

INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CORRELATION PROGRAM AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN IGCP NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr Richard Glen
Adjunct Professor, Department of Earth and
Planetary Sciences, Macquarie University.
Sydney
email:geology.rg@gmail.com

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN IGCP NATIONAL COMMITTEE
for 2014**

Committee Members 2013-2014

Professor Ian Cartwright
Groundwater Chemistry & Interactions
School of Geosciences
Monash University
CLAYTON VIC 3800
Email: ian.cartwright@sci.monash.edu.au

Professor Allan Chivas
Palaeoenvironments, Geochemistry and Geochronology
School of Earth & Environmental Sciences
University of Wollongong
WOLLONGONG NSW 2522
Email: toschi@uow.edu.au

Dr Brenda Franklin
Mineralogy/Industrial Minerals
Consulting Mineralogist/Petrologist
DEE WHY NSW 2099
Email: brendafranklin@bigpond.com

Dr Richard Glen (Chair, 2014-)
Tectonics and Structural Geology
Adjunct Professor,
Dept of Earth & Planetary Sciences,
Macquarie University,
SYDNEY NSW 2109
Email: geology.rg@gmail.com

Dr Kathleen Grey
Stromatolite/Acritarch Biostratigraphy
Consultant
Emeritus Paleontologist, Geological Survey, Western Australia
Research Associate, School of Geosciences
Monash University
CLAYTON, VIC 3800

Email: Kath.grey@gmail.com

Professor Steven Reddy
Assembly and Dispersal of Continents, Structural Geology
Western Australian School of Mines
Curtin University
PERTH WA 6102
Email: S.Reddy@curtin.edu.au

Dr Elizabeth Truswell
Environmental Geoscience/Palaeontology
Visiting Fellow
Australian National University
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email: etruswell@aapt.net.au

Dr Sue Turner
Vertebrate Palaeontology, IUGS/IGCP history
Geoscience Editor & Writer
Adjunct Research Associate, School of Geosciences, Monash University
Hon Research Fellow, Queensland Museum Geosciences
Email: paleodeadfish@yahoo.com

Mr Alfons (Fons) VandenBerg
Biostratigraphy, Graptolites
Honorary Research Associate
Museum Victoria MELBOURNE VIC. 3001
Email: avandenberg@museum.vic.gov.au

Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich (Chair, 2010-2014)
Palaeobiology/Science Communication
School of Geosciences
Monash University
CLAYTON VIC 3800
Email: pat.rich@sci.monash.edu.au

Committee changes

In the middle of 2014 the chair of the committee, Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich, stepped down as a result of competing time pressures. The incoming Chair was Dr Richard Glen, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney and recently retired as Senior Principal Research Scientist in the Geological Survey of New South Wales. Professor Vickers-Rich was thanked for her strong leadership since 2010, and was persuaded to remain on the committee, in order to pass on her expertise.

Professor Ian Cartwright from the School of Geosciences, Monash University joined the committee in the second half of 2014 in order to cover the

increasingly important fields of groundwater chemistry and groundwater-surface water interaction.

International projects

Australian geoscientists at the beginning of 2014 were either leaders or co-leaders or regional leaders or coordinators of ten projects. This activity indicates the ongoing high level of interest 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/>.

These projects are now listed.

NUMBER	NAME	LEADERS	AUS REP
572	Permian-Triassic ecosystems 2008–2013 (OET)	Zhong Qiang Chen (Australia), Richard J. Twitchett (UK), Jinnan Tong (China), Margret L. Fraiser (USA), Sylvie Crasquin (France), Steve Kershaw (UK), Thomas J. Algeo (USA), Kliti Grice (Australia)	Z. Qiang Chen University of Western Australia PERTH WA 6009
581	Evolution of Asian River Systems 2009–2013	Hongbo Zheng (China) Ryuji Tada (Japan) Peter Clift (UK) Masood Ahmad (India) Zheng Xiang Li (Australia)	Zheng Xiang Li Curtin University PERTH, WA 6102
587	Of Identity, Facies and Time: The Ediacaran (Vendian) Puzzle 2010–2014 2010–2014	Vickers-Rich, P. (Australia) Fedonkin, M. A. (Russia) Gehling, J. (Australia) Gehling, J. (Australia) Narbonne, G. (Canada)	P. Vickers-Rich School of Earth, Atmosphere Environment Monash University MELBOURNE VIC 3800
588	E-MARSHAL. Earth's Continental MARGins: ASsessing the geoHAzards from submarine Landslides. 2010–2014	Adam D. Switzer (Malaysia) Craig Sloss (Australia) Benjamin Horton (USA) Imasiku Nyambe (Zambia)	Craig Sloss School of Natural Resources Queensland Univ. of Technology BRISBANE, QLD 4001
591	The Early to Middle Paleozoic Revolution: Bridging the Gap between the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event and the	Bradley D. Cramer (USA) Živilė Žigaitė (Lithuania) Thijs R.A. Vandenbroucke (Fr), Kathleen Histon (Italy),	Tony Wright School of Geosciences University of Wollongong WOLLONGONG NSW 2522.

