

# Heron Explorer

A quarterly communication from Heron Resources, keeping you informed of our latest projects, initiatives and business opportunities.

Page 1 of 2



## Heron Resources **James Ridley**

### **An Insight into James Ridley's role at Heron Resources**

#### **With over 20 years experience as a geologist can you give us a brief summary of your working background?**

The early part of my career was focused on mining geology, initially at gold operations in western Nevada, USA, Kalgoorlie, and the Murchison from late 1985 through 1990, followed by iron ore in the Pilbara through mid-1993.

I then joined exploration, resource and mining consultancy, Resource Service Group (RSG) in Perth, as a Senior Resource Geologist where I worked for over 11 years prior to joining Heron in late 2004. As a consultant, my resource modeling activities covered a wide variety of deposit types and mineralization styles for commodities including gold, silver, platinum group metals, nickel, copper, lead, zinc and iron, with much of this work completed as part of technical audits, due diligence studies, prefeasibility studies and bankable feasibility studies on behalf of Australian and overseas exploration and mining companies and banking institutions.

#### **What drew you away from consulting to work for Heron?**

While consulting provided me with fantastic experience using a variety of resource modeling methods on a wide variety of deposit types, the high turnover in project work

prevented me from taking ownership of ongoing work activities for any one project. I saw Heron's hopes to develop the KNP, a work class nickel laterite mining operation, to be a great opportunity to get involved in multiple facets of the project (resource estimation, geo-metallurgy and mining) and contribute in growing Heron's understanding of the technical issues relating to the project development.

#### **You have been a Senior Resource Geologist with Heron since late 2004. What does your role at Heron entail?**

Initially, I carried out database validation and Quality Control (QAQC) data analysis for Heron prior to being seconded to Inco Australia (now Vale) in mid 2005 as part of the KNP Farm-in Agreement (FIA) between Heron and Inco. With Inco, I was involved in additional database validation work followed by an assessment of the KNP drilling data, and planning of the FIA Stage 1 diamond drilling. This progressed into establishing the QAQC procedures used in the Stage 1 drilling program, routine monitoring of QAQC data throughout the program, and then a detailed assessment of the analytical data from the Stage 1 drilling and beneficiation test work.

In mid-2007 I returned to Heron and commenced management of resource estimation activities for Heron's



**Heron Resources Limited**



Heron Resources  
**James Ridley**

Jump-up Dam project, which grew to include the Boyce Creek and Aubils deposits under Heron's wider Yerilla Project. Specific activities have included exploration database validation, QAQC data analysis, geological modeling, and resource estimation, most of which has involved working closely with Heron technical staff and external resource and mining consultants to ensure the resource models are of high quality and take into account suitable parameters and assumptions relating to mining and ore processing.

Over the past year since Heron began looking to acquire or buying into a project to generate a positive cash flow, I have been required to review geology and resources data for a number of projects of potential interest to Heron. This has been both interesting and a refreshing break from nickel laterite resource work.

I am currently in the process of reviewing the Vale resource models for the KNP prepared as part of Vale prefeasibility study of the KNP.

**You developed a geochemical material type classification scheme for Jump-up Dam which has greatly assisted in Heron's technical evaluation of the project.**

A large portion of my work since returning to Heron has focused on developing a geochemical material type classification scheme for Jump-up Dam in order to overcome difficulties (1) collecting consistent geological logging data in the field, (2) modeling of the complex 3-D distribution of different material types at Jump-up Dam and (3) selecting representative material for metallurgical test work.

Based on a combination of multi-element geochemistry and XRD mineralogy data for over 200 samples at Jump-up Dam, the classification scheme uses variations in the ratios of the major oxide components (eg magnesia, iron oxide, silica, alumina, and calcium oxide) to predict up to 16 material types containing different mineralization characteristics.

The scheme has been applied to the Yerilla project resource models allowing resource tonnages and grades for the different material types to be quantified. It has also been used to select material for metallurgical test work, thus providing an important link between the test work performance, selection of appropriate ore processing methods, and the location (and availability) of the various material types at the different deposits.

**How are you enjoying your role at Heron? What do you see in the future of the company?**

I consider it a privilege to work in the close knit Heron team environment and have very much enjoyed my involvement in evaluations of the Yerilla and KNP projects over the last four years. I look forward to a time when all this hard work pays off and Heron becomes a nickel producer.

In the mean time it's not unreasonable to assume that Heron will find a suitable project to acquire or earning interest in which will give Heron a positive cash flow over the short to medium term.

**What do you do for fun outside of work?**

I enjoy cycling, swimming, playing guitar, getting together with friends and playing with my two boys (7 and 9 yrs).

