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MEET LIINA

Exploration Geologist

What is your name and job title?

My name is Liina Sepp and I’m an Exploration Geologist at Roe Gold Project.

What inspired you to want to become a Geologist when you initially chose your career path?

The honest answer is that I’m not sure, not even in hindsight. I guess it’s a story like so many others - I was 18 and a bit lost, didn’t know what I wanted to do or who I wanted to be and suddenly I was expected to make that decision. Somewhere along the way I read about Geology, which sparked my interest, and a few months later I found myself in University learning about rocks. Now a decade later and here I am – still finding inspiration in the minerals. It could’ve had something to do with me growing up on a small coastal town surrounded by fossils left in limestone, which I used to collect as a kid. Maybe it was set in stone from there without me realizing it.

Roe has a tight-knit team, being an exploration project. What are the main upsides for you in working within a small team?

The upside of any small team is getting to know everyone and losing the anonymity bigger mine sites offer. The closer the team is, the more mentality changes from each individual having their strict set of job tasks which bound them, to the point where the realisation comes that these smaller tasks form a bigger picture and the goal changes from attempting to do as little as possible and pushing responsibilities to someone else, to finding collective duty of care to each other. It’s when the age old saying that “there is no ‘I’ in team” becomes reality and the whole group benefits from it.

What’s your favourite thing about working at Roe?

The team at Roe has an excellent understanding of the orebody and the surrounding geology, which includes the structures controlling the mineralization and all the different rock types. I like how they place a lot of importance on unravelling the geologic history of the area, with gold mineralization events one part of it. It’s not just about following the gold, it’s also asking why it is there and how did it get there and what else has happened around here.

How would you pitch Ramelius to a friend?

As an exploration geologist, Ramelius offers the opportunity to move between exploration sites and get exposure to different geological settings, different types of mineralization and different stages of exploration. Our work sites vary from staying in mine camps and working around operating mines to remote exploration with no mining infrastructure in place and sleeping in caravans; exploration varies from drill testing targets for the first time to logging the core from underground resource drilling.

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

Some nights I sit outside with my coworkers or play a round or two on the minigolf course, other days I value my alone time which usually means watching an episode or two on Netflix. Most nights it’s a mixture of both.

What is something you are aspiring to accomplish in your career which you are yet to?

Like every other exploration geologist, I hope to make a discovery someday. It’s probably the biggest achievement for any exploration team to build up targets, drill test them, hopefully make a discovery, follow the gold and build it into a mineable resource. That’s definitely something to work towards.

Do you have an interesting or funny story you can share from site?

We've recently had an increase of flies taking over our workplace. Sometimes our fight against them looks like we're battling demons, other times like we are creating new swimming techniques. It's common to see someone walking around the office with a flyswatter and looking suspiciously at every surface like they are in a Sylvester Stallone action movie, looking for a villain. A few days ago, one of the guys was on a hunt for the fly which started with him, slapping himself and ended with him using the swatter to continue hitting himself. Fly escaped initially, but it started a war, which consisted of multiple battle cries, almost spilt cup of coffee and a fly stain on the cross section.

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

In the mornings I tumble out of the bed, make my way into the kitchen to pour myself a cup of ambition, yawn, stretch and try to come life... like Dolly Parton sings. Work day starts with a morning pre-start, where we get the tasks for the day and consult with the drillers on how the drilling is going and if the drillholes are swinging in the right direction to hit the modelled ore zone. After pre-start we go on our daily adventure to the lakes – take in the scenic view of now mostly dry salt lake decorated with a spinning diamond rig in the middle – and imagine how this was the place, where the poets went to, pondering if we really belong there. Whilst there, we complete our morning exercise by picking up the trays filled with drillcore.

I have my first coffee with my morning walk around the coreyard to have quick glance on how much core my rig has produced and look for anything exciting – visible gold being on top of my list. Back in the office, I do my computer work while having my second cup of coffee and my brain is slowly waking up from its sweet overnight hibernation.

By the time I'm fully awake and sun is high up in the sky, I go back to the coreyard, where I spend most of my day solving the mysteries the rocks have prepared for me in the past billions of years, and in the process figure out where the gold is hiding and how the ore zone is looking from the current location, in the sunlight and in that angle. This of course is a complicated way of describing the core logging.

I finish my day by drawing up my cross-section, graphical log, browse around Micromine and do my geology interpretation.

At night before it gets too dark, we sit outside with the team and enjoy a few rounds of minigolf in the freshly opened Roe minigolf course, situated behind our caravans, or sit around and decompress by having a chat about something that doesn't involve rocks, drilling and ori line.

What type of work environment do you like best?

As a female working in a male dominated industry, I value a safe work environment above all else, where everybody is treated as equals and the company enforces strong safety culture, when it comes to bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment as well as making sure everybody comes home unharmed at the end of the day. On top of that I think good team mentality is very important, where everybody feels like they belong and personal development is made a priority to solidify the feeling of being seen, as opposed to environments where people feel stuck in the same position.

Off the Record:**What are you reading or watching on Netflix right now?**

I just finished rereading one of my old favourites "Arc of Triumph" by Erich Maria Remarque and I also finished watching "Slow Horses" and "Masters of Air". At the moment I'm open for suggestions on both.

What gets you out of bed in the morning?

It's usually my alarm number seven screaming by my ear, after already having been snoozed six times and reminding me that I really need to get up now or I will be late to the morning meeting, having to endure the embarrassment of having a coworker knock on my door (or on the caravan wall) followed by the walk of shame into the office, with one eye open just enough not to trip over my untied boots, my hair looking like I came straight from a midnight flight on my broomstick, and wearing my shirt inside out, while everybody else is already working and looking at me like... Well, exactly like you'd expect them to look at anyone doing their morning workplace walk of shame while profusely apologizing for having slept in (that has actually not happened).

And then coffee.

I like mornings just as much as Garfield likes Mondays.