

WASM and Mannkal Leadership In Mining Sundowner

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The West Australian School of Mines (WASM) and Mannkal Leadership in Mining Sundowner was held on the evening of the 11th of March. With the event came the launch of the Leadership Essay Competition for all WA School of Mines Students. Fortunate enough to be a student of WASM I have had the pleasure of attending the event.

During the event keynote guest speaker David Flanagan (Non-Executive Chairman at Atlas Iron) gave a fantastic and enthusiastic speech on the theme of leadership. The Atlas Iron managing director has gone from brickie's labourer to mining leader and a prominent spokesman for the smaller mining companies. David outlined some of his most influential leaders and the history of leaders in the context of Australian mining industry. 'The Miners' book which was launched back on the 16th of October 2013 features personal and insightful interviews with leaders in the industry. He also went on to notify us that he would be one of the examiners for the competition.

Mr Ron Manners, Chairman of the Mannkal Foundation, also gave an excellent speech on his most influential leaders including the late Steve Jobs, Mark Cutifani and many others. His talk gave some insight into his years of experience, mining, leadership and in dealing with politicians. All the while, dropping not so subtle hints on the differences between management and leadership. A video recording of the speech can be found on Mannkal youtube page entitled "Take me to your leaders!"

The competition is now open and offers a \$5000 cash prize for the best essay. Likened to traditional prospecting by Mr Ron Manners, it is the "discovery process which makes it so interesting." So I encourage you to get involved and see what you can find. For more information or to enter the competition students can contact Ann Meyer Chief Operating Officer for WASM (admin@wasmga.com.au).

Lucky enough to be an attendee I was further fortunate to be able to meet the guest speakers to discuss their presentations and views on leadership. I found this event to be invigorating; it was a fantastic opportunity to meet with fellow mining students and professionals alike. Many involved in the event identify themselves with liberalism within mining and policy. It was a fantastic event all round and great to hear many differing views on market economics. I strongly encourage anyone with an enquiring mind to become actively involved in WASM and the Mannkal's activities.