Dr Janelle Simpson

ASEG Early Achievement Award

Brisbane March 2023

CITATION:

The Early Achievement Award acknowledges significant contributions to the profession at an early stage in a person's career, by way of publications, professional work, or contributions to the ASEG by a member under 36 years of age.

The Early Achievement Award for 2023 is presented to Dr Janelle Simpson from the Queensland Branch, for her significant contributions to the ASEG, her scientific work in the field of magnetotellurics (MT), and her promotion of geophysics as an exploration tool, which have been recognized by her peers as outstanding achievements in her short career.

Janelle graduated with a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Geology and Geophysics from Monash University in 2009 and was awarded a PhD in Geophysics from the University of Adelaide in 2019, presenting a thesis entitled: "Understanding interpretation limitations due to MT inversion variability: examples from the Mount Isa Province, Queensland, Australia". Janelle moved to Brisbane in 2010 to take on the role of Geophysicist with the Geological Survey of Queensland (GSQ). She is currently a Principal Geophysicist with GSQ with responsibility for planning, acquisition, modelling and interpretation of precompetitive geophysics data with a focus on magnetotellurics.

Janelle has exceptional technical and science skills with a passion in making a difference by showing the ASEG in the best possible light. With respect to magnetotellurics, one of her many strengths, she has consistently delivered a large number of datasets and models for Queensland, making significant contributions to Government Geoscience and highlighting the importance of exploration geophysics and the ASEG.

Three major impacts of her professional work include:

1) Promoting stronger integration of geophysics and geology, and fostering cooperation across various stakeholder groups including the ASEG, State Geological Survey, Geoscience Australia and the exploration industry in order to highlight the importance of integrated geophysical modelling.
2) Enabling and supporting new users of magnetotellurics in taking up a new geophysical technique to further exploration, resulting in new tenement uptake in Queensland.
3) A commitment to publish and share knowledge about exploration geophysics and the ASEG with other earth scientists and the broader community, particularly through her ASEG presentations.

Janelle has been a member of the ASEG since 2015, and has been actively involved in the ASEG at both the local Queensland Branch and Federal levels. Janelle currently sits on the Federal Executive board as Branch Liaison representative and has been on the Conference Organising Committee for both the 2021 and the 2023 AEGC conferences. In March 2023, Janelle was appointed as ASEG President-Elect for 2024.

Since 2016, Janelle has devoted her time in volunteering her expertise to support the ASEG. Janelle has driven ASEG mentoring programs, diversity programs, Early Career programs and outreach programs. Janelle is actively involved in STEM outreach through a variety of programs including Curious Minds, and in the creation of a cross-industry mentoring program in 2019 which brought together the ASEG, Formation Evaluation Society of Australia Queensland (FESQ), Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia (PESA), Queensland Petroleum Exploration Association (QUPEX), and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) to link early career professionals to experienced industry members.

Janelle is the Chair of the Australian Magnetotelluric Practitioner Group, coordinating efforts to advance the science of MT in Australia and pursuing the goal of ensuring data accessibility through adoption of international standards across the MT processing and modelling streams.

Janelle is a high achiever and a role model for younger members of the profession. With her achievements and commitment to the profession already demonstrated in her short career, she is a worthy recipient of the ASEG Early Achievement Award.