



Photo courtesy of The Kalgoorlie Miner

WASM ALUMNI

50th Anniversary

Left to right: WA School of Mines alumni Dennis Sands, John Kelly, Doug Marshall, Malcolm Wills and Brian Philips all from the class of 1966

Dennis Sands

WASM took the opportunity to recognise some of its longest-standing alumni at the 2016 graduation ceremony. Among those honoured was retired geologist, Dennis Sands, who rated helping find what led to the Kurrara gold mine among his career highlights.

1. Where were you born and when?

I was born in Mt Magnet, 73 years ago.

2. When did you attend WASM?

I began studying at the School of Mines - mining geology - in 1961, after being awarded a Chamber of Mines Scholarship. I did two years full-time study, then completed the course while working as a geologist's assistant on the North Kalgoorlie Gold Mine.

3. Where was your first job?

After graduating, I worked as a junior geologist on North Kalgoorlie, but was soon transferred to their joint venture partner, Great Boulder. That was at about the start of the nickel boom. I worked on several exploration projects, including, Scotia and Carr Boyd nickel discoveries, and the Speewah Valley fluorite project in the East Kimberly. I left Great Boulder in 1977 soon after it was taken over by Western Mining. I then worked for Nord Resources in the Northern Territory. In about 1980, Nord's focus shifted to WA. In 1986, they formed a joint venture with Indian Ocean Resources to explore for gold north of Reedy's that led to the establishment of the Kurrara gold mine.

4. What was your best job?

It's hard to say - I enjoyed them all.

5. What are your retirement hobbies?

I retired from Nord Resources in 1990 and now live in Geraldton. I am learning to play lawn bowls at The Wonthella Bowling Club and carpet bowls at the senior citizens centre.

6. How you feel about your WASM 50th anniversary honour?

I enjoyed the 50th year anniversary celebrations, but I was sad to hear that so many of my friends had passed away.