

Never Stand Still

Faculty of Engineering

The new digital world

Latest trends

Get water from air

Learning from a desert beetle

Coastal catastrophe

Acid sulfate soils

PLUS

Beauty and the Geek
Low carbon living CRC
Indigenous role model





KEY PLAYER Allison Golsby runs her own consultancy, ConsultMine.



Mine of information **Allison Golsby**

■ ALLISON GOLSBY KNOWS the moment that reset her priorities. She was working underground as a geotechnician in a copper and gold mine near Parkes, NSW, in November 1999 when a collapse led to the deaths of four of her colleagues, and trapped her underground. “I realised I could have been one of the guys who didn’t come out that day,” she says. “Some of my mates didn’t come out that day. As an operator I didn’t have that much influence on the safety side of things. I knew engineers had designed these systems and

I thought ‘If I’m going to make a difference, I need to be on the inside of engineering.’”

After going to UNSW to gain a Masters in Mining Engineering, Masters in Geomechanics and a Graduate Diploma in Mine Ventilation, Allison embarked on a Masters of Business Administration and launched her own business, ConsultMine. With a focus on safety, ventilation and compliance, the consultancy solves issues for big and small mining companies.

“People come to us with a question: ‘how can we do this better?’” Allison says.

“We don’t have pre-canned products to sell them. We prefer a challenge. It’s interesting as well, and I can keep learning – that’s one of the reasons I became a consultant.”

Started in 2010, ConsultMine has three permanent staff, and alliances and agreements with other specialists as required. Allison says although setting up the business was a huge learning curve, she loves now being able to make a difference. “I think people in Australia want to know their electricity is not coming from blood coal,” she says.

Winning £2 billion tender **Mark Westbrook**

■ FOR ALMOST FIVE years of his working life, Mark Westbrook has been involved in trying to win a tender for the largest private-public partnership (PPP) in Europe: a £2.4 billion high-speed train contract for the Great Western Main Line, linking London with Bristol and Cardiff. Thankfully, last year, his team was successful.

“It’s a real balance because you’ve got to win the tender and be very aggressive, but not lose your shirt,” he says.

Mark is the Head of Transport at John Laing in the UK, which is a developer, investor and operator of public assets, and Mark has been involved in a stream of large tenders. “It’s a very fine balance between winner’s curse and spending all

your time losing tenders,” he says.

A University Medallist, Mark initially finished his Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with a Bachelor of Science at UNSW in 1991, following that with a Master of Commerce at UNSW and a Master of Applied Finance. After working for Warman and ALSTOM in business development, he moved to the UK and a job at John Laing in 2007, where he is now in charge of a team of six.

“The reason I like transport projects and PPP projects in particular is I genuinely think the private sector is better at

designing an asset that is suitable for maintaining over 30 years,” Mark says. He says some international markets such as Canada “get” the need for private sector involvement in public infrastructure development. “They’re looking for transformation – something better than what they had before. They’re often after a very demanding performance regime – quite aspirational.”

Married to a Scot, and the father of three boys, Mark says as well as the beaches and the summer lifestyle of Sydney, he sometimes misses the Aussie spirit. “That go-get-’em attitude. Australians are up for it – they just get on and do it.”

