

Geological Society of Australia – WA Division 2007 Annual General Meeting



**Geography/Geology Lecture Theatre 1, University of Western Australia
5.30pm, Tuesday 3 April 2007**

AGENDA AND MINUTES

- Meeting opened by the Chair (Ian Fitzsimons) at 17.40.
- Minutes of the 2006 AGM were accepted without amendment.
- Chairman's Annual Report 2006–2007 (attached) tabled and summarized by the Chair.
- Treasurer's Annual Report 2006–2007 (attached; by Chris Yeats) tabled and summarized by the Chair.
- WAG Report 2006–2007 (attached; by Angela Riganti) tabled and summarized by the Chair.
- Subcommittee Annual Reports 2006–2007 tabled and summarized by the Chair:
 - Awards (attached; by Charles Butt).
 - Education and Vocation (attached; by Ian Fitzsimons).
 - Geological Heritage (attached; by Iain Copp).
 - Stratigraphic Nomenclature (attached; by Roger Hocking).
- Election of New Officers 2007–2008 (all sole nominations, and elected unopposed):
 - **Chair:** Chris Yeats
 - **Vice-Chair:** Marcus Willson
 - **Secretary:** Catherine Spaggiari
 - **Treasurer and WAG Business Manager:** Peter Haines
- New Members: Bruce Groenewald, John Miller, Adilah Abdullah, Derek Marshall, Natasha McGregor, and Caitlin Syme: all approved.
- There being no other business, the Chair introduced the Seminar at 18.00.
- **Seminar:**

A PLANET IN TRANSITION: Geological and Anthropological Perspectives on Climate Change

Dr Andrew Glikson

*Department of Earth and Marine Science and Planetary Science Institute
Australian National University*

Humans have been shaped by survival through harsh glacial–interglacial climate cycles, culminating in the relatively stable conditions of the Holocene, which allowed Neolithic cultivation and civilization. Lately, the roles have been reversed. Natural global warming events, triggered by solar irradiation peaks and amplified by the release of water vapour, CO₂, CH₄ and N-oxides from surface biomass, are magnified by the excavation and combustion of hundreds of billions of tonnes of carbon produced by over 400 million years of biological activity. Consequent greenhouse-gas emission rates exceed those of the last glacial termination by orders of magnitude. Present growth rates of atmospheric greenhouse gas levels are tracking at the top end of 21st century projections of the 4th Assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-2007), threatening major sea level rises. The Australian continent, located between the southward-contracting Antarctic wind vortex and the equatorial El-Niño, is at the forefront of dangerous climate change, inducing droughts, fires and potential flooding of coastal population centres. Humans have the ingenuity and possess the technology to mitigate climate change and protect the biosphere from its severe consequences.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: 2006-2007

This is my second and final report to the Division, having now completed a two-year term as Chair, and I thank all of the Committee and Subcommittee members who have served the Division and its membership over all or part of this period (Table 1). There have been a number of changes to the Committee during the past year due to a range of work and family commitments. Graham Begg, Fiona Burns, and Noreen Vielreicher left the Committee shortly after the last Annual General Meeting in April 2006, with Ross Milner and Catherine Spaggiari joining the Committee in their place, and Jo-Anne Wartho resigned in October 2006 on taking up a position in the United States. Mick Elias stepped down as Convenor of the Awards Subcommittee in mid 2006, a role that he has performed with discretion and diligence for several years, and the Division was very pleased that Charles Butt, a previous winner of the Division's Gibb Maitland Award, agreed to fill this position and coordinate the search for a 2007 Gibb Maitland medalist. The entire Committee will stand down at the 2007 Annual General Meeting, although some members have agreed to serve again in various capacities, depending upon the number of nominations received for committee positions, and the results of any election should there be more volunteers than places available.

One of the Division's most important responsibilities over the past year has been the production of the "West Australian Geologist" (WAG) newsletter, and its distribution to all of its members state-wide. As described in my last annual report, the Divisional Committee decided in 2006 to reduce the number of WAG issues per year from eleven to six, in response to a need to change to a more expensive printing company. This has significantly reduced the workload on the editorial team of Amanda Thomson and Jean Johnston and has resulted in a more professional appearance with high-quality image reproduction. Amanda and Jean stood down as Editors in February this year, after 18 months of service, and the April issue of WAG will be the first produced by Janet Muhling, our new Editor. I thank Amanda and Jean for their outstanding efforts, both in ensuring that WAG was produced on time with interesting and varied content, but also for leading the debate on the future format and role of the newsletter, and welcome Janet on board. The WAG remains the most substantial of the Divisional newsletters, with between 8 and 16 pages (plus inserts) each issue, and importantly has maintained a sizeable advertising income despite the reduction in advertising capacity associated with fewer issues, resulting in WAG generating a small surplus in 2006.

