

Centre News

Alan Tordoir from **BRC** has been awarded the 2008/2009 SEE Education Foundation Scholarship.

David Brereton and Cath Pattenden from **CSRM** were featured in the August issue of *UQ News*.

Scott Bryan from **BRC** is one of the authors of an upcoming paper featured in *Nature Geoscience*.

Vol 1, Issue 2, September 08

Contents

- New staff profiles
- Project information
- Travellers' tales
- Upcoming events

New Staff Profiles

Bronwen Forsyth is a new PhD student with CMLR who will be researching the environmental risk of tailings seepage at Mount Isa and Earnest Henry Mines. Bronwen graduated from UQ in 2005 with a Bachelor of Environmental Science after completing her honours project with CMLR under Dr Mansour Edraki and Dr Thomas Baumgartl. After graduating, Bronwen joined Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd as an Environmental Scientist and worked on a variety of large civil infrastructure projects within Southeast Queensland. For the past six months, Bronwen has worked as Environmental Coordinator on a road design/construct project on the Sunshine Coast with the Trackstar Alliance.

Jiajia Zheng is a PhD student in CMLR who started in July. Jiajia will be working on the "Pathway Studies of Lead at Mt Isa via Air, Water and Soil" project. The outcome of the study will be a detailed model of lead pathways at Mt Isa. This model will show the relationships between sources and exposure to people and biota, and will enable a risk assessment approach to be used to minimize lead source contributions. Prior to her PhD study, Jiajia studied an Mphil in Environmental geochemistry at UQ and a BEng in Economic Geology at China University of Geosciences.

Project Information

CMLR koala rehabilitation project update



Australia's longest running research study of a koala population has made an exciting discovery - the first koala to make its home on former coal mining land. Koala researcher Dr Sean FitzGibbon, said the located animal had originally been tracked in bushland adjacent to the Blair Athol Mine, near Clermont, before recently moving into the rehabilitated area.

The koala discovery has provided proof that former open cut coal mines can be successfully rehabilitated for native wildlife. "We feel the process has come full circle for the koalas.

Their habitat was mined for several years, and then rehabilitated, and now 12 years later the trees are of sufficient size and species mix for koalas to move back in," Dr FitzGibbon said.

"It's the first time in the 20-year study that we have found a koala using the rehabilitated landscape. As far as we know it's the first time that this has been recorded for koalas on former coal mining land."

Travelers' tales



Chris Moran and David Brereton travelled to South Africa to promote the SMI and its centres in a range of venues. Chris says, "First, we visited a number of research groups and companies in and around Johannesburg. Meetings were held with Anglo Gold Shanti, Anglo American and BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto. The SMI engagement with these companies in South Africa is already extensive, particularly JKMRC research (the long running P9 comminution project being a good example). The MISHC safety risk global academy contribution being headed up by Jim Joy is an example in the area of training where the SMI presence is significant. It is notable that few people were aware of the size and range of

competence across the SMI. We also visited Minek and The University of the Witwatersrand.

"Mid week we travelled to the Anglo Platinum Mogalakwena open cut mine approximately half way between Johannesburg and the border with Zimbabwe. This is a large mine with a life of ~100 years with significant issues to manage with ore variation, water scarcity, resettlement and community development. This site is the focus of the BRC/JKtech - Anglo Platinum SEE (Sustainability and Extraction Efficiency) project. They have a large biodiversity reserve (3000Ha) where we got to see all manner of herbivores (no predators).

"Next we travelled to Cape Town to meet the long time research collaborators at University of Cape Town (UCT). We presented two SMI seminars and David returned to Johannesburg for more meetings, with promising discussions on the potential to deliver the Graduate Certificate in Community Relations into the region. I gave an opening paper at a water and minerals processing workshop organised by the SAIMM and then a keynote address to the minerals processing conference the next day. The audience contained many familiar faces from the JKMRC and JTech.

"South Africa is an amazing place - landscapes and people - with a lot of potential for more project engagement with the SMI and significant training and education opportunities."



Pictures, left to right: The pit at Mogalakwena; Looking for wildlife in Mogalakwena's biodiversity reserve; Students from one of the relocation villages

Up coming Events

SDIMI 2009 Conference Call for Papers

This conference will focus on the application and integration of sustainable development principles in the minerals industry, and will encompass the social and human, as well as the environmental and technological, dimensions of sustainability. For more information, go to:

<http://www.csrn.uq.edu.au/docs/SDIMI%202009%20Call%20for%20Papers.pdf>

Graduate Certificate in Community Relations (Resources Sector) CSR

Enrolment applications for the 2009 intake will be accepted from September 1 onwards. For more information, click here.

<http://www.csrn.uq.edu.au/docs/Grad%20Cert%20%20pager%20230508.pdf>

15 September 2008 – Managing the Socio-Economic Dimension of Mine Closure.

ACMER Workshop preceding the SD08 organised by the Minerals Council of Australia. For more information, go to:

<http://www.acmer.uq.edu.au/training/trainingdetails/MineClosureDetails.html>

29 September - 1 October 2008 – Safety Leadership Masterclass.

ACMER Masterclass in cooperation with MISHC (Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre). For more information, go to:

<http://www.acmer.uq.edu.au/training/trainingdetails/SafetyLeadershipDetails.html>

2 - 3 October 2008 – Short Course in Human Error and Risk Behaviour.

ACMER short course in cooperation with MISHC (Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre). For more information, go to:

<http://www.acmer.uq.edu.au/training/trainingdetails/HumanErrorandRiskBehaviour.html>

11 - 13 November 2008 – Dialogue Skills for Community Engagement - A People Centred Approach.

This ACMER workshop explores the principles and practice of dialogue, demonstrating how authentic and skilled dialogue feeds the community engagement and development process. For more information, go to:

<http://www.acmer.uq.edu.au/training/trainingdetails/CommunityEngagementDetails.html>

November 2008 – Life of Mine Planning and Management; From Impact Assessment to Mine Completion.

ACMER training course. For more information, go to:

<http://www.acmer.uq.edu.au/training/trainingdetails/LifeofMineDetails.html>

SMI holds free weekly internal seminars at both the St Lucia and Indooroopilly sites. To be alerted to upcoming seminars, subscribe to the mail-out by emailing Charlie Ackerly (c.ackerly@uq.edu.au).