



The Queensland Geologist

Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Geological Society of Australia Inc. Queensland Division
Volume 109 No. 1 – February 2009

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UPCOMING SEMINAR:

Wednesday 18th February: AK Denmead Lecture

Topic: DENMEAD & THE DUCHESS

Speaker: David Jones

Where: The Theodore Club, 333 Adelaide St, Brisbane

Time: 5:15 for 6pm; finger food and drinks

Cost: Free

Abstract: DENMEAD & THE DUCHESS

On 29 October 1966, banner headlines on the front pages of The Australian, the Courier-Mail and the Adelaide Advertiser proclaimed the discovery of Australia's first major phosphate deposit. Located 50 km SE of Duchess in NW Queensland, it was of comparable grade to Nauru (the world's richest phosphate deposit) but much greater in size, covering 25 sq km with near-surface and outcropping beds of phosphorite averaging 13m in thickness. Subsequently Broken Hill South reported total reserves exceeding 2000 Mt at an average grade of 17% P₂O₅ in 10 separate deposits of which Duchess was the largest.

This discovery, now a major mine operated by Incitec-Pivot, was the result of a methodical and systematic search by Mines Exploration Pty Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Broken Hill South Ltd. The search began in late 1963 and culminated in the discovery in early August 1966, only 3 days after field work commenced in the Duchess area. The talk traces the discovery process from its inception, and the vital assistance provided by the active cooperation of Alan Denmead and the Queensland Geological Survey.

OTHER DATES:

Wednesday 18th or 25th March (dates to be confirmed): GSAQ-AIG Seminar

Topic: "Gold mining in the Charters Towers Fields – CitiGold"

Speaker: Chris Towsey (CitiGold)

Where: The Theodore Club, 333 Adelaide St, Brisbane

Time: 5:15 for 6pm; finger food and drinks

Cost: Free

Wednesday 15th or 22nd April (dates to be confirmed): GSAQ-AIG-BEDG Seminar

Topic: "Australian Proterozoic Mafic – Ultramafic Magmatic Events map"

Speaker: Jon Claoue-Long (Geoscience Australia)

Where: The Theodore Club, 333 Adelaide St, Brisbane

Time: 5:15 for 6pm; finger food and drinks

Cost: Free

OTHER DATES (continued):**Wednesday 20th May (dates to be confirmed): AGM GSAQ****Topic:** “to be determined”**Speaker:** to be determined**Where:** The Theodore Club, 333 Adelaide St, Brisbane**Time:** 5:15 for 6pm; finger food and drinks**Cost:** Free**4th and 5th June 2009: North Queensland Exploration Conference NQEM 2009****Where:** Jupiters Hotel Townsville**Contact:** Kaylene Camuti at lantana@beyond.net.auFor information on sponsorship, exhibition booths or advertising contact Doug Young at d.young@findex.net.au**6th, 7th and 8th June 2009 (Queens Birthday Weekend): GSAQ – AIG Field Conference 2009 (starts from Townsville after NQEM)****Where:** Charters Towers District – Charters Towers, Pajingo site visits**Contact:** d.young@findex.net.au for further information.**Chair's Report**

Happy New Year for 2009! I hope the year will bring good tiding for you all, despite the economic downturn, but please remember your colleagues who may not have the best news in store as the year progresses. Hopefully the management of key geological industries will remember the sounds of their own recent whining when they could not find adequate well trained geologists for their many booming projects before they decide to address the current downturn by releasing those same experienced staff members who solved their recent problems. It has been public knowledge for more than a decade that the key reason for personnel shortages during booming times is the poor commitment of company executives to employees during downturns. Perhaps companies can help forestall the next shortage of geoscientists by maintaining their staffs in a more professional way during this downturn. Time will tell. I apologise for starting the year off on such a gloomy note, but the world economy seems to demand it, and all of us will feel the effects. It is to the long-term benefit of the whole profession if those in responsible positions act responsibly. Anyway, that is my two bits on the subject.

You will have seen the advertisement for the 2008 A. K. Denmead lecture to be presented by David Jones at the Theodore Club in Brisbane on Wednesday 18 February. Please be sure to make special note of the day of the lecture, as it occurs earlier in the month than typical for our monthly technical meetings.

