History of the Earth Resources Foundation

The Earth Resources Foundation was formed in 1976 within the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Sydney with the support of twelve industry members led by ESSO Australia Ltd and Shell Development (Australia) Pty Ltd. During the subsequent 20 years, the Foundation has been supported for varying periods by more than 100 industry members.

The foundation has organised numerous workshops, symposia, lectures and seminars either in its own right, or with other learned or professional organisations, and also with other universities.

Strategy, Achievement of Objectives & Financial Performance against Budget

The strategy for 2008 was to focus on promoting the research and teaching of the School of Geosciences to the community, particularly industry and schools. Some progress was made in this regard, though the Foundation sees the need to examine objectives for fundraising, membership, promotion and education activities for 2009. In particular, the Foundation will examine ways to increase funding support for the School of Geosciences, through membership fees, scholarship support, research collaborations and other measures.

The 2008 financial performance is positive, with a 7.5% improvement on 2007 figures, chiefly because of the management fees derived from the PESA lectures. Notwithstanding, it did not reach the target 15% increase. It is clear that for the Foundation to make significant gains in fundraising, new strategies will need to be established that will attract income and other support from new and existing members, supporters and industry collaborators.

The ERF Council anticipates progress will be made in the coming year in setting and reaching such new goals.
President’s Report

During 2008 the Earth Resources Foundation focussed on its role as external advocate for the School of Geosciences at Sydney University.

To that end the Edgeworth David Day (EDD) seminar was reformatted to showcase the research work being undertaken in the School to a mixed audience of external parties. The 2009 EDD is likely to have a similar format, however, presentations and audiences are likely to be more focussed. Our intent is to seek financial support for our graduate student programs in areas that produce value for industry.

The Foundation continued its usual business of organising scholarships for students and symposia for industry professionals.

As in previous years we managed all the arrangements for the Esso Distinguished Lecturer and PESA Visiting Lecturer tours of Australasia. The talks were well attended and well received, both in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. The Foundation is grateful to Esso Australia and PESA for their continuing support, and to Lana Kolta, who very successfully made all the arrangements.

The Foundation also held a very successful function at the Nicholson Museum on 21 May 2008 at which we made our annual presentation of scholarships to graduate and undergraduate students from the School followed by a cocktail party for the students and their guests. This is always a happy event and the Foundation would like to congratulate the winners and thank the sponsors of our scholarship awards, particularly those that sponsor each and every year.

Prof. Dietmar Miller, as Head of School, is the University’s responsible officer on the Foundation and is expected to replace Prof. Peter Hatherly as Director. I would like to thank Peter for his considerable energy and commitment during his term as Director and look forward to working with Dietmar in 2009.

Over the coming year it is our intent to continue to focus our attention on the School and the opportunities that it offers to students and their prospective employers.

The Foundation is working with industry to arrange relevant vacation work for some of its senior students. This will be an opportunity for our students to gain useful experience and for the School to enhance its interaction with companies and government organisations.

The Foundation continues to support the Teacher Earth Science Education Program (TESEP); which is an initiative of Australian Science Teachers Association. We have undertaken to provide financial support over three years. The Foundation has also agreed to provide through the school a venue and other support for the February and August 2009 TESEP school teachers workshops. This will be our opportunity to assist in explaining the relevance of the geosciences to society and to engage with high school students and their teachers.
Foundation Officer’s Report

During 2008, the School was successfully restructured to alleviate a major budget deficit, following a financial review.

This resulted in a restructuring of administrative resources and facilities and of our staff profile. A new marketing position was created, a review and rationalisation of technical field and laboratory support carried out and an agreement developed to transition the School towards centralised ICT services. School Income from Research Grants rose from about $1.87 Million in 2007 to $2.53 Million in 2008.

The main stage of the Madsen Building refurbishment project was completed in 2008, and the refurbishment of audio visual (AV) equipment to Madsen classrooms is about to commence, to be completed before Semester 1, 2009. The Madsen Library was relocated to the new SciTech Library in the Jane Foss Russell Building.

