

Michael Micenko
Honorary Membership of the ASEG
Perth September 2019

CITATION:

ASEG Honorary Membership has been awarded to Western Australian branch member Michael (Mick) Micenko, in recognition of his significant contributions to the ASEG at many levels over several decades, as well as his notable professional contributions to the oil and gas exploration industry for over 40 years.

Mick graduated with a BSc (Hons) from Flinders University, South Australia in 1976 and subsequently completed an MSc in Geophysics at the University of Durham UK in 1977. In the following years, he has had a successful career in oil and gas exploration culminating in his role as Chief Geophysicist at Mitsui E&P Australia.

His outstanding contributions to the profession include the recognition of the oil potential of the Queensland Eromanga basin which led to the discovery of the Jackson Field in SW Queensland, Australia's largest onshore oil field at the time. The discovery led to an expansion of successful oil exploration in an area previously regarded as gas-prone.

Later in his career he developed ideas on stratigraphic trapping of hydrocarbons in the Exmouth Sub-basin and proposed the location for Ravensworth-1, the discovery well for the Pyrenees trend oil fields offshore WA. This discovery was awarded the Most Significant Discovery Award by APPEA in 2003.

Mick is acknowledged for introducing the latest in leading-edge geophysics to the places he worked, with some of the ground breaking examples being:

- the use of synthetic seismograms in the 1980s to model changes in seismic character related to good quality reservoir trends
- introduction of AVO to discriminate between reservoir fluids in the early 1990s,
- in the 2000s recognising and measuring azimuthal anisotropy of seismic velocity so acquisition footprint and borehole stresses could be reduced
- developing the "rave" plot to highlight amplitude conformance with structure
- using densely spaced point receivers in onshore seismic acquisition which allowed noise to be modelled and removed from seismic data

Mick's expertise as an interpretation geophysicist is evidenced by almost 50 articles published in Preview between 1998 and the present. He also taught the Seismic Interpretation course at Curtin University for seven years. Several of the students from his course are now in senior positions with exploration companies and service providers.

Since becoming a member in 1975, Mick has been an active supporter of the ASEG and has made many outstanding contributions to the success of the Society for over 40 years. His involvement with the ASEG has included contributions on three State Branch committees, Victorian Branch Secretary, Treasurer for ASEG conferences in 1981 and 1989, a member of the Federal Executive and Business Manager. But to most members he is best known for his exceptional contributions as Associate Editor, Petroleum for Preview since 1998 and still going.

To acknowledge these outstanding contributions to the profession and to the ASEG over many years, the ASEG is pleased to confer the award of Honorary Membership to Michael Micenko.



Mick Micenko receiving his award from ASEG
President Ted Tyne