

In this issue we get to know Dr Teagan Blaikie from CSIRO. To nominate yourself or to recommend someone for the Member Spotlight, please contact communications@aseg.org.au.

1. What is your current role?

I am a research scientist for CSIRO, currently embedded within the Northern Territory Geological Survey. My role is to interpret newly acquired and existing geophysical data over the McArthur Basin to improve understanding of its 3D structural architecture. A typical day will see me interpreting geophysical and geological data sets to produce and update maps, and modelling the data to produce 2D cross-sections and 3D models of the basin.

2. For how long have you been a geophysicist?

I completed my PhD in 2014 and have been working as a geophysicist since then. In the first year following my PhD, I helped teach undergraduate, post-grad and industry courses in interpreting geology from gravity and magnetic data. In mid-2016, I joined CSIRO and the NTGS in my current role.

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

I get to work with a multi-disciplinary team of geologists and geophysicists. It's always exciting finding new ways to integrate our data sets and improve our models.

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

I would like to run my own cafe.

5. Your funniest or worst field memory?

I was acquiring gravity data during my PhD across several volcanic craters in western Victoria. The areas I was surveying were lakes that had mostly dried up during the drought. Conditions were very swampy, and most of the time we were ankle deep in mud or water. There were two craters at Red Rock near Colac that were particularly bad. As the ground had dried out, the mud had shrunk and opened up some very large cracks in the ground - some were close to 2 m deep. The crater floor was also completely overgrown with weeds, so we often couldn't see these cracks. We would be walking along and suddenly drop into a deep muddy hole. Fortunately the ground was so soft it cushioned the fall and no injuries were incurred. It also helped to have some great field assistants working with me so we could always have a laugh.

6. What is your best interview tip?

If your interview is conducted by video conference - know how the system works, and test your audio and video beforehand.

7. What do you do in your spare time?

I like to relax and read a book or watch a movie, go for a bike ride, and catch up with friends for coffee or drinks.

