



# The Great Australian Byte

*The Newsletter of the Australian Geoscience Information Association (Inc)*  
September 2007, Volume 8 Part 2 ISSN 1325-3700

## *Spring Breakfast*

Tuesday 16 October 2007

Miss Maud's  
97 Pier Street, Perth  
(near Cnr Pier and Murray Streets)  
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.



Cost: \$25 members / \$30 non-members; RSVP Essential for catering purposes to  
Lyn Trousche: [ltrouche@barrick.com](mailto:ltrouche@barrick.com), ph: 9212-5880

Guest Speaker

## **Kerri Staples**

**Information & Communications Technology (ICT) / Business Systems Manager**  
**Georgiou Group Pty Ltd**

### **Deploying EDRM — Mining & Resources**

Very often the core problem that prevents an organisation or workgroup from functioning efficiently is the lack of access to or awareness of information that exists within the organisation; information that's essentially the "corporate memory". Document and records management systems have evolved to capture all of this, in turn supporting management decision making, assisting peoples transition into roles or projects, mitigating costs incurred from reinventing the wheel, providing opportunities to learn from past mistakes and develop strategies for improvement, and last but certainly not least, securing the organisations position in litigation.

So we're all in agreement that a document and records management system is an essential business tool nowadays. But for those organisations that need to share information with operations located in rural or remote parts of the country, putting in such a system is not straightforward. These projects present technical complexities, organisation culture and information environment challenges that require a somewhat different approach to the usual.

### **ABOUT OUR SPEAKER**

Kerri Staples is a Business Analyst in IT, primarily involved in business process improvement, upgrades to and implementations of business information systems. Much of her experience has been within the mining and resources industry. Kerri's favourite projects happen to be those involving the implementation of document and records management systems.



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## AGIA AGM WRAP

The AGIA 2007 Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 20 June 2007 at the Brass Monkey Hotel, James and William Streets, Northbridge Western Australia with successful re-election of office bearers.

We wish to sincerely thank the outgoing WA Branch President Mari Sell for her energy and leadership, which re-invigorated AGIA over the last few years. Mari announced that she would not stand for re-election as she is no longer involved in the mining industry.

AGIA has a healthy bank balance and an audit is scheduled. An overview of a number of AGIA achievements was made, including survival of the AESIS databases due to the diligence and foresight of the AGIA SA Branch; WA Branch seminars at ARRC during this time; a newly developed website — with special note of thanks to Ernie Laidlaw for the work he has done on web updates and the professional look of the site at <http://www.agia.org.au/> — and the re-emergence of a new-look Newsletter.

The future of AGIA as a special interest group of Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) was discussed and the relevance of AGIA's membership to AGC and consequently to FASTS was acknowledged. AGIA constitutes a small membership, but a healthy band of individuals, juniors and Corporate members (including BHP Billiton, Geological Survey of WA). It was voted to not increase membership fees this year.

The meeting ended with invitation to join new committee and friends to a lovely celebratory dinner.

### 2007–08 committee

PRESIDENT	Liz Amann
VICE-PRESIDENT	Margaret Ellis
SECRETARY — Acting	Lyn Trouchet
TREASURER	Sue Grennan
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Kerry Smith
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Jenny Mikucki
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Sue Cook
	Rose Hockley
AGC REPRESENTATIVES	Liz Amann
	Margaret Ellis

**Liz Aman**  
**President**  
**AGIA Inc.**



## WINTER BREAKFAST A GREAT SUCCESS!

First speaker for our breakfast series in 07–08 was Dr Jon Hronsky, and he certainly was a draw card with over 30 people attending the hearty breakfast at eCucina's in Hay Street, Perth central. This was a great turn out considering it was the week of Kalgoorlie Diggers & Dealers!

Jon gave interesting insight into information access and availability from both sides of the organisational fence. From personal experience Jon outlined the pros and cons of access to information both as an employee of a large organisation with plenty of money and a team of specialist information managers and Librarians to assist in sourcing data, with accompanying institutional stage-gate approach and hierarchy of decision making which can slow down the process . . . to the world of the fast-paced busy junior/independent who is short in dollars and time, but can make informed decisions and have direct influence straight from the coal face. Jon also gave an update of an exciting initiative at UWA, the Centre for Exploration Targeting (CET), <http://www.cet.uwa.edu.au/>, which is aimed at assisting the mining and exploration industry to increase the discovery of new mineral deposits.

