

INTRODUCTION

Ian C. Roach

MCA Lecturer, CRC LEME, Department of Geology, Australian National University, ACT, 0200

Included within this document are 106 papers, in 444 pages, of regolith geoscience. Not just any regolith geoscience, but snippets of the whole spectrum of regolith research and education occurring in Australia in 2003. A lot of this is occurring within the Cooperative Research Centre for Landscape Environments and Mineral Exploration (CRC LEME), but as you'll read from the addresses on each paper, an awful lot is occurring elsewhere. The following pages contain short papers on microbiology, groundwater, saline and acid sulfate regolith, geophysics, remote sensing, hydrogeology, hydrogeochemistry, soils, regolith dating, mineral exploration and training, regolith-landform mapping, physical and chemical dispersion, dust, regolith mineralogy, landscape evolution, geobotany, research training, research transfer... the list seems endless.

This volume summarises papers that were delivered at the three CRC LEME Regional Regolith Symposia, held in late 2003. These occurred in Adelaide (13-14 November), Canberra (19-21 November) and Perth (27-28 November). These follow in the footsteps of the first CRC LEME regional conference on regolith in 2002, *Regolith and Landscapes in Eastern Australia*, held at the University of Canberra in November 2002 (Roach 2002) and earlier national conferences including Regolith '98 (Kalgoorlie), Regolith '96 (Brisbane), Regolith '94 (Broken Hill) and the first ever Australian Regolith Conference in 1988 (Canberra). Each of the papers is fully peer-reviewed and is written by prominent, or up-and-coming, regolith researchers and their supervisors from Australian universities, government research institutions and state geological surveys or by retired (but still very active) researchers.

The CRC LEME Regional Regolith Symposia were held as a method of cheaply bringing large numbers of like-minded individuals together. Costs were met by registrations and the proceedings were published on CD-ROM, greatly easing the financial burden of printing. Having said how *cheap* the three Symposia were to run, it should not go without saying how *important* the three Symposia are. The program, stretching over seven days, surely represents the largest single *regolith* (not just one of its sub-disciplines, but the whole gamut) event in history to date, and this volume is the most comprehensive snapshot of regolith research in a single year ever published.

I am very proud to be associated with the research contained within and congratulate all of the individuals who took the time to be a part of these proceedings.

REFERENCES

ROACH I.C. ed. 2002. *Regolith and Landscapes in Eastern Australia*, 136 pp. CRC LEME.

Acknowledgments: This collection of papers would not have been possible without: node conveners and assistant editors Mehrooz Aspandiar and Steve Hill, who bore the brunt of much of the grunt work; special theme conveners Rob Fitzpatrick, John Field, Patrice de Caritat, Alex Nemchin and Paul Wilkes; secretarial assistance from Maureen Blake, Annette Labrooy and Judith Shelley; the review panel Dr Mehrooz Aspandiar, Dr Patrice de Caritat, Dr Jonathan Clarke, Dr John Field, Dr Rob Fitzpatrick, Dr Richard Greene, Dr Graham Heinson, Dr Steve Hill, Associate Professor Patrick James, Dr Anton Kepic, Dr D.C. "Bear" McPhail, Associate Professor Jason Meyers, Dr Alex Nemchin, Dr Colin Pain, Mr Keith Scott and Professor Graham Taylor (whose name usually makes him last in such lists, but he is still a 'first'); sponsors Bob Galloway, Gerry Wilford, Cliff Ollier, Tony Eggleton and Graham Taylor, for the student travel bursary; the Minerals Council of Australia, for my salary; student helpers (too numerous to be named individually); and, my lovely wife Leanne Langton, who took the kids away during the lost weekends when I needed to work on this (otherwise I shouldn't have met my own deadline).