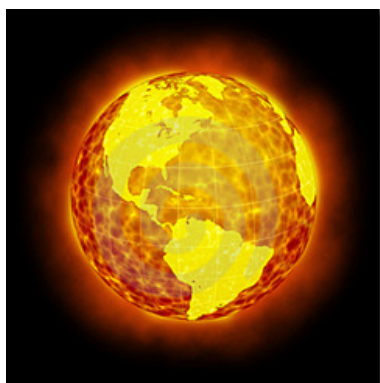




The Great Australian Byte

The Newsletter of the Australian Geoscience Information Association (Inc)
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AGIA Winter Warmer Event



*Warm your inner core,
with a tour of the
GSA Perth Core Library,
followed by dinner with your fellow
AGIA members*

**Tour commences 4:30 pm
Monday 8 August 2011
The tour will be followed by a meal in a
nearby restaurant**

**Please RSVP to Camille Peters
by Friday 5 August so we have an idea of
numbers:
work telephone 6218 7253 or email
ctpetersaalia@gmail.com**

Perth Core Library
37 Harris Street, Carlisle



CONTACT

+618 9470 0305
corelibrary.requests@dmp.wa.gov.au

CARLISLE

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AGIA NEWS

AGIA IN THE FUTURE

Dear AGIA Colleagues,

You may have heard on the grapevine that the AGIA committee has been considering the future of the association. We have been concerned for some time about the falling membership numbers, most of whom are West Australian based, currently at 29 personal, 4 life and 8 corporate, and the longer term sustainability of the organisation. For the last 6 to 8 years the committee has consisted mainly of the same faces, recycling through the various committee positions. We have tried to run seminars, but find that the work always falls onto the same committee members and we have had to cancel seminars because of the inability to get speakers or because of poor registration numbers. We are in a Catch 22 situation. Low membership numbers makes it difficult for us to provide services and run seminars and other activities, and consequently we do not provide activities, etc which could attract and keep new members.

The committee has had a number of discussions to brainstorm possible future directions for AGIA. Options considered ranged from maintaining the status quo, amalgamation with existing organisations through to disbanding AGIA and going our separate ways. We realised that the first option potentially damns AGIA to a slow death. The committee has tried a number of options to increase our membership including a price difference in seminar registration between members and non-members which encouraged membership. This worked well for the 12 month period of the membership but those who joined as a part of conference attendance did not renew their membership the following year. While we have had an increase in corporate memberships these do not translate to individuals willing and able to take some of the burden of committee work.

Another option considered by the committee was amalgamation with another organisation. The organisations considered were the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG), the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM), and the Geological Society of Australia (GSA). There is no automatic obvious fit as all these organisations are professional bodies which require specific academic qualifications to be eligible for full professional membership. AGIA's membership requirements are not specifically professional so we do not neatly slot into any of the above organisations. We also considered the cost of various memberships available as well as the services offered, and felt that associate membership of either AIG or GSA offered the closest financial fit for our members, some of whom were already professional members of either of the two organisations.

Informal discussions have indicated that both organisations would welcome us into the relevant membership levels and that we could organise or join existing special interest groups, however, this would result not in a merger of organisations but in the



death of AGIA and members joining as individuals. Even among the members of the committee there was not a consensus on a single alternative organisation with members having their own preferences based on their own background in information management or geoscience. This shows that it is highly unlikely that the full membership of AGIA will move to another organisation.

Initially I was supportive of a "merger" but I have a problem with supporting the death of an organisation which has existed for so many years and has supported both the development of management of geoscience data and its practitioners.

I am throwing the question out to the membership.

What do we do?

Shall we continue as before with the distinct possibility that the organisation will not survive for many more years as our membership ages and retires and membership losses are not counterbalanced by new members?

Do we disband AGIA and create a new special interest group under the umbrella of another organisation? Which one?
Any other ideas?

Please give this issue serious consideration. The committee is open to all suggestions and new ideas (as well as volunteers for the committee).

