



The Queensland Geologist

Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Geological Society of Australia Inc. Queensland Division
Volume 107 No. 5 –October/November 2007

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IMPORTANT DATES:

Friday 16th November: **JORC Workshop Mt Isa**

Where: Red Earth Boutique Hotel

Time: 1pm

Half day workshop on “Drafting Public Reports that conform to the JORC Code”

Places limited – **register now**

Information from Mark Berry at mberry@amconsultants.com.au

Tuesday 20th November: **BEDG meeting**

Topic: Unconformity-related Uranium ± Au PGE Mo Systems – Exploration models in Queensland.

Speaker: Vic Wall

Where: The Theodore Club, 333 Adelaide St, Brisbane

Time: 5:15 for 6:00pm

Wednesday 28th November: **Digging Deeper 5**

Where: Bardon Conference Centre

Time: 9am to 5.15pm

Cost: Free

The fifth Geological Survey of Queensland Seminar in the Digging Deeper Series.

To download the program and registration form go to:

<http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/science/geoscience/whatsnew/diggingdeeper.html>

Wednesday 28th November: **Ron McDonald Memorial Lecture**

Topic: “Making land resource information useful”

Speaker: Noel Schoknecht

Where: Level 4 Conference Room, Sir James Foots Building, University of Queensland

Time: 4.30pm-6.30pm

Presented by the Queensland Branch of the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc.

Friday 30th November: Brisbane QA/QC Workshop**Where:** The Theodore Club, 333 Adelaide St, Brisbane**Time:** From 1pm

This is a half-day, practical workshop aimed at improving the ability of geologists to set up and monitor QA/QC programs for projects ranging from greenfields exploration through to feasibility assessments, mine drill-outs and grade control.

Places limited – **register now**Information from Mark Berry at mberry@amcconsultants.com.au**Monday 3rd December: Digging Deeper 5****Where:** James Cook University, Townsville**Cost:** Free

This year, the Digging Deeper 5 seminar will also be held in Townsville.

For further information contact Jim Beeston at James.Beeston@dme.qld.gov.au**Friday 7th December: 2007 Brisbane Minerals Industry Xmas Party****Where:** Royal on the Park, Brisbane**Time:** 5pm till late

GSAQ sponsors this event so all GSA members are cordially invited to attend. AIG are currently seeking additional sponsors. For further information contact Doug Young at

d.young@findex.net.au**Saturday 15th December: 2007 Townsville Minerals Industry Xmas Party****Where:** Townsville Motor Boat and Yacht Club

GSAQ also sponsors this event so all GSA members are invited to attend. AIG are currently seeking additional sponsors. For further information contact Kaylene Camuti at

lantana@beyond.net.au**Dates yet to be finalised (GSAQ talks suspended to 2008):****February 2008: GSAQ Seminar****Topic:** CO₂ and Flue Gas Geosequestration in Surat and Bowen Basin Coals with Enhanced Coal Bed Methane (ECBM)**Speaker:** Associate Professor Sue Golding, The University of Queensland**Where:** University of Queensland, Steele Building, Room 221**Time:** 5:15 for 6pm; finger food and drinks**Cost:** \$6 Members, \$8 Non-member, Students, \$2.**March 2008: AK Denmead 2007****Topic:** Uranium mineralisation in the Mt. Isa Province**Speaker:** Dr Paul Polito, Anglo American**Where:** The Theodore Club, 333 Adelaide St, Brisbane**Time:** 5:15 for 6pm; finger food and drinks**Cost:** \$6 Members, \$8 Non-member, Students, \$2.

FULL REPORT: 2007 GSAQ-AIG Field Conference: Cracow, Mt Rawdon, Kilkivan and Gympie, SE Queensland

The popular Queensland GSA Field Conference has been reborn by the current GSA Queensland Branch with avid support from the AIG Queensland Branch.

This three day field conference usually runs on the Queens Birthday long weekend but hasn't been run for some ten years. This year it was held later in the month, due to accommodation constraints, and featured the geology and mineralization of the Kilkivan, Cracow and Mt Rawdon districts of southern Queensland. While the theme of the conference had an economic bias the excursion was well attended, attracting a wide range of geoscientists from industry, the consulting patch, academia and government, with attendees coming from Brisbane, southern Queensland, Townsville and from as far away as Perth.

