

NEWS

ACT: ANU geology turns 50

A reunion dinner for the Australian National University geology department (EMS) to celebrate its 50th anniversary will be held on Saturday 7 March (6.30 for 7.00pm) at University House.

\$70 tickets available from: Executive Assistant,
RSES Building 61, Mills Road, ANU, Acton, ACT 0200 ph: 02 6125 4620

Payment by cheque or credit card (Type/Number/ valid-to date)
To "EMS Reunion Dinner - (R47543-08)"

Accommodation at University House may be available ph: 02 6125 5275.

Queries by email: mikejanrickard@bigpond.com

International conference on island arc-continent collisions: the Macquarie Arc Conference. Orange, NSW, 13-21 April 2009

Plans for this conference were previously advertised in the September 2008 edition of TAG. Since then, the program has crystallised and registrations have started coming in. Several companies are promising sponsorship, with Alkane Resources Ltd and Newmont Australia Ltd confirmed to date. The NSW Department of Primary Industries 'New Frontiers Initiative' will be the principal conference sponsor. Involvement of international scientific sponsors; IGCP 524 and the International Lithosphere Program (ERAS activity), will ensure a strong contingent of overseas geoscientists.

The conference will kick off with an ice-breaker on Monday 13 April 2009. This will be followed by two one-day field trips looking at outcrops and taking in the Copper Hill deposit in the Molong Volcanic Belt. Four days of talks will follow, on Australian and overseas examples of accreted arcs in the orogenic belts, and the settings of mineral deposits in those arcs, and in adjacent deformed forearc and backarc basins. New data and ideas on the Macquarie Arc itself will be presented by CODES and GSNSW researchers, among others. The conference will conclude with two additional one-day field trips, in the Molong Volcanic Belt and the Junee-Narromine Volcanic Belt, examining key outcrops as well as the Cadia and Northparkes mines. Post-conference activities consist of two trips with restricted numbers:

a one-day trip to the Cowal Mine, stopping off at the Cargo deposit, and a five-day trip examining key outcrops in the southern Lachlan Orogen en route back to Sydney. We thank the companies for providing ready access to their mines.

For more information, updates, to register and to submit a paper, go to the conference website: www.hotelnetwork.com.au/macquariearcconference

We hope to see you at Turners Vineyard and Conference Centre next April for a convivial and dynamic meeting.

DICK GLEN
Mineral Resources NSW

Revisiting palaeomagnetism in 1958

A celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the active period in the 'Old Magnetic Hut' - built for palaeomagnetic purposes at the



Kurt Lambeck, President of the Australian Academy of Science, unveils the plaque celebrating 50 years of the "Old Magnetic Hut".

Image courtesy of Ted Lilley.

Australian National University (ANU) and exemplified by the 1958 publication of the Irving and Green Australian polar wander path - took place at a joint meeting of the ACT branches of the Geological Society of Australia and the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists on Wednesday 22 October 2008 at the ANU.

The meeting included the unveiling of a plaque on the surviving wing of the hut, which is now within the grounds of the Research School of Biological Sciences, by Kurt Lambeck, President of the Australian Academy of Science. The plaque text reads:

...It was here that the first polar wander path for Australia was determined. A great difference was found between this path and those for northern hemisphere continents. The significance of this difference was that it provided a most important demonstration that continental drift occurred. With subsequent developments, this demonstration led to the now-accepted theory of plate tectonics. It was here also that measurements were made which related to the history of reversals of the geomagnetic field. Establishing this history was a fundamental discovery, which also played a most important part in the development of plate tectonics...

The unveiling of the plaque was followed by a session; 'Palaeomagnetism 1958, revisited', where Ted Lilley presented a talk on 'The Old Mag Hut 1955-1964, and Australian continental drift' and Ian McDougall discussed 'Establishing geomagnetic reversals'. The session concluded with a well-attended dinner at the nearby Teatro Vivaldi Restaurant, on the ANU campus. Charles Barton proposed to a toast to "the early palaeomagnetists" and Ron Green responded, recalling his experiences as a research student in the early days of ANU.

A highlight of the meeting was the presence of Emeritus Professor Ronald Green, co-author of the 1958 paper (Irving, E, and Green, R, 'Polar movement relative to Australia', *Geophysical Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 1, p64-72), and Mrs Judy Green. There were also valued contributions from others of the events of 50 years ago. Messages of greeting were received from around the world, and especially from Ted and Sheila Irving in Canada.

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A rallying cry for geoscience
Analysis: Digital mapping techniques
Report of the Merger Committee