

### **Inter-society Cooperation**

ASEG was represented this year at meetings of the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE), the SEG of Japan (SEGJ), the South African Geophysical Association (SAGA), the SEG and the geological SEG. Agreements of cooperation were signed this year with EAGE and SAGA. Similar agreements with the Korean SEG (KSEG) and the Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society (EEGS) will be completed and signed in the coming months.

Farther afield, ASEG this past year provided underwriting support of the Australia Institute of Physics (AIP) 16th National Congress 2005 in February providing a geophysical stream presentations and provided endorsement for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Heritage and Native Title Conference 2005 being held in Perth.

### **Publications**

A second volume has been published of Geophysics in the Western Pacific Environment, a joint publication of ASEG (Exploration Geophysics), SEGJ (Butsuri-Tamsa) and KSEG (Mulli-Tamsa). A third is planned for issue in February 2006. ASEG has worked with SEG Japan in their publication of the *Manual of Geophysical Surveys for Engineering and Environmental Application*. This is a publication that SEGJ published in Japan in 2001 and was subsequently translated into English. Fifteen Australian geoscientists, of which thirteen are ASEG members, contributed to refining the translated English text and proposing technical suggestions.

In a major advancement in publication modernisation, ASEG this year moved closer to full electronic publication and distribution of its technical journal, *Exploration Geophysics*, with the release of a complete collection of past issues — from Volume 1 (1970) to Volume 34 (2003) — as a two-DVD set, a Herculean task led by the outstanding efforts of David Howard. Work continues toward the goal of full electronic publication and online distribution of *Exploration Geophysics* and *Preview*. Three key issues are being addressed: accessibility, cost, and methodology. Publications chair Terry Crabb and editors David Denham and Lindsay Thomas have worked tirelessly to produce and distribute the journals.

### **Education**

The 2004 Distinguished Instructors Short Course (DISC) 2004, featuring Paul Weimers addressing “Petroleum Systems of Deepwater Settings” was held in Perth, and as a Symposium in conjunction with the 2004 ASEG-PESA Conference and Exhibition in August in Sydney. Attendance levels approached 100, a number we hope to improve upon in 2005 with the reprise of the DISC program.

A workshop entitled “Risk Assessment in prospect evaluation from a geophysical viewpoint” was held in Perth in July, built around the SEG 2004 Spring Distinguished Lecturer, Bill Abriel and his talk entitled “Earth Model Complexity and Risk Description in Resource Exploration and Development”. A series of excellent talks from a number of industry speakers, and insightful commentary from a number of participants resulted in a very successful workshop.

The EAGE Distinguished Lecturer this year was Paolo Dell'Aversana. His lecture was entitled "Time-depth processing of global offset data: a new perspective for seismic imaging in thrust belts". He was the second keynote speaker in an ASEG Conference session called Innovative Seismic Methods, following Peter Duncan, SEG President, with his talk 'Passive seismic: when, where and why'.

The ASEG sponsored the development of the short course "Information from Geospatial Data for Natural Resource Management". The three day course, aimed at giving scientists working in landcare a better understanding of how geophysics can help them, was assembled primarily through the efforts of Greg Street. The course has been run twice in Perth and once in Orange, NSW, and is available for future sessions.

The ASEG Research Foundation was active again this year, selecting two students, Ian Wilson and Jhana Hale, for funding of research projects in geophysics. With the booming petroleum and mining industries heating up the market, the Foundation is hoping for even more applications next year. In another effort to assist in the education arena, two ASEG student members, Yusen Ley and Don Sherlock, received grants to assist in offsetting costs associated with travelling to Denver to present papers at the SEG conference. Students in Australia benefited from ASEG largesse as well, with one student from each state branch receiving a stipend to attend the ASEG Conference in Sydney.

For the first time this year the ASEG contributed a Geophysics module to the Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School. ASEG members Mike Moore, John Peacock, Dereck Palmer, Carina Simmat and Howard Golden spent an afternoon with 22 highly motivated year 11 and 12 Indigenous students selected from across Australia. The day was satisfying for all concerned, but the success will ultimately be measured by how many of these students were impressed enough on the day to study geophysics at a tertiary level.

### **Conference**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual ASEG Conference and Exhibition in Sydney was an unqualified success. With a budget of over \$1 million, the August 2004 Conference attracted almost 600 delegates, while exhibitors filled 94 booths. Attendees from 23 countries were able to benefit from four simultaneous technical sessions over four days. The Conference Committee, was chaired by Barry Smith and Tim Pippett. Work is already in progress for the next conference in Melbourne in July 2006, a joint event to be sponsored by ASEG and GSA <http://www.earth2006.org.au/>. The ASEG Conference to be held in Perth in 2007 is in the planning stages as well.

### **Membership**

Maintaining membership records is a complex and thankless job, done tirelessly by Koya Suto. Koya reports that renewals are currently in progress from over 1,200 members on last years roles. The categories of Active, Associate, Emeritus, Student, and Honorary continue, with an added Associate category now available for members of societies with an interest in geophysics, such as physicists' and teachers' organisations. ASEG is proud to boast 26 corporate members, all of whom are listed in the 2004 Members Directory. Two of those members, Seismic Asia Pacific and ENI Australia, are new members whom we hope will feel welcome for years to come.

### **ASEG organisation**

One of the most profound changes to the ASEG organisation in the past year was the move to a new secretariat. CASM, base in Perth, has taken on the behind-the-scenes duties that keep the machinery of ASEG ticking over. The few glitches caused by the changeover are almost all ironed out. We welcome CASM to our organisation.

The new ASEG constitution approved at the last AGM is now in force, and officially registered with ASIC. The new constitution deals with everyday rules of the Society, and ensures that the organisation complies with applicable legislation. Part of that compliance is related to financial control and, to that end, a new centralised banking system has been set up in ASEG. This process was more complex than anyone had anticipated, and it must be said that it is a work in progress, a work that in the end will result in less work for State treasurers and better bookkeeping for the organisation as a whole. Another organisation adjustment this year was the addition of a voting position on the Federal Executive for a representative of State branches, appointed by the State Presidents

The SEG 75th Anniversary was celebrated in Australia by holding a ball at the Burswood Casino in Perth on the 17th of September 2005. The major sponsors of the event were Chevron, Singapore Airlines and Linneys Jewellers. Megan Evans and the secretariat did a superlative job in creating a large and very successful festive event. It was attended by over 230 people who enjoyed a night of history, entertainment, dancing and many prize give-aways. The night was hosted by Kim Hughes former Australian test cricket captain and Ken Judge a famous Australian Rules captain/coach who told a variety of amusing stories and jokes throughout the night. The night included many prize give-aways including: Two return economy class airline tickets to anywhere in the world on Singapore Airlines Network thanks to Singapore Airlines, a Champagne Diamond thanks to Linneys Jewellers, two tickets and 4 nights accommodation in Melbourne to attend the AFL grand final thanks to CGG. The latter became the prize to die for, the grandfinal was between the Sydney Swans and the West Coast Eagles and you could not get tickets "for love or money", as we say here. A brief history of the ASEG and its association with Australian Institute of Physics and the SEG was given by Norm Uren, who then lead the guests in a toast to the 75 years of the SEG.



From Right to Left: Megan Evans (Chairperson), Sushannah Elvey, Norm Uren, Justin Keating, Paul Wellington, Damian Leslie, Jenni Powell, Louise Middleton.