

Annual General Meeting

President's Report

The past year has been a busy one for Council in spite, or perhaps because, of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) – not to mention the current issues around the Resources Super Profits Tax (RSPT) and Resource Exploration Rebate (RER).

In addition to the normal day-to-day activities of running the AIG Company we have also been active on a number of new fronts. Some of the key activities Council has undertaken over the past year include:

- Trialling the professional recording and subsequent streaming on our website of Branch presentations.
- Increased representation of the interests of AIG members through targeted media releases and submissions to government on matters such as the emissions trading scheme, flow through shares, economic demonstrated resources and the impact of the GFC on employment in the geoscience industry. Responses to government on the RSPT and RER are currently being prepared.
- A review of the AIG's Articles and Memorandum of Association and Code of Ethics, to ensure consistency and relevance. Part of this review includes evaluating the opportunity to replace our Articles with a Modern Constitution.
- A face-to-face strategic planning workshop that was held on the back of the IAGOD *Giant Ore Deposits Down Under* Symposium in Adelaide. The aims of the workshop were to (i) establish a vision for where the AIG would be in 2015, (ii) identify broad goals which would be consistent with that vision and with our Memorandum of Association, and (iii) identify actions that Council would undertake over the next five years to achieve our vision. The strategic plan is currently being finalised.
- We continued to evaluate, and later based on feedback from members discontinued, merger discussions with the Geological Society of Australia.
- Through our Education Foundation we provided over \$20,000 to 18 students and for the first time were able to expand the bursary scheme to include third year students. We also sponsored one of our student members as an AIG delegate to the International Year of the Planet conference in Lisbon.

It has been pleasing to see that our membership growth has remained high through the recession and that it continues to remain strong. At this stage our long-term growth rate is about 16% per year. Interesting trends are that of all new members, almost half are female. Additionally, there has been an almost exponential increase in applications from non-mining and non-exploration sectors, the most notable being environmental geoscience, engineering geology and hydrogeology.

While the above is all good news, one downside has been a dramatic increase in workloads faced by Council, State Branches and our Secretariat over the past twelve months.

Looking to the future, some of the activities we will be engaged in over the next 12 months include:

- Enhancing our website as a key means of communication between Council and members and for the better delivery of services to members, for example increasing the streaming of AIG workshops, seminars and presentations to make them more widely available to members. We will be making more use of the Member's Area on our website to provide access to information that is unavailable to general site users, for example technical articles, template contracts of employment, AIG reports, training on aspects of geoscience such as handbooks on health and safety, mapping, logging, drilling supervision, etc. In recognising the broadening technical base of our membership we are also considering enhancing the website to include technical specialist groups.
- Upgrading the presentation quality and broaden the technical content of the AIG News to better reflect our membership. We are also considering an e-mail newsletter, to provide more frequent communication with members.
- Increasing our advocacy activities on issues that directly affect our members. In this respect, and also because of the dramatic increasing in workloads experienced by Council and State Branches, we are planning to engage thought our Secretariat some dedicated assistance in developing AIG policy initiatives, promoting the AIG and assisting with enquiries and requests from members on professional issues.
- Promoting the value and increasing the local and international awareness of our RPGeo scheme and strengthen reciprocity with overseas professional organisations to facilitate the movement and ready employment of our members overseas.
- Boosting our support for education at both secondary and tertiary levels to ensure that geoscience remains an attractive career opportunity for students.
- Increasing cooperation with kindred organisations to maximise benefit to our members.

It will be a busy year.

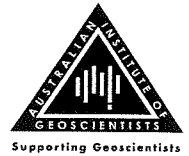
I would like to thank Councillors for their input over the past year. In particular I would like to express my appreciation to retiring Councillors Marcus Harris and Wendy Corbett, and wish them well for the future. Additionally, Council does not operate in a vacuum and there is a permanent ebb and flow of information and activity between Council and ordinary members, on a host of AIG issues. Indeed, so many people have provided valuable contributions to Council's activities over the past year that I am reluctant to name individuals for fear of forgetting someone. It is nevertheless testament to both the calibre of AIG members and the passion they have for their professional organisation that so many of them, Councillors and ordinary members, all of whom have permanent jobs or businesses to run and who are therefore busy people, willingly contribute their time, energy and enthusiasm to the running of the AIG. I would also like to thank our Bursary Program sponsors for their continued support, without which a key goal of the AIG, ensuring that geoscience remains an attractive career option for students, would not be as readily achievable.

