

## Webwaves



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### A new webmaster for the ASEG

In addition to some excellent talks and workshops, this year's ASEG-PESA conference in Perth saw much lobbying behind the scenes. Some of the results of that lobbying have already been seen in the form of new *Preview* columnists for Education (Mike Asten) and Environmental Geophysics (Mike Hatch), and there may be more to come. I was fingered for the job of webmaster but it was recognised, by virtue of the work undertaken by previous webmasters, that the load might perhaps be better spread over a committee than shouldered by an individual. So, although I have title of 'webmaster' and will write the Webwaves column for *Preview*, three others share the administration and will help to chart the direction of the ASEG's website. They are Karen Gillgallon (SGC), Ian James (Terraspect) and Chris Bishop (Geosoft). I will introduce myself this time around and no doubt they will

introduce themselves at some stage in the future.

My current employer is CSIRO and I'm employed as a scientist researching applications of electromagnetic surveys in their various forms to problems ranging from CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, to groundwater, to massive sulphide exploration. I'm an experimentalist and forward modeller by inclination, but find myself more concerned with inverse modelling, increasingly with a Bayesian perspective. I've been fortunate to have been able to intersperse study and research with the odd visit to the real world.

The so-called world-wide web is ubiquitous. From its initial restriction to academics and military personnel, it is now used by much of the planet on a daily basis. Part of that web, the ASEG's website, needs to operate in such a way that it fades into the background – however it is used. Despite the sterling efforts of previous webmasters it is fair to say that we have yet to reach that point. However, a site that does not impede visitors doing what they came to do is not an unreasonable goal.

In addition to the paramount task of handling membership renewals and wine orders, the website is designed to serve information. The committee has started to address how information that might be of interest to the ASEG's Members might be more accessible. We will also be adding to the website's content. Some of these additions have already been made and Members been notified through the news feed on the ASEG website's main page. Videos from Ken Witherly's 'More than bumps' seminar from the 23rd International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition held in Melbourne in 2013 have been added. Ken and John Hart

have also made available, in video and hardcopy, the contents of their very successful 'Geophysical signatures of mineral systems: more than bumps' workshop held at this year's ASEG conference. This workshop is also summarised in this edition of *Preview*.

An addition, and of particular interest, is a session at the 24th International Geophysical Conference and Exhibition held in Perth earlier this year. The late Tuesday afternoon session was themed 'Atomic Dielectric Resonance'. In what we hope is a trend (challenge ...) for future ASEG conferences, both the technical presentations and the following Q&A session were videoed. These 90-minute videos were made available to the public on YouTube and, after one month, only one has not been viewed at least 10 times. These videos are available through the YouTube button at the base of each page on the ASEG website or from YouTube by searching for 'ASEG Videos'.

Other planned additions to the website include documentation of the historical aspect of our profession. Digital copies of manuals for some of the older instruments could potentially be a valuable resource. Although the electronics may be fried and the manufacturer has ceased to trade, the data collected using older instruments may remain viable, and it may be that the manuals are the key to unlocking useful information. The History Committee would welcome donations of manuals for old instruments. The manuals will be scanned and made available to all Members.

We also hope to resurrect the forums section of the website. With enough subscription such a forum could be a valuable resource for all of us.



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