



Minerals geophysics



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Introducing our new Associate Editor for Minerals geophysics

During our recent ASEG Conference, your *Preview* Editor Lisa Worrall, with, I suspect, a word or two from Kim Frankcombe, suggested that the role of *Preview* Associate Editor: Minerals geophysics awaited, starting right now. Considering that mineral exploration geophysics has given, and continues to give me a stimulating and enjoyable working life, I was pleased to have the opportunity to contribute something in return.

Oh, and could I run off 450–500 words on my work experiences so far?

I completed a BSc degree in geology and physics at Adelaide University, graduating in 1966, then started with Mines Exploration, the exploration arm of Broken Hill South, as a geologist. They required an in-house geophysicist (they were big users of IP), so they sponsored me (accompanied by my wife) for two semesters at the Colorado School of Mines in 1967–68, doing every graduate and postgraduate geophysical course I could fit in. We returned home the long way – by ship to England, overland bus to Calcutta, flights to Perth, and finally train to Adelaide. I spent a total of nine years with Mines Exploration, exploring throughout Australasia mainly for base and precious metals, uranium and rock phosphate.

The industry was hit with a severe downturn in the mid-seventies (they had them back then too), and although Mines Exploration would have kept staff on, I felt I needed a break. For a while I worked as a contract ditch-digger for the local plumber (paid by the metre, so I got very fit), then exploration activity picked up and I took on consulting work in Australia. However, travel in the Middle East had whetted my appetite, and I secured a position with Riofinex as mineral exploration geophysicist in Saudi Arabia. This was an accompanied contract, with our son going to boarding school in Australia after the first year. The work spanned eight years (1978–86), targeting precious and base metals, and rock phosphate (again!).

With the end of the Saudi Arabian master contract, we returned to Australia, where I consulted principally for CRAE, focussing on IP, and Carpentaria Exploration (MIM), mainly around McArthur River. This, in turn, led to four years in South America working for Minera Mount Isa, based in Santiago, Chile (1994–98), where the main target was porphyry copper. We moved to Colorado for a brief stint, then another industry downturn saw us back in Australia.

In 2001 MIM offered me a fly-in fly-out geophysicist position in Mount Isa, working with the team exploring the Mt Isa Inlier for copper-gold deposits. MIM were subsequently taken over by Xstrata, which in turn merged with Glencore; current work includes a strong near-mine (Mt Isa and Ernest Henry) focus. The Isa team also provide input for zinc operations, including McArthur River Mine.

And what have all these experiences taught me? One thing is that learning never stops. So, universities and government agencies, geophysical contractors and consultants, instrument manufacturers, software developers, mining and exploration companies, I'd appreciate all the information, ideas and assistance you can give me to broaden awareness and distribute minerals geophysics knowledge via *Preview*. I look forward to your input!



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