

**Comments by Mining Hall of Fame Chairman, Ron Manners, for the Melbourne "mininghall.com" web-site launch,**

4 June 2001

By: Ron Manners

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Welcome friends and colleagues, supporters and potential supporters, in particular Mining Hall of Fame Patrons in Sir Arvi Parbo, Brian Loton and our Victorian Campaign Chairman, John Barr, and the key members of Australia's Resources Media.

Australia's Prospecting and Mining industry represents the achievements of four generations of Australians over 150 years, and even before that.

We have a great treasure; we have a great cause.

Are we taking every measure to defend that cause?

Australia's Mining Hall of Fame is dedicated to explaining to all Australians just how central our industry is to their continuing well-being.

It is crucial to the future development of our Nation that mining is seen for its positive outcomes.

A few words on the project itself ...

- The new distinctive 6,000 sq metre multi-level building is the winning design from an Australia-wide architectural competition.
- The building forms part of the established 8 hectare Mining Heritage precinct at Kalgoorlie's north end. In that sense, it is already an operating business with an underground tourist mine and visitor facilities. Normandy Mining and Homestake Mining provided these.
- Are we on target for our October official opening and with our fundraising?

Yes, we are on target for the official opening (recent photos are on display along with current donor lists and remaining sponsorship opportunities).

This is a \$21 million project and so far, we have received pledges to the value of \$18 million.

The building is proceeding quickly, and there is a degree of urgency in raising the balance of \$3 million.

We are a small team of volunteers and we all have day-jobs, so don't be offended if we haven't called on you yet, instead please approach us.

Our Mining Hall of Fame has evolved into a significant joint-venture between three main groups:

1. The resource industry (companies large and small)

2. Governments, Federal, State and Local
3. Hundreds of individual members and supporters, covering the broadest spectrum of Australians imaginable, which in itself is an indication of the range of Australians touched by our activities.

Like most good joint ventures, it will bring the various parties together as we share our common objectives.

In sport, you know how important it is for your team to win.

More importantly, if our mining team doesn't win, the whole nation suffers.

Our Mining Hall of Fame will help us win, by lifting our industry's profile through showcasing what mining does for our Country, and demonstrating the latest technology used in all facets of prospecting and mining.

Our industry will be judged, as usual, by our performance in taking a leading role in bringing this project to the public in keeping with our technologically advanced, responsible, productive industry that will continue to carry our nation forward.

Our Mining Hall of Fame is essentially about leadership and an example of such leadership is the way WMC stepped forward when they heard that we were going out to tender on our ambitious web-enablement, with a broad scope incorporating education, communication, explanation and fund-raising.

When WMC stepped in with their offer for that aspect. They were most welcome as they are the acknowledged leaders in Internet technology within our industry.

It has been a pleasure working with Hugh Morgan and his team, and WMC's major sponsorship pledge of \$450,000 over five years sets a great example for other companies to identify their strengths and to share them with us.

Thank you Hugh, Einar Vikingur and Lesley Crombie and the other members of your team, for this level of support and for generously arranging today's event.

With pride now, I hand you over to Mr Hugh Morgan, WMC's CEO, to cover the industry perspective and officially launch our Mining Hall of Fame interactive web-site which, while still in a creativity phase, is very much up and running.