

THE VICTORIAN GEOLOGIST

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November 2014

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Victoria Division
General Meeting

Final Meeting of 2014

Thursday 27th November at 6:15 p.m.

Illustrating for Science and Culture

Peter Trusler

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

Talk will be followed by drinks and pizza in the 4th floor tearoom, FREE.

Despite the diversity of his interests in art and science, Peter Trusler will concentrate on a single fossil species from deep time as an example of his involvement in the multi-disciplinary approach of paleontological study. *Rangea* is the type genus of the Rangeomorpha, an extinct clade at the base of the evolutionary tree of large, complex organisms which prospered during the late Neoproterozoic. It represents an iconic Ediacaran taxon but the relatively few specimens previously known, significantly hindered an accurate reconstruction. The discovery and research on more than 100 new specimens of *Rangea* recovered from Farm Aar in southern Namibia since 2006, significantly expands this data set. Unravelling the fortuitous taphonomy and geochemistry that led to the well preserved internal and external features of these specimens allow new interpretations of *Rangea* morphology and lifestyle with significant implications for the understanding of the earliest processes in the evolution of metazoans.

SPEAKER BIO**PETER WILLIAM TRUSLER**

Trusler is a Melbourne freelance artist and is a zoological science graduate from Monash University, Clayton. He holds a special interest in biological illustration and his work in this field is highly regarded internationally and features in numerous popular and scientific publications. These include:

His first - Kloot and McCulloch, (1980), *"Birds of Australian Gardens"*. Rigby, Adelaide. (1980 Whitley Award, Best illustrated Book).

His most recent - Rich, Vickers-Rich and Trusler, (2010), *"The Artist and the Scientists"*. Cambridge University Press, Melbourne.

He has been twice awarded the Lanzendorf Paleo Art Prize by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology; for scientific illustration in 2001 and for two-dimensional art in 2005. Trusler is a foundation member of the Wildlife Art Society of Australasia and his design work has featured on national philatelic issues and coins.

His present involvement in international geological and biological research projects spans the geological record from the Ediacaran through to the Late Pleistocene. His original artwork was featured earlier this year in a joint exhibition from the American Museum of Natural History, San Juan National Science Museum and Monash University, held at the ArtScience Museum in Singapore.

RESEARCH PRIZE OF POTENTIAL INTEREST**David Syme Research Prize**

Call for applications

The prize recognises the best original research in Biology, Physics, Chemistry or Geology produced in Australia during the past two years, ending 31 December 2014. Preference will be given to original work of value to the industrial and commercial interests of Australia. The prize is awarded by the Faculty of Science at the University of Melbourne, but is open to eligible researchers Australia wide.

The value of the 2014 award is approximately \$7,300 and includes a bronze medallion; closing date is Friday 16 January 2015.

The application form and information sheet are available on the Faculty of Science website at: <http://science.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships>.

REPORT ON THE GSA COUNCIL MEETING

I have recently attended the GSA Governing Council (GC) meeting in Sydney.

The GC has been discussing how to build the membership of GSA so that it continues to thrive and support the geoscience community in Australia. An immediate pressing concern is the decline in members and the implications that this has for the society. Currently we have 1991 members, but in order for the society to grow membership needs to be in the order of 2500 or more.

The implications of the decline in numbers mean that we have a budget deficit for this next year, and into the future. While this may sound alarming, the society has significant cash reserves and the deficit amount (if kept at current levels) means we could operate for another 19 years before the reserves are depleted.

GSA Head office have been looking at ways of reducing costs including relocating to cheaper offices, finding cheaper storage space and reducing the amount spent on things like sponsorship. However, the real challenge is for all of us to find ways to increase membership or revenue. We need to better understand why the many student members fail to convert to full members and be able to offer this group good reasons for becoming a full member of the society. Equally we need to look at the services we offer members.

One item the Governing Council is pursuing is a certification process for members to be recognised as Registered Professional Geoscientists with the view that this certification would be accepted as conferring competent person status for JORC and ASX purposes. Certification would also be developed to cover other groups of professional Earth Scientists (e.g. Hydrogeologists).

The governing council is also interested to hear from members about their views on these matters.

David Cantrill

GSAV Committee Chair
GSA Governing Council, Victoria Division Councillor

STUDENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**Geological Society of Australia (Victoria Division) Student Research Scholarships**

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.

**Eligibility**

Applicants must be members of the GSA and enrolled in a full-time degree at a Victorian Tertiary institution and undertaking research in Geology. The scholarship will be awarded to assist with conference travel for honours and postgraduate students, who are presenting (either poster or talk) at the conference.

Honours and postgraduate students that receive this scholarship will be required to submit a report for publication in 'The Victorian Geologist' newsletter following to 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.

Students who have previously received a GSAV research scholarship are not eligible. Scholarships and bursaries from other sources are acceptable.

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 can be found 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 Kieran Iles at kiles@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 2014 talks will be held in the Fritz Loewe Theatre, Earth Sciences Building, University of Melbourne.

November 27th:

Monthly Meeting: Peter Trusler
Illustrating for Science and Culture

February 26th 2015:

Monthly Meeting: First meeting of 2015
TBA

Please welcome our newest members



Visit the GSAV on www.gsavic.org 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
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Newsletter deadline:

First Friday of the month except Dec & Jan
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