



**National Science Week – 16-24 August 2008**

**Geological Society of Australia media alert  
Friday 15 August 2008**

## **Media alert – Monday launch**

**What:** Launch of *A Geological Guide to Canberra Region and Namadgi National Park*, guidebook, map and interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) CD.

These products have been developed by the Geological Society of Australia (GSA, ACT Division) and will be launched by Mick Gentleman MLA along with David Gibson (Vice President of the GSA's ACT Division) and Dr James Johnson (Chief of Division, Onshore Energy and Minerals Division, Geoscience Australia).

**When:** Monday 18 August 2008 at 12:30pm (during National Science Week) at the ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic.

### **Did you know that:**

- all of Canberra and the ACT (including the Brindabellas) were once under the ocean, and that there are ancient deepwater marine fossils about 450 million years old still visible in and around Canberra to prove it?
- throughout geological history Canberra has experienced both tropical and polar climates?
- the Canberra landscape was part of a chain of active volcanoes about 420 million years ago and since then there has been as much as 5 kilometres of erosion of the Earth's crust in this region as well as along the eastern Australian highlands?
- Canberra and the ACT is internationally renowned for its ancient fossils, including some so complete that you can trace the nerve endings and blood supply of the fish which formed them (fish which, interestingly, had external skeletons)?
- Canberra and south-east Australia is a 'granite mecca' for geoscientists around the world, given what these ancient rock-forms can tell us about the geological formation and erosion of the Earth's crust?
- Canberra (and the whole Australian Continent) is moving north-northeast at around 7cm a year?

Two years in the making, ***A geological guide to Canberra Region and Namadgi National Park – and the accompanying map and interactive CD*** – have been produced by the Geological Society of Australia (ACT Division) with funding assistance from the Geological Society of Australia and the ACT Government, and additional assistance from Geoscience Australia and the National Parks Association of the ACT.

This is the first time such a guide has been produced on the unique geological landscape of Canberra and the ACT region, particularly from an historical perspective. The guide, map and interactive CD are

intended as an educational and information tool for students, teachers, bushwalkers, birdwatchers and the many others who like trekking around the ACT's unique landscape. Included with the guide are a series of suggested excursions to geological landmarks in the Canberra region and Namadgi National Park. The CD contains a Geographic Information System (GIS) version of the map, enabling users to interactively add in places of interest to them.

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**Media are very welcome to attend the launch.**

**Interviews are available today/over the weekend, as well as on Monday and thereafter, with Dr Doug Finlayson, a Canberra-based seismologist who compiled the Guide (and who is a committee member of the Geological Society of Australia's ACT Division).**

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