

INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CORRELATION PROGRAM AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN IGCP NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN IGCP NATIONAL COMMITTEE

for 2015

Committee Members 2015

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Committee changes

Professor Ian Cartwright reluctantly stood down from the committee during 2015.

International projects

Australian geoscientists at the beginning of 2015 were either leaders, co-leaders or regional leaders of 10 projects. This activity indicates the ongoing high-level of interest in, and the benefits to be gained from, cooperation in international projects. Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich continues in a position on the expanded IGCP Scientific Board and was elected as the Chair of the Science Board. Her place as Theme Leader of Global Change on the

International Geoscience Programme Board based in Paris was filled by elected member Professor Guy Narbonne.

Projects with Australian leadership or involvement, including annual reports, can be accessed on the UNESCO's website at

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/international-geoscience-programme/igcp-projects/>.

NUMBER	NAME	LEADERS	AUS REP
587	Of Identity, Facies and Time: The Ediacaran (Vendian) Puzzle 2010–2014 (one extended term)	Vickers-Rich, P. (Australia) Fedonkin, M. A. (Russia) Gehling, J. (Australia) Narbonne, G. (Canada)	P. Vickers-Rich Monash University MONASH, VIC 3800
592	Continental construction in Central Asia 2012-2015	Inna Safonova (Russia) Reimar Seltmann (UK) Min Sum (China) Wenjiao Xiao (China)	Richard Glen (regional leader) Dept of Earth & Planetary Sciences, Macquarie University NSW 2109
596	Climate Change And Biodiversity Patterns In The Mid-Palaeozoic 2011-2015	P. Koenigshof (Germany) T. Suttner (Austria) I. Boncheva (Bulgaria) N.Izokh (Russia) P. Ta Hoa (Vietnam) T Charoentitirat (Thailand) J. Waters (USA) W.Kiessling (Germany)	Sue Turner Queensland Museum Ancient Environments 122 Gerler Road, Hendra Queensland 4011
597	Amalgamation and Breakup of Pangaea: The Type Example of the Supercontinent Cycle 2011–2015 (one extended term)	J. Brendan Murphy (Canada) J. Duncan Keppie (Mexico) Cecilio Qüesada (Spain) Bill Collins (Australia)	Bill Collins School of Envir. & Life Sciences University of Newcastle NEWCASTLE, NSW 2308
618	Paleoclimate Information Obtained From Past-Recharged Groundwater 2012-2016	Dioni Cendon (Australia) Jianyao Chen (China) Jason Gurdak (US) Ofelia Tujchneider (Arg) Sylvia Haldorsen (Norway) I. M J. van der Ploeg (Neth) Rein Vaikmae (Estonia) Roland Purtschert (Switzerland)	Dioni Cendon ANSTO Locked Bag 2001 Kirrawee DC, NSW 2232
628	The Gondwana Map Project 2013-2017	R. Silva Schmitt (Brazil) M. De Wit (South Africa) A. Collins (Australia) C. Reeves (Neth) P. Rossi (France) E. J. Milani (Brazil)	Alan Collins Dept of Earth Sciences The University of Adelaide SA 5005
632	Continental Crises of the Jurassic 2014-2018	J. Sha (China) V. Vajda (Sweden) P. Olsen (USA) E. Msaky (Tanzania) M. Et-Touhami (Morocco) O. Shevchuk (Ukraine) H. Campbell (New Zealand) W. Kuerschner (Norway)	Sue Turner Queensland Museum Ancient Environments 122 Gerler Road, Hendra Queensland 4011
637	Heritage Stone Designation	B.Cooper (Australia)	Barry Cooper

	2015-2019	B. Schouenborg (Sweden) D. Pereira (Spain) Sabina Kramar (Slovenia)	Dept of Natural & Built Environments, University of South Australia Adelaide South Australia 5001
648	Supercontinent Cycles and Global Geodynamics 2015-2019	Z-X Li (Australia) S. Zhong (USA) D. Evans (USA) B. Eglington (Canada)	Zheng-Xiang Li Dept of Applied Geology Curtin University WA 6845
649	Diamonds and Recycled Mantle 2015-2019	J. Yang (China) Y. Dilek (USA) P. Robinson (Canada) I. Milushi (Albania) M. Abu Anbar (Egypt)	Bill Griffin GEMOC Dept Earth & Planetary Sciences, Macquarie University NSW 2109

General Australian Activities

Several projects with key Australian involvement have now come to the ends of their activities. These are project 572 (Permian-Triassic ecosystems); 581 (Evolution of Asian River Systems); 588 (Continental Margins: Assessing the Geohazards from Submarine Landslides); 591 (The Early to Middle Paleozoic Revolution: Bridging the Gap between the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event and the Devonian Terrestrial Revolution); 599 (The Changing Early Earth).

On the other hand two new projects have commenced, both led by Australian geoscientists.

IGCP 637. Heritage Stone Designation, with Barry Cooper in South Australia as leader “aims to firmly establish the first international standard for building and ornamental stones via extensive documentation of those stones that have been significant in human culture”.

(Parenthetically it might not be generally known that Australia has two heritage stones: Melbourne Bluestone (basalt) of Melbourne and the Hawkesbury Sandstone of Sydney).

IGCP 648. Supercontinent Cycles and Global Geodynamics, with Zheng-Xiang Li in Western Australia as leader, aims “to explore the occurrence and evolution history of supercontinents through time, and the underlying geodynamic processes... It will establish/improve global databases of geotectonics, palaeomagnetism, mineral deposits, and the occurrences of past mantle plume events, and examine how the supercontinent cycles interacted with the deep mantle to produce episodic and unevenly distributed Earth resources”.

Grant Applications, Finances and 2016

The adjacent table shows that 11 successful applications were made to the committee for financial assistance to assist the attendance at eligible IGCP meetings. Two could not be taken up. These funds are mainly allocated to young scientists, to help them leverage funds from other sources, to present

at IGCP meetings and to make international contacts. Some funds were allocated to active retired geoscientists without funding.

The committee spent \$17,500 out of its annual grant from Geoscience Australia of \$20,000.

We are carrying forward \$28,765, some of it a result of private donations in 2014 when the funding situation was dire.

We hope for another \$20,000 from Geoscience Australia for 2016. This is an IGC year, so we expect above-normal applications to attend the meeting in Cape Town, South Africa and associated IGC activities, with the resultant rundown of our savings. Applications are already beginning to come in.

Acknowledgement

The ability of the IGCP committee to contribute funding to Australia's participation in international geoscience is only made possible by the recurrent funding of Geoscience Australia. I wish to record the committee's grateful thanks to that organisation and especially to its CEO Dr Chris Pigram.

Richard Glen
Chair
Australian IGCP National Committee

26 January 2016