

Australian Geoparks Network Newsletter No. 6

December 2022



<https://australiangeoparksnetwork.org>

News about Geoparks, Geotourism, Geotrails and Geoheritage

FROM THE CHAIR



This is our third newsletter for 2022 and as always, lots is happening in the world of geoparks, geotourism, geotrails and geoheritage.

The Australian Geoparks Network held its **Second Annual General Meeting** on 23 November where we reported on considerable progress raising awareness of geoparks with the Commonwealth Government. Our work concentrates on getting **geoparks** back on the Agenda within Government and to this end we have strong links with the Federal Government. Before the change of Government we had established a great rapport with a number of Cabinet Ministers in the Morrison Government. However, in addition, for over a year now we have been conversing with members of the then Shadow Ministry and now Albanese Government Ministers. We also have Tracey Roberts, the Labor Member for Pearce, on our side as she was a huge champion of geoparks when she was the Mayor of the City of Wanneroo and was fully supportive of the City establishing a geopark. She is working for us right in the Government, alongside Dr Anne Aly, another Cabinet Minister and one of my former staff members.

In the New Year the Deputy Chair and I will be seeing the Hon. Patrick Gorman, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister. Wendy and I have already met him face-to-face and he really understands geoparks and wants to take the concept further within Cabinet. Wendy and I also recently spoke face-to-face with Hon. Peter Dutton, Leader of the Opposition, about geoparks who had already been briefed by Hon. Ben Morton, when he was Minister

Assisting the Prime Minister in the former Morrison Government and our local Federal Member.

In Western Australia we have just had a cabinet reshuffle due to the retirement of the Hon. Alannah McTiernan, Minister of Regional Development. You may recall from past newsletters that she has been extremely supportive of the establishment of geoparks in our State. Fortunately for us the new Minister of Regional Development is Hon. Don Punch, formerly CEO of the South West Development Commission and someone I have known for many years. Both Hon. Punch and myself gave eulogies at the Memorial Service held last year for Mark Exeter, Foundation Member of the AGN; Board Member of Geoparks WA; and champion of geoparks throughout Western Australia. In the New Year Alan Briggs and I will be discussing progress on geoparks in WA with the new Minister.

At the AGM we appointed **four new Board Members** each representing one of the four active Aspiring Geoparks in WA. They include a young passionate geologist; an economic advisor for one of the largest cities in Australia; a Shire Councillor and Chair of a Regional Aspiring Geopark; and a former politician who served three terms in the WA Parliament. An update on each of the four geoparks is described in this newsletter. On 26 October **Geoparks WA** held its 5th Annual General Meeting in the City of Perth. It was heartening to see many members present including a number of younger members. In News from around Australia AGN Board Member Mike Cleeland is helping to establish the **Bass Coast Dinosaur Trail**. In this newsletter we feature an article written by Ingrid Huitema, Trail Project Manager, reporting on a recent symposium held about the trail.

The AGN works closely with a number of other organisations in the ‘geo’ space and is widely known for its efforts to collaborate with like minded organisations. For example, for years now some of our Members have contributed to a number of Committees on the **Australian Geoscience Council’s National Geotourism Strategy** with its focus on geotourism and georegion development. We also have been involved with the **Geological Society of Australia’s Geotourism Standing Committee** right from the start with its emphasis on developing geotrails. We refer to a recent article in the GSA’s *The Australian Geologist* Newsletter written by Committee Chair Dave Robson on the Murchison GeoRegion and Aspiring Geopark

Another article in the latest TAG Newsletter is an obituary of the late great geomorphologist **Professor Bernie Joyce**. Compiled by *Susan White OAM* she describes the huge contributions Bernie made to a range of geological themes including geotourism and geoparks. Bernie was a huge supporter of the AGN and hosted one of its early Workshops in 2012.

AGN Board Member **Pat James** contributes two articles. The first is on the **26th Annual Australian Mining History Society Conference** held in Burra, South Australia from 18-25 September. Both he and AGN Board Member Ian Lewis presented papers at the Conference. In his second article Pat reports on a paper he gave at the **Australian Coastal Society Forum** held on the Yorke Peninsula, South Australia.

As always we report the latest information on the progress of the **Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Global Geopark**, New Zealand. The UNESCO Global Geopark Council has recently accepted the Waitaki Whitestone application to become New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark. This recommendation has been put towards the Executive

Board of UNESCO, for its endorsement during the 2023 Spring (European) session in May.

A booklet on **America's Geologic Heritage: An Invitation to Leadership** provides much useful information. It was published in 2015 by the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) and the US National Park Service, Geologic Resources Division. The booklet explores *Five Big Ideas* which are included in this newsletter. All of the ideas are relevant to the work we undertake at the AGN.

Our **Featured Member** is **Bram Collins**, a pioneer of geotourism and one of the keynote speakers at the *Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference* held in Perth in 2008. He is the Chair of Savannah Way and represents it on the Board of Tourism Atherton Tablelands. He is a former Board Member of Tourism Tropical North Queensland and is an Inaugural Board Member of the Australian Geoparks Network. In this edition we feature Bram and the Undara Lava Tubes which Bram's father Gerry turned into a major geological tourist attraction, and one day, hopefully a geopark.

Our **Featured UNESCO Global Geopark** is the **San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark** in western Japan. The geopark hosted the *4th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium* in September 2015 which I participated in in my capacity as a Advisory Committee Member of the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network. This note is supplemented by information from **Dr Kelvin Matthews**, Murchison GeoRegion and Aspiring Geopark, who undertook a fact finding mission to the geopark at the start of Covid in March 2020.

International Geodiversity Day is held on 6 October each year by UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network as a worldwide celebration, bringing people together to promote the many aspects of geodiversity. Our note here makes reference to a 27 page brochure on *Geodiversity in UNESCO Global Geoparks*.

Our **UNESCO Global Geoparks Update** reports on the recent nomination of seven new global geoparks for their endorsement during the 2023 Spring session of the Executive Board of UNESCO. If approved this will take the number of UNESCO Global Geoparks from 177 to 184 in 48 countries. We also note the work of the **UNESCO Global Geoparks Council** which is responsible for assessing revalidated and new UNESCO Global Geopark nominations. The Council has a key advisory role to the Director-General of UNESCO on the strategy, planning and implementation of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

In our **Conferences Section**, special AGN Envoy Professor David Newsome reports on the **7th Asia Pacific Geoparks Symposium** held at Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand from 4-11 September 2022. He notes that the APGN were pleased to see a representative from the AGN at the Conference to update them on geopark progress in Australia.

We further highlight the **10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks** being held in Marrakesh, Morocco in September 2023. It is the first Arab and African country to host such event. We note that Marrakesh has just been named as the second best place (out of 23) to travel to in 2023 by the US business magazine *Forbes*. In the **Papers and Reports** section we highlight the book **You Say Geotourism, I Say Tourism**

Geology written by Yudi Satria Purnama, a geologist from Jakarta, Indonesia. It presents geotourism from his own unique stance and makes an interesting read.

Finally we salute some of the **Australian Pioneers and Leaders of Geoparks**, all of whom have either contributed to, are contributing to, our understanding of, advocacy for, and establishment of geoparks, both here and around the world.

In summary, there is much happening in the world of geoparks and this is reflected in Australia. The AGN encourages members and anyone else interested to keep in touch with us so we can advocate on your behalf to promote geoparks and their benefits in your region. We love geoparks!



Professor Ross Dowling AM
Chair, Australian Geoparks
Network
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LATEST NEWS

AGN Board Update



AGN Board Members meeting in Perth. Left: Wendy Dowling (Secretary), Ross Dowling (Chair), Alan Briggs (Deputy Chair) and Mark Asendorf (Board Member)

Four New Board Members Appointed at AGM

At our Annual General Meeting held on 23 November, the Board unanimously approved the addition of four new members. All are either leaders or representatives of Aspiring Geoparks in Western Australia. They include:

Caroline Buck - is a Founding Member and key driver of the Wanneroo – Joondalup Aspiring Geopark Committee. She is the Economic Development Advisor for the City of Wanneroo (<https://www.wanneroo.wa.gov.au>). Caroline is also the Manager of the *Discover Wanneroo* brand, website and social media; and a Member of the Yanchep Two Rocks Tourism Network Group.

Wendy Duncan - is the Inaugural Secretary of the Nannup WA Geopark Association Inc. She is the former Member for Kalgoorlie who served three terms in the WA State Parliament (2008 – 2017) holding numerous positions including Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development and the Minister for Lands (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wendy_Duncan). Wendy is Patron of a number of organisations including the WA School of Mines in Kalgoorlie and she was the Foundation CEO of the Southern Forests and Valleys Tourism Association (2019 - 2021).

Sebastian (Base) Jones - is Chair of the Binjareb-Peel Aspiring Geopark Working Group and a Board Member of Geoparks Western Australia. He is an Exploration Geologist and Hydrogeologist and Co-Founder of Salt & Bush Ecotours (<https://saltandbush.com.au>). Base travels the world with his wife Jamie working as Expedition Leaders on the French Cruise Line Ponant.

Karen Morrissey OAM - is Chair of the Murchison GeoRegion and Aspiring UNESCO Geopark, Western Australia (<http://www.murchisongeoregion.com>). Karen is a Councillor of the Shire of Mount Magnet (<https://mtmagnet.wa.gov.au>). She is a Councillor Representative on their Geotourism Project; the Founder and Immediate Past Co-ordinator of the Mount Magnet Astro Rocks Fest (<https://astrorocks-mtmagnet.com.au>); and an Ambassador of the WA Parks Foundation (<https://www.ourwaparks.org.au>).



