

## Education matters



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## Australian Geoscience Council and Australian Academy of Science announce new round of travel grants

Another great opportunity arises for grad students and early career researchers, using proceeds of the very successful International Geological Congress held in Brisbane four years ago. Funds in the range \$2000 to \$5000 are available for conference or international travel for fieldwork or consultation with co-researchers. An online application form is available at <http://www.agc.org.au/index.php/grants/154-igcfund>. Applications close 31 October 2016.

## Seven students receive awards at the 25th ASEG-PESA-AIG Conference

Congratulations to the students who received awards at our Adelaide Conference just concluded (see elsewhere in this issue of *Preview*). I was especially delighted to see University of Adelaide PhD student Alison Kirkby (with co-authors Professor Graham Heinson and Dr Lars Krieger) win the Laric Hawkins prize 'For the most innovative use of a geophysical technique from a paper presented at the ASEG Conference'. I am a great believer in the role of bright

students making ground-breaking discoveries, and perhaps Alison's paper 'Relating electrical resistivity to permeability using resistor networks' will one day be seen in this category.



Alison Kirkby receives the Laric Hawkins prize from Dr Mike Hatch

It is not always easy for students to break new ground, and sometimes it is a thankless task if the innovation meets with resistance from peers or academia (see for example my column on Ted Irving of plate tectonics and palaeomagnetic fame, in *Preview* April 2015). An extreme example of such resistance 50 years ago is recorded by one of the central figures involved in the elucidation of sea-floor spreading via the palaeomagnetic 'stripes' recorded on the sea floor by magnetic reversals during the spreading process. Neil Opdyke told the story in *EOS* 1985, 66(47), reprinted as Chapter 16 of 'History of Geophysics Volume 4' (2013). Opdyke painted a vivid picture of junior scientists leading the charge in believing new observational evidence, at a time when laboratory directors and associate directors vigorously – occasionally viciously – defended the (1966) *status quo* of 'immovable' continents.

Alison Kirkby has not faced any such opposition with her innovative look at resistivity methods and permeability (rather the reverse, according to Professor Heinson!) but she is to be congratulated none-the-less.

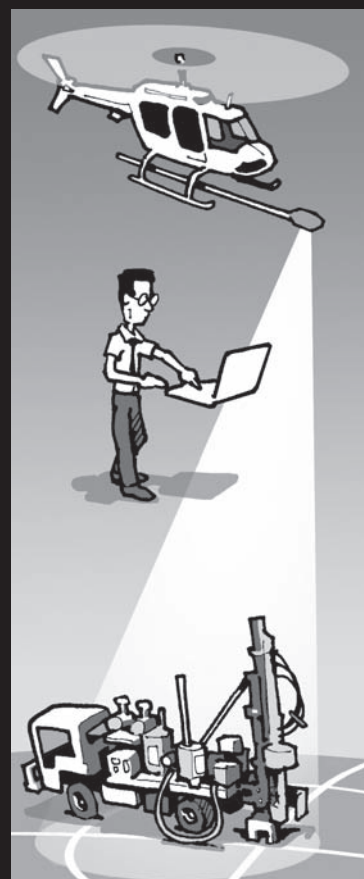
And may all our student geophysicists learn to be bold and innovative!

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