

Geological Society of Australia – WA Division 2008 Annual General Meeting



**Geography/Geology Lecture Theatre 1, University of Western Australia
5.30pm, Tuesday 1 April 2008**

AGENDA and MINUTES: meeting opened at 17.30 by the Chair, Chris Yeats (CY)

- Apologies – Craig Buchan
- Minutes of the 2007 AGM – made available on the Division website at <http://wa.gsa.org.au/> - there were no objections so the minutes were approved.
- Chairman's Annual Report 2007-2008 – all reports were tabled at the meeting for reference, and are attached to these minutes. CY reported that the chairman's report was slightly modified from that published in the April/May WAG. The revised report will be made available on the website. CY gave a summary of the main points in his report
- Treasurer's Annual Report 2007-2008 – CY gave a summary of the main points
- WAG Report 2007-2008 – CY gave a summary of the main points
- Subcommittee Annual Reports 2007-2008 – CY gave a summary of the main points of each of these:
 - Awards
 - Education and Vocation
 - Geological Heritage
 - Stratigraphic Nomenclature

At this point CY invited Questions. None were asked.

- New Members – Chris Woof, Jiawen Niu (student), Wen Zeng (student) – all approved
- Other Business – The program for the AESC has been finalised and is available on the conference website, early-bird registration closes on 10/04/08; the GSA-WA annual dinner will be held at the East Fremantle Yacht Club on May 23rd, 3 course dinner and drinks for \$70 pp; the WA Division committee has seen some recent resignations and needs new members, please consider getting involved in Divisional activities.
- Meeting closed at 17.50, followed by seminar:

BASHING ABOUT THE BALTIC SHIELD

Dr Paul M. Evins

Geological Survey of Western Australia

The Geological map of the Fennoscandian Shield (Koistinen et al., 2001) was a milestone for Nordic and Russian geology. It was the first and still is the only amalgamation of all geological survey and most academic

maps of this longest studied Precambrian shield. In this presentation, I will take a tour of the Baltic Shield using this map. Highlights include the following main crust forming events.

The Baltic shield's nucleus comprises a c. 3.2- 2.5 Ga craton dominating the northwestern corner of the map. Despite abundant high quality radiometric age data for this Archean craton geodynamic interpretations of it are thin. The craton was rifted ca. 2.5 to 1.9 Ga, reassembled during the c. 1.9 Ga Lapland orogeny in the north and nearly doubled its size with the c. 1.9 to 1.83 Ga Svecofennian orogeny in the southwest through punctuated formation and accretion of a series of arcs. The above Proterozoic rifting and accretionary events were responsible for the majority of Scandinavia's metal endowments. Early Proterozoic continental growth ended with emplacement of the c. 1.82 to 1.76 Ga Transscandinavian Igneous Belt along the craton's western margin and abundant late-post orogenic magmatism and metamorphism in the old, fertile rift basins. Anorogenic magmatism produced the type locality for rapakivi granites in southern Finland from 1.65 to 1.5 Ga. The existence of an intervening c. 1.7 to 1.6 Ga Gothian orogeny remains a contentious issue. The c. 1100 to 900 Ma Sveconorwegian orogeny marks the last major Precambrian event in the Baltic Shield and was responsible for the formation of spectacular granulites and eclogites along the western edge of the craton.

Following the tour we will look at how research and mining has advanced after the release of the 2001 map and explore what new directions research may head in the future.

Chairman's Report 2007-2008

Chris Yeats

Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division

As many of you are no doubt aware, the WA Divisional Committee typically undergoes significant change every two years, with the election of new office bearers and in many cases a significant turnover of the Committee membership. This year was such a year, and at our last AGM in April 2007, we elected a new Chair, Vice Chair (Marcus Willson), Secretary (Catherine Spaggiari) and Treasurer (Peter Haines). In addition to the usual turnover of student representatives, six members of the 2006-2007 Committee stepped down at or shortly following the AGM (see Table 1), and after many years in the role, Iain Copp stood aside during the year as Chair of the Geoheritage Subcommittee, replaced by Margaret Brocx. In addition, Martin Van Kranendonk stepped down as Chair of the Education Subcommittee and was replaced by Ian Fitzsimons. As we approach this year's AGM, both Ian Fitzsimons and Frank Bierlein have advised the Committee of their intention to resign, leaving us very thin on the ground. I would like to thank Ian Fitzsimons in particular for his service to the GSA, with 10 years on the WA Divisional Committee, including two as my predecessor in the role of Chair. Although I'm more than aware that work and family pressures make it difficult for many of us to find time to serve in a voluntary capacity, I would urge any members who have been entertaining the possibility of joining the Committee to take the plunge and do it – your Society needs you!