The excursion left Brisbane rather too early on Saturday morning and first stopped at Gympie for morning tea where the Gympie Group was discussed, and examples of the fabulous Gympie veins pointed out. Until recently, these yielded specimen gold sought around the world. We moved on to the Black Snake Plateau (on serpentinite and meta-sediments near Kilkivan) where our hosts for lunch were D'Aguilar Gold, an active exploration group with a diverse range of projects in the region including lateritic nickel, porphyry molybdenum, gold and uranium. We inspected core from several of their prospect areas and the active discussion which evolved included exclamations such as "epithermals in a laterite?" – "this ones been hammered!" – "what's that blue stuff? (ilsemannite $\text{Mo}_3\text{O}_8 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$). After a barbecue lunch the group moved around the old Black Snake open pit gold mine and mullock dumps seeking highly sulphidic samples for their collections.

Our steering wheel attendant (his description) delivered us at our overnight pub stop in Gayndah just as a magic sunset chimed beer o'clock and we soon after headed to the bar or the TV (for the footy diehards) and dinner at the oldest pub in the oldest town in Queensland.

It was an early start on the Sunday morning, some of us needed a little shut eye in the bus as we headed out through Eidsvold towards Cracow, stopping on the way to inspect magma mixing of the Eidsvold Igneous Complex, with beautifully contrasting mafic-felsic combinations.

We stopped not long after at the Cracow mine office for a briefing from our hosts (for the day) from the Newcrest team who gave us a comprehensive run down on the Cracow gold deposits (quartz veins and shoots in early Permian andesitic volcanics of the Camboon Volcanics at the base of the Bowen Basin), including their history, geology, geophysics and the intricacies of the mineralisation styles and their distribution. We moved on to the core farm where we were



Participants inspecting magma mixing within the Eidsvold Igneous Complex near Spring Gully Road, west of Eidsvold.

introduced to the myriad of vein textures exhibited in a dozen cores, from exploration and underground, laid out for our benefit. Cross-sections, assay tables and several geologists were on tap for the numerous questions which arose. Most of the tourists marvelled at the fabulous samples from underground including plenty of mossy visible gold and every variety of colloform and breccia textures to keep the cameras busy. Our last stop on the mine lease was at the Royal outcrop which is quite insignificant looking albeit surrounded by numerous drill hole collars. Our G picks were put to use here to grab a sample for mum's rock collection. After farewelling our hosts at the gate we had a short stop at Fred Brophy's (of boxing fame) pub for a couple of light libations for the trip back to Gayndah. More talk over another excellent dinner saw most people heading to bed a lot earlier than the previous night – lack of stamina!

Monday, up early again, a little drizzle around, but we headed off towards Mt Perry, stopping to see a cutting in the sub-aerial rhyolitic Aranbanga Volcanic Group, and arriving in Mt Perry around morning tea. There we walked through the old Mt Perry mine area, including the historic display and dumps and once again we were treated to the history, geology and politics of the area by the D'Aguilar Gold staff who are also active in that area. After a short scavenge of the mullock heaps we headed off to the Mt Rawdon mine, about 20km out of town where our hosts, Equigold, treated us to an excellent mine tour starting with a run down of the geology and exploration history of the deposit, followed by a lookout tour of the open pit which was in operation. This 1 gram/tonne gold deposit, in altered volcanics of the late Triassic Aranbanga Volcanic Group, was quite a contrast to the previous day at Cracow (av 11 gram/tonne) and showed that aspects of the grade control and

geotechnical problems become dominant in the daily running of low grade gold deposits. Then on to the core shed where several cores were laid out, demonstrating the various alteration facies and volcanic textures of the gold deposit and its host lithologies. Lastly, we returned to the mine office for a sausage sizzle provided by our hosts and the last of Warwick's biscuits and brownie supply. And then it was off to Brisbane in the rain completing an interesting and informative tour.

Lots of talk on the way home about where we should go next time (excursion is planned to be biennial in alternate years to the AESC). We must thank again our host crews from D'Aguilar Gold; in particular Neil Wilkins, the crew from Newcrest Cracow; in particular Chris Chambers and Rob Taube, and the Equigold crew; in particular Tim

Murphy who all gave up their time and extensive knowledge to make our trip informative and well worthwhile.

