



# Institute of Geologists of Ireland Strategy 2019-2024





*The Holocene meets the Dalradian  
Errigal, Co. Donegal*

by EurGeol Dr. John Kelly PGeo



## Introduction

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The Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI) pursues two primary objectives: **To promote and advance the science of geology and its professional application in Ireland;** and **to ensure that its members uphold, develop and maintain the highest professional standards.** The IGI was founded in 1999 to represent all geoscientific disciplines in Ireland with the support of sponsoring bodies the Irish Association for Economic Geology, the Irish Mining and Quarrying Society, the International Association of Hydrogeologists (Irish Group), the Geotechnical Society of Ireland and the Geophysical Association of Ireland.

In this 20th year of the IGI, we have the opportunity to renew our approaches toward these objectives. In order to address the new challenges our profession has seen in the last 20 years, we have set out Strategic Goals and Priority Actions for the organization. We have endeavoured to understand and address the challenges by consulting our members and stakeholders. Our members work in the areas of industry/commerce, academia and Government. From these discussions, public engagement has emerged as the key area where the IGI's profile and efforts are to be bolstered in a new strategy. In every walk of life where geoscience is concerned, IGI needs to understand the issues, support the science and be an independent, authoritative voice. This includes interaction with Government, the Public Service, the Oireachtas, education, industry, commerce and the public.

To allow for the flexibility required to adapt to new challenges, every six years the IGI will develop a strategy that sets out the organisation's strategic goals and actions. Each year, the incoming Board will hold a Strategy Meeting, led by the outgoing President who will be the Head of Strategy, to consider the current Strategy and make provision for its review and renewal in good time for the next 6-year cycle.

We thank the members of the IGI, its sponsoring bodies and stakeholders who draw on the expertise of our members, for their continued support.

EurGeol Mairéad Glennon PGeo

**President**

on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Geologists of Ireland





*Crinoids at Hook Head*  
by Dr. Jim Hodgson PGeo



## Strategic Goal 1

### **Act as an independent, trusted authority on the role of geoscience in society and the economy in Ireland**

Geoscience underpins Ireland's society and economy as we know it today. Our members work to ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials, water and energy for Ireland, while assessing, protecting and monitoring the environment. Geologists will play a key role in the response to the climate emergency, ecological breakdown and the energy transition. The IGI will seek to increase its profile in response to these urgent issues via the following priority actions.

#### **Priority actions:**

- Represent members' professional interests with Government, appropriate Oireachtas committees, media and society as a whole.
- Ensure that regulations and legislation affecting the geoscience profession are monitored and influenced.
- Facilitate the coordination of voices of the geoscience community, through for example, the Heads of Geoscience Groups forum and the Irish Geoscience Network.
- Maintain representation on European Federation of Geologists Council, Expert Panels and Working Groups.
- Coordinate provision of position papers and guidance documents.
- Continue to work with the European Federation of Geologists, the Geological Society of London and other international professional bodies on matters of mutual interest.
- Extend public outreach to educate and inform legislators and the general public about the role and importance of geoscience to society and the challenges faced by society.





*Rip Curl – the Garrison Sill meets the  
Meenymore Formation*  
by EurGeol Dr. John Kelly PGeo



## Strategic Goal 2

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### **Support a community of geoscientists that is technically excellent, professionally competent, socially and environmentally responsible, inclusive and diverse**

The IGI membership includes geoscientists involved in a diverse range of pure and applied disciplines, such as hydrogeology, geophysics, geochemistry etc., working in a range of sectors, including mineral resources, energy, environment, engineering, academia and Government. The IGI will continue to ensure the maintenance of high professional standards in geoscience for the benefit of the profession and the public. Recognition of such standards by decision makers and the general public will increase confidence in the profession and benefit our membership.

#### **Priority actions:**

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- Act as the recognised body in Ireland for professional accreditation of geoscientists through the Professional Geologist (PGeo) accreditation and European Geologist (EurGeol) title.
- Organise and support courses and events that contribute to members' ongoing education and professional development. The frequency and accessibility of both technical and professional skills training will be improved.
- Regularly monitor and audit Continuing Professional Development (CPD) returns from members.
- Ensure that the IGI Code of Ethics is communicated to members and is applied through the IGI Ethics and Disciplinary committees.
- Maintain and develop links with other similar professional and vocational bodies in Ireland and internationally to ensure mutual recognition of qualifications and standards in order to facilitate cross-jurisdiction mobility and work opportunities.
- Maintain and strengthen ties with the IGI's sponsoring bodies and other professional and vocational bodies in Ireland.
- Uphold a commitment to the requirements of the Pan-European Reserves and Resources Committee (PERC) Code on the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves and promote awareness of the PERC code amongst members, the public and the investment community.
- Provide networking and mentoring opportunities across disciplines and career stages.
- Maintain and develop specialist registers of members who are competent in specialised fields based on demand e.g. pyrite and hydrogeology for waste disposal sites.
- Provide support to members in relation to employment issues, including periodic employment surveys.
- Communicate to members via regular news updates, social media and an up-to-date website.





*Dún Briste*  
Kevin Ledwith, MIT



## Strategic Goal 3

### **Foster the next generation of geoscientists**

The next generation of geoscientists will be required to meet increasingly challenging sustainable development objectives. The IGI will inspire students at second and third level to consider geoscience as a career by implementing an ongoing programme of educational outreach. The gender breakdown of the IGI membership is currently 74% male, 26% female; the IGI will work to develop a membership which reflects the makeup of our society today. Approximately 44% of IGI members are at early-career stage (Member-in-Training or less than 10 years' experience at PGeo level). At early-career stage, IGI will continue to provide support through its Member-in-Training scheme, mentoring and training.

#### **Priority actions:**

- Support educators to confidently communicate the critical issues by participating in key education initiatives.
- Career guidance and information to third level students.
- Support provision of educational content for secondary school / third level educators.
- Visit third level institutions to promote the IGI and expand student and academic membership.
- Support and develop IGI membership in central Government, local Government, public sector organisations and agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, Geological Survey Ireland, the Exploration and Mining Division, and the Petroleum Affairs Division.
- Support student members and Members-in-Training; encourage participation in training and networking.
- Grow a diverse, gender-balanced membership inclusive of all disciplines. Promote initiatives which increase female participation and advancement in the profession.







## Strategic Goal 4

### **Develop and strengthen the IGI**

We need to ensure that the role of the IGI and its standing within the geoscience sector is maintained and strengthened in order to achieve our strategic goals. To achieve this, the IGI must be sustainable, adaptable and resilient over the long term. This is especially important as pressure on the Earth's resources increases and the role of the geosciences in tackling the climate emergency becomes ever more critical.

#### **Priority actions:**

- Continue to run the business of the organisation in accordance with the Articles of Association.
- Implement a 6-year strategy review cycle, with annual oversight by a Head of Strategy who will be the immediate past president of the IGI. The strategy cycle will be a way for the board to consider any required changes to the running or structure of the organisation over time.
- Strengthen the finances and capability of the Institute through membership fees, provision of affordable courses and participation in other initiatives.
- Support bodies which may require / prefer reports from professional geologists, such as An Bord Pleanála, Local Authorities, the National Standards Authority of Ireland, the Exploration and Mining Division, Geological Survey Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency and Stock Exchanges; promote the requirement for engagement of Professional Geologists by other bodies in order to meet professional reporting standards.





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