

20 DECEMBER 2012

A CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS

Please find attached the Ausdrill 25 Year Anniversary book "*A Celebration of 25 Years*".

A hard copy version of the book is being distributed to shareholders.

AUSDRILL LIMITED



Domenic Santini
Company Secretary

**BRINGING MORE
TO MINING**



A Celebration of 25 Years

*“A business succeeds not because it is big
or it has long been established but because there are
men and women in it, who live it, sleep it, dream it,
believe in it and build great plans for it.”*



A Celebration of 25 Years

HUGH BROWN



Back from left: Metea Martial, Apa Bienvenu, Douh Macaire, Unknown, Mout Emile.
Front from left: Ampalanga Yabinoh, Bocklo, Mbalam, Cameroon, West Africa, 2008.
Previous pages 2 and 3: Building wind rows around a giant baobab tree just before midnight, Yatela Gold Mine, Mali, West Africa, 2011.

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Contract Mining Services

AUSTRALIA

Kimberley Metals – Ridges
BHPBIO – Pilbara
BHPBIO – Mining Area C
Rio Tinto
FMG – Cloudbreak/Christmas Creek
Mineral Resources – Carina

PERTH

First Quantum Minerals –
Ravensthorpe Nickel Operation

KCGM – Super Pit
AngloGold Ashanti – Sunrise Dam
Navigator Resources – Bronzewing
Gold Fields – St Ives
Gold Fields – Kambalda & Agnew
Central Norseman Gold – Royal North

Oz Minerals – Prominent Hill

ADELAIDE

BRISBANE

Santos – Roma, QLD

Ensham Resources – Ensham, QLD

Randgold Resources – Gara, Loulo Operation
Randgold Resources – Yalea
Newmont Gold – Subika Decline, Ahafo Operation
Kinross – Chirano

BAMAKO

GHANA

ACCRA

Perseus Mining – Edikan Gold Mine
Adamus Resources – Nzema Gold
Kinross – Chirano
Golden Star – Pampe
Newmont Gold – Ahafo Operation

AngloGold Ashanti – Yatela, Mali

Ouagadougou

AFRICA

African Mining Services
African Underground Mining Services (AUMS 50% JV)
Ausdrill Tanzania
Ausdrill Zambia

AngloGold Ashanti – Geita Gold Mine
BHP Billiton – Western Zambia

LUSAKA

Dar es Salaam

Foreword

When it was suggested we put together a picture book to commemorate our 25th birthday, I was asked to write the foreword and when told the book was going to be approximately 150 pages, my initial reaction was “the book ain’t big enough.” So much has transpired in the past 25 years. All of it memorable, some of it repeatable, most of it unprintable. So for this very special book I have chosen to tell the story of Joe Yunek, a great bloke. For the rest, you will have to wait until I retire.

Ausdrill is a fantastic company and is made up of some of the hardest working and most innovative people you would ever want to meet. It has also produced some of the real characters of the mining industry throughout Australia, Africa and South America over the past 25 years.

Hopefully, this collection of photographs and stories recognises all the talent of those people who have contributed to the success story that is Ausdrill today.

Whilst I more than likely won’t be here in the next 25 years, I am sure Ausdrill will go on to be one of the great service companies to the mining industry in the world.

I would like to thank Hugh Brown; a truly talented photographer who has helped make it possible to take you on this amazing journey.

Please enjoy a glimpse of our past 25 years.

RON SAYERS







John Cook, Bit Sharpening, Majestic Gold Project, Goldfields, Western Australia, 2011.

Previous pages 8 and 9: Ben Small stands in front of a T685 Grade Control Rig, Super Pit, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, 2011.

Introduction

Six months ago while in West Africa, I'd just left African Mining Services' Head Office in Accra, Ghana, to pick up a flight to take me to Senegal for another job. I'd given myself two hours to get past the check-in gurus at the airport and pass through the friendly people in Customs. Only trouble was that Air Nigeria had a different take on the festivities and decided my letter of introduction to Senegal was not sufficient to get a visa, and further, that payment from my client had not gone through for my air ticket. I had enough US\$ for a one-way ticket but that was not going to be sufficient for Air Nigeria to let me on their plane. And they wouldn't take a credit card.

Discussion was vigorous to put it mildly but after a while I'd decided that there was no point arguing the toss any further. My plane was due to depart at 17.05 and it was now 16.15. Things weren't looking great to say the least and my Senegalese client had given up the ghost and told me to give things a miss and come back next year. But something kept telling me to keep pushing.

At about 16.20 I jumped on the phone to the guys in the Africa Mining Services office in Accra and by 16.30 a driver had arrived carrying enough US\$ to enable me to purchase a return ticket to Dakar and keep a bit of spending money. In the space of ten minutes a financial requisition had been put together and signed and one of their vehicles had made what was ordinarily a 15 minute drive. By 16.45 I'd passed through check-in and just managed to make the flight. My client in Senegal couldn't believe that we'd pulled it off.

What happened in Accra six months ago is only one example of the extraordinary generosity that permeates the Ausdrill group of companies. It is a group that takes in 18 different businesses and 5,000 people across three continents; a culture in which everything is possible and in which all will do everything they can to achieve


seemingly impossible goals. It is a business that prides itself on being a family rather than just another workplace.

It is this culture that has seen the group grow from a market capitalisation of A\$5.5M ten years ago, to an ASX200-Listed company that services some of the world's leading and emerging resource and energy companies. It is a company with a market capitalisation of around a billion dollars that is far more than a drilling company, one that provides services and products to the entire mining life cycle.

It is a company that manufactures drill rigs, drill bits, pipe and components; a company that incorporates a major assay laboratory in Canning Vale and one that produces high technology haul-pak trays. It provides mining supply and logistics solutions for its own and third-party businesses, manufactures bulk explosives and provides blasting services. It has become a key player in the coal-seam gas drill market and provides water-well drilling services. It is also a company that provides design and construction services in the telecommunications and underground power industries.

This book has been produced to coincide with Ausdrill's 25th birthday on the 22 December 2011. It incorporates a selection of images from Ausdrill's early cable-bolting days and its first major contract at the Super Pit, to more recent images such as the coal-seam gas drilling at Longreach in Western Queensland and the water-well drilling at Christmas Creek.

I hope you enjoy Ausdrill's past 25 years as much as I look forward to the excitement of what can be achieved in the next 25 years.

HUGH BROWN 



EXPLORATION

*The Quest for Mineral
and Energy Wealth*

Aaron Solomon, Nick Henderson, Gary ('Huggy') Poata, Jeremy Baskerville,
RC Exploration, Mt Cooke, Pilbara, Western Australia, 2011.



Isaac Adjapong and Mathias Morka, RAB Rig, Atewa Forest, Ghana, West Africa, 2006.

Ken Hicks, Bit Sharpening,
Manganese Exploration,
Mt Cooke, Pilbara, Western
Australia, 2011.





Jesse Hall, Diamond Driller, Rudall Base Metals Project,
Great Sandy Desert, 2011.

On the exploration front you were out in the bush and had freedom. The rules I guess, were there but they weren't enforced so you could do pretty much what you liked and got on with life using your own wits without too many rules to push you around. But that's obviously changed now—especially the exploration side. The exploration side was very good—getting around the bush after a bit of rain and seeing the birds and the wildflowers. It was good.

Mick Crocker

RC Drilling for Manganese, Mt Cooke,
Pilbara, Western Australia, 2011.





Top: Troy Abdilla, RC Driller, Mt Whaleback, Pilbara, Western Australia, 2006.

Bottom: Ray Bond, RC Driller, Mt Whaleback, Pilbara, Western Australia, 2006.

Mountomjou Jonnas, Mbalam, Cameroon, West Africa, 2008.

In the early days, some interesting job applications crossed the desk of the General Manager in Kalgoorlie:

“I am the reverse circulation driller for six years now and I am the best. Since coming to this country I have been working in the bush with Davies. Davies not bad but pay is no good. I want to work with you and Ausdrill forever. Please give me job with you.

You give me job and I work hard for you in the bush. I am a good cook. Boys at Davies like my cooking so I hear from you soon.

Somebody tell me that you been drilling for 20 years but you know stuff-all. I say rubbish but I can teach you the reverse. Reverse, you see, mean backwards like in car. Drilling in the bush sometimes means you have to be backwards driller. So this is where the reverse circulation comes in. Reverse circulation drillers are backwards.

Anyway, enough of this rubbish, alright? You give me job or I drill you. You know about diamond? My wife got the diamond ring. I buy for her last year. Anyway, got to go. Bye for now.”

George

Andrew Seeds and the Phantom Driller, RC Drilling,
Ophthalmia Range, Pilbara, Western Australia, 2006.





Anything can and does happen in West Africa. On this occasion, a local cocoa farmer wandered out of the bush and straight through an exploration site in south-western Ghana. He seemed oblivious to the pick swinging a matter of inches from his head. Near Essiame, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.



From left: Eric Tawiah, Samuel Mensah, Daniel Osei, Emmanuel Andoh, Chris Grant, RC Rig Crew, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.



Out there then, when you're workin' on an RC rig you only had one offsider and you'd have a caravan and the offsider would probably sleep on a bed outside—a shearer's bed. They might even have been lucky enough to have a tent. And your shower's outside. That sort of thing. There was no self-contained unit like they get now.

