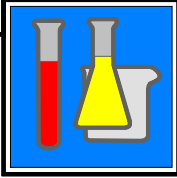




THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY

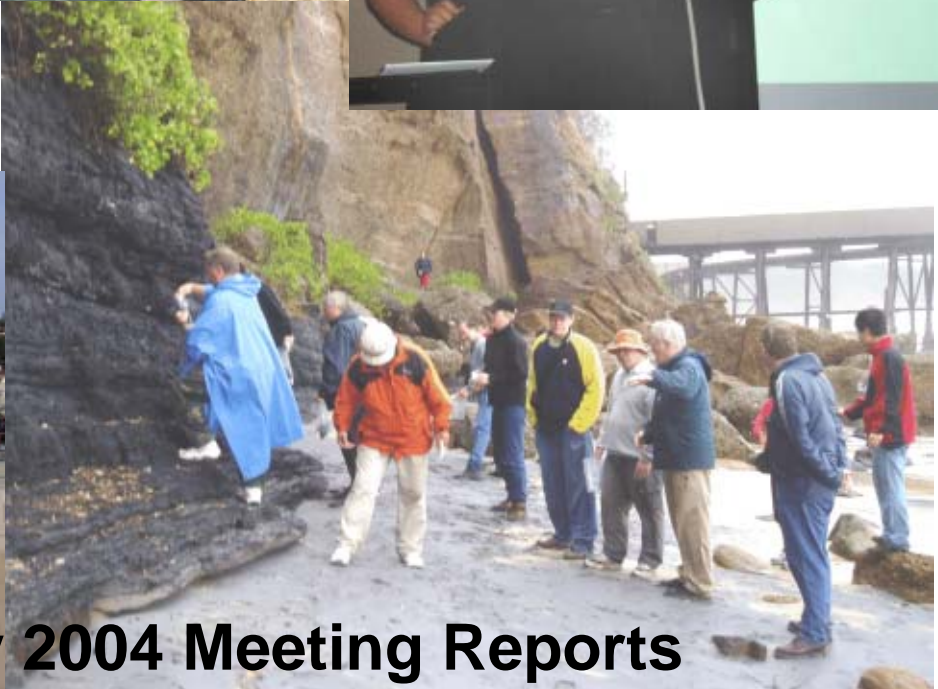


NEWSLETTER

Vol. 21, No. 4

December, 2004

ISSN 0743-3816



Sydney 2004 Meeting Reports

Louisville 2005 Meeting Invitation

2005 TSOP Meeting

September 11 - 14

Louisville, Kentucky, USA

Conference themes will include

- CO₂ sequestration
- coal utilization
- coalbed methane
- coal petrography
- organic geochemistry

The planned schedule includes:

Sunday, September 11

CO₂ Sequestration Workshop (morning)

Field Trip to the Falls of the Ohio (afternoon)

Monday, September 12

Technical Sessions

Reception at the Louisville Slugger Museum

Tuesday, September 13

Technical Sessions

Wednesday, September 14

Post-meeting field trip to an underground mine

Special student rates for the conference. 'Best Student Paper' award and prize.

Call for papers available soon on TSOP web site – Abstracts due by April 30, 2005

Co-convenors Maria Mastalerz and Jim Hower

The Society for Organic Petrology

TSOP is a society for scientists and engineers involved with coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related disciplines. The Society organizes an annual technical meeting, other meetings, and field trips; sponsors research projects; provides funding for graduate students; and publishes a web site, this quarterly Newsletter, a membership directory, annual meeting program and abstracts, and special publications.

Members may elect not to receive the printed Newsletter by marking their dues forms or by contacting the Editor. This choice may also be reversed at any time, or specific printed Newsletters may be requested.

Members are eligible for **discounted subscriptions** to the Elsevier journals *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Review of Paleobotany and Palynology*. Subscribe by checking the box on your dues form, or using the form at www.tsop.org. You will then be billed by Elsevier. Contact Peter Warwick <pwarwick@usgs.gov> if you do not receive a bill or have any other problems with a subscription. For **subscription at the member rate** to **AGI's Geotimes**, see your dues form.

TSOP is a Member Society of AGI and an AAPG Associated Society.

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DEAD- March issue: March 1
LINES: June issue: June 1

Writers, Photographers and Associate Editors Needed!

The TSOP Newsletter welcomes contributions from members and non-members alike. Submission methods: Text is preferred in WordPerfect, MS Word, RTF or plain text format. Photos as slides or prints (will be returned after use) or as digital files (300 dpi preferred) without strong compression on CD-ROM or as e-mail attachments (if larger than 5 MB, please e-mail me first). Please do not embed images in word processor files. Zip disks are discouraged.

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Society Membership

The TSOP Newsletter (ISSN-0743-3816) is published quarterly by The Society for Organic Petrology and is available to all Society members as a benefit of membership. Membership in the Society is open to all individuals involved in the fields of organic petrology and organic geochemistry. For more information on membership and Society activities, please see:

<http://www.tsop.org>

For purposes of registration of the TSOP Newsletter, a permanent address is: The Society for Organic Petrology, c/o American Geological Institute, 4220 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302-1520 USA

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Cover photos, clockwise from top: Poster session; Kaydy Pinetown, from SASOL in South Africa, delivering her paper in minerals in the Highveld and Witbank coalfields; Newcastle field trip party examining the outcrop of the Great Northern seam at Catherine Hill Bay; Coogee Beach and the Crowne Plaza venue for the meeting. Photos - C. Ward

TSOP Dues Form Enclosed please pay now

For those who have not yet paid their membership for 2005, a personalized dues notice is enclosed with this issue. Please verify your contact information, enter the rate and years being paid (note that a discounted rate of US\$ 100 for 5 years is available) and return the payment to Mike Avery. The official deadline was December 31, so please pay as soon as possible.

Members may elect not to receive the printed copy of the Newsletter by marking the box on the dues form. Portable Document Format (PDF) newsletter versions will be available for downloading from the TSOP web site <http://www.tsop.org/news1.htm> at the same time the printed issue is mailed. Each issue is available in two pdf formats, a smaller file suitable for screen viewing and a larger file including graphics at 300 dpi to provide a better appearance when printed.

