

## Mark Creasy - Prospector

**M**ark Creasy is a good friend to the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame.

This man has become a legend in his own lifetime, and if you know mining you will know exactly why this is so. For this is the man who prospected and eventually sold his licences in the Yandal Belt in Western Australia to Great Central Mines. Licences which now contain the highly successful and profitable Bronzewing and Jundee Goldmines.

Mark Creasy first came to Australia in 1964, and after graduating as a mining engineer from London's Royal School of Mines, returned to Australia to begin work as a mining engineer at Broken Hill, but was soon beguiled into opal prospecting in New South Wales and Queensland. It was reading Jack London's books about the Alaska gold rush that first raised Mark Creasy's interest in prospecting, but it didn't take long for him to realise that London knew next to nothing about the game!

Mark Creasy might well say that he didn't know much more than London in the beginning, but by the time he came to Western Australia in 1972, he was no longer a novice.

"All I know is I starved for years," Mark told the Australian Business Magazine back in 1995. "People use terms like 'gold fever' but that's a lot of bullshit... I've never been conscious of being feverish.

"Looking for minerals is a fascinating occupation and it gets into you, if you like. It's intellectually stimulating, physically arduous and financially, usually disastrous. But every now and again someone has a big win."

Mark Creasy had plenty of tough times before he had his big win, but there were a few pot-boilers along the way. A 46 ounce nugget he picked up with a metal detector near Mount Magnet in 1976, and then the 86 ounce specimen he found near Laverton in 1977, were both sold together with some other gold, for \$60,000.

This windfall helped to grubstake him in his search for more prospects that he was able to sell for larger sums, as interest in gold returned.

Mark Creasy had decided in 1978 that the Yandal greenstone belt situated about 400 kilometres north of Kalgoorlie, was worthy of attention, but the land was held by others at the time, so he played a waiting game until the ground was dropped.

On finally obtaining the licences, he initially explored them by panning off samples from all creeks and water

courses, then later used sophisticated geochemical surveying to prove up the ground to the point where he would be able to interest a big partner.

In areas of outcrop where gossan was visible, Mark Creasy would dolly up and pan off the sample.

He recalled, "In my major area, I had a 5km by 2km gold-soil anomaly. I had more than one outcrop - 4 ounces to the tonne, really rich stuff, sticking out of the ground.

"When I dollyed it up and panned it off, the tail went right round the bottom of the pan - rung the dish, as the term

is. In other outcrops I didn't have to dolly, since gold was visible when I broke off pieces of rock."

The stock market crash put the brakes on selling for a time, but then in 1991 Mark Creasy began shopping around.

On the 4 December 1991 a deal was done with Great Central Mines where they purchased 70% of Bronzewing and 51% of Jundee, with an option over Creasy's remaining Yandal interests. Then two and a half years later, Great Central exercised their option and bought out Creasy's remaining interest. The total purchase price was in excess of \$120 million.

GCM's mining chief, Ed Eshuys set about exploring with an aggressive and thorough drilling program, and proved Mark Creasy's



*Mark Creasy  
Patron of the Hall of Fame*



statement made at his initial meeting with Joseph Gutnick and Ed Eshuys back in December 1991 to be correct.

Mark Creasy had said, "You will get one world class gold mine out of this deal, the only question is whether there will be more than one."

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In March 1995 Scott Wilson of the Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association contacted Mark Creasy asking him to be a Patron for the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame.

Mark Creasy accepted the offer on the 3rd of April 1995.

Norma Latchford, CEO for the Hall of Fame, said that in 1997 Mark Creasy provided the funding which enabled the Hall of Fame to hold the National Architectural Competition for the building design.

"It was before we had done any major fund raising," Norma said.

"We paid the Architectural Association to facilitate the competition, the money for the prizes, the air fares for the judges to come to Kalgoorlie, all from Mark's donation.

"He had faith in us."

The Landcruiser which has got Mark Creasy into and out of plenty of trouble spots during his prospecting days, has been placed on permanent loan in the Prospecting Gallery of the Hall of Fame.

He is also the sponsor of the Minerals Gallery, for which he is making available a collection to be put into that gallery from the Borner Collection and the Gartrell Collection.

"Hundreds of rocks which will include a comprehensive collection of WA rocks and mineral specimens world wide.", was how Mark Creasy described the collection.

"Mark has been very good to us," Norma Latchford said. "He has also agreed to assist in the making of a film at Jundee at Easter time, depicting his prospecting days there, for display in the Hall of Fame."

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Mark Creasy still has a number of projects on the go.

"I employ up to two or three contract geologists at any one time," he said. "I've tantalum and zinc prospects and am still involved in gold. Gold is selling for about \$530 in Australian dollars at the moment. In fact the price of gold is now higher than its been on average for the last ten years."

