

Webwaves



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The new ASEG website has been launched

The new ASEG website was launched by the ASEG President, Katherine McKenna, in her opening address to the 25th International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition in Adelaide on 22 August 2016. We now have answers to the series of questions posed in this column in the last issue of *Preview*. Overall, Member feedback has been positive, and early statistics suggest strong access from desktop and mobile devices from around the world, mainly Australia, but also USA, Canada and the UK. In addition, a significant number of site users were

from India, Japan, China and Indonesia. Strong use from mobile users is especially encouraging since one of the goals of the website redesign was to ease use for these users.

Recognising that the new website would make much greater use of images than previous versions of the site, the Web Committee organised a photo competition. The main purpose of this competition was to gather photos for use on the web. There were 23 competition entries from 11 Members. Member submissions are being used on the web in various ways, and we extend an invitation for submissions at any time. The winning photo was submitted by Andrew Long. Three entries took equal second place (Andrew Long, Malcolm Sambridge and Doug Morrison). The remaining votes were for photos by Adrian McCallum, Andi Pfaffhuber and Jeremy Lee. The website has more details. Hopefully the photo competition will return and provide Members the chance to share details of interesting datasets and the exciting locations that we visit as geoscientists.

The current website introduces some new features to the ASEG. In a sense extending the contractor's database, the website also offers the facility for companies to post job adverts, and for Members to post notice that they are looking for a position. Neither of these features attempts to supplant existing job services. Rather, they are offered as a

facility to connect employers with job seekers. Forums are another feature of the current site. These were present in the old site, yet never quite gained traction. The Web Committee has attempted to incorporate feedback as to why this might have been the case. Amongst other purposes, forums may be used by Members to post questions and answers on a range of topics including geophysical methods and state-related matters.

Another feature worthy of mention is the Online Equipment Museum. The History Committee has acquired a number of older instruments from various sources, and is in the process of producing an online museum where instruments are described, ideally with manuals and examples of data. The online museum currently has one exhibit, a SIROTEM prototype, and others are sure to follow. Anyone interested in helping is urged to contact the History Committee (history@aseg.org.au)

As with any new endeavour, there were some teething problems with the launch of the new website. These problems, which were chiefly concerned with donations to the research fund and Member access to *Exploration Geophysics*, have now largely been resolved. We urge Members to test the new website and report any issues to webmaster@aseg.org.au.

This Caesium Magnetometer Sensor is from the ASEG virtual museum collection and was generously donated by John Stanley, formerly a lecturer at the University of New England and an inventor. It was built in 1980 as one of hundreds produced by Scintrex of Toronto, Canada and measures the total field. By 1978, the US had declassified its military development of Caesium sensors and these could now be purchased from the developer, Varian Associates. Varian later licensed their product to Scintrex and later to Geometrics. The instrument exhibited here was produced by Scintrex under licence to Varian. A feature of this sensor is that the polarising filter was divided into two halves, one right circular polarising and the other left circular polarising. In doing this the small, equal and opposite heading effect associated with each polarisation were able to cancel each other. This was thus described as a compensated sensor.

