

Making hay at home



By Ben Sharples, Mining News

Wednesday, August 31, 2005

THIS part time surfer, full time geologist, and former analyst is one of those increasingly unfashionable beasts – a big fan of Australia's mining and exploration potential.

Crescent Gold managing director Andrew Haythorpe kicked off his mining career in the 1980s after graduating from James Cook University in Townsville.

Initially drafted by CRA, Haythorpe subsequently spent time in the field with Battle Mountain Gold and Renison Goldfields, before shelving the prospecting pan and donning a suit and tie for a stint in the corporate world.

A few years on the fine dining circuit involved roles as a mining analyst for Suncorp, County Natwest and Hartley Poynton, before four years as a fund manager for Bankers Trust.

"When I was at Bankers Trust I used to get about five phone calls a day about rumoured takeover bids, and it didn't take long to figure out that if you actually bought on every rumour you would have lost a lot of money," Haythorpe said.

It wasn't long before the allure of dust up the nostrils and dirt under the fingernails grabbed Haythorpe for round two, with the top job at Michelago his next gig ahead of his current position at Crescent.

In terms of global prospectivity, Haythorpe lists places like China, Africa and Latin America, as "geologically great", though Africa's political climate and competition with North Americans in South America are turn-offs.

However, Haythorpe also gives our own backyard the two thumbs up.

"The opportunities in Australia are sensational, yet the market doesn't really see it," Haythorpe said. "But that's how you make money in this business, by going somewhere where the market is not taking much interest, and five years later producing the goods."

When it comes time to lob the prospecting pick in the garage, Haythorpe lists his hobbies as recuperation and rest. But for two weeks a year (almost like a migratory bird) Haythorpe packs up the family, the surfboards and the wax and heads to sunny Bali to catch the perfect wave.

"I've got the family these days, so I don't get too far from beyond the resort," said "Taj" Haythorpe. "These days the adventure is getting through customs and immigration rather than going off and charging around the island."

Haythorpe will be speaking at the Excellence in Exploration and Mining Conference at the Sofitel Wentworth in Sydney on October 17-18. Click below for detail