On other news, your state Executive Committee and the state Executive Committee of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists have committed to jointly host a public education booth at the 2009 EKKA again this year. Last years event was hailed as a major success, and we hope to do even better this year. Friedrich von Gnielinski has agreed to be the chair of the EKKA subcommittee again and anyone interested in helping should contact him. This year's event will be especially exciting as we will be presenting our student geoscience medals on people's day. Fred will provide more details in this and upcoming newsletters.

Another major bit of news for 2009 is that the Federal Executive committees of GSA and AIG have been involved in high level negotiations concerning a merger between the two groups. Some preliminary documents have been drafted by the merger negotiation teams and it is the plan of the Executive to have detailed information available to the broad membership early this year. The new merged entity will likely be called “Earth Science Australia.” As your Queensland representative on the federal executive committee, please let me know how you feel about the merger. The state committees of both societies in Queensland support the merger, as we have benefitted so much from our collaboration on projects such as the upcoming Charters Towers Field excursion being run after the North Queensland Exploration & Mining Conference in June and, of course, our presence at the EKKA. The increased critical mass of a merged society will help us better serve the membership throughout the state and possibly give us a bigger voice when dealing with government and policy issues.

Anyway, that is probably enough from your chair for now. Please do read on and think about nominations for your state division's prestigious Dorothy Hill and Neville Stevens medals for 2009. Once again I would like to thank the Queensland state Divisions executive committee members for their service through 2008. We were able to accomplish unparalleled service to the community and profession last year with projects like the EKKA and new publications thanks to the hard work from committee members and volunteers from the membership at large. Thanks to everyone, and please help out again as you can in the coming year!

Gregory E. Webb

Chair, Executive Committee Queensland Division GSA

GSAQ Field Conference 6-8th June 2009:

The GSAQ (with support by AIG-Q) is again running its popular Field Conference on the Queen's Birthday long weekend from the 6th to 8th June 2009.

This year the field conference will be held in the Charters Towers district of North Queensland in conjunction with the AIG's North Queensland Exploration and Mining Conference (NQEM 2009) being held at Jupiters Hotel Townsville on the 4th and 5th of June 2009.

In line with the NQEM 2009 theme of "new discoveries, mineralisation styles and advances in the understanding of ore deposits of North Queensland" this year's field conference will be based on gold mineralisation styles of the region. It will feature three days of field excursions including visits to Conquest Mining NL's Mt Carlton deposit near Collinsville, a high level epithermal gold/silver/copper project deposit; Resolute Mining Ltd's Ravenswood and Mt Wright breccia pipe deposit and to Citigold Corporation Ltd's deep high grade gold deposits at Charters Towers. Features of the regional geology will be seen during the excursion along with historic features of the Charters Towers field. Recent releases by Geoscience Australia and the GSQ of seismic data in the area will also be reviewed.

Further information on registration, accommodation and sponsorship opportunities will be confirmed in the near future or by contacting Doug Young at d.young@findex.net.au

GSA at the EKKA (August 2009):

Due to the success of the joint booth (GSAQ and AIG-Q) at the at the National Science Week Pavilion at the EKKA in August 2008 both the Queensland Division of the Geological Society of Australia and the Queensland Branch of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists have committed to co-host a display booth there again. In so doing we promoted Geoscience to a greater number of the public than ever before with around 47,000 members of the public passing through the pavilion. Importantly, many of the attending public represented regional Queensland.

This year we have the advantage of already having the booth materials, posters and brochures and expertise ready and can prepare early for an even greater experience. Both committees have agreed to form a joint EKKA Subcommittee again and I have agreed to chair this committee again. In support Mark Berry (AIG), Gregg Webb, Ben Cohen and Len Cranfield have also volunteered to join me.

We will be seeking support from volunteers for the booth and will also offer students the opportunity to earn some money while manning the booth. This event will also include this year's GSAQ student medal presentations, hopefully on people's day at the EKKA.

For any feedback, queries or suggestion please feel free to contact myself at friedrich.vongnielinski@dme.qld.gov.au or Gregg Webb.

