All of our member spotlights have been listed on our website. Please have a read on their stories!

In this issue, we have our new President-Elect **Eric Battig** sharing his interesting geophysics experiences.

1. For how long have you been a geophysicist?

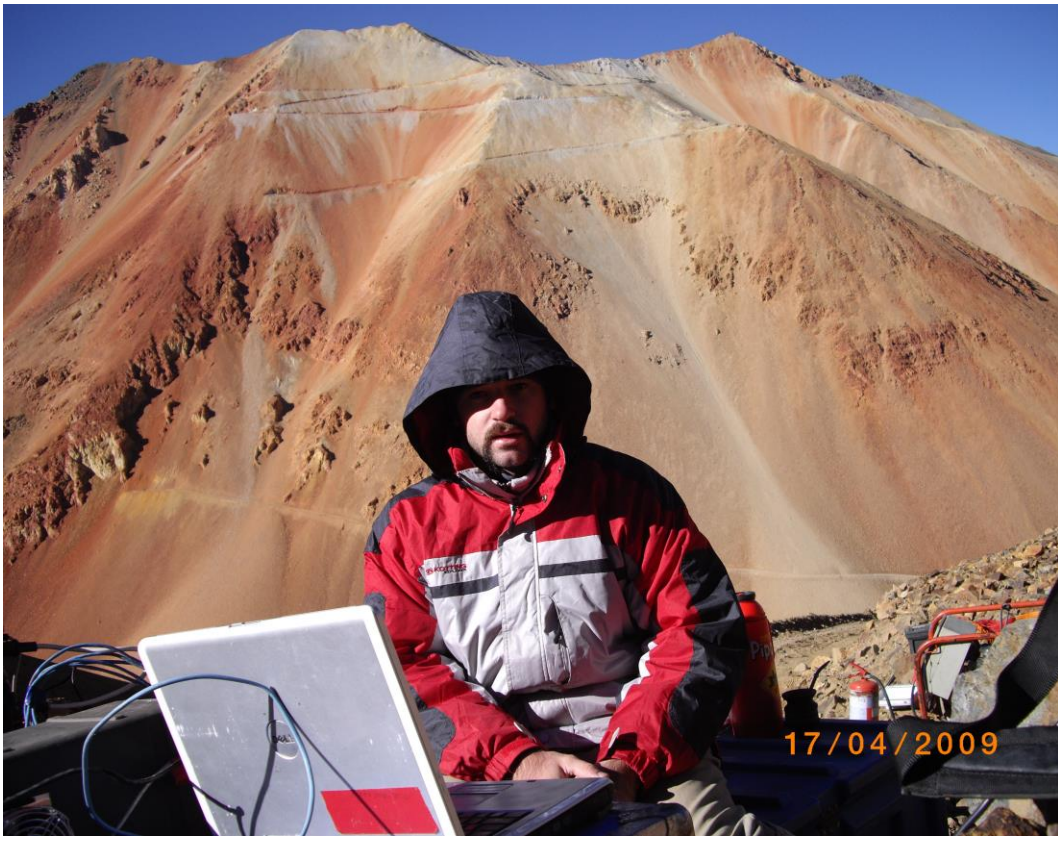
For more than 20 years now. I graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Geophysics) Honours degree from the University of Queensland in 2000 and started work immediately with MIM Exploration.

2. What do you like most about being a geophysicist?

There's no single thing that I can put above the rest. It's the incredible people that I have had the privilege to work with; It's that to this day I have never stopped learning and that I can continue to extend myself; It's the opportunities it has given me and my family to travel, within Australia and Overseas.

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

Either a chef or a full-time stay-at-home parent. Since I can remember, I have always been interesting in cooking. Maybe it's the science behind it or exploring new flavours, but mostly I find it relaxes me and of course I like eating! I have loved working from home following a job transition and COVID, being more flexible with my work-life balance and being more present with my family.



4. What is your best interview tip?

It's a cliché, but just be yourself and be curious. It's so important that your potential co-workers see you for who you are (above and beyond what is carefully scripted on your CV), and that you also explore as much as possible whether the organisation you are applying for is a good fit for you.

5. What's one thing that we wouldn't know about you?

I was born in Switzerland and moved to Australia when I was 13. I still don't feel like I have acclimatised to Brisbane summers after almost 30 years!

6. Tell us about your best field meal?

Corderito patagónico. Patagonian lamb washed down with a nice Malbec, unforgettable.

