

Editor's desk



This issue of *Preview* features two articles that examine deep time – deep from the perspective of the practice of exploration geophysics in Australia anyway! The first article, by Doug Morrison, takes a close look at the geophysical observations made by the navigators James Cook and Matthew Flinders. The data recorded by these extraordinary individuals in 1770 and 1802 set the foundation for the practice of geophysics on our continent. Roger Henderson then takes a great leap forward to the Federation Era and to exploration geophysics as it was practised

in the early part of the Twentieth Century – before the ground-breaking work of the Imperial Geophysical Experimental Survey (IGES), which was carried out between 1928 and 1930. Roger's analysis of this early work will be published in two parts.

The article by Dave Isles on 'The discovery of Olympic Dam' that was featured in the last issue of *Preview* provoked considerable comment. Reg Nelson, a key player, shares some of his memories in a Letter to the Editor – and shares the glory just that little bit further. To paraphrase the saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' it would seem that it takes a community of geoscientists to create the right environment for a discovery!

As always, our regular commentators engage us with entertaining reports and analysis. David Denham (*Canberra observed*) reviews the impact of Trump's proposed budget cuts on Australian science, and draws our attention to the release of a new World Stress Map. Michael Astén (*Education matters*) reports on the World Bank's finding that clean energy technologies will increase

demand for minerals and metals. Mike Hatch (*Environmental geophysics*) considers the impact that the use of drones is having on the miniaturisation of geophysical technology. Terry Harvey (*Mineral geophysics*) warns us about the dangers of following fashion, Mick Micenko (*Seismic window*) ponders the future of interpretation and Guy Holmes (*Data trends*) enjoins us to take another look at the C suite.

Sadly this issue of *Preview* will be the last issue to feature the words of Guy Holmes. Guy is retiring as *Preview*'s regular commentator on data management and analysis – and on life, the universe and everything! He is starting a new business, which requires his full attention. The business is called Tape Ark and is providing high volume migration data from tape media directly to the cloud. Google Tape Ark if you want to know more. I am sure I speak for all *Preview* readers when I say that he will be sorely missed, but that we wish him, his family and his new enterprise well.

Lisa Worrall
Preview Editor
previeweditor@aseg.org.au

Letter to the Editor

Dear Lisa

I was delighted to be able to help Dave Isles with his article on Olympic Dam and the contributions made by Hugh Rutter and Bernie Milton.

Bernie was a great friend and mentor for me. He is one of the unsung heroes of Australian geophysics. Apart from his contributions so well set out by Dave in his article, Bernie was one of the stalwarts who really got the ASEG going in the early 1970s.

I should also mention the contributions made by Peter Woyzbun, who sadly passed away in 2014 at the age of 86. Peter stood out in any crowd with a black 'pirate' patch over one of his eyes. I believe that he lost an eye during World War II.

Peter was a teenager in Poland during World War II and had been active in the Polish Resistance. Captured by the Germans in the latter half of the war, he was freed by the Americans and

eventually found his way to England where he completed a science degree, majoring in physics. He joined Hunting Geophysics, which later merged with Adastral Aerial Surveys to become Adastral Hunting. He came to Australia with Adastral Hunting in the 1950s to carry out contract surveys on behalf of the then BMR, and some of the State Geological Surveys. One of his earliest surveys was to fly the Middleback Ranges in SA.

Peter became Senior Geophysicist for the Northern Territory during the 1980s, which is when I first met him. I worked with him over the years, and I well remember his mentioning that re-flying a couple of 1:250 000 sheets in the NT in the late 1980s had led to an upsurge in exploration. At the time I was Chief Geophysicist for the South Australian Department of Mines and Energy, and about to become Director of Mineral Development. The conversation that I had with Peter was a direct stimulus for my urging the South Australian

Government to undertake large-scale airborne surveys and other initiatives, as recounted in Dave's article (David Tucker's and John Pitt's contributions also deserve a big mention in this respect).

Peter moved to Canberra in the early 1990s and I was able to secure his services as a consultant to interpret reprocessed map sheets in the Gawler Craton.

We owe so much to our early geophysical pioneers and it's great to see a light shone on some of their history through articles such as Dave's – and also the estimable Roger Henderson's historical notes.

I'm indebted to Doug Morrison for his more detailed notes on Peter's career and personality, which have greatly refreshed my memories of him.

Kind regards
Reg Nelson
reg.nelson@vintageenergy.com.au