

# Geological Society of Australia – WA Division

## Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting



*The Irish Club, 61 Townshend Rd, Subiaco*

*6.00pm, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015*

- Apologies: Chris Yeats, Margaret Brocx, Nicolas Thebaud, Bryan Smith
- Present: Trevor Beardsmore, Vic Williams, Milo Barham, Aaron Hunter, John Bunting, Paul Askins, Maria-Jose Romero-Segura, Roger Bateman, Philip Commander, Michael Freeman, Greg Hudson, Grant Alan “Rocky” Osborne, John MacIntyre, Michelle Wild, Deon De Bruin, Jo Watkins, Stephen Wyche, Douglas Allan, James Bartle, Kevin Cassidy, Burkhard Eisenlohr, Glen Neeves, Graham Begg, John Clout, Antonio Macolino, Charles Butt, Roger Langmead, Andrew Lawrence, Finn Barrett, Andrew Drummond, Graham Jeffress, Peter Eadington, Ray Smith, Nigel Wilson, Mick Elias, Jim Ross, Hans Anderson and Katy Evans.
- Minutes of the 2014 AGM – Motion to accept minutes from 2014 moved by Roger Bateman, seconded by John MacIntyre; members in agreement, no objections; minutes accepted without change.
- **Chairman’s Annual Report 2014-2015 – Highlights presented**
  - ◆ Instigated a bursary scheme in past 12-18 months. Encourage research through provision of small amounts of funding to generally early career researchers to supplement grants. Awarded 3 grants - 2 students and a group of students.
  - ◆ Organised Careers Night (5<sup>th</sup> May). Went very well. Secondary and tertiary students came along to talk to representatives from industry, academia and survey etc.
  - ◆ 2 years ago sponsored production of new field guide by John Bunting on South West WA region. Released in last 12 months. John Bunting is running a field trip in 2 weeks.
  - ◆ Society has reorganised management structure; formally constituted executive committee of 9 members; 5 general members and 4 state representative members (states cycle representation on a 4 year basis). WA is represented from

beginning with Roger Bateman being elected and Chris Yeats is also a general member and treasurer.

- ◆ Annual dinner 2015 Gypsy Tapas Fremantle, 1st May. Allow members to socialise, as well as award prizes and medals to high achievers in Earth Sciences. WACE Prize to best performing secondary student. Best performing 3<sup>rd</sup> year student and Curtin University and best dissertation at UWA (Talbot Prize). Gibb Maitland Medal for high achievement and contribution to Earth Sciences focused on WA and mineral resources.
- ◆ Challenges: Reconstituting ourselves as legally viable body. Issue of declining membership; need to engage with Earth Scientists to encourage them to join or rejoin the society and become actively involved, so need to find ways to make society relevant to members. One way is through professional accreditation scheme which is being developed. Declining income due to declining membership, forecasting a loss for this year. WA and most other divisions have decided to forego capitation for 2015-16; in a good financial position so for this year resigned to support society and see what happens in future years.
- ◆ Thanks to committee serving with chairman; worked together to achieve everything over past year.
- **Treasurer's Annual Report 2014-2015 – Highlights presented**
  - ◆ Closed trust accounts and most money went into centralised trust account managed by the central executive. Our money, can still draw upon it whenever needed. Easier to manage and account for centrally.
  - ◆ Healthy balance in cheque account; spent some since January; advertising revenue down; expenses - subsidise annual dinner, promotional funding, membership cost to hold events at Irish Club, WAG production costs and new software cost, medals. Made a small loss but overall financially healthy.
- **WAG Report 2014-2015 – Highlights presented**
  - ◆ WAG is the best newsletter; 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary; save money without printing costs (eJournal), so loss of advertising revenue less of an issue; GSWA & CSIRO continue to provide advertising revenue. Thanks to editor and business manager Roger Bateman (also contributed articles); invitation to members to submit general geological articles to WAG.
- **Subcommittee Annual Reports 2014-2015**
  - ◆ Awards Subcommittee 2014-2015 – Highlights presented
    - Gibb Maitland Medal – Graham Begg
    - Talbot Prize – Evan Kerr (best UWA Honours thesis) – Changed criteria for award for prize due to change in structure to post graduate degree program. Less fieldwork in degree program. Charles Butt and reviewers thanked for selecting winner from short list.
    - GSA Medal Curtin – Caroline Clugston

- WACE Prize – James Sheppard
- All prize winners were at annual dinner to receive prizes.
  
- ◆ Geological Heritage Subcommittee – Highlights presented
  - Margaret Brocx continues to represent WA division and national executive
  - Biggest event this year - IUCN World Parks Congress. GSA WA division contributed to funding a booth to raise importance of geology to bioscientists so that they incorporate it in their park management.
  
- ◆ Education Subcommittee – Highlights presented
  - Sponsored annual careers event 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 & 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015. 2014 event attended by 125 secondary and tertiary students. No figures for 2015 yet.
  - Supported 2 Curtin University student field trips. One through grant and one through bursary.
  - 2 bursaries of \$1000 each to support post-graduate research.
  - Supported geological field guide of South-West WA and will be supporting new field guide for Kalgoorlie.
  