Brian Summerton

I like being in the bush. Basically, I've been in the bush all my adult life. I left home at 14 and I've been in the bush one way or another, with the army or shearing things or whatever. Even when I was working in the kitchen. Anyway, it's lucky the wife likes it well enough and both my sons are working. Well, one works in town here at the workshop as an apprentice and the other one's a driller down at Koolyanobbing.

Bill Jackson

Jason Davis, Exploration Driller, Lawler's Gold Mine, Goldfields, Western Australia, 1994.

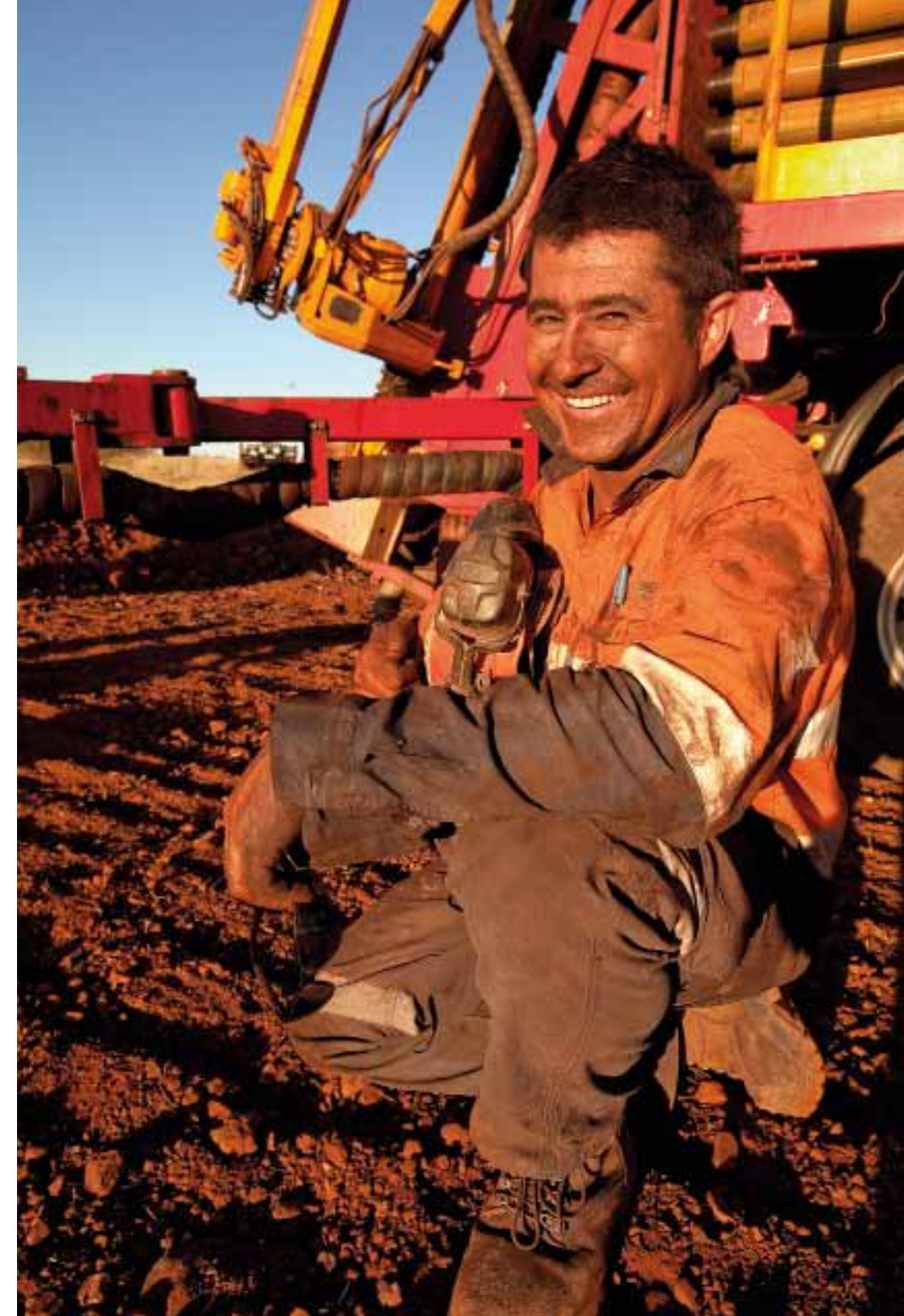


Jason Beckton, Exploration Geologist and Brian Summerton, Kundana Gold Mine, Goldfields, Western Australia, 1994.



Nkothia Janvier stokes a dawn fire, Mbalam Iron Ore Project, Cameroon, West Africa, 2008.

Aaron Solomon,
RC Driller,
Manganese
Exploration, Mt
Cooke, Pilbara,
Western Australia,
2011.





Murray Duncan, Water Well
Driller, Christmas Creek, Pilbara,
Western Australia, 2011.

John Crispin, KCGM Exploration, Goldfields, Western Australia, 1994.



In January 1994 Ausdrill was awarded a contract in Burkina Faso to carry out an RC programme for a Canadian-based company. It was one of two that led to the expansion of operations outside our West African home of Ghana, where Ausdrill had been operating for three years.

Although excited about the new project, the start-up was not easy. For starters, the vessel carrying the rig out of the United States was iced-in at New York Harbour, the first time such an event had occurred for 100 years. This delayed departure for four weeks. Containers departing Australia were held up on the wharf for seven weeks due to an industrial dispute. The trip ordinarily took eight weeks ex Fremantle.

The equipment finally arrived into Ghana and was mobilised to Burkina Faso eight weeks behind schedule.

After all these delays and with the rig finally on-site, our friendly driller Lawrie Mitchell (Lawrie Large) was eager to drill his first hole. With the client also excited about getting his first sample, the inevitable happened. First the feed chains broke, then the clutch and finally, a turbo-charger failure, all within the space of two weeks.

Now, it is a belief in Africa that the 'Gods' play a big part in the success of equipment, projects, etc., and towards the end Lawrie and the boys were starting to believe this and that we had upset the Gods as was indicated by our misfortune.

Between Lawrie and the boys, it was decided that a 'Libation' was to be held to 'appease' the Gods and the only way to do this was to have a sacrificial ceremony and give an offering to them.

Normally this ceremony is held with only a couple of chickens but it was decided that, with all the problems we were having, we would carry out the ceremony using four chickens, three goats and one cow.

The ceremony was held and from then on the job went smoothly.

Peter Wright



Preparing 'Libation', West Africa, Date Unknown.



Drilling for coal-seam gas, near Longreach, Western Queensland, 2010.



Vida Bookye, Stores Attendant, Kenyasi, Ghana, West Africa, 2011.



Isaac Adjapong, RC Driller, Damang Gold Mine,
Ghana, West Africa, 2010.

Gary Poata ('Huggy'), RC Driller, Mt Cooke, Pilbara, Western Australia, 2011.





Drilling on the South Island of New Zealand at Macraes Flat in 1996. With wind chill, temperatures dropped on some days to ten degrees below zero.



UDR600 working at 3,200 metres altitude near Conchi, Chile, 1994.

An interesting job completed by one of the drills in 1995 involved drilling at an elevation of almost 4,000 metres. The site was located in the North of Chile close to the borders of Peru and Bolivia where the army had laid a minefield! The army cleared mines from the access lanes and drill pads and taped off 'no-go' areas. There was certainly no wandering off during this campaign. Ausbits, 1995.



'Seb' takes in a spot of fishing while on a break at the AMS exploration yard in Kenyasi, Ghana, West Africa, 2011.



Mathias Morka looks on as 'Bean-Pump' shows his strength lifting a 95 kilo RC drill hammer at the Nzema Project in Ghana, West Africa, 2010.



Jason Davis, Exploration Driller, Goldfields, Western Australia, 1994.



Mathias Morka, Diamond Driller, Copper Exploration, Western Zambia, 2011.

got a call once from Koodaidree up near Auski. We had an offsider up there and the guys were up there. Anyway, I got this call—the offsider was feeling a bit sick. I said “Why, what happened?” “Don’t know.” I said: “You’d better sit him down and have a talk to him if he doesn’t look well.” He said, “Righto.” It was over the radios at the time and it was a weekend. Obviously the supervisors were out and we were in the workshops and the radios went off.

I said “What’s wrong with him?” “Don’t know,” they said. I said, “Well, you’d better get him to Port Hedland, just in case.” And, ah, obviously it’s through that period when it’s either toughen up or take a hike. So they managed to get it out of him.

It turned out that we’d sent some parts to the Auski Roadhouse. The driller and the other offsider said they’d slip in and pick the parts up. The offsider would get a load of water and a load of fuel and get the BBQ goin’. So he got the fuel and he was getting the load of water, and he bent down to pull-start the water pump, and this snake flew out from underneath the water pump and latched onto his leg. And he couldn’t get the snake off so he had to use his other foot and stomp the snake off and then he killed it. Anyway, the water truck’s full. He switches that off and takes it down to the camp. And he takes the snake with him. Gets the BBQ goin’ and he’s sittin’ down and he’s ’avin’ a beer.

So, under questioning he goes, “Yeah, look what bit me.” And the guy had been too embarrassed to tell the driller because he was a new offsider. Yeah, so we were touch and go there for a while. Anyway, all hell broke loose. They managed to get onto the Hedland Hospital out of Kal. They raced him in there and we got him in time but he was very, very close to not surviving. It would have been somewhere through the late 90s, I reckon.

Mick Crocker and Brian Summerton

RC Exploration, Lake Lefroy, Goldfields, Western Australia, 1997.





Workshop, Kenyasi, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.