Mark Creasy sees the major changes to the prospector over the last fifteen years or so as the introduction of Native Title which he said restricts access to land and raises costs beyond the capacity of many prospectors;

the removal by the Government of section 23pa of the Taxation Act which had previously allowed a bona fide prospector to sell tenements without paying capital gains tax; and the regulations under the new Mining Act, amongst others, which incur long delays with their requirements of environmental impact statements, bonds to be lodged, and added costs.

"Under the old Mining Act if you pegged a Gold Mining Lease it was granted almost immediately, you were able to mine immediately. In fact you were required to mine immediately under pain of forfeiture," he explained.

"If you want to go and peg something now you wait. Before you get it granted there's a whole pile of things before you can do anything. In 1981 you'd find something, start mining and start making money. Now its years later."

"However a major benefit has been the network of gas pipelines we are establishing, providing cheap and secure power. This will effect the decision of the major players as to where they invest in the world," he said.

"It's coming to service current industries, but it will create new industry, new mining development. And there are a large number of very big mineral deposits still out there waiting to be found.

"Each year the number decreases," he said. "But I'll bet my bottom dollar there are still great knobs of metal and gold poking out of the ground!"

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Mark Creasy believes the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame has a very important role to play in the preservation and display of Australian mining history.

"I am personally extremely interested in the history of mining in general. I believe I've read all the Western Australian books on mining history and would have read a significant number of the books on Australian mining history.

"The mining industry has been very significant in the development of Australia.

"But just as important is the present and the future.

"I personally believe mineral specimens are as worthy of attention as a Van Gogh or Picasso, to introduce people to the wonders of the natural world."

-Faye Jones.

ref: David Bernstein, 'Diamonds & Demons'.

& Australian Business Magazine,  
Jan. 1995.

## A Talented Young Man

I suspect life after the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame will be a little dull for Ahmad Abas.

Ahmad Abas is the architect of the Hall of Fame, having won first prize for his design for this impressive building in the National Competition held back in 1997, and once the Hall of Fame is completed in August of this year, his professional involvement with the building will end.

Not so long ago, Ahmad studied architecture at the University of Western Australia and after diversifying for a few years, returned to that profession in 1995-6 when he joined Ferguson and Associates, an established Perth firm of architects.

It was a quiet time for the industry in 1997, when Ahmad asked his employers if they had any objections to his entering the Hall of Fame's competition, which was being administered by Architectural Association.

With their blessing the young man threw himself into the project by initially getting to know the environment the building was to be placed in, and the industry it was to represent.

"Then lo and behold," he said. "Several months down the track it turned out they picked our design. It was quite exciting!"

"At that point neither the Hall of Fame nor us was certain how the funding to proceed with the building would take place.

"It was about another twelve months before things started to move and the government came forward with some money, and then we pulled all the old drawings out and had a closer look at them.

"The brief for the competition was fairly detailed as to what had to be provided for in the building. It hasn't changed that much from the original design plans - but it has evolved naturally, like all things do from the initial idea."

"I think the fact that we had come to Kalgoorlie and had a look around enabled us to come up with a plan that was very closely related to and in sympathy with Kalgoorlie - the town and the region."

"In respect to appearance and form - a response to Kalgoorlie itself really. We came up in the lead-up to the competition just to have a look around and get a feel for the place - the flavour associated with mining.

Ahmad Abas explained, "If you look at the profile of any old Kalgoorlie weather board house, it has a successive evolution of lean-tos as the family grew out into the backyard."

"Basically, the building is made up of a series of small elements which have been heaped up against each other, based on the principle of the lean-to.

"It's the Australian shed represented on a very large scale, semi-industrial, use of materials like grey concrete, zincalume sheeting, very simple materials which are the language of buildings out here.

"Instead of one big solid lump of building, we've broken it down to appear more interesting.

"It's as though the original part of the building has been reduced in size, and we've magnified and accentuated the lean-to leaning up against it."

The design project team which had initially involved Ferguson and Associates as the architects, grew to include the sculptural engineer, the mechanical engineer, the electrical engineer, and all the various other consultants. Together they produced the documents and drawings and then Devaugh's won the tender and construction was under way.



*Ahmad Abas, architect of the Hall of Fame*

Ahmad Abas said, "We raised the building on a podium so the main level for the public to use is actually one level above ground level, and at ground level we've got services, storage areas, room for further expansion.

"The main level plan is actually a pin wheel design. The entrance and foyer area connect up to a linear circulation hallway where the major galleries spin off. It breaks up at the very end into a large place called the 'Business of Mining', and that is a huge triple volume space, which could accommodate a haulpac or other large machinery as part of a display.