It has taken seven years of careful management to turn the newsletter around from being a substantial drain on the Division's resources to attaining self-sufficiency and allowing the Division to direct its membership funds into more strategic activities. I thank firstly all of the companies, organizations and individuals who have supported the WAG as advertisers and sponsors and allowed the Division to achieve this fantastic outcome, and secondly

Table 1: DIVISIONAL COMMITTEES

Position	2005-2006	2006-2007
Chair	Ian Fitzsimons (Curtin)	Ian Fitzsimons (Curtin)
Vice Chair	Sandi Occhipinti (Fugro Airborne Services)	Sandi Occhipinti (Fugro Airborne Services)
Secretary	Simon Bodorkos (GSWA)	Simon Bodorkos (GSWA)
Treasurer	Chris Yeats (CSIRO)	Chris Yeats (CSIRO)
WAG Editor	Amanda Thomson (GSWA) and Jean Johnston (GSWA) (from Aug 05)	Amanda Thomson (GSWA) and Jean Johnston (GSWA)
WAG Business Manager	Angela Riganti (GSWA)	Angela Riganti (GSWA)
Committee	Graham Begg (WMC) Frank Bierlein (UWA) Fiona Burns (Curtin) Kevin Cassidy (GA) Peter Haines (GSWA) Ed Saunders (UWA student) David Schafer (Curtin student) Noreen Vielreicher (UWA) Jo-Anne Wartho (Curtin) Marcus Willson (Placer Dome)	Frank Bierlein (UWA) Peter Haines (GSWA) Ross Milner (Australian Mineral Fields) Sara Peet (UWA student) Catherine Spaggiari (GSWA) Jo-Anne Wartho (Curtin) (until Oct 06) Marcus Willson (Australian Mineral Fields)
Sub-Committee Convenors:		
Awards	Mick Elias (Consultant)	Charles Butt (CSIRO)
Education and Vocation	Jenny Bevan (UWA)	Martin Van Kranendonk (GSWA)
Geological Heritage	Iain Copp (CALM)	Iain Copp (CALM)
Stratigraphic Nomenclature	Roger Hocking (GSWA)	Roger Hocking (GSWA)

Angela Riganti for encouraging and coordinating much of this revenue. Having exceeded all of the Division's expectations, Angela has now stepped down as WAG Business Manager. The Divisional Committee believes that there is no longer a need for a dedicated Business Manager given that the WAG is now published bi-monthly and that the invoicing responsibilities have been passed onto Jocelyn Thomson, employed on a part-time basis to maintain the Division's accounts. I must also thank the Geological Survey of Western Australia for allowing the WAG editorial and business team to use GSWA facilities, software, templates, and drafting expertise while transforming the WAG into its current state. The Division has recently purchased an up-to-date editing software suite to provide the new Editor with the same technological support.

The Committee has also worked hard to maintain a varied program of monthly meetings (Table 2) with talks by a mix of speakers from academia, government, and industry who have used sedimentology, palaeontology, igneous and metamorphic petrology, geochemistry and geochronology to address major issues in mineral exploration, tectonics, global climate change, the origins of the solar system and the evolution of life. Meeting attendance has been steady, with all talks attracting at least 25–30 persons and some in excess of 60, although the Committee remains concerned with the apparent lack of student interest. In 2006 the Division decided to offer refreshments at its monthly meetings free of charge, rather than request a gold-coin donation, and, although this has not notably increased attendance, it has simplified the meeting organization and will continue into 2007. I thank Catherine Spaggiari and, more recently, Frank Bierlein for assisting with the provision of these refreshments. We do continue to suffer rare but annoying problems with the venue, including occasional lockouts by security staff, but the Committee believes that the University of Western Australia remains the best location for the meetings. Details of the talks, including abstracts, continue to be posted on our Divisional Website (<http://www.wa.gsa.org.au>), which now has an archive of talk abstracts stretching back to 2004 and also provides downloads of all ten of the Division's field guides and the most recent WAG newsletters. Another recent addition to the web site is a listing of all previous winners of the Division's four awards. I thank Peter Haines for his efforts in maintaining and enhancing this web site.

The Annual Dinner and Award Presentation remains the social highlight of the year, and was held in April 2006 at the Boatshed Restaurant in South Perth and attended by over 90 persons, including the winners of the 2006 TEE Prize, Talbot Medal and GSA Medal and members of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) who were invited for the first time to encourage closer links between the two societies. The lack of a Gibb Maitland Medal Winner did not detract from proceedings, although it did result in fewer speeches than usual. The event was generously sponsored by BHP Billiton Mineral Exploration, and I thank Jo-Anne Wartho and Catherine Spaggiari for arranging additional sponsorship by Gage Roads Brewery Co and the Arlewood Estate Winery, and Sandra Occhipinti for collecting money and issuing receipts on the evening. The 2007 Dinner will be held on Friday 27 April, again at the Boatshed Restaurant, and this year we hope that more than 100 guests will fill the restaurant

Table 2: MONTHLY MEETINGS, MAY 2006–APRIL 2007

2006		
2 May	Roger Hocking	Conglomerates, cyclicity and controls in Canning Basin Devonian reefs: some new insights in a very scenic setting.
6 June	Ian Neilson	GoCAD and the common earth model: a revolution in exploration data integration and understanding
4 July	Scott Halley	Vectors to blind, high-grade Archean gold deposits
1 August	Steve Barnes	Komatiites in the Norseman-Wiluna and Abitibi greenstone belts: geochemical comparison, and implications for nickel sulfide targeting
5 September	Ian Fitzsimons	Accessory phases and metamorphic reactions: using bulk-rock composition to determine orogenic P-T-t paths
3 October	Alexander Nemchin	Origin and evolution of the Moon: new insights from U-Pb geochronology of lunar samples
14 November	Ken McNamara	Shapes of Time – using the fossil record to explain evolution
24 November	Joint AIG-GSA Christmas Cruise	
2007		
6 February	Mike McWilliams	The real truths about “Snowball Earth”
6 March	Jim Ross	The peopling of Australia: a tale of genes, climate and culture
3 April	Annual General Meeting	
	Andrew Glikson	A planet in transition: geological and anthropological perspectives on climate change.

