

# **AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**

## **National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2008 activities**

### **NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: DATA IN SCIENCE**

**CHAIR: Ray Norris**

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December 2008

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

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON: 14 May 2008

The NCDS aims to promote and facilitate data use in science across all disciplines of science and provide a national voice that can represent Australia at international forums related to Data in Science. To achieve this, the Committee will hold regular workshops, promote the development of data management policies and protocols, and promote the adoption of standards for data exchange.

Other activities include:

- The establishment of a web site on <http://www.atnf.csiro.au/people/rnorris/NCDS/index.html>
- Participation by two members (Ray Norris and Kim Finney) in the ICSU's Strategic Committee on Information and Data. The recent release of its report has created a great deal of international interest and debate.
- A presentation by Jane Hunter on NCDS at the eResearch Australasia Conference
- Participation by Ray Norris in the CODATA General Assembly, and his re-election to the Executive Committee of CODATA

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2009:

- Face to face committee meeting, 17 February 2009, Ian Potter House
- Data in Science Workshop, as part of the Australasian eResearch Conference, 9-13 November 2009
- The general work of the committee will be conducted using electronic collaboration systems.

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

IN 2008 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

- Committee on Data for Science and Technology, (CODATA), 5-8 October, Ukraine

IN 2009 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

- Not Applicable

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held in 2010 in South Africa.

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

To be determined prior to the next General Assembly

## AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2008 WERE:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
Ray Norris	CODATA	Executive Board	2010
Ray Norris	CODATA eGY Earth and Space Science Data Interoperability Task Group	Member	2008-2010
Ray Norris	International Astronomical Union (IAU)	CODATA delegate	2008-2010
Ray Norris	ICSU Strategic Committee on Information and Data	Member	2008
Kim Finney	<as above>	Member	2008
Peter Fox	<as above>	Member	2008
Jane Hunter	CODATA Exchange Materials Data TaskGroup on Information and Data	Member	2006-2010
Daisy Veitch	CODATA Anthropometric Data and Engineering	Member	2008-2010
Charles Barton	CODATA eGY Earth and Space Group Science Data Interoperability Task	Adviser	2008-2010
Charles Barton	International Union of Geodesy & Geophysics (IUGG)	CODATA Delegate	2008-2010

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2009:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
Kim Finney	ICSU Strategic Coordinating Committee on Data and Information	Member	Unknown

### ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The National Committee for Data in Science (NCDS) was established by the Academy of Sciences in Feb 2008, together with establishing Australian membership of CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology of the International Council for Science.

CODATA is assuming an increasing role in global science data management, and Australia's membership is intended to provide Australian data scientists with strong connections to those international developments.

Three Australians (Ray Norris, Kim Finney, Peter Fox) were on the 11-member ICSU Strategic Committee on Information and Data, whose final report was approved by the ICSU General Assembly in October 2008, and is available on [www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU\\_DOC\\_DOWNLOAD/2123\\_DD\\_FILE\\_SCID\\_Report.pdf](http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2123_DD_FILE_SCID_Report.pdf).

Amongst other things, the report recommends a wide-ranging restructuring of the systems for World Data Centres and Astronomical and Geophysical Data Services. These recommendations are now being implemented, with a new structure (the World Data System) in the process of being established under ICSU, with strong links to CODATA.

Over the course of the year, the committee has worked to establish its role and constituency.

Because of pressure of other work, Ray Norris proposes to step down as chair in early 2009, to be replaced by Rhys Francis.

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2008anrep.htm>, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2007 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2008 (200-250 words):