

This issue we get to know Tim Dohey. 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?

Australia-Asia-Pacific Regional Geophysicist for Newmont Goldcorp

2. For how long have you been a geophysicist?

My first geophysics job was in 2003 on an EM field crew in Northern Quebec and Labrador. I was introduced to helicopters, black bears, black flies, and carrying large amounts of wire.

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

Initially I liked the science and travel; however the bigger passion that's developed over the years is the excitement of exploration.

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

My Plan A was to be an astronaut! They do need a geophysicist for the first mission to Mars, so you never know...

5. What is your best interview tip?

Be passionate, curious, and confident. It's all in the attitude. You can teach a trainable person anything, but you can't teach attitude.

6. Where was your best sunrise/sunset location?

Best sunrise: Greenland or Brazil. Best sunset: Peru or Perth.

7. What are you reading at the moment?

I'm embracing my newly adopted country of Australia by reading the Batavia, by Peter Fitzsimons.

8. What made you decide to be a geophysicist?

As an undergrad I had wanted to do something technical involving physics, but didn't want to be stuck in a cubicle.

9. Your funniest or worst field memory?

Wearing a full hooded fly jacket in northern Labrador despite the heat because the black flies have no mercy, and eating my sandwich every day by pulling it up the sleeve and eating it inside the hood.

10. Your most respected geophysicist?

I've benefitted from a number of great mentors throughout my career, but I was probably most shaped by my early years with the geophysics group at INCO, led by Alan King and Ben Polzer.

11. What do you do in your spare time?

Currently trying to learn to surf, and doing quite poorly.

12. What is a challenge that you see in geophysics today, and how do you see the community overcoming it?

As a profession, geophysicists have made incredible strides in data collection/processing/modelling over the past 20 years, but when compared to previous generations I think that we have lost some ability to get the most value from the data by thorough interpretation. I think the solution is in regular collaboration with other geoscience disciplines, prioritizing results over processes, and putting more time/effort into old-fashioned chin-scratching.

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

Interaction with the public by speaking at high schools and universities is valuable. A novel approach is to incorporate it into a legitimately fun event, such as the Pint of Science festival.

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

In two directions at once: embracing a less automated and more thoughtful approach of interpretation as was done in the past, while also sprinting into the future by fully embracing emerging technology (e.g. machine learning, drones, etc.). I also see there being an increasing need for geophysicists as mineral exploration becomes more focused on making discoveries under cover.

15. Do you think AI will take over your job or will the human element remain vital to exploration successes?

For the foreseeable future, there are tasks that machines are much better suited to, and there are tasks that humans are much better suited to. I see this as being potentially complimentary, and will allow us to spend more time doing the things that add greater value.

