

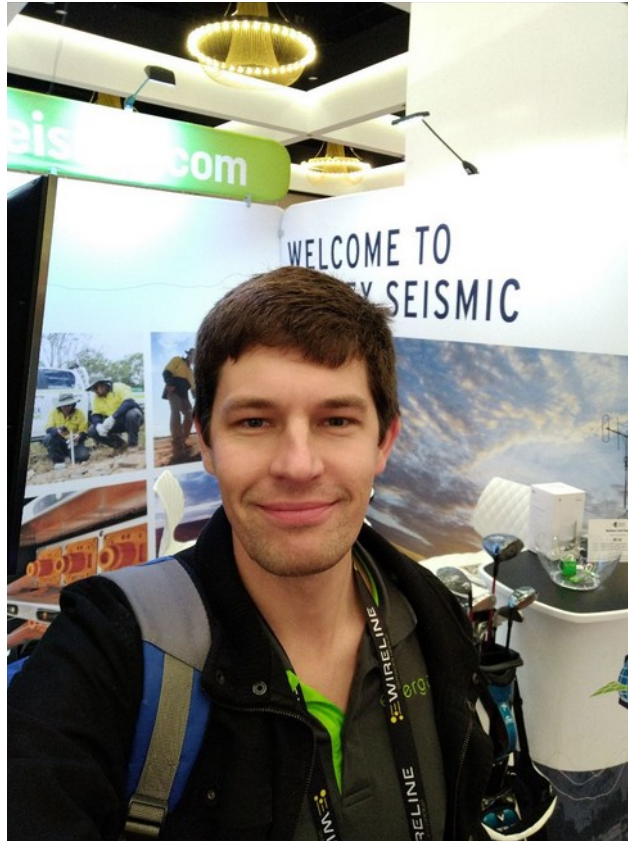
Welcome to the member spotlight for the new year of 2022! For this issue, we have **Nicholas Josephs** as the member spotlight. Nick is a geophysicist and volunteering as the secretary in the QLD branch. Let us see some interesting views from him.

1. What can you share with us about your ASEG volunteer role?

Actively participating in societies creates a strong professional and social network that is more than the sum of its parts. I've gotten jobs, leads, tutelage, mentors, and made friends through the ASEG and without volunteers that couldn't have happened. The ASEG was once a very large organisation, in recent times the membership has declined. It's up to everyone reading this to reflect on what we want this society to be and what can be done to steer it towards a new success. It starts with telling committee members what you like about ASEG and then with the data, as we all love, we can execute changes we want.

2. For how long have you been a geophysicist?

I was finishing off my Honours Thesis on GPR in 2014 when I was given the option to defend it at the university with (scary) lecturers or to present at a few geosocieties technical meetings (ASEG and AIG). I chose the latter and presented it in front of my first boss and mentor, Henk van Paridon, who has taught me for the last 7 years.



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

It's probably a tie. Between getting to be the first person to see a new resource, mine/mind-altering structural feature underground and with getting to work in a professional, intelligent community.

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

Most likely a teacher. If you've ever been upset with ignorant people, you know the importance of education! I'm passionate about education and want to help as I've been helped.

5. What is your best interview tip?

Nothing beats preparation. Know the subject matter, know who they're after and why.

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

Probably that I play too many computer games.

7. Tell us about your best field meal?

On the way to the field Ron Palmer recommended the Criterion at Rocky. When we stopped by it was popular and I know why: \$38 Ribs'n'Rump with the best chips in Queensland.



8. What are you reading at the moment?

“Timefulness – How thinking like a geologist can save the world.” Marcia Bjornerud, a US Professor of Geology. It’s about coming to grips with the effects and the passage of time, not so much on our lifespan but on the Earth’s lifespan. Provides you with a slight existential dread, but it’s a quick and

refreshing read

9. Your funniest or worst field memory?

We got the call to head over for Seismic start-up tests 'out west'. Turns out it was a two day long drive out to the south-west corner of Queensland, near Chardon's Corner. We were heading out; beautiful weather, roads were in good nick and I was getting an education on Elton John, Simon and Garfunkel and an extended and extensive list of other 'Golden Oldies'. Still, it was a long journey, and we were happy to be getting close. About an hour out from our destination we passed through some very heavy rain. Uh oh. We got through it, but it followed us. As we arrived on site it had developed into a massive dark, rumbling storm dumping 65mm in an hour and change. Guess what? Pack up, in the car, back to the office with a dip into Buddy Holly and some of the King to eat the kilometres away.



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

The massive cloud of negativity surrounding geoscience. This public opinion leads to less interest in studying geoscience. This then leads to less geoscientists, and universities closing courses, which we already see around Australia.

I think previously big companies have had to take the lead, such as Santos and BHP's ad campaigns and community sponsorships but I'm not sure this has swayed the public. The solution is education of school aged kids through 'one-off' lectures and engaging with science communicators to shift that public sentiment.

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

Usually I straight up say Geophysics and that tends to force them into: "I don't know what that is so..uh...moving on" or sometimes they know exactly what that is and we have interesting conversations about geology, mining or the latest earthquake in the news.



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

Here's where science communication comes into it. Podcasts, radio shows, grass roots community geoscience days. We need to engage with the "Dr. Karl's" or "Renae Sayers's" of Australia. Dr Karl routinely has guest scientists from different schools and Renae's Meteorite project: <https://dfn.gfo.rocks/> is publicly accessible. There are many more like them. These people are here to engage the public using approachable science and they have the skills and teams to do it. Why don't we give them the access to us and the geophysics

image we want to portray?