We saw a substantial increase in student enrolments in our first year course, Engineering Geology, an increase of 33%. Many second year courses also attracted substantially increased student enrolments: Natural Hazards – AGIS approach, 27%; Economic Geography of Global Development, 29%; The Making of the Australian Landscape, 45%; Environmental & Resource Management, 45%, and Urban Geography, 31%.

Dr. Jody Webster took up a senior lectureship in Marine Geosciences and Sedimentology. This position is funded for 3 years under the New Appointment Scheme. The University of the Sea program, which provides training for research students and is co-ordinated by Dr. Elaine Baker, received substantial industry sponsorship ($97k) in 2008. International and other research grants awarded in 2008 include the following awards: Enhancing Farmer Engagement with Specialty Coffee Chains in Indonesia, ACIAR (Australian Centre International Agricultural Research), 2008–2010, CI:J.Neilson, ($332k); The Productive and Environmental Implications of Farm Consolidation and Fragmentation, RIRDC (Rural Industries Research Development Corp), 2008-2012, CI: B.Pritchard, ($320k).

Under the University’s internally funded schemes, the School received the following awards: Research into the Emergence of the Continent and the Earth’s Primitive Environment, IPDF (International Program Development Fund), P.Rey, A.Dutkiewicz, D.Wyman ($29k); Digitally-enabled optical microscope laboratory, TIES (Teaching Infrastructure Equipment Scheme), P.Rey, A.Dutkiewicz ($48k); Field Survey Equipment for shallow water, TIES, M.Neave, E.Bruce, P.Cowell, A.Vila Concejo ($49k).

The School had several major funding successes in ARC Discovery, Linkage and industry grants in late 2008 (a significant improvement over 2007), totalling funding of over $2.4 Million. They include the following grants:


School staff and students were in the news frequently in 2008 – highlights include international publicity on papers in Science, Nature, and Geology (see http://www.geosci.usyd.edu.au/news_events). The School hosted an AgriFood Conference in September and a Climate Change Monitoring Symposium was hosted in December.

In 2008 a proposal for a co-funded centre between the ARC and Geoscience Australia was initiated. The proposal is still under development, with the School of Geosciences taking a leading role. Its vision is to build a 4-D model of the Australian continent, utilizing a vast array of existing geological data and new data to be acquired along planned and existing deep seismic lines. The end-product “Aus4D” would be a world-first in geological visualization, and will be presented as evolutionary geodynamic animations that will show how the continent grew and was assembled into its present configuration.
Council for 2008

Foundation Officer: Professor Dietmar Müller (Appointed on 2nd December 2008)
President: Mr Adam Wheatley
General Manager: Ms Olga Sawtell
Director: Professor Peter Hatherly (Resigned on 26th November 2008)

Honorary Governors: Mr Lindsay Macalister
Mr Bruce McKay

Members and Associate members:
Mr John Elliston
Mr Wayne Mudge
Mr Malcolm Bocking
Mr C R Longworth

Ex Officio Members: Prof Gavin Brown
Prof David Day

Liaison Officer: Dr Derek Wyman

Administration Assistant: Lana Kolta

Foundation Membership

Governor: ESSO Australia Ltd

Member: NSW Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources

Associate Members: Barlow Jonker Pty Ltd
Bocking Associates CBM Pty Ltd
CSIRO Exploration and Mining
Elliston Research Associates Pty Ltd
Geosupply Pty Ltd
Jacaranda Holdings Pty Ltd
KLM Research Management
Malachite Resources NL
Resource Connection Pty Ltd
Richard Facer and Associates Pty Ltd

Support: Coffey Geoscience Pty Ltd
Fugro Geophysics
Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia
URS Australia Pty Ltd
Prospectors Pty Ltd
Martin Place Securities Pty Ltd
Uranium Exploration Australia Pty Ltd
2008 Foundation Activities

Edgeworth David Day

The annual Edgeworth David Day was held on 21 May 2008 at Madsen Building Conference Room, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney.

The theme this year was “An Overview of Geology at the University of Sydney”, constructed to showcase the School of Geosciences to the Industry.

