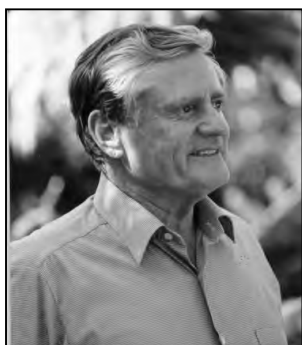


# MEMORIES OF LINDSAY INGALL

By Mike Smith, January 2017



Lindsay Ingall passed away at his home in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales on 21 May 1999 whilst working on the affairs of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) as he had done for 20 years. Among many scientific achievements, Lindsay's contribution to the completion of the gravity map of Australia is memorable. Lindsay always volunteered to help others.

Lindsay attended Sydney Technical High School, where he was School Captain in 1943, and won the Turner Prize as the Dux of the School. He was also the School's Senior Athletics Champion in 1943, having been age athletics champion in 1940, 1941 and 1942.

Lindsay graduated in geology and geophysics from the University of Sydney (Check degree name and date of award), and commenced his practical professional career with the Zinc Corporation in Broken Hill. He then worked for the Bureau of Mineral Resources (now Geoscience Australia) in Canberra. A major assignment was management of the Geophysical Observatory on Heard Island. A few observations from this time record that he was the team dog handler, and was the winner of the site's most aesthetic beard. A government telegram dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 1952 states "Owing to splendid efforts of magnetician Ingall, Heard Island magnetic variation has been forced over fifty degrees west".



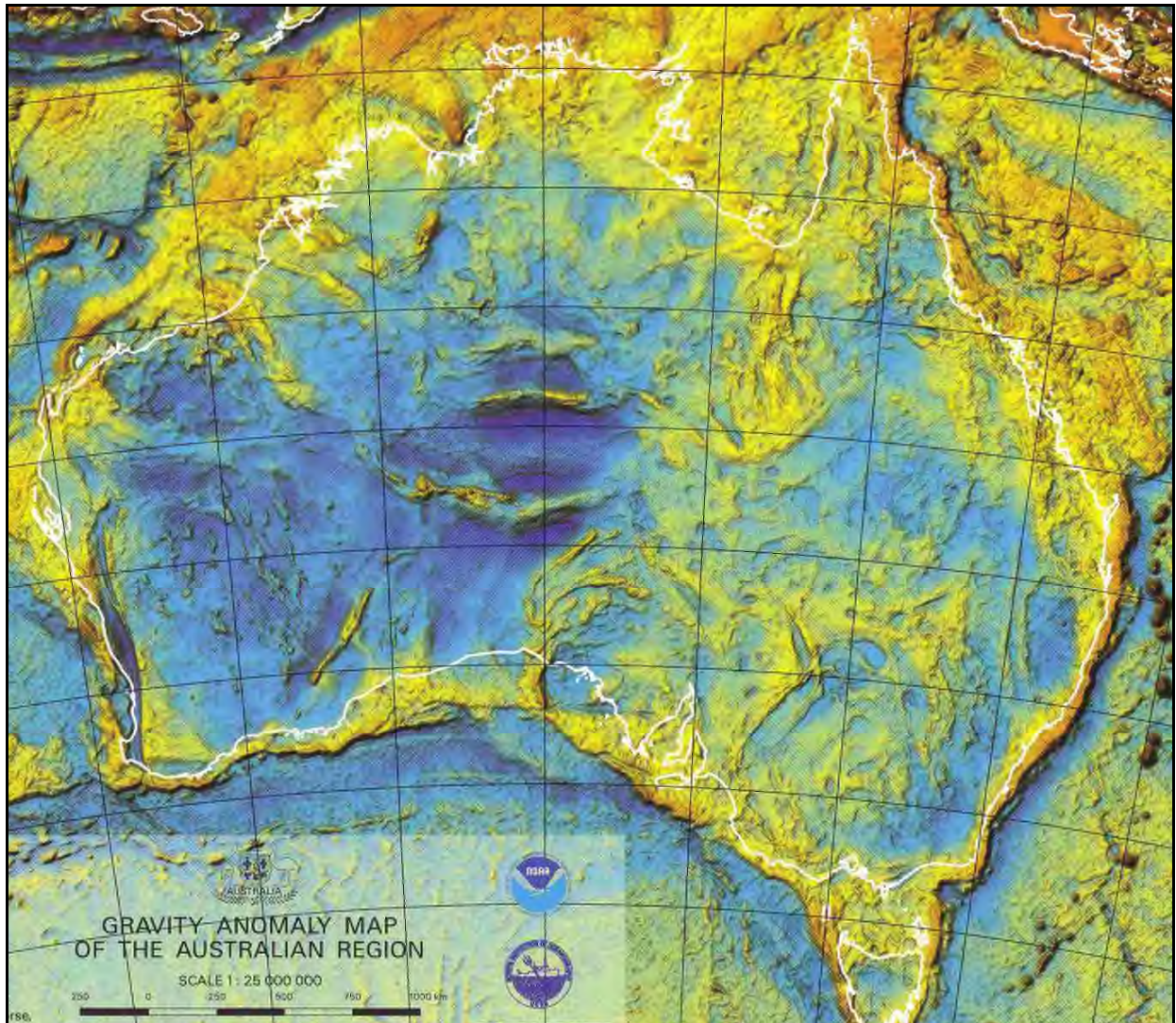
He spent significant time in the Canadian Arctic on oil exploration projects.