To elect no printed newsletter without using the form, simply notify the Editor < xid@psu.edu > at any time.

President's Page

from Colin Ward

This is my first column as TSOP President, and I will try to follow the lead of my predecessors by using it to communicate the key issues that are currently under consideration by Council, as well as, and probably more importantly, to highlight some of the achievements of the different TSOP committees and of individual TSOP members.

The recent elections brought a number of new faces to the TSOP Council, and also allowed others to move on to different responsibilities within the Society or to make their mark on organic petrology in other ways. Council for 2004-5 is:

President	Colin Ward
President-elect	Peter Warwick
Vice-President	Joan Esterle
Secretary/Treasurer	Mike Avery
Editor	David Glick
Councillor (2003-5)	Zhongsheng Li
Councillor (2004-6)	Tim Pratt

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Bob Finkelman and Jingle Ruppert for their outstanding contributions as President and Vice-President over the past year, as well as Bill Huggett who completed a valuable two-year term as Councillor. I would also like to welcome Peter Warwick as President-elect, Joan Esterle as Vice-President, and Tim Pratt as Councillor, and hope that the new Council can be as effective in promoting the Society as the previous group. In addition, I would like to record, with pleasure, the award of Honorary Membership of the Society to Jack Burgess, and of Distinguished Service Awards to Brian Cardott, Jack Crelling, David Glick and Kenneth Kuehn, all of which were announced at the Sydney Meeting. Congratulations on behalf of the Society for these well-deserved tokens of our appreciation.

The Sydney meeting itself provided a significant step forward for the Society, being the first TSOP Annual Meeting to be held outside North America. An account of the meeting is given elsewhere in this Newsletter, along with thanks to the members and supporters of the Organising Committee for bringing it together. The success of this meeting marks the coming of age of TSOP as a truly international society, and strengthens its role in promoting the science of organic petrology in the globalised world of today.

One of the achievements of Council in 2004 was to set up a formal Meeting Advisory Committee, with responsibility for developing and overseeing plans that will provide an orderly progression of meetings and an appropriate mix of venues to benefit the Society as a whole. The purpose of the Committee is not to plan each individual meeting, but to provide guidance to the relevant Meeting Organising Committees and to monitor their progress on behalf of Council as their plans progress. Another equally important role is to identify opportunities for future meetings, including appropriate topical meetings and joint meetings, up to three years or so in advance. Jim Hower has agreed to Chair this Committee for 2004-5, which he will combine in the first instance with his role in co-organising the 2005 meeting in Louisville. Suggestions on meeting venues and collaborative opportunities can be directed to Jim, or to any other Council member, for the Society's consideration.

Acting on a recommendation of the Meeting Advisory Committee, Council has agreed to hold the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Society in Beijing, China. Relevant dates are September 15-22, 2006. Further details, as the plans develop, will be given in future issues of the Newsletter.

Speaking of meetings I would like to remind members of the 2005 Gussow Geoscience Conference, focussing on coalbed methane, to be held in Canmore, Alberta, during March, 2005. TSOP is collaborating with the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists and other societies in organising this very topical meeting.

Another issue that has been considered by Council is the desirability of extending the term of office for the President and Vice-President from one year to two years, and also the possibility of separating the offices of Secretary and Treasurer into two separate positions. An investigation into mechanisms by which these objectives might be achieved was initiated by Maria Mastalerz following the 2003 Council meeting, and is currently being further developed by Bob Finkelman. An outline of the proposal will be provided in a future Newsletter, and a ballot on the necessary changes to the By-laws will be put to the Society if the recommendations are accepted by Council.

In closing I would like to extend to all TSOP members my personal best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Indeed, I look forward to an exciting 2005, as these various activities in our Society come to fruition.

H

Coalbed Methane: Back to the Basics of Coal Geology

from the conference organizers

March 9-11, 2005 - Canmore, Alberta

Get fired up for a discussion of one of the hottest topics in the industry while relaxing at the Radisson Inn, nestled in the beautiful Rocky Mountain setting of Canmore, Alberta. See http://www.cspg.org/gussow_-_cbm.html

The 2005 Gussow Conference will focus on geological aspects of coalbed methane reservoirs.

Optional Short Course--Coal Cores:

Examination for Source Rock and Reservoir Properties in CBM Exploration

Presented by:

Dr. David Marchioni, Petro-Logic Services

Dr. Judith Potter, JP Petrographics

Wednesday, March 9th, 8:00am-4:00pm

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board
Core Research Centre Calgary, AB.,
3545 Research Way NW, Calgary, Alberta

The goal of the course is to illustrate what can be inferred about CBM prospectivity/producibility from the visual analysis of core. The focus is on the lateral and vertical variability of coal and the source rock and reservoir properties. Coal is not uniform in either distribution or properties.

A half day of lectures will discuss coal deposition, coal quality, coal petrology and the methods of macroscopic description of coal including lithotype and cleat descriptions. The inter-relationships between these factors and the implications for gas generation and permeability will be outlined. The "hands-on" portion of the workshop will focus on lithotype and cleat descriptions of coal core.

Register early! This course is limited to 20 participants!

Main Conference Schedule: The main conference will commence on the evening of March 9th at 7:00 pm with an Icebreaker at the Radisson Hotel in Canmore.

Presentations by invited speakers will begin at 8:00 am on March 10th, beginning with a keynote address by Dr. Dale Leckie of Nexen Energy, Calgary, AB. This opening address will be followed by a session on geological controls on CBM, chaired by Dr. Dave Marchioni of Petro-Logic Services. The afternoon session will encompass petrographic and geochemical aspects of CBM, chaired by Dr. Marc Bustin of the University of British Columbia and CBM Solutions. The evening will feature dinner and a keynote address by Mr. Andrew Scott, Altuda Energy Corporation. The technical sessions will resume at 8 am on Friday, March 11th with a session on the topic of technical aspects of CBM from the lab and field, chaired by Dr. Peter Warwick of the United States Geological Survey.