- ◆ Stratigraphic Nomenclature Subcommittee – Highlights presented
  - Milo Barham taken over from Roger Hocking.
  - Stratigraphic naming committee carries on in background. WA had 42 reservations of new names. General problem in Australia people reserve names but then don't go out and formally describe and define them; some progress has been made but still a lot is needed to fully describe units reserved (42 WA units remain informal).
  
- **Election of new office bearers for May 2015-April 2017**
  - ◆ No new nominations received
  - ◆ Executive positions are for 2 years
  - ◆ All members standing down, but most are re-nominating
  - ◆ All positions declared vacant
  - ◆ Nominating for the Executive:
 

Chair:	<b>Trevor Beardsmore</b>
Vice Chair:	<b>Suzanne Murray</b>
Secretary:	<b>Aaron Hunter</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Stephen Wyche</b>
WAG Editor/Business Manager:	<b>Roger Bateman</b>
  
  - ◆ Nominating for Ordinary membership: **Charles Butt, Doug Allen, Paul Askins, Milo Barham, Margaret Brocx, Katy Evans, Nicolas Thebaud, Joanne Watkins, Chris Yeats**
  
  - ◆ Nominating as Student representatives: **Liam Crellin, Luke Hersey, Jodie Ooi**
  
  - ◆ Membership endorses nominations.

- ◆ **Rachel Fuller** has decided to step down due to work commitments, she was thanked for her contribution and we will welcome her re-nomination next year if circumstances change. **Greg Lester** leaving country.
- **Election of Divisional Councillor:**
  - ◆ New GSA National Governance structure was implemented in July 2014, comprising: Four State Divisional Councillors Five General Councillors (incl. Chris Yeats) and WA Division represented during 2014-2018 (Roger Bateman).
- **New Members:**
  - ◆ 10 new members have joined since the last the AGM in April 2014 with 5 to be approved at the next Committee meeting.
  - ◆ The following 4 members were approved at the AGM with no objections: Liam Crellin, Chris Elders, Kerry Lee, Glen Edward Neeves
- **Other Business**
  - ◆ AESC June 2016
  - ◆ 62nd Annual Dinner and Awards Night held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 at Gypsy Tapas House, Fremantle.
- AGM was formally closed at 6:24pm and was followed by a Seminar
- By Graham Begg (2015 Gibb Maitland Medallist) titled: *Connecting Mineral Systems and Lithospheric Architecture: The Greenfields Frontier.*



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**18:00, 6 MAY, 2015**  
**GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA**  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION**  
**IRISH CLUB, TOWNSHEND STREET, SUBIACO, PERTH**

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014-15**

It's been yet another busy year for the WA Division and the Geological Society at large, and as Division Chairman it falls to me to review the year that was, acknowledge the committee and membership and for their contributions and support, and reflect on some notable highlights.

I am pleased to report that the Divisional committee obtained a full complement of Executive and General Members for the year, to "hold the fort" until formal endorsements or elections at the Annual General Meeting (see Table 1). Aaron Hunter kindly volunteered to become Secretary, relieving Katy Evans of a role she was keeping in trust until the new incumbent could be inducted. Suzanne Murray accepted an invitation to become Vice Chair. Stephen Wyche continued his excellent job as Division Treasurer, Greg Lester replaced Chris Kirkland as Divisional Business Manager, and Roger Bateman "flew solo" this year as WAG Newsletter editor.

Katy Evans and Chris Yeats continued as non-executive members of the Committee, and I greatly appreciate their advice and experience derived from long involvement in executive posts with the Society. I also thank Doug Allen (who also continues as our Web Master), Paul Askins, Rachel Fuller, Nicolas Thebaud, and student representatives Luke Hersey and Jodie Ooi for their contributions to Committee business. Student committee members commonly step aside at the end of the academic year, but there are other enthusiastic students ready to take their place; we recently welcomed Liam Crellin to the committee, and we are continuing our practice of allowing other students from Curtin and UWA attend meetings as proxies for the "official" student members, to allow better continuity from year to year, and reduce the load on individuals.

Division Subcommittee convenors have also been busy throughout the year, and I direct you to their annual reports. Charles Butt (Awards), Joanne Watkins (Education and Vocation), Margaret Brocx (Geological Heritage) continued in their respective roles, and Milo Barham took over from Roger

Hocking as Subcommittee convenor for Stratigraphic Nomenclature. I thank all for services rendered, past and future.

All executive positions on the Committee are nominally vacated every two years, and though the incumbents have expressed a willingness to continue in their roles, local Society members are nevertheless eligible - and invited - to nominate for these positions. Serving on the Committee is neither particularly onerous nor time-consuming, but does provide an opportunity to influence the overall direction of the Society. If you're reading this prior to the AGM and wondering if you can and should contribute, please do! My contact details are on the Divisional website and in each issue of WAG and I would be very happy to talk over the roles and responsibilities of the Committee with any interested party.

