

# **AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**

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

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: Earth Sciences**

**CHAIR: Prof Andrew JW Gleadow FAA FGSAust**

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

**Please complete and return this form by 12 December 2008.**

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:

Monday 8 December 2008 in Canberra

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2009 (include date and place, if possible):

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Canberra

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

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

International Geological Congress, Oslo, Norway, August 2008

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

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held in 2011 & 2012 (both in Australia)

IUGG General Assembly, Melbourne, 2011  
International Geological Congress, Brisbane 2012

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

To be Determined

## AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

### AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2008 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
Dr Tom Beer	IUGG	President and Bureau	
Dr Charles Barton	IAGA	Executive Past-President	
Prof Allan Chivas	INQUA	President	
Dr Stewart Franks	IUGG	President-elect IAHS International Commission on the Coupled Land-Atmosphere System (ICCLAS)	
Prof Ian Jackson	IASPEI	Vice-President	
Dr Gary Gibson	IASPEI	Commission on Education and Outreach Co-Chair, ASC/SHR Joint Working Group on Seismic Hazard and Risk Assessment for Asian-Pacific Regions	
Dr Ian Campbell	IAVCEI	Commission on Large Volcanic Provinces	
Dr Sharon Allen	IAVCEI	Commission on Explosive Volcanism	
Dr Andrew Tupper	IAVCEI	World Organism of Volcano Observatories	
Dr 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 2009:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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To be determined

**ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2008 Business Plan. 2008 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/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):

#### **The AuScope Initiative**

The AuScope program under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy is now well established and supporting major geoscience research infrastructure needs across a range of programs. The fundamental research objective of AuScope is to investigate the structure and evolution of the Australian Continent and a total funding allocation of \$46 million has been awarded by NCRIS over a five year period from 2007. Progress has been made during 2008 in planning a series of National Geoscience Transects through a Working Group chaired by Professor Brian Kennett FAA. A meeting of the Working Group took place with interested parties during the Australian Earth Sciences Convention during July in Perth.

Collaboration between Geoscience Australia, AuScope Earth Imaging and Primary Industries South Australia has seen more than 500 km of reflection profiling in November-December 2008, extending from the southern Northern Territory into South Australia following the Darwin to Adelaide railway. The quality of data is good with striking features extending

through the crust. This profiling follows one of the corridors identified by the Transect Working Group.

### **Major Conferences**

The biennial *Australian Earth Sciences Convention* (AESC) was held in Perth from 20-24 July 2008 with approximately 900 delegates. This year the Convention was organised jointly by the Geological Society of Australia and the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Planning has already commenced for the next Convention to be held in Canberra in 2010. Planning is also well under way for the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, to be held in Melbourne in 2011 and the 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress, to be held on Brisbane in 2012. The Brisbane IGC is to be known as 'AUSTRALIA 2012' and its theme will be 'Unearthing our past and future'.

### **International Year of Planet Earth 2008**

A number of activities in Australia have been used to focus attention on the International Year of Planet Earth during 2008. Some of the major events or activities have included the AESC in Perth, a series of special features in the Australian Journal of Earth Sciences, the Australian contribution to the One World digital geological map of the world by Geoscience Australia, and the launching of the Kanawinka Geopark in Victoria and South Australia, the first such park in Australia. The Royal Australian Mint issued a special coin set celebrating the IYPE at the end of 2007, and a number of other conferences and activities in various parts of Australia have also been used to promote the IYPE.

**Please complete and return this form by 12 December 2008 to:**

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