

## President's piece



Katherine McKenna

I welcome this opportunity to write a piece that will be read during or post the 25th International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition. I start with some sad news about the passing of Mike Middleton in June. A geophysicist, Mike has been a long-serving employee of the West Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum and was well known across Australia for his professional manner and expertise. He will be missed.

It has been a busy period for the ASEG committees, particularly the Web Committee. They have been feverously trying to get things complete, so as to launch a new website for the ASEG at the conference. It is not an easy task and I must thank the people working on the Committee, particularly David Annetts as Chair, who have been through every aspect including defining the design, refining design testing, gathering content, and all technical issues regarding talking to databases and our publications. The goal is to have a modern web site that will be easier to use, and also have the ability to grow.

The publication group has also seen some success with the announcement of the 2015 impact factors, which are a part of Thomson Reuters' Journal Citation Reports®, in June 2016. The 2015 impact factors reflect the number of citations in 2015 to content published in journals in 2013 and 2014, divided by the total number of citable items published in that two-year period. *Exploration Geophysics* saw a distinct increase of their impact factor, which was a 100% increase from

2014. Congratulations to Mark Lackie, who is Managing Editor, and his co-editors and associated editors.

On a personal note, I got the opportunity to visit the Gravity Discovery Centre at Yeal, in Western Australia in July. It is only one hour's drive north of Perth. I was invited by Don Pridmore, who is an ASEG Member and also the Chair of the Gravity Discovery Centre Foundation. Travelling north, and gradually getting away from the city and suburbs, you can see on approach to Gingin a leaning tower. This Leaning Tower of Gingin is a 45 metre tall structure leaning at an angle of 15 degrees and boasting 222 steps to the top. The tower facilitates a childhood experiment of fond memory, namely dropping a water balloon from a high place into a sandpit and seeing the impact crater that forms.

The Gravity Discovery Centre also plays host to the Zadko Telescope, a remote controlled telescope that is mapping the universe. A new telescope called the Falcon Telescope, developed by the US Air Force Academy for space situational awareness (basically mapping space junk), is also being built there. There was so much to look at between the exhibition of hand-on displays and experiments; such as measuring a sound wave or how much you weigh on different planets, to wandering through the Cosmos Gallery. At sunset we headed to dinner in the café, situated on site. There are also BBQ areas that can be used and other catering options. After dinner, and much praying for the clouds to disappear, we went to the observatory where there were a number of telescopes set up. The rest of the night was spent looking at constellations, galaxies and planets. The odd shooting star even passed by. The presentation had everyone captivated for hours, adults and children.

The Gravity Discovery Centre has a mandate to motivate and communicate science to all visitors as well as to the wider community. This is clearly demonstrated through the display, experiments, demonstrations, observations and exhibits. I think the next step could see ASEG involvement in putting together some sort of exhibit to communicate geophysics to a wider community. Anyway, I thoroughly

recommend the Gravity Discovery Centre. It is definitely well worth a visit (<http://gravitycentre.com.au>).



The last little piece of positive news comes from Koya Suto. He has been working with HAGI (Indonesian Association of Geophysicists) on the possibility of a joint publication with ASEG, KSEG and SEGJ. In July, they agreed to a joint publication.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable conference and look forward to hearing the stories and discoveries that follow.

*haud ignota loquor*

(I speak not of unknown things)

Katherine McKenna  
ASEG President  
[president@aseg.org.au](mailto:president@aseg.org.au)

## Welcome to new Members

The ASEG extends a warm welcome to 18 new Members approved by the Federal Executive at its June meeting (see table).

