

THE VICTORIAN GEOLOGIST



September 2013

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
Victoria Division

Selwyn Lecture

Thursday 26th September at 6:15 p.m.

Why should we be interested in Intra-plate Continental Basaltic Volcanic Provinces? Reassessing what we know about the Newer Volcanics Province, SE Australia.

**Emeritus Professor Ray Cas,
School of Geosciences, Monash University**

Fritz Loewe Theatre, School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne

Talks will be preceded by drinks from 5:30pm in the 4th floor tearoom, cost \$2.

The Selwyn Dinner will take place following the seminar at Cafe Italia. Please RSVP to Adele Seymon (aseymon@gmail.com OR 0403 269 462 by September 24th.

Intra-plate Continental Basaltic Volcanic Provinces (ICBVPs) are a long ignored species of volcanic system. They have never been viewed as being sexy as large volcanoes such as large conical stratovolcanoes and explosive calderas or supervolcanoes have been. However, as the world's population increases, and settlements encroach more onto volcanoes, the hazards to society from even the small volcanoes of ICBVPs are becoming more apparent, and there is just a renewed research interest internationally in wanting to find out what makes these volcanic systems tick.

ICBVPs can be considered to be "leaky" volcanic systems, fed by repeated small but intriguingly variable magma batches that produce multiple small volcanoes distributed over a large region, rather than a single central vent edifice. What factors cause them to form and what controls where, when and how they erupt?

Continued on page 2...

ABSTRACT

The Newer Volcanics Province (NVP) of western Victoria and southeastern South Australia is one of the largest ICBVPs in the world, covering an area of >23,000 km², and known to have ~400 volcanoes. It ranges in age from 4.6 Ma to Recent. Its morphological expression is extensive plains forming lava flows and point source volcanoes.

Although the volcanoes of ICBVPs are commonly considered to be monogenetic and monomagmatic. Intriguingly, volcanism began and has continued at a time when southeastern Australia was/is in a state of compression. Was the volcanism the result of Australia drifting over a mantle hot-spot or decompressional mantle melting consequent upon continental Gondwana rifting, lithospheric edge-driven melting or trans-tension related decompressional melting?

Recent research on the NVP at Monash has identified

- Subtle variations in erupted magma compositions from single volcanoes (e.g. Mt Gambier, Purrumbete, Mt Rouse)
- Improved understanding of the subsurface structure of maar volcanoes using geophysics and modeling
- Factors which have influenced changing eruption styles in monogenetic volcanoes
- The value of remote sensing in producing maps and relative stratigraphies in ICBVPs
- Eruption magnitudes, potential hazards similar to the 2010 Eyjafallajökull eruption, Iceland.

However, patterns of eruption age migration, provincialism in compositions of erupted products, and understanding of where future eruptions will occur remain obscure due to inadequate data that has a sound regional scale chrono-stratigraphic framework. Understanding of the dynamics of ICBVPs requires new generation maps combined with new strategic geochronology and geochemistry to be able to assess what patterns exist regionally.

MEMBER SURVEY

Due to the ongoing poor attendance at the monthly GSAV meetings, the GSAV committee is seeking feedback from members on what they desire at these meetings. The 7 question long survey is fully anonymous and will be vital in assessing the future direction of GSAV monthly meetings.

The survey can be completed online at **<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M7JYTWR>** and should take no more than 10-15 minutes of your time. For those receiving a hard copy of TVG, responses can be completed online or on the included flyer and returned to **GPO Box 2355, Melbourne, 3001.**

2013 SELWYN MEDALLIST

The 2013 Selwyn Medallist is Ross Cayley. A short bio, accompanied by the nomination form, are provided over the following pages

Ross Cayley graduated from the Melbourne University in 1988. He joined the Geological Survey of Victoria (GSV) in 1990 to begin work as a mapping geologist (with a structural bent) producing regional-scale geological maps, reports and wild-ideas. Ross has helped GSV teams develop geological maps and datasets and interpretations of geophysical dataset across Victoria.

