



# ***The Leichhardt Award***

**2013**

**Andrew Willson**

***In Recognition of Original Contribution to  
the Advancement of Coal Geology or  
Related Disciplines in Queensland***



The Prussian naturalist and explorer, Ludwig Leichhardt, discovered significant “beds of coal” in the Blackwater region in 1845, en route to Port Essington in the Northern Territory. According to Leichhardt, these coal deposits were “indistinguishable from those on the Hunter at Newcastle”.

## **Citation**

### **Summary of Original Contribution to Coal Geology in Queensland**

#### **Andrew Willson**

##### **1. ACARP**

Andy's involvement in the Australian Coal Association Research Program has been across a wide variety (too numerous to mention) of open-cut and underground geoscientific projects across all coal geology disciplines (exploration, structural geology, coal quality, geotechnical and geophysical sciences). He has been instrumental in the conception, inception and guidance of projects. He has served as Industry monitor and committee member. A direct contribution to Geology was through the benchmark Bowen Basin Super Model project – a major review and melding of data across government and mining houses to create a contiguous geological model and structural framework covering the Bowen Basin (Queensland's premier coal-producing region). Andy was a keen supporter of this project and the information he supplied to it contributed to its success. Via ACARP, Andy has been one of the prime-movers for coal science in this state. To see the projects Andy has championed and been involved with, visit the ACARP website.

##### **2. Personal Development of Geologists**

Andy has been coach, mentor, trainer, guide, challenger, advisor and gentle-cajoler to an innumerable number of coal geologists during his career in Queensland. His extensive experience has enabled him to give guidance to geologists across a number of experience levels from graduates, exploration geologists, mine geologists, resource modeling geologists to senior geologists and heads of department. Many of the people Andy has been involved with have progressed to become prolific contributors in their own right to the body of knowledge on Queensland coal geology. In this sense, Andy has generated a multiplier effect on the contribution to coal geology knowledge in Queensland through his original contribution.

##### **3. Involvement in Coal Geology Education**

Andy was one of the co-collaborators in the inception and development of the Central Queensland University Mining Department's associate degree program. The courses were derived in response to the need to bolster a diminished workforce at the time and in recognition of the need to supply mining town locals with the expertise to stay and work locally.

Andy has been a keen proponent and supporter of educational seminars over the years, both internally within Anglo-American (via annual GeoMeets and training sessions) and externally, especially via the Bowen Basin Geologists Group.

Nominated by: Rod Doyle

Seconded and Authored by: Wes Nichols