

This issue we get to know Dr Chris Wijns. Read on to find out more... To nominate yourself or to recommend someone for the Member Spotlight, please contact [communications@aseg.org.au](mailto:communications@aseg.org.au).

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

I am the Group Geophysicist for First Quantum Minerals, based in West Perth. After years of asking my boss, I've given up asking to be called Chief Geophysicist! Anyway, 'Group' means I can be involved in absolutely every subsidiary and department outside of exploration as well.

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

In a practical sense, I started working for Placer Dome in West Africa in 1996.

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

The power to see under the surface without any holes.

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

Just before university enrolments, I visited the architecture, engineering, and geology departments of McGill University. It was Christmas holidays and Architecture and Engineering were closed. The geology professor sent me upstairs to talk to the geophysics professor. So who knows ...?

**5. Tell us about your best field meal?**

Lunches in a French-run exploration camp in Niger included red wine bottles on the table and crepes for dessert.

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

I try to avoid being awake for sunrises, but sunset on the beach of a small island off the southeast tip of PNG was pretty special.

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

My worst field memory is standing thigh-deep in cold water and rain in a northern BC swamp, wondering when the IP crew leader was going to say we could cut the line short and stop planting stakes.

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

My three boys are between 7 and 12 years old so I'm waiting for spare time to arrive in my life again.

**9. When you are asked 'What's a geophysicist??' or 'What does a geophysicist do?' what is your stock answer?**

A geologist who can do math.

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

Taking geophysics into high schools and elementary schools is effective, and showing uses in archaeology, water exploration, soil moisture/salinity mapping for agriculture, etc., as well as resource exploration and development.

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

Our ability to see deep or with high resolution outweighs our ability to understand what we see. We need to catch up with technology and partly this means bridging the scale gap between cm-scale drillhole measurements (petrophysical, geochemical, mineralogical) and surface geophysical measurements sampling hundreds of thousands of thousands of cubic metre.