Friedrich von Gnielinski (EKKA subcommittee coordinator)

Congratulations 2008 GSAQ Dorothy Hill and NC Stevens medal recipients: (medals were presented on the 26th October 2008):

The Queensland Division of the Geological Society Australia currently has two medals that may be awarded annually to individuals. The **Dorothy Hill Medal** is awarded to those individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge on Queensland geology. The **Neville Stevens medal** is awarded anybody who have distinguished themselves through public education of geology and increasing geological awareness of the general public.

On the 26th of October 2008 the GSAQ held a Medals presentation night, which was attended by about 60 members and additional friends and family members.

For 2008 David O'Connell was presented by Neville Stevens with the **Neville Stevens medal** for his outstanding contribution on presenting geology to the public. Being active in the GSAQ since 1970 and first convening the Education Subcommittee in 1981 and carrying its activities for a number of years, he has always seen himself more as a teacher rather than a researcher. Positive feedback from his students has given him the drive to become a good teacher and dedicated anchor within the Education Subcommittee without ever expecting to be rewarded for it. He was instrumental in establishing links to Qld schools with a geological education newsletter. At QIT and QUT David was a very well respected geology lecturer and teacher, and maintained a close relationship with the GSAQ and the science teachers fraternity. He was nominated for the best lecturer award at QUT in 1999.

David O'Connell responded: "Back in the Palaeozoic, when I was an undergraduate student, I was lucky enough to have been taught by Neville Stevens".

He was surprised, but pleasantly so to be awarded this honour.

"I have always regarded myself as a teacher, and not a researcher, and never undertook a doctorate. My papers were all about teaching geology, and I think the one I am most proud of was describing a method of teaching three-dimensional mine mapping, using our building as a mine, with corridors as drives, stair wells as shafts, and with data sheets fastened to various walls. The students had to produce a three-dimensional perspex model of this mine, and a cross section and simple resource calculation. That was published in 1995 in the English journal Teaching Earth Science. Prior to publication I surveyed the students, and the ones who most valued the exercise were those who had done work in underground mines during Co-operative Education placements. I'd like to thank Lloyd Hamilton, and our late colleague Joe Williams, for contributing ideas to this project."

For 2008 Ian Withnall was awarded the **Dorothy Hill Medal** for his outstanding contributions to the knowledge of the geology of Queensland. Since 1972 Ian has worked within the Geological Survey of Queensland in numerous mapping projects, published countless geological maps and publications and also been a major innovator in moving the GSQ towards a digital environment. A recipient of the (GSA) W.R. Browne Medal in 2004, he is widely known in the geological community for his detailed knowledge of the geology and mineralisation of north Queensland.



GSAQ Medals presentation on the 26th of October 2008:

From left: N. Stevens medal recipient David O'Connell, Neville Stevens, D.Hill medal recipient Ian Withnall and Len Cranfield at the 2008 GSAQ medals presentation night.

Ian Withnall accepted this honour with great thanks. He stated that "being honoured by your peers is probably one of the greatest honours anyone can have". Ian also recited the time in 1971 when attending a class of Prof Hill just before her retirement and also mentioned a small booklet by Prof Hill and Maxwell (1960s) "the Elements of the Stratigraphy of Queensland" stating that he was impressed with the breath Prof Hill's knowledge of the Geology of Qld as it was known at the time. Ian has started his career from this point and said "it was interesting to reflect on where we have come since then. Ian thanked a series of mentors at BMR and GSQ and his family.

Ian presented yet another fine talk on “Advances in understanding the geology of the Eastern Fold Belt, Mount Isa Region”.

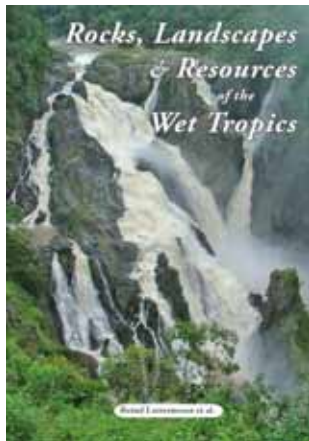
Please remember that nominations are now due for the 2009 Dorothy Hill and Neville Stevens medals!

Details of the guidelines are available on the Queensland Division’s website at <http://qld.gsa.org.au>.

Please submit your nominations to Ms Stephanie Hamilton at stephanie.hamilton@dme.qld.gov.au.

