

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMORY AND LISTENING TO STORIES

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This presentation in memory of Keith Turner will demonstrate the value he has brought to me, the wider profession and community by remembering historic events and importantly communicating about them. I will try and illustrate that even though technological progress seems to change everything we do at an increasingly rapid speed it is wise to listen to the previous generations and draw on lessons that have been learnt before and build a more diverse and informed picture of our world.

Keith was famous for remembering a lot of detail and talking about events and developments over a long period of time at length - his passion to improve the future were always linked to a rich understanding of people, historic developments and importantly trying to not repeat mistakes and re-invent wheels.

I will share two artefacts that Keith made sure are now preserved for prosperity from the pioneering days of digitalisation, productisation and marketing at the British Geological Survey in the early 1990s. These comprise of a 10 minute film, rescued from a VHS tape a result of Keith's memory, connections and tenacity and a series of reports and notes sent to me by post in the mid 2000s that contain unpublished and very nearly lost learnings about BGS' baby steps into insurance products and financial markets. The take away lesson is to learn from the past, to listen and respect our recent ancestors (even if painful and repetitive at times) and importantly to follow Keith's exemplar to try and remember the past, tell stories and care about progress and the future.