The Division continues to hold general meetings on the first Wednesday of each month (except December and January) at the Irish Club in Subiaco. The Committee has again strived throughout the year to provide an interesting program of speakers at the monthly meetings. These talks have embraced a mix of speakers from academia, government, and industry and a diversity of topics, including a presentation by last year's Gibb Maitland medallist Ravi Anand (Table 2). Our Division also jointly sponsored a presentation by Nikolai Goryachev in Perth in October (with the Australian Institute of Geoscientists). All the talks proved very popular, judging from the strong attendance at the meetings, and on behalf of the Division I congratulate and thank all this year's speakers for their efforts and time, and for the enthusiasm they all brought to their topics. For those members who missed any meeting, the abstracts for all talks back to August 2004 are available on our Divisional Website. I also express our continuing appreciation to Jocelyn Thomson and the AIG for assisting with notifying the wider community of GSA talks (and other events).

Our members are provided with Society news and activities, and other entertaining reads, via the West Australian Geologist Newsletter (affectionately known as WAG). Six issues were produced this year, thanks to continuing support from contributors, sponsors and advertisers, and the sterling editorial efforts of Roger Bateman. Roger himself also contributed articles on the influence that dinosaur trace fossils have had on local mythologies (WAG 508), the development of geological thought during the Golden Age of Islam (ca. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Centuries - WAG 511), and fascinating biographical snapshots of two lesser-known figures in Australian geology - Ralph Alger Bagnold (WAG 507) and Leslie Russel Blake (WAG 510). Roger's journalistic efforts are greatly appreciated, but I encourage our members to share some of this burden by submitting articles of a general earth science interest nature.

The perspicacious WAG reader may have noticed a change of format beginning with the October-November issue of WAG (number 509), as Roger imprints his own stylistic stamp, encouraged no doubt by the Division's purchase of dedicated desktop publishing software (removing our reliance on out-sourcing the production of WAG).

I thank GSWA and CSIRO for continuing their regular contributions and advertising support through the year. Advertising revenue has continued to diminish year-on-year (see our Treasurer's Report), but delivery of the WAG newsletter as an online-only publication allows us to redirect all advertising revenues from printing and postage towards Society activities that support students, members and events. I remind our readers that the WAG newsletter offers a great opportunity to advertise products and services to geologists and related disciplines within Western Australia, and encourage our members to consider advertising in WAG, and promoting it as an advertising platform to other potential clients.

The Division has supported many other geoscience professional and promotional activities throughout the year, and in particular continues to sponsor school-level interest in the Earth Sciences. Our Division collaborated with Earth Sciences Western Australia (ESWA) and the WA Branches of the Australian Society of Geophysicists, the Australian Institute of Geoscientists, and the Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia, to deliver the Careers in Geoscience night on May 6<sup>th</sup> last year, at the Tech Park Function Centre at Bentley. Forty-three high school students and 82 University students took up the opportunity to interact with professional geoscience groups and potential employers (see the report by Jo Watkins in WAG issue 508). Organisation is well underway for the 2015 careers night.

*Please note this remains an Interim Report, pending acceptance by GSA-WA Divisional membership at the next (May 2016) AGM*



The Division continued its bursary scheme, a twice yearly offering of a moderate endowment to worthy students to assist with funding their research or further education. This year we provided three \$1000 bursaries – one to Natasha Barrett to fund her travel expenses to undertake LA-ICPMS analytical work in Townsville for her MSc study of the geochemistry and geochronology of lower crustal granulite xenoliths from southeastern NSW (reported in WAG 511); one to Mercedes Belica to allow her to attend the Australian Earth Science Convention in Newcastle to present results from Masters work (“A paleomagnetic test of the Columbia supercontinent at 1.88 Ga: constraints from radiating mafic dyke swarms in the Dharwar craton, India”), and to network with colleagues regarding her PhD study of the magnetostatigraphy of Permo-Triassic Gondwanan basins (reported in WAG 509); and one to the Curtin University Student Geological Society (GEOS) to support a field trip on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014 to examine the Cretaceous strata at Gingin (reported in WAG 511).

Inaugural recipient Timmons Erickson also reported his use of a \$1000 bursary towards field costs involved in sampling of supracrustal sequences in the Illaara and Maynard Hills greenstone belts in the Youanmi terrane, and impactites from the Yarrabubba impact structure (WAG 508). A bursary granted in the previous year to the Curtin Student Geological Society (GEOS) went towards a First Year student introductory field trip on May 24<sup>th</sup> to examine the geology of the Swan Valley, Bindoon and Mogumber areas (reported in WAG 510).

Students should watch out for advertising for each round of bursary applications (generally in February and September of each year), and contact myself or the Division Secretary for application guidelines, or download these from our website (<http://wa.gsa.org.au/>).

Other promotional activities through the year included: (i) co-funding (with our National body and other Divisions) a booth and attendance by members of the Society’s Geoheritage Subcommittee at the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) World Parks Congress in Sydney in November 2014. The aim was to promote geoheritage as an integral part of natural heritage, so that it is formally included in protected area management in Australia and globally. Margaret Brocx describes Society involvement in this event in her Annual Report for the Geological Heritage Subcommittee; (ii) co-sponsorship with the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists of a technical night; and (iii) co-sponsorship of the annual GSA–AIG Christmas Cruise along the Swan River, held on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Division is also helping promote a geological field trip on 16-17 May to the Capes region in the southwest of the state (see WAG 511 for details). This will be open to the public and will be run by John Bunting, to follow the launch last May of John’s Field Guide to the Southwest (reported in WAG 509), the production of which was in part funded by our Division. This field guide is the second in a series that is particularly directed at teachers to support student field trips; both are available from the GSA online bookshop, the Geological Survey of Western Australia, and Boffins bookshop.