In April 2007, Janet Muhling took up the important role of Editor of the *West Australian Geologist* (WAG) newsletter. The shift in 2006 to a bi-monthly publication continues to pay dividends in terms of publication quality and content, as has the move to routinely publish each edition on the Divisional website (<http://www.wa.gsa.org.au>), with most editions available electronically a few days before members receive their hard copies. It is a credit to Janet that she has maintained the high editorial standard set by her immediate predecessors in the role – Amanda Thomson and Jean Johnston. There is little doubt in my mind that the WAG remains the highest quality GSA Divisional newsletter by a significant margin, with varied, interesting and relevant content. The move to combine the WAG Business Manager role with that of Treasurer, foreshadowed at the last AGM, has had no discernable impact on advertising revenue, with Peter Haines ably filling the dual role, as well as looking after the electronic side of things as Manager of our Divisional Website. The load on Peter as Treasurer and Business Manager is significantly alleviated by Jocelyn Thompson, who continues to do a wonderful job of handling the Division's financial affairs on behalf of the Committee. As it did last year, the WAG returned an operating surplus this year, with this year showing a profit of \$2,244.

The Committee has worked hard to maintain a varied program of monthly meetings (Table 2) with talks by a mix of speakers from academia, government, and industry covering a diverse range of topics including geochronology, hydrogeochemistry, geomicrobiology and of course economic geology. Meeting attendance has been steady, with all talks attracting an audience of at least 25–30 people. In collaboration with the GSA Specialist Group in Economic Geology, which is headquartered at UWA, the Division dedicated two of its meetings this year to a debate format, with two speakers taking opposite sides of a disputed topic. These two meetings, one addressing the nature of komatiites in May 2007, and the other the existence or otherwise of mantle plumes in February this year, were highly successful, with both debates taking place in front of a full house at UWA. We would hope to continue this series in the coming year and would also welcome suggestions from our members for “hot topics” beyond the realm of economic geology. Details of the talks, including abstracts, are available on our Divisional Website, which has an archive of talk abstracts stretching back to August 2004.

The November meeting of the Division also featured the screening of an award-winning short film called "Quicksand Queries", made by Katie Roach, Sarah Cole, Tessa Beale and Bonnie de la Hunty,

four Year 9 students at Presbyterian Ladies' College. The short film was the winning entry in the Junior Division of the inaugural Geologi short film festival, a National competition held during Earth Science Week 2007, in October. The four girls, members of their families and their teacher, Ms Lana Salfinger, were in attendance at the meeting.

The 2007 Annual Dinner and Award Presentation was held on Friday April 27th at the Boatshed Restaurant in South Perth and attended by over 80 people, including the winners of the 2007 TEE Prize, GSA Medal and 2007 Gibb Maitland Medalist, Dr Peter Eadington. The event was generously sponsored by BHP Billiton Mineral Exploration, with additional sponsorship by Gage Roads Brewery Co and Alkoomi Wines. The 2008 Dinner will be held on Friday 23rd May at the East Fremantle Yacht Club. We shall again present only three Divisional awards this year (Table 3). Michael Smerilli, Joanna Lipko-Mander and Joshua Combs (following directly in his brother's footsteps) are the 2008 winners of the Talbot Medal, GSA Medal and the TEE Prize respectively. For the fifth time in its 22 year history and the second time in three years, there will be no Gibb Maitland Medalist this year. Although a number of nominations were received by the Awards Subcommittee, it was felt that the nominees, while worthy, did not yet meet the extremely high standard exemplified by previous medalists. This decision is consistent with the intention that the Gibb Maitland Medal be awarded only for "substantial contributions to geoscience in Western Australia". Given the maturity of the award and the timeframe required to demonstrate a substantial contribution, we may well be entering a period where the awarding of the Medal is the exception, rather than the rule.

The W.R. Browne Medal is awarded by the Federal Executive Committee of the Geological Society of Australia every two years, at the Australian Geological Convention, to "a person distinguished for contributions to the geological sciences in Australia". The WA Division's nomination, Dr Jim Ross, has been awarded the W.R. Browne Medal for 2008, which will be presented to him at the Australian Earth Sciences Convention in Perth in July.