Caroline Buck, Wendy Duncan, Base Jones & Karen Morrissey OAM

ASPIRING GEOPARKS

The Murchison GeoRegion & Aspiring Geopark, Western Australia

As usual there is lots happening in Western Australia Karen Morrissey OAM, Chair of the Murchison GeoRegion & Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark Project Working Group is a pioneer of geotourism in Australia having sought to have a georegion in her region since 2009. Here she updates what is happening in 2022.

The CEO's of the seven Murchison Shires have supported the Murchison GeoRegion (MGR) becoming an independent organisation. An Incorporated Association governance model adopted with funding to be continued to support the transition from the Project Working Group. The Murchison GeoRegion is currently developing a Marketing and Communication Plan and progress is being made with its and its GeoSite Management Plan.

The MGR is currently consolidating its management structure. Thus it is putting in place the necessary aspects of governance & planning and is also locking in avenues for strong community and stakeholder engagement and consultation.

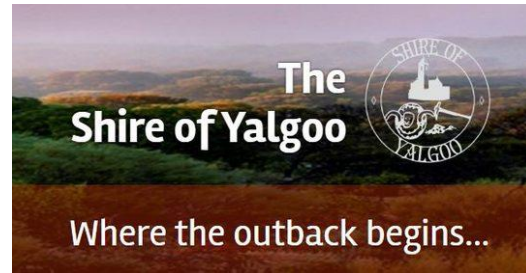
Karen reports that with the strengthened foundation and the seven Shires and respective towns and settlement already benefitting from the established geotrail – the Murchison GeoRegion is well placed to not only establish its first Geopark but also having simultaneously fulfilled requirements for a UNESCO Global Geopark.

To this end an employment model is currently being worked so they can advertise for and appoint a Project Manager. This will place the Murchison GeoRegion and Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark in an exciting position moving forward into 2023.

The Murchison GeoRegion and Aspiring Geopark's *Trail Guidebook* includes 21 Geosites, the six towns and one settlement in the Region, as well as the 'Top Things to See and Do'. This has made the booklet more visitor friendly with all relevant information in the one publication. Published in hard copy format and available at Visitor Centres, the Trail Guidebook, map and free App are also available on www.murchisongeoregion.com

Karen Grima, Senior Regional Development Officer, Mid West Development Commission, reports that the 'new' and updated website for the Murchison GeoRegion is now live, as at 20 December (www.murchisongeoregion.com). This is great news!

Shire of Yalgoo



Tom Gorman, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Yalgoo, one of the seven shires in the GeoRegion, reports “The Yalgoo Shire is looking at applying the Murchison GeoRegion themes. We see the GeoRegion as a great way to identify our region in the minds of visitors across Australia and overseas. Our shire has a very diverse range of flora and fauna, epic landscapes and human experiences that tell a wonderful story that stretches over the millennia to the current day.

We see that there is great benefit from identifying additional attractions; and then creating great on-site / online resources for those locations. This would include great displays and signage as well, to assist visitors to better understand what makes our Shire something very special. We look forward to visitors learning about our shire, as a direct result of applying from lesson from Murchison Geo Region”

Binjareb-Peel Aspiring Geopark, Western Australia



The Peel Aspiring Geopark has been gaining momentum locally under the leadership of Sebastian (Base) Jones, a geologist and co-owner of Salt and Bush Eco Tours (<https://saltandbush.com.au/>). Working together with his wife Jamie, recently awarded the Best Tour Guide in Australia, they are hard working, passionate advocates of the natural and cultural environment and are committed to establishing a geopark in the Peel Region. In the last AGN Newsletter we shared an article about the establishment of the geopark which was printed in the ‘Peel’, the Peel Development Commission’s Newsletter (Vol. 8.1 Autumn / Winter, 2022).

The Working Group has established a preliminary boundary and potential sites for the geopark covering key geological features as well as key biotic and cultural sites. It has also been actively engaging with local stakeholders to build a baseline of support for the proposed geopark including working with the local indigenous Bindjareb community, seeking their advice regarding the narrative they would like to share through the Aspiring Geopark on Bindjareb country.

Over the past month the Geopark Group has secured a \$26,500 grant from the Peel Development Commission to establish a Drive Geotrail within the proposed park. The funding was secured through the work of Dr Alan Briggs, President of Geoparks WA, with support from Wendy Muir, Principal Regional Development Officer, Peel Development Commission. The grant will assist the Working Group to design, develop and deliver the drive geotrail within the local government areas of Mandurah, Murray, and Waroona. It will provide an additional tourism attractions for the region and be based around 15 geosites. The grant will assist with costs associated with developing the geotrail logo, map and signs.

The Group has also been successful in securing support from the McCusker Centre for Citizenship Placement to engage a student from the University of Western Australia to undertake an internship to conduct research for the selected geosites along the geotrail. This Summer project for the Intern has already yielded excellent indicators for the geodrive with a number of geosites identified and background geology gathered from researchers and published papers. The information for each geosites will be discussed with GSWA before preparing geosites descriptors. QR coding will enable geotourism to access additional information and podcasts from our Australian Geoparks Network website.

Nannup Aspiring Geopark, Western Australia

The Nannup WA Geopark Association is now established as an Incorporated body, has drawn up a logo, and recently held its first Annual General Meeting. The Association is led by Mark White, a passionate, enthusiastic and knowledgeable local businessman who since first hearing about the concept of geoparks has the desire to establish a geopark in his community. He has built around him a team of enthusiastic people with superb local knowledge. A number of members are highly qualified academically with each individual bringing their own discipline knowledge to the project. These include four geologists, an ecologist, and anthropologist, a geographer, architect, cultural expert, horticulturalist, a former politician, and a businessman.

On 24 November the Group presented its vision to the local Shire Council in a well put together power-point presentation which outlined the Geopark Concept, and the reasons for establishing a geopark in the region. The geopark is working on being one of the world's first digital geoparks based around a Geopark App and Website. The App will focus on interpretation of the geopark's attractions and activities which the website will provide educational material and be a research hub.

The Group has trialled a geotrail through the area and identified a number of other trails for incorporation into the geopark and in addition has the support of the Wadandi Cultural Custodian, Josh Whiteland from Koomal Dreaming Cultural Experiences.



**NANNUP WA
GEOPARK**

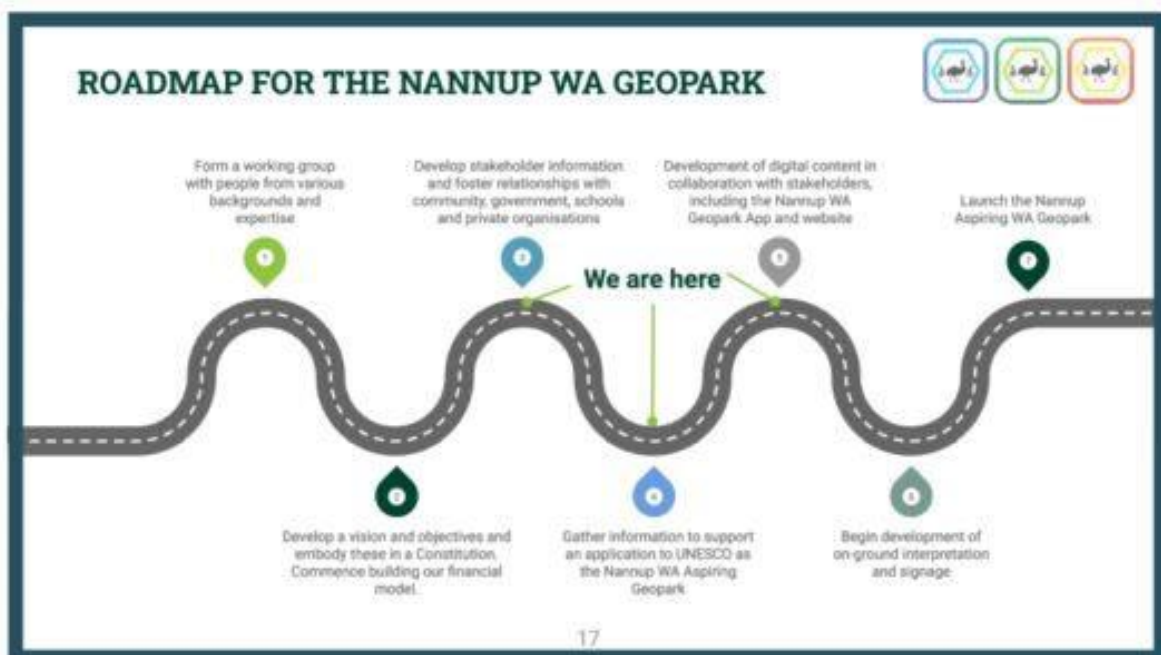


**NANNUP WA
GEOPARK**



**NANNUP WA
GEOPARK**

*Nannup Geopark has three logos each being designed to be used as an app icon. Each logo is designed to be applied to different areas within the geopark depending on the subject at the point or page of information. The logos are based on the Abiotic, Biotic and Cultural (ABC) elements of the Nannup environment and geopark. The outer ring on the logo represents the Nannup Shire boundary. The Blue Logo (left) represents the **Abiotic** elements of the geopark. This colour was chosen as it represents the sky and water (weather). The hexagon shape represents the basalt columns. The Green Logo (Centre) represents the **Biotic** aspects of the geopark. The colour is obvious as it represents the plants. The Eucalyptus represents the plants (flora) and the ancient bird the emu represents the animals (fauna). The Yellow & Orange Logo (Right) are earthy colours representing the Indigenous **Cultural** aspects both past and present. The eucalyptus leaf also represents the present Culture around the timber industry.*



Wanneroo - Joondalup Aspiring Geopark, Western Australia

Representatives from the City of Wanneroo, City of Joondalup and Department of Biodiversity, Conservations & Attractions (DBCA) met with Professor Ross Dowling and Dr Alan Briggs during 2022 to continue to evaluate the opportunities associated with working towards becoming an aspiring geopark. This work has included understanding the geopark concept, identifying the assets and features which would meet the ABC criteria and exploring how this could drive tourism across the region in the future. A high level map has been created which quantifies the experiences, shows where they are located and clarifies how, when combined, these could become a marketable drawcard for the region. A project context and purpose document has been created and will be used to share amongst collaboration partners to discuss and agree next steps.

