



The Great Australian Byte

The Newsletter of the Australian Geoscience Information Association (Inc)
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FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This issue of 'Byte' is rather more meaty than recent issues. Thanks to the committee members who have made contributions to this edition. Articles include report-outs on conference attendances and an excellent list of Oil and Gas Reference websites.

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

FROM THE NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT

From Camille Peters' Christmas address at the AGIA Breakfast

I would like to introduce you to the new AGIA National Committee. Before doing so, I would like to recognise the outgoing office bearers, both of whom have served significant periods of time on the committee and contributed to the continuing success of AGIA as an organisation.

Sue Grennan has left the committee, but continues as an AGIA member, after several years as an office bearer, most recently as the out-going President.

Margaret Ellis will continue on the committee, but not as an office bearer. Her most recent position was as Vice-President.

Many thanks go to them both for their efforts on AGIA's behalf.

Lyn Trouchet and Anne Phillips will continue in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, as will Kerry Smith (Membership) and Jenny Mikucki (Editor). Bonnie Rae Bruce has joined us as a new committee member.

I would like to recognise Ernie Laidlaw for his continuing efforts as our webmaster.

I hope you have a Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all at AGIA functions in 2010.

Camille Peters
President

AGIA CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

The AGIA Christmas Breakfast was the usual festive event at our favourite summer haunt, Bells Cafe, on the Swan River foreshore in Perth on 8 December 2009. Nineteen members attended from a wide cross section of the Geoscience Information business, including minerals and petroleum companies (e.g. BHP Billiton, Barrick Gold, Apache Energy, Nido Petroleum, Chevron), Academia (e.g. Curtin University), and Government (GSWA), plus some retirees and others who are interested in AGIA, such as through past associations.

The weather was glorious, and although Santa didn't deign to visit us, there was still a festive atmosphere including bonbons and really bad jokes (Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7 8 9. He He). Our new National President made a short speech (see p. 2), we wished Anthea Harris a happy birthday, and we all enjoyed catching up with colleagues from current and past Geoscience Information lives. An excellent start to the Festive Season!

Jenny Mikucki
Newsletter Editor



The AGIA gang

Liz Amann telling a joke



Anne Phillips, Anthea Harris, Margaret Ellis (L-R background) and Ray Smith, Ann Fitton and Lisa Kirby (L-R foreground) pulling Christmas crackers



Camille Peters making the Christmas address



AGIA AGM 2009

AGIA AGM for 2009 was held once again held at what now appears to be the regular and familiar venue *The Brass Monkey Hotel*.

It was a disappointing turn out for the AGM, but considering the impact of the economic crisis on the mining industry, not surprising. Nonetheless, a new committee was duly and warmly elected; however due to consequential events there has been recent vacation of and changes to office bearer positions. The new committee members are:

President:	Camille Peters - elected unopposed
Vice President:	Liz Amann - elected unopposed
Secretary:	Lyn Trouchet – elected unopposed
Treasurer:	Anne Phillips – elected unopposed
Committee Members:	Kerry Smith – Membership
	Jenny Mikucki – Editor
	Margaret Ellis
	Bonnie Rae Bruce

All indications are that AGIA is in a sound financial position to continue on into the New Year with the annual financial audit recently completed. Options for the future direction of AGIA that are up for discussion and investigation include AGIA becoming an Associate Sub-Group of the AIG. AGIA has also been involved in a co-operative arrangement with the ARK Group who run a variety of conferences and seminars.