"Above the main level is an area which is a double volume space. This overlooks a large long bridge which will physically be the Hall of Fame itself, and its along this bridge section that the plaques of those inducted into the Hall of Fame will be fixed.



"The airconditioning plant is on the third level, then on the fourth is a breakout space to the observation deck, which incorporates an abstract head frame so the people can look over Hannans North Tourist Mine and the surrounding bushland."

This is the biggest project Ahmad has been involved with to date, and he fully appreciates the backing and experience of Ferguson and Associates.

"It has been fairly unique putting up a building this size in a landscape like this," he said. "Usually they are in the middle of towns. The building is treated in a very sculptural way because it sits out in the middle with no backdrop, so it doesn't really have a front and a back and two sides. It's got a lot of very unique aspects to it, including the very reason for its existence.

"The opening is in October, but it will be interesting to

get to August when we finish the physical building. It will be the end of a journey that started in 1997 for me. An incredible journey to watch the evolution of this project from the competition drawings."

At the moment Ahmad Abas is needed onsite in Kalgoorlie about once a fortnight, but he is expecting to be needed in Kalgoorlie much more often in the near future as many different facets of the building begin to come together simultaneously, to the point that he will be available onsite full time for the final weeks of construction.

There is no doubt that our architect is a very talented young man, who has brought sculptural as well as architectural talents to the initial and ongoing design of the Hall of Fame. We will hear more of Ahmad Abas, he is a young man with a future.

## Milestones

**O**n April 2nd, more milestones were achieved on our project's pathway to becoming a National project, when the second of many guided tours occurred, where a group of potential supporters inspected the rapid site progress.

It is now possible to explain on-site just how the various galleries link together telling the great story of how prospecting and mining contribute to the well-being of all Australians.

Various aspects of the new building and surrounding areas were explained, including special rehabilitation features.

Immediately following this visit, at a General Meeting of members, the Board was restructured to permit National directors to be recruited onto the Board. This will enable the project to achieve National Status prior to the official opening in October.

The Mining Hall project is essentially a joint venture between four partners:

Federal Government

State Government

The Mining Industry

Hundreds of individual supporters/members

The new Constitution that was adopted at the meeting limits the maximum number of directors to nine, whereas the previous Board numbered 13 plus alternate directors.

The new Board as elected consists of Ron Manners,

Richard Scallan and Andrew Caulton, with Bruce Harris as Company Secretary.

This Board will be expanded with a balance of high profile professional individuals to participate in the prime functions of National publicity, fundraising and policy. All new directors will be up for re-election at this years Annual General Meeting.

Many of the previous day-to-day management functions will be conducted by a Management Committee working together with the State Committees already formed, in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

At a Board Meeting prior to the General Meeting, Chairman Ron Manners paid tribute to the present and former directors.

"The remarkable achievement of this rapidly completing project is a tribute to your fine work and tireless efforts toward the project since its formation 5 years ago. I urge all former directors to maintain their present enthusiasm by encouraging a higher degree of local membership".

"Our new website <http://www.mininghall.com> already contains particulars of progress photos, events and membership benefits and enrolment details. This website will be our means of regular communication with the public, our members and schools throughout Australia and will be one of the most advanced websites in Australia by the time of our opening October".

# The Icon takes Shape

INTERIOR VIEW OF THE  
BUSINESS OF MINING  
GALLERY

STEELWORKS IN THE  
BUSINESS OF MINING  
GALLERY

COMPLETION OF  
THE LIFT SHAFT

THE THEATRETTE

THE WEST ELEVATION

## A Brilliant Idea!

Lindsay Stockdale has had a lot of input into the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame over the years.

And the game's not over yet!

It began on Monday the 11th of April 1994, when Max King asked Lindsay to come around.

"There's a letter we need to discuss," he said.

At that time Max King and Lindsay Stockdale were the President and Secretary of the Amalgamated Prospectors & Leaseholders Association (APLA).

The letter was from Lee Ranford, who was the Director General of the Department of Minerals & Energy, advising APLA that there was a group from the Centenary of Federation Funding Committee in Western Australia looking for submissions.

The "Council of Australian Governments" had created this advisory committee to develop ideas and strategies on how Australians should celebrate the "Centenary of Federation" in the year 2001.

Lindsay Stockdale recalled, "At the time APLA was lobbying hard to get more milling facilities here to replace the government batteries that were closed down, and I think that was what Lee Ranford was thinking of. That we should go for some funding to get milling facilities spread out through the state for prospectors.

"But when Max read me the letter, I thought, 'What about a Hall of Fame for Prospectors?' and Mrs King was there and she said 'That sounds like a brilliant idea!' So the idea of even considering milling facilities went out the window and we just concentrated on the Hall of Fame."

