

This issue we get to know Dr Kate Selway, an ARC Future Fellow at Macquarie University, and more recently; a Superstar of STEM. Read on to find out more... To nominate yourself or to recommend someone for the Member Spotlight, please contact communications@aseg.org.au.

1. What is your current role?

I'm a Future Fellow at Macquarie Uni. This is a dominantly research role funded by the ARC but I also do a bit of teaching.

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

Problem-solving. Whether it be convincing Tanzanian customs agents to let our instruments through, filtering generator noise out of my signal, or learning how to scare away a polar bear with a flare gun, I love that there is always a problem to solve and a new skill to learn. I love that so many of those problems are in spectacular locations too!

3. Where was your best sunrise location?

My best sunrise is from any riverbank in Australia, sticking my head out of my swag as the magpies start warbling to see the sky brightening behind the gum trees. I've never had that fantastic sense of freedom, remoteness and isolation anywhere other than Australia. My best sunset was at Davis Station in Antarctica in early 2009. As I looked out over the bay full of icebergs and the elephant seals and penguins on the beach I saw the sun disappear beneath the horizon for the first time in months, only to rise again a moment later.

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

90% of being a geophysicist is keeping cables untangled

5. What is a challenge you have overcome and how did you do so?

Academic life is challenging. In the past seven years I've lived in four countries, worked at five universities and moved house nine times. It takes

resilience, self-confidence, adaptability, and a black belt in dealing with bureaucracy.

6. Can you tell us a bit more about your role as a Superstar of STEM?

I was delighted to be named as a Superstar of STEM late last year. This program aims to smash gender stereotypes in STEM by helping women build public and media profiles. As I write this, I'm half way through the first 'Superstars' workshop. I can already tell that things extraordinary group of women will become a fantastic network. We'll be given training in communication, media and professional development and will have opportunities to speak with school kids, business leaders and politicians. I'm very excited to see what is in store.

