

Pressure's On Vic/Tas Branch Enjoys Dr John Kaldi's PESA Australian Lecturer Visit

by Jorg Bein and Tom Bernecker



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Dr John Kaldi.

At the monthly branch luncheon, John enlightened the 55-strong audience with a seminar presentation entitled 'Seals and Leaks in Dynamic Petroleum Systems: the East Java Sea, Indonesia and the Timor Sea, Australia'. This talk followed hot on the heels of Dr John Davidson's discussions about pre-drill assessment of stresses in the Earth's crust and the implications this has not only on well stability, but also on fault-seal integrity. It came as no surprise that PAL Kaldi had to defer his dessert and field a prolonged and very stimulating question time.

After the luncheon address, 21 geoscientists and reservoir engineers attended Kaldi's workshop 'Evaluation of Reservoirs and Seals' at the Southbank offices of ExxonMobil. It is a testimony to his great teaching style that he was able to keep everyone totally enthralled in the topic regardless of what their professional background was.

Starting off with simple, yet crucial, working definitions of reservoirs, seals, traps and pay, the course discussed in great detail the

microcosm of capillary pressure before zooming in on seal effectiveness. Future fire-drills won't be the same any more following Kaldi's comparisons between office buildings and reservoir rocks, between exit doors and pore-throats, between panicking people and hydrocarbon droplets. No space, no gain.

Particularly exciting were the four hands-on exercises, one of which filled almost half a morning. All participants were amazed to realise that by just carefully examining some datasets and chewing over some simple calculations they were able to decide if a farm-in proposal should get the thumbs-up or down. The short-course was a trimmed-down version of the three-day intensive course that was recently conducted in Adelaide. Kaldi encouraged everyone who felt he/she needed to know more about reservoir and seal behaviour to contact him about attending the longer course. After such a brilliant introduction to the topic, it would seem likely that Adelaide may experience a short term invasion in the near future.

PESA Vic/Tas wishes to thank the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and ExxonMobil who assisted in the preparation of lecture notes, making duplication costs free for the Branch. ExxonMobil also provided the training room at no cost. The Branch extends their thanks to Kim Wright (Earth Research Foundation, University of Sydney) for organising the 2003 PAL tour and NSR Environment Consultants Ltd for their generous sponsorship of the July luncheon. ■