

# **AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**

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

### **NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR GEOGRAPHY**

**CHAIR: Professor Lesley Head**

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](http://www.science.org.au/natcoms)

### **MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON July 6, 2006, at the IGU regional conference in Brisbane.

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2007 (include date and place, if possible): The committee will meet either in Canberra in June, or at the Institute of Australian Geographers Annual Conference in Melbourne, in July.

### **MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU**

IN 2006 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE, BRISBANE, 3-7 JULY

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held in 2008, TUNIS.

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

Prof Lesley Head, School of Earth & Env Sci, University of Wollongong, 024221 3124, [lhead@uow.edu.au](mailto:lhead@uow.edu.au), fax 02 4221 4250

Prof Jim Walmsley, School of Human & Environmental Studies, University of New England, Armidale, 02 6773 2863, [dwalmsle@une.edu.au](mailto:dwalmsle@une.edu.au), fax 02 6773 3030

### **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

Details of terms of office unavailable.

Person		IGU Commission	Position
Kay	Anderson	History of Geography	Member
Robert G.V.	Baker	Modelling Geography	Vice Chair
Hugo	Bekle	Biogeography and Biodiversity	Member
Gary	Brierly	Geomorphic Challenges for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	Vice Chair
Christopher	Cocklin	Sustainability of Rural Systems	Member
Arthur	Conacher	Land Degradation and Desertification	Secretary
John	Connell	Global Change and Human Mobility	Vice Chair
Lawrence W.	Crissaman	Land Use and Land Cover Change	Member
David S	Gillieson	Karst	Chair
John	Handmer	Hazards and Risks	Vice Chair
Graeme	Hugo	Population and Vulnerability	Member
Peter	Kershaw	Environment Evolution	Member
John	Langdale	Geography of the Information Society	Member
Brian	Lees	Geographical Inform	Member
John	Lidstone	Olympiad	Vice Chair
Tom	McMahon	Water Sustainability	Member
Margaret	Robertson	Geographical Education	Executive
Tony	Sorensen	Local Development	Member
Tony	Sorensen	Sustainability of Rural Systems	Member
Robert J.	Stimson	Applied Geography	Member
Nigel	Tapper	Climatology	Member

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2007:

PERSON            INTERNATIONAL BODY            POSITION            TERM OF OFFICE

None known or anticipated

**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](http://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].

The major activity for the year was involvement in the organisation for the July 2006 International Geographical Union Regional Congress (IGU) in Brisbane (details at [www.igu2006.org](http://www.igu2006.org)). Committee member Professor Nigel Tapper chaired the program committee, and a number of others were involved in the organisation of particular sessions. The conference was a resounding success, with almost 1000 delegates from Australia and the surrounding region. This success stemmed from the active engagement of IGU Commissions, Study Groups and membership of the two national host societies (Institute of Australian Geographers and New Zealand Geographical Society) and the South-East Asian Geography Association, Australian Collaborative Research Centres, and related government agencies.

The National Committee for Geography held its meeting during the conference.

We commenced streamlining membership of the committee to more closely reflect Academy guidelines, as terms were completed, and will continue this process in 2007.

Other activities were directed to enhancing the committee's role as a peak body for Geography in Australia. We have done this by cross membership with other geographical institutions, by writing about our role in the Newsletter of the Institute of Australian Geographers, and by nominating participants in relevant research and advisory roles.

The Committee was represented in a delegation to The Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Education, Science and Training, in December, where issues relating to Geography curricula in Australian schools were discussed.

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

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