

Editor's Desk



This issue of *Preview* reports on the ASEG-PESA 2015 conference and features the citations for the ASEG and Conference Awards. The conference, which was held in Perth in mid-February, was remarkably successful. It was attended by a record number of participants, many of whom were geologists and geochemists. The organising committee is to be congratulated on devising a format that broadened the appeal of the conference whilst maintaining its relevance to geophysicists. The session devoted to emerging techniques was one of the most popular. The technique that was under review (ADR) is controversial. It is so controversial that some ASEG Members were concerned that the session might be misinterpreted as an indication of ASEG support for the technique. However, it was clear to everyone present that the ASEG was simply providing a forum for

scientific debate. Probing questions by leading experts in the relevant field clarified the issues at hand and gave participants considerable food for thought.

Whilst at the conference I was actively seeking copy as well as actively seeking new members for the *Preview* Editorial Team. In this issue I have the great pleasure of introducing Professor Michael Asten as Associate Editor for Education and Dr Michael Hatch as Associate Editor for Environmental Geophysics. I hope to welcome a new Associate Editor for Minerals Geophysics in the next issue. Michael Asten and Mike Hatch join Mick Micenko, Associate Editor for Petroleum Geophysics (*Seismic Window*), Guy Holmes, Associate Editor for Geophysical Data Management and Analysis (*Data Trends*), David Denham, Associate Editor for Government (*Canberra Observed*), and Ron Hackney, Associate Editor for Book Reviews. As well as producing commentary all the Associate Editors will be actively seeking news of interest to ASEG Members. Their input will ensure that *Preview* continues to be a lively forum for the exchange of ideas and information between geophysicists practising in the Asia-Pacific region.

This issue also features the reminiscences of Peter Gunn, a well-known Australian geophysicist who had a remarkable career spanning petroleum and minerals geophysics in both the private and public

sectors. His roller coaster career ride will strike a chord with many ASEG members and may hearten some junior members of the profession.

On a personal note, I am writing this editorial from deep within the jungle on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico (see photo). I have swapped my Akubra for a sombrero and I am being distracted by spider monkeys, toucans and Mayan ruins. I have discovered that the Maya, who suffered the indignity of being invaded by the Toltec (relatives of the Aztecs) and then by the Spanish, were skilled mathematicians and one of the earliest peoples to explicitly use 'zero'. Unfortunately most of their codices were destroyed by Spanish missionaries who, in the mid 16th century, had very little appreciation of mathematics and astrophysics and a very real appreciation of the power of an Inquisition. Most of the Mayan understanding of the universe was lost when their books were burned, but the history of their persecution by the Catholic Church reminds us that an open mind and the willingness to question dogma is fundamental to the practice of science. In his first column Michael Asten explains how he took inspiration from Professor Sam Carey in this regard. May we all have the courage to 'disbelieve' if we can!

Lisa Worrall
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Letters to the Editor

Dear Lisa,

Firstly congratulations on *Preview* #173 – I especially liked Greg Street's report, the David Denham–Mike Asten opinions, Tim Munday's aggrieved letter, and your student research comments in the editorial. All very vigorous.

Secondly, a couple of Latin misspellings survived the many trawls through the Lodestone Paper. I do not know how they got there in the first place, nor how they escaped my scrutiny. They are minor and perhaps no one will notice. However, I would like them recorded.

They are:

The Lodestone, DW Emerson, ASEG *Preview* No. 173, p. 54 misspellings: Lucretius L 1010 – *arcte* or *arte* =

tightly, compactly [not *ar(e)te*];
Propertius quote – *ferrum* [not *ferram*]

Regards
Don Emerson
systemsnsn@gmail.com

Dear Lisa,

I would like to compliment you on your production of *Preview* as Editor.

I had intended to congratulate you on seeing, in the electronic version of Issue #173, the inclusion of photos, particularly of the new Federal Executive. It is so good to put faces to names. However, I have just received the hard copy and the impact

of the colour and layout is even more striking. There are many more other photos in this issue especially of the research students, unfortunately not all are of good quality but at least the effort was made to have them.

Overall, the recent hard copies are just getting better and better.

Well done and continue the good work.

Roger Henderson
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P.S. I would be happy for you to publish this email as a 'Letter to the Editor'.