

Member Spotlight

A monthly highlight featuring an ASEG member. All past member spotlights can be found in our newsletter [archive](#).



We welcome **Lee Tasker** under the spotlight in this issue as he shares his enlightening story!

Lee is a Principal Geophysicist at WSP in Perth and specialises in near-surface geophysics. Lee is an active member of ASEG and is the 2025 ASEG WA Chapter President.

I am originally from Wales (UK) and currently live in Perth (WA), working as a Principal Geophysicist at WSP. I have 18+ years of international geophysics consulting experience and have consulted on geophysical investigations for the engineering, environmental, heritage, exploration and groundwater sectors in countries such as Australia, Gabon, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea. I hold a Master's (MPhys) in Physics from Cardiff University (UK) and a Graduate Diploma in Science (GradDipSci) in Geophysics from Victoria University of Wellington, VUW (NZ).

1. Tell us who you are and what you do.

I'm a near-surface geophysicist and work primarily on "shallow" geophysical investigations (generally <100 m depth).

2. For how long have you been a geophysicist?

Over 18 years.

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

Getting the opportunity to collaborate with a variety of professionals such as geotechnical engineers, civil engineers, engineering geologists, geologists, hydrogeologists, environmental scientists, archaeologists...the list goes on!

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

Meteorologist. As a child I had a dream of chasing tornados for a living.

5. What made you decide to be a geophysicist?

A coin toss. Following the completion of my Master's in Physics at Cardiff University (UK), I wanted to split-study both a 1-year GradDipSci in Meteorology and GradDipSci in Geophysics at the same time at Victoria University of Wellington (NZ). But that wasn't a possible option at the time. And I couldn't afford to study both courses as an international student. I then proceeded to toss a coin to decide which course I should choose. Geophysics won that round on that day and the rest is history...

6. What reaction do you mostly get when you tell someone that you are a geophysicist?

In Australia – "Ah. So, you work on the mines?". In NZ – "Ah. So, you look for earthquakes?". In the UK – "Ah, so like on Time Team?".

7. When asked what you do – what do you do?

Take a breath and say "I help people figure out what's below the ground"

8. What aspect of geophysics do you enjoy most?

The field. I love remote and challenging locations. I've had the privilege of working in some interesting locations, interesting countries, and with some interesting people along the way.

9. Who is your most respected geophysicist?

Can I give 2?

Bradley Morgan (Currently at WSP) – Brad and I have literally been through thick and thin together working on geophysics projects in a variety of countries and often challenging locations for nearly 20 years.

Kathleen McMahan (Currently at Draig Geoscience) – Kath and I have worked together on many an interesting project over the years at both GroundProbe and Draig Geoscience. Kath has also been to Antarctica on 3 separate occasions for geophysics research project work (of which I am very jealous!) including being her very own shot-firer whilst she was down there.

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

I wrote the title music track for a NZ short film, 'Rob' (released in 2007). I even have a credit on IMDB. Feel free to Google that one!

11. What is Your funniest or worst field memory?

This story is a bit out of column A and column B. Getting chased by a silverback gorilla in the jungles of Gabon. I didn't think I could run so fast with a ground mag unit strapped to my back!

12. Where was your best sunrise/sunset location?

I've seen some beautiful sunsets from the top of tailings dams (believe it or not). Depending on the angle you're looking from, you can feel like you're on a different planet...just like in a Star Wars movie.



In a Galaxy far, far away...

13. Tell us about a challenge you overcame, and how did you do so?

Starting-up a geophysics consultancy from the "ground-up" and firmly establishing it as a commercial brand. I started laying the groundwork for Draig Geoscience in late 2013 and grew the company little-by-little by building up the Client base, geophysical equipment base and geophysical software base over the space of 10 years. I achieved this with a lot of patience, time, emotional and financial investment. This was very challenging, but very rewarding. Even though I am no longer working there, Draig Geoscience are still going strong as a company, which makes me feel very proud.

14. Do you have any volunteering experience?

I am the 2025 ASEG WA Chapter President. Previously I have also held volunteer roles as Secretary/Treasurer of the UWA SEG Student Chapter 2014-15 and 2017-18, and as an ASEG WA Members Representative for Near-Surface Geophysics 2015-16.

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

Don't be afraid of trying something for the first time and making mistakes. It's all part of the learning process.

16. What is your best interview tip?

Be yourself and don't be afraid to ask questions (interviews work both ways).

17. What are you reading at the moment?

'The Silmarillion' by J.R.R. Tolkien (very slowly...).

18. What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy spending quality time with my wife and my two lovely children (Seren and Gwion).

19. What's your most treasured textbook?

I've never been asked this one before! This would be 'University Physics with Modern Physics' by Young & Freedman (10th Edition). I purchased it for the start of my first year of university (2001) and I still have it on my bookshelf.