with their friends and colleagues and celebrate the achievements of the latest award winners. We shall again present only three divisional awards this year (Table 3). Following a number of very competitive nominations made to the Awards Subcommittee, the Division is pleased to award the 2007 Gibb Maitland Medal to Dr Peter Eadington of CSIRO, for his work on the fluid characterization of petroleum reservoirs. The unsuccessful nominations will be carried over for reconsideration next year, and the Division is confident that the medal will be awarded to another worthy recipient in 2008, although we encourage members to make further nominations and ensure that all those deserving of the award are considered. Christopher Hug and Nathan Combs are the 2007 winners of the GSA Medal and the TEE Prize respectively, but there will be no award of Talbot Medal this year. This reflects the relatively low numbers of students undertaking Honours at UWA in 2006, the declining role of fieldwork in many Honours projects, and the fact that the theses of two eligible candidates had not yet been examined when the awards were finalized in February 2007. The Committee has been in discussion with the University of Western Australia about the future of the medal and whether the award criteria should be broadened to accommodate studies based on description and analysis of core material in addition to traditional field mapping. The Division also continued to support the annual GSA-AIG Christmas Cruise along the Swan River, held in late November, which was yet again sponsored by Southern Geoscience Consultants and attended by a large number of WA geoscientists.

The Division has continued to promote geoscience to high school students through its sponsorship of the Western Region Australian Student Mineral Venture, a two-week program held in July that introduces Year 10, 11 and 12 school students to careers in the minerals industry and to the tertiary-level University courses that lead to these careers. This event was coordinated in July 2006 for the last time by Susan Ho, former WAG Editor and long-time supporter of the Society, and the Division wishes her well with her future endeavours. The ASMV has persuaded many high school students to embark on a geology career, including three students currently at Curtin, and the new ASMV coordinator will have a hard act to follow. The WA Division has also continued to provide financial support to Earth Sciences WA (ESWA), a consortium comprising key educational and research organizations and industry representatives whose immediate aim is to encourage WA high schools to take up the new Year 11 and 12 Course of Study in Earth and Environmental Science (EES). The introduction of new courses of study across the WA education system has been controversial, as any reader of the *West Australian* will be aware, but EES has bucked the trend and been enthusiastically received by teachers and students, thanks largely to the efforts of ESWA and its Executive Education Officer, Louisa Walker. ESWA has organized professional development training and course materials for EES teachers ready for the introduction of the new course this year, and as a result the course is currently being offered by more than 10 schools and taken by more than 200 students in Year 11. This far exceeds the uptake of the old Geology TEE in recent years and can only bode well for the public profile of geology in Western Australia.

The Division also continued to play the leading role in the organization of the annual geoscience careers night for university students. In 2004 and 2005 this event was organized by GSA(WA) in collaboration with the WA Branch of the Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia (PESA), but this year the Division also secured the participation of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) and the International Association of Hydrogeologists to ensure that the evening gave a comprehensive view of career opportunities in the geoscience sector. Marcus Willson coordinated the evening, which was held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in August 2006. Marcus generously offered the time of Renee Balodis, his Business Manager and Company Secretary, to assist with the bookings and sponsorship coordination, and Sara Peet arranged the advertising and student liaison. The evening was attended by over 100 students from Curtin and UWA and over 50 representatives from industry and professional societies, there were three speakers representing the minerals, petroleum and groundwater sectors, respectively, and almost \$10,000 was collected in sponsorship from minerals, petroleum and service companies. In addition to this work on behalf on the State's future geologists, the Division is also concerned with recognition of those geologists who have in the past contributed to the geological understanding and prosperity of Western Australia. During 2006 there have been significant efforts to revisit a proposal of several years ago to erect a memorial to H.W.B. Talbot on the site of his unmarked grave at Nannup. Talbot was a long-serving and well-travelled field geologist with the Geological Survey of WA and the first Chief Geologist of the Western Mining Corporation. With the assistance of Mike Freeman and Alan Marshall, both former office-bearers of the WA Division, the materials

Table 3: DIVISIONAL AWARDS 2007

Award	2007 Recipient	Basis for the award
Gibb Maitland Medal	Dr Peter Eadington (CSIRO)	Substantial contributions to geoscience in Western Australia, with particular consideration given to contributions that relate to the occurrence or discovery of mineral resources
Talbot Prize	(No Award)	Best Honours thesis at The University of Western Australia with a significant fieldwork component
GSA Medal	Christopher Hug	Best undergraduate results in the final year of the BSc (Applied Geology) degree at Curtin University of Technology
TEE Prize	Nathan Combs	Best aggregate score in the Geology Tertiary Entrance Examination

for the memorial have been secured from a quarry in the State's southwest, a formal quotation for construction has been provided by a memorial company in Bunbury, and sponsorship for the project has been received from BHP Billiton. The final arrangements are currently underway and the Division hopes that the Talbot Memorial will be completed and unveiled at a formal ceremony later this year.