The APLA branches around the State were quickly canvassed and with their 'all clear' the proposal was under way.

Max King wrote up the submission which had to be in by the 30th April 1994.

"I thought it was a good submission," Lindsay Stockdale said.

He explained the basis.

"During the period leading up to Federation, although the State of Western Australia was reluctant to join, the people of the Goldfields were in favour.

"Most had come from the Eastern States, and they were receiving poor representation in the WA Parliament.

"In March 1900 about 28,000 people from the Goldfields signed a petition to form a separate colony so that they could join the Commonwealth as a separate State. This petition was forwarded to Queen Victoria who advised Sir John Forrest 'To make a

resolute effort to bring the Colony into Federation at once.' The Western Australian Government then held a referendum on the 31st of July 1900 resulting in WA joining the Commonwealth."

It was on the historical significance of the Goldfields' 'Yes' vote that took Western Australia into Federation, that APLA based their submission to receive federal funding for the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame.

And much much further down the track they discovered they had been successful, when the Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard, in September 1998 pledged \$5million towards the project from the 'Centenary of Federation Fund'.

Shortly after that announcement the WA State Government pledged \$2.5 million, with a further \$500,000 announced recently.

At the same time as lodging the submission in April 1994, APLA sent copies to the different business leaders such as the Chamber of Commerce, Department of Minerals and Energy, Amex, etc. seeking their support.

"We got letters back from the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission and the Chamber of Commerce and that was it. No one else answered us," Lindsay Stockdale said.

"Then Kris Laurie rang one day and asked if she could get involved. Said she'd liked the idea and we seemed to be getting nowhere.

"Kris was a coordinator - so she took it on board and on the 1st July 1994 a meeting of State Government, Mining and Community leader was called in Kalgoorlie by APLA which resulted in the formation of a foundation committee whose main task was to formally constitute the project."

The Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame Ltd. was registered as a Public Company on April 6th 1995 and, in June 1995, as a tax exempt Foundation, Centre of Learning, Science and a Public Museum.

"Right from the beginning Max and I thought it had to be a Hall of Fame plus a complete mining museum," Lindsay Stockdale said.

"To stand alone financially, it has to be something big enough to keep the people interested and make them want to come."

About six months later the Foundation Committee called for expressions of interest from those who wanted to have the Hall of Fame built at a venue of their choice. Submissions came from the Coolgardie Shire, from Don Hancock to build at Ora Banda and from Hannans North Mining Heritage Precinct.

After due consideration it was agreed the site for the Hall of Fame would be at Hannans North.

"Hannans North was the favoured site



because of the infra-structure that was already there, but I felt we would be limited by the size," Lindsay Stockdale said

"Coolgardie's was an excellent proposition. They were going to utilise the old buildings that were there. You'd have been working within the town, but everything would have had to be built.

"I liked the idea of Ora Banda because it had the battery there and people would have to travel. I thought people would base themselves in Kalgoorlie and travel there and that would probably mean they would stay in Kalgoorlie longer.

"It will work out. I think with a two or three day ticket - instead of trying to get it all done in one day. They can casually go one day and have a break then go another day and have a break and



Lindsay Stockdale

go a third day. Historically the tourists stay in Kalgoorlie for two days, so we've got to stop that"

In 1996 the Foundation Committee was replaced by a Management Council. This effectively reduced what had been a committee of some thirty people, to a small working group of six people, who met on a weekly

basis and kept the caravan moving forwards.

The Management Council consisted of Kris Laurie, Wendy Carter, Kath Stanick, Norma Latchford, Bruce Harris and Lindsay Stockdale.

The Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association formerly withdrew their name from the submission for federal funding, to be replaced by the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame.

Lindsay Stockdale commented, "So APLA was right out of it then and it was up to the Management Council to keep it going."

In July 1997 the Board of the Hall of Fame in conjunction with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, held a National Architectural Design Competition to select a building design for the Hall and Museum complex.

In September 1997 from a selection of 41 entries, the design created by Ahmad Abas of the firm R.J. Ferguson & Assoc. Perth WA was declared the winning entry.

Official launches were then held in every Capital city, commencing with Perth in December 1997.

"We thought we'd get the architectural competition done so we had a design to present,

Lindsay Stockdale said.

"From the official launches we were to have the contacts to approach to get the fund raising done."

In addition to the funds pledged by the Federal and State Governments, a considerable amount of money still had to be raised to complete the task, hopefully from the industry and its supporters.

Lindsay Stockdale said that at one stage there was talk of building the Hall of Fame in Canberra.

"Having the Hall of Fame here, the surrounding district is part of the museum and we must protect it, or it might as well have gone to Canberra," he said.

