



Lisa Worrall

In this issue of *Preview* we welcome the new President of the ASEG, Dr Phil Schmidt. Phil is featured on the front cover, flying his drone in the Flinders Ranges, South Australia. Phil is planning to add fluxgate sensors to this drone and is refusing to be distracted by flies – which in the photo are almost as big as his drone and certainly more numerous! This same cheeky spirit of innovation characterised Alex Copeland who, I am sorry to report, died in Adelaide in April this year. Some of Alex's many friends and colleagues have collaborated on his obituary, which is published in this issue of *Preview*. I am also sorry to report on

the death of Dave Hutchins. A giant of geophysics in southern Africa, Dave's legacy can be found in magnificent regional geophysical survey datasets and in the young geophysicists who are continuing his work in Botswana and Namibia.

A certain cheekiness also characterises one of the feature papers in this issue. I suspect that the authors of 'The application of geophysics to the sport of cricket' have found the perfect way to combine work and pleasure! On a more serious note, Phil Schmidt draws our attention to the call for a new unit to measure magnetisation in his preface to our second feature paper 'A new basis for the SI system of units: occasion to reconsider the presentation and teaching of magnetism'. Debate about what magnetic units are valid and whether H or B are fundamental has been bubbling away for years. A fresh approach has been signalled in this feature paper, which first appeared in a newsletter published by the Institute of Rock Magnetism (University of Minnesota, Minneapolis USA). The authors are well known in the field (Frank Stacey, Bruce Moskowitz, Mike Jackson, David Dunlop,

Özden Özdemir and Subir Banerjee) and for those interested in rock magnetism, remanence, self-demagnetisation and magnetic anomalies their IRM paper is a very interesting read. Only a few ASEG Members subscribe to the *IRM Quarterly* so Phil Schmidt approached the IRM and the authors about republishing the paper in *Preview*. He met with an enthusiastic response, which is why you now have the opportunity to review the issue and to contribute to the debate via an online forum established by the authors.

You may notice a difference in the organisation of this issue of *Preview* as some of the Associate Editors have taken up the challenge of compiling news of interest to ASEG Members in addition to producing their usual, and much anticipated, commentary. Your feedback on the change would be welcome, as well as your contribution in the form of news that you think might be of interest to all ASEG Members. Your titbits – or more substantial items – can be sent to me or directly to the Associate Editors.

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