Recent metrics have shown that, despite the shrinking size of our School, our research is above to well above World average. This is matched by the quality of our teaching program as reflected by the success of our postgraduate students, as well as enrolment numbers. In the past 8 years, enrolment in 1st year Geosciences has more than doubled to close to 400 students in 2013, the largest 1st year undergraduate intake ever since our School was created. No doubt our attentive managers will recognize and reward accordingly our sustained efforts.

Food security in a context of economic growth is one of the twenty-first century’s key global challenges. Routledge has just announced the publication date for a forthcoming book on food security in India: Feeding India - Livelihoods, Entitlements and Capabilities by A/Prof Bill Pritchard (School of Geosciences, USYD), Prof. Anu Rammohan (School of Business, UWA), Prof. Madhushree Sekher (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai), S. Parasuraman (Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences), and PhD candidate Chetan Choithani (School of Geosciences, USYD).

This book “... explains how India’s chronic food security problem is a function of a distinctive interaction of economic, political and environmental processes.” This collaborative research contribution demonstrates the deep engagement of our School with global challenges, and the shared interests with Indian colleagues in human development and scientific innovation. Congratulation to Bill, Chetan and their colleagues.

Order your copy: http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415529679/
**IN THE NEWS THIS month**

**Seriously Newsworthy**

On Saturday 23rd of February, in a brave act of self sacrifice, Frenchman Dr Nicolas Flament went deep into enemy territory to claim, in front of a crowd of fierce and incredulous Kiwis, the heart of the charming New Zealand born Kylie Sedon. Before the wedding, both party signed an agreement not to engage in conversation regarding rugby, nuclear test, or any ill-guided acts of sabotage. Nico has since disappeared, but the French embassy is still confident he will comeback unharmed from his perilous journey, hopefully with Mrs Kylie Flament. Congratulations Nico and Kylie!

**Accolades**

Australia Day Honours 2013
Officer (OA) in the General Division of the Order of Australia

Ms Lynelle Jann Briggs, a graduate from our School (first year Geography 1977) and former CEO of Medicare Australia from 2009-2011, has been recognised ...

"For distinguished service to public administration, particularly through leadership in the development of public service performance and professionalism."

Warm congratulations to Ms Briggs!

**Going Abroad**

PhD candidate Erin Smith will participate in the Go8-C9 Student Leadership in International Cooperation (SLIC) Program. As part of the program, Erin will travel with six PhD students from other Go8 universities and visit five of the China 9 universities: Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Fudan University, Xi’an Jiaotong University, University of Science and Technology China and Nanjing University. The purpose of the program is to develop proposals and ideas for cooperation between Australian and Chinese universities with the aim of promoting opportunities for outbound student mobility from Australia. The Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education provided the Go8 with funding to establish the program. Well done Erin, and Bon Voyage!

**In the Press**

Dr Thomas Landgrebe and his co-authors unleash the power of data-mining to explore for precious opal in central Australia.

IN THE NEWS THIS month

Dr Jeff Neilson in the news: Sharing the mining bonanza is not a uniquely Australian issue, as shown by raising tensions between the Mongolian government and Rio Tinto over a $6.6 billion cooper and gold project, the single biggest investment in the country. Jeff contributes to the analysis of this growing problem in developing countries: Read it here: http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-20/rio-tinto-s-mongolia-copper-dream-awakens-20-year-old-nightmare.html

PhD candidate Kara Matthews and her co-authors explain the opening of the southwest Pacific.


Seen on Twitter: From: Chris ... Who the hell approved an online expense claiming system that requires a 10 page user guide to (still not be able to) use?... spendvision fail.

A good question from Chris who obviously has had a pretty hard day at the office. Geo.news is here to help.

Spendvision is a TMP, a Transaction Management Platform, widely used in the corporate world. Spendvision is a central piece in the ultimate Manager Toolbox which includes devices such as the AMS (Asset Management System), the QMS (Quality Management System), the PMS (Performance Management System), the CMS (Content Management System), the TMS (Team Management System), the PSMS (Poor Staff Management System), and the MSMS (Management System Management System).

Spendvision is a sophisticated tool. For one to harvest the many benefits of this fine piece of software, a minimum level of intellectual agility, and a certain level of perseverance are required. In what follows, Geo.news takes a look at the brilliant Travel Requisition capability seamlessly embedded into Spendvision. In this tutorial, Geo.news reveals a few shortcuts to quickly lodge a travel requisition ...

Spendvision
Geo.news to the rescue

@ Bill Watterson
For those of any significance, please contact your personal assistant officer, or its deputy, they will take care of your Spendivision for you.

All others read on ...

