



The Great Australian Byte

The Newsletter of the Australian Geoscience Information Association (Inc)
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Dig for information at the AGIA AGM and Breakfast



8:00 am
Tuesday 14th September
2010

Miss Maud's Swedish
Restaurant
97 Murray Street, Perth

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

\$25.00 per person for buffet breakfast
An AGIA committee member will collect your payment at the event
– CASH ONLY (and please bring the correct change to assist with
management of the combined bill. Thanks)

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AGIA is a member of the Australian Geoscience Council

THE N.H. (DOC) FISHER GEOSCIENCE LIBRARY

One of the most comprehensive geoscience libraries in the country lies within Geoscience Australia, a prescribed agency within the Resources, Energy and Tourism portfolio of the Commonwealth Government.

Established to service the needs of the then new Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics in 1946, the BMR Library became the AGSO Library and then the GA Library as the parent body's name changed over the years. In 2007 the library gained a permanent name of its own, the N.H. (Doc) Fisher Geoscience Library, in honour of the former Chief Geologist of Australia and fourth Director of the BMR, Dr Norman Henry Fisher.

Under all of these names, the library has provided a range of information services to the staff of the agency and external clients which include geoscience organisations, universities, research centres, the mining and petroleum industries and the general public. The Library staff welcome visitors during normal business hours and offer individual and corporate memberships for those who wish to have full borrowing rights (anywhere within Australia). Our catalogue is freely available at: http://www.ga.gov.au/oracle/library/catalogue_basic.php

Situated on the ground floor of Geoscience Australia's main building in Symonston, the library benefits from its various architectural design features. These include interior gardens beneath high central atriums, use of natural lighting, and an energy-efficient geothermal heating system. The library itself features a desert garden populated by a gaggle of dinosaurs overseen by Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (a lifelike model pterosaur on long-term loan from the National Dinosaur Museum).



Priscilla and the other library denizens

Human denizens of the Library currently include Library Manager Chris Nelson; Information Systems and Services Librarian Felicity Siro; Cataloguing Librarian Gael Williams; and Library Officers Jenny Phillips and Lynette Andrew, sharing acquisitions and inter-library loan responsibilities. Our longest-serving staff member, Margaret Drury, retired in mid-June.



Library staff (before departure of Margaret and arrival of Lynette). From L to R: Felicity, Gael, Jenny, Margaret and Chris

The library's collections include significant holdings of Australian and overseas journals, reports and maps covering all of the earth sciences, built up partially due to long-running exchange programs with comparable organisations around the world. We also hold over 1 million air photos dating from the 1940s onwards, including many annotated by survey teams in the field engaged in mapping the country during the agency's first 30 years. These and the accompanying field notebooks remain unique resources for researchers and are often referred to by current staff and consultants.

Increasingly, our services make use of electronic resources and delivery systems. We maintain subscriptions to a variety of bibliographic and full-text databases including *GeoRef*, *GeoBase*, *GeoScienceWorld*, the *SEG Digital Library* and more specialised resources, such as *Quakeline*. Since 2005, the Library has managed the indexing of Australian geoscience literature for contribution to *GeoRef* and its subset, *AusGeoRef*.

Most of these resources are accessible to on-site visitors but licence restrictions preclude our offering these to remote clients.

In recent years, the Library has also been responsible for a legacy digitisation project, overseeing the scanning of the agency's own corporate archive of major published and unpublished series — the BMR/AGSO Records, Reports, Bulletins and Journal. To date, around 7000 documents in these series have been digitised and processed with OCR software, creating a significant historical resource. At present accessible only to internal staff, the entire digital archive of PDFs should be available via Geoscience Australia's website in the near future.



Geoscience Australia CEO, Dr Chris Pigram, in the library with visitors from Indonesia

For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.ga.gov.au/library/>, email library@ga.gov.au, telephone (02) 6249 9567, write or visit us in person at corner Hindmarsh Drive & Jerrabomberra Avenue, Symonston, ACT. 2609.

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SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN AUSTRALIA

What a great run of information there was in the latest ALIA newsletter inCite (August 2010) – at last Specials get a place in the sun. Many thanks to those who contributed.

