

Joe Cucuzza
Honorary Membership of the ASEG
Perth September 2019

CITATION:

The Award of ASEG Honorary Membership has been conferred upon Joe Cucuzza, in recognition of his significant contributions to the profession through his key roles in AMIRA for over 30 years, and for his significant contributions to the ASEG Executive Committee and the ASEG Research Foundation over many years.

Joe is well known to most ASEG members having been an active member and great supporter since 1975. He served as ASEG Federal President in 2007-08 and was a member of the ASEG Research Foundation committee at its inception. He served as Chairman of the Foundation from 1997 to 2001. He has been a regular attendee and contributor at ASEG conferences and is often involved with many ASEG members through his professional role with AMIRA International in both developing and managing collaborative research projects.

Joe graduated from The University of Melbourne in 1975 with a BSc. (Honours) in Geophysics. He has also received an MSc. (Geology) from ANU in 1992. Apart from these qualifications, he also gained a Master of Business (Enterprise Innovation) from the Centre for Innovation and Enterprise at the Swinburne University of Technology in 1998, and in 2013 he became a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Joe has had a distinguished professional career, initially as a company geophysicist with Australian Anglo American Corporation, then with Comalco Aluminium in both their Minerals and Petroleum divisions from 1978-1988. In 1988, he joined AMIRA International, as a Research Coordinator. In 1996 he became Business Unit Leader, and later Global Manager - Business Development, and Research Director. In 2012 Joe was appointed Managing Director, only recently announcing that he will be leaving AMIRA International to pursue other interests.

In Joe's role with AMIRA International, he has developed and managed many research projects which have involved collaboration between industry geophysicists and researchers in academia, CSIRO and other institutions, as well as individual members of our profession. The collaboration has played a major role in advancing exploration geophysics, particularly in Australia but also involving many international companies and supporters.

Joe has been proactive over the years in meeting company representatives not only to seek direct support for specified projects but also to publicise the importance and effectiveness of industry-academic research partnerships. This research has usually been focused on advancing Australian geophysics, either by developing or modifying

new or existing tools, appropriate for the Australian environment. AMIRA International and the collaborative research projects they have managed have made a major contribution to the widespread use of geophysics in Australian mineral exploration and the geophysical profession.

Joe was closely involved with the CRCAMET which ran from 1992 to 2000 and managed many exploration oriented geophysical research projects, which contributed to the tools in common use today.

More recently, AMIRA International under Joe's leadership, promoted and developed the Roadmap for Exploration Under Cover, which supports and strengthens the UNCOVER project initiated by the Australian Academy of Science. This project has provided a clear plan for the advancement and development of new or improved methods for mineral exploration beneath the cover.

Many in the industry believe that Joe's leadership of AMIRA International has been instrumental in setting the direction within geoscience research in recent decades. It is very fitting that the ASEG now recognises Joe's outstanding contributions over many years to the profession, and to the ASEG, with the award of Honorary Membership of the ASEG.



Joe Cucuzza receiving his award from ASEG
President Ted Tyne