



News from the Specialist Groups

International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP)

The International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP) is a joint initiative of UNESCO, through its Division of Earth Sciences, and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). Australia has been involved with the IGCP since its inception in 1972.

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Annual report 2012–2013

The Australian committee's annual report to the IGCP for 2012–2013 is summarised here. This report highlights the committee's work in ensuring Australian scientists and students can engage with this international program.

International projects

In 2012–2013, 34 IGCP projects were active and funded. Australian geoscientists at the beginning of 2012 were either leaders or co-leaders of eight projects, and active participants in thirteen others, indicating the ongoing high level of interest and the benefits to be gained from cooperation in international projects. Professor Patricia Vickers Rich continues in a position on the expanded IGCP Scientific Board and was elected as the Chair of the Science Board, her place as Theme Leader of Global Change filled by elected member Professor Guy Narbonne on the International Geoscience Programme Board based in Paris.

Projects with Australian leadership or involvement, including annual reports, can be accessed on the UNESCO's website at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/international-geoscience-programme/igcp-projects/>.

There are Australian leaders/coleaders for 8 of the IGCP projects listed below:

572	Permian-Triassic ecosystems 2008–2013 (OET)	Zhong Qiang Chen (Australia), Richard J. Twitchett (UK), Jinnan Tong (China), Margret L. Fraiser (USA), Sylvie Crasquin (France), Steve Kershaw (UK), Thomas J. Algeo (USA), Kliti Grice (Australia)	Z. Qiang Chen University of Western Australia PERTH WA 6009
581	Evolution of Asian River Systems 2009–2013	Hongbo Zheng (China) Ryuji Tada (Japan) Peter Clift (UK) Masood Ahmad (India) Zheng Xiang Li (Australia)	Zheng Xiang Li Curtin University PERTH, WA 6009
587	Of Identity, Facies and Time: The Ediacaran (Vendian) Puzzle 2010–2014	Vickers-Rich, P. (Australia) Fedonkin, M. A. (Russia) Gehling, J. (Australia) Narbonne, G. (Canada)	P. Vickers-Rich Monash University Wellington Road MONASH, VIC 3800
588	E-MARSHAL. Earth's Continental MARGins: ASsessing the geoHAzards from submarine Landslides. 2010–2014	Adam D. Switzer (Malaysia) Craig Sloss (Australia) Benjamin Horton (USA) Imasiku Nyambe (Zambia)	Craig Sloss School of Natural Resources Queensland Univ. of Technology BRISBANE, QLD 4001
597	Amalgamation and Breakup Pangaea: The Type Example of the Supercontinent Cycle 2011–2015	J. Brendan Murphy (Canada) J. Duncan Keppie (Mexico) Cecilio Qüesada (Spain) Bill Collins (Australia)	Bill Collins School of Envir. and Life Sciences University of Newcastle NEWCASTLE, NSW 2308

599	The Changing Early Earth 2011–2014	Jaana Halla (Finland) Kent C. Condie (USA) Roberto Dalt (Brazil) Mudlappa Jayanada (India) Martin J. Van Kranendonk (Australia) Hugh Rollison (UK) Gary Stevens (South Africa) Jin-Hui Yang (China)	Martin J. Van Kranendonk Australian Centre for Astrobiology University of New South Wales SYDNEY, NSW
618	Paleoclimate Information Obtained From Past-Recharged Groundwater	Dioni Cendon (Australia) Jianyao Chen (China) Jason Gurdak (US) Ofelia Tujchneider (Argentina) Sylvia Haldorsen (Norway) I. M J. van der Ploeg (The Netherlands) Rein Vaikmae (Estonia) Roland Purtschert (Switzerland)	Dioni Cendon ANSTO Locked Bag 2001 Kirrawee DC, NSW 2232
628	The Gondwana Map Project	R. Silva Schmitt (Brazil) M. De Wit (South Africa) A. Collins (Australia) P. Rossi (France) C. Reeves (The Netherlands) E. J. Milani (Brazil)	

Bursaries for Australian researchers

The Australian National IGCP Committee functioned as usual. Its main business is to disburse much of the \$20 000 (\$22 000 less tax) Grants-in-Aid provided annually by Geoscience Australia to assist Australian geoscientists, in particular students and early career researchers, to participate in IGCP activities. The ongoing contribution made by Geoscience Australia and the GSA to IGCP activities is gratefully acknowledged.