Also on the social front, the Division continues to support the annual GSA-AIG Christmas Cruise along the Swan River, held in early December, 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 during the July school holidays 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. After many years under the stewardship of Susan Ho, this year's ASMV was coordinated by Ben Strong, with 30 students given lectures and laboratories in geology, geophysics, metallurgy, and mining engineering, prior to site visits through the southwest and goldfields, incorporation mineral sands, coal, alumina, tantalum-lithium-tin and gold operations. 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 Division also continued to play a leading role in the annual geoscience careers night for university students, which was organized this year by the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG), with additional assistance from the WA Branch of the Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia and the International Association of Hydrogeologists. Unsurprisingly, given the buoyant state of the resources sector, the event, held on August 16 was very well attended this year.

In what was unarguably a long overdue recognition of his contribution to Western Australian Geology, on November 16th a small group of geological luminaries, local councilors and friends and family, gathered in Nannup Cemetery for the unveiling of a memorial to HWB Talbot. This completed a ten-year project initiated by Talbot's grandson, Len Talbot, who first approached the GSA in 1998, to erect a memorial to one of Western Australia's pioneer geologists at the site of his unmarked grave. Hancock Memorials in Bunbury constructed the monument, which is built around a prism of Bunbury

Basalt supplied by Readymix Australia. With financial support from GSA and BHP Billiton, the memorial was finally completed, some fifty years after Talbot's death. At the unveiling, Talbot's working life at GSWA was recounted by Phil Playford, while Roy Woodall recalled his career at Western Mining Corporation. Finally, Len Talbot spoke about his grandfather, and related some of HWB's famous stories.

Although I was lucky enough to host the unveiling as GSA(WA) Chair, the erection of the HWB Talbot memorial owes much more to a large number of past and present members of the Committee. Mike Freeman, Alan Marshall, John Glover and Janet Dunphy all worked towards the moment in the earlier years, while more recently Simon Bodorkos, Ian Fitzsimons, Catherine Spaggiari and Marcus Willson, were the driving force behind the long-overdue completion of the task.

As we look towards the remainder of 2008, which is The International Year of Planet Earth, we have much to look forward to. The Australian Earth Sciences Convention (AESC) will be held in Perth from July 20 to 24th. I've been lucky enough to be asked to assist with the technical program for the Conference, which is being led by Jon Hronsky and it is looking very impressive. The AESC is jointly hosted by the GSA and AIG and the two organisations are actively working towards a merger, although it appears unlikely that the legal details will be finalized prior to the Conference. The AESC will also mark the official handover of the GSA Specialist Group in Earth Sciences History, which will transfer its headquarters from Melbourne to Perth.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their hard work over the past twelve months. All of us have significant family and work commitments, but all have proved more than willing to commit their time to the activities detailed above. With a very streamlined Committee for the coming year, there is a need for new membership and I would encourage others members of the Division to volunteer for the Committee and continue this good work.

Table 1 – DIVISIONAL COMMITTEES

Position	2006-2007	2007-2008
Chair	Ian Fitzsimons (Curtin)	Chris Yeats (CSIRO)
Vice Chair	Sandra Occhipinti (Fugro Airborne Services)	Marcus Willson (Australian Mineral Fields)
Secretary	Simon Bodorkos (GSWA)	Catherine Spaggiari (GSWA)
Treasurer	Chris Yeats (CSIRO)	Peter Haines (GSWA)
WAG Editor	Amanda Thomson (GSWA) and Jean Johnston (GSWA)	Janet Muhling (UWA)
WAG Business Manager Committee	Angela Riganti (GSWA) 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)	Peter Haines (GSWA) Frank Bierlein (UWA) Craig Buchan (Task Geoscience) Ian Fitzsimons (Curtin) Erin Gray (Curtin Student) Craig Hart (UWA) Derek Marshall (UWA Student)
Sub-Committee Convenors:		
Awards	Charles Butt (CSIRO)	Charles Butt (CSIRO)
Education and Vocation	Martin Van Kranendonk (GSWA)	Ian Fitzsimons (Curtin)
Geological Heritage	Iain Copp (CALM)	Margaret Brockx (Consultant)
Stratigraphic Nomenclature	Roger Hocking (GSWA)	Roger Hocking (GSWA)

