

Editor's desk



This issue of *Preview* features the Handbook for ASEG-PESA-AIG 2016 25th International Conference and Exhibition. If you are attending the conference you will be delighted by the range of presentations and workshops on offer. The conference organisers, who are mostly volunteers, have done a marvellous job and thanks to them you will be able to relish the prospect, in the words of Michael Asten (*Education matters*), of sharpening your saw. Speaking of sharpening saws, Mick Micenko (*Seismic window*) and Guy Holmes (*Data trends*) continue to surprise and to challenge our thinking. In my case the word 'jerk' now has a whole new meaning!

The latest news on unemployment and underemployment in the resources industry is pretty grim. Recent reports in the Canadian media (see for example http://business.financialpost.com/news/energy/albertas-lost-generation-longest-post-war-recession-leads-to-brain-drain-among-geoscientists?__lsa=3e6a-f3cc) suggest that the jobless rate for geologists and geophysicists is close to 50 per cent. Marian Hanna, the President of the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (CSEG), is reported as saying that the CSEG has lost about half its membership, which had peaked at about 2400 Members. At this stage the ASEG does not appear to have lost a significant number of Members (*ASEG news: Executive brief*). Whilst most forecasters are suggesting that a recovery is two to three years away, David Denham (*Canberra observed*) can already see signs of green shoots. As David suggests, the ABS stats on mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure in the June quarter will make for interesting reading.

As well as featuring the Conference Handbook, this issue of *Preview* features an update on activities in all of the

geological surveys in Australia. The Australian government geological surveys have had many name changes over the years, and have resided in many and various government departments, but they have remained pivotal to exploration endeavour in all of the Australian states and territories. They are the repository of exploration data, the source of new data and ideas, and an excellent training ground for young geoscientists. The Australian exploration industry has much to be thankful in that regard and I would urge everyone attending the conference to visit the government survey booths and to ask about the data and services on offer.

Most of the ASEG publications team will also be at the conference and the Publications Committee and the *Preview* Editorial Committee will be meeting to review progress and possibilities. If you are interested and would like to attend either of these meetings please contact me (previeweditor@aseg.org.au), Greg Street or Lisa Vella (publications@aseg.org.au).

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