The Annual Dinner and Awards night on May 2<sup>nd</sup> last year was a great success, justifying our experiment with a different type of venue and dining experience. Some 64 guests enjoyed a tapas-style menu in the cosy, convivial setting of the Gypsy Tapas House in Fremantle (see the report in WAG 508). The 2015 Annual Dinner and Awards night will be on Friday May 1st, and will be at the Gypsy Tapas House. Details can be found in the April-May 2015 issue of WAG (number 511), and on our website (<http://wa.gsa.org.au/>), and registration and payment by credit card can be made via the Eventbrite website (attendance at <http://gsa-wa-annualdinner2015.eventbrite.com.au>).

The Division will be presenting its four awards honouring excellence in Geoscience (Table 3). Mr. James Shepherd of Bunbury College is awarded the WACE prize for the best aggregate score in the Earth and Environmental Science WA Certificate of Education. Ms. Caroline Clugston receives the GSA Medal for achieving the best undergraduate results in the final year of the BSc (Applied Geology) degree at Curtin University. Mr. Evan Kerr receives the 2015 Talbot Medal for his dissertation entitled: “Structural control, hydrothermal alteration and gold mineralisation of the Red October gold deposit, Laverton Greenstone Belt, eastern Yilgarn Craton, Western Australia”. I will note here that the Divisional Committee has recently redefined the eligibility criteria for the Talbot Medal to reflect changes in the structure of UWA’s degree programs, so that the citation now reads: **"Best Honours or Master’s dissertation (at least 50% of course requirements) at the University**

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**of Western Australia, based on research with a significant, terrestrial field work component carried out by the candidate".** At the time of reporting, the Division was still to be advised of the recipient of the GSA Medal.

It is with great pleasure that I also announce that the Division's Gibb Maitland Medal for 2015 is to be awarded to Dr. Graham Begg, Principal Consultant with Minerals Targeting International, in recognition of his nearly 30 years of outstanding contributions to geoscience in Western Australia relating to the occurrence or discovery of mineral resources. The full report and citation by the Divisional Awards Subcommittee is provided with this Annual Report. I look forward to seeing a large turnout at the Annual Dinner to help Graham and the other award recipients celebrate.

The Geological Society of Australia has also been busy this year at the federal level, and several activities have had, or will have, an impact on the WA Division. Major changes to governance of the National body were implemented following the Annual General Meeting, held at the Biennial Australian Geoscience Convention in Newcastle in July 2014. A new, nine-member National Executive Committee (Governing Council) was elected, comprising four State divisional representatives and five general councillors. The WA Division is one of the four state divisions entitled to have a representative serve on the Governing Council for the next four years - Roger Bateman is our nominated Divisional Representative. In addition, Chris Yeats has been elected one of the General Councillors, and is also National Treasurer.

As many of you may be aware, the Society is experiencing a declining membership, and this brings with it implications for the Society's financial viability. New President Graham Carr has made it one of his goals to reverse this trend, but in the meantime, the Society is forecasting a nett loss for the 2015 year. To offset this, the state Divisions have been asked to voluntarily forego annual capitation for this year. For the Western Australian Division this amounts to upwards of \$7500 not coming from the Federal treasury to cover promotional and educational activities, member benefits, and other miscellaneous operating costs. Fortunately, our finances are in very good shape, and we will be able to continue all our regular activities this coming year without the Federal funds. The Committee has therefore agreed to forego receipt of capitation monies for 2015, in the long term interest of the Society as a whole. We will review any similar requests in subsequent years on their merits.

The National Governing Council has also set itself five priorities for the 2014-2016 period (see the December 2014 issue of *The Australian Geologist*), one of which is to "provide professional development opportunities" for its members. Part of this initiative involves developing a professional accreditation process which will be based on a set of standards that will be consistent with, but distinct from those of AIG and AusIMM (both these societies and the Australian Geoscience Council are aware of this initiative). Roger Bateman is leading this process with the strong support of the Governing Council, and as a first step is developing a clear and enforceable Code of Ethics (a revised version of the current GSA Code). This draft document has been endorsed by the Governing Council, and each Divisional and Specialist Group Committee has provided preliminary feedback. These comments will be incorporated, and the draft Code of Ethics will be published in the June TAG for all members to see and comment upon.

In closing, then, 2015-16 promises to be another active and interesting year for the WA Division. I look forward to it, and I urge all members to support the Society through word or deed, and take an active role in its future.