Liz Amann
Vice President



KM FOR THE ENERGY ENGINEERING & RESOURCES SECTORS

**FORUM & WORKSHOPS: 19 – 21 OCTOBER 2009
MERCURE HOTEL, PERTH**

In October Ark Group presented a forum and workshop on Knowledge Management aimed specifically at the Energy, Engineering and Resources Sector. The excellent and informative speakers at the forum included Deborah Talbot, Information Officer – Exploration, Rio Tinto; Colin McIvor, Chief Knowledge Strategist, Worley Parsons; Kate Linkins, Director of Knowledge Management, KBR (USA); Jackie O'Dowd, Director, Realising-Potential Pty Ltd; Colin Henson, Principal, Arup; John Tropea, Communities of Practice Coordinator, Hatch Associates; Robin Weare, Business Improvement Specialist, Rio Tinto Iron Ore; Matthew Cobbett, Director of Business Development, Mining & Metals Group, Fluor Australia; James Grey, Best Practice Transfer Specialist, Alcoa World Alumina and Dr Helen Paige, Founder & Director of the Paige Group. Many aspects of KM were covered by these speakers with 'Communities of Practice', at the forefront of the discussion. There were also two enlightening half-day Workshops facilitated by Mark Bennett, Learning Collaboration and James Price, Managing Director, Experience Matters; Brian Nielsen, Senior Consultant, Experience Matters and Lisa Read White, Independent Consultant / Director Information Proficiency.

Brian Nielsen chaired the forum with flair and provided light relief with his interesting questions for the speakers to answer before they began. Brian also had pertinent questions to ask the speakers at the end of each session which helped clarify some of their points and break the ice for further questions. Dr Helen Paige, with the interactive session, *The Knowledge Cafe*, had us all brainstorming and moving through different groups in order to share our thoughts to come up with innovative new ideas.

The many speakers on Communities of Practice subjects and the *Communities of Practice Master Class: making CoP's happen in the real world*, the workshop with Mark Bennet all provided informative products and tools on how to set them up, how they work and what doesn't work. I developed a further reading list to add to my knowledge base from some of Mark Bennett's toolkit in the workshop. The icebreaker used by Mark — cards and pictures to choose from for each person to tell their own story about — was not only a great deal of fun, providing an insight into the lives and character of our fellow participants we would not usually receive, but also another item to add to the toolkit for opening discussion in initial CoP meetings.

Brian Nielsen, James Price and Lisa Reid White facilitated the workshop on *Getting the right fit: choosing the right KM initiative for your organisation*. This involved worksheets, planning tools, communication and much discussion and problem solving activities amongst the forum members. IT & IM professionals discovered mutual problems with a role or title being assigned to someone, such as Knowledge Manager, and that person being considered the sole person responsible for that activity within the whole organisation. The presentation on *10 things we have learned about Change Communication* was particularly relevant for me and I must have needed reinforced



learning (repetition) in this area as I was presented with this information again by at an RMAA breakfast meeting the next day!

Just some of the things I learnt & some previous knowledge reinforced

- KM needs to be made part of the culture of an organisation — enculturated was the term used by Deborah Talbot.
- Where KM sits within the organisational structure will impact on its uptake — the further down the organisational chain, the less uptake it will have
- Change management with a positive attitude, relevant training and ongoing assistance will help with the uptake of new systems for KM
- KM initiatives need to be supported and promoted by organisational leaders and management, not just the KM team
- A good KM system, such as that presented by Colin McIvor, is coveted by many practitioners
- Reasons for users not being able to learn a new system and share knowledge are similar across organisations. I particularly liked the adage — 'If I tell you what I know I won't have a job' translated to 'If I tell you what I know you will do it wrong and we both won't have a job!'
- KM needs to be aligned with the organisations' business goals and objectives
- Communities of Practice are an excellent KM initiative and work best when participation is encouraged but not mandatory
- Knowledge Mapping can be used to show where knowledge needs to flow or where the blockages are and can be undertaken at an Enterprise, Cross Functional or Process level
- Technology, Process, People & Information equals KM
- Change is a process, not an event
- Education never creates change
- When talking to someone you need to understand not just their language but their 'currency'
- In communication for change never challenge someone's existing beliefs
- Knowledge has a business value

It was all a great learning experience and it was enjoyable networking with a variety of professionals with a common interest in Knowledge Management. I went back to work energised and ready to implement some of the new ideas I had been presented with at the forum and workshops.

