The Lindsay Ingall Memorial Award honours the memory of Lindsay Ingall for his capacity to cross geoscience boundaries and for his enduring commitment to assist geoscientists across Australia. It is awarded to an individual who has actively promoted geophysics to the wider community.

The award this year is made to Mr John Mignone of the South Australian Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy, for his significant contribution to the geological and geophysical education and promotion of the resources and environmental industries to students and the general community.

John has been actively involved in geological education and promotion of the mining industry for almost 20 years. John visits primary and high schools in South Australia; not only metropolitan areas but also rural and remote communities, to teach the fun of learning geology and geophysics, as well as the interaction between the resource industry activities and the environment. A notable emphasis has been his focus on remote aboriginal communities. The number of students taught by him to date must count in the thousands.

Although employed by the South Australian Government, his activity and influence extends interstate and internationally. Many current geologists, geophysicists and environmentalists were inspired by him in their early lives. Many of these are now working world-wide in their respective fields.

His creativity and experience have been captured in the educational package: “Resources – Working for the Right Balance” which won the Australian Gold Serif Award in 1997. This is a kit for school students, comprising movies, game-like software to explore resources, workbooks of geological and geophysical techniques, and instruction to teachers. This package has been distributed through schools and purchased by individuals and organisations within Australia and overseas.

In 1995, John prepared and organised the first Student Day for the ASEG Conference in Adelaide. This was the first time ASEG organised such an event, and John’s excellent organisation skills, creativity and imagination culminated in the Student Day being a great success. This success resulted in the Student Day becoming a regular event at ASEG Conferences. John has continued his contribution to ASEG Student Days in subsequent conferences.

For his services to the community in resource education, John has been awarded South Australia’s Science Communication Award in 1999 and Centenary Medal for Education in 2001. The ASEG is pleased to acknowledge John’s contributions to the Society and community-wide geoscience education, as recipient of the 2012 Lindsay Ingall Memorial Award.