

## Editor's desk



This issue of *Preview* features an article by Tim Dean and his colleagues on the use of geophysics in the search for Perth's lost World War 2 gun emplacements; a quest that has obviously given them a great deal of pleasure – and garnered a lot of interest in the popular media!

Our regular commentators have also been pleasurably busy. David Denham (*Canberra observed*) pounced on the report of the Resources 2030 Taskforce as soon as it became available to the public, and has summarised key points

for *Preview* readers. He also takes a look at the latest data on global demand for oil, and exploration investment in minerals and petroleum. Michael Asten (*Education matters*) features a student trip to the Velseis facilities near Brisbane. Mike Hatch (*Environmental geophysics*), who like Tim Dean has featured in the popular media (his interview with Macca on *Australia all over* must have been a corker), reflects on how best to explain what we do to the uninitiated. Terry Harvey (*Minerals geophysics*) considers geophysical inversions and asks if we are any closer to finding the proverbial Volkswagen in a cubic mile of rock. Mick Micenko (*Seismic window*) contemplates advances, or lack thereof, in time to depth conversions, and Dave Annetts (*Webwaves*) reviews the state of the Union, aka the latest version of ASEG website, on the occasion of its second birthday!

On a more serious note, and as foreshadowed by an all Member email and by the President in her *President's piece*, *Preview* and *Exploration Geophysics* will be produced by Taylor & Francis Group from the beginning of 2019. Taylor & Francis are an international publishing house with a lot

of experience in producing and marketing scientific journals. They have only limited experience with producing and marketing magazines, and will be on a bit of a steep learning curve with *Preview*. Readers are asked for their understanding and patience during the transition process.

The December 2018 issue will be the last issue produced by CSIRO Publishing and, as it will be our bumper Christmas issue, we intend to see them out in style. Don Emerson has co-opted Phil Schmidt's assistance with a long overdue look at the properties of pyrolusitic supergene manganese oxides – a cracker of a feature – and, as usual, we will publish summaries of student research projects in geophysics completed over the past 12 months. All students who have recently completed a thesis in geophysics in Australia are invited to submit a short summary (a couple of paragraphs) together with a short bio (a couple of sentences) and a self-portrait (preferably doing something geophysical) to [previeweditor@aseg.org.au](mailto:previeweditor@aseg.org.au). As a bonus, the best student photo will be selected for the cover!

Lisa Worrall  
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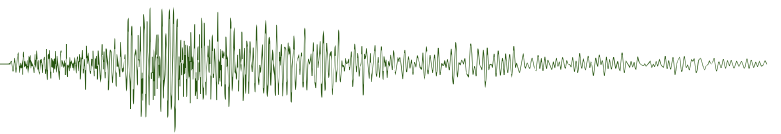
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## Letter to the Editor

Dear *Preview* Editor

I have always wondered why the ASEG doesn't have its own professional geophysicist accreditation (similar to the AIG's Registered Professional Geoscientist or the AusIMM's Chartered Professional Program) or why it doesn't actively participate in, or promote existing geoscience accreditations (like the AIG's and AusIMM's). From my point of view the ASEG and its Members would benefit from either developing or being part of a professional development

program, especially if it was linked to an accreditation and provided clear skill pathways.

Along with benefits to ASEG and its Members, such a program would provide broad benefit to the geophysics community including:

- giving junior geophysicists an official pathway for skill development after university
- providing an incentive for companies to send employees to approved external

training, which will also foster stronger relationships across the discipline

- enabling experienced geophysicists (and geoscientists) to develop existing skills and expand knowledge into new areas through officially recognised courses.

Has some form of geophysicist accreditation and/or professional development been looked at within ASEG before?

*Shane Mule*  
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## Response from the ASEG Federal Executive

The ASEG Federal Executive is often asked about professional accreditation so this opportunity to explain the situation to the whole membership is welcomed.

The ASEG is constituted as a not-for-profit society for the promotion of science, which entitles us to certain tax exemption benefits. However, this status and the associated rules effectively preclude us from granting professional geophysicist accreditation.

The Society is set up as a company and like all companies has a constitution by which it must abide. Part of the constitution describes what the company does (its 'Objects') in legal terms. The ATO and ASIC use the description of a company's Objects to classify a company, and the ASEG falls in the Not-for-Profit sub-category of 'Promotion of Science'. Membership of this sub-category entitles us to tax exemption benefits as long as we adhere to our Objects and comply with a few other ATO applied rules. The resulting conditions placed on ASEG effectively stop us from accrediting geophysicists.

The rule that is relevant to this question is that groups set up for the Promotion of Science cannot actively promote the professional interests of their Members: <https://www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/Your-organisation/Do-you-have-to-pay-income-tax-/Types-of-income-tax-exempt-organisations/Scientific-organisations/>.

The AIG and AusIMM were set up as professional organisations and therefore have no limitation on granting accreditation, but they do not enjoy the same semi-automatic tax benefits of the ASEG. We would encourage all professional geoscientists to belong to one of those two groups as well as the ASEG. The choice of professional association is likely to depend on the level of activity each has at your local level, although we note that there is a significant difference in fees between the two. Both of the registered professional categories in AIG and AusIMM require a certain level of Professional Development each year in order to maintain competency. It is worth remembering that the conferences, courses, workshops and even branch meetings that ASEG runs for its Members can count towards meeting those requirements.

In addition, membership of the AIG currently grants competent person (CP) status under JORC and CIM as well as most of the CRIRSCO member authorities. An AusIMM Member is a CP for JORC but needs to be a Chartered Professional in order to be considered a CP for CIM. This will affect anyone working with a TSX based company and having to sign off on NI43-101s. This may change in the future as AIG are discussing a proposal to require anyone writing a public report covering geology, to be a Registered Practising Geoscientist

(AIG) or Chartered Professional (AusIMM). That would include all government reports, both by government and to government.

While we cannot accredit our Members we do strongly believe that our role as a society for the Promotion of Science should be led by improving the technical scientific skills of our Members and for this reason we invest in OZStep, our own distinguished lecturer tour, as well as partnering with SEG and EAGE to bring the SEG DISC and DL and EAGE EET lectures to as many of our Members as possible. We are also looking to align our education offerings with tertiary institution requirements in order for increased transferability.

Our local branch meetings also provide a great opportunity to improve your technical knowledge across a wide range of geophysical techniques and problems. The Federal Executive are encouraging the States to make their branch meetings available to more Members by webcasting them. The WA Branch have already done this and hopefully we will see other branches follow suit in the near future.

*Kim Frankcombe and Andrew Squelch*  
(on behalf of the ASEG Federal Executive)  
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