Ross' first few projects were in western Victoria, most notably in partnership with David Taylor. Western Victoria turned out to be a structural geologist's paradise, and GSV work culture the perfect environment to get results. Key results were recognition of the Moyston Fault as a major craton-directed thrust and the terrane-scale boundary between the Delamerian and Lachlan Orogens. Tectonic melange was recognised within the high-grade Moornambool Metamorphic Complex, and a structural model developed that linked movement on the fault to the formation and exhumation of this broad, complex hangingwall region. Another highlight was remapping of the Grampians Ranges, revealing them as an extensionally-segmented thrust-and-fold belt.

Since the 1990s Ross has worked in larger GSV project teams on out-of-sequence thrusts along the eastern margin of the Melbourne Zone (the Mount Useful Fault Zone), in the Glenelg River Metamorphic Complex of far western Victoria, the Omeo Metamorphic Complex, the rugged terrain of the Tabbeabbera Zone, and the goldfields rocks of central Victoria, including project-managing the Walhalla-Woods Point-Tallangallook project. A career highlight was the landmark GSV publication 'The Tasman Fold Belt System in Victoria'. Ross also contributed to several chapters of the 3rd edition of the Geology of Victoria, published by the GSA (Victorian Division) in 2003.

Ross is currently a Senior Geologist for GSV, these days specialising more in structural geology and regional-scale tectonics, and implications for prospectivity. The concept of the 'Selwyn Block' of Precambrian continental crust buried beneath central Victoria explained the long-debated link between Tasmania and the Australian mainland and introduced a controversial new tectonic model for the entire western Lachlan Orogen. This work led to the opportunity to help design, acquire and interpret regional-scale deep seismic transects across parts of the state in collaboration with Geoscience Australia, the pmd*CRC, private industry and AUSCOPE. The emerging results, combined with over 20 years of field research, underpin a statewide 3D geological model of Victoria developed by GSV. Work currently in progress is collaborative research to further resolve the geometry of the Delamerian-Lachlan transition in western Victoria, and to further develop a mega-fold model with implications for the evolution of the whole of the Lachlan Fold Belt. Ross lives in Melbourne with long-suffering partner Jane.



Department of Primary Industries

13 August 2012

Selwyn Award Committee
GSA Victorian Branch

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Victoria 3001 Australia
Telephone: (03) 9658 4000
Facsimile: (03) 9658 4400
ABN 42 579 412 233
DX 210404

Dear Ingrid,

We, the undersigned, would like to nominate Ross Cayley for the 2012 Selwyn Medal. Ross has, over the last two decades, made an outstanding contribution towards an understanding of the Palaeozoic tectonic structure and development of Victoria.

During the period 1990 to 2005 Ross has been a leading light in providing structural geology input to many regional geological mapping programs conducted by the Geological Survey of Victoria. As both the sole or lead author on a number of landmark papers over the last decade, as well as a major contributor to both the 2001 GSV Tasman Fold Belt System in Victoria volume and the 2003 GSA Geology of Victoria volume, Ross has been instrumental in pulling together a coherent model for the 4D development of Victoria during the Palaeozoic.

Ross was a leading contributor to several important geological advances such as the Selwyn Block model and the evolution of the region surrounding the Moyston Fault. These are groundbreaking concepts that have changed the way we view Victorian geology.

Ross's drive and enthusiasm were major factors in the successful organisation and execution of the 2006 and 2009 onshore seismic transects. He subsequently made a major scientific contribution towards the interpretation of the survey results.

While Ross would be the first to admit that much of this work has been facilitated by the environment of teamwork and commitment of geoscientists at the GSV, his colleagues would agree that Ross's 'Eureka moments' have been pivotal in advancing our understanding of what was where and when during the development of the Lachlan Orogen in southeastern Australia.

We believe that Ross is a worthy recipient of the Selwyn Medal.

