



## Getting to know Alan Coles

Alan Coles has been newly appointed as Resident Manager of the A1 Gold Mine in eastern Victoria.

### Can you give us a brief summary of your working background and how you came to be working in the industry?

While growing up in Western Australia I developed a keen interest in rocks and minerals which led me to gain university qualifications in geology and mining engineering. I have over 30 years experience in the mining industry working in both underground and open cut operations. As a Mine Manager I have spent over 13 years directly managing gold mining operations and a further 9 years in copper and coal mines.

### What project have you worked on before moving to Victoria?

I have been involved with a number of projects during my working life. The biggest was the development of the Wesfarmers 4 million tonne per annum Premier Coal Mine in Western Australia. The most interesting was the 700 000 tonne per annum Tritton Underground Copper project at NSW.

### What attracted you to move to Victoria to work on the A1 Mine?

I was excited by the opportunity to get in on the ground floor to redevelop the A1 Mine which was a major high grade mine with a long production history. I recognised that modern mining methods had never been used at the mine and that there was further potential for extensions to the ore zones. This made me believe that the A1 would be developed as a very profitable gold producer.

### As the new manager for the project could you explain what your role involves?

As Resident Manager I am responsible to ensure that we safely and efficiently develop the mine access and exploration programs to prove ore reserves for future mining. I will make certain that all our systems are correctly implemented so that we have minimal environmental impact; a safe work place and efficient work practices. This will make us cost effective and ensure that the A1 team is united to develop the project into a profitable gold mine.

### What do you see are the project's biggest positives as well as its challenges?

The biggest challenge will be the accurate determination of the resource grade because of the nuggety nature of the gold distribution. On a positive the previous mining was all at high cut of grades which means by using modern mining methods that substantial economic ore will be available in the old workings and that potentially even more will be obtained from extensions to the ore zone not previously mined.

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

My wife and I enjoy travelling and have visited many parts of Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. We also have a Labrador dog named Nitro which we take bush walking. He is enjoying the mountain tracks that are so numerous in the area around Jamieson.