Table 2 – MONTHLY MEETINGS, MAY 2007 – APRIL 2008

2007		
1 May	Steve Barnes and Marco Fiorentini	Debate: <i>Do you prefer your komatiites wet or dry?</i>
5 June	Greg Hall	Muruntau Uzbekistan: Revisited
3 July	David Gray	Hydrogeochemistry for mineral exploration: Another tool in greenfields exploration
7 August	Craig Hart	Getting gold out of granites
4 September	Steve Reddy	The effects of crystal-plastic deformation on zircon geochemical systems
16 October	Steve Sheppard	The role of geochronology in our present-day understanding of the Proterozoic: an Australian perspective
13 November	Steve Rogers	Microbes, metals, and minerals – Regolith geobiology and exploration through cover
7 December	Joint AIG-GSA Christmas Cruise	
2008		
5 February	Jon Hronsky and Bruce Hobbs	Debate: <i>Do Mantle Plumes Exist?</i>
4 March	Fred Jourdan	Large igneous provinces, mass extinctions and climate changes: a matter of timing
1 April	Annual General Meeting Paul Evins Bashing about the Baltic Shield: A Guided Tour through its Precambrian Evolution.	

Table 3 – DIVISIONAL AWARDS 2008

Award	2008 Recipient	Basis for the award
Gibb Maitland Medal	Not awarded	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	Michael Smerilli	Best Honours thesis at The University of Western Australia with a significant fieldwork component
GSA Medal	Joanna Lipko-Mander	Best undergraduate results in the final year of the BSc (Applied Geology) degree at Curtin University of Technology
TEE Prize	Joshua Combs	Best aggregate score in the Geology Tertiary Entrance Examination

GSA (WA DIVISION) TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007

A preliminary Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for the 2007 calendar year are attached. Our 2007 financial records are currently with the auditor, but unfortunately final audited statements were not received in time for the AGM. I wish to thank Jocelyn Thomson for her accounting skills throughout the year and providing the attached preliminary statements. The role of the Treasurer has changed somewhat during 2007 and now incorporates the position of WAG Business Manager, although this aspect is dealt with in a separate report.

I will highlight the following points from the statements:

- As of 31 December 2007 the WA Division had total equity of \$76,195, this amount being divided between investments with JB Were and our working cheque account.
- Interest paid to our investments and working account totaled \$3,372.
- Membership dues (capitation) received from Head Office amounted to \$8,436.
- Total income from advertising in WAG totaled \$8,580, making a profit of \$2,244 after WAG printing and postage expenses of \$6,336 are deducted. This represents a small increase in profit above 2006 figures.
- The unusually high accounting fees (\$2,230) include a significant component related to a major multi-year audit. This was a once off event, and such expenses should be much lower in future.
- The Annual Dinner was sponsored by BHP-Billiton with a donation of \$1000, with an additional subsidy from the Division to the tune of \$1,416. Note that the annual dinner expenses on the statement include an advance deposit towards the 2008 annual dinner.
- Seed funding of \$5,000 (\$4,545 in statement is minus GST component) was given towards the 2008 Australian Earth Science Convention to be held in Perth. This amount should be refunded to the Division after the conference.
- During 2007 the Division made significant donations to Earth Science WA (a consortium set up to promote Earth Science Education in Western Australia), the Australian Student Mineral Venture, other student bodies, and donated prizes to the winners of the TEE Prize, GSA Medal, and Talbot Medal. Such donations totaled \$3,260.
- We continue to sponsor the annual Christmas Cruise, organized jointly with the AIG, this year amounting to \$1,237.
- Miscellaneous functions listed in the statement include sponsorship of the Student Careers Night (organized through AIG and PESA) and the unveiling of the Talbot Memorial. The miscellaneous expenses are predominantly related to the erection of the Talbot Memorial. The Talbot expenses were largely recouped through a generous \$2,000 donation from BHP Billiton.
- The net financial result for the WA Division in 2007 was a small loss of -\$3,207. This figure must be seen in the light of the large surplus received in 2006, and the expectation reported at the last AGM that 2007 would be an unusually expensive year. It should also be noted that this loss will be recouped when seed funding for the 2008 AESC is refunded this year.

Despite the small loss the Division's budget remains healthy, and it is always important to remember that making a surplus is not the main function of the Society. We are looking forward to this being a less expensive year, and all losses should be recouped.

