

D. L. Dunterley

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND GEOMORPHOLOGY GROUP

Newsletter - November 1984

Australian address

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Dear Colleague:

It was a little more than a year ago when you last received a newsletter from the ANZGG, but many members attended the Broken Hill conference in July so have been kept in touch with events in the interim. Indeed, the organising of biennial conferences now appears to be the primary function of the Group, a function it appears to perform very well.

The Broken Hill Conference:

Another very successful ANZGG meeting was held at Broken Hill from the 8th - 12th July this year. Nearly 40 papers were presented for the benefit of over 70 participants. The first day was given over entirely to topics set in arid and semi-arid environments but several papers on other days also fitted this theme. A one-day excursion on the Wednesday explored the Broken Hill and Barrier Range region. Following the conference Bob Wasson (CSIRO) took approximately 40 participants on a week-long excursion into the Strzelecki dunefield. Our thanks to John Chappell, Marsha Murphy and Bob Wasson for a truly great conference and a very enthusiastic thanks to Bob for all the effort he put into an excellent field trip. Those attending the conference were very appreciative of logistical and financial support from C.R.A., Santos Pty. Ltd. and, of course, the Zinc Corporation, for supplying a first class venue at their conference centre.

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General Business Meeting:

An ANZGG General Business Meeting was held during the Conference at 8.30pm on the 11th July at Mario's Palace Hotel. The meeting was chaired by Gerald Nanson and recorded by Douglas Hicks. Detailed minutes were taken and a summary of these are as follows:

- 1. Publication of Robertson Conference Proceedings:**
The chairman reported a \$2,500 surplus in funds from the 1982 Robertson conferences, \$2,000 of which was used to produce 400 copies of a proceedings focussing on Sandstone Landscapes. \$500 was used to launch the Broken Hill conference. The chairman expects that sales of the Sandstone proceedings will gradually return to the ANZGG account all the money used for its publication.
- 2. Proceedings from the Broken Hill Conference:**
Discussion centred around possible uses for any surplus funds from the B.H. conference. Mike Crozier proposed and John Chappell seconded that "The decision to publish proceedings be left with the organisers; that any surplus funds from the current meeting be made available to the organisers for that purpose; that the organisers pass any funds surplus to their publishing needs to the organisers of the next ANZGG conference". The motion was passed by show of hands.
- 3. Time and Place for the next Conference:**
A number of people drew attention to the many related conferences to be held over the next two years. John Firman proposed that the next ANZGG conference be held in conjunction with the International Conference on Landscapes of the Southern Hemisphere in Adelaide in 1986. Paul Williams reminded the meeting that the offer made by the New Zealanders at the Robertson conference to host the next ANZGG conference in New Zealand still stood. He proposed a meeting there in February 1986 with a theme to be Active Plate Boundaries. The decision was resolved by a show of hands confirming that the next conference will be held in N.Z. in February 1986 and organised by Paul Williams and Mike Crozier. Mike Crozier moved and the chairman seconded that the organisers "take note of the proposed theme of The Geomorphology of Active Plate Boundaries". The motion was passed by a show of hands. The Chairman then moved, seconded by Don Adamson, that the meeting give its full support and best wishes to the International Conference on Landscapes of the Southern Hemisphere. The motion was passed unanimously.
- 4. General Business:**
Following some general discussion Wayne Erskine moved a proposal that the ANZGG newsletter be appended to the Erosion Research Newsletter compiled by Kate Duggan of the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory. The motion was carried by show of hands. The chairman is to investigate this possibility in discussions with Kate Duggan.

The chairman raised the question of the insurance of conference participants and it was generally agreed to leave this matter in the hands of the 1986 conference organisers.

Some members raised the possibility that ANZGG become "more organised" but the general opinion was very strongly in favour of retaining the present informal structure.

The meeting expressed its thanks to the organisers of the Broken Hill conference, and closed at 9.45p.m.

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Downunder Books:

"Aspects of Australian Sandstone Landscapes" (1983) edited by R.W. Young and G.C. Nanson.

This is the selected proceedings from the First ANZGG conference held at Robertson near Wollongong N.S.W. and is available from the editors C/- Dept. of Geography, University of Wollongong, P.O. Box 1144, Wollongong, N.S.W. 2500, Australia. Price Aust\$10.00 members; Aust\$12.00 non-members.

"Evaluation Criteria for the Cave and Karst Heritage of Australia" (1984) Helicite Vol. 15 #2 (Special Issue) edited by A.G. Davey.