There were a number of matters raised in the many articles that caused me to ponder so I thought I would see if there is any more formal news from the Australian “Specials Community” out there and so I posted an email message to ALIA Specials to this effect:

- Who is our Australian Specials community? I realise that we now have an ALIA Specials Committee but like other ALIA Committees, it can tend to operate in a bit of a vacuum (I know, I am on 2 others). We do our best to get out to the membership but I am not sure that this always works.
- The *On the edge* article in inCite reports that special libraries are “the canary in the mine” and comments that it is difficult to know just how many special libraries there are in Australia at this moment. So I read elsewhere in the newsletter that there is to be another gathering of special statistics – at last.
- But what about the Directory of Australian Special Libraries (DASL)? I have just been through the exercise of trying to locate and identify geoscience special libraries in Australia for a project that I am undertaking – which you all know about. How I wished we still had DASL. Nevertheless AGIA (bless them) see <http://agia.org.au/> kick started the work with a \$5K grant so I was able to employ a research assistant to trawl for likely locations and this is now completed. There used to be an easier way to do this.
- As AGIA members know, the project I am undertaking is on geoscience collections – another issue mentioned in this issue of inCite: unique collections and collections of last resort. It will be a long haul, but I hope we get some news on geoscience collections in Australia at the end of it. I now read there are others interested in this sort of thing in other disciplines, and when I saw Ann Ritchie at IFLA (see: <http://www.ifla.org> in Sweden last week – see: <http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla76> and click on *The IFLA experience* for some pics), she mentioned such a study from another angle too. So I have requested that the interested parties get together – if only by email – and see if we can make our little projects tell a national story. It seems to me that the best way to do this is if we share our research thoughts before we embark on our projects. It would seem that the matter is not up for discussion at ALIA Access 2010 – <http://conferences.alia.org.au/access2010> (which I am not attending) – and the ALIA Specials Committee has advised me that they are not looking into the matter.

More soon – I hope.

Assoc Prof Kerry Smith
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AGIA NEWS

AGIA IN THE FUTURE

The AGIA National Committee has been considering the options for the future of AGIA, including the possible merger of our association with a larger geoscience association, perhaps as a special interest group. The Committee is currently considering the options, with a view to putting a proposal to the membership in the first quarter of 2011 if that is what we decide to do. If you would like to provide your thoughts on this at this early stage you are welcome to do so by contacting one of the Committee members. Any proposal to the membership will be issued with adequate time for feedback and proper consultation before it is put to a vote.

National Committee

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 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 Cafe	Networking	-
Winter Warmer	27 July 2010	7.30am	TBA	Kerry Smith	Access to Australian Geoscientific Information Project update
Spring Spectacular & AGM	14 September 2010	8.00am	Miss Maud's Swedish Restaurant	Networking	AGM
Christmas	7 December 2010	TBA	TBA	Social	-

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

AGIA colleague Chris Nelson has started the ball rolling by submitting an article featuring the GA library. Let AGIA feature your geoscience entity in future issues of the Great Australian Byte. Please email me your content with pics if available.

Jenny Mikucki
Newsletter Editor



UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

5TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHEAN SYMPOSIUM, PERTH 4-9 SEPTEMBER 2010

See: www.5ias.org

RIU GOOD OIL CONFERENCE, FREMANTLE 7 SEPTEMBER 2010

See: www.riuconferences.com.au/conferences/tgoc

PETROLEUM AND GEOTHERMAL OPEN DAY, FREMANTLE 9 SEPTEMBER 2010

See: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/pod2010

2010 PPDM PERTH DATA MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 9-10 SEPTEMBER 2010

See: www.ppdm.org/events/perth_conf_2010

GSA/GSIS ANNUAL MEETING, DENVER 31 OCTOBER – 3 NOVEMBER 2010

See: <http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/cfp.cgi>

The Geoscience Information Society (GSIS) is sponsoring the technical session, **T79. Geoscience Information Services: "Peak" Performances**
Sponsors: Geoscience Information Society; GSA Geoinformatics Division; National Association of Geoscience Teachers

AUSTRALIAN GEOTHERMAL ENERGY CONFERENCE, ADELAIDE 16-19 NOVEMBER 2010

See: <http://www.ausgeothermal.com>

PETEX 2010, LONDON 23-25 NOVEMBER 2010

See: www.petex.info

INFORMATION ONLINE 2011, SYDNEY 1-3 FEBRUARY 2011

See: www.information-online.com.au

See note under AGIA News above regarding a proposed AGIA get together during the conference.

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

See: www.34igc.org



SNIP'ITS

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.

OPENGEOSCIENCE

OpenGeoscience was launched in December 2009 and enables users to view high-resolution geological maps and pull them into their own viewing systems, download approximately 50,000 geological photographs, geological software, geoscience research outputs, educational materials and other geoscience information. All this is entirely free of charge for personal, teaching, research, and innovation purposes.