Please send any ideas to:

Lyn Trouchet Ltrouche@barrick.com

Margaret Ellis
President AGIA

AGIA GRANTS AVAILABLE TO ATTEND 34TH IGC

International Geological Congress (IGC) Australia 2012

http://www.34igc.org/FileLibrary/34igc_second_circular_v9.pdf

Please access the above link to view the schedule and agenda for the 34th International Geological Congress (IGC) Australia 2012 titled *Unearthing Our Past and Future, Resourcing Tomorrow* being held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from 5 – 10 August 2012. The AGIA Committee have resolved to provide financial assistance to current AGIA members (as at 30 June 2011) to enable them to attend the Congress. Please register your expression of interest in writing to the Secretary, Lyn Trouchet Ltrouche@barrick.com by 22nd August 2011 outlining why you would like to attend. Those members presenting papers will be given first priority and any recipient of assistance will be required to write a report which may be published in the AGIA Newsletter.

AGIA EASTER BREAKFAST

The AGIA Easter Breakfast is a lovely time to catch up with AGIA friends before the last of the balmy warm mornings move into the chill of winter. As always there was a good turn-out of about 20 old and new friends and members, with at least one new member (husband) lured to join AGIA with bright, interesting conversation, delicious breakfast, yummy chocolates and a good latte before work. The AGIA Easter get together is usually held down on the water's edge at Bells Cafe and we deliberately do not host a guest speaker at this time as it is intended to encourage networking with friends and colleagues. It presents a great opportunity in relaxed surroundings to catch up informally and compare systems, new technologies, share experiences and discuss the future of geoscience information. As you can see by the group photo, AGIA members are a great and varied group and we look forward to catching up with you all at the next meet.



**Anne, the Easter Bunny with her
Easter bounty**



"The gang" enjoying brekky



THE NT MINERALS & ENERGY INFOCENTRE

The NT Minerals & Energy Information Centre, or 'InfoCentre' as it is known, is the central access point or 'one-stop-shop' to personalised research assistance and geoscience information and data in the Northern Territory.

The InfoCentre, located within the Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS), is home to three teams (Library Services, Industry Information & Core Facilities) of staff over four sites. InfoCentre staff provide assistance to external, mainly industry, clients as well as internal Minerals & Energy divisional staff. Jane Bowland is the current InfoCentre Manager while long-serving InfoCentre Manager Jenny Saunders is on Long-Service Leave.

THE LIBRARY

The Library has a small and dedicated team consisting of Darwin Librarian Iris Kovacli, Alice Springs Librarian Alison Wiercinski, Library Technician Jan Twomey and Information Officer Marilyn Marshall. Although separated by distance the team are tight-knit and use a range of tools to communicate, such as MS Office Communicator, video conferencing, telephone and email.

Library staff work across all areas of the InfoCentre (excluding the Core Facilities) and facilitate access to NTGS geoscientific literature through literature searches, interlibrary loans and electronic document delivery, as well as access to a range of academic and industry literature. We currently subscribe to approximately 30 print journals, some with online access, online-only e-Newsletters, including *Mining News Premium* and *Energy News Premium*, and a range of online databases such as *Intierra Resource Intelligence* and *GeoRef*.

The library collections' primary focus is on the needs of our internal clients – Minerals & Energy division staff including geologists, geophysicists, environmental scientists, and policy makers. We also hold a substantial collection relating to geology and the resources exploration industry in the Northern Territory, including NTGS and BMR/AGSO/GA publications, geological maps and explanatory notes, textbooks, aerial photographs and in-house publications.

The public are welcome to use the Library but most items are not for loan.

THE 'SHOP-FRONT'

Library staff also distribute NTGS products and publications, including geoscientific reports, commodity reports, petroleum basin studies, geological maps and explanatory notes, GIS data sets, and geophysical data. All of these items are provided free of charge. The NTGS Product Catalogue can be viewed via our website and will soon be searchable.



STRIKE & GIWS

Two important information delivery platforms for NTGS are STRIKE (Spatial Territory Resource Information Kit for Explorers) and GIWS (Geophysical Image Web Server). STRIKE is an online web mapping application that enables users to view, query and download NT geoscientific data via a map interface. It is currently undergoing major upgrades, which will be available in the near future. GIWS allows users to view images produced from geophysical surveys of the Northern Territory. In 2010, the web interface was redeveloped to enable individual survey images to be accessed directly from the main interface and overlaid or be overlain by the NT-wide imagery.