This report is a contribution from the Australian Speleological Federation to the National Estate programme. It examines karst landforms and develops criteria for their consistent evaluation. It establishes grounds for identifying those sites which should be regarded as significant from different perspectives, in the context of the Register of the National Estate. The report includes an overview of Australian karst resources. It provides a classification of resource attributes for representation in a comprehensive register of significant sites.

The report is one of the first attempts anywhere at developing evaluation criteria for landforms for conservation and management purposes. It discusses the principles and problems of identifying resource values and management objectives for site-specific natural features which are part of wider systems.

Available from: Speleological Research Council Ltd., P.O. Box 183, Broadway, N.S.W. 2007, Australia. Price Aust\$5.00.

"Climanz" (1983) Proceedings of the First Climanz Conference at Howman's Gap, edited by J.M.A. Chappell and A. Grindrod.

This is an excellent summary of evidence for Quaternary climatic change in Australasia. Available from the Secretary, Dept. of Biogeography and Geomorphology, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, G.P.O. Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601, Australia. Price Aust\$10.00.

"Quaternary Studies in Australia: Future Directions" Compiled by G.E. Wilford Record 1984/14, Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology & Geophysics, Canberra.

This volume may be obtained free of charge by writing to the B.M.R.G.G., P.O. Box 378, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601, Australia.

"Quaternary Dust Mantles of China, New Zealand and Australia" Proceedings of a Workshop, (1982) A.N.U. Edited by R.J. Wasson.

This volume is available by writing to the Dept. of Biogeography & Geomorphology, A.N.U., G.P.O. Box 4, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia. Price Aust\$5.00 plus postage outside Australia.

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The Third ANZGG Conference

As you will have read in the business meeting minutes above, the Third Conference will be held in New Zealand in February 1986. Unofficial proposals are to locate the meeting at Tongariro National Park in the centre of the North Island, to establish the main theme as The Geomorphology of Active Plate Boundaries (but with ample opportunity to present papers in any of the systematic areas of geomorphology), to arrange scene-setting geological papers at the start of each session dealing with plate boundaries, to arrange conference field trips illustrating the fascinating volcanic processes and landforms in the region, and to arrange one or more extra-conference field trips to examine landforms in both the North and South Islands. The conference is still at the early stages of planning and further details will become available from Professor Paul Williams of Auckland University and Dr. Mike Crozier from Victoria University of Wellington.

Upcoming Conferences

1. 1984 NARU Conference, "Coasts and Tidal Wetlands of the Australian Monsoon Region" Darwin, N.T., 4th - 9th November 1984. Mangrove ecology, catchment hydrology, tidal modelling and estuarine hydrodynamics, geomorphology of floodplains and coastal landforms. Contact: Ms Kristin Bardsley, N.A.R.U., P.O. Box 41321, Casuarina, N.T. 5792, Australia.
2. Third International Fluvial Sedimentology Conference Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, 7th - 9th August 1985. These conferences promote the exchange of information between fluvial geomorphologists, sedimentologists and river engineers. Contact: Chairman, Fluvial Sedimentology Conference, Rockwell Hall, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523, U.S.A.
3. Problems of Sediment Transport in Gravel-Bed Rivers International Workshop at Pingree Park Campus, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, 12th - 17th August 1985. Contact: Dr. J.C. Bathurst, Inst. of Hydrology, Maclean Building, Crowmarsh, Gifford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX1D 8BB U.K.
4. First International Conference on Geomorphology Manchester, 12th - 15th September 1985. Contact: Professor Ian Douglas, School of Geography, University of Manchester, Manchester, D13 9PL, England.
5. 16th Annual Geomorphology Symposium "Hillslope Processes", September 28th - 29th 1985, State University of New York, Amherst Campus, Buffalo. The symposium will bring together an international group of speakers who will address various aspects of hydraulic and mass movement processes on hillslopes. The symposium will be held one week after the First International Geomorphology Meeting in Manchester. It is hoped that this timing will permit geomorphologists from Australia and New Zealand to attend the symposium while they are in the northern hemisphere for the Manchester meeting. Contact: Professor Athol D. Abrahams, Dept. of Geography, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y. 14260, U.S.A.
6. "Sediments Down Under" 12th International Sedimentological Congress, Canberra, A.C.T., 25th - 29th August 1986. Contact: Dr. Graham Taylor, Geology Dept., School of Applied Science, Canberra C.A.E., P.O. Box 1, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616, Australia.

