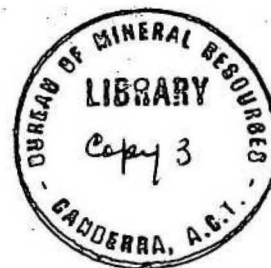


COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF  
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU OF MINERAL  
RESOURCES, GEOLOGY  
AND GEOPHYSICS



Record 1972/129

OPERATIONS BRANCH - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR  
1972

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BMR  
Record  
1972/129  
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RECORD 1972/129

OPERATIONS BRANCH - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1972

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## OPERATIONS BRANCH

### Staff

Assistant Director (Acting)

R.F. Thyer

Special Duties

K.R. Vale

### Publications and Information Section

Geologist Class 5:

K.A. Townley

Geologist Class 4:

H.L. Higginson  
I.R. McLeod

Geophysicist Class 4:

W.H. Oldham

Geologist Class 3:

Mrs M.E. Bartlett  
R.R.E. Jacobson  
C.B. Selmser  
Mrs E.E. Young

Geologist Class 2:

Mrs P.R. Simpson  
P.A. Smith

Technical Officer Grade 2:

L.C. Mundy

### Library

Librarian Class 2:

Mrs H. Hughes

Librarian Class 1:

Miss S. Attwood  
Mrs M.A. Thompson

### Planning and Co-ordination Section

Geophysicist Class 4:

K.M. Kennedy

Geologist Class 3:

R.B. Aronsen  
R. Thieme

Geologist Class 2:

A.J.B. Driessen

### Administrative Section

Administrative Officer:

B.M. Williams

Assistant Administrative Officer:

S. Pysden

Finance Officer:

B.F. Hoare

Officer-in-Charge, Publication,  
Distribution, & Sales Section:

G. Scott

## PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SECTION

### Publications Sub-section

Recruitment of additional staff in 1972 has enabled the Publications Sub-section to increase output to give closer attention to papers submitted for publication, and to provide extra training facilities. In addition, formal procedures for processing manuscripts have been revised and communications with Branches have been strengthened.

H.L. Higginson was promoted to the vacant Class 4 position, and Mrs P. Simpson to the vacant Class 2 position. However, Mrs P. Angus resigned from her Class 2 position and has not yet been replaced.

Manuscripts on which the group worked during 1972, and the status of each reached by 31 October 1972, are set out in this Record.

K.A. Townley conducted several editing classes for senior professional officers, and W.H. Oldham conducted classes in technical writing.

The establishment in 1972 of the Publications Review Committee, comprising representatives from all Branches, has already led to substantial benefits in communications between the Publications Sub-section and the Branches in all aspects of publications, from the writing-up to the proof stage. Approval-for-publication forms have been redesigned and distributed to prospective authors. To enable the Publications Sub-section to appreciate field problems more fully and improve communications between authors and editors, K.A. Townley, W.H. Oldham, and H.L. Higginson each spent some time with different field parties during the current season. Jointly with the Administrative Section, the Publications Sub-section has held discussions with the Australian Government Publishing Service and commercial printers when printing problems have arisen and when it was decided to redesign covers and title pages.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Bulletins

10 Bulletins were issued during the period; 7 were sent to press; 10 are in press (including the 7 mentioned); 9 more are being edited or are in various stages of preparation.

123 - Wiso Basin - contract being arranged - ready for press

124 - Palaeontological Papers 1969 - in press

130 - Bowen Basin - in press

132 - Drummond Basin - in press

135 - Cape York Peninsula - contract being arranged - ready for press

137 - Taemas - ready for press - contract being arranged

138 - Middle Cambrian Phosphorites and associated sediments of NW Qld - in press

139 - Geological Papers 1970/71 - in press

140 - Palaeontological Papers 1970/71 - ready for press - contract being arranged

141 - Metallogenic Provinces and mineral deposits in the SW Pacific - in press

- 144 - Deformation of the crust and mantle in Central Australia - in press
- 145 - A commentary on the metallogenic map of Australia and PNG - in press
- 146 - Chemical analyses on Australian Rocks 1961-69 - ready for press - contract being arranged

#### Reports

8 Reports were issued during the period; 4 were sent to press, 5 including the 4 mentioned are in press; 7 others are being edited or are in various stages of preparation.

- 134 - Otway Basin - in press
- 150 - Mount Ramsay - in press
- 158 - Bibliography of the Sydney Basin - in press
- 159 - Isomagnetic maps of the Australian region for Epoch 1970.0 - in press
- 163 - Gosses Bluff - ready for press
- 164 - Warwick - Goondiwindi - ready for press
- 165 - Theses in Australian universities - ready for press - contract being arranged

#### Explanatory Notes

14 issued; 18 sent to press; 8 ready for press, 3 in hand - being edited.

#### Information Sub-Section

The Information Subsection provides information on BMR's activities and the Australian mineral industry and earth sciences in general, to other Government organizations, industry, and the public, and is concerned with the storage and retrieval of scientific information.

