

# myresumé

**MATT MCCARTHY**  
CONSULTING GEOLOGIST  
ST GEORGE MINING

## Geology reveals many surprises

I was born and raised in Perth and have not had to travel far for a career in the mining industry.

I commenced a Bachelor of Commerce in 1997 at The University of Western Australia (UWA). However, I soon realised it was not for me, I changed to a Bachelor of Science and instantly gravitated towards geology. I completed my geology degree with Honours in 2001.

My first exposure to the resources industry was during university. I have always been attracted to exploration. In fact, one of my most challenging decisions at university was to choose between a career in the minerals or petroleum industries.

Minerals exploration is both a challenging and exciting career that can add significant economic value. In Australia we have the benefit of working in a safe country with relatively low business risk.

After completing university, my first role was conducting diamond exploration with De Beers. The mining industry was in a low economic cycle at the time and I remember there were 45 candidates just for that one role and I was fortunate to get work.

Most of my experience since then has been in gold and nickel exploration in Western Australia

in senior geologist and exploration geologist roles.

I have worked for Goldfields Australia at St Ives, AngloGold Ashanti at Tropicana and Apex Minerals at Gidgee.

My nickel sulphide experience has come from working at BHP Billiton Nickel West on two occasions, in the Agnew-Wiluna Belt and on regional projects.

I have also had exposure to other clients and commodities with contracting and consulting company Digirock. I have aimed to get a good mix of small to large mining companies with a focus on gold and base metal exploration.

The highlight of my gold exploration career would have to be my involvement in the Tropicana gold discovery in 2005 for AngloGold Ashanti.

The highlight of my nickel exploration career to date would be both the discovery of the Venus nickel sulphide deposit at Leinster for BHP Billiton and the recent discovery of nickel sulphides at St George's East Laverton project, within the comparatively under-explored Burtville Terrane in the Eastern Goldfields.

While working for Digirock I was fortunate to complete a resource-drilling program on the giant Admiral

Bay Mississippi Valley-type lead-zinc deposit in the Canning Basin.

I am currently consulting to St George Mining on its East Laverton Project, working on target generation and strategic planning.

Working for myself has certainly been a sea change after I was part of the recent redundancies at BHP Billiton Nickel West.

The East Laverton project has all the geological indicators for a nickel sulphide discovery and after having run the nickel exploration in my previous role, I was more than happy to work with the enthusiastic team at St George on progressing exploration.

As an exploration geologist, you certainly get exposure to the cyclical nature of the industry early in your career. Maintaining the desired level of employment still presents a significant challenge for many geologists. The reality is, the world's population is still growing and there will continue to be some level of demand for the commodities we look for; it's just about mitigating the downturns by planning ahead as best you can.

In mineral exploration I have learnt it is important to retain a healthy mix of passion and persistence. The ability to think laterally and working for companies with the right inherent team culture



**Open-minded:** Matt's main career philosophy is to never stop learning and incorporate a healthy mix of passion and persistence.

that allow discoveries to be made is also important.

Given mineral systems are generally only going to get more difficult to discover in Australia, the importance of industry-wide collaboration is now being recognised. I also believe it is important to do what you enjoy and appreciate when times are good.

My main philosophy in my career has been to never stop learning – exploration geoscience always offers up new surprises. It is also important to be open-minded – people usually only find what they're looking for.

### Matt's track record

- Present: St George Mining, Consulting Geologist
- 2010-2014: BHP Billiton - Nickel West, Senior Geologist
- 2008-2009: Digirock, Senior Geologist
- 2007-2008: Apex Minerals, Senior Geologist
- 2006-2007: Digirock, Exploration Geologist
- 2004-2006: AngloGold Ashanti Australia, Exploration Geologist

### BOARD MOVES



Mining giant Rio Tinto has appointed **David Joyce** to the newly-created role of Global Head of Projects, following a restructure of its operations.

Mr Joyce has been working for Rio for 10 years, the last four of which saw him manage iron ore expansion projects for the Pilbara region of Western Australia and the African nation of Guinea.

Rio Tinto's General Manager Expansion Studies **Richard Cohen** has been named as Acting Managing Director for iron ore projects and developments.

Millenium Minerals has appointed **Richard Proctor** to the position of Chairman, which will further bolster the company's senior management team as it progresses development of its Nullagine gold project in the Pilbara. Mr Proctor, who has previously served as a Non-Executive Director for the company, has over 30 years' broad international experience encompassing roles in the corporate, operations, contracting, consulting and mine development areas.

The Chairman role was recently vacated by **Peter Rowe**, who headed up the company from mid-2009 and guided the financing, construction and start-up of the Nullagine project.



Gindalbie Metals Managing Director **Dale Harris** has been moved across to become CEO of the company's Karara Mining subsidiary.

Mr Harris will replace Acting CEO **Paul Sims** and will oversee the clearing of bottlenecks and ramp up production at the Chinese-controlled Karara project.

Gindalbie Metals Non-Executive Director **Michael O'Neill** will perform the Acting Managing Director role until a long-term replacement is found.

Prior to his engagement with Gindalbie Metals, Mr Harris was Chief Operating Officer of Rio Tinto's iron ore division.

South Boulder Mines' CEO **Paul Donaldson** is set to add a second string to his bow having recently been appointed as the potash-producing junior's Managing Director.

The former BHP Billiton executive, who has been performing the CEO role since February last year, will guide the company through its revised development strategy for its flagship Colluli potash project in Eritrea, Africa. South Boulder Mines Chairman **Seamus Cornelius** said Mr Donaldson had made a game-changing contribution to the Colluli strategy in the short time he had been involved.



Orion Gold's Chief Operating Officer **Bill Oliver** has been promoted to the position of Technical Director. An experienced mining executive

and geologist, Mr Oliver was the Co-founder and Director of Kamax Resources which Orion Gold acquired in March 2013 to secure its first strategic tenement holdings in the Albany-Fraser range belt of Western Australia. During the past 12 months Mr Oliver has played a key role in building Orion Gold's land holdings in the Fraser Range and has helped the company become one of the most active explorers in the region.

Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) Executive Director Petroleum **Jeff Haworth** has joined an international group of gas experts on the World Shale Council.

In his new role, Mr Haworth will regularly meet with world leaders in the shale and tight gas industries to promote and extend best practices, knowledge transfer and expertise in exploration and production. Mr Haworth said his invitation to the council was a reflection of the international respect for Western Australia's resources-related practices.

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