

INTREPID PATHWAYS—CARINA KEMP

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Formal qualifications

BSc Hons in Science majoring in Geophysics and then a PhD

Current professional role & responsibilities

I am currently working as Business Development Manager and Senior Geophysicist. GeoMole is a small company so my role is half technical consulting and then half marketing/business development. I manage all the consulting work and then develop new business areas and clients for GeoMole.



Employer - type

Small Contracting and Consulting Company to the Mining and Exploration industry.

Overview of career in the industry

I have been in the industry for 9 years, starting from when I began my PhD in applied mining geophysics after completing a BSc Honours:

2001 commenced PhD

2004 started working as a consultant part-time whilst completing my PhD

2006 completed PhD

2006 to 2008 worked as a Senior Geophysicist doing consulting with a company called Geoforce, servicing the mining, exploration and infrastructure industries.

2008 to present in present role at GeoMole.

EXPERIENCES WORKING IN THE RESOURCES SECTOR

Was working in the resources industry what you expected it would be when you were studying/training?

Yes, and more.

What is the single most risky step you have ever taken your career? Did you find it paid off? Is there anything you would have done differently?

Moving to Perth from Sydney and starting a fresh with new contacts. But it was worth it.

What have you found most rewarding about the industry and what would you most like to get out of your career in resources in the future?

Travel and networking has been the best part so far. In the future I want to be more involved with bigger companies rather than the smaller ones.

If you undertook any additional formal study whilst in the industry, did you find it useful in progressing your career?

My PhD has been very useful as it was very applied and relates to what I do now, so has been very good in progressing my career.

WORKING LIFESTYLE

What are your current work/accommodation arrangements?

Capital city based (with limited travel) I travel about once a month.

If at any time you left the industry and came back, why did you leave, how long were you gone for and what motivated you to return?

I've only ever worked with these arrangements. But the constant travel can be draining.

What changes or compromises have you had to make in order to balance family or other responsibilities or interests with a career in the industry? Have you found the right balance for you?

Working for a smaller company gives you more flexibility when it comes to balancing family arrangements with the ability to work from home and at nights. It has worked well so far, but ask me again in a few months after my first child is born.

Has your employer been open to negotiating changes to your role or roster to accommodate non-work interests or responsibilities?

Yes, provided you can get your work done there should be no reason for you not to be able to have another life outside work.

BEING FEMALE IN THE INDUSTRY

What challenges have you experienced by virtue of working in an industry that is predominantly male? Do you feel you have had to adapt to 'fit' the industry?

As a female you do have to adapt to fit the industry, but not necessarily in a bad way. There can be advantages in being female in a male dominated industry in that you stand out a bit more amongst the crowd, but at the same time you are sometimes under more scrutiny.

Do you feel that you faced any obstacles or discrimination by virtue of your gender in your career and if so, how did you address these issues in order to continue to progress?

No obstacles or discrimination. You sometimes need to turn a blind eye to the blokey-ness of the workplace and ignore any comments that might offend you. If can manage this then you'll have no issues.