**Liz Aman**

## AGIA BREAKFAST SERIES

### CALENDAR

**The Winter breakfast was great! Come along and enjoy these events too!  
Spring breakfast cost \$25 members, \$30 non-members.**

Event	Date	Time	Venue	Speaker	Topic
Winter Warmer	7 Aug 2007	7.30am	eCucina, Hay Street, <b>Success!</b>	Jon Hronsky	<i>"Competing with the big boys! " access to information inequities</i>
Spring	16 Oct 2007	7.30am	Miss Maud's Pier Street	Kerri Staples	Deploying EDRM — Mining & Resources
Christmas	4 Dec 2007	7.30am	Bell's Café Barrack Street Jetty	No speaker	Xmas get together (free, but limited, parking outside café before 9.00am)
Summer	19/20 Feb 2008	7.30am	TBA		TBA
Easter	18/19 Mar 2008	7.30am	TBA	No speaker	Chat session
Autumn	20/21 May 2008?	7.30am	TBA		TBA



## FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR YOUR NEW EDITOR

Hello everyone. My name is Jenny and I have been co-opted by the committee to generate the newsletter.

A bit about me: I am a geologist with the Geological Survey of Western Australia. I am working on a database project that will create a system to generate Explanatory Notes "on the fly" for your topic or area of interest in Western Australia. In a past incarnation I managed the Publications Editing Section of the GSWA.

Enough about me. I hope to see you at AGIA functions. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, please contact me or another member of the committee.

## AGIA'S WEBSITE GETS A REVAMP

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**  
**Geological Survey of Western Australia**  
**Ph. 08 9222 3568**  
**Email: [jenny.mikucki@doir.wa.gov.au](mailto:jenny.mikucki@doir.wa.gov.au)**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Don't forget to send in your AGIA renewal for 2007–08. The renewals have been sent out. If you missed yours, or would like to forward the opportunity to join to a colleague, we have included the membership form at the end of this newsletter.

CORRECTION: Kerry Smith sincerely apologises for omitting the long standing corporate membership and support of the NT Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines to AGIA in her article in the June 2007 issue of the Newsletter: SOME AGIA HISTORY : the Occasional Paper series, ISSN 0816-6234.

The Membership Secretary is:

**Kerry Smith,**  
**Co-ordinator Information Studies**  
**Faculty of Media, Society & Culture**  
**Curtin University of Technology**  
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## GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS & INSTITUTIONS (IFLA) DURBAN CONFERENCE, AUGUST 2007



The Geography and Map Libraries Section (see <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s6/index.htm>) of IFLA hold interesting sessions at this annual international library conference and this year's theme was Mapping the African continent. There were three papers of interest to the geoscience information community:

- Ocholla, P & Govender, K. *The politics of resources and conflicts in Africa: a hydro and geoinformatic analysis of selected regions*. The authors explored conflict theory in the African context and how natural resources such as flora and fauna, agricultural land, inland fresh waters and the ocean, mineral deposits, landforms and geomorphology, and the atmosphere contribute to conflict. As an example, as well as human induced conflicts in Kenya, the harsh climate (atmosphere) also contributed to conflict issues. Unfortunately the paper is not on the IFLA website, but the presentation was fascinating.
- Tilley, E. *Creating unique geological maps: international resources and services that shape undergraduate projects*. Another very interesting paper, this time on the geological mapping projects undertaken in Africa by University of Cambridge geology students. What happens to the geological maps produced during these projects? Not a lot apparently but Tilley believes that they are a valuable information resource and should be made available. You can read her paper at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/110-Tilley-en.pdf>
- *Maps and Geospatial Data in Africa: Acquisition Challenges, Copyright and Licensing Challenges, and Other Issues from the Front Lines* was delivered by Joseph Njangiru of East View Cartographics, based in Minneapolis, USA. Up until the 1980s Russia had an intense interest in Africa and a considerable amount of geological mapping took place. If you can read Russian, then East View have managed to gain access to many of the maps. I was interested in the number of atlases the Russians produced, e.g. Atlas of Africa, 1968 – in Russian. The largest collections of African maps are at the National Library of Africa, the Russian State Library and the Library of the Russian Academy of Science. East View have been acquiring Russian maps since 1950. The April 2007 edition of their New Acquisitions Bulletin focuses on Malawi on its locally produced maps. Their website is at: <http://www.cartographic.com>  
email: [maps@cartographic.com](mailto:maps@cartographic.com).

