



Danny Burns

ASEG Service Medal

Brisbane September 2021

CITATION:

The ASEG Service Medal is awarded for outstanding and distinguished service to the ASEG over many years. The recipient in 2021 is Danny Burns, in recognition of his outstanding and distinguished service to the ASEG for nearly 40 years. In that time, he has given distinguished service to two State branch committees, three Conference Organizing Committees, and five Federal Executives, in particular in the role of Federal Treasurer from 2016 to 2021.

Danny earned a BSc (Hons) in Geophysics from Flinders University in 1983 and has over 35 years oil and gas exploration experience in both technical and leadership roles since graduating. He previously held positions with Delhi Petroleum, Esso Australia, LASMO Oil, Schlumberger and Beach Energy, working and directing projects in Egypt, Tanzania, Romania, Spain, New Zealand and Australia (in the Cooper/Eromanga, Otway, Carnarvon, Galilee, Bonaparte, Browse, Surat and Gippsland Basins). Danny has been involved in multiple oil and gas discoveries, including Sellicks-1, the first oil discovery on Beach's very productive Western Flank in the Cooper/Eromanga Basin and more recently Vali-1, Vintage's first Cooper Basin gas discovery. His recent technical leadership positions include Chief Geophysicist and International and New Ventures Manager at Beach and Executive-Exploration at Vintage Energy Ltd.

Danny joined the ASEG in 1982 and has been an active and supportive member and a strong contributor to the leadership of the Society throughout his career. He was an active member of the Queensland and Western Australia branch executives, undertaking President, Secretary and Treasurer roles in these State branches. On his return to South Australia in 1993, he was a member of Conference Organising Committees for the 1995, 2003 and 2009 Adelaide conferences. On these committees, he has chaired the technical program (1995) and the sponsorship committee (2009) and was a member of the technical program committee (2003).

In 2015, Danny joined the ASEG's Federal Executive, assuming the role of Treasurer in 2016. Danny's consistent leadership and contribution as the ASEG Treasurer and as one of the ASEG's four Directors was exemplary, bringing the highest level of economic and financial planning, budgeting, and governance oversight of the Society's operations.

In 2018, after a series of Federal Executive changes, Danny took on the role of Publications Chair in addition to Treasurer. He was responsible for the development of the ASEG's major call for tenders and successful selection of a new international publisher for the Society's flagship magazine *Preview* and technical journal *Exploration Geophysics*, as well as for the ASEG's Conference Proceedings and Special Publications.

Danny's diligent modelling of the financial benefits of different publishers, his clear and sound recommendations to the Federal Executive, and his leadership in overseeing the comprehensive development of the legal arrangements and beneficial terms and conditions under new Publishing Agreements, have positioned the ASEG to effectively manage its publications business. Danny co-chaired the 2019 Publications Committee with the ASEG's President, concentrating on achieving the successful transition to the new Publishing financial framework.

During this time, he also worked tirelessly on building productive partnerships and shared working arrangements with PESA and AIG and the Conference Organising Committees to deliver successful business and financial outcomes for the AEGC 2018 and AEGC 2019 conferences. The successful partnership arrangements for these conferences have also guided the planning for AEGC 2021.

Over the past five years, Danny's support, guidance and mentoring to new ASEG Directors and Executive members and his proactive and collaborative working style on the Federal Executive and with the ASEG's Secretariat has been outstanding. In stepping down in 2021 from the role of ASEG Treasurer, Danny has put in place rigorous and practical financial management planning and operational processes for the ASEG and guidance documentation to assist incoming ASEG Treasurers.

Danny has been an exemplary role model for members seeking to augment their careers with voluntary service to their profession. It is most fitting that Danny's substantial and outstanding contributions to the ASEG over almost 40 years are now recognised with the award of the ASEG Service Medal.