Yours sincerely

Peter O'Shea

Clive Willman

Vince Morand



STUDENT CONTRIBUTION

Caitlin Gionfriddo**PhD Candidate****School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne****GSAV Student Scholarship Recipient**

For the past three years I have been involved in research projects at the University of Melbourne that investigate the biogeochemical transformations of mercury in the environment. My work has focused on the biotic production of the neurotoxin methylmercury in a range of environments: contaminated land, geothermal systems, and now polar environments. With the support of a GSAV Student Scholarship I was able to attend the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP) in Edinburgh, Scotland. The conference is the leading forum for mercury research, attracting top scientists, industry leaders, and political advisors to debate advances in environmental mercury research and policy. This year's conference was particularly important as it preceded the launch of the United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP) Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury, also known as the Minamata Convention. As a mercury researcher who is interested in how science informs policy and impacts industries, this was an extremely valuable conference for me to attend.

Why study mercury? Mercury is known for its severe toxicological affects, and is most toxic in its organic form as methylmercury. In the environment, anthropogenic mercury is converted to methylmercury by bacteria, and can then biomagnify up the foodweb. Our primary exposure to mercury comes from consumption of freshwater and saltwater fish. My research focuses on how mercury is transformed by bacteria prior to human exposure, and the mitigation of the environmental production of methylmercury. As a PhD candidate, I am investigating the transformation of mercury in the sea ice zone of East Antarctica. Recent studies have demonstrated that Antarctica is affected by anthropogenic emissions of mercury, and a significant amount of mercury is deposited (mainly in snowfall) both on the continent and across the sea ice every spring. Every year ~15 million km² of first year sea ice surrounds the Antarctic continent. The sea ice plays a critical role in defining marine food webs and provides a unique ecological niche that may host microorganisms capable of methylating mercury. Despite this, very little is known about the contribution of methylmercury from the sea ice environment to resident aquatic organisms in the Southern Ocean. At the ICMGP, I gave an oral presentation of my results thus far, which are some of the first reported values of total mercury and methylmercury for first year sea ice in Antarctica. I was presenting in a session focused on mercury in polar regions, and many talks addressed how a changing climate, particularly a decrease in ice cover, might affect the biogeochemical cycling of mercury at both the poles. Since my project is quite unique in its scope, and provides new insight into methylmercury concentrations in sea ice, I had attracted a fair amount of interest in my work following the presentation.

In addition to a talk, I presented a poster on my Masters research, which I also conducted at the University of Melbourne. This work focused on mercury transformations in a contaminated mine site and natural geothermal system. Mercury research tends to be dominated by North American and European groups, therefore attending the ICMGP and presenting twice allowed me to draw attention to my work in Melbourne, and lay down contacts for future opportunities. Out of all the sessions I attended during the week, I found the talks focused on a genetic basis for mercury methylation (identifying the genes responsible for microbial methylation of mercury), and mercury isotope studies (identifying isotope signatures for mercury sources and transformations) to be the most valuable and interesting for my future research. By the last day of the conference my voice was hoarse from talking with colleagues. Overall I felt the conference was a success, and the contacts I made will be invaluable to my career. I am extremely grateful to the GSAV for their financial support.



Royal Society of Victoria
PROMOTING SCIENCE AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

The Royal Society of Victoria has been an active and vital part of Melbourne's scientific heritage since 1854. Membership is open to anyone interested in science and the promotion of science for the benefit of the community. Members enjoy the benefits of access to the Society's historic hall in the heart of the city and support a range of activities promoting science such as symposia, a public lecture series, science prizes and student awards and a publication program.



