

Swan song

Have you renewed your membership for 2013 yet? If not, this may be your last *Preview* as we move to tighten up our membership database. If you want to continue to receive all the benefits of being an ASEG member you should renew now, if you have not already done so. If you have decided not to renew then I'd be keen to hear your reasons in the hope that we might improve our service for others. Don't worry, there won't be any hard sell, just a set of listening ears!

In February I signed a memorandum of understanding with the Brazilian Geophysical Society, SBGf. You may not be aware that we have similar arrangements in place with the Indian, Korean, Japanese, Chinese and South African Geophysical societies. We also have slightly different arrangements in place with the SEG and EAGE. The agreements allow for mutual publicity of conferences and events of interest, website links, society booths at conferences and importantly for you, member rates on any special publications the society may

produce. Note however that the latter arrangement does not extend to the SEG or EAGE publications. These inter-society agreements are important for building cooperation and enable us to share ideas and borrow successes. To help publicise their activities and introduce you to their part of the world we are planning on running a series of articles in *Preview* from each of the groups above.

The Federal Executive has been discussing ways in which we might productively put some of our reserves to use. Through the hard work of conference committees and special commitment by sponsors over several years we have built up a comfortable cash reserve. We occasionally get criticised for sitting on an excess balance but we need to be prudent as the society is not cheap to run and without the income from conferences we would quickly find ourselves in trouble. However, having these reserves allows us to take risks we could not have considered a few years ago. To that end we have decided to run our own version of the

SEG's Distinguished Instructor Short Course (DISC). We are hoping that these will be close to revenue neutral but are prepared to support them if not. The SEG and EAGE courses are generally aimed at cutting-edge technology. The ASEG courses, for which we are still looking for a name, perhaps even tied to a sponsor if we get the right offer, will aim to fill the gap between university and practical experience for younger geoscientists. Initially we plan to run one minerals and one oil theme this year. The courses will target geologists as well as geophysicists but as you would expect ASEG members will receive a discounted registration fee. More information will be available shortly as Mark Tingay and Koya Suto work with the Education Committee to build a program.

I'm writing this in March, but it will arrive in your in-trays and mailboxes in April around the time of the society's AGM on the 17th in Brisbane. I hope to see as many of you that are able to make the occasion. At the AGM I'll be handing over the Presidency so this will be my last *Preview* piece as President. I'd especially like to thank those of you that took time out during the year to answer my various calls, through these articles, to tell me what you thought. Being so close to the day-to-day action of the organisation it is always refreshing to have to step back and respond to questions from people who see the end product, for better or worse.

I'll close by borrowing from one of my client's email signatures. Formula for success: rise early, work hard, strike gold! Cheers.



Kim Frankcombe
kfrankcombe@inet.net.au

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ASEG website update

The ASEG website (www.aseg.org.au) is undergoing continued development. Improvements to the profiles section and the addition of new forums and employment & scholarships sections will occur over the coming months. The web committee welcomes all feedback and comments, please submit via email: asegregwebmaster@gmail.com.

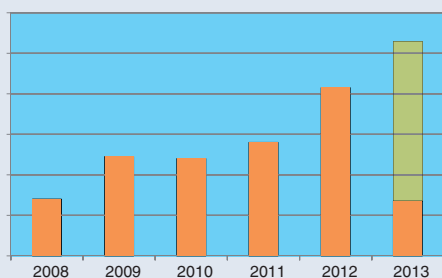
The successes of *Exploration Geophysics*

Exploration Geophysics, the ASEG's research publication, will be familiar to all readers of *Preview*. The observant may have noticed a recent change of cover, but much, much more is happening behind the scenes. And if you're new to the ASEG, *Exploration Geophysics* is online at www.publish.csiro.au/journals/eg and in your postbox quarterly.