"For hundreds of kilometres around that museum we have our heritage, old mine shafts, they will form part of this museum. If you see an old mine shaft, if you've got any imagination at all you picture it could have been big enough to have a community there, a hotel - they were good drinkers in the old days.

"Wherever they started a little mineral field a town developed, it's not like this fly in fly out that we've got now.

"There are some people out there who want to fill in the old mine shafts.

"APLA have been lobbying the Department of Minerals and Energy against it.

"This will be an ideal opportunity for the small tour operators, because people who come to see the Hall of Fame, will want to see the surrounding district."

Great oaks from little acorns grow, and no truer example could be seen than the Hall of Fame silhouetted against the Goldfields skyline which began a just an idea, a little bit of electricity in a man's brain, "What about a Hall of Fame for Prospectors?" was where it all began.

Lindsay Stockdale had the idea, and he has stayed with that idea, right through thick and thin.

There was APLA, then the Foundation Committee, followed by the Management Council, and for the last two years Lindsay Stockdale has been on the Board of Directors, and he still has ideas, he still has a vision.

"My vision is a whole education system for the mining industry."

"One of the big things I have been pushing is the environment. It's so important.

"People have perceptions. Whether you like it or not people perceive the mining industry as environmental vandals and I've always maintained that we need something probably as big as the Hall of Fame again, just on the environment.

"That's how big an issue it is.

"It needs to be an exhibit that's very well presented to show the people of Australia we are doing the right thing.

"Show them we have things in place, controls, regulations, to show we are protecting the environment.

**"Run the right way, I believe the Hall of Fame is one of the best things that could come to this town," Lindsay Stockdale concluded firmly.**

# How the First (New Generation) Drilling Rig Came to Western Australia

**Q** *Quite a few years back when I was editor of Goldfields Magazine, I published a story from the 1960's, written for me by Ron Manners. I am including this story to perhaps give you an insight into the man who is the Chairman of the Hall of Fame.*  
- Editor.

When the Nickel Boom came on us, slowly at first, we were presented with new challenges and I was on the door-step of International Nickel when I heard that they had sent a geologist, Barry Krause, from Sudbury, Canada to establish an exploration office in Kalgoorlie.

I asked what W.G. Manners & Co could do to assist?

He had two requests: "How can I get some air-conditioning into this place?"

His was a serious inquiry about air-conditioning, as at that time there were only a few Aquacool evaporative air coolers around Kalgoorlie.

They were large evaporative coolers with a roller drum covered with rubberised horse-hair rotating in a bath of water.

What he wanted was reverse-cycle air-conditioning, and until that time, Kalgoorlie had 4 cycle electricity which precluded the use of conventional refrigerated air-conditioners, without extensive modification.

However, that was still an easy request and was quickly organised.

His second request was a little more challenging.

He wanted a drilling contractor as he wished to place a contract for several thousand feet of deep percussion drilling, and he wanted it done in a hurry.

I clicked my heels and promised to report back with a drilling contractor.

It took me about a day to firstly, find out what a drilling contractor was.

Western Mining Corporation did all their own drilling and that was the extent of exploration around here.

But I did manage to locate one.

He was a local pastoralist, Harry Davies who had an old "mud-puncher" he had used for some water well drilling.

I knew Harry, so I asked him to come along with me. But Harry nearly freaked out when I told him the scope of the contract and he calculated that it would take him about six years to complete the contract with his rig, if he could get down at all.

Harry was not in a winning mode, but he fronted up with me at International Nickel's office (we called them Inco), the next day.

Anytime the discussion got a bit technical I would step in and say, "We have that point under control."

The Inco chief was so impressed that he signed Harry up on the spot and drilling was to commence about a week later.

As we left the Inco office, Harry said to me "Where do I get a drill rig?"

Don't laugh. Kalgoorlie didn't even have television in those days and there were certainly no suitable drill rigs available in WA

Back we went to my office and spent the rest of the day phoning around Australia in search of a rig.

We found one - in Queensland, a Schramm 42 but it was track mounted.

We didn't know at that time that it had been sitting in Evans Deakin's yard for about 3 years after being imported from the US for a test which it had failed.

Nevertheless in about 10 seconds W.G. Manners & Co became the WA Schramm drilling rig agent and Harry was duly signed up as our first client.

Harry made a few calls and located a second-hand International truck with delivery instructions for the truck to be sent to Evans Deakin Engineering Works in Sylvania, south of Sydney where the track mounted rig was to be despatched.

The truck was too short so the chassis had to be lengthened.

Their estimated time for lengthening and transferring the track-mounted rig to the truck was one week, so we were at least coming close to our promised deadline of commencing drilling in Kalgoorlie within a week.