GEOPARKS WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Geoparks Western Australia held its 5th Annual General Meeting on 26 October 2022. It was a very well-attended meeting in the City of Perth Library where Dr Alan Briggs was re-elected as President, Professor Ross Dowling AM was re-elected Vice President and Tracy Shea as Secretary/Treasurer. A strong board of six members was also elected. Apart from working with the four Aspiring Geoparks in WA, Geoparks WA works closely with the Geological Survey of Western Australia, through its State Geotourism Development Committee, and the Geological Society of Australia (WA) through the establishment of geotrails. In addition it continues to inform local, regional and state government of the benefits of geoparks. For further information see the Geoparks WA Newsletter *Reflections* (December 2022).

(<https://australiangeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Geoparks-WA-Reflections-Dec-2022-1.pdf>)



Left to Right: Mark Delane, Lisa Hindmarsh, Tracy Shea, Wendy Dowling, Ross Dowling, Alan Briggs, Sebastian Jones, Jamie Van Jones, David Newsome

Bass Coast Dinosaur Trail, Inverloch, Victoria

AGN Board Member **Mike Cleeland** is helping to establish the Bass Coast Dinosaur Trail. In this article **Ingrid Huitema**, Trail Project Manager, reports on a recent symposium held about the trail.

The Dinosaurs Trail symposium was organised by Bass Coast Shire Council and included representatives Parks Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, representatives from regional tourism organisations and members of the Bass Coast Arts and Culture Advisory Committee. Two of the world's leading palaeontologists along with scientific researchers and educators have gathered to discuss the importance of the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail in Inverloch. (Photo courtesy of Ingrid Huitema).



Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Michael Whelan said the focus of the symposium was to articulate how this Dinosaurs Trail project can showcase the significance of the region, drive the visitor economy and support liveability. “There is a groundswell of excitement building around the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail project and Council is excited to be driving this incredible initiative forward,” Cr Whelan said.” “I am personally very excited. It is a true legacy project for Council to be at the forefront of creating a world class tourism experience that celebrates the work of scientists, volunteers and the international significance of polar dinosaurs to the Australian Continent. This project brings an incredible connection to our natural world; it talks to us about why the world is so precious and of course it provides some learning for us.”

World-renowned palaeontologists, Pat Vickers-Rich and Tom Rich, researcher Lesley Kool and educator Mike Cleeland, who are the namesakes of Victoria’s fossil emblem *Koolasuchus cleelandi*, spoke to the 60 strong crowd about the significance of polar dinosaurs in the region.

The State Government this year backed the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail with a \$500,000 funding boost, through the Investment Fast Track Fund, to accelerate the project which will attract thousands of extra visitors and inject millions into the local economy. This unique experience will include six creative art sites from San Remo via Wonthaggi to Inverloch, and a Cultural Discovery Centre in Inverloch. Together, these separate, but interconnected experiences will link science, education and creative arts to provide a visitor experience of epic proportions.

Bass Coast Shire Council last year purchased land in Wonthaggi for \$1.2 million to create an interactive sound and light ‘Gondwana Garden’. Once developed it will feature sculptural forms and prehistoric planting. The gardens will showcase unique vegetation from 125 million years ago and the landscape in which polar dinosaurs once inhabited.

Photo courtesy of Ingrid Huitema.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA



Geological Society
of Australia

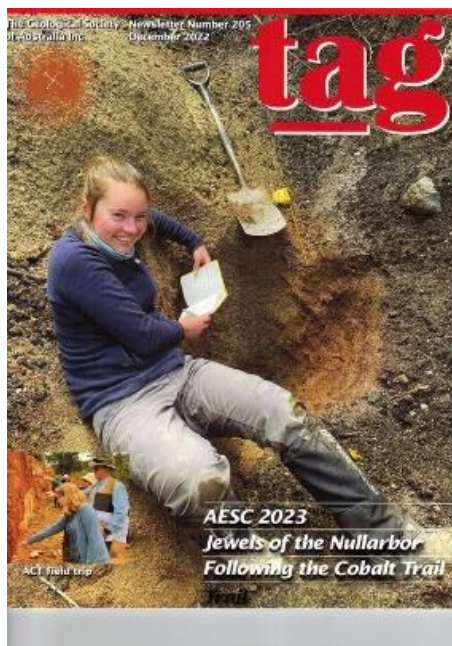
The Geological Society of Australia (GSA) is the preeminent organisation advancing and promoting Earth Sciences.

<https://www.gsa.org.au>

The Society was established as a non-profit organisation in 1952 to promote, advance and support Earth Sciences in Australia. Its *Vision* is that Earth Science is a driver for a better world and its *Mission* is to promote and advance Earth Science. One of its main specialist groups is **Geotourism** which it defines as ‘a form of tourism that specifically focuses on the geology and landscapes which shape the character of a region’. Like the Australian Geoparks Network the GSA also promotes the development of **Geotrails** and **Geoparks**.

The **GSA's Geotourism Standing Committee** is chaired by geologist and geotourism leader **Dave Robson**. Right from the start of this Committee the AGN has been involved in it with Committee Members including AGN Board Members Alan Briggs, Ross Dowling, Ian Lewis and Monica Yeung. This close collaboration has been very fruitful in the exchange of ideas and information and is a positive relationship highly valued by the AGN.

The Society produces a quarterly newsletter, *The Australian Geologist (TAG)*, which covers topics related to the above. In the latest issue (Newsletter 205, December 2022), Dave Robson has written a five page article on The Murchison GeoRegion describing all 21 sites on its drive geotrail.



The Front Cover of the latest edition of TAG and the first page of Dave Robson's excellent article on the Murchison GeoRegion.

Vale Professor Bernie Joyce (1934 - 2022)

Another article in the latest TAG Newsletter is an obituary of the late great geomorphologist **Professor Bernie Joyce**. Compiled by *Susan White OAM* she describes the huge contributions Bernie made to a range of geological themes including geotourism and geoparks.

A decade and a half ago Bernie wrote an article for TAG entitled *Geotourism, geosites and geoparks - working together in Australia* (September 2007, pp26-29). He also prepared the geological information required for the application by Kanawinka to become a Global Geopark and at a Ceremony at the *Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference* in

Perth in 2008 when Patrick McKeever presented a Commemorative Plate to Director Joane McKnight, Bernie was there standing alongside Joane to accept the Plate.

He also made a number of contributions to the early years of the Australian Geoparks Network. These included his support of the AGN at the *Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference* in Perth, Western Australia (2008); his contribution to the AGN's Two Day Workshop on *Geoparks: The Way Forward for Australia* at Warrnambool, Victoria (2010); and his hosting of the AGN Workshop on *Geoparks* held at the School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne, Victoria (2012). Whilst a recognised pioneer in Australian geoheritage the AGN also salutes Bernie's contributions to the establishment of geoparks in Australia.



Left: Bernie Joyce, Joane McKnight and Grant Humphries accepting the Commemorative Plate from Dr Patrick McKeever (UNESCO) (2nd from right) to celebrate the park becoming the 57th Global Geopark. [Photo taken at the Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference, Perth, Western Australian (2008)].

Right: Bernie Joyce (left) and Ian Lewis (right) holding up a Kanawinka Geopark banner at the AGN Workshop hosted by Bernie at the School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne, Victoria (2012).

THE 26TH ANNUAL AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Australian Geopark Board members **Pat James** and **Ian Lewis** attended the *26th Australian Mining History Conference* held in Burra, South Australia from 18-25 September. The conference was attended by 50-60 participants and contributors from around Australasia and more than 30 papers were presented over 3 days with these sessions interspersed with single day field excursions to Burra and Kapunda and a final weekend visit to the old mining and processing sites around Moonta, Kadina and Wallaroo in the Copper Coast Council area.



Above: Conference participants in Burra Town Hall at the conference opening with Peter Bell

Many of the presentations related to technical regional and local geology backgrounds, historical mine sites, quarry & mine workings, mining equipment and mine workers and their cultural origins for these Australian mine-workings. Thus, many of the talks engaged with concepts and implications about how such sites are preserved, conserved, protected, interpreted and eventually visited by (geo) tourists. Thus, the conference was of significant and direct interest to the potential for Australian geotourism and geoparks.