The internet makes access to research simpler but the day is still no longer than 24 hours. The main task of CSIRO PUBLISHING is to strive to raise the profile of the *Exploration Geophysics* brand, so readers know that their time spent with the journal and its papers will be worthwhile. This in turn feeds into seeking ever better and relevant papers, higher profile authors, and timely publication throughput. Most critically, a journal needs a dedicated and skilled editorial team* as currently led by Mark Lackie at Macquarie University, Joongmoo Byun of Hanyang University, and Toshiyuki Yokota of the Geological Survey of Japan.

Exploration Geophysics has been a component of a formal strategic alliance between the ASEG and its sibling societies SEGJ and KSEG, and you can read more about that in *Preview* issue 158 (June 2012). All three societies can see the full contents of the journal through the respective members-only section of their society websites, and many research institutions and companies throughout the world subscribe to the journal for their staff.

One demonstration in the rise of the journal's profile is the number of manuscripts presented to the journal for potential publication. In just the period 2008 to 2012 the raw number of papers has tripled, and we're on track to a quadrupling for 2013.

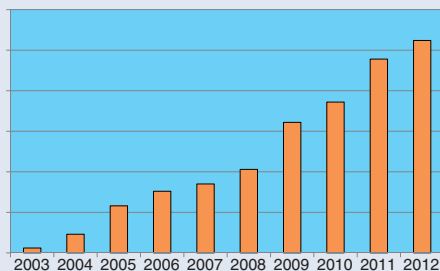


Annual submissions to *Exploration Geophysics*.

The Asia-Pacific is increasingly the natural home of *Exploration Geophysics*. Hits on the journal's website show this rise in regional usage: from 2008 to 2012 website hits from India rose from 5% to 7%, from Japan from 1% to 6%, and from China from 2% to 9%, while hits from Australia and New Zealand remain steady at about 30%, USA and Canada at about 18%, the UK at about 5%, and Germany at 2%.

Similarly the number of papers received from authors based in Asia is also increasing. In 2008 nearly half of the papers came from Australia and New Zealand-based authors. By 2012 this proportion was 20%, with now 10% of the papers from Japan-based, 7% from Korean-based, and 20% from China-based authors. The world, and most especially the Asia-Pacific region, is taking increasing notice of the ASEG's journal.

In scholarly publishing, content is key. A greater number of papers allows the editorial team to make the strategic decision on whether to publish more papers or become ever pickier and select only the best for publication. Citation by other researchers is a proxy for quality, and we can see the dramatic rise in the number of citations the journal gathers in a year.



Annual citations to *Exploration Geophysics*.

From the citation rates we can calculate the equally loved-and-hated measure of the impact factor (IF); for *Exploration Geophysics* it will be about 0.7. By way of context that puts the journal well ahead of *Applied Geophysics* (IF 0.446) and *Marine Geophysical Researches* (IF 0.450), and within striking distance of the *Journal of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics* (IF 0.794) and *Near Surface Geophysics* (IF 0.945).

CSIRO PUBLISHING was chosen in 2007 to assist the ASEG with *Exploration Geophysics*. It's been a good start, and the future is looking bright. Should you have a paper of interest, or an idea for a focussed collection, appropriate for a diverse and international readership of applied geophysicists, *Exploration Geophysics* is, more than ever, a worthy choice for your research.

Richard Hecker
CSIRO PUBLISHING
Email: richard.hecker@csiro.au

Phil Schmidt
ASEG Publications

Mark Lackie
Editor, *Exploration Geophysics*

**Exploration Geophysics*' editorial team: thank you one and all.

Les Beard (Zonge International), Aaron Davis (CSIRO), Mike Dentith (University of Western Australia), Sydney Hall (University of Queensland), Brett Harris (Curtin University), Michael Hatch (University of Adelaide), Graham Heinson (University of Adelaide), James Lee (Ti-Willa Technologies), Xun Luo (CSIRO), Tim Munday (CSIRO), Dariush Nadri (CSIRO), Marina Pervukhina (CSIRO), Roman Pevzner (Curtin University), Nick Sheard (Carpentaria Exploration), Yoonho Song (Korea Institute of Geology, Mining, and Materials), Greg Street (International Geoscience), Lindsay Thomas (University of Melbourne), Mark Tingay (University of Adelaide), Julian Vrbancich (DSTO), Jeff Wynn (US Geological Survey), Binzhong Zhou (CSIRO).



