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## Online Preview

Readers of online *Preview* will have noticed some minor changes in the presentation of last month's issue. In an effort to improve the online presentation of the magazine, readers will now be able to download either a single PDF for the whole issue or individual PDFs of subsections of the magazine. If you think a feature article may be of interest to your colleagues, it will simply be a matter of referring them to a direct link to that article, rather than needing to download a PDF of the whole magazine which may be 20 Mb or more in size.

*Preview* is freely available online and thus is an excellent vehicle for promoting our profession to a wider audience. Let me know what you think about the new online format and whether you have any suggestions for further improving the digital presentation of our magazine.

## A bouquet for Curtin Honours students

It was my very great pleasure to attend the recent Student Night for the WA branch of the ASEG. Seven Honours students from Curtin University delivered short presentations on their research. In my experience there is usually some 'cringe factor' associated with these events because the students are still learning their presentation

skills. By contrast, this Student Night showcased a group of students with excellent presentation skills, confidence in their material, and an assuredness in their manner which left me almost dumbfounded. I well remember my own Student Night and how nervous we all were. I suspect these students were no different to us, but they have clearly been given lots of practice in public speaking and this contributed greatly to the effectiveness of their presentations.

We often hear that there is concern about where future geophysicists will come from and how well prepared they are to enter the profession. I am pleased to say that this group of young people gave me confidence in the future of our profession, and in particular in their ability to communicate their knowledge so well. Geophysicists have to be good at communicating with the users of their data, and this newly qualified group of geophysicists are certainly starting out on the right foot. They also exuded a genuine enthusiasm for their topics – not only were they good communicators but they seemed to really enjoy talking about geophysics!

So, a bouquet for the students and congratulations to Dr Andrej Bona, Honours Course Coordinator, and all the Curtin Department of Exploration Geophysics staff, in particular the students' supervisors, who have done an excellent job in grooming these future geophysicists.

## Some Christmas whimsy

I felt sure that if I trawled the Internet I would find something funny or interesting that related geophysics to Christmas. I'm afraid to say that the pickings were rather slim. On one site I found advice to the effect that if you wanted a life where you could spend Christmas with your family, then don't bother becoming a geophysicist (!). On another, I found myself reading a Book

Review from New Scientist in 1960 about a book called *The World Around Us*, edited by Sir Graham Sutton, which was a collection based on a series of six Christmas lectures delivered in December 1958 as part of the International Geophysical Year. The review commended the book highly, but this was still not quite what I was looking for.

And then I stumbled across this – a science blog going by the name of 'Highly Allochthonous' (<http://scienceblogs.com/highlyallochthonous>). If you visit the archives for December 2009 and January 2010 you will find an entertaining collection of posts by geologist Chris Rowan under the following titles: 12 folds a-plunging, 11 terranes amalgamating, 10 probes a-probing, 9 isotopes fractionating, 8 streams reversing, 7 glaciers melting, 6 fields a-flipping, 5 focal mechanisms, 4 index fossils, 3 Helmholtz coils, 2 concordant zircons and an APWP. Perhaps next year, we could have the 12 Days of Christmas for Geophysicists.

## This issue

In this issue we have two feature articles. The first comes from Viezzoli et al. and was written in response to the article by Wilson et al. in Issue 146 on 'Practical 3D inversion of entire airborne electromagnetic surveys'. The second article comes from China and looks at a novel EM configuration for application to tunnel surveys. These features are complemented by the usual round of ASEG, industry and conference news.

It is hard to believe that another full year of *Preview* is almost complete. I would like to thank all our contributors, readers, advertisers, sponsors and **CSIRO PUBLISHING** for continuing to support the magazine so strongly. I wish you all a very happy and successful 2011, and may you have a wonderful and safe festive season.