



# The Great Australian Byte

The Newsletter of the Australian Geoscience Information Association (Inc)  
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*Download the latest at the next  
**AGIA Autumn Breakfast***



7:30 am  
Tuesday 25 May 2010

Country Road Cafe  
307-313 Murray St, Perth  
(Cnr of Wolf Lane)

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

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AGIA is a member of the Australian Geoscience Council



## AGIA EASTER BREAKFAST

The AGIA Easter Breakfast was a very successful event, and was well attended by people from across the industry. The morning featured Felicia Irimies as our speaker, talking about the WAPIMS database at GSWA. Felicia did an excellent job, speaking without visual aids, and there were plenty of questions and lots of discussion afterwards. Little chocolate Easter bunnies reminded us of the season (thanks Kerry!) and the morning was over all too quickly. Many thanks to Felicia for stimulating the discussion and taking the time to prepare for the event.

**Jenny Mikucki**  
Newsletter Editor



Felicia holds our attention

Photos courtesy of Kerry Smith



The AGIA gang



## WAPIMS

Source: <https://wapims.doir.wa.gov.au/dp/index.jsp>;  
<http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/1865.aspx>

The Western Australian Petroleum Information Management System (WAPIMS) is a petroleum exploration database containing data on titles, wells, geophysical surveys and other non-confidential petroleum exploration data submitted to the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) by the petroleum industry. WAPIMS also contains information on mineral boreholes drilled in the State.

Access to WAPIMS can be either as a registered user (free of charge) or as a guest. It is recommended that you register as a user as you can then personalise the settings to suit your own requirements and searching can be done via a data tree rather than map-based searching.

The information currently stored in WAPIMS covers petroleum exploration and development activities in Western Australia since the 1950s. Geothermal data are also available through this site and the database contains information on mineral drillholes, tenements, mine sites and aeromagnetic surveys in the State, as well as land access information, geology and culture data.

The data available to download via WAPIMS are:

- Well log data in zip files containing LIS, DLIS, LAS or ASCII files;
- Well reports (including well completion reports) in PDF;
- 2D Seismic Survey post-stack SEG Y and navigation data in UKOOA;
- Excel spreadsheets containing information on all wells and surveys conducted in Western Australia (last updated 15 March 2010);
- Lists of new online documents for Wells and Surveys (last updated 15 April 2010).

WA Petroleum Data Packages are now available on request from DMP on a customer-provided external hard drive. The data packages contain information on wells and seismic surveys grouped by basin and include the following:

- Well reports and logs
- Seismic reports, navigation and SEG Y data
- Shape files of 2D and 3D seismic, wells, WA basins

Contact [petdata@dmp.wa.gov.au](mailto:petdata@dmp.wa.gov.au) for more information.

Once the user logs in to the WAPIMS database, there are links to further information such as:

- Confidentiality of data
- Submission of data
- Where to get data
- The WAPIMS manual.

Hands on training can be arranged in the use of the WAPIMS database; simply contact [petdata@dmp.wa.gov.au](mailto:petdata@dmp.wa.gov.au) for more information.



## AGIA NEWS

### INFORMATION ONLINE 2011

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

It seems a long way off, but will be here before you know it. If you plan to attend, please let Kerry Smith [k.smith@curtin.edu.au](mailto:k.smith@curtin.edu.au) know as she is planning an AGIA get together during the conference.

### AGIA BREAKFAST SERIES CALENDAR (SUBJECT TO REVISION)

Event	Date	Time	Venue	Speaker	Topic
Easter	30 March 2010	7.30am	Bell's Café Earrac Street Jetty	Felicia Irimies	WAPIMS
Autumn	25 May 2010	7.30am	Country Road Café	Networking	–
Winter Warmer	27 July 2010	7.30am	TBA	TBA	TBA
Spring Spectacular & AGM	14 September 2010	8.00am	TBA	Networking	AGM
Christmas	7 December 2010	7.30am	Bell's Café Barrack Street Jetty	Social	–

### FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

A new year and we are already up to May! I hope the year is going well for you.

Let me know what you think about the content of the Newsletter. I am happy to receive 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**  
Newsletter Editor



## GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION PROJECT

### ACCESS TO AUSTRALIAN GEOSCIENTIFIC INFORMATION – A TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS?

What started with a whimper is now underway. The original plan for this project remains, and is ambitious. Australian geoscience information is made available in a commons as well as its restricted information environment. Access to this information is enabled through computerized databases and there was one such database in Australia, AESIS<sup>1</sup>, which was maintained by the Australian Mineral Foundation (AMF) until its demise in 2002. The files of AESIS and more recent indexing of geoscience literature of relevance to Australia have since been taken over by AusGeoref<sup>2</sup> maintained by Geoscience Australia. Access to this database is available via subscription. There is also considerable information available via the Internet.