Lunch will feature a keynote address by Dr. Marc Bustin, followed by a session featuring CBM case studies, chaired by Dr. Tom Gentzis of CDX Canada.

Registration: The 2005 Gussow Conference is presented by the CSPG in partnership with the Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas (CSUG), The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) and the Canadian Society for Coal and Organic Petrology (CSCOP). Members of any of these organisations are eligible for **member's registration rates**.

Early bird registration will open December 1, 2004.

Rates: Early Bird (Member): \$250.00

Early Bird (Non-Member): \$350.00

Regular Registration will commence on February 1, 2005.

Rates: Member: \$350.00

Non-Member: \$450.00

Additional: Optional Short course: \$250.00

Conference registration closes March 4th, 2005.

Conference registration fees include admission to the ice-breaker on the evening of March 9, the keynote address dinner on March 10, the keynote address lunch on March 11, as well as continental breakfasts, coffee breaks, and buffet-style lunches throughout the conference.

To register for the conference, please download the Registration Form, and send to the CSPG offices via fax (403) 264-5898. (Please note that online registration is not available for this event.)

Or mail or drop off your forms with payment to:

Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, Re: Gussow Conference, #160, 540-Fifth Avenue S.W., Calgary, AB, CANADA T2P 0M2

Call for poster abstract submissions: Interested delegates are invited to submit abstracts for poster presentations on the topic of CBM/NGC for the 2005 Gussow conference. Posters will be on display for the duration of the conference. For further information, or to submit an abstract (250 words), please contact . Please follow our Abstract Submission Guidelines.

Deadline for Abstract Submission: January 15, 2005

Accommodations

Accommodations at the Canmore Radisson Inn and Conference Centre are available to conference delegates at preferred rates. Please use the accommodation booking feature at www.radisson.com/canmore.ca to receive these special rates, or request Gussow Conference rates if making room reservations by phone at (800) 333-3333. This website also features tourism information for out of town visitors.

For more information about the 2005 Gussow Conference, please contact Mathew Caddel (caddelem@bp.com)

For sponsorship inquiries, please contact Kim MacLean at the CSPG office (kim.macleam@cspg.org)

56th Annual Meeting of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP) Budapest, Hungary, 2004

by Maria Mastalerz

The 56th Annual Meeting of the ICCP was held in Budapest, 12-18 September, 2004. The meeting venue was a historical building of the Geological Institute of Hungary. The Organizing Committee included Honorary Chairman Dr. Laszlo Kapolyi, Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Chairman Dr. Karoly Brezsnyszky, Director of the Geological Institute of Hungary, Dr. Maria Hamor-Vido, Secretary, and several other members.

Approximately sixty participants attended the ICCP meeting from the following countries: Australia (4), Brazil (1), Canada (4), Denmark (1), Germany (14), Greece (4), Hungary (1), the Netherlands (7), Mexico (1), Mozambique (1), Poland (6), Portugal (1), Romania (2), Russia (2), Serbia (3), Spain (3), Ukraine (1) and the United States (3).

The conference opened with welcoming speeches by the Chairman Brezsnyszky, and Honorary Chairman Kapolyi, and a speech by Dr. Istvan Berczi, Director of MOL Rt., Hungarian Oil Company, who presented a history of oil and gas exploration in Hungary. After this opening session, ICCP held its opening plenary session that included, among other issues, information about future meetings: Patras, Greece in 2005; Indonesia,

2006; Victoria, Canada, 2007; and Oviedo, Spain in 2008. Of special interest to TSOP members is that the 2008 Oviedo meeting was suggested (and accepted by the ICCP Council) as a joint meeting with TSOP. As a result of our recent attempts to bring our two organizations together, a TSOP representative (I represented TSOP) was invited to give a presentation about TSOP activities at this plenary session. ICCP President Alan Cook delivered a similar presentation about ICCP activities at the TSOP meeting in Sydney.

Progress reports of the ICCP working groups were presented on September 13, 14, 16, and 17. Chairs of each of the three ICCP Commissions introduced their working groups, the convenors of which presented progress reports. This year there have been some changes at the positions of chair and secretaries of the commissions, and the current status is as follows: Commission I (General Coal and Organic Petrology) – chair: W. Pickel, secretary: D. Flores Fonseca; Commission II (Geological Applications of Coal and Organic Petrology) – chair: A. Gomez Borrego, secretary: M. Hamor-Vido; and Commission III (Application of Coal Petrology in Industry) – chair: R. Menendez, secretary: H. Peterson. The closing plenary session of the General Assembly included financial and editorial matters, election, and ICCP- related items. Two proposals for future ICCP meetings were mentioned: one in 2009 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and one in 2010 in Belgrad, Serbia. This session also included the first presentation of the Organic Petrology Award, to Maria Mastalerz, former TSOP President. This award was established last year to recognize ongoing contributions to the field of organic petrology. Former TSOP President Jack Burgess was awarded Honorary Membership in ICCP.

On August 15, a technical session was held that included three presentations in “Environmental Applications,” four presentations in “Organic Facies Studies,” and four presentations in “Geological and Industrial Applications.” In addition to oral presentations, numerous posters were on display during the whole week of the meeting.

Social activities of the conference included an icebreaker reception on Sunday, September 12, a guided bus tour on Tuesday, September 14, and the conference banquet at the Stefania Palace on Thursday, September 16. A one-day field trip to northern Hungary concluded the conference.



The meeting venue in Budapest. Photo courtesy Maria Mastalerz



Maria Mastalerz (center), receiving ICCP's Organic Petrology Award, is applauded by Alan Cook (left) and Alan Davis (right). Photo courtesy of Maria Mastalerz.



Left to right: Alan Cook, ICCP President, and Petra David, ICCP General Secretary, present Honorary Membership Certificate to Jack Burgess. Photo courtesy Maria Mastalerz.