Anne Marie Phillips
Information Management Officer
Nido Petroleum Limited



AUSTRALIAN PPDM CONFERENCE IN PERTH

2-3 SEPTEMBER 2009

The annual Australian PPDM Data Management Conference was held in Perth 2-3 September 2009 to discuss the ongoing challenges in the petroleum exploration and production data management arena. Attendees included people from the operator, vendor and government communities with over 60 individuals attending. The combination of presentations, workshops and panel discussions focused on master data management, new technology and ongoing data management challenges.

The issue of Master data stores was discussed by several presenters, highlighting the ongoing issues of governance ("business" owns and takes responsibility for its data), data quality, and the challenges of multiple repositories with inconsistent quality and coverage, and knowledge trapped in "project" files. The use of PPDM to solve some of these challenges was highlighted as an option.

Geoscience Australia's work on the improvement of online well header data presented by David Rowland showed the value in recording the source of the data and why it is being updated. There was also some discussion led by Scott Tidemann of Petrosys around the possibility of evaluating the ROI in data management initiatives – how do you know what value it is generating? Guy Holmes of Spectrum Data put a fresh slant on seismic data management issues with his talk titled "Data management – getting away with murder" where he talked about the ways that data can die.

Of particular interest for me personally was the "What is a well" session, which focused on definitions around well components – this is contentious even in just the Australian oil and gas community, let alone trying to have consistent definitions between administrative zones across the globe. This session generated some lively debate, and raised as many questions in this area as it answered. After the conference, a meeting of 12 representatives from government and the oil and gas industry was held to discuss well definition and naming standards. This led to agreement on a number of action items to support the Australian 'What is a Well?' initiative.

PPDM's Trudy Curtis subsequently hosted a Geochemistry workgroup meeting in Canberra. PPDM reports that the geochemistry model draft is largely complete, and details are being finalized over the next few months. More workgroup meetings are planned for Calgary and Houston. If you wish to participate you can contact PPDM at info@ppdm.org.

I found the conference very interesting and thought provoking, and attending it with members of my team from work prompted some thinking and discussion in our group in new directions that we hadn't considered before.

Jenny Mikucki
Chevron Australia



OIL AND GAS REFERENCE WEBSITES

It isn't all on the web but there are some good and free resources about the oil and gas industry available if you drill down far enough. A few of the good websites are discussed below.

OIL AND GAS 101

<http://www.ukooa.org/education/storyofoil/index.cfm>

This is a concise guide to oil and gas industry – how oil is formed, exploration, drilling, production, safety, etc.

DATABASES

If you don't have a subscription to Georef or other electronic databases there are a few databases that you can access. The websites below offer searches for free and full text articles for a fee.

OnePetro (SPE)

<http://www.onepetro.org/mslib/app/search.do>

This is a searchable database of technical documents from the American Petroleum Institute (API), American Rock Mechanics Association (ARMA), American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Offshore Technology Conference (OTC), NACE International (corrosion engineers), Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts (SPWLA), the Society of Underwater Technology (SUT), and the World Petroleum Council (WPC). The Society of Petroleum Engineers runs the database. Basic and advanced searching is available.

AAPG Datapages

<http://payperview.datapages.com/data/open/ppv.do>

Database of publications of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

ProfDocs

<http://www.profdocs.com/mainindex.asp>

Offers author, title, keyword and abstract searches to APPEA, ASEG and PESA publications up to 2007.

DRILLING RIGS

Rigzone

<http://www.rigzone.com/data/>

Everything you ever wanted to know about drilling rigs is here – basic data is available for free but detailed information requires a subscription.

EXPLORER'S GUIDES

Some government departments publish an overview of the industry covering government regulation, permits, and general background information that is useful if you are new to the industry or come from another region. Given the mobility of some professions within this industry, this type of publication can be really useful.



Minerals and Petroleum Exploration and Development Guide for Investors (2007) [Commonwealth]

<http://www.ret.gov.au/resources/enhancing/Pages/guideforinvestors.aspx>

Petroleum Explorer's Guide to Victoria

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/nrenmp.nsf/LinkView/AA03105FB037DDB1CA2575E00011B4C856D4D5E9AEF563E84A256A800011E5D6>

Explorer's Guide Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Western Australia 2009

Go to <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/8481.aspx> which is the publications home page to download a copy.