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Victoria's Energy Future: Prospects and Challenges

FREE Public Forum

Wednesday 23rd October, 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Museum Victoria Theatre

Carlton Gardens, 11 Nicholson Street, Carlton
Booking essential www.tixbooking.com/51895

Symposium

Friday 25th October, 9:00am - 5:00pm and
Saturday 26th October, 9:30am - 1:00pm

The Royal Society
8 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
Booking essential www.tixbooking.com/53416



Public Forum Wednesday 23rd October

Victoria's Energy Future: Prospects and challenges

6:30pm	Opening Remarks President of RSV, Dr Bill Birch and Chair Mr Rob Gell
6:35pm - 6:55pm	Overview of Global/ National picture of energy resources Mr Tony Wood, Grattan Institute, Melbourne
6:45pm - 7:15pm	Overview of Victoria's energy resources Professor Mike Sandford, Melbourne Energy Institute
7:15pm - 7:35pm	A Local view, Hepburn wind community Mr Simon Holmes-a-court, Director of Embark Project
7:35pm - 8:00pm	Panel discussion Chair: Mr Rob Gell, Executive Director bhive Group Pty Ltd
8:00pm	Closing remarks



MUSEUM VICTORIA



solarcorp

Symposium Registration

For registrations up to 20th September

Early Bird - Member	\$140
Early Bird - Non-member	\$150
Full time student	\$80

For registrations on or after 21st September

Member	\$160
Non-member	\$170
Full time student	\$80

Costs include lunch and all refreshments

Symposium Day 1 Friday 25th October

8:50am - 9:00am	Welcome/Introductory Remarks President of RSV, Dr Bill Birch
9:00am - 9:30am	Present Energy Resources
9:00am - 9:30am	Energy Requirements for Victoria Mr Phil Harrington, Principal consultant - Carbon & Energy Team, Pfl & Sherry
9:30am - 10:00am	Brown coal: Unlocking Victoria's potential Dr Len Humphreys, CEO, Ignite Energy
10:00am - 10:30am	Panel discussion
10:30am - 11:00am	Morning tea
11:00am - 11:20am	Australia's gas future: How Victoria can stay ahead of the pack Ms Kerrie-Anne Lanigan, ExxonMobil, Director of Gas Marketing
11:20am - 11:40am	The Development of Carbon Capture and Geological storage in Victoria Dr Maxwell Watson, CRC for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC)
11:40am - 12:00pm	Carbon Capture and Storage: Biological Dr Walter Jehme, Director, Healthy Soils Australia
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Panel discussion
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch

New Resources/Impacts of Energy Generation on Health and the Environment

1:30pm - 1:50pm	Wind power in Victoria Mr Tom Keadle, Executive Manager Development, Pacific Hydro Australia
1:50pm - 2:10pm	Geothermal energy: Deep sources Dr Graeme Beardsmore, Technical Director, Hot Dry Rocks Pty Ltd
2:10pm - 2:30pm	Geothermal energy: Shallow sources Prof. Ian Johnston, Golder Associates Chair of Geothermal Engineering, University of Melbourne
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Panel discussion
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Afternoon tea
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Unconventional Gas: shale and coal seam and some prospects for Victoria Dr Vaughan Beck, Senior Technical Advisor, Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering
4:00pm - 4:30pm	Tracking Australia's progress to a low carbon economy Prof. John Thwaites, Chair, Monash Sustainability Institute and Climate Works Australia
4:30pm - 5:00pm	Panel discussion

Symposium Day 2 Saturday 26th October

9:30am - 9:50am	Solar energy: small and large installations Dr David Fairall, Project Lead, Sustainability Victoria
9:50am - 10:10am	Waste to energy Mr John Sanderson, Principal Environmental Engineer, Earth systems
10:10am - 10:30am	Wind and Tidal Mr Eoghan Quinn, Project Engineer, Marine Power Technologies
10:30am - 11:00am	Panel discussion
11:00am - 11:30am	Morning tea
11:30am - 11:50am	Impact of Energy Generation on Health
11:30am - 11:50am	What is the evidence for potential health impacts from wind power? A/Prof. Marion Carey, Monash Sustainability Institute
11:50am - 12:10pm	Impact of energy generation on health: Unconventional gas Dr Helen Redmond, Doctors for the Environment Australia
12:10pm - 12:30pm	The Impact of coal-fired power generation on health A/Prof. Linda Selvey, Curtin University School of Public Health
12:30pm - 1:00pm	Panel discussion
1:00pm	Summing up and close Dr Bill Birch, President RSV