Exploration Driller,
Goldfields, Western
Australia, 1994.





*Back row from left: Jacob Atta, Richard Osei, Maxwell Yeboah, Kofi Quansah, Ebenezer Quaw, Mathew Quaye.
Second back row from left: Emmanuel Amoah, Emmanuel Okai, Frederick Gyambrah, Ibrahim Bossman.
Second row from left: Jason Quarrell, Bonapart Osei, Francis Nti, Awudu Mahama, Nasiri Salifu, Daniel Ackah,
Seth Awuku, Emmanuel Andoh, Franklin Blankson Abeka, George Kankam, 'Tassie'.
Front from left: Kingsford Obeng, Emmanuel Gyasi, Brett Pitman, Patrick Akowuah, Samuel Esiako, Dennis
Nartey, Jonathan Klonziah, Kenyasi, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.*

Chris Osborne, John Cook, Lewis Bartlett, Majestic Gold
Project, Goldfields, Western Australia, 2011.





SURFACE MINING

Reshaping Mother Earth

Grade Control Rig, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.



Load and Haul Operations, Damang Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.



From left: Stephen Owusu Bentil, Jepleh Clement, Francis Mensah,
Grade Control Rig Crew, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.



Drilling a Pattern, Mt Whaleback, Pilbara, Western Australia, 2006.

From left: Brad Walters, Ryan Smith, Giles Flemming,
Mt Whaleback, Pilbara, Western Australia, 2006.



Dennis Laddis, Blast Hole Driller, Super Pit, Goldfields, Western Australia, 1994.

Probably one of the highlights from my memory is winning the contract with KCGM. That was the first major contract for Ausdrill. We ended up with 17 rigs, I think, on that site at one point. That was myself, Laurie Steele and Darren Guild, who worked on that one. And that was a hell of a thrill and once we won, we stood outside and thought, “Hell, now we’ve gotta actually do it.” You know, none of us had actually done a job this big before but we did it and we’re still there.

Bill Jackson

Blast Hole Drills, Super Pit, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, 2011.





Load and Haul Operations, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2006.



Extraterrestrial Life Form,
Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana,
West Africa, 2010.

started prior to it being called Ausdrill ... I started in November '86. We didn't have fitters and we didn't have what they've got now, service trucks and all that. We serviced our own drills most of the time and at one stage there I used to use my old Falcon ute in the old Morrison pit. Nobody bothered like nowadays, but you just went to work and you just did your job ...

In the summer time we started off with cable rigs and never had the rigs with the cabs on. When it got up to 45 degrees it was a stinker, you know. Somebody came up with the bright idea of putting a beach umbrella on their drill over the control panel, which we did have for a while, until they shifted the control panels on the Tamrocks to the back to make them safer.

Then they actually put a section on the control panel for an umbrella and the guys used to have a beach umbrella there and they'd keep drilling when it was raining and everything. But most of the time when it rained, we used to have the ute. We'd shut the rig down, run and sit in the ute until the rain stopped ...

In the winter time, on the old rigs—the old 500s, when it was freezing cold—particularly in the Morrison pit, we used to start the drill up and stand on top of the coolers to get some hot air coming off the engine to warm up. Your feet used to get freezing cold, you know, from walking on that cold ground up there. That hard cold ground—they used to stand up there and get warm and jump back down and keep drilling again ...

Dave ('Hard Rock') Radosevich

Wayne Taylor loads bulk emulsions into blast holes,
Peak Hill Gold Mine, Murchison, Western Australia, 1997.



Cyclones from up north are how we usually get our rain here in summer. But we knew the rain was coming and I didn't want to park the rig down at the bottom of the pit because when you are doing your pre-start, you sort of crawl all over and under it and get filthy dirty.

I think it was Leightons actually, back then. They just cleaned up the floor of the pit and dumped a big pile of mullock in the middle, so I asked if I could park along there so I could do the pre-start in the morning. The 'dirt boss' said "Yeah, no worries at all," and it rained all night. I came into work in the morning and, as you can see by some of those photos, the water was right up to the top of the mast.

I think it took a couple of days or so before it drained enough for us to get out there. The maintenance crew back in those days—I can't remember when that was either—asked us to go out there—myself and the fitter—to try and start the rig and tram it off out of the pit. To cut a long story short, well, we did get it started but it sucked in a big belly of water. It took about two weeks by the time we cleaned the engine out and got it all up and running again.

As you see, we're wearing a hard hat and we also had our boots on. Luckily I had shorts on there. Poor old Peter had dungarees, so he had a harder time than I did. But yeah, the mine manager wouldn't allow any of us to take our boots off or be in the pit without a hard hat or boots on. In the photo I was actually swimming back to pick something up for the fitter.

Bill Jackson

Bill Jackson swimming out to Adrian Claridge on Rig Six at the flooded Paddington Gold Mine, Goldfields, Western Australia, 1990.





Haul Truck Drivers, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.



The 'Bomb Crew', Yatela Gold Mine, Mali, West Africa, 2010.



Cable Bolting using Ausdrill designed and built, six wheel drive, all terrain, 25 metre elevating work in the Murchison, Western Australia, circa 1992.



Drill and Blast Operations, Guanaco Mine Site, Atacama Desert, Chile, 1994.



Top from left: Daniel Odonkor, Alhaji Kamara, Samuel Ayensu, Blast Crew, 2010.
Middle: Haul Driver, 2010.
Bottom: Cutting the Grass.
 All at Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.



Load and Haul Operations, Damang Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.



The Way it Was, Cable Bolting, Paddington Gold Mine, Goldfields, Western Australia, Circa 1992.

You were standing on a platform I guess, which was literally a gang plank hanging off a small crane-type jib standing sort of 30 feet off the ground with an air-leg. You know, just covered from head to toe in rock oil.

It was hard work. I mean, I operated a Tamrock in those days. That was Rig Six which was a 500 and Ron had that modified to be a side-mount so instead of drilling forward, you drilled sideways, and that made it easier to do the cable bolts because they were actually in the wall facing up, so you were actually drilling up instead of down ...

I mean, no one ever got hurt but I guess in those days we were all so very, very aware of our surroundings, and you kept an eye on everything. You didn't just sit back to read a book or anything like that. You would watch what you were doing and yeah, the guys that were doing it, we all knew what we were doing back then ...

Bill Jackson



Alan Giles overlooking cable bolting at Big Bell Gold Mine, Goldfields, Western Australia, 1994.



From left: Paul Ambrosius, Rick Ballard and Ekkasit ("Warney") Cullen, Hope Downs Iron Ore Project, Pilbara, Western Australia, 2011.

Hurtling into the 21st Century, A New Way of Drilling a Hole, Ausdrill's new LRB 255 Piling and Drilling Rig, Roy Hill Iron Ore Project, Pilbara, Western Australia, 2011.



There were about 30 of us that worked for Ausdrill back in 1988. Basically you knew there was one driller, one machine, one car, one tool box. There weren't too many fitters back in those days—if someone broke down you fixed it yourself, which is interesting because I'm a chef by trade and I'm not very mechanical so the first time I had to fix a motor myself—that was a nightmare ... Over the years we had to do a lot of repairs. Even over the phone rebuilding things with a fitter in Boulder. They would give you directions, you'd go and do it then come back and ring them up again. Of course that was before mobile phones, so long drives back to an office or a telephone box ...

In the early days when the conditions were pretty rough. I was on a few sites where I slept in the front of the ute. Lucky I'm only short so I could actually stretch out and, like I said, there was no accommodation. I remember cooking on one site there along the train line—I can't remember the name of it. It was right on the edge of the road and when lunch time came around they just put the little loader bucket over a fire and grilled a couple of steaks on it. I thought, "Well, that's fair enough. At least it's clean." But no one complained in those days. You just got on and did your job, went home, went back to your camp.

In the early days it was literally a family. Everybody knew everybody. If you had a problem you'd just have to—it's not really much different from now—let someone know, and believe me, it gets fixed. With the machinery and that, obviously we didn't have cabs in those days, outside and in the heat but there's still a lot of guys around that would like to go back to those days ...

Bill Jackson

Master and his Machine. Bill Jackson drills out a trench so the conveyor belt could go under Boorara Road between the Super Pit and the Glory Hole at Mt Charlotte, Goldfields, Western Australia, 1989.





Blast Crew, Chirano
Gold Mine, Ghana,
West Africa, 2008.



'Davo' Horton, Drill Supervisor, Mt Whaleback,
Pilbara, Western Australia, 2006.



Alan Giles, Big Bell Gold Mine, Goldfields,
Western Australia, 1994.

In the early days of the Super Pit it was all little ones everywhere; they were all over the place—the little pits. The biggest one was probably over in the North Kalgoorlie side which is now part of the bigger Super Pit there, the deepest part. But yeah, all the other ones, they were all little pits scattered all the way along the countryside.

Dave ('Hard Rock') Radosevich

The Super Pit, Kalgoorlie, Goldfields, Western Australia, 2007.



Man management was probably one of the biggest things I've learnt. I mean, I've always been in a management role, I guess since I was in my early twenties, in one way or another. But when I started looking after drillers, shot-firers and then ancillary crew—maintenance people like that—that was a hell of a big learning experience.

You know, these guys come from all these walks of life. From graduate engineers through to guys who didn't finish primary school. People who were so far in debt, people who were running away from family problems. All different things and you spend a lot of time together. You learn how to listen and that has been very, very valuable. It's just learning how to sit there and just listen to what people have to say.