***Trevor Beardsmore***

***Honorary Chairman – Western Australia Division***

***Geological Society of Australia***

***2 April, 2015***



**Table 1: Western Australia Divisional Committee Members**

<b>Position</b>	<b>April 2014–April 2015</b>	<b>Proposed: April 2015–April 2016</b>
Chair	Trevor Beardsmore (GSAWA)	Trevor Beardsmore (GSAWA)
Vice Chair	Suzanne Murray (Northern Star Resources)	Suzanne Murray (Northern Star Resources)
Secretary	Aaron Hunter (Curtin University)	Aaron Hunter (Curtin University)
Treasurer	Stephen Wyche (GSAWA)	Stephen Wyche (GSAWA)
WAG Editor(s)	Roger Bateman (Consultant)	Roger Bateman (Consultant)
WAG Business Manager	Greg Lester (Curtin University) Roger Bateman (Consultant)	Roger Bateman (Consultant) Greg Lester (Curtin University)
General Committee	Douglas Allen (Consultant)	Douglas Allen (Consultant)
	Paul Askins (Consultant)	Paul Askins (Consultant)
	Milo Barham (Curtin University)	Milo Barham (Curtin University)
	Katy Evans (Curtin University)	Liam Crellin (Curtin Student)
	Rachel Fuller (consultant)	Katy Evans (Curtin University)
	Luke Hersey (Curtin Student)	Rachel Fuller (Consultant)
	Greg Lester (Curtin University)	Greg Lester (Curtin University)
	Jodie Ooi (Curtin Student)	Nicolas Thebaud (UWA)
	Nicolas Thebaud (UWA)	Chris Yeats (Consultant)
Awards	Charles Butt (CSIRO)	Charles Butt (CSIRO)
Education and Vocation	Joanne Watkins (ESWA)	Joanne Watkins (ESWA)
Geological Heritage	Margaret Brocx (Murdoch University)	Margaret Brocx (Murdoch University)
Stratigraphic Nomenclature	Milo Barham (Curtin University)	Milo Barham (Curtin University)

**Table 2: Monthly Meetings, May 2014 – May 2015**

<b>2014</b>		
7 May	Mark Jessell	The West African Exploration Initiative (WAXI)
4 June	Tim Johnson	Differentiation, partial melting and the evolution of the Earth's early crust
July	No Meeting	Due to overlap with Australian Earth Science Convention
6 August	John Bunting	Hot rocks, warm corals, cool microbes - Unravelling the geology of the SW Capes region for the latest ESWA field guide
3 September	Diana Plavsa	The tectonic evolution of the Southern Granulite Terrane of India and its role in the amalgamation of Gondwana
1 October	Sandra Occhipinti	Towards a multi-commodity minerals targeting effort in the Halls Creek Orogen using a Mineral Systems approach – a CET(UWA) and GSWA collaboration
6 October	Nikolai Goryachev	Tectonics and metallogeny of the Russian Far East (joint GSA-AIG Lecture)

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5 November	Aaron Hunter	A bizarre crinoid from a methane seep in the Late Cretaceous of South Dakota, USA
5 December	<b>Joint AIG-GSA Christmas Cruise</b>	

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## 2015

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4 February	David Haig	Advances in Timor stratigraphy: Re-ordering a chaotic jigsaw puzzle with implications for mineral and petroleum exploration
4 March	Ravi Anand (2014 Gibb Maitland Medallist)	Geochemical dispersion through transported cover in regolith-dominated terrains – towards an understanding of process
1 April	James Mungall	Transport of metals and sulphur in magmas by flotation of sulphide melt on vapour bubbles
6 May	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	
	Graham Begg (2015 Gibb Maitland Medallist)	Connecting mineral systems and lithospheric architecture – the greenfields frontier

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**Table 3: Divisional Awards 2013-14**

Award	2013-14 Recipient	Basis for the award
Gibb Maitland Medal	Dr. Graham Begg	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	Evan Kerr	Best Honours or Master's dissertation (at least 50% of course requirements) at the University of Western Australia, based on research with a significant, terrestrial field work component carried out by the candidate
GSA Medal	Caroline Clugston	Best undergraduate results in the final year of the BSc (Applied Geology) degree at Curtin University of Technology
WACE Prize	James Shepherd, Bunbury College	Best aggregate score in the Earth and Environmental Science WA Certificate of Education

***GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)***  
***TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014***

The GSA (WA Division) maintained a healthy financial position in 2014.

Both JBWere Cash Trust accounts were closed in November 2014 and the money transferred to the Geological Society of Australia's Bankers Trust Australia Ltd account.