However, it is one thing to locate the relevant references and another to locate the information and data to which they refer. Geoscientific information occurs in many formats. Not only is there the formal published literature of monographs and journals, but there also exists many other collections which include rock specimens, petrographic slides, drill core, maps, photographs, field guide and notebooks, government, research and technical reports. A number of geoscience information research issues arise from these situations and they deserve investigation. The first of these is the status of Australia's geoscientific library collections and the research questions include:

- **Collections**
  - Libraries
    - Where are Australia's geoscientific library collections?
    - What do they hold?
    - Are these holdings considered significant by the Australian geoscience community?
    - Who has access to them?
    - Is access to them considered important by the geoscience community?
    - How are they accessed?
      - Physical
      - E collections
    - Is there a collection of "last resort"?
  - Physical collections
    - What are they? – literature etc
    - Where are they? Survey of institutions
    - Are they important? – ask geoscientists, geoscience information specialists

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Earth Sciences Information System

<sup>2</sup> A bibliographic geoscience database drawn from GeoRef that covers Australian literature since 1933 (AGI, 2006).



- **Geoscientific data**
  - Who generates it?
  - What do they do with it?
  - Is it accessible/locatable –
    - how where & when?
    - at what cost?
  
- **The researchers**
  - What institutions?
  - What research?
    - Key players and projects?
    - Access to their data?
  
- **The users**
  - Who are they?
  - Where are they?
  - What are their issues re access to geoscientific information?

But where to start? And when would time be found to get underway? With many thanks to AGIA for seed funding of \$5000.00 for the work, a research assistant has now been employed. Her first task is to build a database of known government and corporate geoscience information agencies in Australia. Once this is verified, it is planned to email each an introductory survey introducing the project, and seeking information that was sought in a similar survey instrument posted to the e-list GEONET towards the end of last year, seeking background information from US earth science libraries, on: subject coverage, types of collections held, the role of print in the collection, space occupancy, and the standard – “any other comments to be shared”.

It is hoped that the responses to this first step will give an overview of the location of geoscientific collections in Australia, and from which further detail can be sought as the project progresses. The US survey questions are being followed since an arrangement has been made with the US surveyor to compare data.

Why bother? Australia depends on geoscience and its industries for economic growth and if some of the crucial but often unnoticed support mechanisms are difficult to access or even at risk, then this will impact on the education and training of its professionals. The consequences of a disparate approach to locating, accessing and managing Australia’s geoscientific information are costly, frustrating and even dangerous. Information that is not easily located and obtained is forgotten and yet this might be crucial to solving a geoscientific issue of importance to the nation.

**Associate Professor Kerry Smith**  
**Curtin University of Technology**  
[k.smith@curtin.edu.au](mailto:k.smith@curtin.edu.au)



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

### AUSTRALIAN URANIUM SUMMIT

10-11 May 2010, Perth

[www.acevents.com.au/uranium2010/](http://www.acevents.com.au/uranium2010/)

### APPEA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2010

16-19 May 2010, Brisbane

Over 2000 registrants so far!

[www.appeaconference.com.au/](http://www.appeaconference.com.au/)

### AMEC CONVENTION 2010

1-3 June 2010, Perth

[www.amecconvention.com.au/](http://www.amecconvention.com.au/)

### AESC (AUSTRALIAN EARTH SCIENCES CONVENTION)

4-6 July 2010, Canberra

[www.aesc2010.gsa.org.au](http://www.aesc2010.gsa.org.au)

There will be a presentation on Auscope:

[www.aesc2010.gsa.org.au/themes/topical.html](http://www.aesc2010.gsa.org.au/themes/topical.html)

**AuScope** - Bob Haydon, AuScope

AuScope National Virtual Core Library (NVCL) - Jon Huntington

Refer to the 3D Mineral Spectroscopy of the Earth's Skin - 1st National Virtual Core Library Symposium Workshop

[www.aesc2010.gsa.org.au/workshops.html](http://www.aesc2010.gsa.org.au/workshops.html)

### 5TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHEAN SYMPOSIUM

Information concerning the 5th International Archean Symposium to be held in Perth, Western Australia 4–9 September 2010, including the Preliminary Program and Presenter Information is now available on the website

[www.5ias.org/default.aspx](http://www.5ias.org/default.aspx).

Please distribute this link widely to those in your fields who will be interested in attending.

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

[www.34igc.org/](http://www.34igc.org/)



## SNIP'ITS

### SCHOLARLY JOURNALS INTRODUCE NEW DATA ARCHIVING POLICY

An important editorial about data archiving has appeared online in the February issue of *The American Naturalist* [www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/650340](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/650340)

To promote the preservation and fuller use of data, *The American Naturalist*, *Evolution*, the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Heredity*, and other key journals in evolution and ecology will soon introduce a new data archiving policy to ensure that data supporting published articles is preserved and made publicly available. The policy has been enacted by the Executive Councils of the societies owning or sponsoring the journals.

For example, the policy of *The American Naturalist* will state:

This journal requires, as a condition for publication, that data supporting the results in the paper should be archived in an appropriate public archive, such as GenBank, TreeBASE, Dryad, or the Knowledge Network for Biocomplexity. Data are important products of the scientific enterprise, and they should be preserved and usable for decades in the future. Authors may elect to have the data publicly available at time of publication, or, if the technology of the archive allows, may opt to embargo access to the data for a period up to a year after publication. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the editor, especially for sensitive information such as human subject data or the location of endangered species.

