

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2006 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: Earth Sciences

CHAIR: Prof Andrew Gleadow

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2006

Please complete and return this form by 15 December 2006.

NOTE: This report will be published on the Academy of Science website at www.science.org.au/natcoms

MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON:

The National Committee for Earth Sciences met in Canberra on Friday 2 June 2006 at Ian Potter House

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2007 (include date and place, if possible):

The NCES plans to meet in Canberra in March-April 2007, details to be arranged.

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

IN 2006 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

There were no relevant General Assemblies of International Unions in 2006

IN 2007 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

XXIV General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, Perugia, Italy, 2-13 July 2007.

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held in 2008

33rd International Geological Congress (IUGS), Oslo, Norway, August 5-14, 2008

IAVCEI General Assembly, Reykjavik, Iceland, August 8-22, 2008

I RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING VOTING AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION: (include title, name, address, telephone, email and fax number)

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2006 WERE:

(include all appointed/elected memberships of subsidiary bodies, standing committees, commissions etc. as well as appointments to Bureau/Executive positions in the governing body).

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
Professor Brian Kennett	IUGG	Delegate to General Assembly	
Dr Charles Barton	IUGG	Council Member	
Dr Tom Beer	IUGG	Vice-President and Bureau	
Dr Charles Barton	IAGA	President	
Prof Brian Kennet	IASPEI	Executive Com and past-President	
Prof Ian Jackson	IASPEI	Executive Com	
Dr Gary Gibson	IASPEI	Commission on Education and Outreach	
Dr Ian Campbell	IAVCEI	Commission on Large Volcanic Provinces	
Dr Sharon Allen	IAVCEI	Commission on Explosive Volcanism	
Dr Andrew Tupper	IAVCEI	World Organisa'n of Volcano Observatories	
Adj Prof. Colin Simpson	IUGS	Commission on Geoscience for Envir. Management	
Prof David Oldroyd	IUGS	Int'l Commission on History of Geological Sciences	
Dr Ian Campbell	IUGS	Commission on Solid Earth Comp. and Evolution	

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2007:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2006 Business Plan. 2006 Business plans can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2006anrep.pdf> pp17-27, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2005 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2006 (200-250 words):

[Your Report, as presented here, will be published in April 2007, in the National Committees for Science section of the Academy's Annual Report for 2006-2007].

With the announcement of the NCRIS Strategic Roadmap in February 2006, the 'Structure and Evolution of the Australian Continent' was one of the 16 priority research capabilities identified for support. A national steering committee was set up, chaired by Dr Mike Etheridge and with the NCES represented by its Chair. The committee met regularly throughout the year and consulted widely with the earth science community culminating in the allocation of \$46m for support of the 'AuScope' program over five years from 2007. AuScope will consist primarily of four integrated programs in Geophysical Imaging, Geochemical Analysis, Geophysical Modelling and the National Geospatial Reference System.

A key component of work plans under AuScope will be a program of National Geoscience Transects as recommended by the 'National Strategic Plan for the Earth Sciences' produced by the NCES in 2003. Implementation of this program will proceed in close coordination with the National Committee. Another major priority for the National Committee during 2007 will be coordination of national activities for the 'International Year of Planet Earth' (IYPE) in 2008. The IYPE will actually be spread over three years from 2007 to 2009 and provides an outstanding opportunity for promotion of the earth sciences to the wider Australian community.

Australia is currently preparing a bid to host the General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) in Melbourne in 2011 and the bid committee is chaired by NCES member Professor Ray Cas. Towards this end the Bureau of the IUGG met in Melbourne during the week of 16-20 October. The bid will be presented to the IUGG General Assembly in Perugia, Italy, in July 2007. Planning also continued during 2006 for the major congress of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), the 34th International Geological Congress, to be held in Brisbane in 2012. Dr Neil Williams is President and NCES member Dr Ian Lambert, Secretary General for the Congress (both of Geoscience Australia).

A highlight of 2006 for the geoscience community in Australia was the hosting of the 16th International Goldschmidt Conference in Melbourne from 27 August to 1 September. The National Committee was represented by its Chair on the Organising Committee, which met frequently through the year. The Goldschmidt is the premier international conference on Geochemistry and is sponsored by the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry. This was the first time that the annual Goldschmidt Conference has been held in Australia and attendance levels were excellent with over 1300 international and Australian delegates.

Please complete and return this form by 15 December 2006 to:

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