I hope that this report gives some indication of the efforts made by the Committee during the past twelve months in ensuring that the WA Division continues to play a leading role in the promotion of geoscience and remains the largest and most active division of the Geological Society of Australia. The Division's membership seems at last to have stabilized, after several years of decline, with a total membership in 2006 of 538, and the number of currently financial members in 2007 sitting at 503 and likely to increase over the next few months. As highlighted in my last report, the current multitude of different geoscience societies active in Western Australia must reduce the impact of each individual organization, but I believe that the WA Division of the GSA had made significant attempts to bring these different groups together through joint sponsorship of events, and that this collaboration is to the benefit of all concerned. The level of joint activity is set to increase in the near future with the GSA and AIG co-convening the 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention, to be held at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre in July 2008. I invite all GSA members to participate in what should be the biggest and best in a long line of biennial national conferences, and hope that we can demonstrate to interstate and overseas delegates that the geological heart of Australia is located a long way west of its geographic centre.

Once again I conclude by thanking my fellow committee members for their hard work over the past twelve months. It has been a pleasure to chair a committee with members so willing to commit their time to the activities detailed above, in particular our Secretary, Simon Bodorkos, who has been heavily involved with every aspect of the Division's work over the past 12 months, and I encourage others members of the Division to volunteer for the Committee and continue this good work.

Ian Fitzsimons
Chairman
Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division

TREASURER'S REPORT: 2006-2007

A Balance Sheet (as of 31 December 2006), and a Profit and Loss Statement for the 2006 calendar year are attached to this report and indicate that 2006 was a successful financial year for the Division, although it should be noted that these financial statements have not yet been audited. The key points are as follows:

- The Division retains reserves of about \$77,000, representing a combination of our Commonwealth Bank cheque account, and our investments with JB Were, which returned \$3,700 in interest during 2006.
- Membership dues (capitation) received from Head Office during 2006 amounted to over \$7,000.
- The WAG newsletter made a surplus of almost \$2,000 (not including postage and handling costs associated with the December 2006-January 2007 issue), thanks to the efforts of the WAG Business Manager in securing a significant level of advertising and sponsorship and a reduction in the number of issues published each year.
- The Annual Dinner made a deficit of \$760, due to the discount offered to members on the dinner cost, but this was more than offset by the receipt of \$1,000 sponsorship from BHP Billiton Mineral Exploration.
- The items labelled "miscellaneous functions" relate to the University Student Careers Evening held in August 2006. This event made almost \$4,000 as a result of substantial sponsorship from Petroleum and Minerals companies, although the Division will pass on half of this surplus to PESA, co-organizers of the function.
- The Division made significant donations to Earth Science WA (a consortium set up to promote Earth Science Education in Western Australia) and the Australian Student Mineral Venture (annual vacation program for high school students), and offered cash prizes to the winners of the TEE Prize, GSA Medal, and Talbot Medal.
- The net operating result for the Division in 2006 was a surplus of \$12,498.63.

Geological Society Australia WA Division

PO Box 6014
East Perth 6892
West Australia

Balance Sheet

As of December 2006

22/01/2007
10:52:09 AM

Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash On Hand			
Commonwealth Bank	\$19,109.82		
Total Cash On Hand	<u>\$19,109.82</u>		
J B Were Call Notes	\$45,913.52		
J B Were Cash Trust	\$12,060.15		
Trade Debtors	\$3,074.50		
Total Current Assets		<u>\$80,157.99</u>	
Total Assets			<u>\$80,157.99</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
GST Liabilities			
GST Collected	\$4,924.13		
GST Paid	-\$4,835.08		
Total GST Liabilities	<u>\$89.05</u>		
Total Current Liabilities		<u>\$89.05</u>	
Total Liabilities			<u>\$89.05</u>
Net Assets			<u>\$80,068.94</u>
Equity			
Retained Earnings		\$14,285.32	
Current Year Earnings		\$12,498.63	
Historical Balancing		<u>\$53,284.99</u>	
Total Equity			<u>\$80,068.94</u>

Geological Society Australia WA Division

PO Box 6014
 East Perth 6892
 West Australia

Profit & Loss Statement**1/01/2006 through 31/12/2006**

22/01/2007
 10:51:05 AM

Income		
Capitation		\$7,441.18
Glover Book		\$136.36
INTEREST		
Interest Com Bank	\$44.17	
J B Were Call Notes Interest	\$3,006.31	
J B Were Cash Trust Interest	\$716.71	
WAG		\$7,145.00
FUNCTIONS		
Annual Dinner	\$4,945.38	
Miscellaneous Functions	\$9,727.28	
Miscellaneous Income		\$1,000.00
Total Income		<u>\$34,162.39</u>
Cost of Sales		
Gross Profit		<u>\$34,162.39</u>
Expenses		
Accounting Fees	\$472.50	
Committee Meetings	\$220.27	
FUNCTIONS		
Annual Dinner	\$5,706.91	
Xmas Cruise	\$591.62	
Miscellaneous Functions	\$5,980.47	
DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIP		
Student Prize	\$672.30	
ASMV	\$500.00	
Earth Science WA	\$1,650.00	
Miscellaneous		\$380.00
Postage		\$150.91
Stationery and Printing		\$10.64
Travel & Entertainment		\$128.60
WAG		\$5,199.54
Total Expenses		<u>\$21,663.76</u>
Operating Profit		<u>\$12,498.63</u>
Other Income		
Other Expenses		
Net Profit / (Loss)		<u>\$12,498.63</u>

The continued healthy operating surplus for the Division is largely due to generous industry support for many of our activities, although it is important to remember that making a surplus is not the main function of the Society. The Division expects to incur a number of expenses during 2007 that will ensure that we put this surplus to good use. These include the cost of erecting a memorial to pioneer geologist H.W.B. Talbot, providing \$10,000 seed funding to the 2008 Australian Earth Science Convention, a commitment to support a geology fieldtrip organized by Kent Street High School, and the Division's decision to continue to subsidize the Annual Dinner which is unlikely to receive external sponsorship in 2007.

