

## Headlines

- PAST EVENT: Technical Meeting - Monday 10 September 2018
- The Government of Western Australia Department of Mines, Industry and Regulations and Safety – Significant Incident Report No 266
- Roving Report
- Perth Women's Auxiliary Committee
- Newsletter Advertising Rates
- Perth & Kalgoorlie Branch Committee Contacts

## PAST EVENT: Technical Meeting Monday 10 September 18

**Venue:** The Celtic Club, 48 Ord St, West Perth

**Speakers:** Karin Soldenhoff BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD  
Technology Manager - ANSTO Minerals  
Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation, Australia  
Ian Chalmers graduated as a geologist from Curtin University in Western Australia and also has a Master of Science degree from Leicester University in the UK

**Topic:** "Partnering for Technology Development – The Dubbo Rare Metal and Rare Earths Project"

### Sessions Summary

"This joint presentation by Karin Soldenhoff and Ian Chalmers will discuss the path taken by Alkane Resources to advance the Dubbo Rare Metal and Rare Earths Project over the last 10 years and the technical partnership with ANSTO that has been pivotal in enabling both the development of an optimum product suite and improved process efficiencies. Karin and Ian will discuss the respective roles of Alkane and ANSTO in technology development, as well as the benefits of persistence, a consistent process development team and an innovation focus leading to the construction ready project seen today. Karin and Ian will discuss some of the technical challenges faced during the long development program and the key areas of development required to deliver the efficiencies and product qualities required by the market

### **Speaker:**

Karin Soldenhoff BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD Technology Manager - ANSTO Minerals Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation, Australia Karin Soldenhoff graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) with a BSc (Hons) and from the University of Cape Town with a Masters degree in Chemistry. She was awarded a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of New South Wales (Australia). Over a 30 year career in process development for the mining industry, Karin has led numerous projects commissioned by industry regarding various aspects of hydrometallurgical processing of uranium, rare earths, zirconium, niobium, lithium, scandium and other critical metals. Karin has a special interest in solvent extraction and ion exchange separation technologies. Karin currently holds the role of Technology Manager for ANSTO Minerals at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

### **Speaker:**

Ian Chalmers graduated as a geologist from Curtin University in Western Australia and also has a Master of Science degree from Leicester University in the UK. He has been working in the mining industry for over 45 years and has been involved with the discovery and development of several deposits. As Technical and Managing Director of Alkane Resources, Ian led the successful team that discovered significant gold deposits at Tomingley and McPhillamys. He managed the subsequent Tomingley construction and production, and managed the development of the world class Dubbo Project in the Central West of New South Wales. Ian has been involved in the rare metal – rare earth industry for 30 years.

### **Where:**

The Celtic Club  
48 Ord St  
West Perth

This technical meeting is brought to you by The AusIMM Perth Branch and is worth 1 PD hour





Government of Western Australia  
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

## Significant Incident Report No. 266

**Subject:** Underground operator struck on the head by a high pressure air line

**Date:** 23 August 2018

### Summary of incident

*Investigation into this incident is ongoing. The information contained in this significant incident report is based on material received, knowledge and understanding at the time of writing.*

In August 2018, a service crew was extending air and water services underground. Upon re-energising the lines, it was noticed that the water line was not connected properly and was leaking. While the water line was being repaired, the adjacent pressurised air line disconnected at the coupling of a poly fitting and steel isolation valve.

The failure of the coupling caused the air line to whip around, breaking a holding chain and striking a service crew operator in the head. The operator collapsed and lost consciousness. He was stabilised and transported to hospital for treatment of concussion and lacerations to his head.

### Direct causes

The operator was in the line of fire when the coupling on the air line failed.



View of the failed coupling.

## Contributory causes

- The coupling used to connect the poly pipe was not fit-for-purpose.
- The coupling supplier could not provide the requested coupling normally used and recommended an alternative as being fit-for-purpose with the fittings and adapters in use. The recommendation was made without adequate assessment.
- When the coupling failed, a large section of the line started to whip around with sufficient force to break the holding chain. Early investigations indicate that the chain may have been installed too far back from the end of the pipe.
- Underground operators reportedly noticed problems with the coupling before the incident, but did not report their concerns to their supervisors.



View of the failed chain installed to secure the air line to the backs.

## Actions required

The following actions are recommended to prevent similar incidents.

- Review couplings currently in use for connecting services to confirm they are fit-for-purpose.
- Review procurement policies and procedures to confirm that new plant is assessed as fit-for-purpose by a competent person before being made available for use.
- Confirm services are adequately secured to prevent their uncontrolled release.
- Remind workers to raise any concerns about equipment, particularly if it is new to the site.
- Research sources of information for past incidents, product alerts and worker reports when conducting hazard identification and risk management.

