

**David Robson**  
**ASEG Service Medal**  
**Sydney February 2018**

**CITATION**

The ASEG Service Medal is awarded for outstanding and distinguished service to the ASEG over many years. The recipient in 2018 is David (Dave) Robson, a member of the NSW Branch and ASEG member since 1972.

Following his graduation with a B.Sc. and a Post Graduate Diploma of Applied Geophysics from the University of NSW in 1972, David gained valuable experience in the contracting industry with Scintrex Pty Ltd before joining the BMR (now Geoscience Australia) in 1974, where he utilised geophysical technology to characterise known ore bodies, and to assist with regional geological mapping programs in northern Australia. In 1980, he joined WMC as senior geophysicist based in Melbourne and Kalgoorlie. In 1994, he joined the Geological Survey of New South Wales (GSNSW) in the role of Chief Geophysicist, a role he held for over 20 years, until his retirement in 2014.

As Manager of the Regional Mapping Group and Chief Geophysicist at GSNSW, David was responsible for a team of geologists and geophysicists that maintained, updated and interpreted NSW geological, geophysical and other datasets. This included government surveys, and the collation and archiving of private company surveys for release as open file data. Quality control and standardised formats were key issues for Dave in his custodian role for GSNSW, and he acted to implement processes and protocols that would benefit future data users. He actively promoted geophysical surveys to the government, secured substantial budget allocations for airborne and ground geophysics, and scrupulously managed contract data acquisition and processing. He was determined to provide the best possible public datasets, not just for NSW but to ensure compatibility across Australia.

The award of the ASEG Service Medal is largely in recognition of David's outstanding service to the ASEG over many years, through involvement in and contribution to State Branch Committees, Conference Organising Committees, the ASEG Technical Standards Committee, and the ASEG Federal Executive.

David made significant contributions to the 2004 and 2010 ASEG-PESA Conferences held in Sydney. In 2004, he was co-chair of the Technical Workshops Committee, organising and facilitating an impressive program of workshops in the fields of minerals, petroleum and finance. In 2010, he was the Honorary Secretary, and chair of the Workshops Committee, arranging eleven workshops in a variety of fields. His diligence resulted in a significant net surplus for workshops at this conference.

David was also an integral member of the 2018 AEGC Sydney Conference Organising Committee as Honorary Secretary, contributing to overall organisation, workshops and communications. David's efforts have greatly assisted the NSW branch in achieving excellent technical and financial outcomes for the Society.

David's contribution as chairman of the ASEG Technical Standards Committee from 2009 to 2015 has helped ensure that standards for geophysical data acquisition, processing and delivery were developed to benefit all in the geoscience community. Through David's leadership, the ASEG developed and published standards that will ensure that geophysical surveys are conducted to a consistent standard for use in the exploration and research sectors.

In addition, David has also made significant committee contributions to the local ASEG branches in Victoria and NSW (Branch Secretary from 1995 to 1998), and to the ASEG Federal Executive, where he served with distinction as Federal Honorary Secretary from 1999 to 2001.

Throughout his career, David has consistently promoted geophysics and the ASEG, always encouraging younger members to get involved and contribute to local branch meetings and conferences. His dedicated support for the Society for over four decades, in particular his willingness to contribute much time and energy to key roles on Conference Committees and the Federal Executive, and his deep respect for the scientific value of the ASEG and the people who contribute to it, have made a positive impression on many other geoscientists.

It is most fitting that David's distinguished contribution to the ASEG and the profession over many years has been recognised with the award of the ASEG Service Medal.