He is most remembered as the founder and chief executive officer of the geophysical service company Wongela Geophysical Pty Ltd – which provided contract data acquisition throughout Australia and southeast Asia. Doug Morrison first worked with Lindsay in 1962/63 on petroleum aeromagnetic surveys just after he had returned from Canada, and he recalls "Lindsay still had a North American twang to his accent. He was a ball of energy, always climbed stairs 2 or 3 at a time wearing tweed jacket and



matching tweed hat”. Doug has located a comprehensive report by Wongela on the Strezlecki Creek and Lake Gregory Gravity Survey in northeastern South Australia completed on behalf of Delhi Petroleum, which describes gravity operations of that time. The survey covered over 50,000 square miles and generated 3,184 new gravity stations during December 1964 to April 1965. The work employed two Worden meters and one LaCoste Romberg meter with Mechanism Limited micro-barometers. Lindsay describes the “cell method” of surveying, each cell being 650 square miles, which was the area normally covered by one helicopter in one day. Each cell yielded 44 stations with one station per 16 square miles!

The gravity map of Australia (shown below) is among Lindsay’s great achievements.





Lindsay helped to found the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (ASEG) in 1970 and was one of the signatory's to the ASEG's constitution. He served as ASEG President in 1971/72 and 1978/79. He was on the ASEG Federal Executive Committee 71, 72, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80.

During this time, he worked with others from several institutions to establish the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) as the professional institute representing geoscientists from all fields of practice. Lindsay was one of the founding AIG councillors in 1981, and was an AIG Councillor from 1981 to 1999. He served as AIG President in 1989/90, and as the long-term Honorary Treasurer 1990-96 (shown reporting to an AGM on right) and Chairman of the AIG Membership Committee from 1996-99.



Many senior geoscientists will have fond memories of monthly AIG Council meetings held at Lindsay's home in Kurraba Road, North Sydney, with his beloved dogs in constant attendance. Lindsay is remembered as articulate, persuasive, dedicated, inspirational, witty and a geoscientist who crossed borders. His regular utterances of phrases like "C'est le vie, c'est si bon" reflected his international career.

In 1988, Lindsay was made an Honorary Member of the ASEG and received a citation for the ASEG Service Medal for extraordinary service over many years. He had great communication skills, which contributed to his capacity to relate technically and effectively with other professionals, regardless of their own understanding of the principles of geophysics.

**In 2001, the ASEG established the Lindsay Ingall Memorial Award to honour Lindsay Ingall for his capacity to comfortably cross geoscience boundaries and for his enduring commitment to assisting all geoscientists in Australia. The formal purpose of the award is "For the promotion of geophysics to the wider community".** The award is intended for an Australian resident or former resident for the promotion of geophysics, (including but not necessarily limited to applications, technologies or education), within the non-geophysical community, including geologists, geochemists, engineers, managers, politicians, the media or the general public. The candidate need not be a geophysicist, or a member of the ASEG. There is a maximum of one award at each ASEG International Conference and Exhibition, if a suitable nomination is received.