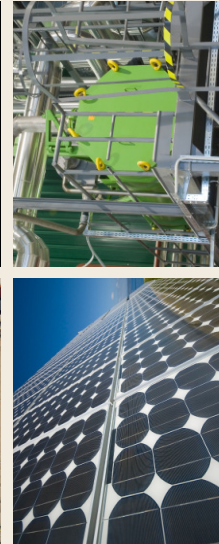
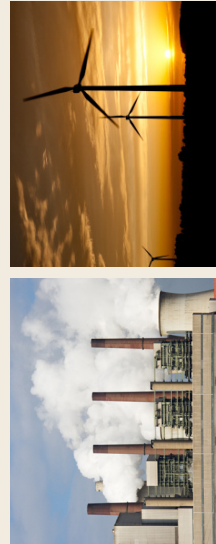
Victoria's Energy Future: Prospects and Challenges

Public Forum

23rd October, 6:30 - 8:00pm
Melbourne Museum

Symposium

25th October, 9:00am - 5:00pm
26th October, 9:30am - 1:00pm
Royal Society Hall



The subject of Victoria's energy options is such an important one for us all. Every day we are confronted with household and business decisions arising from the economic and environmental costs of our seemingly insatiable thirst for energy. Some choices are inevitable. This lecture and symposium will provide an opportunity for Victorians to inform themselves about this ongoing community debate.

Dr Bill Birch AM, President

Royal Society of Victoria

8 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia

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AESC

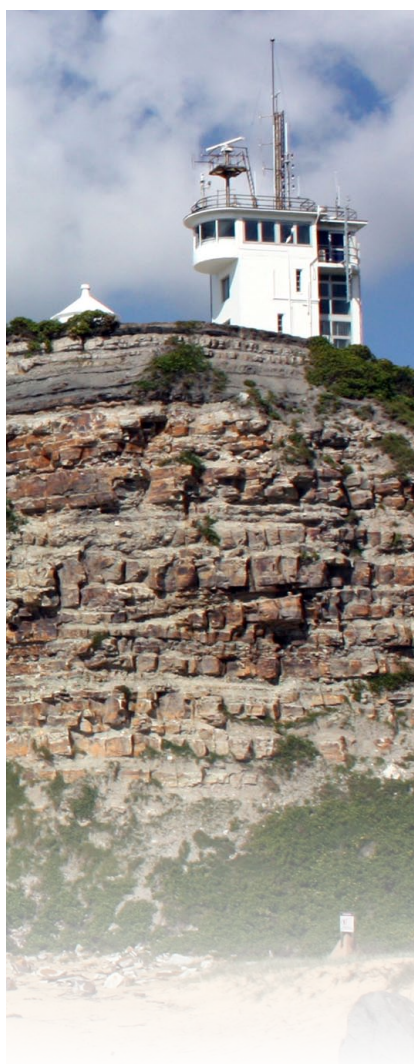
australian earth sciences
convention

**Sustainable
Australia:**

7-10 July 2014



NEWCASTLE, NSW, AUSTRALIA



AESC 2014 will be held in Newcastle, a vibrant port city that is characterised by its working harbour, beautiful surf beaches and proximity to many of Australia's most prestigious wineries.