Chris Yeats
Treasurer
Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division

WAG BUSINESS REPORT FOR 2006

This document summarizes WAG business activity during 2006, documents some of the major changes introduced last year for our Newsletter, and makes some recommendations to be considered by the committee.

1. BUSINESS MANAGER AND EDITOR POSITIONS

In 2006, the WAG Business Manager position was filled by myself (Angela Riganti), while the WAG Editor position was filled jointly by Amanda Thomson and Jean Johnston. As both positions were filled by Geological Survey employees, WAG costs outside of printing and posting have been kept to zero. On behalf of the WA Division of GSA, I'd like to thank GSWA for the use of departmental email and telephone lines for communications between ourselves, our customers, and the printer, as well as access to in-house templates and drafting expertise.

The WAG Editor position was transferred to Janet Muhling in February 2007. To maintain the highly professional look WAG has acquired under Amanda and Jean's editorship, as well as to keep up with software developments and enhancements, the GSA Committee (January 2007 meeting) approved the acquisition of the Creative Suites package to replace the PageMaker software purchased by the Society many years ago. The Creative Suites package was costed at \$595, and includes InDesign, Acrobat Professional, Illustrator and Photoshop. As this represents a one-off purchase, it was deemed more appropriate to record it as part of the Branch general business rather than as a WAG transaction, and it is therefore not recorded as an item in the financial summary presented below.

While welcoming Janet to her new position, I would like to thank Jean and Amanda for using their editorial expertise to produce a highly professional Newsletter, for their enthusiasm, and for the assistance they provided me with during their 15 month-stint as editors. After four years as WAG Business Manager, I will be stepping down from the position at the beginning of May 2007, when the WAG Business Manager responsibilities will be incorporated with those of the Treasurer. This merging of responsibilities was approved by the WA GSA Committee in November 2006, and was largely brought about by the shortage of volunteers for the WAG position and by a reduction in the workload of the Treasurer. The decision might be revisited in future if necessary, but the difficulties in finding volunteers for both the WAG Business Manager and Editor positions is a point of concern that the Committee needs to address in both its short- and long-term strategic planning.

2. PUBLISHING AND CONTENT

The change from a monthly to a bi-monthly publication at the beginning of 2006 has progressed well, and has considerably lightened the workload of the editors (though it does require a bit more planning and coordination in finalising speakers and in obtaining talk abstracts). WAG issues in 2006 varied between 12 and 16 pages, and a good balance between articles and advertising material was generally achieved. Acquiring good and relevant articles is probably still the most difficult part of the editor's job, and I urge all committee members to keep an eye open for possible contributors/contributions.

The printer company (Fineline Print), selected to replace our previous printer Eric Foote (who retired at the end of 2005), is producing a good quality b/w newsletter, delivered timely in a plastic sleeve. Access to the web version of the Newsletter is provided via the GSA main website, and download times appear to have improved.

No changes are envisaged for the immediate future, though web-only publication will always be an option if a reduction in costs should become necessary. As already pointed out in the 2005 report, this decision will need to take into account :

- the effectiveness of a web-only publication (will members really take the trouble to download it and read it?),
- the functionality of the Society website,
- the distribution of roles (who maintains email distribution lists in an ever-changing work environment?),
- re-assessment of advertising rates and development of a strategy so that our sponsors/advertisers will continue to support the Newsletter.

3. ADVERTISING

The shift to bi-monthly publication at the beginning of 2006 coincided with an increase of our advertising rates to offset the reduction in revenues due to the overall decrease of advertising space. Most clients that had on-going advertising deals at the time elected to extend them to compensate for the reductions of issues, and a few even offered to contribute extra money to make up the difference with the current rates. All deals that were extended have come to an end at the end of 2006 or at the beginning of 2007. The decrease in income due to the

reduction in sponsorships (only 6 issues are now available) has been partly offset by negotiating alternative advertising deals with some of our most regular sponsors.

Most of the deals that terminated at the end of 2006 have been extended to the end of 2007, and all sponsorships for 2007 have been assigned. The current favourable economic climate and the skill shortage in the resource sector have already generated some extra adverts. Though printing and postage costs are likely to increase slightly in 2007, the overall forecast for 2007 is good, and a balanced outcome likely to be achieved.

4. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The graph below (Fig. 1) shows WAG revenue and expenditure for the years 1993–2006 inclusive. Note that these data reflect expenditure paid and income received during the calendar year (rather than expenditure incurred and income generated during that time period—accounts being prepared on a cash rather than accrual basis). The figures for 2006 (all excluding GST) are:

WAG Printing costs paid in 2006:	\$6,027.83	(\$8,103.90 in 2005)
WAG Editor costs paid in 2006:	\$ 0.00	(\$ 0.00 in 2005)
TOTAL WAG EXPENDITURE IN 2006	\$6,028.00	(\$8,103.90 in 2005)
WAG advertising income received in 2006:	\$3,050.00	(\$3,606.32 in 2005)
WAG sponsorship income received in 2006:	\$3,735.00	(\$4,148.64 in 2005)
TOTAL WAG INCOME IN 2006	\$6,785.00	(\$7,754.96 in 2005)
NET PROFIT (LOSS)	\$ 757.17	(\$ 348.94 in 2005)

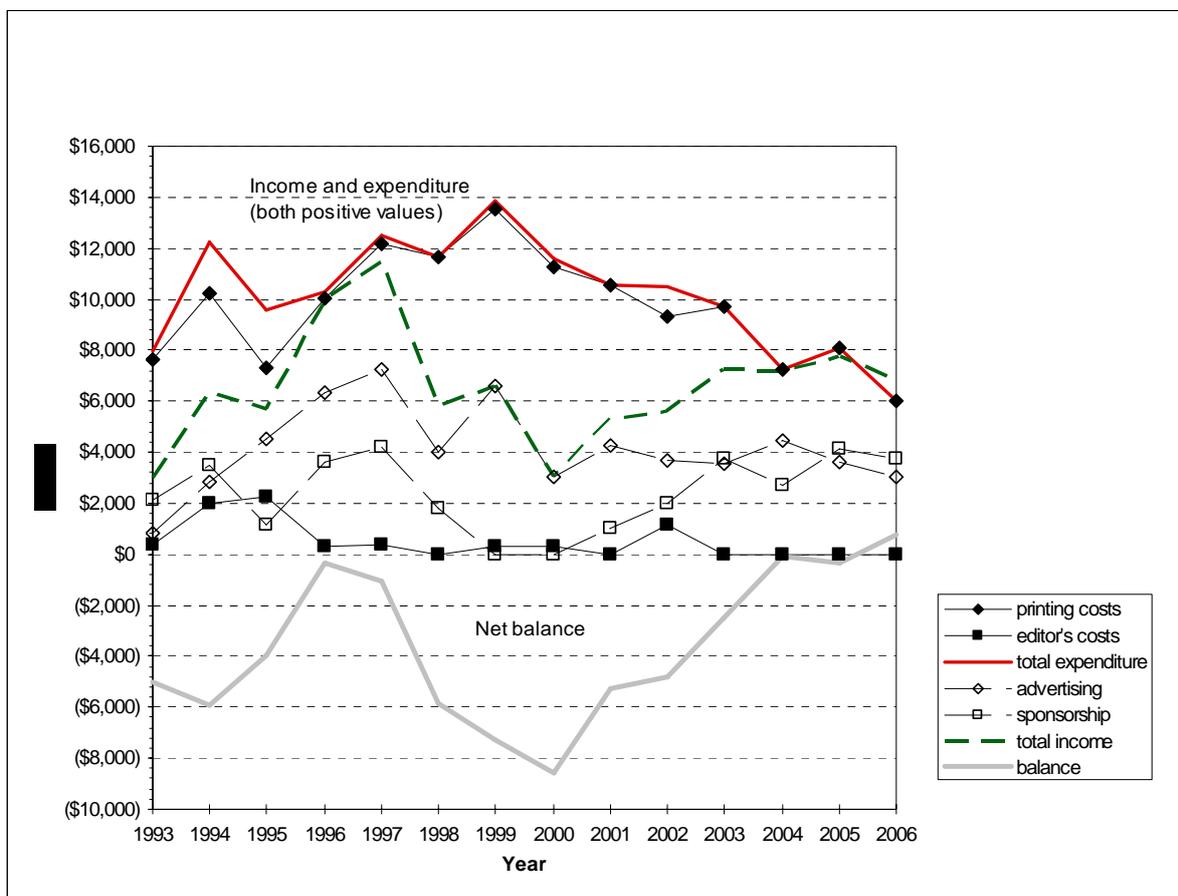


Fig 1. WAG Income and Expenditure 1993-2006 (values taken from GSA WA budget summaries).

Figure 1 shows that the financial performance of WAG has steadily improved in the last few years, with only a minor set-back in 2005. For the first time in 14 years, WAG has generated a significant profit, albeit only of a few hundred dollars. This indicates that the decision to cut back on number of published issues from 11 to 6 and to concomitantly increase advertising rates to offset the increased production costs was overall a good one, as it did not impact on the quality of our Newsletter, has allowed us to keep producing a hard-copy publication, and has not impacted negatively on the Society finances. Figures for 2007 look promising, with a projected income of about \$8000. As printing and postage costs are likely to increase only slightly, a small net profit can be reasonably expected for the current year.

5. ADVERTISERS AND SPONSORS DURING 2006

The following table outlines all of the advertising in the WAG during 2006, including the nature of the advert, the identity of the advertiser, and the amount charged in each case.

