



## Work Experience Placement – Case Study: James Baylis, Jnr Mining Engineer

Between April and July 2016, I was afforded the opportunity to take part in a work experience placement with Terramin Australia Ltd (Terramin). The placement allowed me to fulfill the practical experience requirements of my Bachelor's Degree in Mining Engineering, qualify for professional membership of Engineers Australia and receive on the job experience.

The duties I undertook during placement with Terramin were primarily focused within two areas:

- A mine feasibility project; investigating mobile underground equipment selection for Bird in Hand gold mine (BIH); and
- Environmental management at both Angas zinc mine (AZM) and BIH.

The mine feasibility project gave me the opportunity to apply the skills, knowledge and attributes I gained at university in a real world application. Throughout the project I had opportunities to liaise with Terramin employees as well as equipment manufacturers and suppliers. Through these interactions I built on my communication skills, learnt how to balance the competing interests of different disciplines and stakeholders, and expand my network. Unlike academic exercises, undertaking this project evolved my understanding of what was optimal versus what was achievable and improved my ability to make professional judgments. This was only possible because of the access I had to experienced personnel and their willingness to share and impart their knowledge.

The time I spent working in environmental management for Terramin, gave me the opportunity to work on two separate mine sites, at the end and beginning stages of life. Under the direction of Terramin environmental personnel, I learnt practical applications of how to monitor, manage and rehabilitate a mine site and the considerations and preparatory work undertaken for a new project. Viewing a project from a different perspective and understanding the different social, technical, economical and regulatory considerations that constrain it served to expand my understanding of the industry beyond an engineering context.

In addition to the assigned scope and outcomes of my work placement, I was also able to observe and be a part of informal and formal meetings, workplace discussions and take time to learn about colleagues and their roles and associated responsibilities. These observations and interactions, gave me an insight into how both individuals and the company functioned, overcame challenges, and managed teams and resources to achieve a singular goal.

Work experience with Terramin allowed me to build on my engineering knowledge, skill base, application ability, and personal and professional attributes. Terramin provided a simple, robust and flexible work experience program that provided both onsite experience and a genuine engineering project with achievable outcomes. Their willingness to invest in my success further inspired me to provide value for them and achieve the best possible outcomes whenever possible.

The network and experience I gained while at Terramin has already served me well as I move from university into professional life within the mining industry.