DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY



BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES, GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

RECORD 1974/179



OPERATIONS BRANCH - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

FOR 1974

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BMR Record 1974/179 RECORD 1974/179

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1. SENIOR STAFF

K.R. Vale Assistant Director Editing and Information Section Geologist Class 5: K.A. Townley Geologist/Geophysicist Class 4: H.L. Higginson W.H. Oldham $E_{\bullet}P_{\bullet}$ Shelley (A/g)Geologist/Geophysicist Class 3: Mrs M.E. Bartlett R.R.E. Jacobson C.B. Selmser Mrs E.E. Young Geologist Class 2: G.M. Bladon I.M. Hodgson P.A. Smith Technical Officer Grade 2: L.C. Mundy ADP Applications Section Geophysicist Class 5: A.J. Barlow Geophysicist Class 3: D.W. Kerr Geologist Class 2: E.L. Smith J.T. Brown Programmer Class 9: Programmer Class 8: D. Downie (A/g)Mrs P.L. Thompson Programmer Class 6: Mrs F.D. Newman M.G. Riddell Planning and Co-ordination Section Geophysicist Class 4: K.M. Kennedy Geologist Class 3: R.B. Aronsen R. Thieme Geologist Class 2: vacant Library Librarian Class 2: Mrs H. Hughes

> Miss S. Attwood Mrs M.A. Thompson

Librarian Class 1:

Administrative Section

Administrative Officer:

B.M. Williams

Assistant Administrative Officer:

G. Scott

Finance Officer:

B.F. Hoare

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

L. Thwaites

2. EDITING & INFORMATION SECTION

As well as pursuing its normal functions during 1974, the Editing and Information Section has initiated several moves towards improvement of the scientific image of the Bureau. It has been considerably more involved in public displays than in most previous years; the scope and number of pamphlets and brochures has increased; and K.A. Townley has conducted seminars on scientific writing at the invitation of the Geological Survey of Western Australia, the University of New South Wales, and the Canberra College of Advanced Education.

A new series of publications (in the Report Series) containing summaries of all BMR publications, including Records, has been initiated, as has a restricted market survey on user reaction of some BMR publications. The problem of micropublishing first Records and then other publications has been studied in some depth, and the process will probably start early in 1975. An effort is being made to involve the whole scientific staff of BMR in discussions, and we hope decisions, on improvements to BMR publications.

Regular monthly meetings that have been established with AGPS have smoothed the path of publications.

Editing Sub-Section

All nominal positions remained filled during 1974, I.M. Hodgson being promoted to the Class 2 position vacated by Mrs P. Simpson.

There was considerable interruption to normal editing work during the year. L. Higginson spent about three months on the organization of Open Days, and other editors assisted in the preparation of brochures and the manning of exhibits. G. Bladon spent nearly two months on loan to the Geological Survey of Papua New Guinea at Port Moresby, assisting in the editing of PNG publications. In addition to normal leave, L. Higginson was on furlough for two months, and H. Oldham for one month. Attendance at a PSB course on interviewing techniques and at Promotions Appeal Committee and Central Promotions Appeal Committee hearings occupied L. Higginson for about a month.

Despite these interruptions, the group managed to keep up with the flow of editing work, and at the time of writing this summary editing had not begun on only one Bulletin, 2 Reports, and three Explanatory Notes. K.A. Townley made a substantial contribution in preventing a rise in the backlog. Publications released or expected to be released for distribution in 1974 are listed in this Record. All Records and an unusually large number of papers for submission to scientific journals were edited.

Other group activities included attendance at meetings of the Publications Review Committee, monthly meetings with the Australian Government Publishing Service, and discussions with the Government Printer and contract printers.

Information Sub-section

The Information Sub-section provides information on BMR's activities, the Australian mineral industry, and the geosciences generally to other Government organizations, industry, and the public. It answers enquiries from these sources, prepares exticles, brochures, and pamphlets on appropriate topics (commonly with the assistance of other parts of BMR), issues catalogues and indexes of various kinds, and arranges lectures and displays.