Peter Haines

Treasurer

Geological Society of Australia, WA Division

Geological Society Australia WA Division

PO Box 6014
East Perth 6892
West Australia

Balance Sheet

As of December 2007

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Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash On Hand		
Commonwealth Bank	\$12,657.07	
Total Cash On Hand	<u>\$12,657.07</u>	
J B Were Call Notes	\$48,004.72	
J B Were Cash Trust	\$12,567.08	
Trade Debtors	<u>\$1,450.00</u>	
Total Current Assets		<u>\$74,678.87</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$74,678.87</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	\$6,203.96	
GST Paid	<u>-\$7,719.97</u>	
Total GST Liabilities		<u>-\$1,516.01</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>-\$1,516.01</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>-\$1,516.01</u>
Net Assets		<u>\$76,194.88</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$26,117.15	
Current Year Earnings	-\$3,207.26	
Historical Balancing	<u>\$53,284.99</u>	
Total Equity		<u>\$76,194.88</u>

Geological Society Australia WA Division

PO Box 6014
East Perth 6892
West Australia

Profit & Loss Statement

1/01/2007 through 31/12/2007

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Income		
Capitation		\$8,436.00
Subscriptions received		\$122.50
Publication Sales		\$251.33
Glover Book		\$272.72
INTEREST		
Interest Com Bank	\$107.16	
J B Were Call Notes Interest	\$2,758.00	
J B Were Cash Trust Interest	\$506.93	
WAG		\$8,580.00
Sponsorship Talbot Mem		\$2,000.00
FUNCTIONS		
Annual Dinner	\$4,527.22	
Miscellaneous Income		\$286.36
Total Income		<u>\$27,848.22</u>
Cost of Sales		
Gross Profit		<u>\$27,848.22</u>
Expenses		
Accounting Fees		\$2,230.00
Bad Debt		\$495.00
Bank Charges		\$20.00
Committee Meetings		\$774.59
General Meetings		\$385.25
Reimburse Subs		\$122.50
FUNCTIONS		
Annual Dinner	\$6,443.18	
Xmas Cruise	\$1,236.96	
Miscellaneous Functions	\$4,213.22	
Conferences	\$4,545.45	
DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIP		
Student Prize	\$720.00	
Earth Science WA	\$2,000.00	
Donations Student Bodies	\$540.00	
Miscellaneous		\$624.09
Postage		\$277.64
Stationery and Printing		\$92.01
WAG		\$6,335.59
Total Expenses		<u>\$31,055.48</u>
Operating Profit		<u>-\$3,207.26</u>
Other Income		
Other Expenses		
Net Profit / (Loss)		<u>-\$3,207.26</u>

WAG BUSINESS REPORT FOR 2007

The West Australian Geologist (WAG) is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Western Australian Division of the Geological Society of Australia. During 2007 the WAG continued with the format and business model setup in 2006. After the last AGM I took over from Angela Riganti as WAG Business Manager and Janet Mulhing took over the role of Editor from Amanda Thomson and Jean Johnston. As of May 2007 the role of WAG Business Manager was combined with the role of Treasurer.

PUBLISHING AND CONTENT

During 2007 the six issues of WAG have typically run to about 16 pages, and have continued to provide what we hope is a good balance between information on upcoming meetings, articles and advertising. Acquiring good and relevant articles remains one of the more difficult parts of the editor's job, and I urge all committee members to keep an eye open for possible contributors/contributions. Our printer, Fineline Print, continues to produce a good quality black and white newsletter, delivered timely in a plastic sleeve. A full colour digital version of the WAG is also provided in PDF format for download at our divisional web site (<http://wa.gsa.org.au/>).

ADVERTISING

The WAG enjoyed a successful business year with all editions well funded with sponsorship and advertising. Companies and organizations that sponsored issues of the WAG include Snowden, Maxwell, Australian Mineral Fields, Rocklabs, GSWA and the KAL2007 Conference. Other companies and organizations that advertised with us in 2007 include WorkPac, Data Directions, True North, Promaco, UWA-CET, Crosscountry charters and Darlinjup Geological Contracting. I'll take this opportunity to thank all these companies and organizations for their valued support. Much of the hard work in setting up the deals for 2007 was performed by Angela Riganti before I took over in May, and I wish to thank her for that. Most of our former clients have returned to set up deals with WAG in 2008.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

These figures are based on income and expenditure to 31 Dec 2007.