For more information about this ICCP meeting and ICCP activity in general, please visit the ICCP Web page www.iccop.org H

Award for Excellence to TSOP VP Esterle

TSOP Vice-President, Joan Esterle, is the recipient of the 2004 Award for Excellence in Coal Geology, presented by the Coalfield Geology Council of New South Wales. The Council is a joint government/ industry body established to provide a forum for discussion and dissemination of detailed knowledge on the coalfield areas on New South Wales (Australia), and of geological issues relevant to the state's coal mining industry. The Award for Excellence was initiated by the Council in 1993, to recognise individual or team efforts that have resulted in a significant contribution to the practice and application of coal geology.

Joan Esterle is a senior research scientist with the CSIRO Division of Exploration and Mining, and also an Associate Professor in Earth Sciences at the University of Queensland. After completing her PhD under the direction of John Ferm at the University of Kentucky she worked for a time as a Post-doctoral Fellow at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, before joining CSIRO in 1992. Since joining CSIRO, Joan has developed a very active coal mining geology research group, which has been involved in a diversity of projects including coal petrology, coal-measure sedimentology, geological modelling and other types of activities.

The award recognises Joan's contribution to the New South Wales (and Australian) coal industry through developing and implementing these research programs, and especially her ability to challenge the existing paradigms that all too often inhibit progress. The award was presented at a meeting on December 3 by Mr. Brad Mullard, Director of the newly opened Maitland office of the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Mineral Resources, and Mr. John Edwards, Chairman of the Coalfield Geology Council.



Joan Esterle (center) receiving the Coalfield Geology Council Award for Excellence from Brad Mullard (right) and John Edwards (left). Photo: David Barnes, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries.

H



photo: Kathie Sauer

Louisville in 2005:
22nd Annual Meeting of The Society for Organic Petrology
from Meeting Organizers
Maria Mastalerz and Jim Hower

The organizers of the 22nd TSOP meeting wish to invite you to attend the 2005 meeting to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, on 11-14 September 2005. The technical program will include a special session on source rocks and dispersed organics, organized by Sue Rimmer and Tom Algeo. The remainder of the technical program, both oral and poster sessions, is open to any topic within organic petrology.

Prior to the meeting, we will conduct a CO₂-sequestration workshop on Sunday morning. Louisville cannot offer the beach, as did the 21st TSOP meeting, but we can show you one of the world's largest known Devonian reefs, The Falls of the Ohio. A field trip on Sunday afternoon will take you for a tour of this outstanding geologic attraction, located just minutes from the convention hotel. The post-meeting field trip will visit an underground mine in the Western Kentucky



Fourth Street Live

Jim Hower photo.



The Brown Hotel, TSOP Meeting venue. Kathie Sauer photo.

coalfield. This mine, developed in the Herrin coalbed, has exposures of mire-margin features not usually encountered in active mines. Be sure to register early for this opportunity to see faulting, clay dikes, brecciation of coal, and many other features.

The abstract deadline is 30 April 2005. Please submit abstracts as an attachment to Jim Hower hower@caer.uky.edu, following the example of the template on the meeting website <http://igs.indiana.edu/tsop2005/>. Information on registration fees will be posted on the website as soon as it becomes available.

The TSOP meeting is not just for the professionals. A Sunday evening event will be organized just for students and recent graduates. The venue and time have yet to be determined, but this promises to be a great opportunity for the future leaders of the profession to get to know each other in a casual setting.

We cannot forget to mention the meeting site itself. The Brown Hotel is one of the finest hotels in Louisville, a classic hotel with modern conveniences. The hotel, built in the 1920's, was remodeled in the 1980's and again in the past few years. Every room is wired for high-speed internet and the entire hotel is a WiFi hotspot. The hotel is very close to the downtown entertainment district. The Brown and Palace theaters, both featuring musical entertainment, are adjacent to the hotel. Fourth Street Live, a complex featuring a variety of restaurants, including the Hard Rock Café, is a short walk from the hotel. Just a few blocks further is Main Street, with Actor's Theater, home of the Humana Festival of new American plays; the Kentucky Center for the Arts; the Louisville Science Museum; and many other attractions. Come to Louisville a few days early to take advantage of these attractions. We will do our best to update the meeting web page as information about events becomes available.

For the international attendees, if you need personal invitations to the meeting, please let us know as soon as possible to avoid last-minute delays.

We hope to see a large contingent of organic petrographers in Louisville, Kentucky. H

Member Discounts to Elsevier Journals

International Journal of Coal Geology
From Jim Hower,
IJCG Editor-in-Chief

Members of TSOP and ICCP can subscribe to the *International Journal of Coal Geology* at a special, reduced rate. For 2005, the subscription rate will be US\$85. Members of **The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP)** can subscribe by checking the box on their dues form or by using the subscription form on the web site <http://www.tsop.org/ijcgrate.htm> after which they will be billed by Elsevier. Do not send payment to TSOP. Contact **Peter Warwick** <pwarwick@usgs.gov> for further information or discussion about the subscriptions.

Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology

Dr. Femke Wallien of Elsevier reports that the special TSOP member price for 2005 (volumes 133-137) will be US\$ 98. TSOP members can subscribe by checking the box on their dues form or by using the subscription form on the web site <http://www.tsop.org/rpprate.htm> after which they will be billed by Elsevier. Do not send payment to TSOP. Contact **Peter Warwick** <pwarwick@usgs.gov> for further information or discussion about the subscriptions. H

GSA Coal Division's Medlin Award

The Geological Society of America's Coal Geology Division is accepting applications for a scholarship award and a field study award worth approximately US\$ 2,000 and 1,500 respectively. Applications (proposal and letter of recommendation) must arrive no later than Feb. 15, 2005. See GSA Today, Dec. 2004 (v. 14 no. 12), p. 39. H

TSOP Student Research Grant Applications

Please watch the TSOP web site for upcoming information on the deadline and application forms for the 2005 grants: <http://www.tsop.org/grants.htm> H



Claus Diessel explaining the finer points of the Dudley seam outcrop to the waterlogged participants on the Newcastle field trip. C. Ward photo.