Nominate a colleague for an ASEG Honour or Award for 2013

NOMINATIONS CLOSING SOON

The ASEG acknowledges the outstanding contributions of its individual members both to the profession of geophysics and to the ASEG, through the presentation of the Society's Honours and Awards across a range of categories. The next Awards are scheduled to be presented at the ASEG-PESA Melbourne Conference 11–14 August 2013.

The ASEG awards are made through nominations from the membership at large, as well as through State and Federal executives. The available awards are:

• ASEG Gold Medal

For exceptional and highly significant distinguished contributions to the science and practice of geophysics, resulting in wide recognition within the geoscientific community.

• Honorary Membership

For distinguished contributions by a member to the profession of exploration geophysics and to the ASEG over many years.

• Grahame Sands Award

For innovation in applied geophysics through a significant practical

development in the field of instrumentation, data acquisition, interpretation or theory.

• Lindsay Ingall Memorial Award

For the promotion of geophysics to the wider community.

• Early Achievement Award

For significant contributions to the profession by a member under 36 years of age.

• ASEG Service Awards

For distinguished service by a member to the ASEG,

ASEG members are eligible for all award categories. Non-members also are eligible for the Lindsay Ingall and Grahame Sands awards. Under exceptional circumstances, the other awards may be offered to a non-member of the ASEG who has given appropriate service to the ASEG or to the profession of geoscience, and who has been duly nominated by the Federal Executive.

Nomination procedure

Any member of the Society may submit nominations for an award to another

ASEG member. These nominations are to be supported by a seconder, and in the case of the Lindsay Ingall Memorial Award by at least four geoscientists who are members of an Australian geoscience body (e.g. ASEG, GSA, AusIMM, AIG, PESA, or similar).

The awards carry considerable prestige within the ASEG and the geoscience profession. Therefore appropriate documentation is required to support the nomination. Nominations must be specific to a particular award and all aspects of the defined criteria should be addressed.

Further details of the award categories and nomination criteria are available on the ASEG website. Proforma nomination forms and further information on the nomination procedures are available from the Chairman, Andrew Mutton.

Nominations including digital copies of all relevant supporting documentation are to be sent electronically to:

Andrew Mutton
Chairman, ASEG Honours and Awards Committee
Email: andrew.mutton@bigpond.com

Nominations close Friday 21 June 2013.

New members

The ASEG extends a warm welcome to seven new individual members to the society (see table). Members were approved at the Federal Executive meeting held on 28 February 2013.

Name	Organisation	State/Country	Member grade
Tom Agar		VIC	Student
Robert Hearst	Areva Resources Canada Inc	SK	Active
Muhammed Hossain		WA	Student
Sureyya Kose		WA	Student
Aizawa Takao	Suncoh Consultants Co	Tokyo	Active
Anna Toomath	Santos	SA	Active
Jay Van Berlo		WA	Student

Geophysicists in society: Guy Holmes



Image courtesy of Polar Explorers.

In April 2013, Guy Holmes will battle arctic winds during a 13-day trek to the North Pole. The trip was planned from two angles – his love of geophysics and the environment and also to raise funds for HeartKids WA and awareness for Donate Life.

Guy, who will travel with a small group of explorers from many countries, will depart Perth for Norway on 6 April 2013 to undergo climate preparation and equipment testing prior to the official expedition commencing 11 April 2013.

Holmes will travel by charter aircraft to the Russian research camp 'Barneo' located approximately 89 degrees north latitude to the polar ice cap. The rest of the trip will be done on foot, by cross-country ski while pulling a 60 kg sled over the next 10–14 days. During that time Guy will manoeuvre around spectacular open water leads and over ice pressure ridges that resemble small geological structures made of ice. The official end to the expedition is expected around 23 April 2013.