WAG ISSUE	SIZE OF ADVERT	ADVERTISER NAME	DESCRIPTION OF ADVERT	TOTAL CHARGE	GST CHARGE
Feb05 to Feb07*	crd	Darlinjup Geological Contracting	Personal card	\$198.00	\$18.00
Aug-05 to Feb-07*	qtr x 12	WorkPac	Company ad	\$550.00	\$50.00
Sep-05 to Apr-07*	qtr x 12+ spons	Rocklabs	Company advert	\$770.00	\$70.00
Nov-05 to Dec-06	crd x 12	Xcountry charters	Personal card	\$264.00	\$24.00
Nov-05 to Dec-06	Spons + qtr x 12	Maxwell	Sponsorship	\$880.00	\$80.00
Feb-06	sponsorship	GSWA	Open day insert	\$660.00	\$60.00
Feb-06	2 full pages	CET	Course ad	\$440.00	\$40.00
Feb06 to Feb07	crd	Darlinjup Geological Contracting	Personal card	\$198.00	\$18.00
Apr-06 to Feb-07	hlf x 6	Data Directions	Company ad	\$880.00	\$80.00
Apr-06	sponsorship	SNOWDEN	Sponsorship	\$660.00	\$60.00
Apr-06 to Dec-06	qtr x 5	SNOWDEN	Company advert	\$440.00	\$40.00
Jun-06	full	GSWA	Field excursion ad	\$220.00	\$20.00
Aug-06	qtr	pmd*CRC	Metamorphic rock ad	\$88.00	\$8.00
Aug-06	sponsorship	Rocklabs	2 inserts +logo	\$685.00	x
Aug-06	insert	GSWA	Open day insert	\$385.00	\$35.00
Oct-06	sponsorship	Geoconferences	Chairman report	\$660.00	\$60.00
Oct-06 to Dec06	full x 2 issues	GSWA	GSWA publication list	\$440.00	\$40.00
Dec-06	sponsorship	Southern Geoscience	Sponsorship	FREE	FREE

* paid in 2005

We had paying sponsors for 5 out of 6 WAG issues: February/March (GSWA), April/May (Snowden), June/July (Maxwell Geoservices), August/September (Rocklabs), October/November (Geoconferences). The December/January issue was sponsored by Southern Geoscience Consultants as part of their sponsorship of the GSA/AIG Christmas Cruise. Special thanks to GSWA, Snowden, Maxwell Geoservices and Geoconferences for their continued support.

6. WEB PUBLISHING

WAG accessibility through the Society website (via the WA division page) has improved during the year. Minor adjustments are still required to avoid multiple links to different issues of the Newsletter.

7. OUTLOOK FOR 2007

- The decision at the beginning of 2006 to introduce bi-monthly publication in hard-copy and to concomitantly increase advertising rates by about 30% has led to the desirable outcome of a financially solvent WAG. As projected income for 2007 appears to be roughly at the same level, I would

recommend that no further changes are introduced to the production of WAG for the immediate future. The option of web-only publication should be reconsidered if and when circumstances change.

- The biggest challenge faced by WAG at present is the difficulty in finding volunteers to fill in the WAG Business Manager and Editor's positions. Merging of our Society with other geological organizations, and the resulting increase in membership numbers might increase the likelihood of finding dedicated people. However, as the merging is likely to take some time, the Committee needs to develop a strategy to attract people to these positions, possibly as part of a broader strategy to attract new members. The option of paying for these positions was briefly considered by the Committee, but is financially not viable at present. Seeking and "recruiting" new volunteers need to be carried out almost continuously, perhaps targeting University students (whose numbers are likely to increase in the next few years due to the resource boom WA is currently experiencing). The positive aspects of contributing to the Newsletter need to be highlighted to prospective candidates (eg skills development, networking, serving on a Society Committee). I would also recommend that a more formal advertising campaign with attractive adverts for the positions be carried out, not just through WAG but using other outlets (eg University publications and notice boards).
- The Committee and all Society members need to be proactive in seeking non-financial contributions to the Newsletter, in order to maintain a good balance with advertising material and facilitate the editor's job.

Finally, I thank the WA committee for their support, Amanda Thomson and Jean Johnston for their excellence in performing their editorial work, Janet Muhling for volunteering her time to be our new Editor, and all WAG advertisers and sponsors for their contributions in 2006.

Angela Riganti
WAG Business Manager
Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: 2006-2007

1. AWARDS

The Awards Subcommittee in 2006-2007 comprised Charles Butt (Convenor), Bryan Smith and Nick Archibald.

The Subcommittee's activities during 2006-2007 were concerned with the Gibb Maitland Medal. Despite the long history of the Medal, there were no clear guidelines for potential nominators to follow. Hence, it was decided to prepare a document that described the Purpose, Eligibility and Criteria for the Award, that indicated the information required and that suggested an appropriate format for nominations to follow. This document drew on discussions by previous Subcommittees, and especially a letter from Mick Elias to Ian Tyler, the then Chair of the WA Division, in 2002. The guidelines in this document were followed by each of the nominations received and were an assistance to the Subcommittee because they provided comparable information about each candidate.

Nominations for the 2007 Gibb Maitland Medal closed on 1 December 2006. There were six nominations, an unusual occurrence in the recent history of the award. The Subcommittee met on 21 December to consider the nominations. Three were shortlisted and after some discussion, a unanimous decision was reached, subject to a confirmatory opinion from a referee, which was received early in January. The Subcommittee was pleased to recommend that the 2007 Gibb Maitland Medal be awarded to Dr. Peter Eadington, CSIRO Division of Petroleum Resources. The strength of the nomination lay in the scientific quality of his research and its successful application by industry. Dr Eadington has developed an innovative suite of techniques based on fluid inclusion analysis that reveal the step-wise fill history of petroleum reservoirs in previously unseen detail. These have led to important new insights into oil migration and time-specific fluid histories, enabling reconstruction of past migration events, including filling and leakage of reservoirs, and identification of generative source rock horizons. Application of these techniques allows basin prospectivity and exploration risks to be more clearly recognised and evaluated, and is acknowledged to have contributed to new discoveries and increased production.