Thank you also to sponsors and supporters of the excursion – the Geological Survey of Queensland, ActivEX Limited, Newcrest, Equigold and D'Aguilar Gold and Geochempet Services. Particular thanks also go to Len Cranfield and others at the GSQ for putting together, and drafting maps for, the Field Conference Guidebook, to Warwick Willmott for editing the guidebook as well as providing an endless supply of home made biscuits, and to Sue Golding for her assistance in organisation and for guiding the discussion.

Doug Young

Copies of the printed Field Conference Guide including a more comprehensive version on CD are available from GSAQ Booksales for \$10.00 + \$2.00 post. Contact Warwick on willmott@powerup.com.au or visit the website www.qld.gsa.org.au to download an order form.

Call for nominations: National GSA Awards

The Federal GSA is currently seeking nominations from all GSA members for:

- **W.R. Browne Medal**, for distinguished contributions to the geological sciences in Australia,
- **S.W. Carey Medal**, for a person distinguished in the field of tectonics (sensu lato), and
- **Joe Harms Medal**, for excellence in mineral exploration and contributions to the discovery of ore deposits in Australia.

Nominations should be sent to Fons.VandenBerg@dpi.vic.gov.au before 24 January 2008.

For more information visit <http://gsa.org.au/recognition/gsa-awards.html>

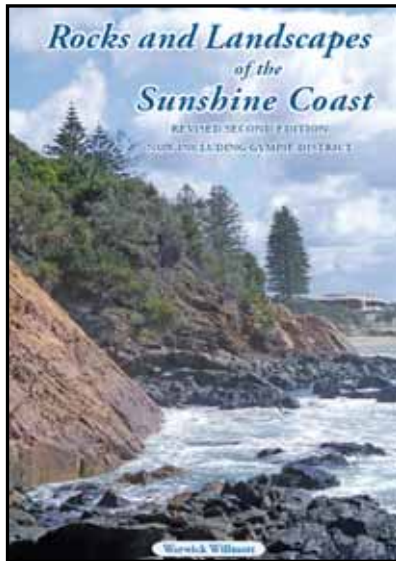
GSAQ Dorothy Hill Medal for Associate Professor Chris Fergusson

At the September GSAQ Seminar Chris Fergusson received the Dorothy Hill Medal for his career-long contributions to Queensland geology. Dr Cec Murray presented the medal in the presence of friends and colleagues, who enjoyed a response presentation on the Thomson Fold Belt of central and north Queensland.

Response of thanks by Chris Fergusson:

I thank the Queensland Division of the Geological Society of Australia very much for this award. It is a particular honour for me to receive this medal. Dorothy Hill is well known both for her work in palaeontology and her contributions to the geology of Queensland. I see in the September issue of TAG that we have been invited to suggest what AuScope might find in the subsurface across the Tasman Line in north Queensland. Of course, the Tasman Line is a term that Professor Hill thought of and over 50 years later it is still in widespread use. The past recipients of the Dorothy Hill Medal are a most distinguished group but I can claim a singular and unusual characteristic in that I have never lived in Queensland. This makes me feel most privileged.

I acknowledge the support and companionship of quite a few collaborators in studying Queensland geology over the past twenty years or so. Much of the work I have undertaken in Queensland has been as part of a team and I am pleased to have worked with such competent geologists. I will not refer to them all as that would risk me leaving out some important people. So I will restrict myself to three people who come to mind. Bob Henderson is notable for his drive and enthusiasm for regional geology with some palaeontology on the side. Of course, Evan Leitch played a major role in our work in the northern New England Fold Belt in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Finally, I acknowledge Ian Withnall for his vast knowledge of Queensland geology and the quiet, efficient and competent manner by which he goes about his work. Once again thank you very much.

New GSAQ publication***Rocks & Landscapes of the Sunshine Coast, Second Edition*** by Warwick Willmott

The popular GSAQ guidebook ***Rocks & Landscapes of the Sunshine Coast*** has been completely revised and expanded in colour to include the Gympie district. The book will be available for purchase for only \$10.00 + \$3.00 post starting December 2007. For more information contact Warwick Willmott on willmott@powerup.com.au

66 pages

Includes chapters on geological history, landscapes, coastal geology, landslide hazards, useful rocks and minerals, and where to see the rocks.

New Members

#101023	Malise Karen JENKINS	Student Member
#101024	Stewart ALEXANDER	Student Member
#101025	Sonia Lee COSTIN	Student Member
#101030	Andrew TOMPKIN	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

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Pamphlets and Flyers (as inserts)		~ \$100	