

Geological Society of Australia

Earth Science Showcase



Sunday 3 May 2009

New national showcase aims to hook more people on Earth Science careers

A new national *Earth Science Showcase* launched today by the Geological Society of Australia (GSA) aims to highlight to high school students — and any adults thinking of a change in career direction — the “universe of career possibilities” available to those who study Earth Science, while also better informing the general public on important geoscience research and issues.

The *Showcase* will comprise a fortnightly news release service highlighting groundbreaking research and compelling findings in all sectors of the geosciences. These releases will be:

- emailed to more than 2000 general, science and education journalists and media outlets across Australia
- emailed free to members of the public who wish to receive them (see subscription details at the end of this media release)
- posted on GSA’s website as a national public information and study resource.

“Earth Science is one of the most underestimated branches of science today” GSA President, Professor Peter Cawood, said. “Yet it is critical to the wellbeing of current and future generations, the responsible management of Earth’s natural resources, and humankind’s ability to respond successfully to natural threats and disasters.

“Geoscience is ‘big impact science’ — you don’t get science that is much more relevant to the major challenges confronting life on Earth than that which tackles environmental degradation, food and water security, and geo-hazards like tsunamis and earthquakes, while also looking at how Earth and the rest of the Solar System evolved and what is in store for our universe in the future.

“Geoscience is also the point in the road where the ‘big three’ sciences meet – geoscientists use their knowledge of physics, chemistry and biology daily to understand the Earth, its evolution, its climate and the major environmental issues facing humankind.

“One of the key messages we want to get across with our *Earth Science Showcase* is that if you’re seeking a career path that offers variety, geoscience is hard to beat — it can involve anything from studying the Moon, Mars and the formation of the Solar System, to analysing fossils which are millions of years old, asteroid impact craters, marine eco-systems and past climatic variability.

“Studies in geoscience can lead to a career where you can make a huge contribution to how we combat salinity, ensure water quality and availability, and better utilise clean energy sources.

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Earth Science Showcase is a fortnightly information service of the Geological Society of Australia. Media interested in receiving Showcase media releases should email patgdaley@optusnet.com.au. Others interested in receiving Showcase media releases should email mediasubscribe@gsa.org.au. Find more information on Earth Science at www.gsa.org.au. ‘A career in Earth Science — a world of possibility’.

“It can also mean working for a big mining company as a resource geoscientist, contributing to food and water safety, studying the history of Earth over millions of years, or helping to predict earthquake, tsunami and landslide risk and developing disaster mitigation strategies.

“In short, a career in geoscience is exciting and extremely wide-ranging, and graduates in the field find they are keenly sought by many sectors. You don’t see many geoscientists who are bored with their work!”

GSA also hopes the *Earth Science Showcase* will help raise the profile of geoscience in school science classrooms, particularly at high schools across Australia.

“GSA has argued for many years that high school science curriculums across Australia should be revised so they better highlight geoscience as a compelling field of scientific study, and make secondary students aware that a career in Earth Science is much more than just digging up dirt with a shovel” Professor Cawood said.

“No pun intended, but a career as a geoscientist offers a universe of possibilities and a real chance to make a difference.

“Yet this exciting branch of science continues to receive very little profile in our classrooms, where the majority of class time is allocated to the ‘big three’ sciences of chemistry, physics and biology.

“While we would be the first to agree that chemistry, physics and biology have an important place in science classrooms, it is crucial that more focus also is given to raising the profile of geoscience with students and informing them of the incredibly interesting and wide-ranging fields of study and work that geoscience offers.

“Given its critical importance to our future well-being, it is time to take geoscience out of the classroom cupboard and put it firmly on the whiteboard in front of school students, particularly during the years when they are seriously assessing what their future career paths might be.

“We hope our *Earth Science Showcase* will help to do this by giving geoscience the profile it deserves, both in our schools and also in the general community.”

Available for interview: GSA Executive Member, Dr Jon Hronsky and GSA President, Professor Peter Cawood.

Media contact: Patrick Daley, Patrick Daley PR, tel: 0408 004 890.

Important request to media: The Geological Society of Australia is seeking to promote Earth Science and careers in Earth Science to the Australian public and most importantly students. Please assist us to do this by mentioning in any interviews or articles that this story is part of the Geological Society of Australia’s *Earth Science Showcase*. **Members of the public interested in subscribing to this free service to receive regular media releases on Earth Science research can do so by emailing mediasubscribe@gsa.org.au** with the following details: preferred email address, name, state, age (optional), organisation (if any) and phone number (to assist with clarification of email details if required). **Please also mention that the Society’s website, www.gsa.org.au, is a good source of information on Earth Science.**

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