New GSAQ publication

Rocks, Landscapes & Resources of the Wet Tropics by Bernd Lottermoser et al.



This book explains how the Wet Tropics region has formed over many millions of years, and the results of this geological history. It describes the relatively young volcanic activity on the Atherton Tableland, how the landscapes and scenery have developed, and how and where mineral deposits formed. It includes chapters on the development and habitats of the Great Barrier Reef, the region’s soil types and erosion potential, and its water resources.

The authors are from the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences of James Cook University in Townsville and Cairns, and are distinguished in their respective fields.

The cost is \$10 + \$3p/h.

New Members

#101398	Carl SPANDLER	Ordinary Member
#101397	Reginald V TANDOC	Ordinary Member
#101426	Heather SPRING	Joint Member
#101401	Scott FREDERICKS	Student Member
#101431	Keith BEDFORD	Retired Member
#101435	Adam DUNSTALL	Ordinary Member
#101433	Harriet MILLER	Ordinary Member
#101434	Bonnie MUCHINSKY	Ordinary Member
#101439	Cameron HUDDLESTONE-HOLMES	Ordinary Member
#101440	Brent CREEVEY	Ordinary Member
#101441	Joanne HENRY	Ordinary Member
#101444	Joseph CORRIGAN	Ordinary Member
#101442	Larriana MORGAN	Graduate Member
#101445	Michael CANE	Ordinary Member
#101443	Peter HENDERSON	Ordinary Member
#101425	Amy M BUDINSKI	Ordinary Member



**THE INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED
INFORMAL WEEKLY GET-TOGETHER FOR EXPLORERS AND MINERS
UNION JACK'S ALE HOUSE –**

English, Irish, Scottish & Welsh Pub - 127 Charlotte St, Brisbane CBD 5.30pm
on every Wednesday evening if your work/spouse/budget/health allows

Queensland Committee 2008-2009

<i>Position</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Fax</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
Chairman			
Dr Gregg Webb	3864 2804		ge.webb@qut.edu.au
Vice-Chairman			
A/Prof. Sue Golding	3365 1159	3365 1277	s.golding@earth.uq.edu.au
A/Secretary			
Position vacant			
Treasurer, Membership Secretary & Video Library & EKKA Subcommittee chair			
Mr Friedrich von Gnielinski	3362 9362	3362 9343	vongnielinski@optusnet.com.au
Committee Members			
Ms Stephanie Hamilton	3362 9324	3362 9343	stephanie.hamilton@dme.qld.gov.au
Mr Ian Withnall	3362 9363	3362 9343	ian.withnall@optusnet.com.au
Mr Len Cranfield	3896 9883		len.cranfield@dme.qld.gov.au
Mr Warwick Willmott	3379 6485		willmott@powerup.com.au
Mr Ben Cohen			b.cohen@uq.edu.au
Mr David Jones	3423 1041		jonesd@bigpond.net.au
Webmaster			
Dr Paul Blake	3362 9332	3362 9343	paul.blake@dme.qld.gov.au
AIG Representative			
Mr Doug Young	3236 4188		d.young@findex.net.au
Central Queensland Regional Representative			
vacant			
Newsletter Editor			
Mr Friedrich von Gnielinski			
Education Subcommittee			
Dr Laurie Hutton	3362 9347	3362 9343	laurie.hutton@dme.qld.gov.au
Awards Convenor			
Dr Laurie Hutton	3362 9347	3362 9343	laurie.hutton@dme.qld.gov.au
GSA Publications			
Mr Warwick Willmott	3379 6485		willmott@powerup.com.au

General correspondence should be addressed to our secretary:

Ms Stephanie Hamilton, GPO Box 1820, Brisbane Qld 4001.

For subscription and address changes please contact the GSA's main office: **(Note change of address:)**

Sue Fletcher, Executive Director, GSA, Suite 61, 104 Bathurst street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Phone: (02) 92902194 Fax: (02) 92902198 EMAIL: info@gsa.org.au

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Quarter Page	17.2 x 5.8 cm or 8.4 x 11.9 cm	\$40	\$200
Business card	8.4 x 5.8 cm	\$20	\$100
Pamphlets and Flyers (as inserts)		~ \$100	