

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2010 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: EARTH SCIENCES

CHAIR: Professor B.L.N. Kennett FAA FRS FGSAust

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2010

Please complete and return this form by 14 January 2011.

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:

Friday 9th July in Canberra, following the Australian Earth Sciences Convention

An attempt was made to organise a teleconference at the end of the year particularly to get a report of progress towards the IUGG General Assembly in Melbourne in June-July 2011. Unfortunately it was not possible to find a suitable date.

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2011 (include date and place, if possible):

Melbourne, July 2011 in association with IUGG General Assembly

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

IN 2010 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

--

IN 2011 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):
IUGG General Assembly, Melbourne, July 2011

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS to be held in Australia:

International Geological Congress, Brisbane, August 2012

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

to be determined in associations with the other relevant National Committees for
IUGG

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2010 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 (IUGG)	Executive Past-President	
Prof. Ian Jackson	IASPEI (IUGG)	Vice-President	
Prof. Allan Chivas	INQUA	President	
Dr Colin Simpson	IUGS	Bureau	
Dr Marita Bradshaw	IUGS	Nominating Committee	
Prof. David Oldroyd	IUGS	Commission on History of Geological Sciences	

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2011:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
Prof. Ian Jackson	IASPEI (IUGG)	President (if willing)	

ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2010 Business Plan. 2010 Business plans can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2010anrep.html>, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2009 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2010 (200-250 words):

[Your Report, as presented here, will be published in the National Committees for Science section of the Academy's Annual Report for 2010-2011].

Australia will host the two main meetings for the International Unions linked to National Committee for Earth Sciences (NCES) in the next two years:

- ❖ General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy & Geophysics (IUGG) in Melbourne July 2011
- ❖ International Geological Congress linked to International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Brisbane, August 2012.

In order to achieve effective liaison a member of each Organising Committee has joined the committee as an Observer – Professor R. Cas (Monash University) for IUGG 2011, and Dr I. Lambert (Geoscience Australia) for IGC 2012. The NCES receives regular reports on the development of these meetings.

There has been extensive Australian involvement in the development of the scientific program for the IUGG General Assembly in Melbourne. Members of the committee are actively involved in the construction of the program outline for the IGC in 2012.

The NCES acts as the principal link to IUGG but only covers the topics of 3 of the 8 Associations comprising IUGG and cannot therefore provide a full interaction. In recognition

of this issue, a teleconference was held to discuss the possible improvements to the situation. It was agreed that a reference group should be formed encompassing all the IUGG Associations, led by the Chair of NCES (currently Professor Brian Kennett). It is desirable to refresh the group of National Correspondents to the Associations in this process and feedback from the IUGG Associations is awaited.

Members of the NCES played an active part in organising the Australian Earth Sciences Convention which was held in Canberra in July 2010 under the theme: "Earth Systems: change, sustainability, vulnerability". This was a very successful meeting with a very varied program.

The NCES made a submission on the Draft Senior Secondary Curriculum for Earth and Environmental Science building on the work undertaken by Professor J. Hergt. The draft curriculum had many good points but a reordering of material would improve focus.

The Chair wrote to the National Committee for Astronomy (NCA) and Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research raising the concept of co-locating geophysical equipment with the SKA (Square Kilometre Aperture Radio Telescope). A positive response was received from both the NCA and Senator Carr.

Recent investments by Geoscience Australia, AuScope and the Geological Survey of Western Australia have made major contributions to National Geotransects. Over 1300 km of new reflection profiling was carried out in May-June 2010 across the Capricorn orogen linking from the Pilbara to Northern Yilgarn cratons and in the Youanmi terrane of the Yilgarn craton. The data quality is very high and reveals distinct crustal signatures associated with the terranes recognised from geological mapping. In November a public presentation was made in Adelaide of the interpretation of the Galwer-Amadeues-Musgrave Orogen Profile (GOMA). The interpretation of the AuScope funded Delamerian profile will be released in March 2011. Geoscience Australia has put in considerable effort to make the results from all the recent surveys readily accessible to the broader community and thus enhance the goals of full synthesis in the transect corridors.

Dr N. Williams has agreed to act as Deputy Chair of the National Committee and approval has been given for expansion of the NCES to include a representative of the geodetic community.

Please complete and return this form by 14 January 2011:

Jeanette Mill
National Relations Officer
E jeanette.mill@science.org.au
P 02 6201 9413
F 02 6201 9494
Ian Potter House, Gordon St, Canberra, ACT, Australia, 2600
GPO Box 783, Canberra, ACT, Australia, 2601