

All of our member spotlights have been listed on [our website](#). Please have a read on their stories!

In this issue, we have **Desmond FitzGerald** share his geophysics experience! Thanks for the nomination from Roger Henderson and the assistance from Seda Celebier..

1. For how long have you been a geophysicist?

I initially training as a mining engineer in rock mechanics and then change to my Phd in Rock Mechanics. At this time 1970s, The 1. Mentor Prof. John Jaeger who was Professor ANU not only covered rock mechanics but also heat. Math and physics has always been a core interest.

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

There is never-ending series of puzzles to solve or explore about our world.

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

I started to become an opera singer and actor when I was 21. I was treasurer of the pram factory were in Carlton at the renaissance of the Melbourne Theatre Scene. I commissioned the famous playwright, David Williamson who is also an engineer to write a play.



4. What is your best interview tip?

Listen carefully to the questions and measure your response so it can be understood by the questioner.

5. Tell us about your best field meal?

Riding camels in India and boiling the water that the sheep and camels shiting in to make a cup of tea and cook the rice.

6. Where was your best sunrise/sunset location?

Etosha National Park-Nambia. Sharing a tent with Ted Tyne on Saga field trip.

7. What are you reading at the moment?

Letters of Note: Correspondence Deserving of a Wider Audience- *Shaun Usher*.

8. What made you decide to be a geophysicist?

After my divorce 1990, I was approached by BHP and Geoscience Australia to switch my company focus away from mine planning and Geomechanics to Geophysics to meet to need of this exploration

community. This resulted in the birth of Intrepid Products. Both Tom Whiting and Phil McFadden convince me to change course.

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

Do not drink wine on a Friday afternoon.

Do not waste your time at the pub.

Pursuing an academic career in an Australian university can be soul-destroying.

10. Your funniest or worst field memory?

Waking up in a tent with a nest of cobras under my feet,

11. Your most respected geophysicist?

Lucian Lacoste

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

If someone takes time to ask me this question (it is rare by the way) I once again frame the reply in the context of who is asking. My job now is to lead and inspire young people.

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

This is not my problem as an individual generally does not speak for the professional society and the general problems of inspiring more interest in professional life in science and engineering.

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

Geophysicists are or should be inventing AI to supplement their capability.

15. Can open-source methods provide reliable products?

I think Wikipedia & Research gate are fine examples of open shared tools. However, when migrating Maths theory into physics, the cohort of exemplars plummets Around 10.000 active contributors seem to be the required cohort to establish the 'organic subliminal intelligence.

It is this reason that makes individual scientists reluctant to be so open then computer codes as then they are left to support it for no remuneration forever.

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

The digital revolution is impacting on exploration of geophysics and medical science in almost equal proportions. We will see instruments and measurements emerge that we never dreamed possible. Therefore, there is a shift away from individual brilliance to computer-assisted analysis.