Geology in the Oceania region: A Preface

Guest Editors:

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The papers in this issue of *Episodes* are introduced by the Secretary of the 34th International Geological Congress to briefly outline the scope of the forthcoming congress and the geographical region that it emphasises. Of the following 6 framework papers, 5 provide broad outlines of the geology, structure and mineralisation of the major land masses of the Oceania region (Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea and New Caledonia) and one provides historical details of the early geologists in Australia. These papers generally represent several decades of work in the field described and provide thorough, up-to-date reviews of their subject matter. Then there are 21 papers describing aspects of the geology in much more specific regions which some of the planned field trips associated with 34th IGC will visit (Figure 1). These range from discussion of astrobiological aspects seen in the Flinders Ranges of South

Australia and Precambrian stromatolites from the Pilbara region of Western Australia to details of modern reef growth along the 2,300 km long Great Barrier Reef. The settings for major Au mineralisation within the Yilgarn Craton of Western Australia (e.g., at Kalgoorlie), base metals in Tasmania and the Mount Isa Inlier (Qld) and iron-oxide Cu-Au mineralisation at Olympic Dam are described. Thus, these papers provide useful backgrounds to many of the field trips associated with the 34th International Geological Congress in Brisbane.

Reviewers from the Oceania region, Europe and North America are individually acknowledged within the various papers. However, we would like to thank the reviewers of earlier drafts of these papers for providing constructive reviews within a tight time frame.

Keith Scott is a Visiting Fellow at the Research School of Earth Sciences, ANU and Honorary Fellow at CSIRO Earth Science and Resource Engineering. Over the last 35 years, his research has emphasised the relationship of geochemistry to mineralogy and the control exerted by specific mineral phases on the distribution of pathfinder elements during the weathering of Au and base metal deposits. He is co-editor of "Regolith Science" and on the editorial board for the forthcoming "Shaping a Nation: a Geology of Australia".

Peter Jell is a senior project officer with the Geological Survey of Queensland, coordinating and editing a new edition of the "Geology of Queensland". His background is in paleontology, specialising in trilobites, echinoderms and insects across all ages throughout Australia.

Figure 1 Locations of 34 IGC field trips (see also www.34igc.org), with background papers within this issue also indicated by authors' names.