So far so good, and the next day Harry put a proposition to me.



Ron Manners  
Chairman of the Hall of Fame



As I had got him into this, the least I could do was come to Sydney with him and help him drive the rig from Sydney to Kalgoorlie.

Everything sounds simple when reasonable people are dealing with each other, so off we went to Sydney expecting work to be completed, and the rig to be in a drive-away condition.

No such luck. By the time we got there the rig was still on tracks.

It had been in the weather so long that the bolts all had to be cut off, one by one.

The truck was there, but the wiring was not of a standard that would allow licensing in Sydney.

There we were, Harry and I, so we pitched in and went to work alongside the Evans Deakin team, Harry helping with the drill change-over and I confined my activity to re-wiring the truck.

We stayed at a nearby hotel known as the Sylvania Hotel, where after 3 nights, we ran out of money.

A bit embarrassing, but it was not much use asking for some money to be sent over as nobody had any in those days. So we asked the hotel owner if he had a truck in need of re-wiring or anything else useful we could do to enable us to continue staying at his hotel.

No, he didn't have a truck to be re-wired but he did need 2 musicians to accompany his very popular piano playing singer, Charles.

If we performed on a 7-night per week basis he would allow us to live in the staff quarters.

It was a great 3 weeks. Harry played the gourd (up under your chin etc), and I played the maracas.

I was so proud of being able to hold down a serious job like that for 3 weeks that I asked the manager for a reference, which I still have.

*"To whom it may concern*

*During his association with our Orchestra as First Maraca, Mr Ron Manners discharged his responsibilities with unbelievable finesse.*

*Only on rare occasions was he known to have brought disgrace to the fine reputation acquired over the years by our Sylvania Hotel.*

*It is therefore with only a little reluctance that we are pleased to recommend Mr Manners for any higher calling in the entertainment field.*

*Be assured that Mr Manners will not be forgotten by the Sylvania.*

*H. Ryan, Manager"*

Work continued every day on modifying the rig and about the only communication we received from the West was the daily telex from Barry Krause of Inco threatening to cancel the contract if we were not on the job by the next day.

We telexed replies but nothing sounded believable, even apart from our new careers as professional musicians.

We only hoped that we really did have the only available drilling rig in Australia, suitable for the contract.

Eventually, we did drive away from Sydney in that newly painted bright red drilling rig, looking very much like an overgrown fire engine.

We left amid cheers of the Evans Deakin team as we had made sure the job received top priority, and I think some of their other jobs had been quietly accumulating.

Licensing the rig also became a nightmare as the authorities insisted on including the value of the drill-rig in the value of the truck and there was no way we could raise that kind of money.

We decided to risk driving it to the West on a temporary "NSW" only permit.

Out on the open road we soon purchased a road map and as I hadn't been to Mittagong we had to go that way.

Harry hadn't been to Canberra so we went that way. We saw a lot of country and caused a lot of traffic jams as we backed our monster out of various one-way streets.

We also avoided the main trucking routes, to minimise contact with traffic check-points.

Then we eventually hit the long dirt track and crossed the Nullarbor, and that is when we had our first real set-back.

One night, whilst boiling the billy, we looked up at the large pine box strapped to the back of the rig, in which we stowed all the Mission-brand down-hole-hammers and drill bits.

We noticed the bottom of the crate had burst and it was empty - perhaps \$50,000 worth of vital components.

No insurance, no cash to purchase replacements, probably no such thing as replacements in WA at that time.

Two very serious characters conferred around that campfire as we compared our alternatives of either arriving back with a useless rig or re-tracing our tracks and looking for the missing bits and pieces. We chose the latter, and two days later we picked up the last of the missing items.

They had "leaked out" of the crate one by one, each now covered in dust and looking completely useless to the passing traffic, but each of these items we picked up and checked off on the invoice list, lifted our spirits.

So we turned again for home, and crossed the Nullarbor for the third time.

Harry Davies' contract with Inco was a success, so much of a success that he was awarded more contracts and he bought many more Schramm rigs.

Harry accepted the challenge and provided a service. He risked his money and reputation and out of that first Schramm drill rig developed Davies Drilling, a firm that emerged at that time as the largest percussion drilling contractor in the Southern Hemisphere.

I know that there are many success stories to come out of Kalgoorlie, but I thought you might enjoy this simple first hand story of how one of our success stories actually got started.

**If it encourages more of us to take those first steps of confidence, first steps are always hardest, then the Kalgoorlie tradition of accepting the challenge will continue.**

-Ron Manners.





## Prospecting Gallery

The Prospecting Gallery will be completed for the opening of the building in October, 2001. It will offer to the visiting public an inspiring look at prospecting conveyed through the sections of Individual Prospecting, a Mineral Discovery Tunnel, Company Exploration and the Government's Role.

