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This year seems to be rapidly developing into a hectic one for all. Our incumbent ASEG president, Kim Frankcombe, is set to handover office to president elect Koya Suto. Kim took up his current role not long before I did mine in *Preview* and in the 2013 ASEG-PESA conference organising committee. However, in that short time we quickly developed an effective working relationship by virtue of our demanding roles. More recently, my interactions in both roles between Kim and Koya have been shared. So as I say thank you to Kim, I bestow Koya a warm welcome.

The conference organising committee for the ASEG-PESA 2013 IGC is now running at full steam. Continuing the analogy of those glorious steam engines of old: our faces and hands are already

blackened as we furiously shovel coals into the relentlessly consuming fires in a desperate bid to maintain steam; all performed under constant fear of blowing the boiler! Rest assured that each chair is working hard to ensure their preparations contribute to a successful event. Please refer to p. 13 for a detailed update on the conference, which includes a complete listing of all workshops currently on offer. Early registrations are imperative so as to secure a place in the more popular workshops and to help ensure those of interest to you aren't withdrawn due to under subscription. If that weren't enough, one final motivation for early registration is the early bird rate at \$995, be mindful that this offer closes on 26 April.

I would like to extend a gentle reminder to all ASEG members that nominations for the 2013 ASEG Honours and Awards are now being received. Andrew Mutton, Chairman on the ASEG Honours and Awards Committee, canvases the award categories and outlines the nomination procedure on p. 7 of this issue. These prestigious awards rightfully give recognition to our most talented and dedicated members.

All those in industry are encouraged to flip to the general announcements

section of this issue. Here you will read about the exciting collaboration between TESEP and ESWA that aims to compile case studies to augment the Earth and Environmental Science (EES) textbook. Case studies, rich with information, are sought within Australia to serve as examples throughout the book while being in line with the curriculum. This is an excellent opportunity for those in industry and research to integrate directly with the education system. Like any geophysicist, students value the importance of theory, but also relish any opportunity to see it applied in the field – authenticity makes for a wondrous learning experience.

Finally, I hope you enjoy our feature article by retired curator Denis Shephard as he takes us on a fascinating tour of historic geophysical instruments. In so doing, we take pause from the mad rush for the latest and greatest gadgets and reflect on the progression of geoscience as defined by each artefact. Indeed, the preservation of science history is vital, not merely for the sake of sentimentality, for witnessing the evolution of thought and technology gives us direction and, in some sense, reassurance that small contributions in science shall accumulate to form a greater understanding.

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