



MEET ALEX

Project Exploration Geologist

“I’ll never forget getting lost driving from the Mt Magnet Camp to the exploration office, in the dark, on my first day at Mt Magnet - sure was funny to everyone else at the time, and now I can look back on it and have a chuckle”

What is your name and job title?

My name is Alex Hogg and I’m a Project Exploration Geologist.

How long have you worked for Ramelius?

I’ve been at Ramelius for almost three years now, starting in August 2021.

Which Ramelius mine site do you work at?

The majority of my time is based around Mt Magnet (currently I’m at Edna May) but I started at Edna May and have done drilling programs around Tampia and Marda, and Cue.

How would you pitch Ramelius to a friend?

The one thing that Ramelius does really well, and better than most companies I’ve worked for, is time and effort into training new staff. In exploration, we’ve taken on a lot of people new to the industry from all over the world, with varying levels of experience and geological knowledge specific to WA. All credit to the Board, Peter, Geoff and Volker for ensuring that there’s money available to get industry experts in for training sessions in various aspects of geology and geophysics and make us available to attend training sessions offsite at places like ESRI and Micromine.

What was your favourite thing about working at Cue?

There’s a really good team up there. Everyone working together great, bouncing ideas off each other, producing really good work as a geology team, backed up by senior geologists who are knowledgeable, passionate and keep things positive.

If you were not a Geologist but had to choose another career within Mining, what would you choose and why?
I’d probably try and become a site SEO or something within the HSE department.

What are you most proud of in working for Ramelius?

There’s so much knowledge among the business and it’s great to see people in different departments, from different backgrounds sharing their knowledge and all helping each other. Too many times in other places, I see departments siloed off from one another and you don’t get that knowledge shared around the business.

In the last six months, what’s been you or your team’s greatest achievement?

I think the team’s greatest achievement recently has been the work done to put together the resource at Moyagee. It’s been a collaborative effort between the team on site, the team in the Perth head office and all of our contracting partners to come together and deliver something tangible for the Company’s future.

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

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What is something you’ve learnt recently on the job?

Lately, I’ve been learning the process of effective geological targeting. Working on the geology model, using all the tools available to us to plan drill programs to hopefully find the next big deposit.

What would you say to new graduates who are considering starting FIFO work?

First and foremost, don’t get sucked in by the money. Sure, we all work hard out here and get paid very well for our troubles, but the industry itself rides in waves, especially in exploration work.

Continued: If the market turns, you could find yourself out of work quite easily and you don't want to be in a position where you have a lot of debt and need to maintain a high salary to keep the plates spinning. So, set yourself a budget, stick to it and make sure you have ample savings behind you.

Secondly, maintain open and honest communication with your loved ones back home. This is geared towards those in romantic relationships back home but can be broadly applicable to almost anyone. As someone who has, in one form or another, been in a long-distance relationship for nearly a decade now, it can be tough to stay connected with the distance. And for some, that can lead to doubts in your mind about what is happening while you're away. Be honest and open with your loved ones back home and things will often work out.

Thirdly, you need to maintain some balance while you're out here. Try not to spend too much time after work mindlessly scrolling social media, or in the pub drinking too much or overeating. Long hours and anything up to two weeks on site can take a toll physically and mentally, so it's important to stay active mentally and physically. Podcasts, music, working out in the gym, reading a good book, whatever that looks like for you...spend some time every day on site doing that.

Off the Record:

What book are you reading or tv show are you watching on Netflix right now?

I just finished a book by Australian journalist Peter Greste called *The First Casualty*, about the war on journalism, propaganda and his own personal tale of getting arrested, convicted and jailed in 2015 on bogus terrorism charges in Egypt.

I don't have a Netflix subscription, and don't really watch all that much TV. I am waiting for the new season of *Only Murders in the Building* to start.

I do watch an enormous amount of YouTube though. Some recent standouts on YouTube include a four hour documentary about plagiarism on YouTube, from a creator with the handle of *hbombguy*, a multi part documentary doing a deep dive into the history of the Minnesota Vikings (even though I don't watch the NFL, it was an entertaining ride) and an hour long documentary about Formula One legend, Nigel Mansell. I guess you can tell who the nerds are when they admit to watching stuff like this.

What three character traits would your coworkers use to describe you?

Affable, funny and opinionated. Noone ever said they all had to be positive character traits!

What's your favourite music genre and why?

Oh, I wish you wouldn't have asked me that. I am a huge fan of a lot of genres of music and go to a lot of live music concerts. Last year alone, even with a FIFO roster I still attended 54 live concerts and 14 so far this year.

Everything from packed out sweaty rock gigs in tiny clubs, "civilised" jazz concerts with my wife where we dress up a bit, to watching Rod Stewart at RAC Arena (probably the biggest gig in terms of attendance I went to last year).

But if I had to pick just one genre of music – the one I would pick would be progressive rock. It's the complexity, the approach to storytelling and the long form songs that appeal to me. When done well, it's like listening to a really good movie soundtrack or opera.

For the older people in the audience reading this; that'd be artists like Pink Floyd, Genesis, Rush (for whom I travelled to their last ever concert in LA in 2015), King Crimson (whom I've seen nine times over the years; all in Europe), yes, Emerson Lake and Palmer, Rick Wakeman (who still plays live today; saw him in the UK earlier this year) and Marillion (another band I've travelled to see a lot over the years. And no, Fish is not still in the band, he left before I was born. If you know, you know).

But that genre is still going on strong today and is mixed a lot with heavy metal these days. The biggest name that some of you might know would be Tool, but others include Dream Theater, Haken, Karnivool, Devin Townsend, Riverside, Leprous...and many more.