



John A. Theodoridis

It would be proper to commence this issue of *Preview* with a tribute to the late Dr Peter John Elliott. Although we weren't acquainted, I found myself pausing and reflecting over a passage in his obituary (see p. 9): amongst his countless achievements in life, Dr Elliott raised the early ASEG news letter to periodical status giving rise to *Preview* itself and, by default, became its first editor.

One only needs to Google their newspaper of choice, and run a search of its contents for 'mining boom', to unleash a string of headlines declaring the boom to be over with follow ups of post-boom

investment strategies. Without falling into the tar pit that is politics, I wonder how many of our readers share my slight bemusement when politicians oversimplify the complexities of the industry for sake of expediency in policy delivery. If I may quip – it seems that ignorance is of high value in political currency. This question is explored as David Denham investigates the health of the mining sector in his article: 'Is the boom really over?' (see p. 17).

Derived from a well received presentation held in Brisbane earlier this year, Sylvia Michael offers us a concise walkthrough in the types of high quality satellite imagery currently available and some of the applications that utilise this wonderful imagery (see p. 20).

Without doubt one of the most exciting aspects of being Editor is to receive emails from researchers eager to share their work and enthusiasm; more so when a submission comes from those whose discipline resides outside of mainstream geophysics – yet still engage in research that is relevant to geophysics proper. Such disciplinary transgressions

are often termed the cross-fertilisation of ideas – or the spice of innovation. So you can imagine my excitement when an opportunity came to review a submission originating from the social sciences canvassing the modern phenomena of fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers (see p. 26). What is shaping up to be a three-part series by John Scott, together with colleague Victor Minichiello and research student Catherine MacPhail – University of New England, the first of these articles will challenge populist notions – emanating from politicians and residents alike – that bored and cashed up FIFO workers are directly responsible for increases in STI and HIV infection rates. The remaining two articles will explore issues surrounding assimilation and integration of FIFO workers – reluctance in welcoming outsiders is an all too human story, and finally FIFO amenities. Be warned: as a TEM anomaly is to a geophysicist, so too taboo is to a social scientist – curiosities to be examined; some may find these articles both confronting and challenging, but all shall find them refreshingly truthful.

HIGH QUALITY MAGNETIC & RADIOMETRIC SURVEY | FIXED WING & HELICOPTER PLATFORMS

Thomson Aviation
Geophysical Survey



Contact Paul Rogerson

p: 02 6964 9487 m: 0427 681 484
e: paul@thomsonaviation.com.au
w: thomsonaviation.com.au