#### Information

The flow of enquiries by letter and personal request from industry and the public was attended to. The internal distribution of BMR publications and distribution of Records to Open File Centres, continued through the year.

#### Publications

The Annual Report of BMR's activities was published for the first time, and Records placed on open file during the month were included in the monthly list of publications. The draft of a Layman's Guide to Mineral Exploration was extensively revised.

Nine brochures, on important metals and Antarctica, were written, and a pamphlet on mineral exploration in the Canberra area has been completed.

Material was prepared for inclusion in external publications including: Department of National Development Annual Report, National Development Newsletter, Facts and Figures, Trade and Industry Booklets for each State, Commonwealth Year Book, News and Information Bureau publications.

### Exhibitions

A display of Canberra rocks, local geological maps and photographs of particular geological features was provided for an exhibition on the natural history of the A.C.T. at the Dickson Library and, later, at the Canberra Girls' Grammar School.

Material concerning the Bureau and petroleum exploration in the Surat area of Queensland was displayed at the Surat Sheep and Wool Show. Photographs illustrating BMR operations in Papua New Guinea were provided for display by the U.N. Association at Devonport, Tasmania, and a display was prepared for members of the Commonwealth Scientific Committee who met in Canberra in 1972.

Two mobile illuminated showcases have been ordered and the existing showcases will be fitted with lights. The new showcases will enable temporary exhibits to be set up at other places, and provide more display area within BMR. A new fluorescent minerals display case has also been ordered.

### Visits

The staff and student members of the Dickson Library, 6th class students from South Curtin Primary School, Canberra Grammar School and Lyons Primary School were shown films concerning Australia's mineral development and Australia's important minerals in a tour of the BMR museum. Experience showed that visits by primary schools are not satisfactory, and they have been discontinued. Where appropriate, a staff member will visit the school to give a talk relevant to a School project. This was done at Yarralumla Primary School.

A collection of Australian minerals and a film on the Australian mineral industry were shown, with an explanatory talk, to senior science students of the Canberra Girls' Grammar School. Arrangements were made for a full day visit to the Bureau by cadets of the Department of the Interior Survey Branch, showing activities of BMR relevant to their work. A science master at Telopea Park High School was helped with a geological tour for his senior students.

### Information storage and retrieval systems

Work continued on the proposal for a survey of BMR's needs in storage and retrieval of scientific and technical information and the design of an information system appropriate to these needs. Following a survey of the needs of the whole department, the project has been discussed with the Public Service Board, and a consultant to undertake the study will be selected probably early in the new year.

A proposal for indexing material lodged under the terms of the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act was submitted to the Australian Minerals Council Advisory Committee. Discussions on indexing and storing the material continued with Commonwealth Archives Office, which will store material on behalf of Designated Authorities.



LIBRARY

The main achievement of the Library over the past twelve months has been the streamlining of loans procedures and validation of loan records both at BMR and at most of the branch libraries. A Loans Officer was added to the Library staff. The presence of a supernumerary Librarian Class I has enabled inroads to be made into the cataloguing backlog, though much work, particularly revision, still remains to be done. Editing and relocation of back issues and duplicate sets of serials had been continued from the previous year and is now completed. The entire reprint collection has been revised and rehoused, as have the PSSA Reports, non-standard parts of which are now shelved in basement stacks.

Author/title and subject catalogues of the original collections combined in BMR Library have been merged. The "old" and "new" serials catalogues have also been merged. All the "old series" accession registers have been revised and re-written to exclude non-accessionable material.

Thanks to changes in procedures the circulation of new books and periodicals has become faster and more effective. Orders have been placed for additional "reference" copies of heavily used periodicals in order to improve current awareness facilities. The number of requests for information searches has increased, but not nearly to the level normal for a research-type establishment like BMR. It is feared that the uses and capabilities of the Library Reference Service are not properly understood by BMR staff. In March, 1972 the Librarian-in-Charge gave a talk in the Lecture Series on the Library and its facilities. The initial response was positive, but much remains to be done in user education. Another lecture is planned for next year.

During the year the Librarian-in-Charge visited the BRGM information coding centre in Paris - re indexing of geoscience literature, the Max Plank Institute Library in Munich and the Moscow State Library - re cataloguing difficulties with Russian corporate-author material. She also attended a two-day microfilming convention in Sydney.

The Library wishes to thank BMR staff for their patience and co-operation, particularly during periods of changes in Library procedures.

Salient statistics on the Library's output are set out below.

LIBRARY OUTPUT

November 1971 to October 1972

LOANS:	8,910
CIRCULATION:	
	Books 2,409
	Serials 10,099
INTER-LIBRARY LOANS:	
	Loaned to other libraries (items) 1,851
	Borrowed from other libraries (items) 621
ACCESSIONS:	160
CATALOGUING:	
	Books 793
	Serials 545
	Pamphlets 203
REFERENCE QUERIES:	141

PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION SECTION

For most of the year the Section has operated at half strength; accordingly, it was unable to continue with the cost-effectiveness reviews and detailed investigations of forward programs which were started in 1971.