InfoCentre staff help clients navigate and utilise these applications and also use them to answer client queries.

INDUSTRY INFORMATION

A team of six staff manage the Industry Information, which includes minerals and onshore/offshore petroleum exploration reports and data submitted to government under legislative requirements associated with their exploration tenements. Mineral and petroleum reports and data are searchable via databases, MEX and PEX, available via our website.

CORE FACILITIES

Core Facilities in Darwin and Alice Springs are home to NTGS and Industry drill core and cuttings, which can be viewed and sampled on request. NTGS is currently participating in the collaborative Federal and State government program to develop a National Virtual Core Library (NVCL); our HyLogger arrived in early 2010 and has been kept busy.

REFERENCE SERVICE

InfoCentre requests are managed using RefTracker, a web-based enquiry management system for libraries that allows all InfoCentre staff, regardless of location, to view and answer incoming requests. Requests received include library loans and document delivery, journal distribution list inclusion/removal, copies of company reports and data, NTGS maps, datasets and reports.

During 2009/2010, the InfoCentre managed more than 4000 enquiries. At least 80% of these enquiries were from minerals and petroleum explorers located throughout Australia and overseas. From these enquiries we distributed over 64 000 reports and data (much of this on 500GB external hard drives).

15% of enquiries were from internal clients, with the remaining enquiries received from students, other government departments and fossickers, looking for assistance in navigating our systems and resources, or accessing copies of publications and products.



Alice Springs InfoCentre

For enquiries, or access to our Library catalogue, NTGS Product Catalogue or Industry Information please visit our website: www.minerals.nt.gov.au/ntgs.

CONTACT US

Email: geoscience.info@nt.gov.au

DARWIN

Call: (08) 8999 6443

Visit: 3rd Floor, Centrepoint Building, Smith Street Mall, Darwin.

Core Facilities call: (08) 8984 3036

ALICE SPRINGS

Call: (08) 8951 8177

Visit: Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI), South Stuart Highway, Alice Springs.

Core Facilities call: (08) 8952 9497

Alison Wiercinski

Librarian

InfoCentre

NT Minerals & Energy

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Alice Springs NT 0871

Phone: (08) 8951 8177

Email: alison.wiercinski@nt.gov.au



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 committee member 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

PETROLEUM GEOSCIENCE MIGRATES TO LYELL COLLECTION H2O PLATFORM

The journal Petroleum Geoscience (PG) has been migrated to HighWire's enhanced H2O platform (<http://pg.lyellcollection.org/>).

The migration of Petroleum Geoscience to H2O completes the migration process for all 12 titles on the Geological Society's Lyell Collection (www.lyellcollection.org).

To subscribe to Petroleum Geoscience, or to the Lyell Collection Complete, 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

Contact:

Neal Marriott

Director of Publishing

Email: neal.marriott@geolsoc.org.uk



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.

HISTORICAL US TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS RELEASED

From: Geonet listserv [mailto:Geonet@Princeton.EDU] **On Behalf Of** Louise F. Deis
Sent: Saturday, 16 July 2011 1:56 AM
To: Geonet@Princeton.EDU
Subject: [GEONET] USGS releases hi-res historic topo maps

"The U.S. Geological Survey has announced a massive release of historical topographical maps. "For more than 130 years, the USGS topographic mapping program has accurately portrayed the complex geography of our Nation. The historical topographic map collection contains all editions and all scales of USGS topographic quadrangles. Files are high resolution (600 DPI) scanned images of all maps from the USGS legacy collection." This is over 200,000 maps spanning 1884-2006."

From Tara Calishain's Research Buzz, July 14, 2011

...and on behalf of Richard Huffine! Good work, Richard, & Co.!

Louise

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 hope you enjoy the article in this issue on the NTGS InfoCentre. 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.

Any other items of interest will also be gladly accepted.

Jenny Mikucki
Newsletter Editor



AUSTRALIAN GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION ASSOCIATION INC.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2010-11

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