The conference began with talks by conference convenors Peter Bell and then Ross Both about the copper mining history of Australia's once largest copper mining operation, from its discovery in 1844 until its eventual cessation in 1981 – almost 140 years of mining in the area. The subsequent history of the mine site included restoration of the famous Morphet's Enginehouse for use as a mining museum in 1986 and National Heritage listing as an "Australian Cornish Mining Site".

Darren Peacock, CEO of the SA National Trust then gave a keynote address outlining the progress towards development of an application for World Heritage status listing jointly for the Burra and nearby Moonta Mines on Yorke Peninsula. The Moonta Mines closed in 1923 and thus the forthcoming centenary of this event is being used with the aid of multimillion dollar Commonwealth support to significantly upgrade Moonta's Hughes' Pump House. This together with previous investment in Burra infrastructure and interpretation will provided important site protection, management & conservation to allow both of these sites jointly & separately to recognize their important mining, industrial and cultural landscapes as potentially key assets for both local communities and for tourists.

Of significant interest to the Australian Geoparks Network, a following full afternoon session at the conference was given over to the celebration of mining history and heritage by the promotion of Geotourism. Angus Robinson, coordinator of the AGC's recently launched *National Geotourism Strategy* highlighted Goal 5 (of the 7 strategic Goals) which aims to "develop geotourism in regional mining communities with potential geoheritage and cultural heritage sites". Angus further promoted the development of geotrails and geoparks to raise the importance of an area's geological heritage in society and indicated the importance of **collaboration** between member professional societies and organisations researching mining and resource industry heritage.

The participants were treated to a tour of the National Trusts Burra Mining Heritage site on the second day of the conference. Unfortunately, the organisers were unable to predict or appease the weather gods so the outside stops overlooking the open cut workings, tailings heaps and scenic views were somewhat overshadowed by grey skies, cold winds and eventually dismal drizzle. Much signage, trail maps and interpretation signs were hastily viewed, occasionally from inside the bus and vehicles. However, the inside of the magnificently restored Morphet's Enginehouse provided an Aladdin's cave of highly interesting and informative panels, restored equipment and a marvelous working model of the enginehouse in full light & motion. As a part detractor, the need to purchase a key (in Burra) for the site and some buildings as part of a self-guided tour, the lack of more modern audio-visual technologies and the somewhat turgid and dated written material led to suggest that a 21st century make-over would improve the visitors' perception of this critical site.

As the AMHA conference proceeded during the week, we were treated to a colourful array of mining ventures, mining personalities and epic efforts. Understandably, papers presented showed a preponderance of South Australian themes, mostly of the 19th century. Each State has its prominent mineral underpinning its mining heritage – gold in Victoria and Western Australia, coal and opals in New South Wales, an assortment of metals and minerals in Queensland and Tasmania. However, the main spotlight in South Australia was the discovery of copper, copper, copper.

Papers at the conference focused on the three historical centres of copper of Burra, Kapunda and Moonta-Wallaroo. Copper was originally extracted by hand in tiny arduous rock scrapes but the abundance led to the development of multi-pits and eventual underground tunnelling. This brought with it the introduction of machinery – overhead winding gear and massive pumphouses. Papers demonstrated that the copper discoveries in the Burra region of South Australia were at the time the largest mining operation of their kind on the continent as the international demand for copper was rapidly rising with the development of copper cable technology for telegraphic communications across seaways.

This led to the migration of Cornish miners to Burra, Kapunda and Moonta-Wallaroo where large towns developed. Papers described major investors with political connections building a colony: South Australia was economically struggling and the Burra copper industry and associated demand saved the Colony from bankruptcy. Papers also referred to the arduous conditions endured by the workers, so often forgotten in the flush of describing grand mining histories.

The mid conference field trip to the Kapunda Mine site revealed a large outstanding area with remnants of pits, processing buildings, chimney stacks and flues, all very well explained with interpretive signs. It is a wonder and a concern that this excellent and well-maintained historical site is not a partner with Burra and Moonta in a proposed World Heritage Bid for the Copper region based around its importance to the fledgling State. Perhaps Kapunda will be included in time – it deserves to be. The field day ended with a demonstration of a very modern system monitoring and assessing underground water, leaching and concentrating copper down-gradient from the old historical Kapunda workings further uphill, potentially yielding accumulated concentrates capable of modern-day recovery.

Papers on other mining activities across Australia included the gold mines of Bendigo, several mines in Tasmania with the herculean conditions of striving in the thick, drenched temperate rainforests – such a contrast to the drylands of Burra – and various ventures in other States. A segment of the conference was devoted to Researching and Writing Mining History with presentations on archival sources, government publications and various approaches to the hard work of writing. Finally, a review of the vast copper resources currently being worked at the Roxby Downs/Olympic Dam Mine – an inland lode directly associated with the early discoveries at Moonta-Wallaroo as part of the Gawler Craton edge zone - and an outstanding Blinman Historic Mine tour in the Flinders Ranges World Heritage nomination area brought the audience up to date on copper’s role in South Australia today. All this prepared us for a weekend field trip to the Moonta-Wallaroo copper mining historical complex, a National Heritage Area (as is Burra) with intentions in the future to nominate for World Heritage. They will have to get a move-on as the Victorian Goldfields have a head start along that pathway already.

The Copper Coast weekend began with a tour of the Moonta Mines National Trust mining heritage site including the partly refurbished Hughes Enginehouse. National Trust Operations Manager Glenys Blacker and a number of volunteer helpers provided background to the restoration work, scenery of original mining sites, trail development around the tailings and finally a fabulous model train ride (1 hour long) through the heritage area. The weather had fortunately improved!!!



Glenys Blacker & volunteer describe details of the restoration project and tailings boardwalk

The tour finished in the Moonta Mines Museum, which as well as being very busy with visitors including many children, provided room after room of fascinating mining and “Cornish” social history & heritage. This museum was a gem and the added storytelling by volunteer guides and assistants provided a wealth of geological and non-geological stories and tales.

The final field day of the conference took us to Wallaroo, via a back street tour of Kadina’s mostly abandoned, over-run and fenced off historic mining sites and hamlets (New Cornwall Mine, Devon Mine, Wallaroo Mine, Kurilla Mine, Matta Mine, Wandilta Mine, Jericho & Jerusalem townships) etc. It is unlikely that any of these historic sites will ever

be included in significant geotourism or geoheritage development, given the scale of housing development which seems to be occurring in this town.

Likewise, Wallaroo is a hive of urbanisation and development due to its coastal location, its growing population and its key location as a gateway to the Eyre Peninsula via the Spencer Gulf Searoad ferry. This is thus an opportunity for geoheritage with its major smelting history, but also a challenge given the obvious signs of housing growth. The participants visited the “Smelting Geotrail” and park along Wallaroo foreshore which was fascinating, but not significantly interpreted with signage or wayfinding and appeared to be rapidly being over-shadowed by fences and new-build townhouses of “Wallaroo Shores” development site. Maybe another opportunity for including major geoheritage within a community, which might eventually disappear. Hopefully not!



Derelict signage and fenced geoheritage with adjacent ‘Wallaroo Shores’ urban development

Geotourism Celebrates Yorke Peninsula’s Remarkable Geoheritage, South Australia

Patrick James presented a paper at the *Australian Coastal Society Forum* on the Yorke Peninsula, South Australia where he made the case for geotourism development in the area. His report follows.

Spectacularly displayed coastal landscapes of the Yorke Peninsula (YP) include its cliffs, rocky shore platforms and beaches. They reveal an incredible variety of geological and geomorphological Abiotic features on which the Biota (animals & plants) and Cultural

aspects (mines and aquaculture) depend. The rocks and sediments range from some of the oldest and most complex continental rocks in Australia (eg ancient mountain roots and volcanoes of Port Victoria), whilst more modern superficial deposits document the more recent (last million years), dramatic climate changes (eg Balgowan and Cape Spencer aeolianite cliffs). This significant geoh heritage has been recognised by 21 formally catalogued Geological Society of Australia (GSA) “Geoh heritage Sites”, ranged along all sections of the coast. Of note, this coast is also now all readily accessible via the (~ 500km) Walk the Yorke trail.

Around the world significant areas of similar coastal geoh heritage have been recognised, documented, interpreted for “nature-based (geo)tourists” within UNESCO Global Geoparks. From the majestic Cliffs of Moher and Burren’s Flaggy shores along the Galway Coast (midway along the Wild Atlantic Way) to the Discovery, Stonehammer and Cliffs of Fundy coastal geoparks of eastern Canada – these iconic coasts are displayed by signage, paper and digital guides and on web pages at geosites, along geotrails and in visitor centres for large and growing numbers of geotourists who visit them.

Along with the YP geoh heritage site reports, there are already field guidebooks, interpretation signs, geotrail guides and maps. These should and could be enlarged upon and proliferated via an integrated plan to mirror such offerings within other “geoparks” and like the geologically-based World Heritage bid for the Flinders Ranges, similar development by interested organisations and Councils should be able to provide a Sustainable Coastal Future for the Yorke Peninsula Coast.