The speakers and topics discussed were:

- Exploration geochemistry of hydrothermal systems, Dr Derek Wyman
- Neoarchean lithospheric strengthening and the coupling of Earth’s geochemical reservoirs, Dr Patrice Rey
- Precambrian oil and its implications for early life on Earth, Dr Adriana Dutkiewicz
- The granulite to eclogite transition, Matthew De Paoli and Prof Geoff Clarke
- Circum-Pacific subduction of mid-ocean ridges and flanks through time: tectonic controls on mineral deposits, Assoc Prof Dietmar Muller
- Dynamics of estuarine systems and implications for pollution control, Assoc Prof Gavin Birch
- Estuarine shoreline processes: a dynamic low energy system, Dr Ana Vila-Concejo
- Shelf sand resources to protect coasts from climate change impacts, Dr Peter Cowell
- Managing river bank failure in an Australian context, Dr Tom Hubble
- Geophysical sensing research in CRC Mining, Prof Peter Hatherly
Annual Scholarship and Awards

Each year the Earth Resources Foundation awards scholarships to undergraduate students in the Division of Geology and Geophysics within the school of geosciences. These scholarships are highly valued by the student body, and are seen as powerful incentive for students of good academic standing to continue towards careers in the geosciences.

This year, the Prize Giving Event was held on the 21st May at the Nicholson Museum.

Ms Genoveffa Pezzimenti is presented with a scholarship by Mr Carsten Matthai, a representative from URS Corporation, and an ex-Geology student of School of Geosciences.

Scholarship Awards for 2008

First Year
- Aedon Talsma
- Floyd Howard
- Allison Runck
- Emma McIntosh

Second Year
- Grace Shepherd

Fugro Ground & Airborne Geophysics Prize
- Michaele Kartun

URS Scholarship
- Genoveffa Pezzimenti

Ken Richard Memorial Scholarship
- Vashti Singh

S&L Raam Prize
- Michael Rothery

Coffey Geosciences Scholarship
- Grace Shepherd

Sunto Prize
- Gemma Roberts

Elliston Medal
- Halina Kuczma
PESA Distinguished Lecturer Tour

In 2008, the ERF assisted with two PESA Distinguished Lecturer Tours:

Dr David J Reynolds

Dr David J. Reynolds is a Business Development Manager at ExxonMobil Exploration Company in Houston, USA.

He toured Australia in February 2008 and gave various informative lectures and workshops in all capital cities.

Dr Richard B Ainsworth

The second Distinguished Lecturer Tour was presented by Dr Bruce Ainsworth of Australian School of Petroleum at The University of Adelaide.

Dr Ainsworth visited Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand in August and September 2008 and gave 9 presentations over a 5 week period entitled “Compartmentalisation Prediction in Marginal Marine Deposits: Sequence Stratigraphic-Based Insights from 3D Reservoir Modelling studies.”

(for a copy of his course notes please contact the Earth Resources Foundation Office)
Financial Statements

The University of Sydney
THE EARTH RESOURCES FOUNDATION

Balance Sheet
as at 31st December 2008

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds Participating in University Pool Interest</td>
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<td>166,280</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EQUITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EQUITY</strong></td>
<td>176,668</td>
<td>164,280</td>
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**Notes to Financial Statements**
1. The financial statements have been prepared on a modified accrual accounting basis.
2. All fixed assets expenses are expensed in the year of purchase.
3. Employee entitlements for Long Service Leave are held centrally in the University’s accounts.
4. The University (including the Foundations) is exempt from income tax.

_I certify that the Income Statement and Balance Sheet of the Foundation have been prepared in accordance with the University’s accounting practices and procedures. These Foundation accounts form part of The University of Sydney’s financial reports which have been audited by the Auditor-General, New South Wales._

Greg Robinson  
Finance Director  
Faculties of Sciences, Engineering and Technology  
12th March 2009
The University of Sydney
THE EARTH RESOURCES FOUNDATION

Income Statement
for the year ended 31st December 2008

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<tr>
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<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Business and Investment Income</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>Contributions to External Organisations</td>
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<td><strong>43,127</strong></td>
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<th>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</th>
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<td>189,377</td>
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