Joadja mine. Photos: R. Pheifer (top) and J. Hower (below).



Sydney 2004 Meeting Report

by

Neil Sherwood and Colin Ward,
Convenors, TSOP 2004

By any standards the TSOP meeting in Sydney was an outstanding success. The 110 registrants saw a total of 92 papers presented in oral or poster format, by authors from more than 15 different countries, on topics ranging from petroleum source rocks and coal geology to the geochemistry of extraterrestrial organic matter.

The meeting started in fine style with a field trip to the historic torbanite mining area of Joadja, in the southwestern Sydney Basin, led by internationally known oil shale guru Adrian Hutton. As well as examining the outcrops and sampling this unusual alginite-rich material, the group also inspected the remains of the former town site and some of the old mining and retorting installations. The day finished with a visit to the nearby boutique winery, to sample some other products of the region.

A total of 25 people attended the short course on *Analysis and significance of mineral matter in coal*, presented by Colin Ward and David French at the

University of New South Wales on Monday, September 27. The course program included discussions of a wide range of X-ray diffraction and electron microscope techniques, as well as the processes of mineral matter formation and mineral reactions associated with different utilisation processes. A 70-page manual was also provided to help illustrate the course material.

The main meeting program at the Crowne Plaza Hotel began on Monday evening with a well-attended



Alan Cook, ICCP President (left) and Aivars Depers, Chair of the joint TSOP/ICCP technical session on New Techniques and Applications, with co-convenors Colin Ward and Neil Sherwood (right). C. Diessel photo.

icebreaker reception, held on the pool terrace overlooking Congee Beach. This provided an ideal setting to renew old acquaintances and make new ones, as well as to sample some more of that Aussie hospitality, especially in liquid form.

The following day, however, it was down to business. Keynote papers on petroleum source rocks and coal bed methane were presented by Bob Davis and Romeo Flores to a packed plenary session, along with a paper by Alan Cook, as President of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology, outlining the history of ICCP and the role of its different activities. This was followed by two parallel technical sessions, one on source rocks under the leadership of Neil Sherwood and one on coal seam gas convened by Tim Moore, with a break for the TSOP Business Lunch and the traditional group photo.

The Business Lunch provided an opportunity for Outgoing President Bob Finkelman to recognise the outstanding contributions of a number of TSOP members, including the announcement of Honorary Membership for Jack Burgess and Distinguished Service Awards for Brian Cardott, Jack Crelling, David Glick and Kenneth Kuehn. It also provided an opportunity to present the annual financial report, to introduce the

incoming Council, and to thank Bob and the outgoing Council for their leadership during the year.

Wednesday September 29 again started with a plenary session, including a Keynote paper for the organic petrology theme by Andrew Scott, presentation of the 2004 Kenneth Mosher Memorial Lecture by Claus Diessel, and an introduction by Frank van Schagen to the session on Coal in Sustainable Development. Following these the papers were again split into two parallel sessions, one on coal resources and characterisation for sustainable development, organised by Lila Gurba, and one on organic geochemistry, under the leadership of Herbert Volk. The day was completed with some more Aussie hospitality at the conference dinner, with fine food, fine wines, and stimulating conversation for all who attended.

The last morning, Thursday September 30, was devoted to two more parallel sessions, one on new techniques and applications, held in conjunction with ICCP, and one on more general organic petrology. These were followed by a closing plenary session, at which the awards for the best student papers (oral



Secretary-Treasurer Mike Avery delivers his report to the TSOP Business Lunch. C. Ward photo.



Outgoing President Bob Finkelman hands over to incoming President Colin Ward at the Sydney meeting. C. Diessel photo.



Rhonda Norton, of the Co-operative Research Centre for Coal in Sustainable Development, acknowledges thanks for her contribution in running the Meeting Secretariat. C. Diessel photo.

and poster) were presented to Andreas Bush and Jan Pedersen respectively. The traditional furthest travelled award was hotly contested, but despite competition from Alv Orheim (Spitzbergen), Jan Pedersen (Norway) and Henrik Petersen (Denmark), as well as two travellers from Nova Scotia, was finally awarded to Andrew Scott, to mark his long journey to Sydney from London.

After lunch and a round of farewells, some 27 people left by mini-bus for the post-meeting field trip to the Newcastle area, north of Sydney. Although featuring some world-class outcrops, and also a world-class guide in the form of Claus Diessel, this trip became memorable for a different reason. The wildest combination of wind and rain in more than three years descended on the area, dampening the scenery but not the enthusiasm of the group involved.

On behalf of the Organising Committee we would like to thank the large number of individuals and organisations who provided different forms of support and assistance that brought the meeting to fruition. First and foremost is the major sponsor, the Co-operative Research Centre for Coal in Sustainable Development (CCSD), who provided the Meeting Secretariat and also significant financial support to lower the registration costs. Australia's national research organisation, CSIRO, along with the University of New South Wales, the University of Wollongong, the Geological Society of Australia Coal Geology Group, the Coalfield Geology Council of New South Wales, Solid Energy New Zealand, Carl Zeiss Australia, and the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology, also provided different forms of financial and in-kind support. The Pennsylvania State University and TSOP Council are also thanked for providing travel funds that helped six students from different countries to attend the meeting.

Sincere thanks are extended to the authors of those 92 papers for their contributions, and for their co-operation in meeting the various deadlines along the way. We hope they will go on to extend their contributions by providing full-length papers for inclusion in a special issue of the *International Journal of Coal Geology* (please send manuscripts to Neil Sherwood by December 31, 2004).

As convenors we would like to thank the other members of the Organising Committee for their

contributions to the meeting, including soliciting and editing of abstracts, establishment of site facilities, and setting up of short courses and field trips. Special thanks are also extended to Kathie Ward and Janet Chipling for organisation of the Partners' Program, and to Rebecca Rodger and the staff at the Crowne Plaza for assistance with the meeting arrangements.

Lastly, but most importantly, we would like to thank Rhonda Norton, of CCSD, for providing the outstanding secretariat services associated with the meeting, TSOP Council for accepting the Australian proposal, and the 110 registrants for coming along and making it actually happen.