My skills on the drills were probably not great but I mean, they were good enough. I most certainly made some good money there. Got a lot of good holidays. Seen some fantastic places in the country-side. One of the big highlights for me was meeting so many good people; so many different people ...

Bill Jackson

Digger Shadow, Damang Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2006.





KCGM Drill and Blast Manager (now Ausdrill General Manager, Australian and East African Operations), Alex McCulloch presents Bill Jackson with the Award for 2500 LTI free days, Super Pit, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, 2000.

In front of the eight DM45 Blast Hole Drill Rig, Super Pit, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, 2000.



Well, we had a bloke working for us back in the early 90s. His name was Michael ‘Possum’ Connelly ... just an unbelievable character, a once-in-a-lifetime sort of bloke.

Anyway, one night we were in Obuasi and Ausdrill had donated second prize for the local beauty contest, The Miss Adansi Quest.

Possum was selected to hand our donation to the second prize winner.

Evenings out at organised affairs in Ghana can, and do, turn into very long nights and this one was no different. The MC, very late in the night, called all contestants to the stage to announce First, Second and Third place. He also invited the people, representing the companies that had donated prizes, to the stage.

Possum, after a big night, hit the stage in full glory. Third prize was announced and the recipient received her prize to a light round of applause from the crowd of approximately 500 people.

Second prizewinner was called. A murmur went through the crowd, Possum stepped up, handed the second prize to the young lady, gave her a kiss on the cheek and then, with a tap on the backside, threw both arms in the air in jubilation. The crowd, all 500 of them (Ghanaians and expats), broke into a sustained chant of “Possum, Possum, Possum, Possum,” complete with syncopated hand clapping. It had to be seen to be believed.

John Kavanagh

Haul Operations, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2011.





Anti-clockwise from left: Ausdrill's own design, The Latest Probe/Longreach, Perth, Western Australia, 2011; Ausdrill's Inaugural Probe/Longreach (Tamcat), Goldfields, Western Australia, Circa 1993; Ausdrill's early platform blast-hole fleet, Ingersoll Rand T4 and Ingersoll Rand DM4, Goldfields, Circa 1990.

Clockwise from left: Stephen Thiele ('Stoby'), Garry Selleck and Allan Terry ('Big Al') stand in front of Ausdrill's current fleet of prime movers, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, 2011; Ausdrill's original Dodge float driven by Brett Hockey, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, Circa 1988; Ausdrill's Latest Platform Blasthole Fleet, Ingersoll Rand (Atlas Copco) DML, Cloudbreak, Pilbara, Western Australia, 2011.





David Ackon, Yatela Gold Mine, Mali, West Africa, 2010.



Moussa Traore in Prayer, Dozer Operator,
Yatela Gold Mine, Mali, West Africa, 2010.

Prior to Ausdrill being formed, when I took Golden Shamrock Mines as a partner in early 1987, I had operated as a private company since 1986. During this time, I had the pleasure of employing two of the most remarkable people I have ever met—David (‘Hardrock’) Radosevich and Joe (‘No Neck’) Yunek, Drillers/Employees, No. 1 and No. 2.

Now Hardrock is still alive and still works for us today, so this story has to be about Joe. I first met Joe in a place called Gunpowder in North-West Queensland in 1973. Joe was an underground miner with Gunpowder Copper Ltd and I had been employed as an underground fitter. Eventually I was promoted to leading hand and ran what was called the ‘running shed’ or the workshop at the entrance to the mine. As a consequence of this, I got to see a lot of Joe as he had this bad habit of wrecking gear and booking ‘windies’ (metres that he didn’t drill) to make up for his loss of earnings when his drill rig was down—two traits that he ultimately brought to Ausdrill.

The first recollection I have of Gunpowder and Joe is that he loved his garden and he spent hours watering it. The problem was he used to do it in his leopard skin underpants. Now whilst Joe would have been an imposing figure in his youth, he was into his forties by this time and his beer gut (like mine) had really kicked in. The other miners’ wives complained to the management about Joe’s gardening apparel and he was persuaded to switch to shorts and a singlet.

Our paths crossed again at Agnew in the early 80s where Joe worked as a long-hole driller. He operated a Tamrock TwingRing which I used to sell and service for a company called Compair. Joe hadn’t changed much; he still wrecked gear and he still booked ‘windies’.

After that, it wasn’t until 1986 that I saw Joe again. This time in ‘Rebeccas’ nightclub in Kalgoorlie. It was two o’clock in the morning (I was between wives at the time) and I can’t recall what Joe was doing there. Anyway, we were desperate for a

good driller at the time and I offered Joe a job. I recall he said: “Ronny, I will ‘snatch’ it as soon as I get back to work.” Good to his word he did just that and started with us almost immediately (and commenced to wreck gear and book ‘windies’ as he had done all his life).

A couple of years after Joe started with us, we won the contract at the Super Pit in Kalgoorlie where we have been for the past 24 years, but that could easily have not been the case, as on a couple of occasions in the first two months on site, Joe almost lost the contract for us.

The first occasion was when Joe spotted the KCGM Mine Manager (whose position to be fair was unknown to Joe). This mine manager had been Joe’s shift boss at Agnew when he was completing his engineering degree. Now this manager was a born and bred Australian with a real Irish name (name withheld to protect the innocent) but he was very much of southern European appearance – dark hair, very dark olive complexion and a good looking young man. Joe had given him a nickname at Agnew which he promptly quoted over the radio when he spotted him, “BL....Y what are you doing here!”

On the second occasion and only a few weeks later, the mine manager gave me a call and says “We have a problem. You had better come and see me.” When I arrived he explained that the female samplers on Joe’s rig had been complaining that Joe was “paying them too much attention” and, as neither of us wanted to get rid of a good driller, he would have to refrain from this pastime.

When I challenged Joe, his answer was simply “I am only being nice to them.” A quote I have used many times when advising men on how to treat their wives: “You only have to be nice to them.” Ultimately it was all put right and Joe kept his job.

Some time later Maria, Joe’s partner, went back to Slovenia for a holiday, and Joe (while the cat’s away the mice will play)

got himself into a bit of mischief. I still recall his words: “Ronny, I have been a silly boy; I went down to that ‘Hay Street’ and spent all my money and now Maria she comes home and I have no money in my bankcard.”

The upshot of it was we had to give Joe a sub on his future wages and he naturally proceeded to book more ‘windies’ to pay it back.

A few years later Laurie Steele, who was the General Manager of Drill and Blast, came to me and said: “Ron, we need to take Joe off the drills. He needs to retire. His eyesight is failing and he keeps driving into the black and whites (tagged off danger areas) and, as he is a mate of yours, we thought you should do it.”

Now, I wasn’t too happy about this. Telling Joe he couldn’t drill anymore wasn’t going to be easy and offering a storeman’s job (the best I could come up with) was going to be worse. After a couple of days I summoned up the courage and went up to the Super Pit, on change of shift, to see Joe and convince him to retire. The conversation went like this:

Me “How you going, Joe?”
Joe “Good.”
Me “They tell me you have bought another house, Joe.”
Joe “Yeah.”
Me “How many houses do you have now, Joe?”
Joe “Three.”
Me “Three Joe! You won’t need to work soon. Ever thought about retiring?”
Joe “Why me retire? I still drill more metres than these other ‘useless bastards’.”
Me: “Okay Joe, see ya.”

I didn’t have the heart to tell Joe that half the metres he drilled were probably ‘windies’ and I went back to work, of course running into Laurie Steel, who asked me how I went

getting Joe to retire. My answer was simple: “Keep him away from the black and whites!”

Joe eventually retired in May 1999 and shortly thereafter had a major operation on his heart, which was successful. He then returned to the Czech Republic where he was born and ultimately passed away at the age of 69 on the 5th of May, 2003—coincidentally my birthday and a timely reminder each year of a past friendship with a good bloke.

God Bless Joe.

Ron Sayers



Top: Joe after his successful heart operation, Perth, Western Australia, 1999.



Left: Joe looking dapper, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, Circa Early 90s.



From upper left to lower right: Robert Koomson, Stephen Darko, John Et-sibah, John Mesu, James Addai, Paul Gyamfi, William Osei, Benjamin Noi, Kwame Awotwe, Daniel Say, Nii Armah Ransford, Theophilus Bartels, Emmanuel Appiah, Richard Badu, Samuel Nodzro, Robert Bayiri, Osei Agyemang, Ezekiel Asare Addo, Simon Otchere, Daniel Kadri, Issahaku Mohammed, Francis Appiah, Ernest Ofori, Eric Yemetey, Musah Linkoni, Stephen Niako Debrah, Alhassan Issifu, Nyarko Nicholas, Emmanuel Arther, Robert Gyebi, Benjamin Benyarko, Edward Mensah, Owusu Bentil, Samuel Amoh, Paul Aram, Yakubu Abubakar, Joseph Frimpong Manso,

Richard Anane Marfo, Patrick Baah, Lawrence Yalley, Robert Mensah, George Owusu, Jacob Owusu, David Fordjour, George Inkoom, Abu Drah, Asare Isaac, Peter Asamoah, Benjamin Blay, Christian Bondzi, Joseph Melenwuah, Francis Appiah, Kofi Asare, Collins Aidoo, Ata Adams, Jonathan Tettey, Kwao Emmanuel, Sampson Aidoo, Forson Quartey, Sampson Bakari, Kofi Sammy, George Awuah, Elijah Ackah, Robert Badu, Paul Gregory Coffie, Michael Gayamfi, Francis Mensah, Alex Kumah, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.