Information. The major part of the sub-section's effort goes into attending to the continuous flow of enquiries, by letter, telephone, and personal request, from industry and the public. These range from simple requests which can be met by sending a pamphlet or other publication to enquiries needing considerable effort to gather the information required. The number of enquiries from schools throughout Australia increased markedly at the beginning of the year after the inclusion of BMR in booklets listing sources of teaching aids.

Publications. The Annual Report on BMR activities in 1973, and the Pictorial Index of Activities showing where work of various kinds has been done by BMR in Australia and its Territories were prepared and issued during the year.

Pamphlets describing various aspects of BMR's work and giving accounts of the major mineral commodities were revised or written for the 1974 Open Days. A booklet entitled 'Interpretation of mineral exploration reports: A guide for the layman' was issued to satisfy the many requests for such information. Material was prepared for inclusion in Australian Government and commercial publications.

Distribution of RMR Records to Open File Centres continued through the year; 53 Records were placed on open file in the past 12 months.

BMR Symposium. The third annual BMR Symposium was held on 30 April and 1 May and was attended by 165 visitors from all capital cities and Darwin. Most visitors were from mining companies, a few from petroleum exploration companies, and some from universities and Australian Government authorities.

Fourteen papers were presented by BMR officers and the first Harold Raggatt Award was presented to K.A. Plumb for his paper 'Patterns of mineralization in northern Australia, with emphasis on lead and zinc'. The Harold Raggatt Award, a medal commemorating the late Sir Harold Raggatt's contributions to geology in Australia and his association with the founding and development of BMR, was presented to the Bureau by the late Lady Raggatt.

Preliminary arrangements have been made for the next symposium, which will be held on 22-23 April 1975.

Visits. Visits by school classes, interstate as well as local, continue to be popular despite our limited resources to cater for them. The main attraction is the display set up in the Museum, where the children can see and handle a variety of specimens, although the display is modest because of lack of space. A film or a slide show with automatic commentary describing an aspect of EMR's work usually is shown during the visit.

Open Days. BMR held Open Days on 2,3, and 4 May. Displays, flashing-lights models, slide shows, and films illustrating the wide range of its activities drew favourable comment from many visitors. The Museum and Palaeontology Sections, which offered a specimen identification service, were particularly popular with both adults and children. The Publications and Information Section played a co-ordinating role, each display being prepared by the group involved in conjunction with the Drawing Office and Workshops. About 11 000 people, including 2500 children on pre-arranged school visits, visited BMR during the three days.

Other displays

A special display was organized for the AIMM Energy Symposium on 8 November. Supporting display material was prepared for the BMR symposium, and a Canberra Engineering Geology and Geophysics display was organized for interested Departments and Authorities.

Information Storage and Retrieval. A start was made during the year on developing selected information storage and retrieval systems, using in-house resources. Priority was given to a system to handle both indexing of material submitted under the terms of the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act and the well-data master file specified by the Well Data Committee; development was hampered by computer problems. Interim specifications were established for conversion of the BMR catalogues of publications and Records to machine-readable form, and for conversion of the Stratigraphic Index to machine-readable form.

Developments relevant to national scientific and technical information systems and in scientific and technical information systems generally were kept under review during the year. I.R. McLeod attended the COGEODATA-UNESCO Seminar on the use of computer-based techniques in Geological Field Work and Geological Data-Base Management in Paris in November 1973, where useful personal contact was made with workers in this field.

After discussions between AMF, CSIRO, National Library, and BMR, AMF completed a first draft of a thesaurus of Earth Science and related terms; BMR received copies for detailed examination late in the year. Liaison continued with Australian Archives on storage of magnetic tape and other materials resulting from offshore petroleum exploration.

A study was begun during the year of the feasibility and implications of issuing BMR publications, Open File Records in particular, as microfiche. Trials in conjunction with service companies suggested that most Records can be satisfactorily copied to microform, and copying of new Records on a semi-production basis is expected to begin early in 1975. A microfilm reader-printer and microfilm reader were purchased during the year.