Guy is motivated to undertake the trek for both professional and personal reasons:

I've always wanted to give back to the community, particularly the medical community. Two years ago, I joined the HeartKids WA Board and after seeing first-hand how they help thousands of families affected by childhood heart disease each year, I wanted to do my bit to raise much needed funds. In addition, as a geophysicist, I get to track down the magnetic pole as it wanders around at the top of the earth.

Guy's support for DonateLife is more personal:

Knowing that my son Owen will one day need a new kidney after his initial transplant when he was just 2 years old, and understanding the crisis that typically comes with waiting for an organ transplant drives my passion to try and raise awareness for DonateLife

and

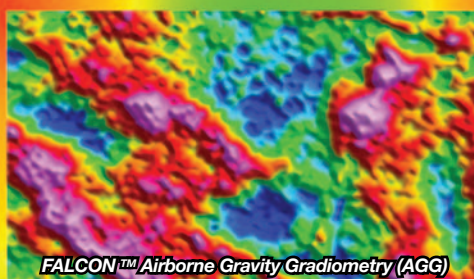
I simply want my son to grow old with me – to be my best mate, a great brother and a part of our dynamic family and community for years to come.

Further information about his trip and on how you may help can be obtained online at <https://guyholmesnorthpoletrek.everydayhero.com/au/guy-holmes>.

Guy is a long-standing member of the ASEG and a contributing author for Preview. In addition, he is Chairman of HeartKids WA and he has a personal stake in the DonateLife campaign.

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Australian Capital Territory

On 2 February 2013 the ACT Branch, together with PESA, hosted the EAGE course on 'Seismic Geomechanics' by Jörg Herwanger (WesternGeco Research and Engineering Group). Twenty-three attendees, including several from over the border, enjoyed a well-presented and thoroughly educational course that both laid out the fundamentals of seismic geomechanics and gave useful insight into the use and application of this burgeoning business. Like SEG Lecturer Rick Miller before him, Jörg also managed an encounter with Australian wildlife – he met a sociable red-belly black snake during a post-course tour of Tindbinbilla Nature Reserve.

The branch AGM was held on 22 February 2013. Prior to the AGM, 21 members visited ANU's Quantum Sensors and Atom Laser Group in the Department of Quantum Science. There we viewed instrument set-ups (see photos) in the Quantum Gravity Lab where Professor John Close and his colleagues are working on high-precision gravity measurements using cold-atom lasers. The tour was a follow on from John Close's talk last December. Thanks are due to Johnny Debs, Gordon McDonald and Kyle Hardman for answering all our questions, and to Nick Robbins for organising the tour.

After four years in their respective roles, President and Secretary Ron Hackney and Marina Costelloe, stepped down at the subsequent AGM. Carina Kemp was then voted in as ACT Branch President and Millie Crowe as Secretary. Tim Jones will continue as Treasurer. The 2013 committee comprises Marina Costelloe, Ron Hackney, Bill Jones, Eva Papp, Ned Stolz and Ray Tracey.

To celebrate responsibilities new and relinquished, the past and present committees joined with members and their partners for a relaxing and enjoyable social event at the Ivy Café in Old Canberra House at ANU. Among canapés and refreshments, all enjoyed a movie, *Catching geophysicists in the ACT*, with highlights of ACT geophysical activities from the past year.

In the coming months, ACT Branch members Ross Costelloe, Ron Hackney, Carina Kemp, Peter Milligan and Yvette Poudjom-Djomani will be busy as they contribute to organising the program for the 23rd ASEG/PESA Conference and Exhibition in Melbourne in August 2013.

Many other ACT members will contribute during March by reviewing extended abstracts. We will also be hosting SEG Pacific South Honorary Lecturer, David Isles, in early May 2013. ASEG stalwart, Koya Suto, is also due to visit in May 2013. This year will also see the first offering of an ACT Branch Student Scholarship.

