

SMEDG Patron Geoff Loudon

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Geoff Loudon is one of Australia's most gifted mining entrepreneurs with a long and successful history of deposit discovery, mine development and company formation.

Geoff started his career at the NSW Geological survey in the mid 1960s, then moving into private enterprise joining Placer where he worked on projects in Australia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines and Canada. On Marinduque Island in the Philippines he discovered a new major porphyry deposit by purloining a mine drill over a weekend to evaluate exposed alteration and veining distal to the main deposit.

After returning from Canada to Australia, Geoff became a stock broker and during that period assisted a previous PNG associate to fund a house purchase in Goroku. The house came with tenure over the Mt Victor polymetallic deposit which Geoff finessed into the formation and listing of Niugini Mining Limited. A joint venture with Kennecott followed and when a moratorium on taking out tenements in Papua New Guinea was lifted applications were lodged for 17 ELs. To commence exploration activities during the moratorium the NML/Kennecott JV farmed into a Nord Resources' tenement on Tabar Island. This led to a geological inspection of the nearby island of Lihir resulting in the discovery and subsequent development of the world-class Lihir epithermal gold deposit.

Niugini Mining was also an active explorer in Chile and developed a heap leach gold operation in the Atacama Desert.

After Niugini Mining was bought out of Lihir, Geoff stayed as a director of Lihir Gold but also went on to other mineral exploration endeavours in South America in partnership with 'Mr Porphyry Copper', Dave Lowell. This led to the discovery of a major porphyry gold-copper deposit in Peru which was subsequently sold to Barrick.

Geoff remains very active in investigating opportunities around the world and probably clocks up more air miles than many commercial pilots. He is currently based in New Zealand where he is active in coal and oil exploration through his company L&M mining. He also developed the Earnsclough alluvial gold operation which has been completed.

Geoff was also instrumental in the formation of Nautilus Mining that is developing the Solwara sea floor deposit off Rabaul in Papua New Guinea. Geoff recently retired as Chairman of Nautilus.

Geoff and his wife Claire have dedicated substantial funds earned from Geoff's mining activities into developing charities in the countries that have been instrumental in their success. They established a home for street kids in Papua New Guinea and a home for unmarried mothers in Peru and remain involved in the managing these charities.