AMS Crew, Iduapriem, Ghana, 1995.



TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING

Mining's Cutting Edge

Hector D'rozario and Zaw Latt, Drilling Tools Australia, Perth, 2011.

always did want to work for Ausdrill. I wanted to get my foot in the door. Because you know once you can prove yourself the sky's the limit here.

Ausdrill to me is proof that you can do anything from the ground up as Ron's achieved. He started off with one drill rig working out of his back shed. I'm pretty sure it was on Speculation Drive and the house was Willow Lodge, right next to the racecourse, of course. I feel that it's a very safe place to work. There's job security here. When the GFC did go through I think we were one of the only companies to keep buying machinery ...

But also, that appeals to me knowing that in ten years time, if the young fellow wants to head in this direction and get a trade, there is a fair chance there. He would be able to do a trade with Ausdrill, and knowing the training and the facilitators that Ausdrill have, we produce what I think are pretty much some of the best apprentices that come out at the end ...

I have worked at places where people get trade tickets and they're not worth the paper they are written on. I'm pretty confident all the apprentices we turn out, can be sent into the workforce with the knowledge that they are going to be competent in doing their job and able to do it safely, and to the quality that we expect, which is fairly high quality compared to some of the outside work we do see arrive.

Stephen ('Linc') Lincoln

Scott Brown, Semi-Automatic Welding, Remet Engineers, Perth, 2011.





Lab Technician, Chris Hidding, MinAnalytical, Perth, 2011.

Rebecca Fowles, who will shortly become Ausdrill's first female apprentice. Ausdrill is working hard to promote women within the company. Perth, 2011.





Heat Treatment, DT HiLoad, Perth, 2011.

Kyle Davenport, Component Inspection, Remet Engineers, Perth, 2011.

Here at DT HiLoad we can definitely say we are a mixed bunch. In 2006 there was a major skills shortage of good tradesmen in Australia. DT HiLoad decided enough was enough. There had been a parade of colourful people come through, including one guy who turned up with his suitcase and asked if he could sleep on the premises, as well as work here.

We were desperate. Our first attempt was to bring in welders. After organising the 457 visas and paying their flights and accommodation, a few workers arrived. One changed his airline ticket and flew directly into Sydney. He had been offered A\$1 extra per hour from another company. The other arrived in Perth where we had set up fully furnished accommodation for him. He then proceeded to take all of the furniture and disappeared.

In June 2006, two of our staff visited China. They tested 20 welders and chose the six best ones. Their skill levels were exceptional. They then organised for them to come to Australia on 457 visas. It took only six months for these guys to be on their feet and they started to go their own separate ways. Some moved out into their own places, whilst others brought their families out to be with them.

From 2007 to 2009 DT HiLoad ran an English school on our premises. We had two classes every day and our workers were able to attend for one hour per day depending on their requirements. This assisted them to integrate into Australian society a lot easier.

So different was life here in Australia that we now look back and have a laugh when we remember our first guys coming over and automatically boiling our tap water for drinking purposes. They were horrified to see us drinking water directly out of the tap, thinking it was polluted like it was when they were back in China.

Nada Velemir

Front from left: Guang Bin Zhao, Huang Linxin (Dennis).

Rear from left: Jiang Feng, Yue Wei Hu, Welders, DT HiLoad, Perth, 2011.





Left to right: Shardi Biahgi, Bob Duncan, Kyle Davenport, Clinton Morell, Robotic Manufacturing Cell, Remet Engineers, Perth, 2011.



Abs Shelke, Component Inspection, Remet Engineers, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, 2011.



Group Engineering Manager, Mick Crocker, with his 'Eye Pad' and 'I-Phone', Perth, 2011.

Fitter, Phil Tremeer, Drill Rigs Australia, Perth, 2011.





*Back from left: Andrew Sharp, Michael Duong and Rebecca Fowles.
Front from left: Courtney Fenwick and Blake Poletti, Drilling Tools
Australia, Perth, 2011.*



Ausdrill Managing Director, Ron Sayers, with members of the team that helped restore this 1961 P42 Schramm drill rig.
Left to right: Mick Crocker, Ron Sayers, Paul Banes, James Dorloff, Bill Beaney, Drill Rigs Australia, Perth, 2011.

The rig had originally been purchased by Lang Hancock to use at his mining operations in Wittenoom but later ended up in the possession of Ausdrill when it purchased Ausdrill North West. The rig has been donated back to Hancock Prospecting.



Welding, Drill Rigs
Australia, Perth, 2006.



Manuel Leira, Welder, DT HiLoad, Perth, 2011.



Spray Painters Stuart Vardey and Jamie Kelsey, Drill Rigs Australia, Perth, 2011.





From left: Yue Wei Hu, Jiang Feng, Lide Zhou, Welders, DT HiLoad, Perth, 2011.



Jin Bin Liang, Welder, DT HiLoad, Perth, 2011.

UNDERGROUND MINING

Into the Bowels of the Earth

Terry Bland, Air-leg Miner, Working a Rise, Akwaaba Decline,
Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.





think one of the key things I've learnt in my time came from working with AUMS in Africa. That was obviously because of the association with Ausdrill and the reason being was that Barmenco had never been overseas before. Although I had a couple of years in Tanzania previously with Byrncut, and I had a little bit of background of what the systems are like and how things operate, without Ausdrill's presence there, we would have been in a lot more trouble than what we were. This came from their presence and knowledge of the corporate stuff, government issues, union issues and all that sort of thing. You couldn't put a cost on their knowledge on those things because it just helped us no-end.

When we arrived at Chirano there was nothing there. There was no equipment, we didn't have a position for the portal and we didn't have accommodation sorted. There was a group of us who went over and we sort of battled it out for the first six months. Moving from place to place for accommodation and trying to set up and organise an area where we could actually start a portal.

The portal area they had picked out was not suited and has now been turned into a sump. So, we had quite a few challenges there for six months, but when the gear started arriving, once the gear got into the country and we had a portal establishment or area to establish, we were away—able to get up and running.

The day we opened the portal would be one of my best memories of working with AUMS in Africa. That day was a fairly memorable day because, even though we'd advanced quite some way into the portal, it hadn't really been established with the concrete facia and all that. So, that was a pretty big day because there were quite a few people that had come from a lot of places around the area. There were a lot of chiefs there, senior people. It was a pretty important day for everyone, I think. It's probably one of the most memorable.

Bryan Worthington

Jumbo Operations, Akwaaba Decline, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.



Frederick Opoku Dwumfour, Mechanic, Akwaaba Decline,
Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.

Razak Issaka, Senior Diamond Driller, Subika
Decline, Ahafo Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.

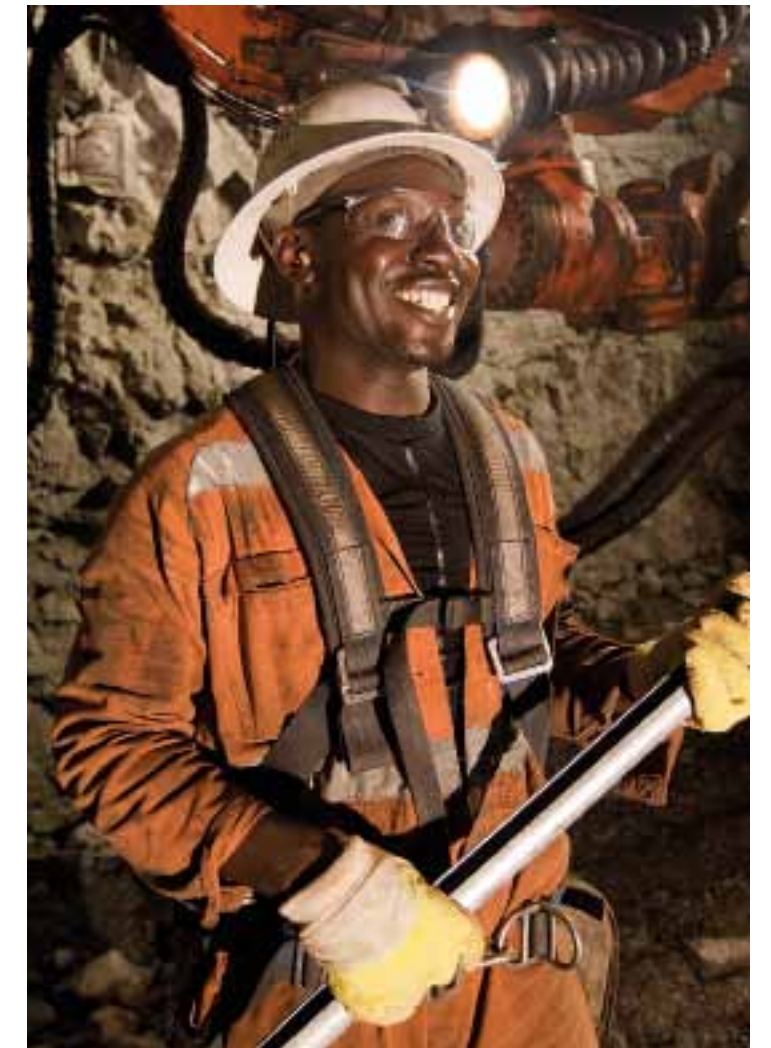




*From left: Rita Boamah, John Sallah Kumah, Bismark Agbeti,
Akwaaba Decline, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.*

*Tea towels anyone? Agnes Armah, Terry
Bland and Naomi Dansowaa, Akwaaba
Decline, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana,
West Africa, 2011.*





Daniel Markin Ewusi, Mechanic, Akwaaba Decline,
Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2011.