First name	Last name	Organisation	State	Country	Membership type
Mishra	Surabhi	Santos	SA	Australia	Active
Jean	Legault	Aurora	ON	Canada	Active
Giovanni	Spampinato	Mira Geoscience	QLD	Australia	Active
Jim	Scarborough	SouthernRock Geophysics	Santiago	Chile	Active
Phillipa	Murray		SA	Australia	Active
Guy	Balrock	CGG	WA	Australia	Active
Ngoc (Mary)	Nguyen	Macquarie University	NSW	Australia	Student
Juliet	Schilling	Monash University	VIC	Australia	Student
Thomas	Connell	Macquarie University	NSW	Australia	Student
Peter	Targett	Macquarie University	NSW	Australia	Student
Julia	Crepin	Queensland University of Technology	QLD	Australia	Student
Rachael	Ciesiolka	University of Queensland	QLD	Australia	Student
Craig	Crossland	Queensland University of Technology	QLD	Australia	Student
Aswin	Lincoln	Curtin University	QLD	Australia	Student
Mitchell	Simpson	University of Queensland	QLD	Australia	Student
Byron	Burgess-Gallop	University of Queensland	QLD	Australia	Student
Khumo	Leseane	Monash University	VIC	Australia	Student
Thalia	Downes	Curtin University	WA	Australia	Student

# South Australia's door is open.

Rated most attractive petroleum jurisdiction in the Oceania region by Fraser Institute

Bight Basin attracting billions in exploration investment

Cooper Basin remains Australia's largest onshore oil and gas province

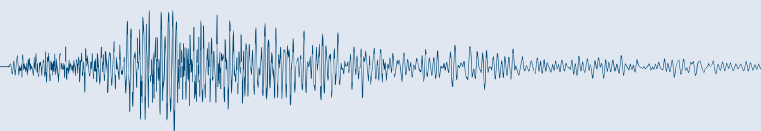
A framework placing local companies into a global supply chain

Australia's first roadmap for unconventional gas projects

Oil and gas roundtable with hundreds of members working to address priorities

South Australia's trusted regulatory framework continues to meet community and industry expectations. It's already paved the way for global exploration companies to begin developing our vast gas reserves and invest billions of job-creating dollars. We are also the first state to create a comprehensive roadmap for unconventional gas projects – developed by hundreds of stakeholders. And deep water exploration in the Bight Basin is happening now, all within a robust regulatory environment. To find out more visit [www.petroleum.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au](http://www.petroleum.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au)





## ASEG Federal Executive 2015–16

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## Specialist Groups

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## Executive brief

The Federal Executive of the ASEG (FedEx) is the governing body of the ASEG. It meets once a month, via teleconference, to see to the administration of the Society. This brief reports on the last monthly meeting, which was held in June. Anyone who would like to see the minutes of the monthly meetings should add their name to the mailing list maintained by the Secretariat. FedEx also holds planning meetings twice a year.

### Society finances

The Society's financial position at the end of May was:

Year to date income \$142 829.82  
Year to date expenditure \$57 300.59  
Net assets \$1 225 130.11

### Membership

At the end of May, the Society had 1025 Members. This is an 88% renewal to date compared to an 85% renewal at the same time last year. Mike Hatch, thank you for your extra effort with the South Australian recruitment drive. ACT and SA/NT membership levels are above the levels last year. TAS has the same number of Members as last year. WA, VIC, NSW and International are behind on last year's numbers.

### Education

Wendy Watkins is transferring her responsibilities to Emma Brand. Thank you Wendy for all of your hard work with Education and, WELCOME Emma! It is great to have you on board.

Leading up to the ASEG conference there is a focus on promoting conference workshops. If you are interested in participating in a workshop please

*At the end of May, the Society had 1025 Members. This is an 88% renewal to date compared to an 85% renewal at the same time last year*

register soon. Some terrific courses are on offer – just visit the conference website for details. The SEG Distinguished Instructor Short Course 2016 by James Gaiser 3D Seismic and VSP will be held in conjunction with the ASEG conference. Steven Constable will also be touring in September-October 2016 so keep an eye out for information. At the moment there are no OzSTEP courses in the pipeline.

### Finance Committee meeting

A Finance Committee meeting was held via teleconference in early July. The Finance Committee is made up of past

Federal Executive Treasurers and Presidents and current ASEG Directors. Katherine McKenna (President), Danny Burns (Treasurer), Marina Costelloe (Secretary), Theo Aravanis (Past Treasurer), Noll Moriarty (Past Treasurer), David Annetts (Webmaster), Kim Frankcombe (Past President), Lisa Vella (Vice President), Dave Cockshell (Past Treasurer) and Greg Street (Past President) spent a few hours going over the financial records of the Society. A number of actions arose from the meeting; these will ensure that resources are directed to areas that support the strategic direction of the Society.