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7. International Conference on Landscapes of the Southern Hemisphere, Adelaide, August - Sept 1986. The aim of this conference is to contribute to interdisciplinary studies of landscapes in the southern hemisphere - palaeoclimate, palaeohydrology, palaeogeography, palaeosoils, palaeobotany, palynology and palaeoecology of man. Interest will also centre on present landscapes. Contact: Jon Firman, S.A. Dept. of Mines & Energy, P.O. Box 151, Eastwood, S.A. 5063, Australia.

Proposal to Form an International Geomorphological Organization

Bob Young and I recently received a letter from David Sugden, Chairman of the BGRG seeking the views of ANZGG on a proposal to form an International Geomorphological Organization. We believe it is not appropriate for a loosely structured organization such as ANZGG to express a collective view on this matter. However, a much reduced copy of David Sugden's letter is enclosed in the belief that some members may wish to respond with a personal view, or with a collective view expressed by members of your departments or organizations.

Please reply to: Professor David Sugden
 Chairman BGRG
 Dept. of Geography
 University of Aberdeen
 Aberdeen AB9 2UF
 Scotland

Conclusion

ANZGG appears to be in the best of health and fulfilling the informal functions its members desire. However, any suggestions you have for improved functions will be received with interest. Should you see a copy of this and yet not be on the mailing list please contact either me at Wollongong or Mike Crozier at Victoria University. If you are planning a workshop, conference or field excursion and would like to advise other geomorphologists of your plans, please send the information to me at Wollongong for inclusion in further Newsletters. The same applies for books, reports or other items of news you would like included. The next Newsletter will result when sufficient information has accumulated.

Regards

Gerald Nanson

Background Notes

A. International Conference Committee

1. Elect a new committee every four years which will organize the next international conference.
2. The next location for an international conference would be decided during each conference, and a committee elected. Each conference would be self-financing and the responsibility of the host country.
3. The committee would ensure that conference proceedings are published.

Advantages The arrangement involves minimum administration and can be set up instantly. The conference proceedings would provide continuity and a record of the international organization. It might be a useful first step towards a more comprehensive international organization.

Disadvantages The scope of the international organization is limited to running conferences and publishing conference proceedings and leaves little scope to respond to other international needs. Experience suggests that publications under this sort of organization are often severely delayed.

B. International Geomorphological Association affiliated to ICSU

1. Join ICSU (International Council of Scientific Unions) as an Affiliated Association of either or both the IGU (International Geographical Union) or IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences). Examples are ICA (International Cartographic Association) affiliated to IGU and INQUA (International Quaternary Association) affiliated to IUGS (Table 1).

2. Group membership is achieved through national scientific institutions who pay a contribution to ICSU. In the case of ICA the national contributions may range from U.S. \$220-1760.

3. An International Geomorphological Association would hold an international congress approximately once every four years. Responsibility for the organization and finance of the congress would lie wholly in the hands of the host country.

4. A president and executive committee would be elected at each congress and hold office for the inter-congress period and for the following congress. Election would be by national delegates, with one vote per group member.

5. An International Geomorphological Association might receive a minor grant to defray costs, for example, those incurred by executive committee meetings in the inter-congress periods. As an example INQUA receives US \$1200. However, ICA receives nothing!

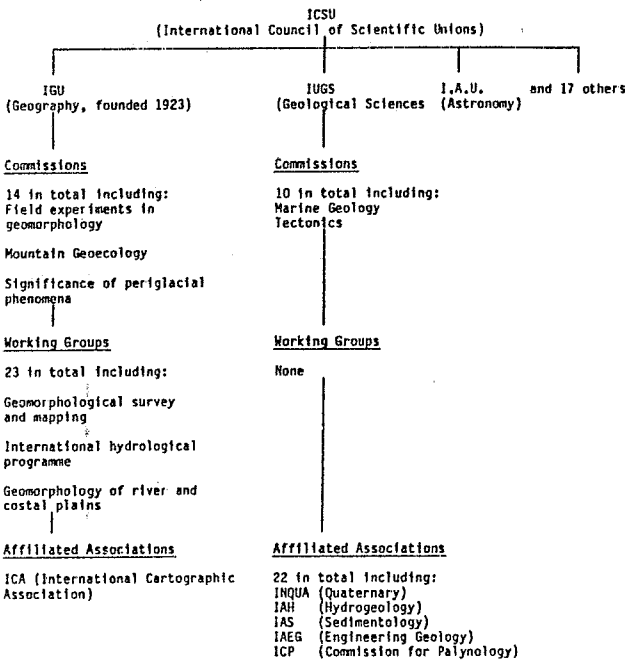
Advantages We can attach ourselves to an already existing international structure. The international geomorphological association might carry some weight as a member of the broader organization and thus be able to take more initiatives on behalf of geomorphology.