Pava Kalajzic, Shotcreting, Akwaaba Decline,
Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2011.



Top: Evans Sarpong, Underground Miner, Akwaaba Decline, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.

Bottom: The Early Days of AUMS in West Africa sometimes meant working in difficult and congested conditions. This photo of Terry Bland was taken at Central African Gold Mines, Bibiani, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.

Richard Ankapong, Drill Mechanic, Subika Decline, Ahafo Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2011.





Jumbo Operations,
Paboase Decline,
Chirano Gold Mine,
Ghana, West Africa,
2010.



Charles Appiah,
Rodney Morris,
Lawrence Atta Moses,
Jumbo Crew, Akwaaba
Decline, Chirano Gold
Mine, Ghana, West
Africa, 2011.



From left: David Doe Ahiagble (Blastman), Maxwell Owusu (Shift
Boss) and Samuel Kofi Danso (Senior Blastman), Subika Decline,
Ahafo Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.



Back row from left: John, Ryan Evinston, John Cream, Joseph Nkrumah, Amankwaa, Frank Amoah, Emmanuel Egyir, Gordon Atongo.
Front row standing from left: Frank Zanteba, Ishmael Jackson Kessie, Joanna Mensah, Samuel Baidoo, Bright Quaicoe, Francis Agbogah, Eugene Ofosu Appiah, Amissah, Steven Adjei Laryea, Robert Essuman, Unknown,

Stephen Boahen, Patrick Gyetuah, John Nagy, Don Clune.
Front row squatting from left: Evans Sarpong, Asiedu, Williams Amo Danquah, William Duncan, Theresah Nkrumah, John Amponsah Mensah, Mohammed Seidu Pantah, AUMS Akwaaba Decline Crew, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.

Rear Scaffold: Unknown, Unknown, Unknown.
Middle Scaffold: Samuel Asiedu, Unknown, Mohammed Seidu Pantah.
Front from left: Gordon Atongo, Stephen Boahen, Amissah, Atta Sarpong, John Amponsah Mensah, Don Clune, Unknown, Unknown. Akwaaba Portal, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.



Rear from left: Lewis Franklin, Martin Adu-Boahen, George Shiele, Kwasi Addai, Lawrence Cheabu, Michael Sam, Thomas, Laud Ainoo.
Front from left: Haruna Kwabena, Micheal Antwi, Terry Bland, Rod Patridge, Mark Williams, Gordon Manning, Central African Gold Mines, Bibiani, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.



Back in the early days, one January, the weather was stinking hot. We had no cover. No workshops. Nothing. We were out in the open. And the jumbo had rocked up and we'd been doing a lot of sort of establishment work for the workshop area and the laydown yard. And I decided to put a BBQ on for the boys. We didn't have anywhere where we could sit under and get a bit of shade, so we managed to get a bit of old vent bag that was coverin' up some of the gear that came across and we lifted the booms up. We spread those out and put the old vent bag that was used as a cover, in between the booms and managed to get a BBQ going. Get a bit of shade, a few coca colas and lemonades. And the boys were really appreciative of that, I tell you.

Bryan Worthington

Lawrence Cheabu, Jumbo Offsider, Akwaaba Decline, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.





Naomi Dansowaa, Cleaner, Akwaaba Decline,
Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.

Francis Bassaw and
Mac Agymang Boateng,
ITH Drillers, Akwaaba
Decline, Chirano Gold
Mine, Ghana, West
Africa, 2011.





Underground Miner, Subika Decline,
Ahafo Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.

From left: Noble Boateng, Samuel Tandoh and Joseph
Banambo, ITH Drillers, Akwaaba Decline, Chirano
Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2011.



UPFRONT AND BEHIND THE SCENES

People Behind the Name

Front from left: Charles Duah, Errol Taylor, Richard Gyamfi, Faustina Kwofie, Phelicia D-Quagraine, Memuna B-Blay, Winifred Nketsiah, Fawzia Abudu, Frantz Wulff, Mike Bedi, Gifty Donkoh, Edith Arthur, Dorothy Mensah, Anita Nyamekye, Abigail Agyeman, Emmanuel Bediako, Jonathan Klonziahm, John Odamtten, Lawrence Kwaning, Darren Wheadon, Alex Assan.

Middle from left: Whyte Amoah-Mensah, Eric Codjoe, David Debrah, Solomon Appiah, James Mantey.

Rear from left: Victor Nyakpo, Wisdom Domie, Bernard Wiredu, Abu Amadu, Ebenezer Fiadjoe, Tony Wilson, Anselm Siah, Benjamin Eshun, Emmanuel Bonney, Samuel Arthur, Daniel Ackah, Samuel Mintah, Joseph Atanga, Richard H. Smith, Martin Dukara, Eric Ehwaitey, James Bimpong, Edward Obeng, William Charway, Charles Kwakye.

Person standing tall: Kojo Adjei.

Bankyim, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.



Linny Sayers and John Kavanagh, Bruno Jacowski's House, Obuasi, Ghana, West Africa, Circa 1991.



Left: Ron Sayers and Bob Leatham, Perth, Circa 1994.

Right: Ron Sayers and Brian Mann, Duke of Orleans Bay, Esperance, Western Australia, Circa 1990.





*Front from left: Gerry Grogan, Travis Wright, Aaron Hoyn (aka Habib) Maximador Agam, Ernesto Abiera, Paul Hearn.
Back row from left: Barry McKinlay (aka Flippa), Stephen Buckle, Roland Ovens, Ian Stenhouse (aka Moe), Ian Porter,
Keith O'Malley, Jason Arthur, Kalgoorlie, 2006.*

About early '93 Ron was in Ghana and he gives me this call. He called me from Ghana with a whole list of drills and plant and stuff. It was when we started our earth-moving in Ghana. He wanted all this done. So, off we go and do it. He had a boat organised ...

So anyway, we had to pull a heap of old gear out of Kalgoorlie and put other stuff in and run it through the Kalgoorlie workshops and rebuild it and buy dump trucks and diggers and front end loaders and whatever else he wanted and get it all ready for this boatload. Welders. Oh mate, it was a huge list.

So anyway, we charged into it and I was reasonably new to the Ausdrill thing in Kal. Actually, it was a good experience because the people round Kal really lifted and kicked in. It broke down any barriers we had anyway. It was excellent.

So anyway, the last of it all was we had an old Longyear 44 that had come out of one of Manny's jobs. The boat was leaving on the Monday—we'd got it on the Thursday. So we ripped it through the workshops, did what we had to do. It had to be painted on the Saturday night ready to load on the truck on the Sunday so it would be sitting on the wharf on the Sunday night for five o'clock Monday morning, ready to load onto the ship heading for Ghana.

So anyway, through the six week period we'd finished off the gear, run it down to Perth, down the wharves and had it all stacked up and this last piece of gear had to go through the

paintin' shop on the Saturday night. So the lads finished about four o'clock on the Satdy afternoon and loaded it on the truck and took it down the paint shop and backed it in. And Cliff and Cliff. The two Cliffys are there.

That was it. "Righto you guys. Paint this. It's going to be picked up at five o'clock in the morning and taken to Perth. Now you've gotta paint it tonight. In the meantime we're goin' up to Broken Hill for a couple of beers." Old Cliff started complainin' you know, in his accent. He used to carry on. "It's alright for you. You fellas goin' and getting drunk and I'll be down here workin' all night. It's just not fair." I said, "Don't worry about it Cliff. We'll sort you out."

So we goes up to the Broken Hill and started to have a few beers and we ordered two pizzas which turned up. So these got delivered to the Broken Hill Hotel and I threw 'em in the car with two cartons of beer. So I took them back down to the Ausdrill paint shop, opened up the door and the two Cliffys are going hard rubbin' down this old rig and paintin' it up. So I dropped two cartons of beer on the floor and the two pizzas, closed the door and buggered off.

Next morning I gets to work all hung-over at five o'clock to pick up me painted drill rig. Here's two passed out Cliffies on the floor, two complete pizzas. Not a can of beer left standin'. So the rig was finished. The beer was gone but the pizzas were untouched. So we just pushed the empty cans and the two Cliffies aside, loaded the rig on the truck and sent it to Perth.

Mick Crocker



Andrea Lipscombe, Supply Direct, Perth, Western Australia, 2011.



From Left: Shannah Lucas, Alyssa Lapworth and Rhianna Bassett, Drilling Tools Australia, Perth, Western Australia, 2011.

Now of course Ron's started the managers' conferences. I went to my first one probably 6 years ago and since then it's grown. When I went on my first one there were 16 people on the bus and last year there were 40. Now, its two bus loads and Peaceful Bay becomes unpeaceful for about six days when we are there terrorising the joint. It's good actually. Everyone's got to do the Karaoke and they have the Ausdrill Olympics down there. It's a karaoke night, a pool night, a dart night, a table tennis night and a quiz night.

And the days are all very serious. We all get around the table and that's the best part. That's probably one of the most rewarding things that I've had come out of Ausdrill. That you

get 40 odd people sitting around this humongous great big set of tables in Ron's ranch down at Peaceful Bay and the guys rock up in their shorts and thongs and t-shirts because it's a beach house. Everyone has got a laptop and every manager gets about a 15 minute block to do their spiel on their company and to put their budget forward, explain where they made money or stuffed up the year before.