7. Where was your best sunrise/sunset location?

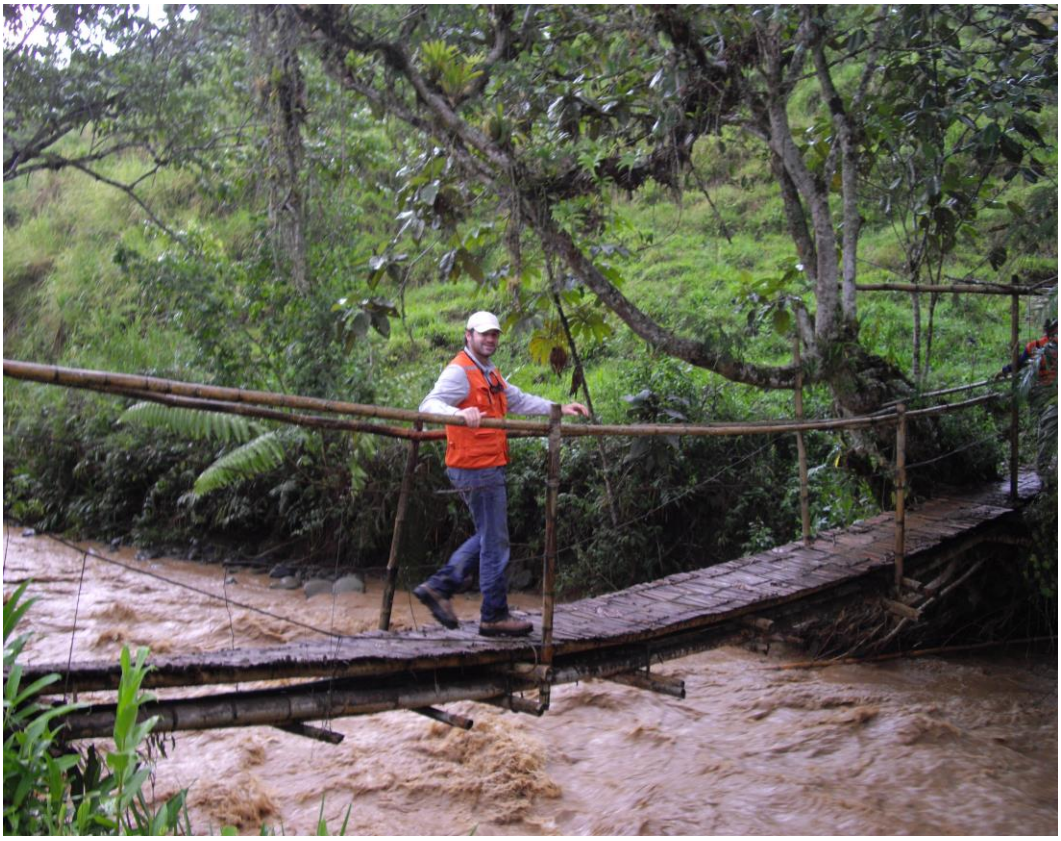
Sunrise in the Atacama desert in Chile. Sunsets in Tikalina, South Australia.

8. What are you reading at the moment?

I have two books on the go: “Spies and Sparrows, ASIO and the Cold War” by Phillip Deery; and, an audiobook “Mythos” by Stephen Fry.

9. What made you decide to be a geophysicist?

Two things; Combining my interests in Science and Travel; and, a University of Queensland Open Day meeting with Steve Hearn. I initially went to university convinced I wanted to be a zoologist and while I can’t remember what Steve said, clearly it was enough to change my mind and I haven’t looked back sinc



10. Your funniest or worst field memory?

One of the worst would have to be trying to do a MLEM survey in Mexico while intermittently taking shelter from aggressive Africanised (“killer”) Bees; and one of the funniest would be trying to connect an IP line across a lake in WA using a rowboat.

11. Your most respected geophysicist?

There are many geophysicists I look up to, though a standout for me is Terry Ritchie. A lot of the knowledge I apply today I can trace back to Terry.

12. When you are asked what you do – what do you do?

Direct them to my wife, Leisa. Over the years, herself coming to terms with what I do, Leisa has become very good at explaining what I do.

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

We need to be more deliberate and visible in our conversations about the increasing role of geophysics in resource exploration and energy transition. In my opinion a key component will be to lift the profile of geophysics in primary and secondary education. Spreading the word from the bottom up, from the classroom to the home and into society I believe will be more effective and we can leverage the momentum and resources that are being created around STEM in our education system.

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

I am hopeful we will strike a meaningful balance between technology such as AI and the fundamentals of good geophysics, starting right back at how we acquire and process geophysical data. I fear that as practitioners we are becoming too focussed on the next downstream technological advance and how it can help us make the next discovery, at the expense of reasonable efforts to ensure we collect the best

possible quality geophysical data. Don’t get me wrong, I certainly support the ongoing development of AI applications for exploration, but this technology in my opinion will never replace the human knowledge that ensures what we feed into this technology isn’t rubbish.