

Geo-soundings

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2001

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EXPOS

South West Education & Training Careers Expo 2001

John McDonald, Dom Howman, Damian Leslie, Ben Sanderson and Troy Thompson attended the South West Expo held this year at the Leschenault Leisure Centre in Australind. The booth was shared with Applied Geology.



Troy Thompson & Damian Leslie helping with the Competition



A competition was held to identify four samples of rock. **The winner of the competition was Amy Clarke** who is in Year 12 at Bunbury Catholic College. **Encouragement Awards** went to **Tristan Bosley** in Year 9 at Bridgetown High School and **Gavin Soulos** in Year 10 at Australind Senior High School. The purpose of these kinds of Expos is to acquaint High School students in Years 10 through 12 of the possibilities of geophysics as a career. This Expo was held some 200 km south of Perth in the second largest population grouping in Western Australia. Contact was made with about 200 High School Students.



Ben Sanderson explaining the finer points of Geophysics

PRIZES/SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to **Troy Thompson** who has been awarded the following Scholarships:

John Curtin Postgraduate Scholarship

MERIWA Supplementary Scholarship of \$20,000

AusIMM Mining & Metallurgical Bursaries 2001

The TWO prizewinning geophysics students are:

Sean Plunkett (Best 2nd Year Student)

Tristan Campbell (Best 3rd Year Student)

Congratulations to both Sean and Tristan.

NEW STRUCTURE

The Department of Exploration Geophysics will now become part of the **Division of Resources and Environment** starting 1 July 2001. The endorsement for this new Division was given by Curtin University Council at its meeting held on Wednesday 20 June 2001.

The Division will consist of:

WA School of Mines
Muresk Institute of Agriculture
Vocational Training and Education Centre (Kalgoorlie)
School of Resource Science & Technology

The School of Resource Science & Technology will consist of four Departments:

Exploration Geophysics
Spatial Sciences
Applied Geology
Petroleum Engineering

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

EAGE/SEG Research Workshop on Reservoir Rocks

Boris Gurevich and **Miroslav Brajanovski** attended the above workshop aimed to foster the "Understanding reservoir rock and fluid property distributions - measurement, modelling and applications". The workshop was held in Pau, France, 30 April - 3 May 2001. Boris acted as Co-chairman of a session "Compaction, Critical Stress and Microseismicity", and presented two papers:

Gurevich, B., 2001, *Shear waves in alternating solid and viscous fluid layers*: EAGE/SEG Research Workshop on Reservoir Rocks, Extended Abstracts, Paper 42.

Gurevich, B. and Shapiro, S.A., 2001, *Upscaling poroelastic media*: EAGE/SEG Research Workshop on Reservoir Rocks, Extended Abstracts, Paper 60.

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Bruce Hartley attended the **EAGE Conference** held this year in Amsterdam from 11 - 15 June. He also attended a **Workshop on Non Linear Acoustics** held in Leuven, Belgium from 18 - 22 June.

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Nine papers have been accepted for presentation at the **15th Geophysical Conference and Exhibition of the ASEG** to be held in Brisbane, Queensland from 5-8 August. Watch this space for details next issue.

JOURNAL PUBLICATION

Hartley, B.M., 2001, *The measurement of radiation levels in Australian zircon milling plants*: Health Physics, **80**, No 1, 16-23.

COMPUTING

The Departmental website has recently been given a facelift with several new sections. In particular we have included a section containing copies of recently published papers by both staff and students. Your feedback is most welcome. Please direct comments to Murray at

hill@geophy.curtin.edu.au.

Our SGI Octane has recently been upgraded to 2 Gbytes RAM to improve performance for research students. Also an additional 70 Gbytes of disk space has been added to our main SUN server. It seems the datasets get bigger each year.

IVEC

The Octane 2 has arrived in the first delivery of the Curtin shipment of equipment. It has 2 Gbytes of RAM and is fast. We are currently working on a deal with a visualisation software vendor to allow us to develop new visualisation and sensing tools for seismic interpretation. The order has been placed for a haptic workbench, and two back-projected screens. We expect to do the majority of our visualisation developments using the two screens which will form a 'wedge' for virtual reality research.

Our surveyors have developed the code to locate an object in a room, which is the starting point for developing wireless positioning control. This will eventually be used for personal haptic sensing of seismic attributes to assist interpretations.

ARRC

The new research centre is rapidly nearing completion and Exploration Geophysics will be moving in during the last week of September. Office and laboratory layouts have been designed.

NEW POSITION

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MINERAL GEOPHYSICS

Curtin University of Technology invites applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Associate Professor of Mineral Geophysics. This is a newly created position within the Department of Exploration Geophysics, of which Professor Norman F. Uren is the Head.

This position is funded through the WA State Centre of Excellence for Exploration & Production Geophysics under the Direction of Professor John A. McDonald.

The successful candidate will have a PhD from an internationally recognised university and will have published widely in refereed journals. The candidate will also have significant business management capabilities.

Further information about the Department of Exploration Geophysics is available from the website at:

www.geophysics.curtin.edu.au. Information relating to the CRCLEME is available at: leme.anu.edu.au/leme2/leme2.html. John McDonald can also be contacted on Tel: 61 8 9266 7194, Fax: 61 8 9266 3407, or on email at: mcdonald@geophy.curtin.edu.au

CRC LEME-2

CRC LEME-2 starts on 1 July 2001.

Geophysics staff will be involved in its programs on:

Regolith Geoscience
Mineral Exploration in Areas of Cover
Environmental Application of Regolith Science
Education and Training

STUDENTS

Office Bearers for **Curtin University Exploration Geophysical Society** (SEG Student Section) for 2001 are:

President: Tristan Campbell tcamp@nut.geophy.curtin.edu.au

Vice-Pres: Matthew Noteboom noteboom@geophy.curtin.edu.au

Secretary: Martin Burke burkemr1@ses.curtin.edu.au