Coastal landscapes with rugged cliffs and sandy beaches provide the backdrop of Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND



Waitaki Whitestone has achieved this year. They were able to showcase their aspiring Geopark to UNESCO evaluators Nickolas Zouros and Anchel Belmonte Ribas in July. This evaluation mission was followed by a positive report to, and recommendation by, the UNESCO Global Geopark Council to accept the Waitaki Whitestone application to become New Zealand’s first UNESCO Global Geopark. This recommendation has been

put towards the Executive Board of UNESCO, for its endorsement during the 2023 Spring (European) session in May. Other highlights for the Aspiring Geopark during 2022 include:

- The installation of 17 new Geopark storyboards across the district,
- A guided walk at Devil's Bridge Wetland for World Wetlands Day,
- OceanaGold's continued sponsorship,
- The exhibition and education programme of *Earth: Caught in Stone* at the Forrester Gallery,
- The launch of our Business & Community Ambassador Programme.

The Geopark puts out a great monthly newsletter which can be accessed through the website (<https://www.whitestonegeopark.nz>).



Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Manager Lisa Heinz at the 7th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium held at Satun UNESCO Global Geopark Thailand from 4-11 September 2022.

AMERICA'S GEOLOGIC HERITAGE

One of the best booklets I have seen on geoheritage is *America's Geologic Heritage: An Invitation to Leadership*, published in 2015 by the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) and the US National Park Service, Geologic Resources Division.

AGI was founded in 1948, under a directive of the National Academy of Sciences, as a network of associations representing geoscientists with a diverse array of skills and knowledge of our planet (<https://www.americangeosciences.org>). The Institute provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in our profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to

increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resilience to natural hazards, and the health of the environment.

The booklet on Geologic Heritage explores five big ideas. They are all relevant to the work we undertake at the AGN. The five ideas are:

1. Geologic landscape is an integral part of our history and cultural identity which is worthy of exploring and preserving
2. Geologic heritage is diverse and extensive and is shaped by geologic processes over billions of years
3. It holds abundant values - aesthetic, artistic, cultural, ecological, economic, educational, recreational and scientific
4. It benefits from conservation
5. It engages communities and our involvement will ensure its conservation for future generations.

The booklet puts all things geology in a simple easy to read format. It is supported by lots of photos and includes a host of references and websites for further investigation. I found it fascinating.



AMERICA'S GEOLOGIC HERITAGE

AMERICA'S GEOLOGIC HERITAGE
An Invitation to Leadership

Five Big Ideas of America's geologic heritage are explored in this publication:

- America's geologic landscape is an integral part of our history and cultural identity, and we have a proud tradition of exploring and preserving our geologic heritage;
- America's geologic heritage, as shaped by geologic processes over billions of years, is diverse and extensive;
- America's geologic heritage holds abundant values—aesthetic, artistic, cultural, ecological, economic, educational, recreational, and scientific—for all Americans;
- America's geologic heritage benefits from established conservation methods developed around the world and within the United States; and
- America's geologic heritage engages many communities, and your involvement will ensure its conservation for future generations.

FEATURED MEMBER - BRAM COLLINS

Each newsletter we feature one of our members starting with those on the Board. In this edition we feature **Bram Collins**, whose family are pastoralists in north Queensland. The cattle station includes the Undara Lava Tubes which Bram's father Gerry turned into a major tourist attraction. Bram further developed the attraction and saw the potential for creating a geopark in the region. Bram is a pioneer of geotourism and was one of the keynote speakers at the *Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference* held in Perth in 2008. He is the Chair of Savannah Way Ltd and represents the Savannah Way on the Board of Tourism Atherton Tablelands. He is a former Board Member of Tourism Tropical North Queensland and is an Inaugural Board Member of the Australian Geoparks Network.

Bram Collins attended Marcus Oldham Farm Management College in Geelong, Victoria in 1988/1990 and received a Diploma in Farm Business Management. At the time, Bram's family had cattle stations in Far North Queensland and were the first white settlers in the Mount Surprise region inland from Cairns, in 1862. The original cattle station, Spring Creek, is still in the family today and Bram's sister Nicola and husband Perry Fox run a commercial Droughtmaster herd and is currently crossbreeding with Wagyu bulls with the progeny being fattened on the Atherton Tablelands.



Left: *Bram Collins with Wendy & Ross Dowling at the Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference held in Perth in 2008. Bram was one of the keynote speakers.* Right: *Bram as he is today.*

Rosella Plains was a 130,000-hectare cattle property next door to Spring Creek which the Collins family acquired in 1899 and it was here that Bram grew up. Rosella Plains had an unusual and very interesting system of underground caves on the northern end of the property which by the late 1980s had been identified as one of the oldest and best preserved lava tube systems on Earth. The Undara Lava Tubes were formed some 190,000 years ago when a major volcano in the McBride volcanic province erupted, its molten lava flowing down dry river beds. As the top layer quickly cooled and crusted, the fiery magma below continued to flow through the tubes taking it further and further from the volcano.

As the eruption slowed and then stopped, the lava drained out of the tubes leaving a series of long, hollow tunnels. Ancient roof collapses created deep, dark and moist depressions where fertile pockets of rainforest can now be seen surviving amongst the open Savannah woodlands. The word Undara means 'a long way' in Aboriginal language. One of the lava flows from Undara extends over 160 kilometres making it one of the longest lava flows from a single volcano on Earth in modern geological time. The original tube formed by the flow extended for approximately 100 km, and several sections are accessible. So significant are the Undara Lava Tubes that in 1992 the Qld Government declared them and most of what was Rosella Plains, the Undara Volcanic National Park.

Bram's father Gerry Collins recognised the tourism potential and set about designing a tourism facility from which tours to the Undara Lava Tubes could be conducted. In an effort to give people a natural bush experience, Gerry designed a facility with minimal

impact on the surrounding bushland. He found a number of old Queensland Railway carriages which he purchased, had them restored and transported to the site. They were offloaded and because of their long thin shape, easily fitted between the trees. Today 23 railway carriages have found a home at Undara and make up much of the accommodation as well as a saloon car and dining cars. The railway carriages have been so beautifully restored that in 2003 Undara Experience won an Australian Tourism award for Unique Accommodation.

When the Undara Experience opened in 1990 the Collins family recognised the importance of engaging the local community and giving back opportunities such as employment and training. At the same time a local organisation called Savannah Guides was gaining momentum in the area. Undara immediately got involved as it had all the same ideals. Savannah Guides has grown and developed and is now a non-profit network of professional tour guides and tourism operators with a collective in-depth knowledge of the tropical savannahs of northern Australia.

The organisation fosters ecologically sustainable interpretive tourism. Savannah Guides' members must demonstrate a commitment to conservation values, meet strict standards of operation and abide by professional codes of conduct to achieve accreditation. The Savannah Guides are experts in the conservation of this region and are committed to passing on this knowledge to others, along with the interpretation and effective management of the natural and cultural assets of northern Australia.

Bram served for nine years on the board of Savannah Guides, serving as the secretary for three years and as President for three years during that time. During this time Savannah Guides experienced unparalleled growth culminating in winning a Queensland Tourism award for Private Sector Industry Training & being named global winner of a British Airways 'Tourism for Tomorrow' award for Tourism Organisations.

Today Undara Experience is one of the iconic Outback tourism experiences in North Queensland with approximately 40,000 people per year visiting the lava tubes. Bram has served on many Tourism boards including Tourism Tropical North Queensland and Tourism Atherton Tablelands as the Outback Director and is currently the Chairman of Savannah Way, the Northern Australian Adventure Drive from Cairns to Broome via Katherine. In 2017, Bram was recognized for his Outstanding Contribution to Tourism by an individual at the Tropical North Queensland Tourism Awards. His time is split between his various tourism roles and a motivational speaking business he formed in 1999.

Recognising the alarmingly high rate of youth suicide in Australia, Bram and close friend Trevor Tim decided to make a positive contribution to the young people of today. They created a company called Success with Attitude that visited the local schools in North Queensland and spoke to children about the importance of having a great attitude. This was very successful and has now grown to see them speaking to schools all over Australia & in the corporate market including team building.

For more information, please visit: www.undara.com.au; www.swa.com.au; www.savannah-guides.com.au

The Undara Lava Tubes, Queensland

Only 3½ hours drive inland from Cairns and four hours from Townsville in Tropical North Queensland, discover a land so different in contrasts.... Undara.

The Undara Experience is set in pristine Savannah woodlands and had been in the care of the Collins family, the original pioneers of this region in 1862. For 160 years they had been the custodians of one of the longest and best-preserved lava tubes systems on Earth. Fourth Generation Cattleman and tourism pioneer, Gerry Collins saw the growing interest in the unique geological treasure on his family cattle station. He began to develop a tourism facility from which visitor access could be managed to ensure minimal human impact on the delicate ecosystems within the lava tubes and the collapsed sections of lava tube roof.



As an example of his commitment to preserving the natural bush, when Gerry chose the site for the lodge, old disused railway carriages were used as accommodation and as a bar and restaurant to minimize impact on the site. Being long and narrow the carriages could be manoeuvred between standing trees rather than cutting the trees down. This attitude to the preservation of the natural environment was a central element to how the business was developed and run over the next 32 years



Closely situated to the Savannah Way and easily accessed by conventional vehicle, Undara Experience sits right on the edge of the Undara Volcanic National Park which was gazetted

in 1992. The Undara Lava Tubes are a natural geological phenomenon. Huge tubes formed approximately 190,000 years ago; molten lava drained out under a thick cooler crust, leaving a series of long, hollow tubes.

