This month we get to know Dr David Annetts.

1. **What is your current role?**

   Currently, I'm a senior research scientist with CSIRO's Mineral Resources Business Unit. I'm a forward electromagnetic modeller by inclination.

2. **What is your current role in the ASEG' Federal Executive?**

   I'm currently President Elect. It's humbling and daunting to step into the Presidency in the ASEG's 50th year, especially after previous incumbents. Before that I was Webmaster.

3. **For how long have you been a geophysicist?**

   About 30 years, in and out of school.

4. **What do you like most about being a geophysicist?**

   The number of niches is remarkable. One can go broad or deep, or flit between the field and lab or between petroleum, minerals, geotechnical, solid earth or enviromental applications.

5. **If you weren't a geophysicist what would you be?**

   An economist.

6. **What is your best interview tip?**

   Prepare by researching the role and the organisation. Anticipate questions, but don't give stock answers. Be honest. An interview is an opportunity for both parties to figure out if they can work together towards a common goal. Also, that some interviews are not necessarily formal.

7. **Where was your best sunrise/sunset location?**

Sunsets around the Four Corners region of the USA are generally pretty good. And looking down the Swan as the sun disappears behind the hills in front of Fremantle. But I prefer sunrises. Anywhere.

8. **What are you reading at the moment?**

   The last book I read was "Agency", a science fiction novel by William Gibson. Currently, I'm reading a biography of John von Neumann who made fundamental contributions to pure and applied mathematics, theoretical physics, economics and computer science over much too short a life.

9. **What made you decide to be a geophysicist?**

   As a colleague once put it, a marriage of convenience became a labour of love.

10. **What's one thing you wish someone had told you when you were at university?**

    It's possible that they did tell me. I only wish I had remembered what I asked and what they said.

11. **What's your most treasured textbook?**

    I refer to Nabighian's volumes about once a month.

12. **Your funniest or worst field memory?**

    My field these days being a lab, I can confirm that "rm -r *" works as advertised.

13. **Your most respected geophysicist?**

    There are too many to count and to list. Some have been awarded ASEG Gold medals but others have earned respect by lots of hard thorough work.

14. **What do you do in your spare time?**

    I run, lift weights, climb, listen to whole albums & read.

15. **What is a challenge you have overcome and how did you do so?**

Most challenges I tend to approach like eating an elephant: One small piece at a time.

16. **What is a challenge that you see in geoscience today, and how do you see the community overcoming it?**

    I see a few challenges on the horizon. One is the acquiring the social license to operate sustainably. The next is to effectively explore in more challenging environments.

17. **What is the best way that the ASEG could let the public know about geophysics and its benefit to the everyday life?**

    I think this is a challenge that the ASEG has faced over all its 50 years and will continue to face over the next 50.

18. **Where do you think exploration geophysics will head in the next 10-15 years?**

    Trends towards AI through data mining seem overwhelming.

19. **Given a choice, would you prefer extra mentoring on the science, your career or the how to handle/explain exploration geophysics and its benefits to the community?**

    I am increasingly realising that effective marketing is a vital component of most of what we do.

20. **What aspect of geophysics do you enjoy most?**

    I still get a kick out of EM responses and how they reflect the underlying model.

21. **Do you think AI will take over your job or will the human element remain vital to exploration successes?**

    Until we have to sort of AI that is described by Ian Banks' Culture Series of novels, I think the human element will remain vital. We have enough ambiguity in conventional least squares inversions, and to expect AI to resolve that is probably unrealistic. If AI returns reasonable answers, then perhaps we're not asking the right questions.

22. **There are a lot of geophysicists coming up for retirement - what skills do you think will be lost with them?**

    Skills are learned, and "what one fool can learn, so can another" to quote Feynman. Wisdom is what will be lost.