Individual Prospecting focuses on some of the famous characters who have made their mark with their discoveries of major finds in Australia. By picking up the receiver of an old telephone the visitor will be able to listen in to a conversation between a historical prospector and a contemporary prospector who have worked the same ground almost a century apart from each other. People will be able to gain insight into the working of a metal detector through their own experimentation that will involve choice and initiative.

The Mineral Discovery Tunnel focuses on important aspects of Australia's mineral discoveries. The feeling of enclosure for this section will be created by building the entrance as an opening to an underground mine, using low lit lighting and making use of the floor, walls and ceiling to complete the surround feeling. The visitor will be introduced to the types of rocks mined by the Aboriginal people and the tools they used. An early goldfields tent setting will be combined with modern technology using a web camera. The public will stand in front of the tent scene and have their photo taken. This image will then be available for a period of time to access worldwide on the Miners Hall of Fame Website.

The Company Exploration section will show the history of Australian company exploration and their discoveries. On entering a circular room the visitor will activate a surround sound and video monitor show, highlighting Australian companies exploring around the world. Across the room with the touch of a finger on the computer screen even the youngest visitor will have the power to select and rotate 3D models of giant ore bodies.

An interactive map of Australia allowing visitors to "dial-a-deposit" will form the introduction exhibit into the Government's Role in Prospecting. Places where our leading resources are mined will be highlighted on this large map of Australia by selecting buttons from the activity stations. By picking up a telephone handset the visitor will be able to listen to someone in the industry with interesting facts about the resource. A commissioned Aboriginal Artwork depicting the significance of land will feature in the Native Title section.

Interpretation through this medium of paint on canvas will help convey to the visitor the complex issues surrounding Native Title and Mining Companies.

The Prospecting Gallery will prove to be an enriching experience for everyone and will set the high precedence for the other Galleries to follow.

Designing an exhibition within a Museum is a complex and involved process. When I get the opportunity to revisit an installation which I have previously been involved with, I often stop to reflect on the incredible amount of blood, sweat and sometimes tears that have gone into making this cultural product really work.



*James Cooper*

I remember hours sifting through every paint chart available in search of the illusive colour which will complement that particular section perfectly. Driving around Perth, scouring salvage yards to find the four paned wooden window to fit into the fabricated weatherboard shed wall. We had to make it look the same as the shed in the large historical photographic enlargement being used as a backdrop for the diorama. Constant meetings with curators and researchers to make sure that the complete story is being told, that no artefact has been left off the showcase list, that the proposed computer interactive will communicate with the visiting public as it is set out to do.

The designing and installation processes for the Galleries within the Australian Prospecting and Miners Hall of Fame are no different. Even though the location and the storyline are not the same as before it is the attention to the details which will make it work successfully.

The Prospecting Gallery within the Hall of Fame is receiving this attention at the moment. The space has been designed in

close consultation with members of the Exhibition Development Committee and it is through this liaison that nothing has been left to chance. The fabrication in the first of a series of world class galleries is close to getting under way. It will be presented to the public for them to discover the World of Prospecting through cleverly designed interactive and static displays. The gallery will be broken into four main areas: 1) Individual Prospecting, 2) Mineral Discovery Centre, 3) Company Exploration and 4) Government's Role. It will feature such things as historical and contemporary Tools of the Trade, a Global Exploration Surround Sound Room and a Mineral Discovery Interactive station.

The Business of Mining Gallery, Mining in Context Gallery and the actual Mining and Prospectors Hall of Fame Gallery are all in different stages of development but are all being treated with the same amount of care as the Prospecting Gallery. Exciting displays to look forward to seeing.

I graduated with a Degree in Design from Curtin University and started working in the Perth Cultural Centre at the State Library Service of Western Australia in their Exhibition & Design Department.

The next stage of my professional career was at Murdoch University where I managed their Design Department. While I was employed at Murdoch I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity from a very generous boss, to have two extended working away periods. The first was at the Queensland Art Gallery and the second was at the National Gallery in Canberra. The learning curve was steep but inspiring.

Three dimensional design had certainly bit deep into me.

On my return from Canberra I applied for a position as Senior Exhibition Designer with the Western Australian Museum and found myself not long after that working back in the Cultural Centre after an absence of nearly eight years.

I compare my three and a half years spent at the Western Australian Museum like completing another University Degree but being paid for it and having the opportunity to work with many interesting and talented people. Again the learning curve was steep but inspiring.

So now I find myself managing the design and installation assignment for the exhibitions which will be housed in The Australian Prospectors & Miners Hall of Fame in Kalgoorlie. It is proving to be a challenging project but on completion

this Museum will offer a highly innovative experience for visitors and educate them on the complexities of the Mining Industry in Australia.