This policy will be introduced approximately a year from now, after a period when authors are encouraged to voluntarily place their data in a public archive. Data that have an established standard repository, such as DNA sequences, should continue to be archived in the appropriate repository, such as GenBank. Data can also be archived in a more flexible, interdisciplinary digital data archive such as the National Science Foundation–sponsored Dryad repository, at [datadryad.org](http://datadryad.org).

Dryad is developed by the US National Evolutionary Synthesis Center [www.nescent.org/](http://www.nescent.org/) and the University of North Carolina Metadata Research Center, [ils.unc.edu/mrc/](http://ils.unc.edu/mrc/), in collaboration with a consortium of partner journals.

Authors of the editorial, Michael C. Whitlock, Mark A. McPeck, Mark D. Rausher, Loren Rieseberg, and Allen J. Moore present the case for the importance of data archiving in science. This is the first of several coordinated editorials soon to appear in major journals.

Citation: *Am Nat* 2010. Vol. 175, pp. 145–146. DOI: 10.1086/650340

For more information, contact:

Peggy Schaeffer

Communications Coordinator, Dryad

[pschaeffer@nescent.org](mailto:pschaeffer@nescent.org)

[blog.datadryad.org](http://blog.datadryad.org)

### WWW.GEOINFO.ORG

Their next meeting will be October 31 - November 3, 2010 in Denver. Information will be posted on the [GSA conference website](#).



## **DATA OBSERVATION NETWORK**

The Data Observation Network for Earth (DataONE, [dataone.org](http://dataone.org)) is a virtual organization dedicated to providing open, persistent, robust, and secure access to biodiversity, ecology, and environmental data. DataONE is supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation, with headquarters at the University of New Mexico.

DataONE invites applications for summer research internships for undergraduates, graduate students and postgraduate (MS, PhD) students. As part of a larger virtual organization, interns will work in virtual groups of 2-3 with multiple mentors from DataONE, and are not expected to be at the same location or institution as the mentors and other team members. Regular communication (including videoconference) with mentors and other team members will be needed. Face-to-face meetings at the start and end of the session are currently planned, and any required travel will be fully paid for by DataONE.

Projects cover a range of topic areas including software development, library science, and sociotechnical aspects of scientific data. They also vary in the extent and type of technical expertise required. The interests and expertise of the applicants will determine which projects will be selected for the program. Interns will have the opportunity to receive credit for their contribution to peer-reviewed papers and/or open source software tools. Interns will also be encouraged to present their results at conferences and symposia.

For the list of projects and detailed application instructions, please see: [d1-lab.appspot.com/gsoc/program/home/d1\\_owner/d1\\_internship\\_2010](http://d1-lab.appspot.com/gsoc/program/home/d1_owner/d1_internship_2010)

## **WEB SITES & MAILING LISTS OF INTEREST**

### **GEM AND MINERAL COLLECTION VIEWABLE ONLINE**

The Vargas Collection is a large gem and mineral collection at The University of Texas at Austin. The entire collection has been photographed and put online for view - see the press release and link here:

[www.jsq.utexas.edu/news/rels/121709.html](http://www.jsq.utexas.edu/news/rels/121709.html)

### **WAIN MAILING LIST**

[WAIN@lists.curtin.edu.au](mailto:WAIN@lists.curtin.edu.au)  
[lists.curtin.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/wain](http://lists.curtin.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/wain)

### **GEONET**

Geonet mailing list: [Geonet@purdue.edu](mailto:Geonet@purdue.edu)  
[lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/geonet](http://lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/geonet)

### **LIST OF GEOSCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS**

AGIA National President 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>



**AUSTRALIAN GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION ASSOCIATION INC.**

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2009–10**

<p><b><u>PRESIDENT</u></b></p> <p><b>CAMILLE PETERS</b>                  Information Officer                  Apache Energy Ltd                  100 St Georges Terrace                  PERTH WA 6000                  PO Box 477                  WEST PERTH WA 6872                  PH: (08) 6218 7253,                  FAX: (08) 6218 7200                  Email: <a href="mailto:camille.peters@apachecorp.com">camille.peters@apachecorp.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>VICE-PRESIDENT</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>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 0011                  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 3152                  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>                  RMIA 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>MARGARET ELLIS</b>                  Coordinator Exploration Incentive Scheme,                  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@dmp.wa.gov.au">margaret.ellis@dmp.wa.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b><u>COMMITTEE MEMBER</u></b></p> <p><b>BONNIE RAE BRUCE</b>                  Records and Information Administrator                  Australia RIM                  BHPBilliton Petroleum Ltd                  PH: (08) 9338 4038                  Email: <a href="mailto:bonnie.r.bruce@bhpbilliton.com">bonnie.r.bruce@bhpbilliton.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>AGC REPRESENTATIVES</u></b></p> <p><b>CAMILLE PETERS, LIZ AMANN</b></p>	