From the inception of Undara Experience highly trained Savannah Guides would conduct small group tours into the lava tubes where visitors would marvel at this impressive geological wonder. Another very popular experience was the Wildlife at Sunset tour. Guests would be taken to a site with incredible vistas where they would enjoy refreshments on a rocky outlook as the sun sets. Then they would take a short drive to the entrance of Barker's Tube to witness the amazing bat emergence as literally thousands of micro-bats leave to feed at night. During the Summer micro-bat breeding season, numerous snakes would hang from the trees at the cave entrance and snatch the bats out of the air as they left to feed at night. This was an unforgettable visitor experience.

Gerry's son Bram heard about the Global Geoparks network when Kanawinka Geopark was declared in South Australia and Victoria in 2008. He envisaged that the Undara Lava Tubes would be a great inclusion into a Geopark and sought about gathering local support. The Northern Gulf Resource Management Group were very keen to pursue accreditation and took on the task of driving the outcome. Due to changes in management and leadership visions it waivered for local support. There have been several attempts over the years to get local support for it but it has struggled due to fears of land tenure issues. Bram is keen to work first on the declaration of the Undara Volcanic National Park with possible further expansion of the Geopark in the future

Winner of 'Unique Accommodation' at the Australian Tourism Awards, the Undara Experience offers a variety of accommodation options from beautifully restored turn-of-the-century railway carriages to beautifully appointed Pioneers Huts and airconditioned Homestead rooms. Budget options are available with the Swags Tent Village. Shady camping and powered sites are also available. The Fettle's Iron Pot Bistro boasts superb country style meals using the freshest local produce served in the ambience of Undara Central. Awaken your tastebuds to the bush with our Bush Breakfast served at the Ringer's Camp.

The Undara Experience is a Savannah Guides Enterprise and has Advanced Ecotourism Accreditation. It boasts excellent facilities including a Billabong style resort pool, evening activities around the camp fire, great bush walks, free gas BBQs, Wifi Internet access and retail shop for a memorable keepsake. Coach, air and rail packages also available. To learn more visit www.undara.com.au; undara@discoveryparks.com.au, or Tel: 1800 990 992.

Photos courtesy of The Undara Experience.

FEATURED UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

<http://www.sanin-geoparkkan.jp/eng>



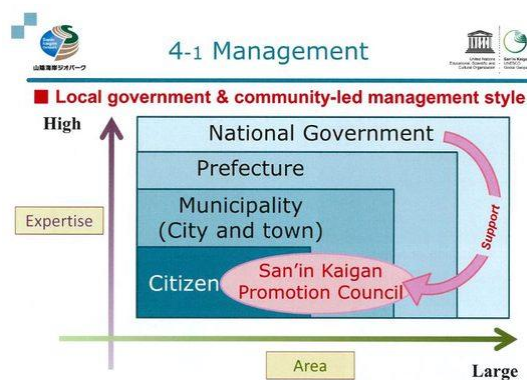
Delegates at the 4th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium held at San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark in September 2015. AGN Chair Ross Dowling with Dr Young Ng (left) and as well as Dr Marco Komac, President of the European Federation of Geologists (Slovenia) and Christina Chau & Cindy Choi, Executive Members of the Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong (China).

The San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark is located in the west of Japan and stretches from the eastern Kyogamisaki Cape, Kyoto to the western Hakuto Kaigan Coast, Tottori. It was designated as a Japanese Geopark in 2008 and a Global Geopark in 2010. It is home to a diversity of geological sites related to the formation of the Sea of Japan, including granite outcrops formed when Japan was part of the Asian continent (70 million years ago), as well as sedimentary and volcanic rocks accumulated when Japan rifted away from Asia (25 to 15 million years ago) to form the Sea of Japan, a geological process still on-going today. The Genbudo Cave, one of the major geosites, is internationally known as the place where the term of Quaternary geomagnetic reversal polarity was first proposed with basalt. It also contains geographical features, such as ria type coasts, sand dunes, sand-bars, volcanoes and valleys. This all explains the formation process of the present-day geological setting and landscape.

Due to such diversity, the Geopark is home to rare plants like *Pseudolysimachion ornatum* and *Ranunculus nipponicus*, as well as *Ciconia boyciana* (Oriental White Storks) - a symbol of biodiversity. Conservation efforts of the local storks that were once extinct, have been successful in reintroducing them back into the wild through breeding programs and ecosystems development such as pesticide-free farming.

Visit to San'in Kaigan UGGp in 2020 by Dr Kelvin Matthews, Murchison GeoRegion & Aspiring Geopark

At the start of covid in March 2020, **Dr Kelvin Matthews**, the then CEO of the Shire of Mount Magnet, Murchison Region, Western Australia and the Chair of the Geopark Project, visited San'in Kaigan UGGp to better understand geoparks and their community value. On his return to Australia he prepared a 42 page Report commenting on the Geopark's main attributes as well as its contribution to conservation and sustainable development, the economic benefits generated by tourism, and the Geopark's networking activities. The Report also included a Power-point overview of the Geopark compiled by the San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council. Two of the slides are featured below.

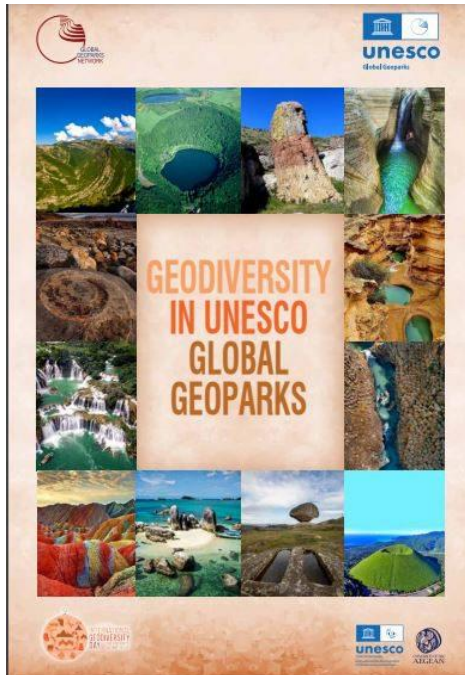


Dr Matthews visited Genbudo Park, a national natural monument designated in 1931. The park consists of 5 caves made of columnar joints that formed over 1.6 million years ago after the magma from a volcanic eruption cooled, contracted, and formed vertical cracks. These columns have a distinctive polygonal shape and a honeycomb pattern. He was also very impressed with the organisation and promotion of the park including its being advertised on the train visiting the area.



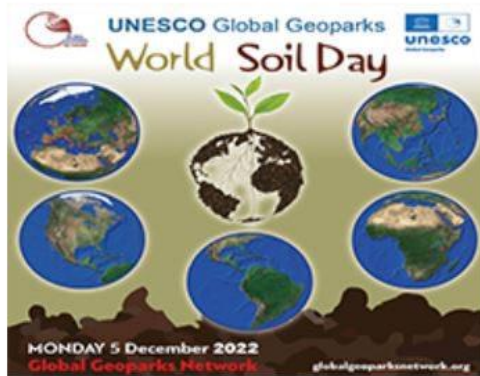
GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK (GGN)

UNESCO and the GGN recently established and promoted **International Geodiversity Day** (<https://www.geodiversityday.org>) as a worldwide celebration, bringing people together on October 6 each year, to promote the many aspects of geodiversity. International Geodiversity Day was proclaimed by UNESCO at the 41st General Conference in 2021. Geodiversity is all around us. It is all the parts of nature that aren't alive; including everything from minerals and fossils, to soils and spectacular landscapes.

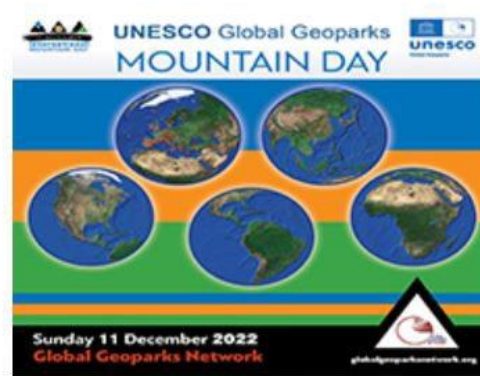


The cover of a 27 page brochure on **Geodiversity in UNESCO Global Geoparks** and one of the entries about Geodiversity in the Hong Kong UGGp. Read more about it at: (https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/GGN_GEODIVERSITY_DAY_2022-2.pdf)

UNESCO Global Geoparks also celebrated **World Soil Day** (5 December) and **International Mountain Day** (12 December).



WORLD SOIL DAY 5 DECEMBER
2022



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY
2021
11 DECEMBER 2022

UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGps)

UNESCO Proposes Seven New Global Geoparks

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-global-geoparks-council-proposes-7-new-geoparks-endorsement>

At the *Asia Pacific Network Symposium* in Satun UPPP, Thailand in September, the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council proposed to forward the nomination of seven new UNESCO Global Geoparks to the Executive Board of UNESCO, for their endorsement during the 2023 Spring session. This was carried out in front of more than 73 observers and representatives of more than 20 Member States.

In accordance with Section 2.10 and 5.5 of the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks, the Council shall present a report on its work and decisions to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau. The report will then be circulated to Member States and Associate Member States of UNESCO. Should the UNESCO Executive Board endorse the outcome of the Council during its spring 2023 session, then the designation of these new sites would bring the total number of sites in the Global UNESCO Geoparks Network from 177 to 184 in 48 countries, welcoming New Zealand and the Philippines as new members.

