

President's Report Canberra, April 10, 2014

Introduction:

When I took over the presidency in April 2013, I expected a smooth ride through the year. Many outstanding projects were completed or at their final stage: The 23rd ASEG conference in Melbourne was well-prepared by then; the new joint ASEG-SEG book, "Geological Interpretation of Airborne Magnetic Data", which had been in preparation for nearly three years, was nearly complete; negotiation with SEG to list in *Exploration Geophysics* was almost complete; the new website was opened and the development was continuing; and the preparation of ASEG's own training course OzSTEP was well on the way.

A change occurred after the Conference in Melbourne. We noticed some discrepancies within the membership database, and members' information was not updated in a timely manner. A major investigation and "cleaning up" was needed in the membership database and its link with the web site. These prompted us to review the secretariat's ability to keep up with change of scope of service to the ASEG and the modern IT environment. This resulted in our tendering and appointing the new secretariat.

Finance:

The current financial position of ASEG is sound. We have improved our reserve considerably this year. As the Treasurer's Report describes the current balance of ASEG account is close to one and a half million dollars. This is a large increase from the balance at the end of 2012 just over one million dollars. The major contributor to this growth was the successful 23rd Conference in Melbourne in August 2013, which returned over \$400,000.

Conference:

The 23rd ASEG conference in Melbourne successfully took place in August. The number of attendees was 846, of which about half were ASEG members. The number of oral presentation was 197 and posters 56, out of 300 submissions. At the conference 18 workshops were held. Eighty-two exhibitors displayed their products in 110 booths. The financial return was outstanding.

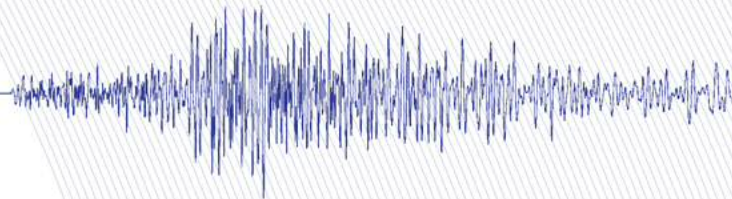
The next conference in Perth in February 2015 is in preparation.

Publication:

Our journal *Exploration Geophysics* entered its second year as joint journal with our sister societies in Japan (SEGJ) and South Korea (KSEG). The number of articles grew from 27 in 2012 to 34 in 2013. Its impact factor improved from 0.619 (2010), 0.634 (2011) to 0.667 (2012). (The 2013 impact factor will be released in mid-2014.)

The negotiation with SEG to list in *Exploration Geophysics* in their Digital Library was complete, and implemented in December 2013. This enhanced the exposure of our journal to the world geophysical community, and we expect the download of articles to increase. The table below shows the number of downloads in the introductory period.

Download of article of <i>Exploration Geophysics</i> from SEG Digital Library		
	Download Abstract	Download Full Paper
January 2014	749	1340
February 2014	1193	1841
to 24 March 2014	1360	1016



A similar arrangement with Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German equivalent of ARC) through our publishers CSIRO is on the way. CSIRO plans to list all their journals with them.

Preview was published on time through the year. The August issue combined the Conference handbook. We still have room for expansion and enrichment, and regular contributions from members are sought.

The new joint ASEG-SEG book, “Geological Interpretation of Airborne Magnetic Data” was published in August 2013.

Membership:

The membership at the end of February was 1209 compared with 1186 in 2013.

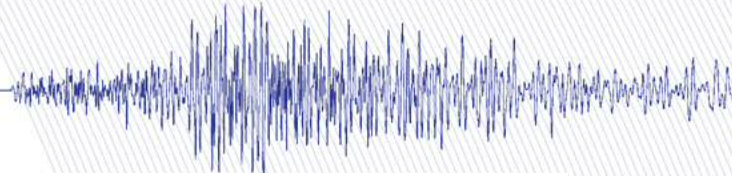
The membership fee was reviewed and the policy on setting fees consolidated. This review took place because of the increased complexity of membership structure due to introduction of digital publication and option to receive digital and/or printed copies. The subscription for 2014 remains the same as 2013. We abolished annual fee for student members, who do not receive printed copy of publication.

The membership database went through a major checking. Some discrepancies were found in the old Access database at the former secretariat, perhaps caused by the system of updating information and some handling procedures. Each record was manually checked. One of the problems was multiple databases in the secretariat, website and publisher. A single database system will be developed in the near future and information for membership update, renewal, mailing, member log-in and access to publication will be downloaded from that database.