With support such as this, I look forward to a happy and highly productive next twelve months for the AIG.

MARTIN ROBINSON

The Australian Institute of Geoscientists

2010 Annual General Meeting



Honorary Treasurer's Report for 2009

Herewith the Treasurer's report to the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists held at Perth, 19th May 2010.

The attached audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2009 record another successful year of operation as a cost effective geoscientists' representative organization.

The full audited accounts are available on the AIG website.

Your Institute finished the year with total Members funds of \$597,812, up \$20,227 from last year's balance, reflecting the year's surplus. Operating expenses for 2009 were \$472,870 compared to \$614,618 in 2008.

I am also happy to report that the Education Foundation received a total of \$15,750 for the distribution of bursaries.

As you will see from the balance sheet result, the Institute is in excellent financial shape, mostly due to our growing membership and the successful events run by the branches.

There were a number of extraordinary expenses that we have incurred this last year, including Merger discussion costs, continued large TESEP payments, redistribution of bursary funds and funding for video capture of branch events of interest to all members (Surviving the Downturn, Plimer debate, Valuation seminar).

Please note that the AIG has followed a very conservative practice of investing all member's funds in term deposits, which although it has limited the upside in recent years, also means that your investments have suffered little from the global financial situation. Furthermore, the AIG Council considers it a prudent and accepted practice for an organisation like the AIG to have at least one year's operating funds in reserve - a position that the AIG has reached in recent years.

The surplus for the year reflects the successful conferences and seminars organised by the hard working volunteer members of the Institute's branches around the country. Administrative costs were kept much the same as the previous year, with some costs such as printing, postage and telephone costs being reduced.

A significant, and continuing, increase in membership numbers has further underpinned your Institute's finances, with total members now numbering over 2000 individuals.

The State-based volunteer AIG Branch committees work hard to bring relevant services to members such as low-cost conferences, seminars and training courses while continuing to represent geoscientists at the local level, attract new members, and raise the profile of geoscience as a career option for secondary students.

At the Federal level, the AIG Council publishes the quarterly AIG News, operates the AIG Bursary scheme and a voluntary registration system for geoscientists, monitors ethical standards, represents geoscientists on national bodies, undertakes lobbying at State and Federal levels and contributes to the development of professional standards such as JORC and VALMIN. Except for AIG head-office and event management services, and an honorarium for the AIG New Editor, all other tangible services are provided free of charge by volunteers.

As a volunteer driven organisation, the AIG has been able to keep costs for events low and freeze membership dues for several years. However, the Council has recently voted to employ assistance to improve our policy and advocacy performance and to provide improved member services. A consequence of this decision has been the need to increase member fees for this first time since 2006. All members fees will rise by \$20 for the 2010-2011 membership year.

The Council of the AIG remains committed to supporting geoscientists who may be suffering unemployment or underemployment. Any Member having trouble paying membership fees is advised to contact their local Councillors to discuss the best solution.

Council has also underwritten the costs of the seminars to keep costs low, despite rising costs, as a service to members. AIG plans to place more video captures of AIG events on the website in future to assist members continuing professional education and increase the availability of the content to all members.

An ongoing area for expenditure in 2010 will be in JORC education, together with support for the JOR committee as it embarks on a further refinement and revision of the Code in 2010. The VALMIN Code is also scheduled for review in 2010 and AIG will be playing a major part in this work.

AIG's usual programme of affordable, relevant conferences will continue. AIG's funding support for educational activities in high schools and universities will continue, in particular AIG's support for TESEP and ESWA, both groups which promote and support the teaching of Earth Science in Secondary Schools. Once again AIG will be participating, with GSA, in the Australian Earth Science Convention in Canberra this year. Likewise the International Geological Convention in 2012 in Brisbane will begin to require significant funding from AIG in coming years.

Graham M. Jeffress

Hon. Treasurer

10th May 2010