



Lisa Worrall

A bumper issue of *Preview* for Christmas – what more could you want? A reading feast is on offer. I invite you to nibble on news and commentary (is there anything Bob Smith can't do?) before tucking into one of the main courses: a summary of postgraduate research in Australia in 2015, an essay on the first gravity meter, which was built in Australia in the 1890s, and finally, and most deliciously, a consideration of the role that lapis lazuli has played in human history.

It is always astonishing to contemplate the scope of postgraduate research in geophysics in Australia. What is

particularly heartening this time around is that much of the research is cross-disciplinary and that students are problem solving by integrating analysis of disparate data. As Michael Asten (Education Matters) says, if universities can consistently produce students of this quality then the future of the industry is bright. Just in case students, and Dave Annetts (Webwaves), are tempted to think they are doing it tough, then the piece by Roger Henderson on the trials and tribulations of the physicists who build the first gravity meter in Sydney in the 1890s is a salutary reminder of just how, in relative terms, we have it easy. If the advances in quantum computing discussed by Guy Holmes (Data Trends) come to fruition then the next generation might be equally surprised at what we managed to achieve, given what we had to work with!

One of the aims of this magazine, your magazine, is to foster and facilitate interaction between geophysicists in Australia and the Asia Pacific region. I hear on the grapevine that *Preview* articles are prompting discussion and I have seen some of your letters to the Associate Editors, so it would seem that the Editorial team, particularly the

Associate Editors, are hitting the mark. The Associate Editors put themselves and their ideas out there on a regular basis – which is not an easy task – and they really do appreciate your feedback. Personally I would like to thank them, and the other regular contributors to *Preview*, for their good humoured response to my regular poking and prodding!

We will be back in 2016 and I am very much hoping that Don Emerson will be back with another Christmas treat. He tells me that it takes most of the year (in between getting on with life) for him to do the research and complete the article – a big commitment that he may not be prepared to make for many more years. So, let's make the most of the year to come. If you can think of a rock or mineral that has held a grip on human imagination through time and could do with the Don Emerson treatment then email him – or me.

A safe and happy festive season to you all!!

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Season's Greetings