Financial highlights for 2014 include:

- The JBWere Cash Trust accounts were closed on 27 November 2014. The total amount withdrawn was \$72,380.50. This money was deposited into the Geological Society's Bankers Trust Australia Ltd account.
- On 1 January 2015, the Commonwealth Bank Cheque Account contained \$15,981.93.
- Capitation reimbursement amounted to \$8,711.39.
- GST reimbursement of \$358.15.
- Advertising income from the West Australian Geologist (WAG) totalled \$253. Professional page-setting (\$200). Page-setting software for in-house production of WAG (\$93).
- The Annual Dinner and Awards Night lost about \$378 (not including the cost of the medals and the cash awards). The new model for the dinner, involving a cheaper and less formal arrangement, was considered to be a significant success.
- Paid \$914.98 towards the subsidy of the 2013 joint GSA/AIG river cruise function.
- Awarded three \$1000 bursaries to assist students with field projects and donated \$1000 to the cost of the IUCN booth.
- The GSA(WA Division), through Jo Watkins, acted as the 'bank' for the 2014 joint GSA-AIG-PESA-ESWA-ASEG student 'Careers in Geoscience' night. We still hold \$1467 from the profits from that evening, having already paid \$1450 deposit for the venue hire for the 2015 event.
- Other expenses included:
  - the post office box (\$256),
  - Irish Club memberships for meetings venue use (\$140),
  - creation of new medal blanks for Society awards (\$666.16),
  - cash student prizes awarded at the Annual Dinner (\$1100),
  - travel costs for Gibb Maitland medallist Cam McCuaig to present a talk in Kalgoorlie (other costs covered by AusIMM) (\$515.20),
  - payment for speakers' meals at monthly meetings and travel assistance GSA (America) distinguished speaker Chan.

At the end of 2014, the Division's overall budget remains in good shape, with no financial issues of concern.

***Stephen Wyche***

***Treasurer***

***Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division***

***13 March, 2015***

***GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)***

***WEST AUSTRALIAN GEOLOGIST (WAG) EDITOR REPORT 2014–14***

The West Australian Geologist (WAG) newsletter continues to appear in a steady manner, publishing issue numbers 505-511 since the last AGM (5 per year, commonly skipping 1 over Christmas-New Year). The editorial tasks have been done by Roger Bateman using newly purchased PagePlus X7 software. This has allowed for a redesign by Jo Watkins of the layout of the newsletter. Assistance from Doug Allan with uploading the newsletter to the GSA-WA website and reviewing articles is much appreciated.

The Geological Survey of Western Australia has been a solid supporter of WAG during these difficult times.

The editor greatly appreciates occasional articles contributed by subcommittee convenors, and especially reports from Curtin University and The University of Western Australia student groups, reporting on field trips and study programs that have been supported by GSA-WA Division funds. We regularly publish abstracts for forthcoming monthly Division talks; invitation to the Division's Annual Dinner; Australian Journal of Earth Sciences and Geological Survey of Western Australia recent publications; significant obituaries; book reviews; and a variety of announcements. CSIRO seems to have ceased to offer us a 'recent developments' article. The prospects for WAG remain good for future issues — ***IF*** there are varied and quality contributions from the membership. The editorial policy on longer articles is ~1500 words; not fully technical; of interest to a breadth of the membership; photographs welcome; any announcement of events that assist the WA geological community.

***Roger Bateman***

***Editor – West Australian Geologist Newsletter***

***Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division***

***31 March, 2015***

***GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)***  
***AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015***

**SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Members of the Awards Sub-Committee were Charles Butt (Chair), Bryan Smith and Jon Hronsky. Some nominees for the Gibb Maitland Medal are close associates of members of the Sub-Committee, so to dispel any perceptions of bias, Dr. Tim Griffin was co-opted for this year's round to ensure that at least 3 impartial members considered each nomination. Dr Adam Bath assisted with selection of the Talbot Medal.

**GIBB MAITLAND MEDAL, 2015**

The Gibb Maitland Medal is awarded for substantial contributions to geoscience in Western Australia, with particular consideration given to contributions that relate to the discovery or documentation of mineral and petroleum resources in the state. This year, three nominations were considered; two from previous years, of which one was updated, and one new nomination. The quality of the nominees was again very high, appropriate for maintaining the prestige of the Award, and the nominators are thanked for their efforts in preparing the submissions. Selection of this year's medallist resulted in considerable debate due to the outstanding contributions of the nominees. The Sub-Committee is pleased to recommend that the 2015 Gibb Maitland Medal be awarded to **Dr Graham Begg**, Director, Minerals Targeting International Pty Ltd (nominated by Dr Steve Beresford).

The citation is as follows:

Dr Graham Begg is awarded the 2015 Gibb Maitland Medal for his scientific work on understanding the large-scale lithospheric architectural context of mineral deposits and how this relates to practical regional-scale targeting strategies. He has been an extremely energetic and effective advocate for these concepts and has had a significant impact on government and industry practice in the collection and analysis of regional geoscientific data, changing the nature and style of precompetitive geoscience datasets obtained by geological surveys in Western Australia and nationally. Many of the global exploration industry's most significant companies are sponsors of his work and his ideas have already contributed to the discovery of significant mineral deposits, including deposits in the Musgrave Block and Albany-Fraser Province.

In close collaboration with Macquarie University, Dr Begg pioneered the development of global lithospheric architecture mapping through the integration of multiple regional-scale geophysical and geochemical data sets with a detailed understanding of crustal evolution and tectonic history. The data sets include seismic tomography, potential field geophysics, mantle petrology (derived from xenocryst analysis) and multiple geochronological techniques (Re/Os, U/Pb, and Lu/Hf), many used for the first time in an exploration context. The product is a four dimensional structural map of the sub-continental lithosphere, encompassing mantle evolution, trans-lithospheric architecture and history of individual domains, thereby potentially identifying the location and timing of major ore systems. The full implications of this approach also have a broader scientific impact on our understanding of global scale tectonics (particularly in the early Archaean), supercontinent reconstructions and global-scale geochemical reservoirs.