ENCYCLOPAEDIAS

Encyclopedia of Earth

<http://www.eoearth.org/>

This is a peer-reviewed earth science encyclopaedia written in nontechnical language – like Wikipedia but with quality control.

Encyclopedia Smithsonian

http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/default.htm

GLOSSARIES

To understand the alphabet soup of acronyms used by drillers, geophysicists and engineers it is helpful to have a good glossary available. A couple of the good ones are:

Schlumberger Oilfield Glossary

<http://www.glossary.oilfield.slb.com/default.cfm>

Baker Hughes Oilfield Glossary

http://investor.shareholder.com/bhi/Tools/oil_glossary_a_c.cfm

The **Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts** has a glossary plus lists of well mnemonics on its website at <http://www.spwla.org/>. This site uses frames - click on Library & Info from the menu on the left side of the home page, then click on Glossary under the heading Reference Material or click on Mnemonics under the heading Reference Material if you need to look at logging mnemonics.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

A lot of information about wells and seismic surveys is available from the state and Commonwealth departments which deal with this data. The quality and quantity of information available online varies from state to state but WA does seem to have much more available online than some other states.

STATE

WA Department of Mines and Petroleum

<http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/>



WA Department of State Development

<http://www.dsd.wa.gov.au/>

See the DMP website for information on wells, surveys and permits; see the DSD website for information on pipeline licences and information on major projects such as Gorgon.

NT Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources

<http://www.nt.gov.au/d/>

Vic Department of Primary Industries

<http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/earth-resources>

SA Department of Primary Industries and Resources

<http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/home>

NSW Department of Primary Industries

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals>

QLD Department of Mines and Energy

<http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/home.cfm>

Tas Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources

http://www.mrt.tas.gov.au/portal/page?_pageid=35,1&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

COMMONWEALTH

Geoscience Australia

<http://www.ga.gov.au/index.jsp>

National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority

<http://www.nopsa.gov.au/>

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

<http://www.amsa.gov.au/index.asp>

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

<http://www.ret.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

Geoscience Portal

<http://www.geoscience.gov.au/>

This site links to all Australian government geoscience agencies and has some useful geoscience links. It may not be updated very frequently as it has links to the WA Department of Industry and Resources rather than the WA Department of Mines and Petroleum which has been the name of the department since 1 January 2009.



LEGISLATION

General resources for Australian legislation include Austlii and ComLaw.

Commonwealth and state acts and regulations are available from Austlii. Current state acts and regulations will also be available online from the state law publisher – you can locate these using Govpubs.

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/>

Commonwealth acts and regulations are available from the ComLaw website.

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/>

Govpubs: the Australian Government Publications Guide

<http://www.nla.gov.au/govpubs/>

This site provides lists of the holdings of state libraries and the national library for government gazettes, Hansard, bills, acts and other government publications. It also provides links to government publications available online.

There are links to **Australian legislation, regulations and guidelines for offshore petroleum** from the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism - see http://www.ret.gov.au/resources/upstream_petroleum/offshore_petroleum_regulation_and_legislation/offshore_petroleum_legislation_regulation_and_guidelines/Pages/OffshorePetroleumLegislationRegulationandGuidelines.aspx

REPORTS ON OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

The International Association of Oil and Gas Producers publishes reports on a broad range of topics such as safety, environmental issues, diving, helicopter operations, asset integrity, and standards. These reports can be downloaded for free.

<http://www.ogp.org.uk/>

STANDARDS

International Association of Oil and Gas Producers

<http://info.ogp.org.uk/standards/>

There is a useful catalogue of standards used in the oil and gas industry and an informative poster listing the major standards available.

