

Geo-soundings

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2002

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JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Street, G. J., Pracilio, G., and Anderson-Mayes, A., 2002, *Interpretation of geophysical data for salt hazard identification and catchment management in southwest Western Australia*. Exploration Geophysics, **33**, No. 2, 65-72.

STAFF NEWS

It is with regret that we farewell **Damian Leslie** as he seeks to "make it in the real world". Damian has been a student in this Department for seven years and we will miss his cheery presence. We wish him well in his future career at OMV. Congratulations are also in order on his recent engagement to Rachele.

Prof. Boris Gurevich was elected a member of the Committee on Poromechanics in the Engineering Mechanics Division of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASME).

PROJECTS & FIELD TRIPS

Through its association with CRC-LEME, Curtin will participate in **AMIRA Project P407b** on rapid 2.5D and 3D inversion of airborne electromagnetic data. Exploration Geophysics staff members involved will be Jayson Meyers, Anton Kepic and Paul Wilkes.

This year's **Project 390** crew of 16 students was led by Dr Jayson Meyers and his assistants Dr Anton Kepic, Don Hunter and Dominic Howman. We were also assisted by Eva from Haines Surveys, who provided not only a gravimeter but Eva and her experience. The camp, a shearers quarters on a nearby station, was very comfortable but not too luxurious.

Somewhere north-east of Kalgoorlie we tramped, stomped and wriggled our way through the scrub looking for signs of a gold or nickel deposit. Methods employed were magnetics, gravity, TEM and IP. Some of our newly acquired equipment (a smarTEM receiver and Geometrics 858 magnetometers) were trialled.

Field experience has now taught the students that battery acid dissolves trousers, wheel nuts on the front left wheel of buses have left hand thread and sleep is necessary. Don Hunter was instrumental in showing the students the now famous "love" knot for tying equipment down.

EXPOS

Career Choices Expo – Burswood Dome

Thank you to *Dom Howman, Norm Uren, Brian Evans, John McDonald, Anton Kepic, Boris Gourevitch, Troy Thompson, Margarita Norvill, Gemma King and Karen Gilgallon* who all helped on the booth we shared with Geology at the above Expo on 26/27 July.

2002 Dowerin GWN Field Days

The Dowerin GWN Field Days is a big event in the country calendar and this year we decided to take part along with Applied Geology. It was held on 27/28/29 August during the *Year of the Outback*. The Department was represented by *Margarita Norvill, Jason McKenna, Troy Thompson, Reece Foster and Benn Hansen*, who all enjoyed the hospitality of Margarita's mother at the Wongan Hills Guest House.

VISITING PROFESSOR

We welcome **Professor Max Peeters** to the Department. Max commenced his Visiting Professor appointment on the 15th July and will finish on 26 November 2002. Max is Professor of Borehole Geophysics and Petrophysics at the Colorado School of Mines and holder of the Distinguished Baker Hughes Chair since 1998. Prior to this he was Professor of Petrophysics at the University of Technology in Delft, and Petrophysical Adviser at Shell Research, both in The Netherlands.

VISIT TO MIRI CAMPUS

John McDonald recently visited the new Miri offshore Campus which Curtin established in the Malaysian State of Sarawak in 1999. Over the last couple of years a custom built campus has been built at Lutong, a few kilometres from the Shell Miri offices. It is also only about a two hour drive from the Shell Brunei offices. Currently geology and geophysics are not offered at Curtin Sarawak. Nevertheless it is hoped that the Department can eventually get involved with the environmental problems such as soil engineering. The main teaching thrust of the present campus is in engineering and commerce.

FAREWELL TO NORM UREN



Stewart Gunson, Deirdre Hollingsworth, Graham Elliott, John Watt



Graham Elliott, Norm Uren, Mike Sayers

Norm took early retirement on September 1st, 2002. As Head of the Department, he and Stewart Gunson, established the only BSc in Geophysics in Australia (others operate geology degrees with a geophysics major, but ours is the only full degree). He oversaw the development of the Masters program, in both teaching and research. In 1987, we commenced awarding PhDs in Geophysics, and again it was Norm who was first in the Department to have the most PhD students.

During this time, he was also responsible for guiding the rapid development of an enthusiastic Department through the pain of administration and accounting. It is only since his departure that the academics have realised what a good creative accountant he was! Now retired as an Adjunct Professor of Geophysics, Norm still intends coming in once a week to work with his PhD students.

We wish Norm farewell, in the expectation of seeing the occasional piece of newly worked wood pass through the Department. Perhaps a new unit of 'Woodwork for Geoscientists' may attract a few more students than we presently have. Good luck in the future Norm and GiGi, and may you enjoy retirement to the full.

An Ode to Norm by Troy Thompson & Damian Leslie

On behalf of the post grads we composed this poem
About a man in this room, we're sure you all know 'im
His name is Norm, our trusty head
He enjoys the odd beer but especially the red

Being head isn't easy, but between you and me
Nobody works him quite as hard as Dee
With funny stories and a smile on his face
He's ahead of Santa in the jolliness stakes

Norm Uren was a man with a dream
He wanted to create a geophysics team
To teach the kids was his role
And find them a job the ultimate goal

The story began in '66
Before most of us were in the mix
The years went on, a department grew
Producing fine graduates like me and you

Try as he might, we're sure he's forgotten
All of those times he drank himself rotten
We've heard a few stories, some of them rude
Like a certain hotel... locked out in the nude

When the booze stops flowing he's known to get stropopy
And he forgets what he knows about anisotropy
He's got a PhD so he must be bright
He reinvented phenolite

Over the years he's packed the odd scrum
And made lots of noise beating the geophysics drum
And now the big man is going to retire
We look back on his career... and aspire

No matter how busy he always finds time
To share some advice or maybe some wine
We thought this day would never come
So let's clone Norm, I'm sure it can be done

He arrived as a teacher and will leave as a prof
It's now our duty to send him off
Gone are the years when he needed a comb
We really hope he gets a lift home

From ARRC to Curtin and back to WAIT
He's not just a teacher but also a mate
So have yourself a few more beers
And wish Norm well in his retirement years



Troy Thompson & Damian Leslie (partly hidden) presenting the "Ode" to Norm Uren