James Cooper

Senior Designer

Australian Miners & Prospectors Hall of Fame Project

## Rio Tinto

Recently Rio Tinto decided to support, by way of a donation of funds, the Australian Prospectors & Miners Hall of Fame.

Rio Tinto is a world leader in finding, mining and processing mineral resources.

The Group was created in 1995 by the unification of the Australian based CRA Limited and The RTZ Corporation PLC in the United Kingdom. In 1997, the group formally became known as Rio Tinto.

Group companies in 40 countries around the world employ some 34,500 people. In 1999 group sales were \$9.3 billion and net earnings were \$1.2 billion.

About 35% of the Groups assets are located in Australia, from which it derives 37% of its global sales revenue.

Rio Tinto's Australian businesses include Hamersley Iron, Argyle Diamonds and Dampier Salt in Western Australia, Pacific Coal & Comalco in Queensland and Tasmania, and Coal & Allied and Peak Gold in New South Wales.

In addition, in 2000, Rio Tinto acquired North Limited with substantial iron ore interests in Western Australia and other mining operations in Australia.

Rio Tinto concentrates on the development of world class, long life mines and takes a long term and responsible approach to all aspects of its business, providing the necessary raw materials for international economic progress and prosperity into the 21st Century.

Why are Rio Tinto putting money into this project:

An important value change in recent years is the growing assertion of the right of people everywhere to greater and more direct participation in the decisions affecting their neighbourhoods and environments. A company that becomes seriously out of touch with the views of its host communities and other stakeholders puts itself at risk just as surely as a company that loses touch with changes in its marketplace.

Rio Tinto has developed global policies that govern the way in which their operations around the world conduct relations with their stakeholders.

One of the major considerations influencing these policies is the long life of their operations. They aim to maximise shareholder value over the total life of the resources and assets they manage - typically several decades. With that time span, it makes sense to invest in the future by earning the trust and respect of people who could be part of their community for years to come. Good community relations provide a surer basis for effective uninterrupted business operations.

It seems natural then that Rio Tinto support, by way of a donation of funds, the Australian Prospectors & Miners Hall of Fame in Kalgoorlie, in particular the Resource and Information Centre.



## Sandvik Tamrock Pty Ltd

Last year Sandvik Tamrock made a commitment to support the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame to the tune of \$100,000 to be paid over three years.

This decision was not made lightly, as Ewan Trott who is the General Manager - Mining in Australia explained.

"Even though we have spent a lot of money on facilities both local and throughout Australia, we thought that there existed a need to lift our image and gain more exposure throughout the industry. We saw this opportunity and decided that this was the avenue we should follow to achieve the above objectives.

"We were seeking better value over a longer period of time when we decided to look at the Hall of Fame.

"People can go there any day of the week throughout the year."

Sandvik Tamrock will be supporting the drilling exhibit, and Sandvik Tamrock sees the benefits to the company in the form of internet access through the Hall of Fame's website to be a major plus, as any research and development results that Sandvik Tamrock wish to make available in a controlled manner, will be accessible to their client base.

Ewan Trott said, "A lot of engineers are interested in where we are going with our equipment, services and spare parts and what is the natural progression with this underground mining.

"If they had somewhere they could pick up the information, the automation side of the industry wouldn't be such a

mystery - they would have access."

Sandvik Tamrock which employees 295 people throughout Australia, 95 of whom are in the West, has evolved over the years from when they were known as Compair distributing the Tamrock/Toro range of equipment. From there Tamrock bought the Compair Mining division and started to sell direct within Australia. Then two years ago the integration of Sandvik Tamrock brought together two companies within the mining industry who were already market leaders in their particular fields, thus creating a company second to none in supplying equipment, service, consumables and spare parts.

The company has twenty apprentices in the National Apprentice Scheme, and see education within the industry as part of their responsibility.

"The Hall of Fame website will give young people doing school projects a starting point," Ewan Trott said.

"We hope they will immediately think, 'Hall of Fame', and they will be able to go into the different companies information.

Andrew Caulton, who is Deputy Chairman of the Australian Prospectors & Miners Hall of Fame, said the 'unprompted' donation by Sandvik Tamrock was 'like a breath of fresh air'!

"A lot of the approaches have been very difficult and very hard to negotiate. But Sandvik Tamrock contacted the Hall of Fame."

"The Board of the Hall of Fame were extremely happy and proud that the agreement with this Kalgoorlie based company was negotiated and signed here in Kalgoorlie," he said.



Sandvik Tamrock's Western Region Distribution Centre situated in Kalgoorlie.