

Andrew Mutton
Honorary Membership
of the ASEG
Brisbane March 2023



CITATION:

The Award of ASEG Honorary Membership has been conferred upon Andrew Mutton, in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the geophysics profession for over 50 years, and to the ASEG through continuous involvement since 1976 with State and Federal Executive committees, publications, conferences and as Chair of the Honours & Awards Committee since 2010.

Andrew (or Andy as he is known to many colleagues) is well known to most ASEG members having been an active member and great supporter of the Society since 1972, and as a member of many State, Federal and Standing committees over much of his career. At the AEGC 2023 conference in Brisbane, he officially stepped down from the Honours and Awards Committee Chair, a role he has held since 2010.

Andrew graduated from Sydney University in 1973 with a BSc (Honours) in geology and geophysics and obtained a Graduate Diploma in Mining and Exploration Geology from James Cook University in 1992. Following a short period working on contract gravity surveys for Lindsay Ingall, whom he first met through the ASEG in Sydney, Andrew took up a position in 1974 as a geophysicist for the Australian Bureau of Mineral Resources (BMR) in Canberra, working on airborne geophysical mapping surveys, and the application of ground and borehole geophysical methods to mineral exploration. This work took him to remote parts of Australia, an experience that fostered a love of the outback and the geophysical profession and gave him many of the necessary tools to forge a career in the exploration industry.

In 1980 Andrew moved to Perth to take on the position of Senior Geophysicist with Geopeko, and subsequently a similar role with BP Minerals also in Perth. His work on the discovery of the Abra Pb/Ag/Cu/Au deposit in WA and the geophysical mapping and evaluation of the Rocky's Reward nickel deposit in WA were notable achievements in this period. In 1986 Andrew held the role of Lecturer in Geophysics at Curtin University in Perth.

Moving to CRA Exploration in Brisbane in 1987, he took up the position of Principal Geophysicist and was responsible for geophysical surveys in Queensland. The discovery by CRAE in 1990 of the Century zinc deposit was a highlight of this period, and his work on applying geophysical methods to the subsequent exploration and evaluation of the Century deposit highlighted the potential and importance of high-resolution surface and borehole geophysics to the evaluation of many other mineral deposits. During this time, he worked closely with Bob Smith to research new developments in technology, and to enhance the use of and broader acceptance of borehole geophysics through the exploration group.

In 1996 Andrew transferred to Rio Tinto Technical Services in Brisbane as Principal Consultant – Geophysics where his main areas of interest were high resolution and borehole geophysics applied to mine evaluation and development, engineering and environmental problems. In this role, he worked on base and precious metals, diamonds, iron ore, bauxite, industrial minerals, and coal deposits at Rio Tinto operations in Australia, North and South America, Africa and Asia.

In 2001, Andrew started his own consulting business, providing his services to companies to assist them in applying geophysical techniques to the exploration and evaluation of mineral and coal deposits. In 2003, he took up an interim role as Geoscientific Advisor in the Department of Natural Resources & Mines in Brisbane. This role included managing the production of the Department's coal industry publications and providing advice on strategic issues related to mineral exploration and development within Queensland.

From 2004 to 2015 Andrew worked with the GeoDiscovery Group in Brisbane as a Principal Consultant, providing geophysical and project management consulting services to the mining and coal industries in Australia and internationally. He has since “retired” to Inverloch in South Gippsland Victoria, where he runs a small farm and continues to contribute to the local community as an active member of the Country Fire Authority.

Andrew's active participation with the ASEG has spanned almost 50 years. He became a member in 1972 as a student at Sydney University and participated in NSW Branch activities. In 1976, following his move to Canberra, he was invited by ASEG President Don Emerson to help set-up and run the ACT Branch of the Society, taking on the role of inaugural Secretary/Treasurer of the Branch, increasing the membership through the numerous meetings that were arranged with local and visiting speakers.

In 1980 Andrew transferred to the WA Branch, joining the local Branch committee, and assisting to arrange monthly Branch talks and activities. He was Branch Vice-President in 1986, and a member of the Perth 1987 Conference Organizing Committee. In 1987 Andrew moved to Brisbane, and joined the Queensland Branch committee, becoming Queensland Branch President from 1991 to 1993. In 1992 he was a Committee Chair for the Gold Coast Conference Committee, organising workshops and a special interest session on recent exploration and discoveries in the Mt Isa area. He was also a member of Conference Organizing Committees for the Brisbane 2001 and 2012 conferences.

In 1996 Andrew joined the Federal Executive Committee and took on the roles of Membership Chair and later First Vice President and Chair of Publications. As Membership Chair Andrew spent many hours working with the Secretariat verifying the Society's membership database, and compiling a listing of foundation members from which the ASEG was able to offer Silver Certificates to members with 25 years of membership. Andrew also worked closely with Koya Suto in establishing a new format for the Membership Directory, a publication which was well used and appreciated by many ASEG members for nearly 20 years.

As First Vice President in 1998, Andrew was appointed as Chair of the Publications Committee, taking on some of the most difficult issues that the Society had to face, including the burgeoning cost of printed media, decreasing contributions to the flagship journal *Exploration Geophysics*, and a publisher who was not keen to move to digital publishing. He spent many hours helping formalize a publications tender process and subsequent contract. He also instituted a more formal process for the appointment of all Editors, and it was his initiative to introduce a Chief Editor to oversee the increasingly complex nature of the society's publications.

As Publications Chair, he also had a key role in the early 2000's in working with Koya Suto and Lindsay Thomas to facilitate the successful collaboration between the ASEG and our sister organisations, the SEGJ in Japan and the KSEG in South Korea, resulting in the subsequent regular joint publication of *Exploration Geophysics* incorporating technical contributions from all three Societies.

As the Federal Executive representative for the Honours and Awards (H&A) committee in 1998, Andrew worked closely with Committee Chair Lindsay Ingall and was instrumental in establishing the inaugural ASEG Service Awards that year. In 2000, he was invited to become a member of the H&A Committee, and in 2010, took over as Chair of the Committee, remaining in that position until March 2023, when he elected to step down as Chair but will continue as a committee member.

Andrew was awarded the ASEG Silver Medal in 2000 for his service to the Society, in particular for his contributions on State Branch committees, the Federal Executive, and as Chair of the Membership and Publications Committees to that time.

The ASEG now recognises Andrew's outstanding and continuous contributions over many years to the ASEG, and his distinguished contributions to the profession, with the award of Honorary Membership of the ASEG.