



# ADVENTURE WORLD

OFFICE culture is a little different for mining and exploration companies such as Gold Road, which has an exploration site spanning more than 5000sq km about 900km east of Perth.

A small player in the scheme of WA's booming resources industry, Gold Road has about 20 employees, but plans to expand as a miner.

Under the guidance of non-executive director Russell Davis the company began drilling the Yamarna gold belt in 2006, but suffered the impacts of the global financial crisis and a limited capacity.

Three years later it found what Gold Road technical director Ziggy Lubieniecki called "exceptionally high-grade" gold deposits, which then led to more discoveries in the area.

## HIGH GROWTH

"Our extremely positive drilling results since 2009 have led us to increase our drilling program from 37,000m in 2010 to 150,000m this

year and an anticipated 250,000m next year," he said. "This growth meant we had to more than treble our camp at Yamarna and we expect similar growth in future as we look to further prove up our assertion that Yamarna is an entirely new gold region."

Mr Lubieniecki has been in the game for about 25 years and runs the exploration team.

## THRILL OF DISCOVERY

"From a young age I was inspired by the exploits of many adventurers, explorers and early archeologists and, like my heroes, I wanted to discover something – I just didn't know then exactly what," he said.

Mr Lubieniecki studied applied geology at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology before getting his first contract job as a geologist, earning about \$200 a day.

According to the 2011 Hays Salary Guide, a chief geologist can now expect to reap between \$150,000 and

\$240,000, and a graduate geologist between \$75,000 and \$85,000.

The director warned budding geologists with dollar signs in their eyes it was not always about travelling, fresh air and fat pay cheques.

## HARD WORK

"Working hours can be long and you might have to spend time away from loved ones," he said.

"A lot of people think that working on site (which is 900km east of Perth, or a three-hour flight) is easy money.

"Most of the time it is a lot of hard work."

Though bulging wages are an attractive part of the job, he said it was not always the most important factor for geologists.

"For me, the most important part of my work is the sense of adventure and the possibility of a large mineral discovery," he said.

As well as tertiary qualifications the

director said workers needed to be determined, reliable team players who were adaptable and flexible.

Most of the company's employees work on site, including drilling contractors, cooks, cleaners, geologists and assistants, but there are also a few office geologists, administration staff and a chairman based in West Perth.

As the company winds up one drilling program to start an even bigger one, with the hope of mining in 2012, hiring is a critical issue for the company.

Mr Lubieniecki said while those working on site were younger – attracted by wage packages and travel opportunities – the older, more experienced geologists were favouring office positions.

"The biggest challenge is finding and recruiting experienced senior geologists who are willing to work in the field for prolonged periods of time," he said.

  
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**Gold diggers: Geologist Meg Bagby, left, Gold Road technical director Ziggy Lubieniecki and consulting geologist Paul Sauter**



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## **GOLD ROAD**

**Industry:**  
Resources

**Head office:**  
22 Altona St, West  
Perth

**No of employees:** 20

**About the business:** Gold Road is a gold exploration junior, which owns tenements covering more than 5000sq km of the Yamarna greenstone belt, 900km east of Perth. The company is developing two areas, the Attila Trend and the Central Bore Trend. It was formerly known as Elekra Mines.