Ron Hackney



New South Wales

In February, we held our AGM and two of the usual suspects (myself and Roger Henderson) were elected to the roles of President and Treasurer respectively. Sherwyn Lye from Bridgeport Energy was elected as Secretary. We thank Bin Guo for all his efforts over the past few years as Secretary.

Following the AGM, Roger Henderson, from Thomson Aviation, gave a talk on the status of exploration geophysics in Australia 86 years ago. Roger discussed a 1927 report by E.C Andrews (Government Geologist of the NSW Dept Mines) on 'Geophysical Prospecting for Ore Bodies'. Roger discussed the status at that time of various geophysical techniques and showed the equipment that was used and the ideas for using those techniques in Australia – much reminiscing by the audience. Mike Smith also gave a short illustration on controlling a bushfire on his property in the Southern Monaro. Not that much geophysics, but quite interesting.

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 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

Queensland

Our Brisbane branch is kicking off 2013 with the ASEG Federal AGM on 17 April. The evening will include a presentation on 'Geophysical site investigation techniques' by Tariq Rahiman. In June we look forward to hosting the SEG Honorary Lecturer Dave Isles. We are currently on the lookout for presenters to fill the 2013 program – this invitation is also extended to those passing through Brisbane. If you wish to present, please contact Queensland branch president, Fiona Duncan, via email: fiona.duncan@bg-group.com.

Fiona Duncan

South Australia/Northern Territory

We kicked off the year with a joint PESA and ASEG luncheon followed by an informative EAGE presentation by Dr Jorg Herwanger looking at Seismic Geomechanics. Dr Herwanger was kind enough to share detailed information on the various points involved and was a thoroughly engaging speaker.

On 12 February the SA branch held its AGM in which we elected a new committee, including myself as president. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work over the past few years of our outgoing President Phil and to our other outgoing committee members who have moved onto jobs outside of South Australia.

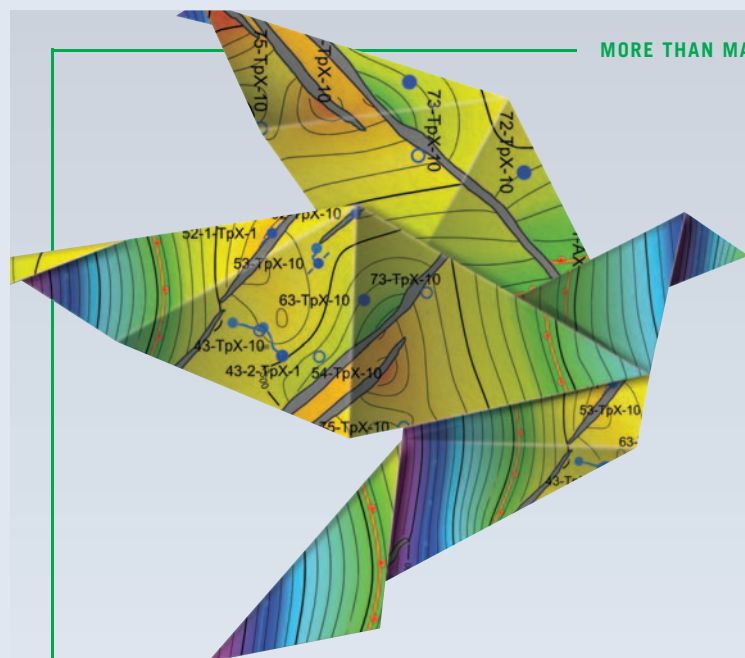
Kelly Keates spoke about the new electrical standards from the Ground Geophysical Surveys Safety Association (GGSSA) following the AGM. Further information and the draft review of these standards are available at <http://ggssa.org/>. Michael Wenz from the University of Adelaide, Australian School of Petroleum was our technical speaker for the evening and demonstrated useful techniques in analysing unconventional plays on his talk 'Unconventional

Erin Shirley

On Wednesday 17 April we are pleased to announce the 2013 SEG Honourary Lecturer Dave Isles presenting 'Aeromagnetism – a driver for discovery and development of Earth resources' at the Kelvin Club. Prior to the presentation we will hold the Annual General Meeting for the ASEG Victorian Branch. Asbjorn Norlund Christensen and John Theodoridis are seeking re-election as President and Secretary, respectively, and we fully endorse the candidacy of Theo Aravanis, who is seeking election as Treasurer.