3. ADP APPLICATIONS SECTION

The Automatic Data Processing group formed in 1973 is providing a service to most BMR users. The service is provided in three main areas - systems operation and programming advice, information and retrieval project studies, and on-line data acquisition and data conversion facilities for laboratory instruments and field data tapes.

During the year the quality of service offered by the CSIRO Cyber 76 has involved the group in considerable effort assisting CSIRO to delineate the problems and to assist in correcting them. Also, where problems could not be solved immediately, alternative methods to skirt the problem have had to be evolved.

The information storage and retrieval requirements of the Bureau have been under consideration for some time. A project study was to have been let to a contractor to advise on the feasibility of various methods of storing information. The contract has been delayed and the ADP group has commenced the computer storage of several indexes. These are in the form of pilot studies to give ADP personnel experience in information file handling and to allow the users to assess their needs and the applicability of computer based systems.

The Hewlett Packard Model 2100 system was installed in 1973 and has now been interfaced to the X-Y digitizer and sedimentation tube, and interfacing to the Direct Reading Optical Spectrograph X-ray probe and photospectometer is proceeding. These should be in operation early in 1975. In addition the computer has been used extensively for the copy and editing of field magnetic tape and for paper tape to magnetic tape conversion.

Other projects include a program for a complete breakdown of BMR costs by project and section, and a pilot study of the problems in recording computer-compatible information by field geologists.

The group has been involved in the feasibility studies of new replacement data acquisition systems. A design study was undertaken and submissions prepared for the replacement of the Geophysical Branch Observatory group magnetogram digitizer by a computer-based acquisition system. This was combined with a proposal to upgrade the survey aircraft acquisition system by replacing its computer with a lighter-weight but more powerful unit and using the replaced computer in the Observatory group system.

The X-Y digitizer has now been successfully interfaced to the 2100 computer. The interface supplied by the digitizer manufacturer required considerable modification. Data is transmitted to the computer and temporarily stored on disc. On completion of the job data is transferred to magnetic tape.

A drum plotter was also installed during the year. Its main use is the production of monitor contour plots and profiles. It is being used almost continuously for a single shift. It has relieved the load on the flat-bed plotter which is now mainly used for scribing of final maps. Work load is expected to increase considerably on both machines in the new year.

The group as a whole has been unable to cope with all requests in the ADP applications field. Many requests have been investigated only superficially and others deferred. These requests include further information indexing systems, additional laboratory instruments to be integrated to the data acquisition computer, assistance with design of new data acquisition systems for the Geophysical Branch, and further development of automated drafting techniques.

4. PLANNING & CO-ORDINATION SECTION

The Section, of four professional officers, was fully staffed until July 1974 when A.J. Driessen was transferred to the Mineral Economics Section. A graduate clerk, D.R. Boorman, was assigned to the Section in April 1974 for experience.

The Bureau program for 1974-76 was made ready and distributed in March 1974. Notification of activities was passed to relevant State Mines Departments and mining companies for concurrence. The Supervisors' program meetings for 1975-77 were conducted during the week ending 25 October; details for this meeting and the Director's program meeting were co-ordinated by the Section.

The resources accounting project, which was introduced by the Section in 1973, now covers a complete financial year. A computer read-out, showing a break-down in costs and manpower, is available.

Considerable administrative effort was directed towards the training and employment of Colombo Plan fellows, Overseas Undergraduate Scheme personnel, Trainee Technical Officers, graduate clerks, and vacation students. The first intake of Technical Training Officers (Science) to undergo the new Applied Science (Geology and Chemistry) Certificate course at Canberra Technical College completed Phase I of the course this year.

BMR activities in Papua New Guinea called for the preparation of a draft agreement to cover future operations including land tenure arrangements and the conditions of service. The Section also has a continued (committee) involvement in the PNG crustal movement project.

The policy instruction on entry to Aboriginal and other reserves and exploration/mining tenements was updated.

Arrangements were made to establish a helicopter period contract to cover the Department's helicopter airlift requirements. Continuous inflation of operating costs, and some aspects of the draft contract specification, led to the postponement of the period contract until 1975.