Then we'll have an open session where Ron will say, "Righto, the next hour, everything is on the table and you can drag in anything you want." And it doesn't matter whether it's something from another company you are not happy with or you want to promote, or you are suggesting something that

the company, the board or the corporate side might not be, you know, what you think it should be. And it's all discussed between the whole 40 people.

He rules the roost, he controls the goal and you know he will say, "That's enough or OK, lets hack it out," and you can sit there and say, "This is rubbish, this is not the way it's got to go." And he will just say, "Right, that's your opinion. Anyone else? How are we going to fix this problem?" That's to me—it's open management. He is saying to everyone else: "You guys have told me there is a problem, now tell me what the solution is. Don't just sit there and say we've got a problem and then not offer me a solution." And we sit there sometimes for hours talking about it.

And of course what happens is at 5 o'clock we knock off. Everyone goes outside and sits on the lawn with a can, and we start talking again and the first thing we start talking about is work. And you're thinking: "Why didn't we do that, why didn't we say that?" So the next day it gets brought up. It really is a worthwhile exercise, you know.

He sits there and listens. If he doesn't agree he will tell you. A few years ago there was a company trying to buy us out—a private company—and this guy flew to Albany. Ron drove him up and no-one at the meeting knew who he was. It was all top secret and he just sat in the corner. Nothing changed—we ran our meeting like we ran it every other year—and the guy actually commented. He said: "This is one of the better things I've seen in management strategy—being able to get all you people around and listening to all the conversations where it's genuine frank discussion and not boardroom talk sort of stuff." He was very, very impressed.

Col Hutcheson



From left: Peter Hawkins, Senad Brnjrk, Glenn Heard, Dion Ashlin, Eric Puddey, John Angelini, Chris Gall, Paul Clarke, Chris Terlet, Alan Olive, Chris Ackland, Matt Lucas, Gavin Bell, Strati Gregoriadis, Gary Searle, José Martins, Brian Mann, Bob Leatham, Paul Tester, Ron Sayers, Lee Gough, Domenic Santini, Ken Robinson (Bus Driver), Bob Marrell, Mick Crocker, Wayne Bucknall, Col Hutcheson, Mark Hughes, Gary Wheeler, Richard Lang, Rob Walters, Mike Keegan, Greg Stagbouer, Alex McCulloch, Garry Billing, Tony Tamlin, Brian Sanfead, Alan Jenaway, Peter Lock, Carl Davies, John Geary, Ed Banner, Darren Wheadon, Perth, 2011.

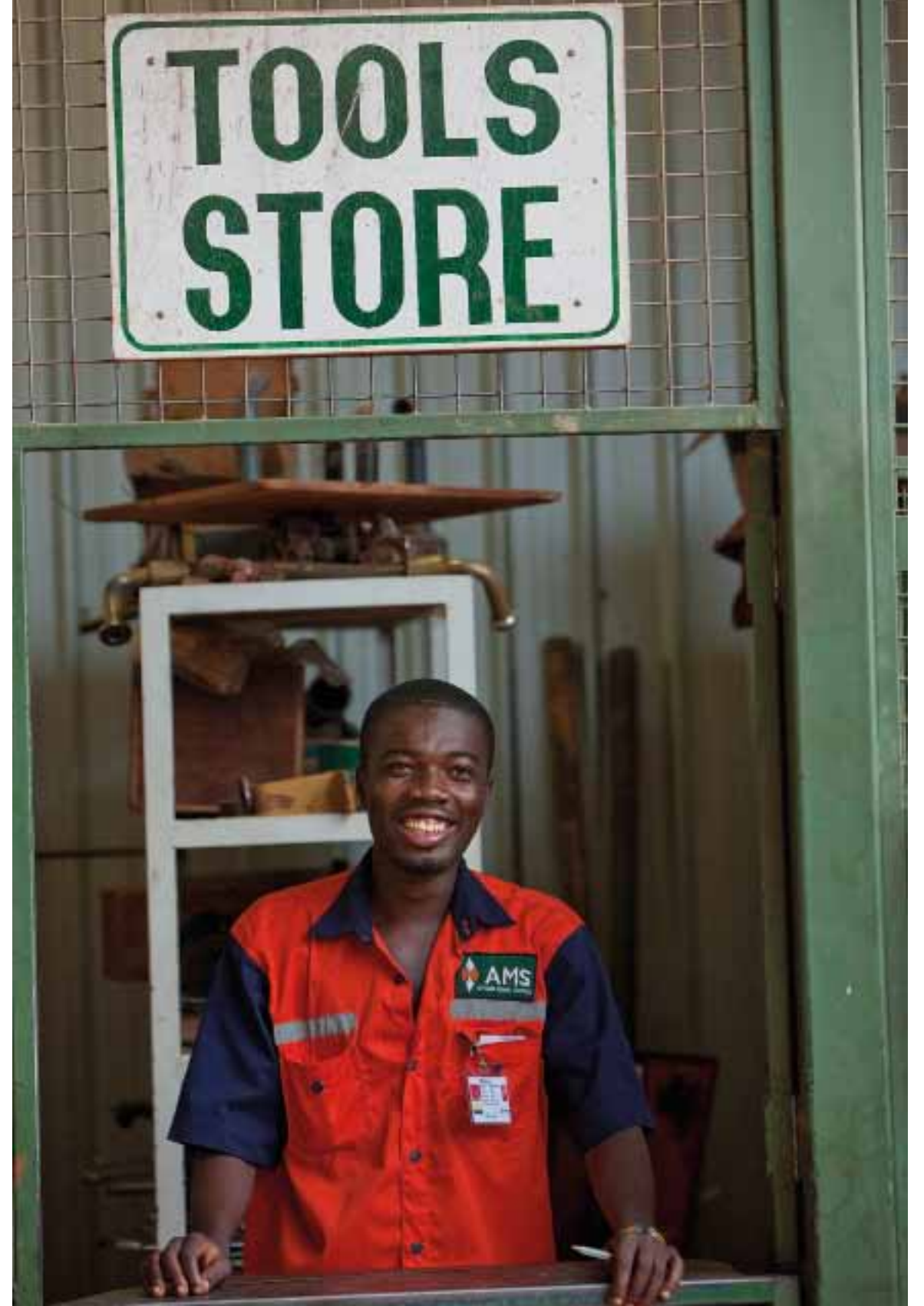


Michael Charway, Bankyim, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.

Kojo Adjei, Boilermaker, Bankyim, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.



Auselm Bonzoe, Store Keeper, Bankyim, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.



Storeman, Chirano Gold Mine,
Ghana, West Africa, 2008.



Welder, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, 1994.

Kneeling left to right: Mark Simpson, Fazilat Dandie, Bonita Forcey, Kurt Blanksby and Brydon Reynolds.

Standing first row: Megan Kaszanski, Tania Middleton, Kirsty Mays, Melissa Guadagnino and Stacey Welsh.

Seated on bench left to right: Andrea Lipscombe, Sarah Merry, Demi Saunders and Viola Zheng.

Standing at rear left to right: Chris Dopierala, Larry Burton, Dave Marwick, Greg Quartey, Mark Day, Deborah Shannon and Mike Keegan, Supply Direct, Perth, Western Australia, 2011.



Fitter, Damang Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.



AMS' first employee 'Number One', Jonathan Klonziah, Bankyim, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.

There were plenty of good laughs. We lost a welder. He was obviously a good bloke and he's still around Kalgoorlie these days. Obviously loved a drink. Anyway, we lost him on his way back from Tuckabianna. The message hadn't been passed down that he's left site and we finally got the message about three days later. We then find out that the road had been closed between Sandstone and Menzies. The back road. So anyway, I was a bit worried about it so I started ringin' around and rang up the Sandstone Pub to find out whether the road was open and all of the rest of it and found my man in the Sandstone Pub at this stage.

It turned out he'd got to Sandstone and headed off down the Menzies Road. The truck he was drivin' had broken down. In the meantime there was this big shower of rain and the road had closed and so he was stuck there. Anyway, some station bloke's come along about day two. He'd run out of cigarettes. He was smoking tree bark and everything else. So anyway, the station guy's given him a lift back to Sandstone. By the time I rang up he'd just arrived. I was pretty embarrassed about the whole ordeal so I told the people at the Sandstone Hotel to look after my man. It didn't matter what it cost. We got another guy out of Kal to go up to Sandstone, the Leinster way, and rescue him.

About three weeks later I get the bill from the Sandstone Pub and it was quite humorous. There were three pages written out on A4 paper out of a triplicate book. And it's got two cans, two cans, two cans, two cans, six cans, two cans and it just goes on with cans of beer and cans of beer. And right in the middle of it there was two ham sandwiches which rather stood out because they were different.

So anyway, I thought this is enough so I grabbed the boilermaker. I sent someone down and called him up in the office. I said, "Righto mate, I have a problem with you. I got the bill from the Sandstone Pub". He started to get embarrassed. He said, "Oh but Mick, I'll do this," and started stumbling and stutterin'. I said, "I don't mean about the cans of grog but I'm not payin' for the ham sandwiches." He looked at me and walked out. So I don't know how it went round the traps but I heard nothing more about it. And I didn't pay for the ham sandwiches.

Mick Crocker

I come from three years high school. Basic Kalgoorlie stuff. No uni, no whatever. And whatever I've picked up has been through Ron's putting me on and learning it the hard way with everybody here, and it's been good. You know you'd recommend that to anyone, not that you can do it now, because you've got to have all the bloody tickets and university degrees—Christ knows what.