It is the gateway to the Hunter Valley – heart of the Sydney Basin coalfields, centre of power generation for New South Wales, and home of the NSW Institute for Frontier Geoscience, a joint initiative of the University of Newcastle and the NSW Department of Trade and Investment. Combined with the city's focus on energy efficiency via the Federal Government's Smart Grid, Smart City initiative and the CSIRO Energy Centre, Newcastle is an ideal site for our convention – **Sustainable Australia.**

The convention will be based around the themes of energy, basin geology, geodynamics, resources and the environment. Dedicated symposia include the 39th Symposium on the Advances in the Study of the Sydney Basin and Comparisons & Contrasts in Circum-Pacific Orogens.

AESC 2014 offers all geoscientists a unique opportunity for professional development and a chance to hear firsthand the latest developments in geosciences.

Plan your trip to Newcastle

Call for Abstracts:
October 2013

Abstracts Deadline:
March 2014

The website is coming soon,
in the interim please contact:
info@gsa.org.au

Presentation: Oral and poster

Registration: early 2014

Workshops and field trips:

The convention invites proposals for short courses, workshops and field trips.

Exhibition:

The convention will host an exhibition. We welcome companies and businesses to participate so they can promote the emerging opportunities in their organisation, state or territory.

Supporters:

The organising committee invites companies, institutions and technology providers to support this meeting.

Expressions of interest:

info@gsa.org.au

Convention location:

Newcastle City Hall



*Coalfield Geology Council
of New South Wales*

T + 61 2 9290 2194
F + 61 2 9290 2198

Email: info@gsa.org.au
Convention Website: coming soon



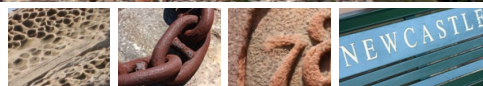
AESC

australian earth sciences
convention

**Sustainable
Australia:**

7-10 July 2014

NEWCASTLE, NSW, AUSTRALIA



Earth scientists recognise that the key to sustaining the Australian society, economy and environment into the future lies in an understanding of the make-up, structure and deep-time history of the continent, and its setting in an evolving planet.

THEMES

Energy

Increases in the global demand for energy has been driving advances in the efficiency of coal and conventional hydrocarbon extraction, while also urging the rapid growth of interest in unconventional hydrocarbons. Future energy supplies are likely to include all fossil fuels, nuclear sources, and significant increases in the use of renewable energy and cleaner alternatives. Building on the public debate to be stimulated by the 'Energy 2050' public forum, the Energy theme will encompass Earth Science perspectives on energy sources, exploration and extraction methods, and environmental consequences and solutions.

Resources

In an era of increasing demand for mineral resources from the developing Asian economies, and declining rates of discovery of new deposits, new mineral exploration strategies are vital. Discovery will be stimulated by new technologies, new methods of data interpretation and dissemination, refined and novel understandings of mineral systems and ore environments, and the strength of the pre-competitive geological and geophysical data sector, all addressed under the Resources theme.

Environment

Earth's environment is a dynamic and responsive system with a long geological record of change and an immediate and future impact on society, particularly in an Australian context. High-resolution records of past climates (including outcome of the International Ocean Drilling Program), assessments of the state and future of our ground- and surface-water resources, predictions of the response of the Australian environment to climate change, and studies specific to the Australian arid and semi-arid zones, will be major elements of the Environment theme.

Service and Community

The Earth Sciences have an ongoing role of service by informing, influencing, and supporting Australian society, and a proud history of education and research. The Service and Community theme will address the geoscience response to distributed grid computing and cloud storage, the dissemination of geoscience information in a high-bandwidth environment, the continuing and evolving role of geoscience outreach and education, geohazard studies and their role in protecting the community, the contributions of geotourism and geoheritage, and the historical record and influence of Earth scientists.

Dynamic Planet

Today's Earth is the sum of 4.5 billion years of geological processes. The Dynamic planet theme will address: the geodynamic evolution of Australia and other continents from the Hadean to the present; the evolution of the Earth-Moon system and the meteoritic impact record; the expression of the circulation driven by the Earth's heat engine in lithospheric plate tectonics, mantle dynamics and differentiation, and core evolution; the processes that govern deposition and deformation in intracratonic settings; processes of crustal growth and recycling, at convergent margins and in other settings; geophysical and geochemical evidence of the structure and composition of the deep subsurface; and the influence of all of these elements on the formation and distribution of mineral and energy resources.

