



# The Great Australian Byte

*The Newsletter of the Australian Geoscience Information Association (Inc)*  
November 2008, Volume 9 Part 2 ISSN 1325-3700

## *Get connected at the AGIA Christmas Breakfast*

7:30 am  
Tuesday 9 December 2008

Bell's Cafe  
Barrack Street Jetty, Perth foreshore



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

Order and pay individually at the counter on arrival or pre-order by contacting Bells Café direct on (08) 9221 3703 or faxing them on 9442 7006 making sure you include details of the event date and time (please also RSVP to Lyn for the head count if you pre-order).  
Bells' Summer Menu is posted to the AGIA website at [www.agia.org.au](http://www.agia.org.au).

**Make the most of this fantastic networking opportunity to meet new people in the geoscience information community**



## CONTENTS

AGIA AGM outcome .....	3
Upcoming AGIA events .....	4
From the newsletter editor .....	4
Book Review .....	5
Upcoming conferences and symposia .....	6
Web sites & mailing lists of interest .....	7
Snip'its .....	8
National committee 2008–09 .....	9

AGIA is a member of the Australian Geoscience Council



## AGIA AGM OUTCOME

The AGIA AGM was held on Tuesday 16 September 2008 at the Brass Monkey in Northbridge, commencing 6:30pm.

Two Special Resolutions were proposed and passed unanimously:

1. Since there are insufficient members in other states to constitute a National Committee for the next three years, it is recommended that Western Australia continue with the National Committee for a further 3 years.

2. It has been many years since the membership fees have been reviewed. It is therefore recommended that following fees be adopted from the 2009/2010 membership year:

Personal members	\$50
Corporate members (in accordance with the AGIA Constitution, corporate members need to nominate one contact)	\$150
Student/Unemployed/Retired members	\$20
Life members	no charge

The draft minutes of the meeting have been posted to the AGIA website:

[http://www.agia.org.au/AGM/AGIA\\_AGM\\_2008\\_minutes.pdf](http://www.agia.org.au/AGM/AGIA_AGM_2008_minutes.pdf).

The meeting was followed by dinner in the restaurant where we enjoyed an excellent grill menu including Monkey's Chunkies! (potato wedges)



Attendees of the AGIA AGM dinner: LHS, front to back — Sue Grennan, Ray Smith, Kerry Smith; RHS, front to back — Liz Amann, Jenny Mikucki, Anne Phillips, Lyn Trouchet (apologies for poor picture quality!)



## UPCOMING AGIA EVENTS

### AUSTRALIAN GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION ASSN (AGIA) INC. GET TOGETHER OVER DINNER WHILST AT THE INFORMATION ONLINE 2009 CONFERENCE

In keeping with the longstanding AGIA tradition that we organise an AGIA get together at the Information Online conference, we propose that we meet for dinner after the conference welcome drinks on the only free evening: Tuesday 20th January, 2009. The dinner will be held at a restaurant in Darling Harbour. Please email Kerry Smith ([k.smith@curtin.edu.au](mailto:k.smith@curtin.edu.au)) with your wish to attend this AGIA dinner by MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2009 so that a table can be booked and you are advised of the venue. Each person will pay for their own meal and drinks. Kerry will also place a notice on the Conference Notice Board to advise the venue, so please check it when you register for the conference.

### AGIA BREAKFAST SERIES CALENDAR

Event	Date	Time	Venue	Speaker	Topic
Christmas	9 Dec 2008	7.30am	Bell's Café Barrack Street Jetty	No speaker	Xmas get-together
Summer	17 Feb 2009	7.30am	Miss Maud's	TBA	TBA
Easter	?7 April 2009	7.30am			

### FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I could really do with some articles for the newsletter and items for the website, so if you have any suggestions, or something to share with fellow AGIA members, please contact 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)



## BOOK REVIEW

### INTEGRATING GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS INTO LIBRARY SERVICES: A GUIDE FOR ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Abresch, J., Hanson, A., Heron, S.J., & Reehling, P.J. (2008). *Integrating Geographic information systems into library services: a guide for academic libraries*. Hershey, PA, USA: Information Science Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-59904-726-3. US\$99.95 hard cover.

Geographic information systems (GIS) works pervade the geoscience information domain, but how knowledgeable are today's geoscience librarians when it comes to the management of this new data form? The move from the paper representation of the map to multi-layered computerized representations as shown in GIS systems is a paradigm shift for all who work in this domain and that paradigm needs to be grasped by the information professionals who work with GIS.