- WAG printing and postage costs 2007: \$6,336
- WAG advertising and sponsorship income 2007: \$8,580
- WAG net profit 2007: **\$2,244** (cf. \$757 in 2006)

In summary, WAG is in good shape and the future looks bright. Finally, I'd like to thank again all sponsors and advertisers for their support, Angela Riganti for setting up most of the advertising and sponsorship deals at the start of 2007, Amanda Thomson and Jean Johnston for WAG editing at the start of 2007, Janet Muhling for taking over the editorship during the year, and all of the WA committee for their support.

Peter Haines
WAG Business Manager
Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division

Awards Sub-committee Annual Report 2007-2008

The Awards Sub-Committee in 2007-08 comprised Charles Butt (Convenor), Bryan Smith and Nick Archibald.

Gibb Maitland Medal

Nominations for the 2008 Gibb Maitland Medal closed on 30 November 2007. There was one new nomination, an update of a previous nomination, plus four nominations held over from last year. The Sub-committee also pursued two other possibilities, but could not obtain satisfactory nominations in the required time. Although some of the nominations are good, it was felt that none were (yet) of the stature we are seeking. Accordingly, the Sub-committee found that it was unable to recommend a Gibb Maitland medallist for 2008. In reaching this conclusion, we are of the opinion that the Medal should be seen as an elite award, rather than an annual one, and that conferring it should be regarded more as an exception than an expectation.

The Sub-committee have debated the reason for the recent difficulties in finding suitable nominations. One suggestion is that, in the early years of the Medal, there was a significant number of suitable candidates in the institutions and industry, but with time this well of existing "talent" has been used up and is being replenished at a slow rate - which is perhaps to be expected. There have also been changes to the way in which geoscience research is being conducted and this may also be affecting the emergence and identification of potential medallists. However, given the large numbers of geoscientists in the State, perhaps the search procedure is also at fault. Many of the recent awardees have been nominations sought by the Sub-committee itself. This is far from an ideal situation, both from our inevitable lack of knowledge of the potential pool of candidates, and the possibility for unintentional bias that might ensue. The Sub-committee considers that it should be judge and jury, rather than also being advocates. Accordingly, it is recommended that the GSA Branch Committee institutes a procedure by which potential nominees are identified early, well prior to the formal call for nominations in September-October.

W.R. Browne Medal

The W.R. Browne Medal is awarded by the Federal Executive Committee of the Geological Society of Australia every two years, at the Australian Geological Convention, to "a person distinguished for contributions to the geological sciences in Australia". It is reported with pleasure that the WA Division's nomination, Dr Jim Ross, has been awarded the W.R. Browne Medal for 2008, and it is fitting that it will be presented to him at the Convention in Perth in July. Jim Ross has had a distinguished career in geological research and exploration management, but his unique contribution has been his unceasing commitment to policy and planning issues for a wide range of organizations in exploration, mining, research, education and the profession. In particular, he has played a substantial role in the establishment and direction of the Centres for Global Metallogeny and Exploration Targeting at UWA, the UWA Geoscience Foundation, the John de Laeter Centre of Excellence in Mass Spectrometry, Curtin University and Earth Science Western Australia. His commitment to the geosciences, especially, but not exclusively, in WA, makes him a very worthy recipient of the W.R. Browne Medal.

Charles Butt
Convenor
Awards Sub-committee
March 2008

Education and Vocation Subcommittee Annual Report 2007-2008

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, which has been primarily concerned with the implementation of the new Year 11 and 12 Course of Study in Earth and Environmental Science, which has already replaced the old Geology course at year 11, and is being offered in year 12 for the first time in 2008. The course will be offered in at least 24 schools in 2008, compared with 14 in 2007, and will have a total of about 350 students in year 11 and 200 in year 12, again a significant increase on 2007. 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 revising the syllabus based on feedback from teachers and preparing for the first year 12 exams at the end of 2008.
- The 2007 Western Region Australian Student Mineral Venture 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.
- The Division also celebrated the success of four year 9 students from Presbyterian Ladies College in winning the Junior Division of the *Geologi Short Film Competition*, organized by Geoscience Australia with the support of the National Geographic Channel. The winning film entitled "*Quicksand Queries*" was screened at the November monthly meeting of the WA Division, with students Katie Roach, Sarah Cole, Tessa Beale and Bonnie de la Hunty in attendance, along with their families and Ms Lana Salfinger, their teacher. The Division presented each of the students with a geology book and a gift voucher to acknowledge their achievement.
- Yet again the Division has awarded the TEE Prize to the student with the best grades in the Tertiary Entrance Examination in Geology. Joshua Combs will be the last winner of the prize under this name, as the Geology TEE will be replaced this year by the West Australian Certificate in Education (WACE) examination in Earth and Environmental Science.

