



The Institute of Quarrying Australia  
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PowerPoint Slides & Papers



**QUARRYING 2007 - Abstract**  
**MATTHEW GILL**

**(Former Mine Manager at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine)**

**The Beaconsfield Disaster - The Mine Manager's Perspective**

Matthew Gill was the Mine Manager at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine since its inception until March 2007, having arrived at the old mine in 1995 when it was still flooded and pre-feasibility. Matthew oversaw the dewatering and shaft refurbishment program, the initial underground development, diamond drilling, feasibility study, construction and commissioning, and the first gold bar pour in 1999.

As if these challenges were not enough, the JV companies went into administration/receivership mid 2001, but Matthew and his team held firm to return the operation to a profitable venture, repay creditors and achieve the re-listing of the companies.

And then the events of 25 April 2006 occurred. What followed would become a part of Australian mining history as, for fourteen days, the world watched every step of a complex and hazardous mine rescue operation to save two trapped miners 925 metres underground. Matthew will share some of those experiences – the technical challenges, the human challenges, crisis management, emergency preparedness, leadership, and media management.

**Biography**

Matthew is a mining engineer, having graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1982, and has over 20 years experience in the mining industry. He has worked as an underground miner, planning engineer, supervisor and manager, in Australia (Tasmania and WA) and PNG, and covering tin, copper, mineral sands, gold and nickel. During this time, he completed a masters degree in rock mechanics, a company directors diploma and possesses three mine managers certificates of competency (Tasmania, WA and PNG).

Matthew is the immediate past president of the Tasmanian Minerals Council, and chaired that body's OHS Committee for 9 years. His commitment to safety leadership is also reflected in his membership of the national minerals council body as well.

Matthew was the manager at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine since it commenced production in the new era, and was in charge during the ANZAC Day rockfall and subsequent rescue. He is currently enjoying a break before embarking on new and exciting challenges.