

Editor's desk



This bumper Christmas issue of *Preview* features an article by Don Emerson and Phil Schmidt on the physical properties of pyrolusitic supergene manganese oxides. This important article fills a gap in the literature on the properties of these minerals and, as a consequence, Don has refrained from reflecting, in his inimitable style, on the place of these minerals in history. He has promised to return to that style for a consideration of pyrite in the next Christmas issue of *Preview* – only 12 months to wait!

In addition, we feature our annual summary of student projects completed

in geophysics in Australia (Michael Astén *Education matters*). Many of the completing students will be presenting at the various ASEG State Branch student presentation nights in late November and early December, and we will report on the presentation night award winners in the February issue.

We also welcome Tim Keeping to our regular commentary team. Tim is a geophysicist who was trained at the University of Adelaide and works for the Geological Survey of South Australia. He will be known to many ASEG Members as the current Chair of the ASEG Technical Standards Committee. He now luxuriates in the additional and rather grand title of *Preview* Associate Editor for geophysical data management and analysis. In this issue Tim (*Data trends*) takes a look at file formats for passive seismic data exchange and asks readers for feedback on their experience. David Denham (*Canberra observed*) reports on the latest Federal Government attacks on the university sector. Mike Hatch (*Environmental geophysics*) reflects on the SEG conference in Anaheim, California. Terry Harvey (*Minerals*

geophysics) muses on the role of serendipity in mineral exploration. Mick Micenko (*Seismic window*) considers the use of curvature to rapidly identify sand-rich areas within complex channel systems, and Dave Annetts (*Webwaves*) announces the winners of the ASEG photo competition – the first place winner appears on our cover.

This issue will be the last issue of *Preview* produced by CSIRO Publishing. The ASEG's partnership with CSIRO Publishing has been fruitful, and I would particularly like to thank Helen Pavlatos, who has been *Preview*'s Production Editor for most of the last eight years. Helen has worked with several *Preview* Editors and has always shown great professionalism, patience and generosity under what must have occasionally been very trying circumstances. I will miss her, but look forward to developing an equally fruitful partnership with the team at Taylor & Francis.

A safe and happy festive season to you all.

Lisa Worrall
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We wish you all a safe and prosperous 2019

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Season's Greetings

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