The Council will meet again in December 2022, to examine the applications that are currently undergoing evaluation and revalidation missions. The following sites have been proposed for designation:

- Ijen, Indonesia
- Maros Pangkep, Indonesia
- Aras, Iran
- Waitaki Whitestone, New Zealand
- Kinabalu, Malaysia
- Khorat, Thailand
- Bohol, Philippines



Revalidation / Extension of Existing UNESCO Global Geoparks

The Council considered revalidation and extension proposals that had been submitted in 2019, 2020 and 2021, as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic led to delays in the evaluation process. From the 28 revalidations under consideration, 25 were granted a green card and 3 received a yellow card. A Green card means a renewal for 4 years, a Yellow card is a renewal for 2 years, to respond adequately to the recommendations.

Geopark	Country	Card Received	Geopark	Country	Card Received
2019 Revalidations					
Comarca Minera, Hidalgo	Mexico	Green	Batur	Indonesia	Green
Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca	Mexico	Green	Qeshm Island	Iran	Green
2020 Revalidations					
Satun	Thailand	Green	Grutas del Palacio	Uruguay	Green
Rinjani Lombok	Indonesia	Green	Perce	Canada	Yellow
Ciletuh - Palabuhanratu	Indonesia	Green	Ngorongoro-Lengai	Tanzania	Yellow
2021 Revalidations					
Tuscan Mining Park	Italy	Green	Molina and Alto Tajo	Spain	Green
Cilento e Valle di Diano and Alburni	Italy	Green	Courel Mountains	Spain	Yellow
Adamello Brenta	Italy	Green	Imbabura	Ecuador	Green
Erz Der Alpen (Ore of the Alps)	Austria	Green	Rokua	Finland	Green
Novohrad - Nograd	Slovakia/Hungary	Green	Vis Archipelago	Croatia	Green
Hateg Country	Romania	Green	Monts d'Ardeche	France	Green
Trollfjell	Norway	Green	Terras De Cavaleiros	Portugal	Green
Magma	Norway	Green	North Pennines AONB	UK	Green
Basque Coast	Spain	Green	M'Goun	Morocco	Green

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council

<https://en.unesco.org/global-geoparks/council>

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council is responsible for assessing revalidated and new UNESCO Global Geopark nominations. It makes the decision on whether new applications should be forwarded to the Executive Board of UNESCO for endorsement. Furthermore it has a key advising role to the Director-General of UNESCO on the strategy, planning and implementation of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council is composed of 12 ordinary members, with the right to vote, who are individuals appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO on recommendation of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and of Member States. In

addition the Director-General of UNESCO, the President of the GGN, the Secretary-General of the IUGS, the Director-General of the IUCN or their representatives shall be ex officio members of the Council without the right to vote.

Council Members

- Mr Alireza Amrikazemi - Iran
- Dr Carles Canet - Mexico
- Ms Helga Chulepin - Uruguay
- Dr Charalampos Fassoulas - Greece
- Mr Guy Martini – Chair, UNESCO GG Council
- Dr Martina Pásková - Czechia
- Ms Sarah Gamble - Canada
- Professor Setsuya Nakada - Japan
- Dr Marie-Luise Frey - Germany
- Professor Tran Tan Van - Vietnam
- Dr Alexandru Andrasanu - Romania
- Dr Gabriela Schneider - Namibia
- UNESCO Director-General (without right to vote)
- GGN President (without right to vote)
- Representative of the IUGS Secretary-General (without right to vote)
- Representative of the IUCN Director-General (without right to vote)



Members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council at the APGN Symposium in Satun UGGp, Thailand, September 2022

CONFERENCES

7th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium 4-11 September 2022 – Satun Province, Thailand

The Satun UNESCO Global Geopark hosted the *7th Asia Pacific Geoparks Symposium in Satun Province, Thailand from 4-11 September 2022*. We sent along Professor David Newsome, AGN Member and Geoparks WA Board Member, as our special representative. He reports that the APGN were pleased to see a representative from the

AGN at the Conference to update them on geoparks progress in Australia. Here is his report.

This much anticipated conference was held at the Satun Campus of Songkhla Rajabhat University along with additional support from the Governor of Satun Province, Department of Mineral Resources, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Tourism and Sports and the Geological Society of Thailand. The conference was attended by around 500 people, with significant on-site representation from Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, New Zealand and Greece. In addition, there were on-line presentations delivered by geopark practitioners in China. Conference themes included geoparks and sustainable tourism, SDG's in geoparks, geohazards, geo-education, geodiversity and geoparks and aspiring geoparks.



Right: Farid Z. Mohamad (Manager of Rinjani Geopark, Lombok, Indonesia) with David Newsome

The geodiversity of Satun UNESCO Global Geopark was profiled, and it was good to see the geopark's status extended for another 4 years. Geological attractions at Satun include Devonian to Cambrian trilobites, stromatolite limestone, karst (limestone outcrops, caves) and waterfalls. Field excursions included visits to Satun Geopark Museum, Thungwa Ancient Elephant Museum, Tham Le Stegodon Cave and the Time Travel Zone. Mu Ko Petra National Park is the site of internationally important geology within Satun Geopark where Cambrian Sandstone overlies Ordovician Limestone at a normal fault contact boundary.

It was impressive to see so many contributions from Thai geopark staff and researchers where the impressive fossil geodiversity of Thailand was profiled. Well-deserved congratulations are also due to everyone involved in the recent successful endorsement by UNESCO of the Khorat Global Geopark, which lies about 170 km northeast of Bangkok.

I presented two papers, one of which was titled *What will post Covid-19 geopark tourism look like?* I focussed on the popularity of geoparks and especially heavy domestic visitation that has have given rise to over-tourism scenarios such as congestion, littering, waste disposal problems, ecological damage, and localised declines in air quality. I posed the question as to what will the future hold? I am firmly of the view that the over-tourism 'problem' requires attention and research in order to provide solutions where such impacts are taking place in geoparks around the world.



*Left: Mu Ko Petra National Park. Right: Time Travel Trail, Satun Geopark, Thailand
(Photos by David Newsome)*

During breaks and periods out of session many people asked me about the ‘geopark scene’ in Australia! It was interesting for me to see several keynotes and other presentations where a map of world geoparks was strangely incomplete as there were no marks indicating a geopark in Australia! Moreover, feedback from UNESCO and many other delegates in the Global Network strongly indicated that everyone is keen to see geoparks return to Australia. I assured them that work is in progress, told them that we are very busy building contacts and relationships, and that research, evaluation and planning were well under way. Our ‘neighbours across the ditch’ deserve much congratulation and hopefully are a stimulus for everyone involved in the ‘push’ for geoparks in Australia as the *Waitaki Whitestone aspiring Geopark* is set to become New Zealand’s first UNESCO Global Geopark. Perhaps we will be at the 8th APGN in Vietnam in 2024 to announce an Australian first to the world!

Postscript: Following on from my visit to Thailand, I attended a World Heritage Advisory Committee meeting at Shark Bay in WA. I was fortunate to meet with Mia Thurgate (Senior Heritage Officer at the Natural Heritage Section in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, ACT). Here I had the opportunity to share some of our recent publications (see below), update her on the mission of the Australian Geoparks Network and discuss the prospect of geoparks in Australia.

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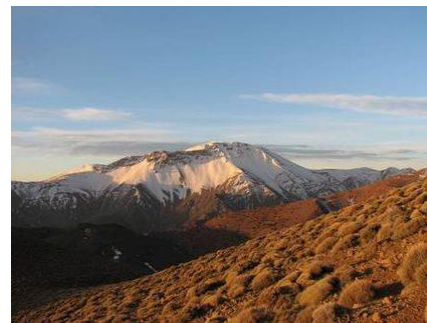
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10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 5 -10 September 2023 – Marrakesh, Morocco

Morocco will host the **10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Marrakesh in September 2023**. It is the first Arab and African country to host such event. The host Geopark is M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark (<https://en.unesco.org/global-geoparks/mgoun>). It is located 100km from Marrakesh in the middle of the central High Atlas Mountain Chain.



Its territory covers an area of medium to high mountains. The climate of the Atlas is Mediterranean with Atlantic influences. The Geopark consists of two zones, one with high rainfall and with temperatures between 35°C and 3°C and another characterized by lower rainfall. Snowfall is common from November to May. The geological history of M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark fits into the geological evolution of the central High Atlas dating back to the Triassic period, 250 million years ago, while the main stages took place during the Jurassic period, about 180 million years ago. It includes famous and spectacular footprints of sauropod and theropod dinosaurs and many deposits of bones. The territory contains numerous minerals: copper, zinc, barite, iron, basalt, limestone and dolomitic Triassic red clays. The M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark consists of a large number of geosites and geological sites showing several large tectonic structures of the Atlas Mountains that sculpt the landscape.



Marrakech named as the Second Best Place to Travel in 2023

The US business magazine Forbes has just announced its '23 Best Places to Travel in 2023'. Being a kiwi I was pleased to see that Queenstown, New Zealand, topped the list, but in second place is Marrakesh, Morocco. Their reasons for visiting include:

Why visit? Marrakesh is one of the leading locations for artisanal handcrafted wares, including tiles, pottery, wood crafts, hand-beaten metals, leather and glass. Plus, as travel advisor Fiona Bayne notes, it also “has some of the most revered hotels in the world where you can experience sublime luxury in historic ornate palaces, minimalist luxury in private pavilions, or the taste of Morocco in a secluded riad.”