Dr Begg is recognized internationally for his work through his publications in leading journals and as an invited speaker at many prestigious national and international conferences. He has been effective at promoting his work to industry and also has a strong and admirable commitment to the mentoring of students and young researchers. In summary, Dr Graham Begg is a deserving recipient of the 2015 Gibb Maitland Medal.

## **TALBOT MEDAL**

The Talbot Medal is awarded for the best Honours or Master's dissertation (at least 50% of course requirements) at the University of Western Australia, based on research with a significant, terrestrial field work component carried out by the candidate. The 2015 Talbot Medal is awarded to **Evan Kerr** for his thesis entitled "*Structural control, hydrothermal alteration and gold mineralisation of the Red October gold deposit, Laverton Greenstone Belt, eastern Yilgarn Craton, Western Australia.*" Underground geological mapping, diamond drill core logging and detailed petrographic studies are the basis of a well-argued discussion of the origin of the deposit.

## **GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL (WA DIVISION)**

The GSA Medal is awarded to the outstanding student completing the BSc (Applied Geology) degree at Curtin University. The 2015 GSA Medal is awarded to **Caroline Clugston**.

## **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION PRIZE**

The WACE prize is awarded to the student with the highest mark in the Earth and Environmental Science examination. The 2015 WACE prize winner is **James Andrew Shepherd** of Bunbury Catholic College, who received the Course Exhibition and a Certificate of Excellence in the 2014 examination.

***C.R.M. Butt***

***Convenor – Awards Subcommittee***

***Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division***

***17 March, 2015***



## ***GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)***

### ***GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT 2014–2015***

This year the focus was on bringing Geoheritage to the attention to Protected Parks Managers by participating in the IUCN World Parks Congress hosted by Sydney November 12-18 2014. The Congress, which only occurs every 10 years, sets the agenda for the protection of biodiversity under Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) for the next 10 years. The Congress is a landmark global forum on protected areas.

Prior to the Congress, E/Professor John Gordon (Scotland) and Dr Enrique Diaz-Martinez (Geological Survey Spain) participated in a GSA Geoheritage event in Perth on November 10<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by the Scitech Planetarium and Celestial Visions.

The WA Division together with the ACT, Qld, NSW, Hunter Valley, the Broken Hill Divisions, and the GSA Australasian Association for Palaeontologists (AAP) Specialist Group, partnered with the Wetlands Research Association Inc, ProGEO, and the IUCN World Commission Parks Area Geoheritage Specialist Group (IUCN WC/PA GSG) for the successful inclusion in a total of six sessions in this highly competitive global Congress.

In addition, together with the NSW Division Heritage Co-convenors Armstrong Osborne and Ian Percival, with funding from VCSRGL and the Korean World Heritage Tidal Flat Promotion Group, I represented the WA Division in facilitating a one-day excursion for the IUCN Geoheritage Specialist Group in the Blue Mountains. The excursion was led by Vic Semeniuk (WA). The Blue Mountains is a World Heritage area conserved for its biodiversity values. The field trip was specifically designed for the GSG to illustrate the geodiversity of the region and the relationship of geodiversity to biodiversity.

Further, the participating GSA Divisions together with The Wetlands Research Association Inc, ProGEO, and the Geological Society of Spain partnered to secure funding and a roster for a Geoheritage Exhibition Stand. Based on attendance, and visitor feedback, the Geoheritage Stand was worthwhile and a success. There were over 250 visitors overall with over 70 people visiting the Stand on the first day. It would not have been possible to achieve this level of exposure without the Exhibition Stand or the financial and in-kind contributions from the GSA Divisions and partners that provided in-kind and funding support.

#### **Outcomes of the IUCN World Parks Congress**

As Australia is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, outcomes from the Congress, in the arena of Geoheritage, will be delivered nationally and internationally. Early Congress outcomes will include Geoheritage being recognised as a category of Heritage in Parks Management. The new Parks Area Management Manual, released online in February 2015, for the first time contains a substantial Chapter on Geoheritage.

Congress outcomes are another step in the right direction towards:

- (i) a change in ethos and ethics to include the Earth Sciences in what is currently a biocentric approach to environmental conservation and management that is currently rooted in and focused on biodiversity [when, in fact, biodiversity is underpinned by geodiversity].
- (ii) justifying the need to increase funding resources in Tertiary Institutions for Science and Education in the geological sciences. This lack of funding adversely impacts on the capacity of the States and Territories to identify sites of geoheritage significance and take action on conservation and management for sites of geoheritage significance, including those of educational and scientific interest. Also, there are both discovered and yet to be discovered sites geoheritage of significance that are currently at risk.