Society of Exploration Geophysics

Downloadable copies of SEG-D, SEG-Y, UKOOA P1/90 and other standards relevant to seismic survey data.

http://www.seg.org/SEGportalWEBproject/portals/SEG_Online.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pg_gen_content&Doc_Url=prod/SEG-Publications/Pub-Technical-Standards/technicalstandards.htm

There is a brief description of the **technical committees that develop oil and gas standards** and **lists of ISO standards pertaining to oil and gas** at

http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/the_iso_portfolio/iso_portfolio_oil_and_gas.htm

Camille Peters
Apache Energy



AUSTRALIAN GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION ALERTS YOU CAN SUBSCRIBE TO

Geoscience Australia Minerals Alert and AusGeo News

<http://www.ga.gov.au/about-us/news-media/>

GSWA eNewsletter

<http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/5692.aspx>

AGIA NEWS

AGIA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2009-2010

Many thanks indeed to those who have renewed their AGIA membership for 2009-2010. I have been processing the renewals that came in whilst I was on long service leave and your receipts will be with you shortly.

To those of you whose membership remains outstanding, the opportunity to renew for the upcoming year has now closed. If you wish to remain a member then you will need to rejoin AGIA and the membership form can be found on the AGIA website at: <http://agia.org.au/membership.htm>

AGIA continues to operate as a small independent group of members with an interest in geoscience information. In my last message to you I mentioned that AGIA had been approached by Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) to join with them, and that the National Committee was awaiting the outcome of the merger talks between the Geological Society of Australia (GSA) and AIG before reconsidering the possibility of joining the new body as a special interest group. The AIG/GSA merger is now not going ahead, so the AGIA National Committee is reconsidering the options available for joining a larger and like-minded association as a special interest group. The National Committee has homework to do on this matter and will keep you informed of the progress of these deliberations. The societies under consideration are, again AIG and GSA as separate entities, the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM).

In the meantime, we very much appreciate your continued support!

With best wishes on behalf of the National Committee.

**Dr Kerry Smith, FALIA
Membership Secretary**



UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

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 <http://www.5ias.org/default.aspx>.

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

Note that the final submission date for Abstracts is 12 February 2010 with authors informed of acceptance by 30 April 2010.

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

<http://www.34igc.org/>

SNIP'ITS

NEW BOOK SERIES ON THE LYELL COLLECTION – PETROLEUM GEOLOGY CONFERENCE SERIES

The Geological Society of London is pleased to announce the launch of a new book series on the Lyell Collection. The Petroleum Geology Conference series is a sequence of edited and peer-reviewed volumes arising from the prestigious London-hosted conferences. The series feature papers, posters, animations and core photographs with commentary. The principle focus is on North-West Europe, but papers also detail many generic advances made in petroleum geology. Volumes 4, 5 and 6 have been included at launch, with volume 7 due to be published in 2010.

The PGC series is included in the Lyell Collection Complete at no additional charge to subscribers. Please visit <http://pgc.lyellcollection.org>.

To subscribe to the Lyell Collection: sales@geolsoc.org.uk

NEW USGS RELEASES

USGS today celebrated its 125th Anniversary for Topographic Mapping in the United States. With the celebration, USGS announced a new series of digital topographic maps, called US TOPO, that will be produced on a 3-year cycle for the entire conterminous United States. For more information, see the press release at: http://www.doi.gov/news/09_News_Releases/120309.html

The USGS also released a new National Map viewer for viewing and access to the data layers and US Topo products produced by the USGS. You can see the National Map viewer at: <http://nationalmap.gov/viewers.html>



Also with this anniversary, USGS has published a new publication, Circular 1341, History of the Topographic Branch (Division). The publication is available for download at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1341/>

WEB SITES & MAILING LISTS OF INTEREST

WAIN MAILING LIST

WAIN@lists.curtin.edu.au
<https://lists.curtin.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/wain>

GEONET

Geonet mailing list: Geonet@purdue.edu
<https://lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/geonet>

LIST OF GEOSCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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>



AUSTRALIAN GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION ASSOCIATION INC.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2009–10

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