



# Mesoproterozoic bimodal magmatism of southern Australia: assessing relative mantle input and implications for IOCG mineralisation prospectivity.

Thesis submitted in accordance with requirements of the University of Adelaide for an  
Honours Degree in Geology

Henry Charles Chalk  
November 2014

**MESOPROTEROZOIC BIMODAL MAGMATISM OF SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA:  
ASSESSING RELATIVE MANTLE INPUT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR IOCG  
MINERALISATION PROSPECTIVITY.****RUNNING TITLE: MESOPROTEROZOIC MANTLE INPUT IN SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA****ABSTRACT**

Mesoproterozoic magmatism of the Gawler Craton and the Curnamona Province demonstrates regions of variable mantle input characteristics. Zircons from Hiltaba Suite granitoids and Gawler Range Volcanics, Gawler Craton, return  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(\text{T})$  values ranging from +7.1 to -0.4, +2.0 to -7.4, and +0.2 to -5.3 from the western, central, and eastern Gawler Craton respectively. Ninnerie Supersuite granitoids and Benagerie Volcanic Suite, Curnamona Province, return  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(\text{T})$  values ranging from +2.5 to -3.8. Mantle input modelling of the central/eastern Gawler Craton and the Curnamona Province returns similar mantle input fraction values ranging from 0.1 to 0.6, averaging 0.3, and 0.1 to 0.6, averaging 0.3, respectively. Hiltaba Suite magmatism of the western Gawler Craton is compositionally more juvenile than the central and eastern regions. The western Gawler Craton mantle input fractions range from 0.2 to 0.9 averaging 0.5, more elevated than the central/eastern regions of the Gawler Craton and the Curnamona province. The Benagerie Ridge region of the Curnamona Province displays similar bimodal *ca.* 1590 Ma magmatism,  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(\text{T})$  values, mantle input characteristics, crustal preservation (exhumation) and regional iron oxide copper-gold alteration as the highly prospective Olympic IOCG Province, Gawler Craton.

**KEYWORDS**

Gawler Craton; Curnamona Province; Olympic IOCG Province; Benagerie Ridge; Mesoproterozoic; Lu-Hf; U/Pb geochronology; Hiltaba Suite; Ninnerie Supersuite; IOCG prospectivity

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

List of Figures and Tables .....	4
1. Introduction .....	5
2. Geological Background .....	9
2.1. Regional Geology .....	9
2.1.1. Gawler Craton .....	9
2.1.2. Curnamona Province .....	10
2.2. Tectonic Setting and IOCG Mineralisation .....	13
3. Methods .....	14
3.1. Sample Preparation .....	14
3.2. U-Pb Geochronology .....	15
3.3. Lu-Hf Isotope Analysis.....	16
4. Results .....	17
4.1. U-Pb Geochronology and Lu-Hf Isotope Analysis.....	17
4.1.1. Gawler Craton Samples.....	21
4.1.2. Curnamona Province Samples.....	26
5. Discussion.....	30
5.1. Hf Isotopic Signature of ca. 1590 Ma Magmatism in the Gawler Craton and the Curnamona Province .....	31
5.2. Petrogenesis and Mantle Input of <i>ca.</i> 1590 Ma Magmatism .....	32
5.3. IOCG Prospectivity vs. Mantle Input – a One-dimensional Analysis .....	37
5.4. Chemistry and Crustal Architecture – an Integrated Approach to Prospectivity.....	38
6. Conclusions .....	41
Acknowledgments.....	42
References .....	42
Appendix A: Summary of Samples.....	47
Appendix B: Extended Analytical Methods.....	48
Appendix C: LA-ICP-MS Zircon U-Pb Geochronology Data .....	51
Appendix D: LA-MC-ICP-MS Zircon Lu-Hf Isotopic Data .....	61

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1.	Regional geology map of the Gawler Craton and Curnamona Province .....	8
Figure 2.	Geology map of the Crocker Well region .....	12
Figure 3.	U-Pb concordia plots of the Gawler Craton .....	18
Figure 4.	U-Pb concordia plots of the Curnamona Province.....	19
Figure 5.	Zircon cathode luminescence images.....	20
Figure 6.	$\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(T)$ vs. age plots for Gawler Craton samples .....	22
Figure 7.	$\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(T)$ vs. age plots for Curnamona Province samples .....	27
Figure 8.	Summary $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(T)$ vs. age plots for all data.....	29
Figure 9.	$\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(T)$ population density plots .....	30
Figure 10.	Schematic of mantle input calculation .....	35
Figure 11.	Mantle fraction histograms.....	36
Figure 12.	South Australian Mesoproterozoic magmatic preservation .....	39