Patrick McGlamery, well known to those in map librarianship circles for his long standing involvement, offers in his Foreword to the title:

"(t)his book provides a vocabulary for discussing how to build and manage digital spatial data collections in libraries, integrating traditional map librarianship and contemporary issues in digital librarianship. Augmenting the services of the map library, GIS, a geospatial database management system, has uses that transcend the paper map." (p. ix)

Many large academic libraries have moved into this world, as the examples given throughout the title show. *Integrating Geographic information systems into library services: a guide for academic libraries* is true to its title, although I might have added "USA" before *academic libraries* as the majority of examples and case studies are peculiar to the US environment. The authors, all of whom work at the University of South Florida Libraries in the US, take the reader on an incremental journey and it is useful to repeat the chapter headings to explain the title's approach:

Ch. 1: Geography and Librarianship

Ch. II: Information economy and geospatial information

Ch. III: Spatial databases and data infrastructure

Ch. IV: Describing geospatial information

Ch. V: From print formats to digital: describing GIS data standards

Ch VI: Accessibility: critical GIS, ontologies, and semantics

Ch. VII: Reference services

Ch. VIII: Collection management issues with geospatial information

Ch. IX: Geographic information and library education

Ch. X: What the future holds

Each chapter is of value as its contents bring us up to date quickly with the history and developments in the GIS field: and these are many, various and acronym prolific. We also learn of the many and significant developments over time and through committee work of the GIS discipline and its standards environment. Of particular interest to library professionals is Chapter IV on geospatial description. The library world is currently contemplating the adoption



of resource description analysis (RDA) to replace the cataloguing rules of AACR2 and revisions. RDA will give a much more comprehensive approach to resource description than in the past. But how does this new and detailed approach compare with the numerous entities that might need to be captured in a GIS “product”? Table 7 in Chapter V: “...describing GIS data standards”, lists metadata section attributes, yet Appendix 1 in the same chapter lists 5 pages of the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) and the concluding remarks to this chapter advise us that these are in need of revision.

The legal implications for managing GIS data are covered in Chapter VIII on collection management. It is nice to see that Australian George Cho’s work is used and acknowledged for some aspects of this troublesome area. Licensing agreements for the data, as well as attribution, public domain vs public sector data and redistribution rights are just some of the other issues covered here. And we need to remember that in the area of the public domain, the US situation could be quite different to that in Australia.

One of the most refreshing aspects of the book is its seamless integration of this wholly digital domain into the field of librarianship. This is not yet another title about digital copies of books, but about a truly digital approach to an information source that is valuable, ubiquitous and exciting. The title is aimed at academic libraries, yet as the authors state “(l)ibrarians with their traditional skills of information collection, description, organization, and dissemination, can provide a more holistic experience for the community of digital library users” (p. 279). But they must enter a brave new world to do this.

This title is most comprehensive and provides a necessary learning tool for those who venture into this exciting digital library domain. The title is a must for those library schools that provide curriculum in the digital library domain since it expands considerably on the digital library horizons for the library profession.

**Dr Kerry Smith**  
**Curtin University of Technology**  
**November 2008**



**FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE**  
**BEST WISHES FOR 2009!**



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

### [INFORMATION ONLINE 2009](#)

ALIA 14<sup>TH</sup> EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE, SYDNEY CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, 20-22 JANUARY 2009

### [ASEG 09](#)

20<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE, 22-25 FEBRUARY 2009

Brighter – Deeper – Greener – Geophysics in a Changing Environment

### [APPEA 2009](#)

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION, DARWIN, MAY 2009

### [SGA 2009](#)

SMART SCIENCE FOR EXPLORATION AND MINING, TOWNSVILLE, 17-20 AUGUST 2009.

### [34<sup>TH</sup> IGC](#)

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

## WEB SITES & MAILING LISTS OF INTEREST

### PROCEEDINGS OF “REINVENTING SCIENCE LIBRARIANSHIP: MODELS FOR THE FUTURE, OCTOBER 2008”

Proceedings from the ARL/CNI Fall Forum, Arlington, Virginia, USA

This site contains some very interesting stuff on science libraries. Presentation slides and audio are available for most items. [Link to Proceedings online](#)

### 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..."

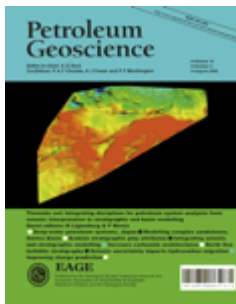


## SNIP'ITS

### GEOINFORMATICS CLOSING IN PERTH

Geoinformatics Exploration Inc. closed its Perth office at the end of October. The only office is now in Vancouver.

### PETROLEUM GEOSCIENCE JOURNAL LAUNCHES ON GEOSCIENCEWORLD



GeoscienceWorld has announced the addition of *Petroleum Geoscience* to the GSW family of journals. For more information, see their news release here:

<http://www.geoscienceworld.org/misc/news.dtl>.