Letter to the Editor

I have just returned to Tokyo from the Sydney TSOP meeting.

I would like to express my deep thanks to the Organising Committee for the invitation to the meeting, and for kindly giving me a Student Travel Grant to help me attend. This meeting was really a very good chance for me to present my work and discuss the results of my study with all participants at the meeting, as well as to listen to the very interesting presentations by many experienced and well known scientists and researchers from around the world. The meeting was well organized. I have learned a lot from the meeting and from the field trip to Newcastle.

This visit to Sydney was for me the first time in Australia. Many places in Sydney and the nice people there impressed me very much. I really enjoyed my stay last week in Sydney. Thank you very much again.

Best regards and good luck!

Yours sincerely,

Nguyen Thi Thanh Binh
Department of Geosystems Engineering
The University of Tokyo
Japan



Sydney 2004 meeting participants at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, with Coogee Beach in the background. Front row (left to right): David French, Neil Sherwood, Peter Warwick, Leslie Ruppert, Colin Ward, Bob Finkelman, Joan Esterle, Jack Crelling, Zhongsheng Li, Nobuyori Takeda. Photo – S. Preece, UNSW.



Jon Petersen (left) and Andreas Busch (right), winners of the awards for the Best Student Poster Presentation and Best Student Oral Presentation, with Student Awards Committee Chair Adrian Hutton. C. Ward photo.



Andrew Scott (right), from Royal Holloway College, University of London, receives the traditional furthest travelled award from meeting convener Neil Sherwood. C. Ward photo.



TSOP Partners at Taronga Park Zoo, with Sydney city and the Harbour Bridge in the background. Kathie Ward photo.

Sydney Meeting Partners' Programme

by
Kathie Ward

Everyone who participated had a great time on the Partners' Programme, set up to complement the Sydney meeting. On Tuesday September 28, nine ladies and five children took the ferry across the harbour to the Sydney Zoo. The group all enjoyed the Australian Walkabout, where they could see kangaroos, wallabies and emus up close, and three of the group took the opportunity to have a photo or two with the koalas. Of course all were impressed with the platypus. However, it was not only Australian animals we saw at the "zoo with a view." There were bears, tigers, lions and, of course, the monkeys. After a pleasant day we returned to the hotel, once again taking advantage of a relaxing ferry ride across the harbour on the way home.

Wednesday September 29 saw a slightly smaller group venture into the city to learn a little about two quite different parts of Sydney. We first had a guided tour of The Rocks area, learning a little of the foundation of Sydney Town some 200 years ago. The guide told us stories of convict life, and the establishment and building of houses, churches and warehouses that still exist today. We walked through many little alleyways and found it all quite interesting. After a pleasant lunch, where several of the group were brave enough to try a kangaroo steak and a boutique

Aussie beer, we turned our thoughts to culture and wandered over to the world-renowned Sydney Opera House. Once again a guide took us through the building, providing a wealth of information about the designer, how much the building cost, how long it took to build, and the differences in construction for each of the halls. It proved once again to be a very interesting afternoon.

I would like to thank the "Partners" who came along with us and made the two days so enjoyable. I would also like to thank co-organiser Janet Chipling, who was in it from the start and was there to help at all times. We hope the partners enjoyed the two days as much as we did, and that it helped to provide them with an appropriate introduction to Sydney and some of its attractions.

H H H H H H

TSOP 2006 Annual Meeting Announced for Beijing, China

TSOP Council has accepted a proposal for the 23rd annual meeting of TSOP to be hosted by China University of Mining and Technology in Beijing, China, in September, 2006. The Xijiao Hotel, which has hosted many international meetings, will be the venue. Field trips, a short course, and technical sessions covering several themes are planned. Further details will be forthcoming in this newsletter and on the TSOP web site.

Update on ASTM activities

by Peter Warwick

The 100th anniversary meeting of Committee D05 of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM International) met at the ASTM Headquarters in West Conshohocken, PA, on October 24-27, 2004. Subcommittee D05.28 (Petrographic Analysis of Coal and Coke), chaired by Kevin DeVanney, met to discuss updates for the ASTM standards for preparing coal samples for microscopical analysis by reflected light (D 2797), and for the microscopical determination of the reflectance of vitrinite in a polished specimen of coal (D 2798). The group is also considering the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP) abandonment of the term "sclerotinite" and revision of the maceral terms used in the standard test method for microscopical determination of volume percent of physical components of Coal (D 2799).

Subcommittee D05.21 (Methods of Analysis) considered the need for establishing guides for coalbed gas desorption and adsorption analyses. There are currently no ASTM guides, practices, or test methods that deal with coalbed gas field and laboratory techniques. A discussion of possible ASTM guides for coalbed gas analyses will be held at the Gussow Coalbed Methane conference in Calgary in March, 2005. Please contact Peter Warwick at pwarwick@usgs.gov for more details. H

Update on AAPG EMD Activities

by Peter Warwick

The Energy Minerals Division of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (EMD, AAPG) continues to be very active to promote research and communication among scientists in the areas of remote sensing and earth materials capable of being used for energy production. The EMD is the primary sponsor for several sessions at regional, national, and international AAPG meetings. The EMD website <http://emd.aapg.org> has recently been updated to include technical reports on various energy mineral commodities and geospatial information. A Members-Only section has been added to the website to provide EMD membership with the latest committee and officer reports, as well as a searchable membership directory. Links to the Energy Minerals Grant (up to \$2000 USD) for students are provided on the EMD website. The application deadline for the 2005 Energy Minerals student grant is January 31, 2005. For student

grant application instructions, please see the web page <http://foundation.aapg.org/gia/howto.cfm>

The CD-Rom *Atlas of Coal Geology*, published jointly by EMD and TSOP, continues to be a best seller. This publication along with several others is available for sale via the EMD website. The publications include:

Sequence Stratigraphy, Paleoclimate, and Tectonics of Coal-Bearing Strata, AAPG Studies in Geology, No. 51 (2004), Edited by Jack C. Pashin and Robert A. Gastaldo

Unconventional Energy Resources of North America, AAPG Poster (2003), by John R. Dyni

Atlas of Coal Geology, AAPG Studies in Geology, No. 45 (2000), by Alexander R. Papp, James C. Hower, and Douglas C. Peters

Geology in Coal Resource Utilization (1991), by Douglas C. Peters

The second edition of the *Atlas of Coal Geology* is planned for publication by both EMD and TSOP. The volume addressing the microscopic aspects of coal, edited by Jim Hower, is progressing well. Authors are needed to handle chapters on sequence stratigraphy, CO₂ sequestration, and stress environments (ground control, etc.). Please contact Jim Hower hower@caer.uky.edu or Alex Papp apapp5@comcast.net if you are interested in contributing to this effort.

