

7th August 2025

Gina Rinehart

Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd

3/28-42 Ventnor Ave.

West Perth WA 6005.

Dear Gina

As I approach my 81st Year in a few weeks' time, I wanted to write to congratulate you on your wonderful achievements in the development of the legacy of your wonderful father Lang and beautiful mother Hope to the amazing business empire you have achieved today. I admire so much your professional ability, tenacity and skills to have achieved what you have accomplished.

I did write to you a few years ago, but just to remind you who I am, It was my very special privilege to work for your father in the late 1950s and sixties. As a young person it was a time in my life that helped me in the development of my business ethics and personal skills, and I have never forgotten the lasting impact it had on my life and career. Thank you!

It was just so special to work with your father and his business partner in the Hancock and Wright partnership when iron ore was first discovered by your father Lang. I carried the first samples to the laboratory for testing, and it was such a privilege to then return for the analysis results. I remember the absolute delight in being there with your father when the analysis results were read. I have never forgotten that day.

Your father sat with me as I marked the first lease boundaries on the mining maps prior to the registration of the leases with the then Mines Department. It was my responsibility to have many trips to the Mines Department with the appropriate paperwork in the registration of those leases.

I remember the hard yards then on pushing the Federal Government of the day to lift the embargo on the export of Iron Ore. It was very frustrating knowing of the deposits and wanting to get on with the next step. It was a relief to finally see that obstacle overcome.

I remember very clearly then the research into contacts overseas for companies that might be interested into the development of the Iron Ore deposits. From there came the interest of Conzinc Rio Tinto and Kaiser Steel. It was then decided to send Peter Wright to meet with these organisations first. After some successive discussions your father Lang then joined Peter Wright in the negotiations. Following these discussions an agreement was struck to progress to the exploration of the deposits for major drilling and sampling.

It was Peter Stork who came together with Dr Eisenlohr a senior geologist to oversee the initial sampling stage. This was followed by amazing results as you would be aware, as the deeper they sampled the richer the Ore in some places.

Of course, after these efforts a business agreement was finally struck, and it was my honour to be in the office in the Wellington Street building when I witnessed your father Lang and Peter

Wright shaking hands and congratulating each other on the signed agreement with Conzinc Rio Tinto. From there royalties would flow to them.

It was an amazing journey for me to have a little part, and the many hard, long and challenging days was so rewarding when you saw the final outcome. The lesson for me was that constant tenacity pays off when you have a goal to achieve. I was very privileged to work with those like your father who had these qualities.

I also remember on a number of occasions taking your father and mother and sometimes you to Perth airport to your father's plane to fly north after the wet season in the north was over. I was then left with the responsibility of collecting the mail and dealing with other paperwork at your home in Dalkeith as required by Lang. The trust that was placed in me as a young man was very humbling and I fiercely guarded the interests of your family and the business side with total confidentiality, honesty and integrity.

So, Gina, I was one very privileged young man to have had such an experience so early in life and I have never forgotten all I was taught and experienced during that wonderful time that I worked for the Hancock and Wright partnership.

The main reason I am writing to you is to congratulate you on your outstanding ability to take a legacy that began with your father to what you have achieved today. Lang and Hope would be very proud of you I know!

For me as I look at the Iron Ore industry today, I stand in awe of where it has developed to from that first sample that I carried to the laboratory. One could never envisage then where it would lead to. Not just for the benefit of our state but for our nation. But it took a person like yourself to take it the level you have achieved. I am fully aware of course that you have many other business interests too which is such a credit to you. Thank you for sharing some of your hard-earned profits to very needy organisations to help them in places like medical research etc. Thank you for your kindness and care .

I must close this letter now. So sorry I have gone on a bit but just wanted to share my thoughts with you. Although I am a fairly fit 80-year-old, we become very vulnerable in health as we age, and I felt I should take the opportunity to write while I am able. I am unable to thank those who directly helped me all those years ago ,but I can thank you!

I hope that you keep well and that your business interests go from strength to strength in the future. This goes with my warmest best wishes in every way.

Kindest regards


Ken Ford. ASM AIMM.