Who should go? Marrakesh holds allure for those who enjoy mixing history with a unique cuisine. If you travel to find original handmade items for your home, you'll want to visit Marrakesh.

Don't miss: A day trip to the ancient coastal trading port of Essaouira, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with ancient stone battlements around the port. Explore Essaouira's markets, famed for the Thuya wood crafts and their skilled craftsmen.



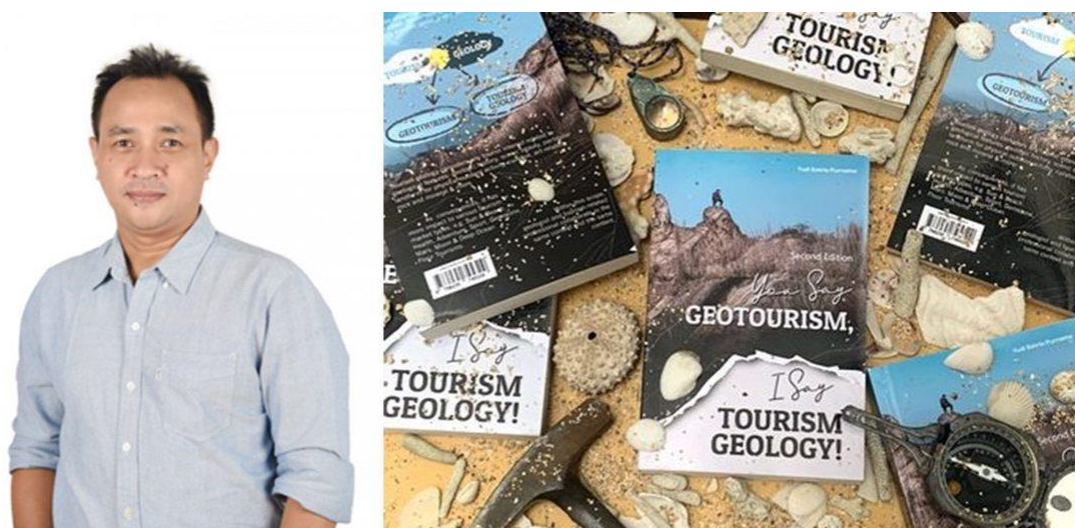
*Souvenirs on the Jamaa el Fna market in old Medina, Marrakesh, Morocco
(Getty Images)*

Postscript: As Chair of the tourism marketing organisation **Destination Perth** (<https://www.destinationperth.com.au>) I was pleased to see that Perth came in at 9th spot on Forbes List of destinations to visit in 2023, and it was the only place in Australia to make the list. Perth is host of the *Australian Earth Sciences Convention* being held at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre from 27-30 June 2023 (<https://aesc2023.com.au>). One of the Themes of the Conference is ‘**Geotourism, GeoRegions and Geoparks**’ being co-chaired by Dr Young Ng, international geoparks pioneer & expert, and Angus Robinson (Chair, AGC’s National Geotourism Strategy).

PAPERS & REPORTS

New Book: *You Say Geotourism, I Say Tourism Geology*

The Second Edition of the above book has just been released. It is written by Yudi Satria Purnama, a geologist from Jakarta, Indonesia (www.yudispurnama.com). He is passionate about applied geology and sees that geology can offer new tourist attractions and activities for visitors as well as new professions and / or business opportunities for geologists. The book is available through Yudi's website.



Yudi Satria Purnama and his 'Tourism Geology' Book

AUSTRALIAN GEOPARK PIONEERS AND LEADERS

A recent Facebook entry declaring someone to be 'the leading figure for Geopark development in Australia', got me thinking about who are the pioneers and leaders of geoparks in Australia. Upon reflection I have nominated ten people I think who are the pioneers and / or leaders of geoparks in Australia, or beyond, and I am happy to say that six of the them are committed members of the AGN Board. So here is my list in alphabetical order by surname. The list is obviously subjective and excludes those who are focussing their efforts on geoheritage, geotourism or georegions.

1. **Dr Alan Briggs** (Western Australia) - has been involved in geoparks since 2006 when he was a Committee Member of the *Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference in Australia* (2008). He was also a speaker at the *2nd Conference in Malaysia* in 2010 as well as the *3rd* in the Sultanate of Oman in 2011. In 2017 he founded Geoparks Western Australia, still the only state-based organisation fostering awareness of geoparks. In 2020 he completed a PhD on geoparks leading to a number of papers published on Australian Geoparks. Alan is the Founding Deputy Chair of the Australian Geoparks Network.

2. **Wendy Dowling AM** (Western Australia) - has been involved in both geotourism and geoparks since 2006. She was the secretary of the very first meeting of the Australian Geoparks Forum (AGF), the forerunner of the AGN. She has been a key member of the organising committees of a host of state, national and international workshops and conferences on geotourism and geoparks. Wendy has been an integral part of getting off the ground all four Aspiring Geoparks in Western Australia. Wendy is the Founding Secretary of the Australian Geoparks Network.
3. **Professor Patrick James** (South Australia) - is a leading Australian geoscientist and educator who has taught at both the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia. A pioneer in the field of geoparks Patrick was one of the few Australians who participated in the *2nd International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks* held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, as well as the *3rd Conference* held in Osnabruck, Germany. In addition, he has presented at both European and Asia Pacific geoparks conferences around the world. Pat is a Founding Board Member of the Australian Geoparks Network.
4. **Ian Lewis** (South Australia) - became the second director of Kanawinka Global Geopark in 2012 and then oversaw its transition to the Kanawinka Volcanic Geotrails Region. He has kept the name and concept of Kanawinka alive for a decade now and hopes that one day it will be fully reactivated as a UNESCO Global Geopark. He has presented numerous papers on Kanawinka including one at the *Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference* in 2008 and a definitive book chapter on it in *Global Geotourism Perspectives* (2010). Ian is a Founding Board Member of the Australian Geoparks Network.
5. **Joane McKnight** (Victoria) - is the undisputed pioneer of geoparks in Australia when she founded Kanawinka Global Geopark (2008 - 2012). The geopark was the 57th Global Geopark and in the international geoparks movement she is still highly esteemed as a one of the early leaders. She was the founding Chair of Australian Geoparks Forum (AGF), the forerunner of the AGN and helped to advise many communities on geopark development throughout Australia. For a number of years Joane was a member of the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Coordination Committee.
6. **Karen Morrissey OAM** (Western Australia) - is a Councillor in the Shire of Mount Magnet who has been passionate about, and involved in, geopark development in the Murchison Region since 2009. Karen was instrumental in establishing the Murchison GeoRegion in 2020 and is Chair of the Murchison GeoRegion and Aspiring UNESCO Geopark. This is the first area to become an aspiring geopark since Kanawinka. Karen is a regular speaker at geoparks workshops and in 2020 she visited Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Geopark in New Zealand to better understand the geopark journey.
7. **Professor David Newsome** (Western Australia) - is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Environmental and Conservation Sciences, Murdoch University. Program Convenor of the *Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference* David has also co-edited four international books on geotourism, all of which include contributions on geoparks. He has presented papers at many geopark conferences around the world from the 3rd International Conference on UNESCO Global

Geoparks in Germany (2008) to the 7th Asia Pacific Network Symposium in Thailand (2022).

8. **Dr Young Ng MH** (New South Wales) - as the inaugural chair of the Association for Geoconservation in Hong Kong, China, Young was the driving force behind the establishment of the Hong Kong Global Geopark which was designated in 2011. A year later he was awarded Australia's first PhD in geoparks from the University of Sydney. Not only is Young a geopark pioneer in both China and Australia but he is also recognised internationally as a leading geopark pioneer.



Australian Geopark Pioneers and Leaders. Top Row: Dr Alan Briggs, Wendy Dowling AM, Professor Patrick James, Ian Lewis and Joane McKnight. Lower Row: Karen Morrissey OAM, Professor David Newsome, Dr Young Ng MH, Teresa Sadkowsky and Susan Turner.

9. **Teresa Sadkowsky** (Australian Capital Territory) - formerly Coordinator of International Relations, Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Committee, Teresa was part of the team which established the Oki Islands Global Geopark, Japan, in 2013 as well as its re-validation in 2017. Teresa has presented at a number of geopark conferences and was the Keynote Speaker at the AGN Workshop on Geoparks held virtually in November 2020. Teresa is a Founding Board Member of the Australian Geoparks Network.
10. **Dr Sue Turner** (Queensland) - is the undoubted pioneer of Australian geoparks with her first contribution being a paper on the possibility of their establishment in 2003. A year later she presented a paper on the potential of establishing an Australia - Pacific Geoparks Network at the *1st International Conference on Geoparks* held in Beijing, China. From this early beginning Susan became a Global Geopark assessor undertaking many missions for the Global Network around the world. A prolific author on the topic of geoparks, one of her seminal works was 'Geoheritage and Geoparks: One (Australian) Woman's Point of View', *Geoheritage* (2013).

End of Newsletter

Well that's it from the Australian Geoparks Network. We are excited by the increased community interest in re-establishing geoparks in Australia and the AGN is committed to seeing the return of UNESCO Global Geoparks here.



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