The speaker for the final paper in the session did not present on the topic: [Maps of Africa in Russian Libraries](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/110-Kildushevskaya-en.pdf). The paper is on the conference website at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/papers/110-Kildushevskaya-en.pdf>

In my view the conference gets better every year. The papers I heard were well prepared, but this might just be the sessions I chose. I managed to attend a couple of sessions on indigenous & traditional knowledge — a hot topic in the world today and where better to air it than in Africa and hear examples of the issues they are facing? Having said this, there were presentations from other nations including a representative of the Saamia Council, Norway — complete in national dress!

### TRAPPED

We did not move around Durban unless in a bus. Petty crime is rife and there were some conference delegates who did venture out and were mugged for their wallets. I don't think any of them ended up in hospital but this was deterrent enough to confine us. Many Australian colleagues had decided to stay at the hotels on the beach and found they could only enjoy the view from their hotel windows. The conference organisers did try to appease this frustration by organising one of the conference events as a beach party complete with wire fencing and security guards.

### ESCAPE

I did get out on a library tour to Pietermaritzburg. The drive to the Mpumalanga Public Library took us through the magnificent Valley of a Thousand Hills. This public library is a dynamic centre for the community, supporting local vegetable growers in the library grounds. Here we were welcomed by two school choirs, one singing local African songs, the other with a deeply spiritual program:



We then continued to the Provincial capital, Pietermaritzburg, and toured the Legal Deposit Library of Msunduzi. This large city public library includes the Legal Deposit Library established in 1916. Amongst its collections are first editions of the Colony of Natal newspapers dating back 155 years — and it shows:



Kerry Smith, Information Studies

## 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..."

They are proposing several sessions at GSA for 2007: [http://geoinformatics.sdsc.edu/gsa\\_division/news/GSA07\\_sessions.html](http://geoinformatics.sdsc.edu/gsa_division/news/GSA07_sessions.html)



## SNIP'ITS

### EARTH SCIENCE WEEK 2007, 14–20 OCTOBER 2007

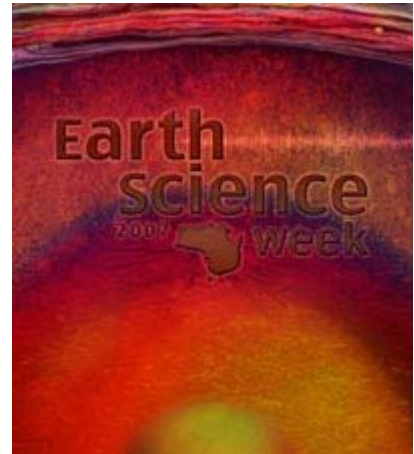
#### The pulse of Earth science

Earth Science Week is an international event that promotes awareness of and provides an opportunity to celebrate the world of Earth science. Earth Science Week 2007 runs from 14 to 20 October and is celebrating its tenth year with the theme 'The Pulse of Earth Science.'

Once again Geoscience Australia will coordinate Earth Science Week in Australia and is calling for innovative ideas and activities to contribute to the new Earth Science Noticeboard.

As part of the celebration Geoscience Australia and the National Geographic Channel have collaborated to invite secondary students to participate in the Geologi Short Film Festival.

For more information phone Fiona Wright on +61 2 6249 9859 (email [earthscienceweek@ga.gov.au](mailto:earthscienceweek@ga.gov.au))



Related websites:

[Earth Science Week 2007](#)

[Earth Science Noticeboard](#)

[Geologi Short Film Festival](#)

[International Year of Planet Earth](#)

[International Polar Year](#)

### AGU'S DIGITAL LIBRARY: A NEW PRODUCT FOR 2008

There are two different groups of institutions being addressed in the announcement of the digital library.

#### **GROUP 1. Institutions that subscribed to the electronic version of AGU journals (2002 or after)**

AGU is making no changes in the terms of your access. You will continue to receive access to the material published in the years for which you had paid electronic subscriptions regardless of whether you subscribe to the new digital library or not. If you cancel your subscription to a title, you still have access to the years for which you had a paid electronic subscription.



Stated another way . . . AGU is not introducing a rolling 5-year subscription. If you subscribed in 2002, you will continue to have access to 2002 even if you decide not to subscribe to the new offering of back issues.

**GROUP 2. Institutions that did not subscribe to the electronic version of an AGU journal in 2002**

If you want to purchase continuing access (sometimes called perpetual access) to the material published in 2002, you will have to make that purchase before 1 January 2008. After that date, access to the electronic back issues for 2002 will not be sold individually. If, however, you make that purchase by the deadline, you will have continuing access to the 2002 articles regardless of your decision about the rest of the back issues now or in the future.

