

Editor's desk



This issue of *Preview* is full of goodies. Duan Uys, a fan of InSAR, has taken time out from his Master's project to write a user friendly introduction to the technology: 'InSAR: an introduction'. If you are curious about InSAR, but you missed out on the presentations given by the 2015 EAGE Visiting Lecturer Alessandro Ferretti, this article is for you.

Steve Hobbs, who has just finished his PhD project, is passionate about building robots for space exploration and has written a guide to the Australian Marsobot project: 'The Marsobot project: tools for the geophysical exploration of space'. If you are a fan of Dr Who (you know who you are) or otherwise fond of gadgets then this one is for you!

In addition, but wait there is more, we have our usual news and commentary. David Denham reviews the last Federal Budget (*Canberra observed*) and Ken Witherly (*Minerals geophysics*) compares the Canadian and (developing) Australian government programmes supporting minerals exploration. Michael Asten (*Education matters*) reports on the successful applicants for ASEG Research Foundation grants. One of the successful applicants, who graces the cover of this issue, would seem to be following in the footsteps of the great Lew Richardson (see last issue) – all he needs is a decent tie. Michael also reports on the Teacher Earth Science Education Programme and gets a little bit Churchillian on us (hint: take a look at the caption for the TESEP photo montage).

Mike Hatch (*Environmental geophysics*) taunts us with the possibility of using geophysics as an excuse to visit archaeological sites on beautiful Greek islands (someone also needs to give Ian Moffat a tie). Dave Annetts (*Webwaves*), our newish Webmaster, warns us that the Web Committee is about to launch the new ASEG website and tries to soften us up by quoting Heraclitus (more Greeks). He also invites us to send in photographs taken during fieldwork, and images of

data, for use on the new website. The best photos/data images will win a prize, but he doesn't say what the prizes are (my bet is that the winners will get an ASEG tie). Mick Micenko (*Seismic window*) considers how best to survive the current downturn and Guy Holmes (*Data trends*) has a grumble about the performance of data tapes.

As this issue of *Preview* is the first issue post the 2016 ASEG AGM we also introduce the new President (*President's piece*) and the new 2016–2017 ASEG Federal Executive (*Meet your new Federal Executive*). When I reviewed those pieces I was struck by the fact that three of the four Directors elected at the AGM were women, including the President, President Elect and Secretary. In addition, six of the 12 members of the new look Federal Executive are women. I think this must be some kind of record for the ASEG, if not for geoscientific societies worldwide, and should stand the ASEG in good stead come time to report to Australian Securities and Investment Commission!

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This photo is of the original, sole prototype of the SIROTEM series of TEM equipment held in the ASEG historic instrument collection. Developed from 1972 in the Mineral Physics division of the CSIRO, it led to the design of three ever-improved models of SIROTEM in the next 30 years. It was the first geophysical instrument in Australia to incorporate a microprocessor that, originally utilising the software instruction set of the PDP-8 computer, enabled digital manipulation of data in the field. The available memory was then about 6 kilobytes. The total weight of the instrument was 8 kg and it was easily carried by one person. The modules shown are, from right to left; Tx-Rx (transmitter-receiver), Power, ADC (analogue-to-digital), MPU (microprocessor unit), and Printer for recording the transient response.

