contributions to the hard-rock geology of eastern Qld has also been significant. He has always been keen to collaborate with researchers from a diverse range of institutions and eager to provide guidance and advice by sharing his knowledge with academic and industry colleagues alike.

The medal was presented to Laurie at the GSA Qld Division technical meeting on 23 July, which was attended by about 40 of his colleagues. Laurie's acceptance speech follows. *Dorothy Hill is an icon of Qld, Australian and world geoscience. It is therefore with great humility and pride that I accept a medal cast in her honour."

As a field geologist who believes that an understanding of the geology starts with looking at the rocks, I was fortunate to have been part of the joint BMR-GSQ mapping in the Mount Isa Inlier focusing on the Lawn Hill Platform and later GSO's Regional Geological Mapping Program throughout Qld. I have seen a lot of rocks across the state ranging from high-grade metamorphic to granites, structurally complex sedimentary basins and younger sedimentary rocks and volcanics. This breadth of exposure has given me an appreciation of the importance of a broad multidisciplinary approach to understanding geology.

Throughout my career I have been exposed to a wide range of economic environments. I have mapped in the coal-bearing Ipswich and Clarence-Moreton and Bowen basins, gold-bearing granitoids around Charters Towers, epithermal gold systems in the Drummond Basin, sediment-hosted lead-zinc at Lawn Hill and Mount Isa, iron oxide-copper-gold deposits at Cloncurry, and more recently the overlap between lead-zinc sediment-hosted systems and hydrocarbons back at Lawn Hill. Although each needs a different approach and set of skills, all require a broad multidisciplinary understanding and application. More recently I studied critical elements, particularly the rare earth elements and their geological settings.

Dorothy Hill also had a multidisciplinary approach to her geology, not only studying coral systematics and palaeontology, but applying her knowledge to stratigraphy and palaeo-environmental studies.

As we move on from the dominantly field-based approach to one characterised more by data-mining and geophysical interpretation, we must keep in mind that these are all tools to help us better understand the geology and to develop better mineral and hydrocarbon systems models.

Once again thank you to the GSA Qld Division for the award of this medal — I will cherish it." Following the presentation of the medal, Laurie gave a talk on some of the work he had been doing prior to his retirement, entitled 'Insights on the geological evolution and mineral resources of the Mount Isa inlier: geochronology petrology and geochemistry of mafic lithologies'.

**GSAQ—AIG, Qld Branch—AusIMM Southern Qld Branch Joint Technical Meeting for June 2019**

The GSA Qld Division and Australian Institute of Geoscientists, Qld Branch combined with the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) to hear an update on mineral exploration in Qld from Ian MacFarlane, Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Resources Council (QRC). This Technical Meeting is now the third annual joint meeting with this theme.

After an introduction by Nikky Le Branch, Chair of the AusIMM Southern Qld Branch, Ian provided an optimistic talk on exploration in Qld for the 130-strong audience, covering the following points:

- For this financial year, the resource industry in Qld is providing $5.2 bn in royalty payments to the Qld people via the Qld government.
- Exploration for coal in Qld is up by 18% on previous years.
- Mineral exploration has increased by 35% on the previous year.
- The industry is managing increased production at operations after a few years of lower commodity prices by having sorted out the expansions during the boom period, so that significant improvements have been made in productivity. So this time, steady growth is expected, not a boom in the mining industry.

- The QRC has been able to work closely with the state government Resource Minister Anthony Lynham and the federal Resource Minister Matt Canavan to provide a more positive exploration sector in Qld.
- The Fraser Institute Investment Attractiveness index has Qld dropping from 12th to 13th with WA moving up to 2nd after Nevada, which is the most favourable.

Ian explained that Perth understood that it is a mining town and when mining is doing well, then the city is doing well. Brisbane has not recognised that its finances are dependent on mining, despite the large royalties received.

QRC has a program that is supported by the Qld government to provide mining support to secondary schools within the state. To date this has covered up to 100 schools with a target to cover the 500 state schools over the next couple of years.

The lively question-and-answer session covered a range of questions, from misconceptions about resource rentals and royalties through to education in schools.

