

## MARIANNE ROGERS

### *PROJECT MANAGER*

By ignoring her careers advisor and following her interests in geology, maths and physics, Marianne Rogers graduated as New Zealand's first female mining engineer. Within a couple of years, she was operating underground machinery and carrying out blasting in the then-largest underground lead-zinc-copper-mine in the world, at Mount Isa in Queensland.

While still at university Marianne spent her summer holidays working on mine sites to gain mining experience. At every one of these mines she had to fight her way underground. When she graduated, the law in NZ did not allow women to work underground in mines, which she needed to do in order to gain her mine managers certificate. So Marianne went to Australia where she was one of the very first women working full time underground.

She eventually obtained her first class underground mine managers ticket and continued working in the industry, including in New South Wales working on large open cast mining operations.

A typical day as a mining engineer involved heading to work and having site meetings to plan the day's activities from a technical and safety perspective. After that, she would do some technical design, planning or costing work for the operation. She would also carry out site inspections relating to technical issues, as well as safety and risk management to ensure everyone on site is following the plans.

Working in traditional male dominated jobs generally comes with more pay, but it was not without its challenges which saw Marianne missing out on job opportunities and fighting for pay parity as a woman - especially in the early days. However, the opportunities that were open to her outweighed this, together with the comradery, feeling good about doing what you enjoy and making a difference. Apart from blowing things up, Marianne says the best thing about the job is the people, with the industry full of



down to earth people who love what they do.

Marianne obtained a law degree in Australia and then returned to NZ as General Manager of a coal mining operation on NZ's West Coast setting up a new coal mining business. Since then Marianne has been involved in NZ mining education as advisor and tutor bringing her knowledge of mining operations and health and safety risk management to NZ mine workers. In 2014 Marianne was appointed to the newly established NZ Mining Board of examiners which sets competency and training requirements for NZ mine workers.

Marianne is currently working in the NZ Civil Infrastructure industry, setting up a new skills regime for the New Zealand civil workforce. She has found that the industry has a lot of similarities to mining.

Marianne's advice to anyone starting out in the infrastructure industry is to do what you really enjoy and are interested in. Do what feels right to you and be persistent. If you get a knock back, pick yourself up and have another go.