Education:

Continuous education programmes in association with SEG and EAGE hosted seven lecturers totalling 28 sessions in the past year. ASEG subsidises their tour in Australia above their budgeted itinerary so that the members in many state branches can take advantage of these programmes. Unfortunately, SEG decided not to send Spring Distinguished Lecturer, Gerald Schuster, to Australia this year.

		QLD	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA
SEG Fall DL Manika Prasad	Shales and imposters: Understanding shales,		●		●			●
Asia Pacific HL Dave Isles	Aeromagnetism—A Driver for Discovery & Development of Earth Resources	●	●	●	●		●	●
EAGE EET6 Olav Inge Barkved	Seismic Surveillance for Reservoir Delivery				●			
SEG DISC David H. Johnston	Making a Difference with 4D: Practical Applications of Time- Lapse Seismic Data	●			●			●
SEG Fall DL Carl Regone	Acquisition modeling: Expect the unexpected	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



SEG Near Surface HL Valentina Socco	Surface wave analysis for near- surface characterization: Introduction, theme and variations	●						●	
Pacific South HL Sandeep Chandola	'Marine Seismic Acquisition'	●	●	●	●			●	●

ASEG's own training course OzSTEP started in October. Michael Asten and Dennis Cooke gave one day courses for branches.

ASEG continued support to the Teacher Earth Science Education Program (TESEP), the Australasian Universities Geoscience Educators Network (Augen) and Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

Website:

The progress of populating the ASEG website has been delayed as the membership database and payment system took priority. The Webmaster had to address a number of issues to interface the ISP and the former secretariat with the membership database. This caused frustration to some members as well as Federal and State committees. The problems are being resolved and soon access authority will be issued to branches and committees to enable updating of their respective pages when the website manual is ready.

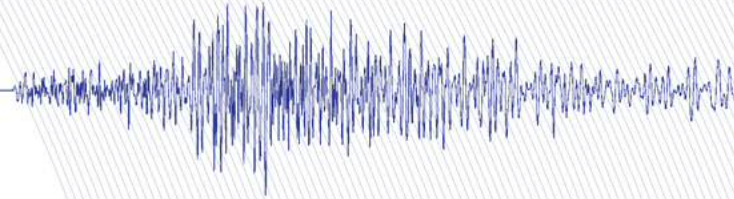
Technical Standards:

The new standard format for the exchange of electric survey data named "ASEG-ESF" was prepared and documented on the ASEG website. It was notified to the Government Geoscience Information Committee (GGIC) and the Chief Government Geologist Committee (CGGC) for use in mandatory data submissions. This new standard format is considered to be flexible enough to allow for unforeseen future changes in instrument output and, being in ASCII format, it will ensure platform independence and durability.

Honours and Awards:

In 2013, two Honorary Memberships were award to Phil Harman and Mike Asten. Other awards presented are: Lindsay Ingall Memorial Award (Pat Cunneen); Graham Sands Award (Malcolm Cattach, Keith Matthews, Edward Campbell and Symon Bouwman); Service Medal (Peter Priest), Service Certificates (Andrea Rutley; Patrick Hillsdon); Early Achievement Award (Cara Danis Jacques) and Shanti Rajagopalan Memorial Award (Cara Danis Jacques). Laric Hawkins Award was selected by the Conference Organising Committee and presented to P Kovesi, E-J Holden & J Wong, for "Interactive multi-image blending for data visualisation and interpretation".

The Honours and Awards Committee is following up the suggestion of nominating members for Civilian Awards.



History:

The History Committee has started posting The History of ASEG on the website. It currently has a foundation part of the history. The plan is to include the history of education of geophysics, biographies of prominent members whose names are commemorated with awards, collections of conference themes and logos and links to historical articles in Preview.

The collection of museum material has started, and a collection policy was organised in the later part of the year.

Research Foundation:

During 2013 the ASEG Research Foundation offered grants for six projects totalling \$106,900; the projects will take up to three years. The committed awards over the life of the Research Foundation now total \$947,550, and are expected to exceed one million dollars when the next round of award is approved later this month. Thanks to the corporate members and individual members who donated funds to the Research Foundation.

International Affairs:

Two new association agreements were signed in 2013: Sociedade Brasileira de Geofisica (SBGf) and Geophysical Society of Mongolia (GSM).

