and processors of this information.
- Maintain links between members and geoscience information organisations throughout Australia and overseas.

**Advisory Role:** AGIA is represented on the Australian Geoscience Council and provides advice and comment to various other government and industry groups

**General enquiries:** Lyn Trouchet, A/Secretary, AGIA

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
2007/2008

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