## Further information

- Business Queensland, [www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/business/mining/safety-and-health/alerts-and-bulletins/mines-safety/incorrect-use-of-victaulic-flexible-coupling-sc-77](http://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/business/mining/safety-and-health/alerts-and-bulletins/mines-safety/incorrect-use-of-victaulic-flexible-coupling-sc-77)

Mines safety alert 267 – Incorrect use of Victaulic flexible coupling SC 77 (2011)

This Significant Incident Report was approved for release by the State Mining Engineer on 23 August 2018

## ROVING REPORT

Dear Member,

As I have commented upon before, Sunday mornings in Santiago are special for cyclists, runners, roller-bladers and skateboarders because various roads are closed to vehicular traffic allowing one to cycle in relative freedom and safety and explore parts of Santiago that are a trifle off the beaten track. Quite by accident I came across the fully restored Paris Pavilion (el Pabellón Paris) which houses the Artequin Museum just across the road from the Quinta Normal Park, where many families take the chance to get into open spaces of a weekend.



This magnificent building was constructed by Chile in 1889 to represent Chile at the Universal Exposition of Paris, held to celebrate the Centenary of the French Revolution or “the storming of the Bastille”. It was built by the French architect Henri Picq and not, as is often thought, by Gustave Eiffel who built his famous Tower for the same event. Stylish similarities, though, are obvious.



After the Exposition, the building was dismantled; shipped to Valparaíso; and then transported by train to Santiago. You can imagine what a feat of logistics and engineering in itself was such a journey in those days. The whole pavilion was then rebuilt in 1894 and served as an exhibit in the Exhibition of Mining and Metallurgy held that year – a fitting tribute to a magnificent structure. In 1992 it was fully renovated and restored to its original condition, including the beautiful colour scheme.



Stumbling further across the road to the Park itself, I discovered the open air Railway Museum (Museo Ferrovia de Santiago). This houses several locomotives and carriages dating back to the turn of the 20th Century – a time when Chile’s railway network was in full swing. Sadly this is no longer the case – perhaps another reason why the roads

are so clogged with transport lorries – but this was a wonderful time for Chile’s engineering heritage and a great way to see this beautiful country.

The Museum also houses an old tramcar that is in the process of being restored. There still remain several Santiago streets where the rails are still evident - a nightmare if cycling, by the way!

Having grown up in Blackpool where trams throughout the town were the norm as a child, these magnificent machines still excite me. I spent one glorious summer as a tram conductor during Uni vacations travelling up and down the promenade where trams still run to this day. Seven Golden Miles.



Richard F. Dewhirst FAusIMM(CP) cavallhao@gmail.com (skype : richarddewhirst1): +56 9 3201 5500

## Technical Talk Downloads and DVDs

Dear Members,

All Technical Talks up to February 2014 are filmed and are available for downloading free to members. Please see the AusIMM Shop or AusIMM YouTube channel for these talks.

Selected talks after Feb 2014 have been recorded as podcasts, with accompanying PowerPoint slides. Please contact the branch directly ([perth@ausimm.com.au](mailto:perth@ausimm.com.au)) for details.

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## Perth Women's Auxiliary

- Postal Correspondence  
Barbara Steemson is now the person to contact for **ALL** information, enquiries or to give apologies.
- Email Correspondence  
Lorraine Mackay will monitor the email correspondence and forward as necessary.

### Perth Women's Auxiliary Committee 2015

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<b>Main Contact, Gifts &amp; Speakers</b>	Barbara Steemson
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<b>UWA Student Chapter President</b>	Alex Turner	<a href="mailto:UwaSC@ausimm.com.au">UwaSC@ausimm.com.au</a>



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<b>Email correspondence to:</b> <a href="mailto:Kalgoorlie@ausimm.com.au">Kalgoorlie@ausimm.com.au</a>	

## Kalgoorlie Student Chapter Committee 2018

<b>President</b>	Francois Theron SAusIMM
<b>Email correspondence to:</b> <a href="mailto:kalgoorlieSC@ausimm.com.au">kalgoorlieSC@ausimm.com.au</a>	

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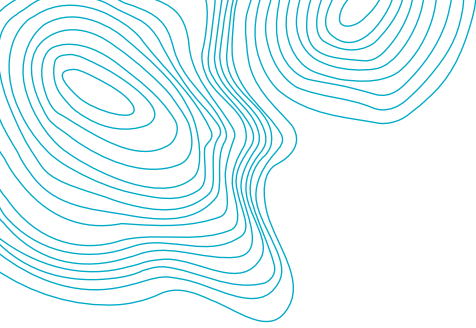
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