

Online resource breaks new ground

by Michael Washbourne

Having chalked up more than 145,000 views since it was launched two years ago during a time of great uncertainty, the Gold Industry Group's (GIG) online Gold Jobs hub is primed to go further viral.

GIG chair Kelly Carter said the "one-stop-shop" for gold-related jobs and career information had taken on greater significance given the growing labour shortages which have crippled most industrial sectors across Australia over the past six months.

Australia's gold sector currently employs more than 50,000 people but demand for skilled workers is tipped to rise substantially over the next three years as more mines come online and existing operations expand.

"It almost feels quite prescient now that we were able to develop it and launch it when we did, which means that we're really well positioned to be able to assist our members and the broader gold community when the need will be at its greatest," Carter told **GMJ**.

"When you think about the broader plays that are likely to occur in the next 12-18 months, if we see shifts in migration into Western Australia and Australia more broadly, being able to have that one-

stop-shop service is going to be really helpful for those people who are new to the country and new to the industry."

Since its inception in early 2020, the Gold Jobs website has advertised thousands of jobs, ranging from exploration and mining-based roles to environment and community positions, from as many as 16 GIG member companies.

Detailed job profiles also offer insight into a range of roles across engineering, drill and blast, geoscience, environmental science, operations, processing, support services, and health and safety.

Carter said online platforms such as Gold Jobs were vital for attracting new talent into the industry.

"Clearly the sector is very buoyant at the moment and I think opportunities that it offers in terms of the breadth of careers that are available, both technical and non-technical, will only continue to grow and grow," she said.

"There's obviously a huge focus on ESG at the moment and that in itself creates a lot of opportunity for a very broad range of skillsets to come into the sector. There are going to be enormous benefits for the sector from having people come in from other industries,



Gold Industry Group board of directors. From left: Andrea Maxey (AngloGold Ashanti), Rebecca Ciotti (Northern Star), Kelly Carter (Gold Fields, chair), Ian Bamborough (Saturn Metals, vice-chair), John Mullumby (Gold Road Resources), Rebecca Johnston (executive officer) and Justine Fisher (St Barbara). Absent: Fiona Murfitt (Evolution Mining) and Cameron Alexander (The Perth Mint)



bringing new knowledge and experiences.

“Personally, I think the gold sector is very attractive due to the locations in which we operate. There are some very established regional centres connected to the gold sector, as well as FIFO options from Perth that are very accessible with short flights. It offers great work/life balance opportunities.”

Carter, who is Gold Fields Ltd’s vice-president legal and compliance, was recently elected chair of the GIG for a second term. The appointment of Saturn Metals Ltd managing director Ian Bamborough as vice-chair also marked the first time an exploration company has been represented on the member-based, not-for-profit industry association which is now in its seventh year.

A busy second half of the year looms for the group which will culminate in the popular Diversity Debate.

Speaking to **GMJ** prior to the release of the damning parliamentary inquiry into sexual harassment and assault of women in the mining sector, Carter heaped praise on the gold industry for its proactive approach to stamping out inappropriate and illegal behaviour.

“I think the gold sector has done very well – and certainly GIG has done very well – in showing a very strong commitment over a number of years to women in the industry, and we will certainly continue with that work and continue to support industry in that work,” she said.

“If I look at how our organisation has evolved over the years and the fact we now have a 50/50 split in our board on gender basis, we obviously have a female chair, we have a female executive officer, events like our Diversity Debate is going into its fifth year this year, we are now in the fourth year of our landmark sponsorship of women’s sport [as the major sponsor of leading netball team West Coast Fever], I think that really talks to a very strong commitment from the sector that looks back a lot further than the last 12-18 months in terms of its commitment to women in the industry and women’s participation in sport and society more broadly, and I think that is work we can all continue to build on.”



Bill Johnston, Rosie Villalba and Tara Rout

The Gold Industry Group recently hosted its sixth annual networking sundowner where the winners of coveted Gold Class Awards were also announced.

Evolution Mining Ltd community relations officer Tara Rout took home the top honour of Gold Class Facilitator of the Year 2021 for delivering six Gold Class education sessions to both primary and secondary school students.

Gold Fields Ltd was crowned Company of the Year for a second year running, with nine Gold Class facilitators from the company delivering 20 sessions.

Other award winners were Jessica Jones and Stuart Jenner from Gold Road Resources Ltd, Novo Resources Corp’s Nicole Reweti, The Perth Mint’s Rosie Villalba and Gold Fields pair Jay Stafford and Daniel Borgas.



Mike Spreadborough and Nicole Reweti



Jessica Jones

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