Living Earth

Life has fundamentally influenced the development of the Earth, making it unique with respect to its planetary neighbours. The Living Earth theme will investigate: the evolution of life as witnessed in the fossil record; consider novel methods to supplement traditional palaeontological approaches; investigate the major events in the evolution of life, the hydrosphere and atmosphere; and draw contrasts and comparisons with other planets.

SYMPOSIA

39th Symposium on the Advances
in the Study of the Sydney Basin

Comparisons & Contrasts
in Circum-Pacific Orogens



Coalfield Geology Council
of New South Wales

T + 61 2 9290 2194

F + 61 2 9290 2198

Email: info@gsa.org.au

Convention Website: coming soon

STUDENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Geological Society of Australia (Victoria Division) Student Research Scholarships

The GSAV are pleased to offer up to \$10,000 per year in scholarships available to honours and postgraduate students for assistance with travel costs associated with conferences and field work.



The scholarship is valued at up to \$500 for travel within Australia and \$700 for travel outside of Australia. The number of and value of the scholarships awarded each year is made at the discretion of the GSA(Vic) committee.

Funding will not be granted retrospectively and applicants are asked to submit forms no later than 6 weeks prior to their trip to give the committee time to consider the application.

Students that receive this scholarship are required to submit a report for publication in the newsletter, "The Victorian Geologist", following their trip. A presentation may also be requested by the committee, which will consist of a short, 10-15 minute presentation prior to the monthly seminar.

Applications forms can be scanned and emailed to: secretary@vic.gsa.org.au

or mailed to:

Geology Research Scholarships Victoria
Geological Society of Australia (Victoria Division)
GPO Box 2355
Melbourne VIC 3001

More information including eligibility criteria can be found on the form and by contacting Barbara Wagstaff (wagstaff@unimelb.edu.au)

Something interesting to share? Want to see your name in print?

Don't be bashful, contribute to the GSA(V) monthly newsletter!

If there are any events, happenings, news, or views that would be of interest to the membership, please send your details and information to Matt Bliss at mbliss@student.unimelb.edu.au

We'd be glad to hear from you

FORTHCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

to be presented at
GSA (Victoria Division) meetings

Note: unless otherwise indicated, all 2013 talks will be held in the
Fritz Loewe Theatre, Earth Sciences Building, University of Melbourne.

October 31st

TBA

November 28th

Liz Rogers
*Diving Exploration and Cave Geology
on the Nullabor*

Please welcome our newest members

No new members



Visit the GSAV on www.vic.gsa.org.au or the GSA on www.gsa.org.au
• Renewing your GSA membership is easy - it can now be done online. •

CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TO TAG!

It is member contributions which make
TAG a member magazine – please keep the
contributions coming and assist with informing
all of the membership (not just your Division)
about your activities.

Please send your news to: tag@gsa.org.au

GSA (VICTORIA DIVISION) COMMITTEE

Please address all correspondence to the GSA Victoria Division
GPO Box 2355, Melbourne, VIC, 3001
Internet address: www.vic.gsa.org.au

OFFICE BEARERS

Chair:	David Cantrill	9252 2301 (BH)
Vice-chair:	position vacant	
Secretary:	Adele Seymon	0403 269 462
Treasurer:	Barbara Wagstaff	8344 6537 (BH)

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Susan White	9328 4154
Matthew Bliss	8344 9980 (BH)
Syed Amir Mahmud	9902 4206 (BH)
Estephany Marillo	8344 9980

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Heritage:	Susan White	9328 4154
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Webmaster:	Ken McLean	9905 1120

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Newsletter deadline:

First Friday of the month except Dec & Jan
mbliss@student.unimelb.edu.au

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