

Member Spotlight

A monthly highlight featuring an ASEG member. All past member spotlights can be found in our newsletter [archive](#).



We welcome **Cameron Thompson** under the spotlight in this issue as he shares his enlightening story!

Cameron is a Geophysicist at Resource Potentials Pty Ltd.

Cameron is a volunteer committee member with the ASEG WA branch and is actively involved with both the Young Professionals programs and education programs. Cameron is a geophysicist working with Resource Potentials.

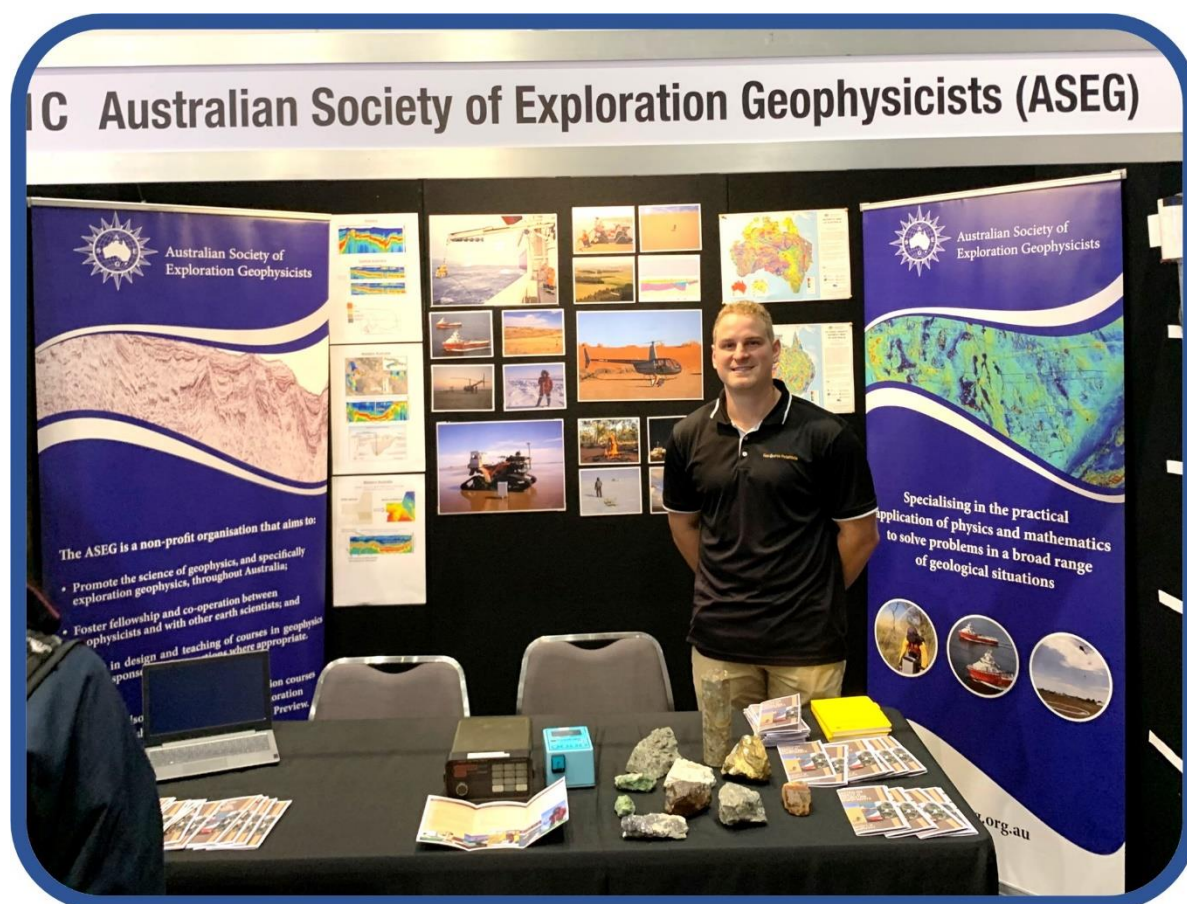


Figure 1: Cameron as he volunteered at the Careers Expo back in May 2023.

General question

1. For how long have you been a geophysicist?

I've been working as a geophysicist for the past 3 years since graduating from Curtin University.

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

My main interest lies in mineral exploration, and I enjoy the challenge of problem solving to work out how to best apply geophysical methods to target particular mineralisation styles in different geological settings. I also enjoy the adventure of getting out into the field and exploring some of the most remote places in Australia.

3. Tell us about your best field meal?

Best field meal would have to be bush-style BBQ pizza while camping in the remote West Arunta desert. Thin sandwich wraps topped with just about everything we could find in the fridge, cooked to perfection in the Weber!

4. What are you reading at the moment?

Atomic Habits by James Clear.

5. What made you decide to be a geophysicist?

I have always had an interest in science and grew up loving the outdoors. Through high school, I developed a particular interest in physics and wanted to find a career which would allow me to continue to learn more in this area. I stumbled across geophysics while choosing a major at university and my curiosity peaked at the idea of using physics as an exploration tool in geoscience.

6. What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy getting outdoors as often as I can – whether it be camping, four-wheel driving, or the occasional round of golf.

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

"Oh cool... what's that?" Alternatively, sometimes it's just easier to say I'm a geologist!

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

I usually say that we apply physical methods and principles to create images and models of the subsurface geology. A good example I heard once was to describe geophysics as like taking an ultrasound of the Earth.

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

I think one of the big challenges in industry at the moment is the low number of geophysics graduates coming through. I believe that a big reason for this is many people simply not knowing or understanding what geophysics is, and that we in industry share the responsibility to educate and promote geophysics to younger generations, particularly students at high school level. I've been fortunate to have recently attended some of the high school career education nights in which ASEG has been involved in and I've been amazed by the number of students who were interested to learn more about geophysics after visiting the booth.

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

No, I don't. I think that the human element will always remain vital to identify the difference between signal and noise and understand to not over interpret poor data. However, I do believe that AI will play a larger role in assisting exploration in the future.