**Institutions in either GROUP 1 or GROUP 2**

If you want access to the full run of back issues in electronic form (back to volume 1, issue 1) will need to enter a subscription for the digital library. All of this back material will be available only on an annual subscription basis and only to institutions that have a current year subscription to at least one AGU scientific journal. An institution may choose the full network or per-user option. In addition to the back issues of journals, the articles from 300–400 AGU books will be included in subscriptions to the "full digital library." It is also possible to subscribe only to the book or only to the journals.

The full announcement is at <http://www.agu.org/pubs/DigitalLibDesc.pdf>

**ACCESS TO GOOD BROKER RESEARCH**

There is an interesting article on getting access to good broker research in the latest issue of Online Currents:

Mead, Lisa (2007). "Reuters knowledge". Online Currents. 21. 354–358.

Having said that, Reuters has just been taken on by Thomson Research so there is a reason that they are flogging product — but the article does go into some detail of how the product works.

Online Currents is available by subscription from:

**Thomson Lawbook Co**

**Ph: 1300 304 195 fax: 1300 304 196**

**Webstie: [http://www.thomson.com.au/legal/p\\_index.asp](http://www.thomson.com.au/legal/p_index.asp)**

**Email: [LRA.Service@thomson.com](mailto:LRA.Service@thomson.com)**



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

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

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

Theme: GEOSCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF SOCIETY: Geoscience Information

Please forward this information to any colleagues who you think might present a paper of interest to this session.

The Australian Geoscience Information Association (Inc) AGIA encourages you to submit an abstract to the Geoscience Information session/s at the above conference. The speaker abstract deadline is Tuesday 11 December 2007.

The general theme for our Geoscience Information component is:  
SOLID AS A ROCK? Issues in geoscience information.

If your abstract is accepted your talk (oral or poster) will be for 15 minutes with 5 minutes for questions. Your paper might cover issues such as:

#### SUSTAINABLE EARTH — SUSTAINABLE DATA?

- Is paper a dinosaur?
- Issues in data migration
- Issues in information preservation

#### DATA DELUGE:

- Creating it
- Managing it
- Accessing it
- Using it
- Storing it
- Networking it
- Grid computing
- Mesh networking
- Other nascent technologies
- Data mining and mining for data

#### COPY RIGHT? COPY WRONG?

- what is public domain information?
- how do we encourage access to geoscience information?
- what are the issues and challenges in making geoscience information available?

#### IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF SEMANTICS

- The semantic web and geoscience information
- How operable is interoperability for the geosciences?
- What's in a name? Metadata, cataloguing, resource description analysis (RDA) and their place in geoscience information
- Predictability in geo-cyberspace?

The above are only suggestions. Please submit your abstract to the conference website: <http://www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008/call.html> by Tuesday 11 December, 2007.

**Kerry Smith**  
Session Convenor for AGIA Inc



**E&P3 — THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL E&P KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, DUXTON HOTEL, PERTH, 16–17 OCTOBER 2007**

**GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA SEMINAR AND POSTER DISPLAY, ESPLANADE HOTEL, FREMANTLE, 14 FEBRUARY 2008**

[GSWA Seminar and Poster Display](#)

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

There is a category for Geoscience Information. <http://www.33igc.org/> (downloads> Circulars and Summary Sheets>Updated Science Program 17.09.07)

**Important Dates:**

**30 November 2007:** Geohost application

**1 February 2008:** Abstract submission and field trip registration

**February - March 2008:** Abstract acceptance

**31 March 2008:** Registration fee deadline for inclusion of accepted abstract in program

**March 2008:** Timetable for symposia, excursions, etc. on the web

**15 April 2008:** End of early registration and payment (€560/410)

**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



**AUSTRALIAN GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION ASSOCIATION INC.**

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2007–08**

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<p><b><u>AGC REPRESENTATIVES</u></b>  <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

C/o Barrick Gold of Australia, Locked Bag 12, Cloisters Square WA 6850

Telephone: 9212-5880 email: [Ltrouche@barrick.com](mailto:Ltrouche@barrick.com)



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
2007/2008

Please complete details and send this form with payment

NAME: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr .....Surname

First Name .....

POSITION: .....

ORGANISATION: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

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\*Note GST is not payable
AGIA is listed with the ATO as GST exempt

Please send form and payment to
AGIA Membership Secretary
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Curtin University of Technology
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