Colin Hutcheson

Don McIntyre, Workshop, Kalgoorlie,
Western Australia, 2006.





Top: Paul Hearn and Brendan Evans, Kalgoorlie Workshop, Western Australia, 2011.

Bottom: John Ecclestone, Ausdrill Gardener, Perth, 2011.

Faustina Amankwah, Stores Assistant, Bankyim, Ghana, West Africa, 2008.



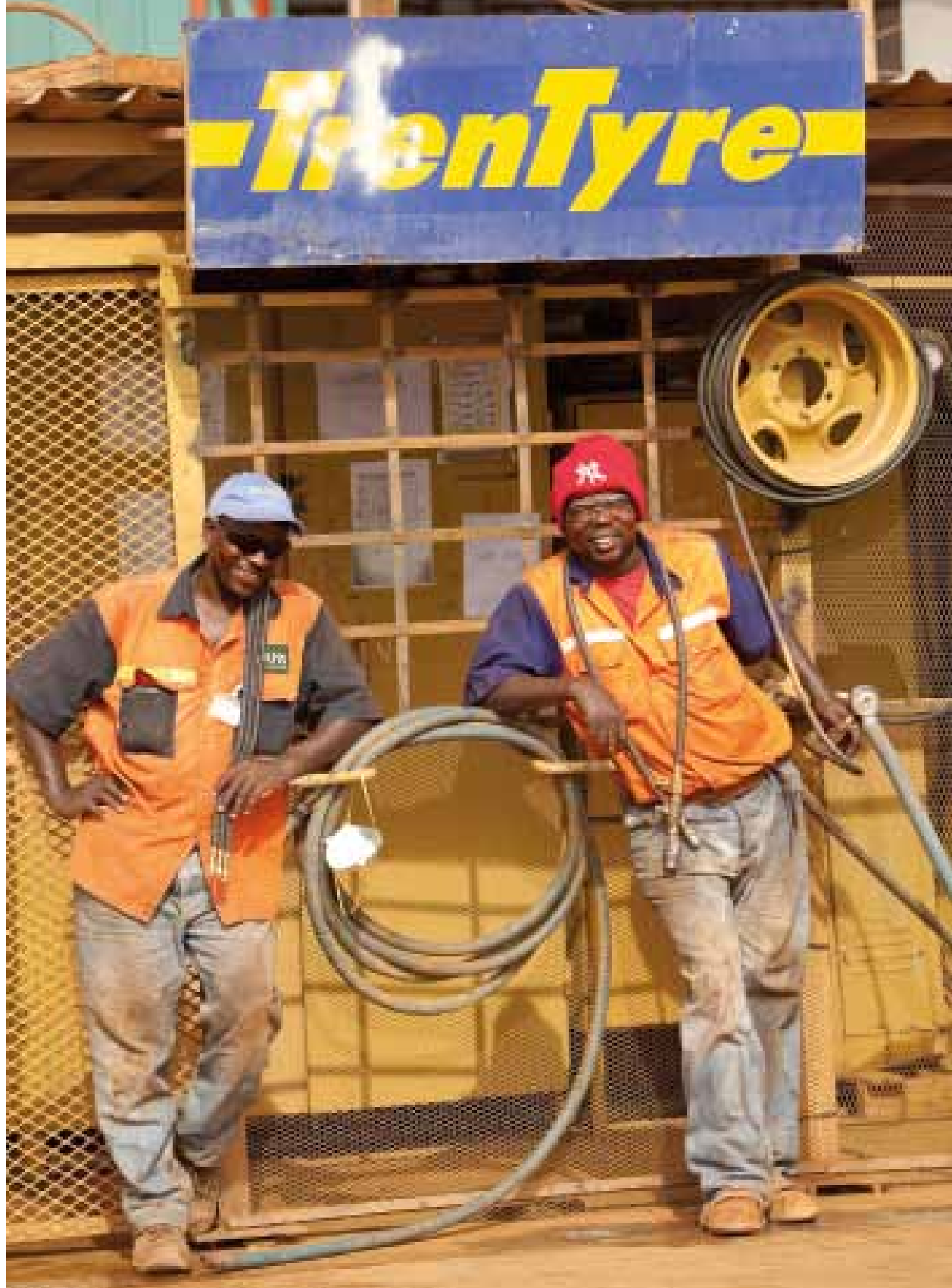


Peter Bozic, Welder, Kalgoorlie Workshop, Western Australia, 2011.

The Old and the New. *Left to right:* Greg Selleck, Ryan Print, Shaun Baty, Alex Littlely, Leigh Jackson, Josh Balderson, Luke Gibson, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, 2011.



*From left: Makan Koumare,
Electrician, Daouda Kodio,
Tyreman, Yatela Gold Mine,
Mali, West Africa, 2010.*



*Djiby Kone, Mechanic, Yatela Gold
Mine, Mali, West Africa, 2010.*



Acknowledgements

I've now been taking photographs with Ausdrill for nearly six years and have never come across such a committed, honest and decent group of people. Literally to the person. No task is too difficult or cumbersome and every one of the people I've met these past six years has been the same. And great fun to work with. That probably explains why there are so many longstanding employees with the company and it's a culture that runs deep.

None of these photographs would have been possible without the cooperation of all of the people I have met over the years—the people in the offices in Australia and Africa; the drivers; the project managers; the people I've photographed. It's all been great fun.

In the production of this book, my thanks go out to Dion Ashlin, Ed Banner, Mick Crocker, Jeff ('Groggy') Day, Bill Jackson, John Kavanagh, Stephen Lincoln, Brian Mann, Alex McCulloch, Dave ('Hard Rock') Radosevich, Ron Sayers, Brian Summerton, Ben ('Mullet') Swan, Nada Velemir, Bryan Worthington and Peter Wright for their great insights into some of the history that has made Ausdrill and for the supply of old photos.

Thanks also must go to the people that helped pull this book together. Janet Gough and Ken and Pam Duncan at the Ken Duncan Group. Not only are they the best in the business at this caper, but they've also become very good friends. Also to John Bull for his design skills—which are awesome—and his wife Yolande for providing the meals and proofreading—after long days in front of the computer. Thanks also to Created for Life Print Studio for all the pre-press work on the photographs ready for book production. And to Churchill Colour Laboratories for all the last minute scans of old photos.

Finally, I'd like to thank John Kavanagh, Alex McCulloch and Ron Sayers for backing me over the past six years, often in relation to tasks that I'd never done before. Without their support my work wouldn't be where it is today and I wouldn't have enjoyed what have been some wonderful experiences.

Blast Rigs, Yatela Gold Mine, Mali, West Africa, 2008.





AMS Chirano Project Manager, Merv Welsh, with chiefs from Etwebo village after having being told that he would be made a chief of the village, Chirano Gold Mine, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.

Ausdrill Companies

Author's Notes

There are a number of questions that surface frequently when people ask about the photography that I undertake. I use a combination of digital and film. I use digital for my aerial and people work, and where speed and real time results are critical. I don't do my own developing—all my film gets processed in Perth.

Mining photography has changed substantially over the past ten years and today it is far more difficult to get those great shots. A combination of changed safety rules, enforcement and increased mechanisation of the mining industry, has meant that one has far less latitude to work with and people to play with. I've found over the years that it's when one can get those groups of people together that the best photographic interactions take place.

For me, great mining photos are far more than just getting shots of big gear. People are what make the photos and in years to come it's those photos that show the relationship of the people to the gear that are the ones that stand out. So today, I try to look forward to not only what images will work now, but those that will have the most historical interest in the years to come. It's amazing how things that we now accept as part of

everyday life suddenly become interesting 15 or 20 years later. Clothing, hair styles, machines, motor vehicles—the change in their appearance is rapid.

When shooting mining photos I try also to give context to where one is. Colours of the rock and people aside, most mines look the same. So when I'm shooting I also look for features that will help establish a sense of place. It might be a baobab tree in Mali on the edge of a pit or a gold mine in the jungle, or an open fire on dawn in the Congo. It might be the striking red dust of the Pilbara or the salmon gums around Kalgoorlie.

Some of the photos taken in this book took some time to set up and were the result of considerable planning. They would not have been achieved without the incredible assistance of the Ausdrill people on site and very often their clients.

I have two Canon EOS5D Mark II bodies and three main lenses that I work with consistently: EF 16-35mm f2.8 L USM; 28-70mm f2.8 L USM and, EF 70-200mm f2.8 L IS USM. Needless to say, gear gets hammered taking mining photographs. Dust, heat, humidity and gear getting dropped are just some of the challenges that a photographer must address in the course of going about their business.

Photo Credits

The following images were taken by other unknown photographers: pages 24, 25, 29, 31, 36, 37, 40, 43, 45, 54, 59, 61, 64, 65, 68, 69, 73, 76, 80, 81, 84, 85, 89, 91, 138, 139, 144 and 151.



Logistics Direct Crew, Accra, Ghana, West Africa, 2010.

Back row left to right: Edward Avornyo, Peter Gralla, Richard Kyei Brewu, Benjamin Acheampong, Asiedu Kwaku Ayeh, Bright Fiawotso, Isaac Armah, Samuel Yirenkyi, Jonathan Klonziah, Robert Penstil, Samuel Munkoh, Alhassan Issah.

Front row left to right: Sam Addo-Yobo, Patrick Asiamah, Dorothy Anafo, Emmanuel Kissi, Prince Danso, Osei Opoku Agyeman, Mavis Owusu, Felicia Nuamah Mireku, Daniel Zulah.

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