Disadvantages Within the ICSU framework there is no individual membership as such. Instead there is a representative from each nation and a fluctuating congress attendance. In essence it is a non-membership international organization.

The ICSU structure involves certain constraints. For example, INQUA has constant problems in negotiating the date of appointment for the chairman of an INQUA commission which is also a subcommission of IUGS. This is because the IUGS constitution requires that officers are elected at the 4-yearly IUGS Congress while INQUA would prefer to carry out elections during the INQUA Congress meetings in different locations and at different times.

TABLE 1

The structure of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and some satellite bodies relevant to geomorphology



Possible International Geomorphological Organization

It has been suggested that geomorphologists use the occasion of the First International Conference on Geomorphology to be held in Manchester in September 1985 to discuss whether or not the time is ripe to develop an International Geomorphological Organization. As current Chairman of the host group for the Manchester Conference, I have volunteered to sound out international geomorphological opinion with the aim of making a report available for the conference in 1985. This report could form the basis of discussions at the conference which could lead to proposals being made.

The purpose of this letter is to ask whether you could sound out the views of geomorphologists in your group. It would be very helpful if you could write with answers to the questions below on behalf of your group. Could you please send your comments to me at the latest by the end of December 1984?

QUESTION 1 Do you think that it would be useful to set up an International Geomorphological Organization?

The overlap between geomorphology and several IGU and IUGS commissions and working groups makes this a potential problem (Table 1), though doubtless a solution could be found. Probably it would be unrealistic to be affiliated to both IGU and IUGS. Similarly, constraints would apply to publication policy, choice of congress location, frequency of meetings, and use of outside grants.

Individual geomorphologists in countries with no official ICSU representative would be left out.

There would be no permanent address for the international organization since the committee base would migrate every four years.

C. Independent International Geomorphological Society

1. Set up an independent International Geomorphological Society. A potentially useful model so such an independent society is the International Glaciological Society which has 850-1000 members.

2. This would require a permanent office with a full time executive secretary. Initially this could be associated with an existing organization.

3. Costs of maintaining the office would be met from membership fees and profits from publications.

4. Members would receive publications and be able to attend international conferences in return for their annual membership fee. In the case of the International Glaciological Society the annual fee is £25. In return a member receives the newsletter *Ice*, 3-4 issues of the *Journal of Glaciology* and in addition may buy the symposium volumes *Annals of Glaciology* at about one third the normal price.

5. The international nature of the society would be maintained by electing international officers, the production of an international newsletter, holding symposia in different countries and by using international editors.

6. National geomorphological societies would continue to operate as at present but as national branches of the International Geomorphological Society.

Advantages An independent international society would be membership-based in that any individual geomorphologist would have a direct say in running the society.

The administrative and logistics structure of an independent society could be wholly tailored to the needs of geomorphologists. This implies greater freedom of action in all spheres, in particular the frequency and location of meetings, publications, use of outside grants, quick response to urgent and new global problems etc. It is perhaps significant that it was this desire for greater freedom which prompted the setting up of the International Glaciological Society, even though there was already in existence an ICSU Commission on Snow and Ice.

Any geomorphologist anywhere in the world could join the international society by paying the membership fee.

An independent international society would have a permanent address. Probably there are advantages of visibility and continuity in having a permanent address when dealing with publications and enquiries from governments and international organizations.

Disadvantages In order to be successful, the independent society would require the commitment of a full-time executive secretary. It would be necessary to find full financial support for about 1 year in order to set up the office and organization.

There is a risk that a permanent office in one country could lose its international outlook, unless clear steps are taken to offset the danger and are specified in the constitution.

QUESTION 2 What do you see as the main purposes of such an organization?

QUESTION 3 What type of international organization would you prefer:-
 (A) An international conference committee whose purpose is to arrange international conferences every four years?
 (B) An organization affiliated to the International Council of Scientific Unions?
 (C) A fully independent International Geomorphological Society?
 (D) Other? Please specify.

In order to provide a basis for discussion, the first three possibilities are outlined in more detail in the notes attached to this letter.

QUESTION 4 What are the main reasons for your preferred choice as outlined in your answer to Question 3?

QUESTION 5 Very approximately how many research geomorphologists are there in your organization?

It would be very helpful to receive your comments as soon as convenient, and at least by the end of December 1984.

If you are unable to arrange answers to these questions yourself, please could you pass on this letter to another appropriate person who could represent your group?

-David Sugden