Other EMD-sponsored publications currently underway or in the planning process include a collection of papers from the recent AAPG Hedberg Gas Hydrate Conference, edited by Tim Collett; a collection of papers on CO₂ sequestration edited by Jack Pashin and others; a geospatial technology applications CD-Rom, edited by Sam Limerick; and an educational CD-Rom about Energy Minerals by Laura Wray.

Membership in earth-science professional organizations has recently been in decline. The EMD especially needs your help to continue to promote research in the areas of geospatial and the energy minerals. In order to continue to have a seat on the AAPG Advisory Council, EMD needs to maintain and increase its membership. There is much overlap in the goals of EMD and those of TSOP, so EMD invites TSOP members (if they are not already) to become members of AAPG and EMD. EMD and AAPG membership application material is available on the website http://emd.aapg.org/membership_form.cfm

H

22nd International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry

12-16 September 2005

Seville, Spain

<http://www.imog05.org>

via org-geochem e-mail list

The 22nd International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry (IMOG) is the official EAOG conference. The Organising Committee has the pleasure of inviting you to participate and to enjoy the beauty of the city.

The 22nd IMOG is intended to cover the full range of research activities in organic geochemistry, with a wide spectrum of subjects involving geology, biogeochemistry, environmental geochemistry, chemical oceanography and hydrology, petroleum geochemistry (including natural gas), organic-rich rocks and soils. To reflect our field's multidisciplinary nature, we warmly invite contributions from scientists working in oil and gas companies, research institutes, universities, consulting and contractor companies, and wherever else geochemists may be found. IMOG has a tradition of allowing the shape and scope of the technical programme to be determined by the abstracts submitted by the scientific community. Presentations will be in oral and poster formats. Plenary morning sessions and parallel afternoon sessions are planned. An even balance between bio- and petroleum- orientated topics will be maintained, as is customary at IMOG. While the final session topics will be based on the themes of the submitted abstracts, papers are sought in the following broad areas: Petroleum and Coal Geochemistry; Biogeochemistry; Environmental Geochemistry; New trends in Organic Geochemistry.

We eagerly look forward to receive you all in Seville, and remember, don't miss this great OG event in 2005!

Yours faithfully,

Dr José A. González

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H

History of Organic Geochemistry Session at March ACS, San Diego

via org-geochem e-mail list

The Geochemistry (GEOC) and History (HIST) Divisions of the ACS are proud to announce that they intend to jointly sponsor a symposium entitled "The History of Organic Geochemistry" at the ACS Meeting to be held in San Diego from March 13-17th, 2005.

We are in the process of inviting a small number of distinguished scientists from around the world to participate in this symposium. We want to invite as many of the geochemical and history of chemistry communities as can possibly make it to come and participate in this symposium, present a paper, participate in the discussions, and meet and greet the legends themselves!

For more details on the symposium contact any of the following co-chairs Paul Philp and Ken Anderson (GEOC) or Jeff Seeman (HIST) at the following email addresses: pphilp@ou.edu; kanderson@geo.siu.edu; jiseeman@yahoo.com respectively.

Abstracts are due soon (November 22nd, 2004) so we are e-mailing this to as many people as possible and would appreciate it if you get this message to pass it on to as many people as possible. For more information re. submission of abstracts please see the ACS web site at www.acs.org

H

Biomarkers as Proxies at European Geosciences Union Vienna, April 2005

We are organizing a session entitled "Organic-geochemical biomarker in living material, particulate matter, and sediments - their use as proxies" at the EGU 2nd General Assembly and we invite you to participate. The session is **BG2.04** in "Biogeosciences" and is organized by Sonja Schulte (schulte@icbm.de) and Albert Benthien (abenthien@whoi.edu).

Guidelines regarding the abstract format, submission and oral/poster presentations are available on the Assembly Web Site: <http://www.copernicus.org/EGU/ga/egu05>

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 21 January 2005. We encourage you to submit your abstract online. Authors will be notified via e-mail of acceptance or rejection after January 21th, 2005. Oral and poster contributions are welcome.

H

Organic - Inorganic Interactions in Petroleum Hydrocarbon Systems

from the organizers via org-geochem e-mail list

We would like to call your attention to the following special session at the 15th Annual **Goldschmidt Conference** to be held in Moscow, Idaho USA from May 20-25, 2005. We welcome oral and poster presentations of field, laboratory, and theoretical based studies. Please forward this to any interested colleagues. Details regarding abstract submission and the meeting in general are available at

<http://www.the-conference.com/2005/gold2005/index.php>

Deadline for Abstract Submission is January 15.

Special Session 59 Organic-Inorganic Interactions in Petroleum Hydrocarbon Systems

Traditional models for the formation of oil and natural gas typically involve a catagenic process dominated by thermal cracking reactions that release low-molecular-mass hydrocarbon fragments. These reactions are viewed as unidirectional, kinetically controlled processes that are influenced solely by time, temperature and the composition and structural characteristics of the source kerogen. In recent years, however, geochemists have increasingly recognized that subsurface chemical environments play an active part in the formation and compositional evolution of petroleum. In particular, inorganic compounds such as water and minerals may participate as reactants or catalysts during organic matter maturation. Moreover, organic-inorganic interactions in sedimentary basins have direct implications for petroleum migration and trapping, because many organic alteration products participate in processes that create or destroy sediment porosity and permeability.

