

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

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

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: Geography

CHAIR: Prof Lesley Head

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

MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON: October 17, 2008

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

October, Canberra

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

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

The International Geographical Union, August, Tunis

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

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held in 2012

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 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
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Prof Ruth Fincher	International Geographical Union	Vice President	2008-12
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THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2009:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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<p>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</p>
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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):

[Your Report, as presented here, will be published in April 2009, in the National Committees for Science section of the Academy's Annual Report for 2008-2009].

Committee members Professor Nigel Tapper and Professor Margaret Robertson represented us at the International Geographical Union Congress in Tunis in August. We had nominated Professor Ruth Fincher for one of the eight vacant Vice-Presidential positions, and she received the highest number of votes of all the nineteen candidates, an excellent result. Thanks are due to Professor Janice Monk (USA) and members of the Gender and Geography Study Group of the IGU for their role in lobbying for Ruth.

Committee member Kath Berg (Royal Geographical Society of Qld) has spearheaded the involvement of a number of geographical organisations in the National Curriculum review process. This was somewhat delayed as the incoming Federal Government had other priorities on its plate, but indications are that the process will accelerate in 2009, and the Committee is well placed to participate in it. We see this as the main means in the next few years to have a voice for geography in public policy, and in enhanced communication between secondary and tertiary sectors.

We enhanced communication with other key geographical organisations through a strategic approach to committee membership (including representatives of the Institute of Australian Geographers, state societies and teacher associations) and a contribution by the Chair to the Institute of Australian Geographers newsletter.