Pole position for ideas man

STAFF WRITER

Steve Crabbe (pictured) enjoys living life in the fast lane.

It all started studying business management at Perth TAFE and working as a fitter and first class machinist at Hamersley Iron on locomotive overhauls and engine rebuilds. Little did he know that these studies and early operational experience within the mining industry would be the platform which would set him up for a highly challenging and rewarding career which now sees him, amongst other things, as managing director of recently ASX-listed gold explorer, Naracoota Resources.

Having consolidated for the first time a tenement package in excess of 2,500 Ha in the premier copper and gold region of Peak Hill – Horseshoe Lights – Fortnum, near Meekatharra in Western Australia, the company's development is at an exciting stage, says Steve.

"This is what gets me out of bed in the morning; starting with an idea and a blank sheet of paper and working with good people to turn that idea into a successful reality.
"That's what we are trying to do with Naracoota Resources; go from an idea, to an active explorer, to a significant producer, as soon as possible.

"This is what we did at Auvex Resources before it was taken over by Mineral Resources, going from a concept on paper to a manganese producer within 18 months."

During 34 years in the resources industry, Steve held senior operational positions at companies such as Mineral Resources, Mt Magnet Gold and Western Mining.

In 2005, Steve went out on his own and co-founded SJ Crushing, a Mandurah-based mine and infrastructure development company specialising in crushing services, beneficiation plants, project management and facility operations.

SJ Crushing originally started out as a designer, constructor and operator to Aztec Resources' Koolan Island Iron Ore Crushing Plant.

Since the project's completion in 2007, SJ Crushing has continued to grow as it delivers a practical approach to project development, execution and operations and Steve continues to oversee the company's operations as a director.

Aside from Steve's role at Naracoota Resources and his role directing a successful mining services business, he is also an executive director of Lithex Resources - another ASX-listed explorer looking for lithium, tin and tantalum in north west Western Australia.

He has a strong affinity with regional Australia with his family background and career path having seen him spend large periods of his life in historic mining areas around Australia.
He was born in Broken Hill, and has worked or lived in areas such as Radium Hill, Bullfinch, Mt Magnet, Paraburdoo, Tom Price, Karratha, Leinster and Kalgoorlie.

Steve is a big believer in supporting and giving back to the communities that he is involved in too.

SJ Crushing donates to a number of charitable and community interests including the Mandurah hospital appeal, Peel Thunder football club, and North West softball championships.

During his free time, Steve, as well as his daughter, Annette, are often seen both racing Sprintcars in the Limited Division in Western Australia.
Not only is Steve one of the club's drivers, he is also a past vice president.

In the 2010/2011 season, SJ Crushing sponsored Bunbury's round the World Series Sprintcars event that was held over 2 nights on 11th and 12th February.

Track Record

2011 - Co-founder and Managing Director of ASX listed Naracoota Resources Ltd
2011 - Executive Director of ASX listed Lithex Resources Limited
2006 - 09 Co-founder and Managing Director of Auvex Resources Ltd (unlisted)
2005 - Co-founder and Director of private mining services company, SJ Crushing Pty Ltd.
1986-2005 Worked at Alcoa, TiWest, Mineral Resources, Mt Magnet Gold and Western Mining in a variety of operational management roles
1987-89 Diploma of Business Management, Perth TAFE