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Welcome to a special issue of *Preview* focussed on geothermal energy. This issue developed out of the inaugural West Australian Geothermal Energy Symposium (WAGES) held in Perth in March of this year. The ASEG was a major sponsor for the symposium, and thus we decided to put together this issue to give all members a taste of the topics covered. I would particularly like to thank three members of the WAGES Organising Committee who helped me with this issue: Mike Middleton (WA Department of Mines and Petroleum), Associate Professor Klaus Gessner (University of Western Australia) and Mark Ballesteros (Conference Chairman).

WAGES has a fairly broad remit with conference topics ranging from geothermal exploration right through to geothermal applications. It is designed to bring together people from all sectors of the geothermal industry, and to increase public awareness of the opportunities to use geothermal energy, particularly in Western Australia. The articles in this issue include a Guest Editorial from John Lund, keynote speaker at WAGES, and a conference summary from Mark Ballesteros, the Conference Chairman. There are then four short feature articles. Klaus Regenauer-Lieb *et al.* discuss the ARRC/Pawsey Centre Geothermal Project in WA; Alison Kirkby describes the ground source heat pump system, which operates at Geoscience Australia; Ameer Ghori describes prospective basins for geothermal energy exploration in WA; and Supri Soengkono *et al.* describe some case studies of geophysical exploration of shallow warm water systems in New Zealand.

Some of these articles contain no geophysical content at all, but I hope after reading them that you have a little more information about geothermal

exploration, some of the ways that geophysics is being applied in geothermal studies, and the exciting developments in direct use geothermal applications. It is perhaps these developments that will drive interest in geothermal exploration into the future.

Among all this geothermal content you will find all the usual news and contributions. In particular, there is lots of news in Geophysics in the Surveys, and the Data Trends column makes for fun and interesting reading. Also, on p. 9 you will find details on the nomination process for the ASEG Honours and Awards for 2012. Nominations close on 15 December 2011.

Finally, if you take notice of the fine print on the first page you will have noticed that *Preview* has a new Production Editor. Helena Clements was Production Editor for *Preview* from Issue 138 to Issue 151, and I would like to offer her my warmest thanks for doing a great job with *Preview*. On the last issue, Helena handed over to new Production Editor, Helen Pavlatos. Welcome Helen to the *Preview* team!



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