The Section prepared a 'country position paper', for the Commonwealth Scientific Committee meeting held in July, on the role of Geological Surveys.

A paper on the level of research and development carried out by Government departments was prepared in answer to a parliamentary question.

Continued effort has been applied to arrange adjustment of accommodation to cope with staff increases.

A review of staff manning was effected as a planning basis for the newly imposed staff ceiling for the Bureau.

Other activities undertaken by the Section included staff submissions for personnel establishment and organizational variations, involvement in the proposal for flexible working hours, revision of the Party Formation forms, representation on various committees, and production of a glove-box size interim survival manual.

5. LIBRARY

Performance Statistics, November 1973 to October 1974 11993 Loans Serials Circulation 17728 Inter-Library Loans Requested from BMR 1811 Requested by BMR 1360 498 Reference Searches Cataloguing (new & revisions) 864 Books Serials 323 Other material 85

During the year demand for reference services has risen by 55 percent. Part of the increase is probably due to the release of two pamphlets for the guidance of users: 'How to use the Library', and 'How to use the Catalogues'.

The Library's procedures for control of loans and circulation of serials appear to be operating satisfactorily, despite staff shortages. For the first time since the establishment of the Library the Auditor's report was favourable; the stocktake carried out at the end of September showed a nett loss over the past 18 months of less than 0.4 percent.

Inter-library loan requests by BMR for material from other libraries rose by 100%. The increase is probably due to restrictions on the ordering of serials on work in new subject areas.

A submission for reorganization and increase in staff was prepared early this year because the library cannot maintain basic services fully with its present staff structure. The submission was queried intra-departmentally in August and a resubmission, based on additional data, has been made since.

The Library continues to participate in the preparation of the Australian Thesaurus of Earth Science and Related Terms and examination of the first list of candidate terms has begun.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

The second extension of the Core & Cuttings Laboratory was completed during the year. This is to be fully compactorized in three stages. Stage 1 is complete and in use; stage 2 is expected to be completed before the end of 1974; stage 3 is expected to be finalized during 1975/76 depending upon funds.

Twenty portable calculators were purchased during the year for use by field staff.

Several compactus units were installed in the Rock Store area at Fyshwick using a combination of compactus units from the Patents Office, existing hard-standing shelving fitted to new mobile frames, and entirely new compactus units. One large unit to be converted from adjustable shelves to fixed drawers is expected to be finalized in 1974.

A furniture stocktake of BMR Building was conducted during September 1974 and although some discrepancies were found the result is better than previous stocktakes.

The 1974/75 Works Program is set out in an attachment.

The Australian Government Printer has begun negotiations to set up a Sub-Printery within BMR before the end of 1974.

As in 1973, a large percentage of staff were on higher duties during the year owing to staff problems.

A new system of files was introduced to maintain and update regularly information on organization and establishment proposals.

During the year the following new positions or reclassifications were approved: Clerk Class 4 (Branch Services, Mineral Resources), Clerk Class 4, Clerk Class 3, CA3, and CA2 Relief, Vehicles Officer reclassified to Clerk Class 4, Typist Gr. 2 for additional Justowriter position, and one Steno-Sec. Gr. 1 reclassified to Gr. 2 (Director's Steno-Sec.).

Changes were introduced in connexion with AILO/T to avoid possible underpayment or overpayment.

The Bureau was required to appear before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts owing to under-expenditure against Division 355-2 Item 09 Contract Investigations.

Finalizing the program for both Plant and Equipment and Contract Investigations for 1974/75 proved to be a major task owing to the difficulties in containing the maximum expenditure within the approved appropriation. This was due almost entirely to the large carry-forward on 1 July 1974, which will require a large portion of the available appropriation.

A fraud at the Australian Government Sub-Treasury, Port Moresby, involved a total of \$19,741 of which \$12,649 was taken from BMR funds.

Serious accidents to vehicles have been few.

Preliminary discussions took place on the introduction of flexible hours but these have not yet been introduced.