The Division also supports the following tertiary educational initiatives:

- The Division continued its involvement in the Annual University Careers Night, although the 2007 event was organized primarily by the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. As in previous years this event was attended by more than 100 students from Curtin and UWA, and a large number of representatives from employers of geoscience graduates.
- A donation was also made to the Woolnough Society at UWA to assist in the production of their 2007 *Hiatus* Magazine.
- The Division also continues to acknowledge the achievements of students at Curtin and UWA through the annual award of the GSA and Talbot Medals for the best BSc graduate at Curtin and the best UWA Honours thesis with a significant field component. The respective winners this year are Joanna Lipko-Mander and Michael Smerilli.

Ian Fitzsimons
Convenor
Education and Vocation Subcommittee

Annual Report for 2007 Geological Heritage

During 2007 Iain Copp resigned and Margaret Brocx was appointed the Society's Heritage Convenor

The activities of Heritage Convenor are governed by the National Policy published by the Geological Society of Australia Inc.,

http://www.gsa.org.au/pdfdocuments/management/POL_heritage_7Mar06.pdf

Within this framework it is planned to:

1. maintain and create an electronic database of the Society's database of sites of geoheritage significance
2. keep up to date with Policies and Legislation, as they relate to geoheritage in WA and Australia, and those promulgated from GSA, and keep the WA Division of the GSA informed
3. liaise with the various stakeholders as required in relation to any matters of geoheritage
4. begin the design of systematic inventory-based approach to identifying sites of geoheritage significance beyond those identified by Lemmon *et al* (1979) and Carter (1987), and a specific geological region as a pilot study to test the system.
5. continue to liaise with the previous Convenor Iain Copp to work through the Society's geoheritage files, and prioritise sites and issues.

Margaret Brocx

Stratigraphic Names WA Subcommittee, report for 2007

The WA Subcommittee of the Australia Stratigraphy Commission (nee Stratigraphic Names Subcommittee) continues to be Roger Hocking, Alan Thorne and Kath Grey. Business was informal, and largely restricted to advice and referrals to the GA stratigraphic names database.

Two items worthy of comment came up during the year. When revising or amending the name of a unit, the unit does not have to be fully re-defined, but the reasons for the change (more variation in lithology than previously realized, why a change of status, whatever) have to be explained. Following on, the change has to be published. Just asking for the database to be changed is not enough. Secondly, a unit does not have to be exclusively one lithology for a lithological suffix to be applied, just dominantly, or even just characterized by, one lithology. The ABC Sandstone can have other lithologies, as much as 50% in total, but as long as sandstone is the characteristic lithology, it can be the ABC Sandstone rather than the more anonymous, information-poor ABC Formation. Where to draw the line is a personal judgement.

A couple of reminders, as usual

- Before setting a name in concrete, check its availability via the GA website. The same geographic prefix does not have to be absolutely unique, and can be the same as a pre-existing unit under some circumstances (basically, the two units are significantly geographically and geologically separated), an aspect that can matter in the unnamed vastness of WA. If you are unsure, check with Canberra or the local people.
- Stratigraphic definitions can be filled out online, via the GA database site. This is an easy way to ensure that all the necessary details are given to make a stratigraphic name correct, formal, and acceptable within the database, rather than merely described.
- If you are involved in naming rocks, dig around the GA site. The material available includes guidelines on how to name units, reference enquiry forms, and name enquiry forms. There is a lot of material to help you get it right stratigraphically, and avoid ambiguity. Leave it incorrect and ambiguous, and the leather-winged demons of the night will come back to pick the flesh from your bones in the wee small hours some time in the future when you least expect it, guaranteed.
- If you find an error in the database, or think you've found one, please advise the database administrators. They are happy to look into apparent errors, and correct them if confirmed. Errors do creep in.

Roger Hocking
WA Convenor.