In its first release, OpenGeoscience provides, for the first time, the BGS Digital Geological Map of Great Britain at 1:50 000 (DiGMapGB-50) via an OGC web map service. This is a world-first for national geological mapping at 'street-level' resolution. We have also developed a special viewing application (UK geology viewer) to enable the non-technical user to see the geology of their area of interest superimposed upon topographic or satellite imagery, and users can also view the data-set via KML export to GoogleEarth.

OpenGeoscience also offers a vast new geological photographic database, GeoScenic, with almost 50 000 high-quality photos at high resolution. There are a range of special image collections, such as 'Best of BGS images', the British Science Association's major historical collection of earth science field photographs and Kidston's Carboniferous plants (scanned from original glass plates). Also available are a vast range of geoscience education resources, open-source software, data and an e-repository giving access to thousands of papers and reports.

At the time of its launch OpenGeoscience was featured by the BBC science and environment website, and was the most-read story of the day on December 9th 2009 (a day coinciding with the Copenhagen climate summit). In the month of its launch it received over 30 million hits.

Contact is Richard Hughes, Director of Information and Knowledge Exchange, British Geological Survey: rah@bgs.ac.uk

WEB SITES & MAILING LISTS OF INTEREST

GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA WEBSITE - MAPS OF AUSTRALIA

GEOSCIENCE Australia has a large range of products with Australia-wide coverage.

You can download these maps free of charge to use in reports, projects and as a reference source, provided you acknowledge the source of the data as advised on their website: <http://www.ga.gov.au/resources/maps/mapsofaustralia.jsp>



[A4 size \(1:20 million scale\)](#)
[A3 size \(1:15 million scale\)](#)

Report maps of Australia - showing capital cities, state borders, roads, elevation etc.



[Australia's Maritime Zones Edition 3](#)

This map depicts the various jurisdictional limits and zones within Australia's maritime jurisdiction as at 2006. [Australia's Maritime Zones in the Torres Strait](#) is also available.



[Basic outline maps](#)

Perfect for the classroom, includes a basic outline, basic outline with state borders and a basic outline with state borders and capital city locations.



[Satellite image map](#)

Australian Landsat 7 picture mosaic poster/map of Australia.



[Bathymetry and topography image of the Australian region](#)

Includes a digital elevation model, as well as radiometric, magnetic and gravity anomaly maps.



[Geophysical maps](#)



[Geological maps](#)

Includes the Surface Geology of Australia 1:1 million and scanned 1:250 000 geology maps of Australia.



[Hydrogeology map of Australia \(also known as G.Jacobson and JE Lau Hydrogeology map\)](#)

Principal hydrogeological divisions of Australia - national geoscience dataset and PDF image (1:5 million scale).



[Minerals maps](#)

Includes various mineral resources and deposit maps, mafic-ultramafic magmatic events and more.



[Geothermal maps](#)

Australian radiogenic granite and sedimentary basin geothermal hot rock potential map.



[Index maps](#)

Geophysical and topographic map indexes for various scales.

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.jsg.utexas.edu/news/rels/121709.html

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 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

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



AGIA National Committee

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

The 2010 Annual General Meeting of Australian Geoscience Information Association Incorporated will be held at a breakfast meeting at:

TIME: 8.00 a.m.
DATE: Tuesday 14 September 2010
VENUE: Miss Mauds Swedish Restaurant
97 Murray St, Perth, WA

In accordance with the Constitution of AGIA, I call for nominations for the following positions:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee members – at least 4, of which one is the Editor and all of whom shall be members of the Association. Nominations for positions on the National Committee shall consist of members within the relevant Branch, in this instance, Western Australia,

Nominations should be made on the attached form and sent to the Secretary at the address below no later than close of business on **Monday 9 August 2010**.

The order of business for the meeting is on the attached agenda. Other business items, or motions to be considered at the AGM should be notified to the Secretary at the address below, or emailed to Ltrouche@barrick.com no later than close of business on **Monday 9 August 2010** for inclusion in a revised agenda.

Lyn Trouchet
Secretary, AGIA
C/O Barrick Gold of Australia
Locked Bag 12, Cloisters Square WA 6850
Telephone: (08) 9212-5880



AGIA (Inc.) National 2010 Annual General Meeting Proposed Agenda

Meeting to be held at **Miss Mauds Swedish Restaurant, 97 Murray St, Perth, WA, Tuesday 14th September 2010 commencing at 8:00 a.m.**

Order of business

- Opening of meeting
- Minutes of previous AGM 22nd September 2009

Reports

- Treasurer
- President
- Membership

Election of Office Bearers

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee Members – at least 4

Other Business

- Close of Meeting