K.M. Kennedy was seconded to the Working Party on BMR reorganization throughout the year and L.V. Bastian resigned in January 1972. A. Driessen replaced Bastian but he did not join the Section until November. R. Thieme was attached to Publications and Information for one month during the year.

During 1972 the two remaining officers, R. Aronsen and R. Thieme, provided assistance to the Director and Assistant Director Operations Branch in a number of areas including notification to petroleum exploration title holders of BMR operations, the 44th ANZAAS Congress, vacation students, organization, accommodation, radio licensing policy and some aspects of the PNG crustal movements project.

The 1972 program and tentative program for 1973 were compiled and issued after the February 1972 final program meeting. A program for 1973 to 1975 was compiled for the initial program meeting in December 1972.

In February the Section arranged and conducted an induction course for new officer of BMR; this course will be repeated each year.

The first BMR Symposium, held at the National Library in May, was arranged and administered by the Section. This two day symposium was attended by 180 persons and was well received. Accordingly a decision has been made to hold such a symposium annually and preliminary arrangements for 1973 have been made.

Record No. 1972/108 - SURVIVAL - was completed and arrangements are in hand for the printing of a field survival manual for the Department. Record No. 1072/41 "1972 (Abridged) Program" and Record No. 1972/33 "BMR Symposium 1972" were also issued.

The establishment and administration of the CDC 6600 computer terminal within BMR was undertaken during the year. This terminal is now fully operative and administered by the Section. One Computer Operator has been added to the personnel establishment.

A start has been made on cost-effectiveness reviews of the Bureau's major crustal projects.



BMR RE-ORGANIZATION

As a result of discussions between the Department and the Public Service Board, a Steering Committee was set up in January 1972 to consider restructuring of the BMR establishment. Members of the Committee are Dr N.H. Fisher, Director BMR, Mr R.H.J. Thompson, Assistant Secretary, Management Services, Department of National Development, Mr P. Moran, Assistant Commissioner PSB, who was replaced in February by Mr N. Attwood, Assistant Commissioner PSB, and Dr F. Fox, Consultant to PSB.

The Steering Committee met on four occasions to direct and consider the progress of a Working Party which was set up with the following terms of reference.

- . Present a statement of the long term program of BMR.
- . Examine the present organization of the Bureau in relation to current activities and the proposed future program.
- . Formulate proposals for restructuring and reorganization of the Bureau, if necessary, to meet most effectively its future operational needs.
- . Prepare detailed submissions for any reorganization required.

Members of the Working Party are Messrs K.R. Vale and K.M. Kennedy of BMR and Mr V. Pye, Management Services Branch, Department of National Development. Mr Pye left the Working Party and returned to Central Office on 20 October.

Work proceeded throughout the year and a report by the Working Party has been submitted to the Steering Committee.

Much of the effort has been directed towards defining an acceptable "mission oriented" structure as a change from the current "discipline oriented" structure. This is a major change with inherent difficulties in reaching the stage where a reorganization proposal can be processed through to the Public Service Board.

Summary estimates

	<u>Estimate</u> <u>1972/73</u> \$	<u>Expenditure</u> <u>1971/72</u> \$
1. <u>Salaries and Payments in the nature of Salary</u>		
01. Salaries and allowances	4,328,000	3,976,906
02. Overtime	160,000	136,350
	<u>4,488,000</u>	<u>4,113,256</u>
2. <u>Administrative Expenses</u>		
01. Travelling and subsistence	430,000	328,036
02. Office requisites and equipment, stationery and printing	97,000	84,000
03. Postage, telegrams and telephone services	120,000	102,823
04. Office Services	33,000	20,863
05. Printing and distribution of maps and publications	230,000	218,959
06. Motor vehicles - Hire and maintenance	510,000	504,615
07. Aircraft - Maintenance and running expenses	120,000	106,400
08. General stores	430,000	347,951
09. Contract investigations	2,100,000	2,215,908
10. Freight and cartage	110,000	90,771
11. Minor field operating costs	70,000	57,503
12. Repairs and maintenance of plant and equipment	50,000	39,539
13. Computer services	400,000	220,000
14. Incidental and other expenditure	48,000	40,234
	<u>4,748,000</u>	<u>4,377,602</u>
3. <u>Other Services</u>		
01. Search for oil - Subsidy	10,000,000	7,571,800
02. Riverview Observatory - Grant	4,000	4,000
	<u>10,004,000</u>	<u>7,575,800</u>
<u>TOTAL DIVISION 396</u>	<u>19,240,000</u>	<u>16,066,685</u>
Division 865		
1. 01. Plant and Equipment	<u>600,000</u>	<u>558,558</u>
Total Bureau of Mineral Resources	<u>19,840,000</u>	<u>16,625,216</u>

SUMMARY OF STAFF CHANGES

Period November 1971 - October 1972

	<u>Joined</u>	<u>Left</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Professional	41	22	+19
Technical Drafting	21	18	+3
Clerical	23	20	+3
Total	<u>85</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>+25</u>