

## New public face of geotourism

**A** key feature of the GSA's new web site is the creation of a new 'public' portal focusing on geotourism, which can be found at <http://bit.ly/2irGlem>.

The portal highlights the many geotourism projects and activities that are emerging across Australia, principal of which are the development of two pre-aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark proposals. While the Etheridge (far north Queensland) and Warrumbungles (New South Wales) projects are being driven by local government authorities, the GSA Geotourism Standing Committee (and appointed reference groups) will be providing substantive guidance and support so that nominations can be completed by the end of November this year.

The newly established Geotourism Subcommittee of the South Australia Division will also be particularly active this year, with opportunities to participate in geotourism workshops at both the SEGPA 2017 conference at Port Augusta (18–20 October) and the Global Eco 2017 event, also to be held in South Australia in November. Geotourism project activity is also being generated by the Nature Foundation SA and the University of South Australia, the latter through the auspices of the SA Geotourism STEM Education project.

The West Coast 'Living Earth' GeoTrail, a co-venture of Mineral Resources Tasmania, Department of State Growth Tasmania and West Coast Council, is currently undergoing continuing development with work being directed at improving the quality of the interpretation. This geotrail, connecting the mining centres of Zeehan, Rosebery and Queenstown, currently provides information to enable visitors to understand and appreciate the geological processes and landscapes featured throughout the geotrail. Each site has a roadside sign: either a large sign with information and explanations, or a small sign showing the relevant QR Code web-link to the Living Earth website, <http://thelivingearth.com.au/>. This project was highlighted at Global Eco 2016 (Hobart, Tasmania) in an excellent presentation by Ralph Bottrill of Mineral Resources Tasmania; see <http://www.globaleco.com.au/Proceedings/2016/day3/afternoon/geotourism/ralph-bottrill.pdf>.

In Western Australia, Western Australia's Mid-West Development Commission has secured funding with the support of local government authorities to establish the state's first major geotourism development to be built on a geotrail model, focused on the Murchison subregion.

In Victoria, the Australian Collaboratory for Architectural History, Urban and Cultural Heritage – a research hub based at the Melbourne School of Design in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at The University of Melbourne – is

considering making application for an industry engagement grant to develop a geotrail project in western Victoria.

The Geotourism Standing Committee welcomes Alan Briggs (PhD in prep) from Murdoch University and Kasia Gabrys, Manager, Cultural Heritage and Biodiversity Management at Kakadu National Park as new members representing Western Australia and the Northern Territory, respectively. The long-standing service of David Tucker as the retiring representative for Western Australia is acknowledged with much appreciation.

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West Coast GeoTrail – view towards the glaciated landscape of the Tyndall Range from the Lake Plimsoll Geosite. Image courtesy Mike Vicary



West Coast GeoTrail – view towards Mt Lyell Mine Lease from the Spion Kop Lookout Geosite. Image courtesy Ralph Bottrill