

SMEDG Life Member Medal to David Timms

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David Timms presents us with many facets, all of them bright and shining. He is a wonderful husband to Jen, father to three sons and one daughter and is a proud and active grandfather to twelve grandchildren. He is a very good and enthusiastic geologist. He has been an excellent creator and manager of exploration teams and a string of mines and prospective mineral discoveries bear witness to this. He has been a supportive friend to many in this room, including myself, and he has, by creating the legendary Amoco Harbour Cruises in 1978 (which became the SMEDG Sydney Harbour Cruises) provided the opportunity for geoscientists to get together, catch up, exchange views and enjoy themselves on the Harbour twice a year. The SMEDG Sydney Harbour Cruise now bears his name. Providing generous service to this community comes easily to Dave; it's simply his nature and I suspect he will be surprised that he is to be the recipient of tonight's award but it is absolutely deserved.

Dave was born in Rusape, Rhodesia in 1930 and completed his BSc Honours, majoring in crystallography, at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Dave followed the mining boom to Canada in 1959, was married to Jen in 1960 and moved to Sydney in 1972.

Dave Timms has over sixty years' experience in mineral exploration in Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, the South Pacific Islands, Canada, the United States and Africa - and he's still looking!

As Chief Geologist at Willroy Mines, Ontario, Canada, his team discovered seven orebodies for the Willroy mine and the three orebodies which established the Willecho mine in the 1960s.

From 1967 to 1972 he was responsible for setting up and managing Long Lac Mineral Exploration Limited, the exploration arm of the Long Lac group of companies in Canada.

He was Manager of the South Pacific Region for Amoco Minerals Australia Company from 1972 to 1985 and was Exploration Manager for Cyprus Gold Australia Corporation from 1985 to 1990. He managed exploration teams which discovered 30 mineable deposits with a total resource of over six million ounces of gold and one million tonnes of copper. These deposits include the mines at Red Dome, Gidgee, Sheahan-Grants, Selwyn-Starra, Moline and Mt McClure.

From 1990 he worked as a Geological Consultant. He promoted the Lewis Ponds gold-base metal deposit to Tri Origin Exploration Limited, a listed Canadian exploration company and became one of Tri Origin Australia's initial directors.

Moving into the mid-nineties, Dave began pegging projects in the Lachlan Fold Belt using the fledgling Timmsco Pty Ltd as his vehicle. Dave continued the philosophy which had stood him in such good stead in the past – stick to areas of proven prospectivity with high metal endowment. The project portfolio which Dave built, led, in 1996, to the ASX listing of Golden Cross Resources with Dave as Managing Director. Dave built a high-quality team of mineral explorers and by 2000 GCR held projects throughout the LFB and the Willyama Block. Many of these projects remain within GCR or have been farmed-out or sold to third parties. They remain active today and some will, in all likelihood, be mined as metal prices increase and the discovery rate continues to decline. Dave left GCR in 2012, but, now in his eighties, he used Endeavour Minerals as his vehicle in exploring for nickel and PGM's in Western Australia and New South Wales and advancing exploration at the Commonwealth Mine in the central-west of New South Wales. He was rewarded with an attractive offer to purchase Endeavour and sold the company in early 2013. I believe Dave is still looking for opportunities - and good on him!

David Timms remains a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, was a Member of the Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of Ontario, Canada and is a Fellow, and was a Council Member, of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. He is also, to our great pleasure, a Committee Member of SMEDG and long may he be so! Thank you David from all of us.