Understanding these complex systems will require approaches that constrain the extent and nature of organic-inorganic interactions in subsurface environments. The goal of this session is to bring together researchers who are working to develop new paradigms to explain and predict petroleum generation and occurrence. Areas of particular interest include (but are not limited to) water and minerals as sources of reactive H and O, mineral catalysis of petroleum generation, aqueous-organic redox reactions, mineral absorption of hydrocarbons, thermochemical sulfate reduction, organic acid formation, catalysis of natural gas formation, and the effect of hydrocarbon oxidation on carbonate systematics.

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Calendar of Events

2005

March 6 - 11, 2005: An International Conference: Geological Problem Solving with Microfossils. Rice University, Houston, Texas.
<http://www.sepm.org/microfossils2005.htm>

March 9 - 11, 2005: Gussow Conference - Coalbed Methane: Back to Basics of Coal Geology. Canmore, Alberta, Canada. Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, co-sponsored by **TSOP**. Optional Short Course--Coal Cores: Examination for Source Rock and Reservoir Properties in CBM Exploration. **TSOP** members receive members' registration rates. Register before February 1, 2005, and save \$100 off the registration fee. See pages 5 and 20 and http://www.cspg.org/gussow_-_cbm.html

March 13 - 17, 2005: American Chemical Society Meeting, San Diego, California.

April 11 - 15, 2005: World of Coal Ash, Lexington, KY, USA. See page 17 and <http://www.worldofcoalahash.org>

June 19 -22, 2005 AAPG Convention, Calgary, Alberta. See and <http://www.aapg.org/calgary/>

August 28 - Sept. 1, 2005: American Chemical Society Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Sept. 11 - 14, 2005: 22nd Annual **TSOP** Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky, USA. See page 8.

Sept. 12 - 16, 2005: 22nd International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry (IMOG), Sevilla, Spain.
<http://www.eaog.org/meetings/meetings.html>

Sept. 18 - 23, 2005: 57th Annual Meeting of **ICCP**, Patras, Greece. Followed by a three-day excursion.
<http://www.iccop.org/57AnnualMeeting.htm>

Oct. 16-19, 2005: Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City.

2006

Sept. 15 - 22, 2006: 23rd Annual **TSOP** Meeting, Beijing, China.

The Society for Organic Petrology Newsletter
Classified Advertising Form
Advertising Rate Schedule 2005

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1/4 Page	\$ 25.	\$ 45.	\$ 60.	\$ 75.	* Color and inserted pages may not be available in certain issues.
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1 pg. insert*	\$ 75.	\$135.	\$180.	\$225.	

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All advertisement requests must be accompanied by full payment in U.S. currency. TSOP members pay one-half the commercial rates listed above for personal ads in black and white. See attached policy sheet for further details. Checks and money orders should be made out to *The Society for Organic Petrology*. Mail to:

David Glick, TSOP Editor
209 Spring Lea Dr
State College PA 16801 USA phone: 814-237-1094 E-mail: xid@psu.edu

TSOP Newsletter Advertisement Policy

- 1) Acceptability of ads will be at the discretion of the Editor who may solicit the guidance of the TSOP Council. In general, acceptable ads are those related to employment, equipment, products, and services of interest to the membership. Meeting listings and information notices will be run free of charge.
- 2) Advertisements will be accepted from all sources. However, if there is a shortage of space in a newsletter then preference will be according to the following schedule: a) commercial advertisers who have previously purchased multiple placements; b) TSOP members; and c) all other commercial advertisers. Advertisements may be placed throughout each issue of the newsletter at the discretion of the Editor to aid in flexibility of newsletter design and layout. All details of ad size, layout, and time of appearance are also at the discretion of the Editor.
- 3) TSOP members will be charged one-half of the commercial rates listed above *for personal ads* (i.e., employment and services sought) in black and white. Advertisements for private consulting companies will be charged commercial rates.
- 4) Commercial advertisers must submit copy of their own design. Computer text and graphics should conform to current TSOP Newsletter submission guidelines (graphics at 300 dpi without strong compression, no graphics embedded in word processor documents, etc.). Camera-ready copy may also be acceptable. In special circumstances, the TSOP Editor can provide a fee-based layout service.
- 5) All advertising fees must be paid to TSOP in advance and are non-refundable. However, if a date-dependent advertisement cannot be run (for instance, due to space limitations), then the advertiser will be offered their choice of either a full refund or a reduced-rate future ad placement.
- 6) All advertisements should adhere to the following maximum dimension limits (width x height):

Full page	191 x 241 mm
Half page	191 x 120 mm or 95 x 241 mm
1/4 page	90 x 110 mm
1/8 page	90 x 55 mm

Early-Bird Registration Opens December 1st!



Coalbed Methane: Back to Basics of Coal Geology

2005 Gussow Geoscience Conference

March 9-11, 2005



Get fired up for a discussion on one of the hottest topics in the industry while relaxing at the Radisson Inn, nestled in the beautiful Rocky Mountain setting of Canmore, Alberta. The 2005 Gussow Geoscience Conference will focus on geological aspects around Coalbed Methane (CBM)/Natural Gas from Coal (NGC) reservoirs.

Early-Bird Registration

Early-bird registration will open on December 1, 2004. Register before February 1, 2005 and save \$100 off the registration fee!

Call for poster abstract submissions

Interested delegates are invited to submit abstracts for poster presentations on the topic of CBM/NGC. For more information, or to submit an abstract, please contact gussow.conference@gmail.com. The deadline for abstract submission is January 15, 2005.

For additional information regarding the conference schedule, keynote speakers, registration or abstract submission, please refer to the CSPG website.

Simply go to <http://www.cspg.org>, click on Conventions in the menu bar and follow the links to the 2005 Gussow Conference!

To sponsor this high energy conference, please contact Bill McDougall, Obann Resources Ltd., 403-540-8610, email: obanres@shaw.ca or Kim MacLean at 403-264-5610, extension 205.