

Editor's desk



This issue of *Preview* features Brian Spies' account of the arrival in Australia of time domain EM (*Time domain EM comes to Australia: The early history of the MPPO-1*). No-one is better placed to write this story than Brian – who received the MPPO-1 on behalf of the Bureau of Mineral Resources Geology and Geophysics in Canberra in 1972. His account of the instrument's reception and deployment made me reflect, once again, on how much we owe the BMR. The contribution that BMR scientists and technicians made to geophysical data acquisition and interpretation underpins our knowledge and understanding of the

geology and geological history of the Australian continent – and still shapes the development of our exploration strategies.

In this issue we also pay tribute to Professor David Boyd – the 2016 ASEG Gold Medal award winner who died last November. Professor Boyd was active right up until the last days of his life, as his obituary – and our cover photo – testify. In that regard he has, once again, set an example for us all!

There are also treats in store from our regular commentators. David Denham (*Canberra observed*) excites us with more good news about increases in mineral exploration expenditure, but disappoints us with the latest figures on petroleum exploration expenditure. Michael Asten (*Education matters*) reports on the new UNCOVER field school for student geophysicists. Mike Hatch (*Environmental geophysics*) gets an old friend talking about the challenges of working as a consultant and having to focus geophysical data acquisition on client needs. Mick Micenko (*Seismic window*) ponders semantics in seismic data acquisition – to resolve or to detect, that is the question! And Terry Harvey (*Mineral geophysics*) and Guy Holmes (*Data trends*) challenge us, once again, to rethink the way we do business.

Speaking of how we do business and, in particular, of how we package ourselves, in late March I attended Science in the Surveys 2017, which was a one-day programme of presentations from the state and federal geological surveys (with the notable absence of NTGS). There were also a number of presentations from various research consortiums such as UNCOVER. The buzz word for the day was 'de-risking'. Data acquisition is technically de-risking exploration, co-funded drilling programmes are financially de-risking exploration, and proactive engagement with the community is de-risking the social environment for exploration. The GSV, for example, is de-risking the social environment for exploration by actively consulting with landholders about survey activities and by following through with customised 'explanatory' notes. Rumour also has it that in SA consideration is being given to state royalties being shared with landholders – now that would be a game-changer! In the meantime it is clear, if you want to catch the attention of those holding the purse strings you have to be 'de-risking' something – it doesn't really matter what!

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