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# EDITORIAL

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Following from this year's idea of having a themed General Assembly, this issue of the EGU newsletter is dedicated to The Face of the Earth. If you have not yet read the letter from the EGU 2014 Programme Committee Chair Gert-Jan Reichart and the EGU President Günter Blöschl on the previous page, make sure you do to find out all about this theme and what will be different at this year's General Assembly.

In this issue of GeoQ, inspired by the five sub-topics at the Assembly, we publish five articles about exciting research focusing on Waters of the Earth, Life of the Earth, Atmosphere of the Earth, Rocks of the Earth and Space and the Earth. Sara Mynott writes about how the seas stimulate rainfall, Laura Soul covers evolution, extinction and the fossil record, and Michelle Cain briefs us about the face of the atmosphere. Moving on to the Rocks of the Earth, Becky Summers' article deals with research on how cold climate affects mountain erosion, while Jane Robb's piece on Space and the Earth provides a glimpse of Mars' early history.

The Young Scientists and Education sections also focus on this year's General Assembly. The former provides information about activities for young scientists, from workshops and lunchtime sessions to short courses (and even a video competition), at the meeting. The Education section naturally focuses on the Geosciences Information For Teachers (GIFT) workshop, which takes place during the first few days of the General Assembly. This year's GIFT is on a very timely topic, Our Changing Planet, and it will explore some of the recent complex changes of the Earth's environment, focusing on climate in particular.

And make sure not to miss the other sections of the newsletter either! As always, keep up-to-date with activities from the EGU and its divisions in EGU News and EGU Voice, and read about the latest research published in EGU journals in the Press Releases and Journal Watch sections. External News features an engaging article about EuroGeoSurveys, the association of the European Geological Surveys, and its policy work.

For the first time, a few printed copies of GeoQ will be distributed at the General Assembly. If you had not yet heard of the EGU quarterly newsletter and are picking up one of these copies, I hope you enjoy reading this issue of GeoQ and continue to read our magazine and information service in the future! Each new edition of GeoQ is distributed for free to EGU members in the form of an interactive PDF file (hence all the links), and is made [available from the EGU website](#) every three months.

Happy reading!

*Bárbara Ferreira*  
*GeoQ Chief Editor & EGU Media and Communications Manager*

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The current and previous editions of the EGU newsletter (GeoQ and The Eggs) are available online at [www.egu.eu/newsletter](http://www.egu.eu/newsletter).

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COVER PHOTO: The Face of the Earth, detail from logo available on the [EGU 2014 General Assembly website](#)

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