

September 3, 2019

Dear Readers,

Introduction to The Whittle Story ‘A Live Book’

In the 2018 Australia Day Honours List, my husband, Jeff Whittle, was named an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). The citation reads:

“For distinguished service to the information technology sector and the mining industry, particularly through the development of industry standard computer programs for strategic mine planning and optimisation.”

This is the culmination of many other significant awards, including Jeff’s recent admission to the IM Mining Technology Hall of Fame in the USA. Such recognition of the significance of Jeff’s work needs some explanation of how it came about.

Some years ago, I made a commitment to myself and others that I would write a history of the Whittle software and I have been pondering ever since about how to do it. It is a story with a multitude of facets, way beyond the capability of a single person to tell it all.

The story resides out there with people in the mining industry, engineers, consultants, universities, magazine editors. People who listened to us and believed in us, took the plunge, used the software, gave us feed-back – and, many times, just simple human encouragement. They are the nuts and bolts of the optimisation procedures for which Jeff provided the structure. I would therefore like to present an idea that, for want of a better term, I will call a “Live Book”. It is a book that writes itself.

A self-writing book!

Think about it for a moment and I will tell you how it will work.

It is a different way of producing a book at no cost to anyone and freely available to all. It will grow in an organic way, be a living entity, an evolving story written by anyone who is prepared to relate their own experience with the Whittle software. Real “horse’s mouth” stuff!

Whittle Consulting Pty Ltd

T: +61 3 9898 1755 | **F:** +61 3 9898 1855

A: Suite 8, 660 Canterbury Road, Surrey Hills, Victoria 3127, Australia

E: info@whittleconsulting.com.au | **W:** whittleconsulting.com.au

ABN: 71 086 470 457

Written in “lay speak”, it will be easily understood by non-technical people and we would “hear” the author’s own voice in the style of writing. Since texts can be revised or withdrawn at the behest of the author, the book will always be up-to-date.

Anyone can have access to read the articles and make their own printed copies of items that interest them. This releases us from the work and expense of publishing a book in hard copy which, once printed, is often out of date until the next edition.

This exercise is not about individual self-promotion. We do not want a Jeff fan club. It is not a conference requiring technical or theoretical papers – those already appear elsewhere on the WC website. Confidential corporate information would not appear.

The Whittle Story – A Live Book can be regarded as an experiment in recording contemporary history, as most of these people are still alive. It is a historical account, detailing the development of the Whittle software and its application, giving a human face to the mining industry doing things in the best possible way.

As a contributor, your own place in this remarkable history can be recognised simply by writing about it and sending us your story.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth', with a horizontal line underneath.

ruth@whittleconsulting.com.au