BMR was represented at Departmental Committee meetings to discuss field survey conditions and allowances.

A BMR vehicle was involved in a fatal accident at Mareeba, Qld, in November 1973. The BMR driver was exonerated from any blame.

Administrative staff gave assistance to May 1974 'Open Days'.

Payment of fees or salary to Aboriginal guides has been referred to PSB for directions.

Staff changes for the period 1.10.73 - 30.9.74 for the whole of BMR are as follows:

	Joined	Left	Difference
Professional	26	18	+ 8
Technical/Drafting	43	44	- 1 ,
Clerical	69	48	+ 21
			- 1-1-1-1-1-1
Total	138	110	+ 28

In accordance with Government policy the BMR staff ceiling for 1974-75 is 593, plus 66 wages hands.

The following publications were released during the year or are expected to be released for distribution:

Bulletins

- 83A Timor Sea continental shelf sediments map Jones & Jongsma
- 143 Earth science abstracts, PNG to 1971 Manser
- Chemical analyses of Australian rocks, igneous and metamorphic, Supplement 1961-69 - Joplin
- Lower Carboniferous geology of the Rouchel district, N.S.W. Roberts & Oversby
- 148 Mineral map Papua New Guinea Grainger
- 149 Geology of the Sydney Basin Mayne et al.
- 150 Palaeontological papers 1972/73
- 156A Correlation chart for the Carboniferous System of Australia Jones, Campbell, & Roberts
- 157 Marine geology of the Arafura Sea Jongsma

Reports

- 140 The post Palaeozoic Rocks of the Warwick 1:250 000 Sheet Area. Qld. - Exon & Reiser
- Geology of the northern half of the Bowen 1:250 000 Sheet area. 145 Qld. - Paine, Gregory & Clarke
- The older Precambrian geology of the Lennard River 1:250 000 153 Sheet area - Gellatly, Morgan, Soufoulis, & Derrick
- 154 Geology of the Charnley 1:250 000 Sheet area, W.A. - Gellatly. Derrick, Halligan, & Sofoulis
- 160 Catalogue of additional type and figured specimens other than Protista in the Commonwealth Palaeontological Collection. Canberra - Crespin
- Geology of the Auvergne 1:250 000 Sheet area. N.T. Sweet. 161 Morgan, & Pontifex
- 164 Palaeozoic geology of the Warwick and Goondiwindi 1:250 000 Sheet areas, Qld and N.S.W. - Olgers, Flood, & Robertson
- 166 Geology of the northern Victoria River region, N.T. - Sweet. Mendum, Morgan, & Pontifex.
- 168
- AFMAG field recording 1968-71 Almond Seismicity of the NG/Solomon Islands region, 1968 Denham 169
- Bibliography of reports on laterite, silcrete and related 170 materials resulting from studies in Australia - Watts

Geological Maps and Explanatory Notes

Abau Balladonia Burketown Cue Dobbyn (2nd Ed.) Donors Hill Fergusson Island Forrest Galbraith Galilee Gilberton Jubilee Karamui

Madura-Burnabbie

Menzies

Normanton Peak Hill Pomio Rutland Plains Samarai Simpson Desert North Simpson Desert South Talasea-Gasmata

Millungera

Tufi - Cape Nelson Wave Hill Zanthus

1:1 000 000 Geological Map Papua New Guinea

Preliminary Geological Maps

Alligator River Billiluna Cundeelee Highland Rocks Madang

Minigwal Mount Theo North Eromanga Basin Victoria River region

Aeromagnetic Maps

Belele Byro Cairns Cue Glengarry Goulburn Kingston

Kirkalocka Mossman Murgoo Walsh Wiluna Yalgoo

Preliminary Aeromagnetic Maps

Cloncurry (profiles) - also radiometric profiles
Corrigin
Georgetown (profiles) - also radiometric profiles
Kellerberrin
Perth (part)
Pinjarra (part)
Westmoreland (profiles) - also radiometric profiles

