



MEET DEWI

Project Geologist

“It felt rewarding to apply these skills in a real-life situation... truly an experience I’ll never forget”

What is your name and job title?

My name is Dewi (but everyone calls me Dee) and my job title is Project Geologist.

Penny is one of the highest grade mine sites in Australia. What specifically drew you to want to work there?

I was working at Ramelius’ Vivien Mine and as the operation was slowly winding down, I was lucky enough to be offered a position at Penny. I was immediately drawn to the position as I have never worked in such a high grade mine. Penny and Vivien are similar in mineralisation style and host rock. However, there are certain challenges that are new, which makes it exciting because I never stop learning.

What does a typical day at Penny look like for you?

A typical day at Penny starts with the pre-start meeting with the underground crew, followed by our morning tech services meeting. After making a coffee, I make my way to the Mine Ore Pad to inspect the ore loads taken up in the previous 24hrs, then I come back to the office to do the daily numbers. Not long after this, I make my way underground to map and sample the ore faces. Once I’m finished, I would go down the decline to see if any structures need to be marked up or inspect any stopes that were fired from the previous shift. When I’m back at the office, I would do my data entry, then review any design plans for upcoming development or stoping, any stope reconciliation and update structural wireframes.

Penny is a reasonably small site with a tight-knit team. What are the main upsides for you in working within a small team?

Working on a small site has been awesome; we get the opportunity to get to know everyone and in doing so, we work alongside each other really well. Our attitude at work is that we help everyone out, no matter what job, whether it’s the engineers helping us sample faces or us helping the surveyors do markups... no job is too big. It sounds really cliché, but we really are like a little family here and we have a lot of laughs.

What’s an interesting story you can share from site?

Last year we received a call about a car crash located 50km south-east of Penny (near Lake Barlee). As Penny was the nearest mine with an emergency response team and medical supplies, we were asked to attend the scene. When we arrived, we found that a couple was part of a rally race, and they were rear ended by another car that was driving at 80km/hr. The driver was still in her seat with possible neck injuries. To ensure minimal spine movement, we fitted the driver with a Kendrick Extrication Device (KED) and gently removed her from the car. We conducted a welfare check on everyone else involved and luckily, they were okay. We brought the couple back to site and kept them stable until RFDS were able to arrive on site. I owe the success of this rescue to my ERT training with the SEOs; it felt rewarding to apply these skills in a real-life situation... truly an experience I’ll never forget.

Is there anything you are seeking to accomplish or experience at Penny which you are yet to?

I am excited to build the core yard with the help of the team and I'm keen to create a blockmodel for Penny!

What do you spend most time doing in your down-time whilst on site?

Updating wireframes, mapping ore drives, restocking supplies or any housekeeping required (when work gets busy, the sea container can get pretty hairy).

What is one thing most people wouldn't know about Penny?

We actually have a site mascot... Say hi to Penny the echidna!



Off the Record

What gets you out of bed in the morning?

I remind myself that I have a lot to be grateful for... I have a supportive family, a great job and a roof over my head. With everything that's going on in the world, I think it's important to not take that for granted.

What are you reading or watching on Netflix right now?

I'm really hooked on Alone (TV series) on SBS!