### Conference business meetings

During the 25th International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition a number of Committee meetings will occur. If you are interested in attending a Committee meeting please contact the relevant Chairs below.

If you are interested in a Committee that is not listed in the table please contact me or the Committee chair as noted on the ASEG website.

I hope to see you at the conference!

Marina Costelloe  
Honorary Secretary  
[fedsec@aseg.org.au](mailto:fedsec@aseg.org.au)

Committee Meeting	Chair	Email
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History Committee	Roger Henderson	<a href="mailto:rogah@tpg.com.au">rogah@tpg.com.au</a>
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Research Foundation Committee	Doug Roberts	<a href="mailto:dcrgeo@tpg.com.au">dcrgeo@tpg.com.au</a>
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Combined State Branches	Tania Dhu	<a href="mailto:tania.dhu@nt.gov.au">tania.dhu@nt.gov.au</a>
Membership	Katherine McKenna	<a href="mailto:president@aseg.org.au">president@aseg.org.au</a>



## ASEG Branch news

## Victoria

After a hiatus in May, the ASEG Victorian Branch met in the Kelvin Club on 20 June. We had the pleasure of welcoming **Dr How-Wei Chen**, 2016 Pacific South Honorary lecturer from the Institute of Geophysics, National Central University Taiwan, Republic of China. His talk on 'Crossing boundaries among near-surface, energy-resource exploration, earthquake, and tectonic studies' focused on gas hydrate exploration around Taiwan, and was very well received by the small audience. Thank you to Shell for sponsoring his visit!

The next meeting of the Victorian Branch was held on 13 July at the Kelvin Club and we had the pleasure of welcoming back our former President **Asbjorn Christensen** in the role of speaker. Asbjorn gave a talk on the 'Comparison of Satellite Altimeter-derived Gravity Data and Marine Gravity Data'.

*Seda Rouxel*  
(Victorian Branch President)

## Western Australia

The WA Branch has been very active over the past two months, hosting a number of technical presentations including the SEG Honorary Lecturer **Dr How-Wei Chen** in June. Dr Chen presented a talk on 'Crossing boundaries among near surface, energy resource, exploration, earthquake and tectonic studies' – a diverse talk that was of great interest to large portion of our Members.

The WA Branch can look forward to a presentation by **Jeremy Cook** from Evolution Gold Minerals on 10 August and a presentation by the SEG DISC **James Gaiser** on '3C Seismic and VSP: Converted Waves and Vector Wavefield Applications' on 28 August.

*Kathlene Oliver*  
(WA Branch President)

## Australian Capital Territory

After the excitement of the AGM and the election of the new office bearers in April, the ACT Branch has settled down to a steady first half of 2016. The first duty (privilege) of the new committee was to select a recipient for the ACT student scholarship. It is our pleasure to announce

the awarding of the scholarship to **Rhys Hawkins** from ANU. Rhys is a former ICT guru who has become intrigued by inversion theory and strayed into the realm of geoscience. His PhD thesis investigates optimisation of parameters for inverting seismic tomography data into 2D or 3D models. Rhys applied a Monte-Carlo approach called trans-dimensional trees, that samples across parameter choices to integrate out their effects to provide model inferences and estimates of uncertainties. He is currently applying this approach to ambient noise, tele seismic body waves, and small-scale full-waveform tomography. The Branch is looking forward to a presentation by Rhys, and from the Travel Scholarship winner, **Manon Delaise** (also from ANU) later in the year.

In June we hosted the SEG Honorary South-Pacific Lecturer, **How-Wei Chen** from the Institute of Geophysics, National Central University, Taiwan. How-Wei's lecture; 'Crossing boundaries among near-surface, energy-resource exploration, earthquake, and tectonic studies', was an excellent summary of the research undertaken at what is clearly a very active and well-rounded geophysical institute. It was of particular interest to the Geoscience Australia geophysicists to see the overlap between earthquake monitoring and deep-earth imaging beneath Taiwan, which is actually a rather small island (394 km long by 144 km wide). The meeting was also an opportunity for the ACT Branch members to catch up and enjoy an ale (see photo). Thanks to **James Goodwin** and **Adam Kroll** for organising.

