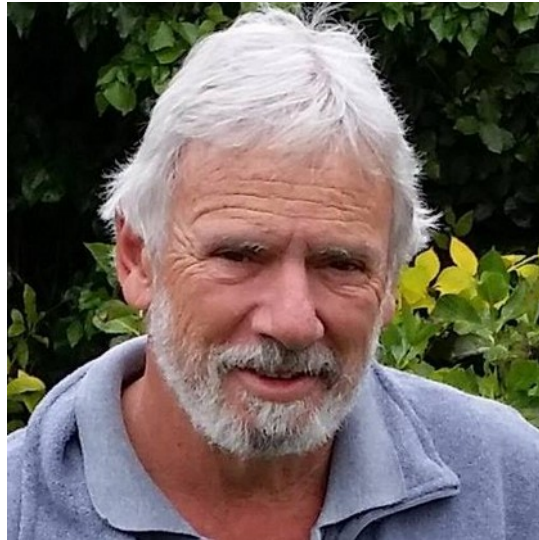


For this issue, we will have **Henk van Paridon** as the member spotlight. He is the recipient of the **ASEG Honorary Membership 2021**. Thanks so much for your distinguished contributions to the ASEG Society through active involvement with State and Federal Executives committees, publications, and conferences.



1. Briefly describe your career?

I started my career with Delhi in Adelaide in 1981, so I'm celebrating 40 years this year. At the start I was a bird-pup under the tutelage of more senior bird-dogs. Delhi had up to 5 crews operating simultaneously. I moved from there to seismic interpretation. I worked as a company employee for 17 years and as a consultant for 23 years. The great thing about being a consultant is that you don't have to pretend. In a company there is a certain group think. We can't drop this block because we told the market it was our best block. Consultants can cut through that.

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

Every day is different. I'm always excited to look at some new geology or find a new software tool I can play with. This year I have worked on a geothermal project in Switzerland and a coal project in Queensland. Previously I have worked in Cooper Basin looking for oil and gas and in Serbia and the USA for sedimentary lithium and copper.

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

One month ago I was the beneficiary of a kidney transplant. I'm so grateful to live in Australia and receive such wonderful medical treatment at almost no cost. Please consider becoming an organ donor. Please get vaccinated, I am the epitome of immunocompromised.

4. What are some of your best field locations?

I have very fond memories of the Coongie Lakes. When I was working in the field it was a great pleasure to drive there, have a swim and pretend I was on a scouting trip.

My best ever geological field trip was floating down the San Juan River in the Paradox Basin in Arizona. Too thick to drink too thin to plough was the saying. Always take the opportunity to look at the rocks is my advice.



5. What are you reading at the moment?

"Sailing Across Europe". Negley Farson and his wife Eve, travelled by sail boat from Rotterdam to the Black Sea in 1934. He used a canal pass built by Charlemagne 1200 years earlier. He led a fascinating life having met Lenin and

Gandhi as part of his career as a journalist. Highly recommended.

6. What made you decide to be a geophysicist?

When looking for an additional subject to study at the beginning of my university career, I was advised to do geology. "It's a bludge" I was informed. Fortunately, Adelaide University had Prof Boyd with one of the first geophysics courses in Australia.

7. What's your most treasured textbook?

SEG Dictionary of Exploration Geophysics, although nowadays everything is on-line. The main benefit of SEG membership is access to the on-line library. I also use ResearchGate a lot.

8. What do you do in your spare time?

I am a volunteer gardener for the Salvation Army. My unit garden has no room for more plants so I get to expand my ambitions using their garden. We both get a good deal.

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

I am distressed to see geophysics courses disappearing from Australian universities when the demand for geoscientists is bound to increase. It worries me that mining has received such bad press when in fact Australia has some of the world best practices. I'm also concerned that the rush to "green" technologies only looks at the CO2 without looking at other environmental and humanitarian factors; slave labour in China, child labour in DRC.

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

People always think of earthquakes. I got lots of questions following the earthquake in Victoria recently. I was forced to read up about it to sound knowledgeable.

11. When you are asked what you do – what do you do?

I always draw the analogy to ultra-sound which everyone understands. I tell them we use a different frequency range, sub-sound, to image the rocks.

I was once at a social function in Northern NSW with people who had a “Lock the Gate” sign on their fence. Despite the fact they lived next to a Devonian silver mine they were convinced that coal seams existed on their property. I knew that I couldn’t avoid the issue so when asked what I did I told them I was a geophysicist. No worries we watch Big Bang Theory, we know all about that. Problem solved.