SEG, EAGE, SEGJ, KSEG and SBGf had booths at the Conference in Melbourne. In turn, ASEG was represented in the following foreign conferences:

EAGE (London, June; Koya Suto), Near-Surface Geophysics Asia-Pacific (Beijing, July; Koya Suto), SBGf (Rio de Janeiro, September; Des Fitzgerald), SEG (Houston, September; Koya Suto), SAGA (Kruger National Park, October; Greg Street & Katherine McKenna), SEGJ (Yokohama, November; Greg Street & Koya Suto); SAGEEP (Boston, March; Koya Suto).

ASEG participated in the first Near-Surface Geophysics Asia-Pacific conference led by SEG. This conference was attended about 300 delegates and returned modest (~\$3800) surplus to ASEG. Next will be in Hawaii in 2015, and then in Australia in 2017.

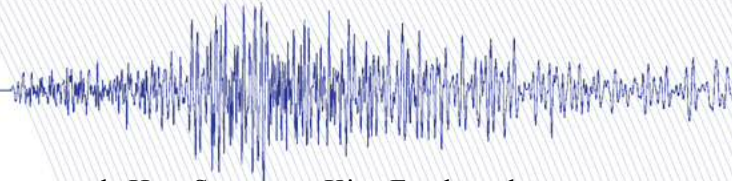
Secretariat Change:

Federal Executives decided to tender for a new secretariat in October. The old secretariat at CASM had been working with us for ten years. During that time, ASEG has grown considerably and the business IT environment has also changed. Accordingly, our expectation for secretariat work had changed. We found CASM was not meeting our changing expectation. The issues with the membership were examples. So, the Federal Executive thought it appropriate to seek a new contract with a new set of scope. After an intensive selection process, The Association Specialists was chosen to work with us. In the initial two months, they have already shown a committed service culture with knowledge of business and keen initiatives.

Federal Executive Members

Michael Asten, who served in FedEx since 2008 including President in 2009, retired in August 2013. Reece Foster, member of FedEx since 2009 and Treasurer in 2012, is retiring at this AGM. Also retiring is Phil Heath, who looked after state branch liaisons since 2012.

Tania Dhu joined FedEx in September. Other FedEx members for 2013 are: Greg Street, President-Elect;



Phil Schmidt and Mark Tingay, Vice-Presidents; Barry Drummond, Hon Secretary; Kim Frankcombe, Immediate Past President; Carina Kemp; Katherine McKenna and Wendy Watkins.

I thank for their contribution through the year. I would like to note three of the members who took particularly hard tasks this year: Katherine McKenna for resolving the membership database problem; Carina Kemp for interfacing the database and website; and Kim Frankcombe for leading the secretariat tendering process.

New Challenges:

We have drawn a 5 year strategic plan. We identified education is the key element of ASEG's role in the geophysical community. The first stage, implementation of OzSTEP, has already taken place. Specialist Groups for several disciplines will be formed soon. These groups will promote communication among the interested members by website, newsletter and meetings. The specialist groups will assist conferences in organising technical sessions in the future.

The UNCOVER initiative had a summit meeting in Adelaide. A lot of geophysics contents are included and we expect higher level of activities in our field. ASEG may be of help in this initiative.

Further enhancement of membership service through the website is in the plan. State branches, Secretariat and committees will be able to post their information on respective web pages. Carina Kemp as Webmaster is working on manuals for the participants. We need more people to share her workload.

Our journal *Exploration Geophysics* and magazine *Preview* will continue to deliver high-quality articles to members. The ASEG Research Foundation will continue support studies in geophysics.

The forthcoming Conferences in Perth in February 2015, then in Adelaide 2016 will be our largest regular events to provide members with opportunities to refresh their technical skills and to meet colleagues. In addition, ASEG is hosting Near-Surface Geophysics Asia-Pacific conference in 2017. This conference is smaller than our regular conference and offers an opportunity for venues where ASEG conference cannot be held. As this is an international conference, we are considering an attractive venue for international delegates as well as our members.

To Close Off:

I thank all the individual and corporate members for their support of ASEG, particularly those who participated in committees at all levels: editors, associate editors, the publisher and secretariats. I also thank our associate society friends who promoted our conference, who provided lecturers, who are partners in *Exploration Geophysics*, and who participated in the Near-Surface Geophysics Asia-Pacific conference.

I note *Preview* did not have to publish any obituary. This no news is good news. Wishing all another safe and healthy year, I pass the gavel to Greg Street, my successor.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your President for the past year.

Koya Suto
President, ASEG
2013-2014