Members are now busy preparing their presentations and posters for the Adelaide ASEG, but will need to make time for

one more meeting in July where **Sarah Buckerfield** will present on her passive seismic work. Remember, visitors to Canberra are always welcome at our meetings

*Ned Stolz*  
(ACT Branch President)

## New South Wales

In May, **Simon Williams** from the University of Sydney spoke about plate boundary dynamics through time. Simon went through the insights that can be gleaned from geophysical data and plate tectonic reconstructions. Simon outlined how reconstructing the motions of the Earth's tectonic plates over geological timescales based on a diverse range of geophysical data sets provides fundamental insights into the nature of geodynamic processes plate-driving forces. Simon discussed how this helps us to understand the history of relative and absolute plate motions, and plate boundary processes, at a global scale. Simon's talk was enjoyed by all with much discussion ensuing.

Before Simon's talk we also thanked our three scholarship recipients and wished them well with their studies this year. The recipients were **Harrison Jones** from Macquarie University and **Joanna Tobin** and **Bailey Payton** from the University of Sydney.

In June, the 2016 SEG Pacific South Honorary Lecturer, **How-Wei Chen** from the Institute of Geophysics, in Taiwan gave a talk on 'Crossing boundaries among near-surface, energy-resource exploration, earthquake, and tectonic studies'. How-Wei spoke about his current research interests and where he



July ACT Branch meeting with SEG Honorary Lecturer, How-Wei Chen. Spot the Geoscience Australia geophysicist.



NSW President, Mark Lackie wishing the scholarship recipients well. L to R: Mark Lackie, Joanna Tobin, Bailey Payten and Harrison Jones.

thought developments in seismic processing were heading. Many questions were asked during and after his presentation, with discussion continuing into the evening.

An invitation to attend NSW Branch meetings is extended to interstate and international visitors who happen to be in town at that time. Meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month from 5:30 pm at the Rugby Club in the Sydney CBD. Meeting notices, addresses and relevant contact details can be found at the NSW Branch website.

*Mark Lackie*  
(NSW Branch President)

## Queensland

The QLD Branch hosted SEG Honorary Lecturer **How-Wei Chen** in June. How-Wei delighted the audience with his passion for geophysics and enthusiasm for using excessive amounts of dynamite during field work!

July was the month for our annual Zoeppritz Night Pub Crawl. On Friday 22 July Members of the QLD Branch propagated through Brisbane sampling some of the local craft beers. The annual ASEG/PESA Trivia Night is scheduled for Tuesday 16 August with none other than our very own Branch Treasurer **Henk van Paridon** donning the QuizMaster hat.

The QLD Branch has refrained from organizing additional meetings during the July/August period due to existing social get-togethers and the upcoming conference in Adelaide; which no doubt will be well attended by QLD Members. Additionally, the QLD Branch is sponsoring three students to attend the conference with sponsorships awarded to **Tom Emelyanenko** (Griffith University),

**Elliot Steel and Chris Matthews**  
(University of Queensland).

The next QLD Branch Technical Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 13 September. **Nabeel Yassi** (Geokinetics) will present his talk 'Current trends in onshore seismic data acquisition; a case study on cable-free nodal systems'.

We are seeking speakers for the end of the year (October–December) if you or anyone you know is interested in presenting please contact me at [qldsecretary@aseg.org.au](mailto:qldsecretary@aseg.org.au).

An invitation to attend Queensland's Branch meetings is extended to all ASEG Members and interested parties. Details of upcoming events will be posted to the ASEG website.

*Megan Nightingale*  
(QLD Branch Secretary)

## South Australia & Northern Territory

Since my last update, the SA/NT Branch has enjoyed a relatively quiet few months with two technical evenings held for our Members. However, with the ASEG-PESA-AIG 25th Geophysical Conference and Exhibition fast approaching, this is surely not to last.