Once the overall framework or idea that geology is an important part of Australia's Heritage and in ecosystem management, is more widely accepted, this information base can also be utilised for:

1. Earth Science Research
2. Environmental Forecasting
3. Education and Training,
4. A Cultural and Tourism Resource (with some places attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors each year)
5. Management of Sites of Geoheritage Significance, and
6. Integrated Multidisciplinary Environmental Planning and Management

As an indication of the increasing importance of Geoheritage in meeting conservation goals, Geoconservation has been included in the 2015 Protected Area Governance and Management Publication [Crofts, R. and Gordon, J.E. 2015. Geoconservation in protected areas. *In*: G.L. Worboys, M. Lockwood, A. Kothari, S. Feary and I. Pulsford (eds), Protected Area Governance and Management. ANU Press, Canberra, <http://press.anu.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ch18.pdf> ].

In summary, as a collaborative team consisting of the participating GSA Divisions, the Geological Survey Spain, the Wetlands Research Association, the IUCN Geoheritage Specialist Group, ProGEO and the Korean World Heritage Tidal Flat Promotion Group, we hope to have contributed to the better recognition of Geoheritage as an integral part of natural heritage, and for it to be more formally included in protected area management both in Australia, and globally.

***Margaret Brocx***

***Convenor - Geological Heritage***

***Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division***

***7 April 2015***

***GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)***

***EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT 2014–2015***

The annual “Careers In Geoscience” night was held at the Tech Park Function Centre, Bentley, in May, providing a large number of Year 10–12 students (4–6 pm) and university students (6–8 pm) access to companies and education providers. The increased interactivity introduced during the high school session, with a stamp card challenge and raffle, was well received by both students and exhibitors. This successful event was led by the GSA as part of a joint committee with representatives also from the AIG, ASEG and PESA (with assistance from ESWA). The 2015 event will, once again, be held in May at the Tech Park Function Centre.

The committee was pleased to support field trips arranged by GEOS (Curtin University’s student geological society) to the Swan Valley region in May and to Gingin in December.

John Bunting and ESWA’s *A Geological Field Guide to the Capes Region of Southwest WA* was officially released in May of 2014. Printing was once again made possible due to co-sponsorship by the WA and Federal branches of the GSA. *A Field Guide to Perth and Surrounds*, also originally printed due to co-sponsorship from the WA and Federal GSA, was reprinted in 2012 and will be reprinted again in 2015. The next field guide, to Kalgoorlie and surrounds, is currently being drafted.

***Joanne Watkins***

***Convenor - Education Subcommittee***

***Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division***

***7 April 2015***

## **GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)**

### **AUSTRALIAN STRATIGRAPHY COMMISSION (WA BRANCH) REPORT 2014-15**

It has been a relatively quiet 2014 on the surface, but behind the WA stratigraphic scenes, change has been afoot. Most significantly, as announced last year, during 2014 Roger Hocking has been deservedly winding down his role as the convener of the WA branch of Australian Stratigraphy Commission (many thanks to Roger for the many years of fine service). The aim is for Milo Barham (Curtin University) to take over the convening role, with the considerable assistance of Roger, Angela Riganti and Peter Haines at GSWA.

Also during 2014, Angela has been heavily involved with the refinement of GSWA's own stratigraphic data repository, the online Explanatory Notes System, that will be made publicly available in 2015. This will be complementary to the Geoscience Australia website (<http://www.ga.gov.au/data-pubs/data-standards/reference-databases/stratigraphic-units>), which remains the go-to site of stratigraphic information for Australia and typically contains sufficient information (either direct data or links and references to relevant resources) to answer most age and stratigraphic relationship problems. Many people still seem unaware of this resource as well as the correct processes and procedures that are necessary to define new units or revise them. The work is not too arduous and more care and consistency in areas of unit terminology will go a long way to tidying up and unifying WA and interstate stratigraphic issues.

Lithostratigraphic queries and approvals continued intermittently through the year (~75 e-mails and 42 name reservations). We and our Canberra counterparts (the National committee) would love to see more people take the further step of filling out a definition form online, to save indexing time and make sure all necessary information is supplied. As last year, some names are introduced or modified with only brief descriptions that don't provide enough information to understand why or what has been done, and so strictly remain informal and subject to change or abandonment. The percentage of lithostratigraphic nomenclature that has been properly defined, and recorded as such in the National reference database, remains woefully low.

	<b>Feb-14</b>	<b>Mar-15</b>
Current WA names	3277	3219
Current WA formal names	2304	2276
Current WA reserved names	142	173
WA misspellings indexed	931	966
Superseded WA names	1506	1517
Obsolete WA names	627	650
Current informal names, WA	435	354
ASUD total current formal names	12484	12301
ASUD total misspellings	4864	5034
ASUD current unnamed units	1453	1452

Comparing WA's 2014 with previous years as well as national data shows a mix of positive and negatives. It is great that names are being reserved before publication but they still need to be fully described and formally defined. Sadly, the number of misspellings is still rising locally and nationally – more care is needed to keep this in check. On the up-side, the tally of informal names is dropping. Obviously there is room for continued improvement to resolve the stratigraphic issues that currently exist but much of this will take time and collective effort.

***Milo Barham (Convenor) and Roger Hocking (Co-convenor)***

***Stratigraphic Nomenclature Subcommittee***

***Geological Society of Australia – Western Australia Division***

***7 April 2015***