The following grants were provided to assist Australian scientists to attend IGCP sponsored meetings and workshops. This included assistance towards attending international workshops and conferences as well organisation of the 40th anniversary meeting of IGCP in Paris in 2012.

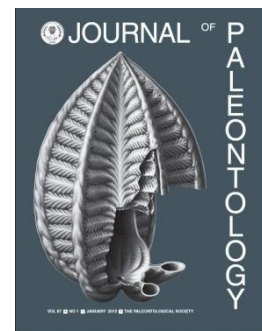
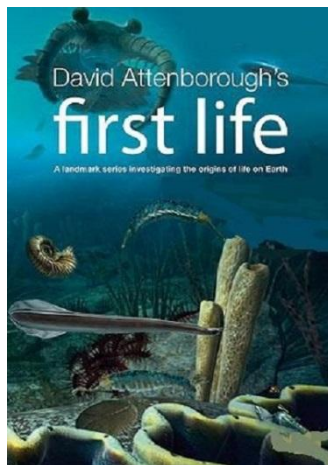
Recipient	Grant (\$)	Project and purpose
Mr Jeff SMITH	\$1901.98	587 Attended a field conference in cooperation with the Saudi Geological Survey examining the late Neoproterozoic and Early Phanerozoic sequences on the Arabian Shield. Assisted in the preparation of paper resulting from the meeting. 28 Feb. to 20 March 2013
Mr Peter TRUSLER	\$1901.98	587 Attended field

Dr Stijn Glorie	\$2000.00	592 Presented one paper and was co-author on two papers at the meeting and field conference of the Beishan Orogen in MW China, sponsored by IGCP592.
Mr Les Kriesfeld	\$2000.00	587 Presented a paper on <i>Nemiana</i> at the “ <i>Corumbá Meeting 2013</i> . The Neoproterozoic Paraguay Belt (Brazil): glaciation, iron-manganese formation and biota” in Corumba, Brazil. 4-9 August 2013
Mr David Elliott	\$2000.00	587 Presented a paper on <i>Ernietta</i> at the “ <i>Corumbá Meeting 2013</i> The Neoproterozoic Paraguay Belt (Brazil): glaciation, iron-manganese formation and biota.” In Corumba, Brazil. 4-9 August 2013
Dr Thomas H. Rich	\$3000.00	609 Present at Annual Conference of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Los Angeles, Sept. 2013, a paper entitled “Two upper tribosphenic molars from the Mesozoic of Australia and Two Hypotheses.”
Dr Richard Glen	\$1500.00	592 Presenting at the Annual conference of the Geosciences Society of New Zealand, Christchurch, 24-27 Nov. 2013, special session on Accretionary Belts of the SW Pacific and Central Asia plus post conference field trip to examine the “Mesozoic Accretionary Orogen of Zealandia.”

The total amount allocated was \$23,803.96 to recipients to assist their involvement in six different IGCP projects. In addition, \$2000 of GST was paid to the Australian Taxation Office for 2012. Since there were funds available from 2012, the accounts are currently in positive.

Bursaries for Australian students

Applications from graduate and undergraduate students were supported. Although some support allowed papers to be presented at two conferences dealing with pre-Tertiary geosciences education (Iran and Australia), efforts still need to be made to increase the awareness of the geoscience community, particularly younger geoscientists, about the advantages that the IGCP program offers in establishing international research contacts. It should be noted that funds granted to academics were shared with their students or supported students in the countries where meetings occurred.



One of the delightful outcomes of IGCP587 was the documentary produced by the BBC and Atlantic Productions with David Attenborough – which highlighted and was inspired by members of that group working on the Late Neoproterozoic and Early Cambrian metazoan faunas. Attenborough and his team scored 3 Emmy awards for their efforts. IGCP587 also captured the cover of the Journal of Paleontology in January 2013 for research outcomes in southern Africa.