Our first event was the May Technical Evening with a talk by **Stephanie Tyiasning** from the Australian School of Petroleum. She joined us at our regular venue, the Coopers Alehouse, to give the Branch an update on her ongoing work in the Cooper Basin, with her talk 'Nappamerri Trough overpressure detection: the sealing ability of REM Shales'. There was a great turnout to support Stephanie, with a lot of interest from local industry geophysicists providing for a fantastic discussion following the presentation. Our thanks go to Stephanie for taking the time to come and present to our Branch.

Our second presentation was this year's SEG Pacific South Honorary Lecturer **How-Wei Chen**. Again at our usual venue and not deterred by the abysmally cold and wet June evening weather in Adelaide, our Members came out to enjoy How-Wei's presentation 'Crossing boundaries among near-surface, energy resource exploration, earthquake and tectonic studies'. With much enthusiasm How-Wei presented on many topics in a talk that was reminiscent of a Choose Your Own Adventure novel, with input from the audience on what would be

covered next. After listening about seismic data acquisition geometries and concepts between exploration and earthquake seismology, utilisation of current advances in acquisition and processing and case studies on petroleum exploration and seismic hazard detection in his homeland Taiwan, How-Wei finished up with a look to the future of gas hydrate exploration in the depths around Taiwan, China and Japan utilising AVO analysis of seismic data. It was a great talk and we are very thankful that How-Wei was able to visit Adelaide on the second leg of his Australian-NZ lecture tour.

Our technical meetings are made possible by our very generous group of sponsors, which in 2016 includes Beach Energy, Minotaur Exploration, Borehole Wireline and Zonge. We will be in touch with other previous sponsors hoping they will return again this year. Of course, if you or your company are not in that list and would like to offer your support, please get in touch at the email below.

As usual, further technical meetings will be held monthly, at the Coopers Alehouse on Hurtle Square in the early evening. We invite all Members, both SA/NT and interstate to attend, and of course any new Members or interested persons are also very welcome to join us. For any further information or event details, please check the ASEG website under SA/NT Branch events and please do not hesitate to get in touch at [joshua.sage@beachenergy.com.au](mailto:joshua.sage@beachenergy.com.au) or on 8338 2833.

*Josh Sage*  
(SA/NT Branch President)

## Tasmania

An invitation to attend Tasmanian Branch meetings is extended to all ASEG Members and interested parties. Meetings are usually held in the CODES Conference Room, University of Tasmania, Hobart. Meeting notices, details about venues and relevant contact details can be found on the Tasmanian Branch page on the ASEG website.

Interested Members and other parties should also keep an eye on the seminar program of the University of Tasmania's School of Earth Sciences, which regularly delivers presentations of geophysical as well as general earth science interest. Contact **Mark Duffett** [taspresident@aseg.org.au](mailto:taspresident@aseg.org.au) for further details.

*Mark Duffett*  
(Tasmanian Branch President)



## ASEG national calendar: technical meetings, courses and events

Date	Branch	Event	Presenter	Time	Venue
<b>2016</b>					
10 Aug	WA	Tech night	Jeremy Cook, Evolution Mining	1730–1900	TBA
16 Aug	QLD	Annual ASEG/PESA Trivia night	Henk van Paridon	1800	XXXX Brewery, Corner of Black Street and Paten Street, Milton
21 Aug	SA	SEG DISC: 3C Seismic and VSP: Converted Waves and Vector Wavefield Applications	James Gaiser	0830–1700	TBA
21–24 Aug	Nat	ASEG-PESA-AIG 2016: 25th Geophysical Conference and Exhibition			Adelaide
25 Aug	ACT	SEG DISC: 3C Seismic and VSP: Converted Waves and Vector Wavefield Applications	James Gaiser	0830–1700	TBA
28 Aug	WA	SEG DISC: 3C Seismic and VSP: Converted Waves and Vector Wavefield Applications	James Gaiser	0830–1700	City West Reception Centre, 45 Plaistowe Mews, West Perth
13 Sep	QLD	Tech night: Current trends in onshore seismic data acquisition; a case study on cable-free nodal systems	Nabeel Yassi	1730	XXXX Brewery, Corner of Black Street and Paten Street, Milton
12 Oct	WA	Tech night: Tina zinc deposit case study	Darren Hunt, Teck	1730–1900	TBA

TBA, to be advised (please contact your state Branch Secretary for more information).

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