



The Eleventh Symposium of the Bureau of Mineral Resources

In a setting of beautiful late autumn weather, the first week of May was an active one in Canberra for earth sciences and earth resources. The annual meeting of the Australian Geoscience Council took place on Monday (with full A.S.E.G. representation). Then, at the Academy of Science, the annual Bureau of Mineral Resources (B.M.R.) Symposium was held on Tuesday and Wednesday. Not far away on Northbourne Avenue the Australian Mining Industry Council was holding a Minerals Outlook Seminar, and then its annual meeting.

The B.M.R. Symposium of some 21 papers on geology and geophysics was opened by Mr A. J. Woods, Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of National Development and Energy. Mr Woods commended the record of the B.M.R., saying that its traditional role of 35 years will continue in the future. He advised that following a report by the Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTEC) to Government some years ago, new developments in the B.M.R. were now taking place, and that the appointments of chiefs for four new research divisions within the B.M.R. should be announced by mid-year. These divisions will concentrate especially on research in geological and geophysical science, and on the assessment of petroleum and mineral resources. Mr Woods made the point that in instituting these new developments the government has given the B.M.R. a vote of confidence.

Professor R. W. R. Rutland, Director of the B.M.R., spoke after Mr Woods on the priorities and direction of the B.M.R. program. Professor Rutland said that emphasis would be placed on strategic research, aimed at the basic understanding of the Australian continent and its continental margins as a basis for exploration. This journal observes that Professor Rutland, who has been in Canberra rather less than two years, has made substantial and impressive progress in his work at the B.M.R. May we extend to him, his new division chiefs and all B.M.R. staff, very best wishes for the exciting years in Australian earth science which lie ahead.

Let us also at this point pause to look back over the 35 years of B.M.R. service to the country rightly commended by the government, and by so many associated with the geology and geophysics of Australia. The origins of geophysics in the B.M.R. are often credited to the 'Imperial Geophysical Experimental Survey', run in Australia from 1928-1930. Since then geophysics, by virtue of its field-work component, has involved a degree of personal commitment and involvement in the job not found in many city occupations. It has been (and will continue to be) a way of life, and B.M.R. officers in common with other geologists and geophysicists throughout the country have experienced many years of fellowship in places as widely separated as Shark Bay and Rockhampton, the Antarctic and the New Guinea Highlands. This total living experience of earth scientists in the field has become part of the national heritage, and the results, reports and maps respected all around the world show B.M.R. officers to have been very much amongst the frontier explorers of the present age. The present government vote of confidence in the B.M.R. is very well earned.

A Professional Publisher

This issue marks a new step in the history of the *Bulletin* in that it is being produced by Blackwell Scientific Publications (Australia) Pty Ltd from their office in Carlton, Melbourne. Blackwell Scientific Publications have extensive experience in publishing scientific journals, and *Geophysical Prospecting* and the *Geophysical Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society* are two Blackwell productions with which readers may already be familiar. Responsibility for management of the *Bulletin* is being transferred to Blackwell Scientific Publications in suitable stages this year on a trial basis, with the plan that by 1983 Blackwell Scientific Publications will be managing all aspects of production. The Society is confident that experienced professional management will give the journal an extra stability and polish, and we look forward to a long and happy association with Blackwell Scientific Publications.

Coincidentally the traditional printers of the *Bulletin*, Wymond Morell Pty Ltd of Parramatta Road, have recently transferred this part of their work in Sydney to Bridge Printery, at Rosebery. To maintain continuity in the style and appearance of the journal, it is expected that Bridge will continue to print at any rate the next few issues of the *Bulletin*. As the change in location takes place we express our thanks to the Wymond Morell staff for the service which over many years they have rendered to the A.S.E.G. in printing its journal at the Parramatta Road premises.