The basic conclusions were that there will be more jobs for exploration geologists in Qld this year.

Rod Carlson from AIG thanked Ian for his talk, which was received with acclamation by the audience.

**Developing a geotrail along the Kilkivan-Kingaroy rail trail**

The Nanango Branch line is a part of the Qld railway network that was the Main North Line at Theebine, between Gympie and Maryborough. It was extended progressively through Kilkivan, Goomeri, Murgon, Wondai and Kingaroy to Murgon over several years, from the late 19th to the early 20th centuries. As demand fell in the early 21st century the railway line was closed, and much of the infrastructure was removed, including the rails.
and sleepers. The state government retained ownership of the corridor, and leased certain portions of it to various parties, including the local government councils, and farmers with leasehold on land adjacent to the corridor.

Gympie Regional Council and South Burnett Regional Council constructed the 88-km-long Kingaroy Rail Trail (KKRT) along the route of the Nanango Branch Line, on the section between Kilkivan and Kingaroy (where they had leasehold over the rail corridor) as a multi-user recreational trail. The ballast on the railway foundation was covered with crushed rock, splash-crossing detours were made around most of the railway bridges (most of which were dismantled and removed), and road crossings were upgraded with safety signage. The section between Murgon and Kingaroy was tar-sealed to a surface suitable to conventional road bicycles, and now resembles the footpath of a suburban street. The result was a trail designed for walkers, cyclists and — in areas without the tar-seal — horse-riders.

Pamphlets about the KKRT are available at council offices, information centres and various other places, but little information is available to the public about geological features either exposed in cuttings along the trail or underlying the scenery visible from the route.

The geology is quite diverse. It includes mid to late Palaeozoic accretionary complex and ultramafic rocks of the D'Aguilar Block in the east, through Triassic sedimentary and volcanic rocks of the northern Esk Basin and back into Palaeozoic rocks of the Yarraman Block further west, before passing through Cenozoic basalt and laterites in the Kingaroy area.

Following a similar geological logging project along the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail in 2018, GSAQ chose to support a similar project on the KKRT in 2019 by the same volunteers (George Winter and Bill D'Arcy). Six days have been spent already (as of early July 2019) in the field, logging 66 km from Kilkivan to the small town of Tingoora. The remaining 22 km should require two more days' walking to log. The logging is done as a series of legs, generally starting and ending at one of the railway stations along the route. The logging will be completed in August or September, and the final notes will be made publicly available initially for download from the GSA website, with a view of making them accessible eventually through a mobile application.

IAN WITHNALL

**SA GeoFamily picnic**

To some, winter means snuggling up inside, on the couch with a book or sporting match. For the GeoFamily picnic attendees, a winter's day is best spent at a great local playground rugged up for a Mad Hatter's picnic! The hats on display were more functional, to keep the head warm instead of 'mad hatter tea party', but just as much fun was had at the Pitjarilla Playspace (formerly Marshmallow Playground) in Adelaide's southern parklands. The event, which is held 2–3 times per year across Adelaide's inner suburbs, attracted 10–15 families from the GSA, Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists, and across mining, petroleum and government sectors. The kids had a great time exploring the new nature playspace and the adults had a lot of news, events, work and life to catch up on. Thank you for dodging the rain showers that had kept Adelaide wrapped up inside all Sunday morning, the picnicners had home-cooked treats to share under the iconic Moreton Bay fig that dominates the playground.

A big thank you to everyone who came, and make sure to invite friends and colleagues along for the next event — hopefully planned for August/September.

ANNA PETTS

**WA 2018 Best PhD Graduate in Geoscience, Curtin University: Eleanor Blereau**

Eleanor Blereau was awarded the Professor Krishna and Pamela Sappal Prize for being the best PhD Graduate in Geoscience for her thesis, given the top rating by the external examiners appointed by the university. She is the 18th recipient of the award, which was presented at the May Prize-Giving Ceremony, School of Earth & Planetary Sciences. Other recipients have been from Brazil, China, India, Italy, Sudan and South Africa.

Krishna is Fellow and former Hon Treasurer (1982–1983) of the GSA.