In your favourite web browser enter Spendivision.com

Click (1) on Customer Login then enter Spendivision by using your username and password

If your password is older than a few days set up a new one

If your password is younger than a few days you should be able to access Spendivision

If your password is a few days old wait and try again tomorrow

Inside Spendivision click on help on the upper right corner. Then click on Travel Management. This section explains that one needs to have a confirmed booking before to make a Travel Requisition.

You have a confirmed booking

Keep going

You do not have a confirmed booking

Contact your approved travel agent and make a booking

The Travel Management section explains how to edit an existing Travel Requisition. It does not explain how to make a new Travel Requisition. This is because only idiots would ever require guidance, Spendivision is that easy.

Normal people have no need for the help menu, so close it and Click (2) on Travel, Cash and Card on the horizontal blue bar. Then on the left panel under Travel, Card and Cash Click (3) on Travel Requisitions & Cash Claims

Now if you think this is enough to get to Travel Requisitions & Cash Claims, then you are mistaken. Upon clicking on Travel Requisitions & Cash Claims a new line appears underneath Travel Requisitions & Cash Claims which reads: "Statement - Your Name"

Click (4) on Statement - Your Name

Now if you think this is enough to get to the Travel Requisitions section then you are still mistaken. Compose yourself and look for the barely visible Travel Requisitions: Create New Item ... see it? ... no? ... on the right, below the horizontal blue bar... yes! the one written in very pale bleu with very a small font.

Click (5) on Travel Requisitions: Create New Item

Believe it or not, you're about to reach the "Travel Requisition" section, in 12 steps and 5 clicks only, brilliant!

BRAVO ! YOU HAVE NOW REACHED THE TRAVEL REQUISITION SECTION !!!!
Once all the blank fields have been filled, click on "Save". A new window called "Travel Requisition Details" opens. There is 3 options to choose from: "Domestic Travel" "International Travel" and "Cash Advance". To keep things short, click on "Domestic Travel" (the simpler of the 3 options).

A new window opens called "Travel Requisition Details". Fill the blanks: Money on the left column, explanation on the right column. Once all the fields are filled, click on "Save".

A new window opens called "Travel Requisition Details", yes the same than before ... you are in familiar territory. Once all the fields are filled, click on "Save".

BRAVO! YOU HAVE NOW REACHED THE TRAVEL REQUISITION SECTION!!!!

BRAVO! YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE TRAVEL REQUISITION SECTION !!!!

BRACE YOURSELF FOR THE SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Step 13 and 14

Step 15 and 16

Step 17 and 18

Step 19

A new window opens called "Travel Requisitions: Create New item". Just fill the blanks.

Under the section Expense Details there is a field called Date. You may ask yourself: What date? The date when your requisition is made? The date of departure? Your last date?

If you “mouse over” the blue question mark, you get that this date is ...

... the date when you anticipate this expense to be incurred.

Can’t be clearer than that!

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BRACE YOURSELF FOR THE SUBMISSION PROCEDURE
**THE SUBMISSION PROCEDURE TOWARDS THE GRAND FINALE**

**Step 20 and 21**
A new window opens called “Account Statement”.

The submission procedure towards the grand finale:

NOW YOU MAY WANT TO PAY ATTENTION HERE ...

There is a “submit” written in red, calling to be click at. CLICK IT! (9)
A new window opens claiming: Your Requisition has been submitted ... what you don’t know yet is: where?

Idiots would believe that, following submission there is nothing else to do.
Those poor souls are gravely mistaken!

**Step 22**
Upon clicking the red “submit” your requisition is indeed submitted but ... only to the next window which happens to be the same window you are already on!

Click (10) on your requisition which now appears under “Travel Requisition: Summary”

A new “Account Statement” page appears.

Click (11) on the Print/Email Summary

**Step 23 and 24**
A new window opens called “Travel Request for Your Name”

Scroll down to the very bottom and enter the email address of your supervisor,
then Click (12) on “Email”.

**Step 25**
A new window briefly opens confirming “Email sent successfully” ...
... but the window “Travel Request for Your Name” is still there ...
... so to make sure, send this Travel Request to yourself... (Click 13)
... you may want to send it to your Resource Manager ... (Click 14) ...
... you may want to send it to a few colleagues ... (Click 15, 16, 17, 18, 19) ...
... you may want to send it to your insurance provider ... (Click 20) ...
... to your lawyer ... (Click 21) ...
... and to your mum ... (Click 22) ...

**Step 26**
Be brave and close the window called “Travel Request for Your Name”

**Step 27**
Be bold and close the window called “Travel Request for Your Name”,
logout of Spendvision
ET VOILA!

**Step 28**
NB: Print your Travel Request and to bring a hardcopy to your Supervisor in person.

Last detail: Should your requisition be declined contact your travel agent asap, and try to get a refund on your confirmed booking. Good Luck.