Asbjørn Norlund Christensen

The holiday season is well and truly behind us as we now reach the end of the first quarter of 2013. First, I'd like to welcome all our new WA committee members: Mohammad Khoshnavaz (Curtin University), Tim Dean (Schlumberger), Mahesh Raghvani and Matthew Kovacevic (Curtin University



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student reps), Heather Carey (Fugro Airborne) and Regis Neroni (Rio Tinto).

This year so far we've already held four technical events. We welcomed SEG/AAPG Fall Distinguished Lecturer Manika Prasad in mid-January who presented to a capacity crowd on 'Shales and imposters: understanding shales, organics and self-sourcing rocks'.

Dr Jörg Herwanger from WesternGeco presented his EAGE Education Tour one-day workshop on 'Seismic geomechanics: how to build and calibrate geomechanical models using 3D and 4D seismic data' on 25 January.

Our first official Tech Night for 2013 kicked off on 13 February with Andrew Duncan's talk on 'Downhole EM for highly conductive targets'. Thank you to EMIT (www.electromag.com.au) for sponsoring the evening.

March's Tech Night was jointly held with the WA branches of the AIG and GSA, and saw Dave Isles present his SEG Pacific South Honorary Lecture on 'Aeromagnetism: a driver for discovery and development of Earth resources'. The night was at capacity once again drawing attendees from across the societies. Thank you to Southern Geoscience (www.sgc.com.au) for their sponsorship.

We're very pleased to be hosting Tariq Alkhalifah from the King Abdullah University for Science and Technology in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia. Tariq will be in Perth in early April and has kindly offered to give a special presentation to WA members on 'Unravelling waveform inversion with an eye on the near surface', which I'm sure will be very well attended. Thank you to PGS (www.pgs.com) for sponsoring this event.

As for the rest of 2013, our calendar is almost full. Check out the upcoming events in the table (right).

In addition to our monthly Tech Nights, we're looking forward to hosting the second Junior Geophysicists Forum later this year as well as being joint organisers of the annual Geoscience Careers Night for high school and university students that will be held at Technology Park on 27 August.

All WA events are now being posted on the ASEG website so keep a look out and follow the links for full event details as well as to register online. You can also sign up to our mailing at <http://eepurl.com/nleOD> to receive email notifications for WA events and news.

Anne Tomlinson

Date	Event	Presenter	Time	Venue
2 April	Special Tech Night: Unraveling waveform inversion with an eye on the near surface	Tariq Alkhalifah, KAUST, Thuwal, Saudi Arabia	1730 – 1930	City West, West Perth
10 April	Tech Night: Geophysics for mineral exploration	Dr Peter Kovac, Fugro, Perth	1730 – 1930	City West, West Perth
8 May	Tech Night: MASW method	Koya Suto, Brisbane	1730 – 1930	City West, West Perth
12 June	TBC		1730 – 1930	City West, West Perth
10 July	Tech Night: Seismic illumination on tight reservoir fractures and faults	Vincent Kong, WesternGeco, Perth	1730 – 1930	City West, West Perth
8 August	Tech Night: 4D seismics	David Johnston, ExxonMobil, Houston	1730 – 1930	Technology Park, Bentley
9 August	SEG DISC: Making a difference with 4D: Practical applications of time-lapse seismic data	David Johnston, ExxonMobil, Houston	0800 – 1700	Technology Park, Bentley
11 September	Tech Night: TBC		1730 – 1930	City West, West Perth
9 October	Tech Night: TBC		1730 – 1930	City West, West Perth
13 November	Student Presentation and ASEG WA Awards Night		1730 – 1930	City West, West Perth
11 December	AGM and Christmas Party		1730 – 2100	TBC

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ASEG to present Australia's own DISC

ASEG Federal Executives have decided to run the equivalent of DISC courses in all state branches that express interest: one each for petroleum and minerals every year.