Currently available as a free trial!

### DATA METALLOGENICA ARTICLE IN TAG

TAG (The Australian Geologist), newsletter of the Geological Society of Australia, recently contained an article on Data Metallogenica by Kerry O'Sullivan of AMIRA International, including reference to the theses they have collected. See Page 11 of the September issue at

<http://www.gsa.org.au/pdfdocuments/publications/TAG148.pdf>

### STANDBY FOR DIGITAL EARTH

Digital Earth is building an online directory where oil and gas professionals can search for energy information, suppliers, and people around the world. Currently in the "build" phase, the Digital Earth platform will launch in late 2008.

More details at: <http://www.digital-earth.com/content/index.php>

You can also read about it in the Digital Energy Journal Nov/Dec issue (p. 10-11):

<http://www.digitalenergyjournal.com/>

### FRIDGE-SIZED TAPE RECORDER COULD CRACK LUNAR MYSTERIES

See the ABC News website for a very interesting article on how a local company, Spectrum Data, one of our corporate members, is retrieving data for NASA using an old computer to read what were thought to be lost Apollo mission tapes. Might have some parallels in the oil and gas industry?

(article dated 10 November 2008)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/11/10/2415393.htm>



AUSTRALIAN GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION ASSOCIATION INC.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2008–09

<p><b><u>PRESIDENT</u></b></p> <p><b>SUE GRENNAN</b>                  BHP Billiton Iron Ore                  Level 5, 225 St Georges Tce                  PERTH WA 6000                  PH: (08) 6224 4039                  FAX: (08) 6224 4088                  Email: <a href="mailto:sue.grennan@bhpbilliton.com">sue.grennan@bhpbilliton.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u></b></p> <p><b>MARGARET ELLIS</b>                  Manager Mineral Exploration Data,                  GSWA,                  Department of Industry and Resources,                  100 Plain Street,                  EAST PERTH WA 6004                  PH: (08) 9222 3509                  FAX: (08) 9222 3893                  Email: <a href="mailto:margaret.ellis@doir.gov.wa.au">margaret.ellis@doir.gov.wa.au</a></p>
<p><b><u>SECRETARY</u></b></p> <p><b>LYN TROUCHET</b>                  Barrick Gold of Australia Limited                  Level 10/2 Mill Street                  PERTH WA 6000                  PH: (08) 9212 5880                  FAX: (08) 9322 5700                  Email: <a href="mailto:Ltrouche@barrick.com">Ltrouche@barrick.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>TREASURER</u></b></p> <p><b>ANNE PHILLIPS</b>                  Information Management Officer                  Nido Petroleum Limited                  Level 3, 1 Preston Street                  COMO WA 6152                  PH: (08) 9474 0000 (general)                  (08) 9474 0011 (direct)                  FAX: (08) 9474 0099                  Email: <a href="mailto:APhillips@nido.com.au">APhillips@nido.com.au</a></p>
<p><b><u>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</u></b></p> <p><b>KERRY SMITH</b>                  Head, Department of Information Studies                  School of Media, Culture &amp; Creative Arts                  Curtin University of Technology                  GPO Box U1987,                  PERTH WA 6845                  PH: (08) 9266 7217                  FAX: (08) 9266 3166                  Email: <a href="mailto:k.smith@curtin.edu.au">k.smith@curtin.edu.au</a></p>	<p><b><u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</u></b></p> <p><b>JENNY MIKUCKI</b>                  RMA Project Manager,                  Chevron Australia Pty Ltd,                  L23, QV1,                  250 St Georges Terrace,                  PERTH WA 6000                  PH: (08) 9485 5176,                  FAX: (08) 9216 4353                  Email: <a href="mailto:jenny.mikucki@chevron.com">jenny.mikucki@chevron.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>COMMITTEE MEMBER</u></b></p> <p><b>LIZ AMANN</b>                  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: <a href="mailto:elizabeth.amann@bhpbilliton.com">elizabeth.amann@bhpbilliton.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>COMMITTEE MEMBER</u></b></p> <p><b>CAMILLE PETERS</b>                  Information Officer                  Apache Energy Ltd                  Level 3                  256 St Georges Terrace                  PERTH WA 6000                  PH: (08) 9422 7253,                  FAX: (08) 9422 7446                  Email: <a href="mailto:camille.peters@aus.apachecorp.com">camille.peters@aus.apachecorp.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>AGC REPRESENTATIVES</u></b></p> <p><b>LIZ AMANN, MARGARET ELLIS</b></p>	