All of the unsuccessful nominations will be eligible for consideration for the 2008 Medal, possibly with some revision. Two at least are strong and the Subcommittee is reasonably confident that an Award can also be made next year.

Charles Butt

Convenor, Awards Subcommittee

Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division

2. GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Geoheritage issues have again been fairly quiet for 2006. They have mostly been related to requests for information about geological heritage sites in WA's national parks and reserves, managed by the Department of Environment & Conservation (formerly CALM). This has involved supplying information on known or potential geoheritage sites for DEC draft management plans.

The responsibility of GSWA to manage the States sites of geological significance has resulted in the Survey deciding to develop a comprehensive database of geoheritage sites of the State. This should eventually be available through the GSWA website and will make it easier to disseminate geoheritage information and increase awareness of geoheritage matters. A committee that incorporates representatives from the GSA, GSWA, Universities, and nominated specialists when required, will be formed to assess geoheritage issues and assessments. It is hoped that the committee and the database will be operating sometime in 2008.

Iain Copp

Convenor, Geological Heritage Subcommittee

Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division

3. EDUCATION AND VOCATION

GSA-WA has been directly and indirectly involved in a number of educational initiatives for high school students.

- The Division remains a member and financial supporter of Earth Sciences WA (ESWA), which has been primarily concerned with the implementation of the new Year 11 and 12 Course of Study in Earth and Environmental Science, which is replacing the Geology course. The new course has now commenced for year 11 students, and has been a great success with currently over 240 students enrolled, compared with only 67 enrolled in year 11 Geology in 2006. ESWA has been involved in providing teaching materials and professional development for teachers of the course, as well as promoting the course across the State.
- The Division has maintained an indirect role in the development of the new Course of Study through Ian Fitzsimons, who is a member of the Assessment, Review and Moderation Panel for Earth and Environmental Science. Much of the recent panel activity has been concerned with refining the assessment methods to be used in the new course.
- The 2006 Western Region Australian Student Mineral Venture (ASMV) was held over 12 days in July, and comprised activities at Curtin, Murdoch and UWA in Perth, the WA School of Mines in Kalgoorlie, and various mine sites throughout the Goldfields and the South West. The Division was involved directly in this residential school for Year 10, 11 and 12 high school students through its continued sponsorship of the event, and indirectly through Ian Fitzsimons, who is a member of MINWEST consortium that underwrites the ASMV, and Amanda Thomson, who took time off from her role as WAG Editor to join the ASMV as a staff member and chaperone. This was the last year that the ASMV was administered by Dr Su Ho, another long time supporter of GSA-WA and ex-WAG Editor, who has led the Western Region ASMV since its inception in 1996.
- The Division also agreed to make a financial contribution to a geology field trip to Three Springs, Mingenew, and Kalbarri for Kent Street Senior High School students in July 2006, but high levels of sponsorship from other organizations meant that it was agreed to defer the GSA contribution until 2007 when it could be used to support the 2007 Kent Street SHS fieldtrip to Hopetoun on the south coast.

Ian Fitzsimons

**On behalf of the Convenor, Education and Vocation Subcommittee
Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division**

4. AUSTRALIAN STRATIGRAPHY COMMISSION (formerly Stratigraphic Nomenclature Subcommittee)

The WA Stratigraphic Names Subcommittee (Roger Hocking, Alan Thorne, Kath Grey) continued through 2006 as in 2005, advising on stratigraphic questions as they occasionally arose, suggesting some changes to proposed names where ambiguity was possible, and pointing people at the Stratigraphic Names database on the GA website as necessary.

The Committee took on a new identity at the July 2006 AGC in Melbourne, being renamed the Australian Stratigraphy Commission. State Subcommittees became Subcommissions. The name Australian Stratigraphy Commission was settled on after some email debate around state subcommittee representatives. The reason for this was to reflect the wider role of the Commission/Committee beyond approving or rejecting proposed names. It is also involved in developing (for example) guidelines for classification of igneous rocks, naming conventions and principles for magnetically defined units, guidelines for defining and naming sequence-stratigraphic units, and even Geological Time Scales. Essentially, any Australian stratigraphic issues are part of the Commission's role, and international issues where there are implications for Australian stratigraphy and the Australian geological community. See Albert Brakel's Stratigraphic Column in the September 2006 TAG for further details.

Of relevance to some endangered geological sites, particularly in the Pilbara, was the decision by the ASC in 2006 to allow type sections details to remain secret where there is a danger of desecration of the site. In a time of Google Earth, NASA World Wind, and GPS, this may seem a little like shutting the gate after the horse has bolted, but there is now the provision for some protection of sensitive or endangered sites. Essentially, locality details are recorded in the Stratigraphic Names database, but are screened from the general public. They are available to genuine researchers upon approval by relevant parties.

An item from last year that is worth repeating: In late 2005, the AAPG Bulletin published a new North American Stratigraphic Code, available online at www.agiweb.org/nasc/. Australia does not automatically follow the North American code, but it is worth a look for some areas not covered directly as yet by Australian guides. A delightfully written general guide on writing and presenting with respect to stratigraphic terminology (e.g. is it Upper or upper or just Late?) is also on the site, but be aware it was written in 1986, before the explosion of sequence stratigraphy and its associated jargon onto the scene. With that caveat, the article is interesting, informative, and worth reading if you contemplate playing around with stratigraphy and time scales.

Roger Hocking
Subcommissioner, Western Australia
Australian Stratigraphy Commission