	Devonian Terrestrial Revolution	Renbin Zhan (China) L. Albanesi (Argentina) Michael J. Melchin (Canada) Mikael Calner (Sweden).	
592	Continental construction in Central Asia	Inna Safonova (Russia) Reimar Seltmann (UK) Min Sum (China)	Richard Glen (regional leader) Dept of Earth & Planetary Sciences, Macquarie University, SYDNEY NSW 2109
596	Climate Change And Biodiversity Patterns In The Mid-Palaeozoic	Peter Koenigshof (Germany) Thomas Suttner (Austria) Illana Bincheva (Bulgaria) Nadezhda Izokh (Russia) Phuong Ta Huo (Vietnam) Thasinee Charoentitirat (Thailand) Johnny Waters (USA) Wolfgang Kiessling (Germany) Erika Kido (Austria)	Sue Turner (coordinator fish working group) Queensland Museum Geosciences BRISBANE QLD 7001
597	Amalgamation and Breakup Pangaea: The Type Example of the Supercontinent Cycle 2011–2015	J. Brendan Murphy (Canada) J. Duncan Keppie (Mexico) Cecilio Quesada (Spain) Bill Collins (Australia)	Bill Collins School of Envir. & Life Sciences University of Newcastle NEWCASTLE, NSW 2308
599	The Changing Early Earth 2011–2014	Jaana Halla (Finland) Kent C. Condie (USA) Roberto Dalt (Brazil) Mudlappa Jayanada (India) Martin Van Kranendonk (Aus) Hugh Rollison (UK) Gary Stevens (South Africa) Jin-Hui Yang (China)	Martin Van Kranendonk Australian Centre for Astrobiology University of New South Wales SYDNEY NSW 2052
618	Paleoclimate Information Obtained From Past-Recharged Groundwater	Dioni Cendon (Australia) Jian Yao 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, SYDNEY NSW 2232
628	The Gondwana Map Project	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

Activities and Grant Applications

The Australian committee spent most of 2014 in survival mode, in response to Federal Government reductions in funding to Geoscience Australia (GA), the country's peak geoscience agency, which in turn threatened GA's recurrent support for the Australian IGCP program.

This potential shortfall in funding took several months to be resolved, but happily, Geoscience Australia, found its way clear to restore its support. As a result of this potential shortfall, the Australia IGCP committee felt that it had to restrict the amount of funding it provided in the first part of the year, although in two circumstances, top-up money was given after funding from Geoscience Australia was restored. News of the potential funding loss in the Australian geological media in June 2014, was followed by the good news of its 'reinstatement' in December 2014. However, by then, it was too late to attract any more applications for funds for that year.

The balance of the account as at 31 October 2014 was \$25,574.46. This amount included personal donations from several individuals who wished to support the presumed, much-curtailed activities of the Australian IGCP program.

Details of funding are presented below

Recipient	Grant (\$)	Project and purpose
Uri Shaanan	1500	628—Gondwana Map Project. Attendance at Gondwana – To-Asia meeting, Beijing, China, September 2014. Present paper on New England Orogen in relation o east Gondwana margin
Alana Sharp	1500 (topped up by 1500)	587—the Ediacaran (Vendian) Puzzle. Attendance at meeting in Namibia, working on sedimentary packages that host these fossils
Tony Wright	500 (topped up by 500)	591—The Early to Middle Paleozoic Revolution. Attendance at field workshop in Kunming, China, August 2014. Present a paper on Silurian and Devonian operculate corals.

The IGCP committee strongly supported the proposed IGCP project on Supercontinents and Geodynamics submitted by Professor Z-X Li of Curtin University. It wrote that "The time is right for such a project, based as it is on new developments in seismic tomography, greater precision in Precambrian palaeomagnetic and dating results, and more sophisticated computer modeling of geodynamic processes in both 3D and 4D. The committee believes that the mobilization of 'silo' researchers, each specializing in their own field of geology/geophysics/computing/modeling, into one single global project such as being proposed here will have enormous benefits." Results are not as yet available.

Conclusions

Looking forward to 2015, I can report that applications for financial support for IGCP activities are once again reaching the committee. In this regard, the ability of the IGCP committee to contribute financially to Australia's participation in international geoscience is only made possible by the recurrent funding of Geoscience Australia. I wish to strongly record the committee's thanks to that organisation, and especially to its CEO Dr Chris Pigram.

Richard Glen
Chair
Australian IGCP National Committee

26 January 2015