Bouguer Anomaly Maps

Ajana Murgoo Barlee Nabberu Belele Naretha. Burnabbie Neale Ningham Byro Cooper Noonaera Peak Hill Cue Culver Perenjori Dongarra Plumridge Quobba Duketon Edjudina Rason Eucla Robert Forrest Robinson Range Geraldton Sandstone Glenburgh Seemore Sir Samuel Glengarry Stanley Jubilee Kennedy Range Talbot Throssel Kingston Vernon Kirkalocka Waigen Laverton Wanna Lennis Leonora Westwood Loongara Wiluna Madura Wooramel Yalgoo Mason Menzies Yaringa Minigwal Youanmi Mount Phillips Yowalga

Preliminary Bouguer Anomaly Maps

Alligator River Limbunya Arnhem Bay Lissadell Ashton Londonderry Auvergne Melville Island Bathurst Island Medusa Banks Birrindudu Milingimbi Blue Mud Bay Montague Sound Cambridge Gulf Mount Doreen Camden Sound Mount Elizabeth Cape Beatrice Mount Evelyn Cape Scott Mount Marumba Charnley Mount Ramsay Cobourg Peninsula Mount Theo Darwin Mount Young Delamere Nookanbah Dixon Range Pellew

Preliminary Bouguer Anomaly Maps contd.

Drysdale

Fergusson River

Fog Bay

Gordon Downs

Gove

Highland Rocks

Hodgson Downs

Junction Bay

Katherine

Lake Mackay

Landsdowne

Larrimah

Lennard River

Pine Creek

Port Keats

Port Langdon

Prince Regent

Roper River

The Granites

Truant Island

Urapunga

Victoria River Downs

Waterloo

Wessell Islands

Yampi

Other Publications

Petroleum Exploration and Development Titles Map and Key - 31 December 1972 and 30 June 1973

AMI Quarterly Vol. 25 No. 4, Vol. 26 Nos.1, 2, 3

AMI Preprint Chapters - Aluminium

Lead

Nickel

Tin

Titanium

Zinc

Copper

opper

Iron Ore

Mineral Resources Report Nos. 1 (Bauxite), 2 (Nickel), and 3 (Phosphate)

Publication Sales

Cash counter sales of publications in the BMR building for the period 1.10.73 to 30.9.74 amounted to \$6796.

BMR Works Program 1974/75

Treasury Allocations

(Reference Dept. of Minerals and Energy Minute 73/2351-2-3 of 18 July 1974).

Repairs & Maintenance	Proposal (*) Reduction Program (Ø)	\$ 92 380 20 380 72 000
Minor New Works	Proposal (*) Reduction Program (Ø)	82 120 24 320 57 800
Furniture & Fittings	Proposal (*) Reduction Program (Ø)	102 537 50 537 52 000

^{* 1974-75} Draft Estimate Bid
Ø " Final Treasury Allocation

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATES

]		mate 4/75		Ex	pend 197	7
DIV	ISION 355								
1.	Salaries and Payments in the nature of Salary								
	O1. Salaries and O2. Overtime	allowances	6	•	000		5.	425 167	· • .
			6	425	000		5	593	055
2.	Administrative Expenses								
		ites and equipment,			000			432	
	03. Postage teleg	and printing rams and telephone			000			102	
	services 04. Office service 05. Printing and	es distribution of maps			400 000			146 29	657 405
	and publica 06. Motor vehicle			-	000			251 548	
	expenses 08. General store	28		365	000			195 373	954
	10. Freight and contract inverse 11. Minor field on 12. Repairs and m	artage	1	95	000 000		1		618 674 699
	equipment 13. Computer serv	_		400	000 000 600			468	470 325 163
			3	844	000		4	060	405
3.	Other Services								
	O1. Search for oi O2. Riverview Obs	——————————————————————————————————————	6	000 6	000		9	999 4	592 000
			6	006	000		10	003	592
	Tota	l Division 355	16	275	000		1 9	657	052
DIV	ISION 890-1								
	01. Plant and equ	ipment		600	000			655	960
	Gran	d Total BMR	16	875	000		20	313	012