Background

The SEG Distinguished Instructor's Short Course (DISC) is a highly successful global project, in which every year the SEG sends a lecturer to deliver a one-day course to venues located throughout the world. In Australia, sessions are typically held at two or three locations. Although ASEG invites the SEG DISC lecturers to present at all state branches, presentations are limited by their hectic schedule.

Quite often the SEG DISC is focussed on the cutting-edge technology in petroleum exploration.

Initiative

In a new initiative by the ASEG, one-day courses will be created to service explorers in both the minerals and

petroleum sectors. These courses shall be aimed at bridging the gap between:

- academic studies and industry practice;
- the study of geology and geophysics and application in exploration; and
- geologists and geophysicists.

Thus, this initiative forms a bridge of communication: for geophysicists to understand what geologists want and can provide, and for geologists to read and understand geophysical data in terms of their geological knowledge.

The first of the ASEG DISC seminars will occur later in 2013. This is in addition to the SEG DISC at the Conference in Melbourne and two venues in August: Perth and Brisbane.

Further information

Given that we do not as yet have a nice acronym for our DISC, we welcome suggestions from our members. For those with a good idea please contact the chairman of the Education Committee, Mark Tingay, by email: mark.tingay@adelaide.edu.au.

ASEG announcement for all members

Considering retirement?

A geophysicist is a geophysicist for life, regardless of whether or not you are working in geophysics for a living. We continue to learn geophysics and to meet geophysicists. Retirement from the work force does not stop these commitments.

Eligibility and benefits

- ASEG has a membership category for retired geophysicists with a discounted fee. To be eligible for this special membership rate, you have to be a member for 10 years. The retired membership fee for 2013 is \$84.
- A retired member also has the option to bulk pay the membership fee for life with a heavy discount. This is a tax-effective way of paying membership if you opt in your last year of employment.
- Retired members are also entitled to discount registration for ASEG Conferences. The registration fee for retired members for this year's 23rd ASEG Conference in Melbourne is \$600 (Members' full registration is \$1150).

Further information

If you are about to retire, please contact the ASEG Secretariat:

Email: secretary@aseg.org.au

Tel: (08) 9427 0838



Australian Government
Geoscience Australia

Airborne electromagnetic data for the National Airborne Geophysical Database

Do you have historical airborne electromagnetic (AEM) data sitting in the back of your filing cabinet, on old hard drives or worse on CDs?

Are you the owner of AEM data and/or have permission to release datasets to Geoscience Australia?

Please consider supplying the data to GA for archiving to help build a national repository of AEM data for the benefit of the nation. Auxiliary data including logistics reports, technical metadata, conductivity logging and interpretation reports are also sought if available.

Geoscience Australia is the custodian of the most comprehensive publicly

available Australian airborne magnetic, gamma-ray, elevation model, electromagnetic and gravity databases.

Geoscience Australia is embarking on a project to upgrade the National Airborne Geophysical Database (NAGD) to better manage the data from AEM surveys. Geoscience Australia has commenced work on an AEM data repository as a subset of the National Airborne Geophysical Database. Geoscience Australia in its role as the national geoscience agency is looking to collect and archive AEM datasets acquired using public funds in a format that is maintainable and accessible. In addition,

available open file AEM datasets will be archived in the repository.

The immediate aim is to develop an AEM survey index map suitably attributed with relevant metadata in conjunction with a view to releasing AEM data on the web. The long-term aim is to create coherent regional compilations to be used to reduce exploration risk, support the work of the various industries that use AEM data and contribute to the development of government policy.

If you have data or would like to discuss this venture please don't hesitate to contact Marina Costelloe via email at marina.costelloe@ga.gov.au or telephone on (02) 6249 9347.