

## **SMEDG Life Member Medal to John Cramsie**

**Citation by Ted Tyne**

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**at the**

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For meritorious service to the exploration community of NSW, SMEDG awards the SMEDG Life Member Medal to **John Cramsie**.

John Cramsie is one of Australia's most well known and highly regarded chief government geoscientists. John has contributed over more than four decades to statewide geoscience and mineral and energy resource mapping programs and government exploration initiatives in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. His mentoring and training of several generations of government scientists and emerging leaders is widely acknowledged. His influence has transcended state borders to guide national programs under Australia's National Geoscience Mapping Accord.

Indeed, John has been an exemplar of government geoscience leadership and promotion of exploration incentives in his roles as Director of the Geological Survey of Victoria over 1983 to 1986 and Director of the Geological Survey of NSW over 1990 to 2001. Over this period John was also Assistant Secretary Coal Development and Deputy Director-General of the NSW Department of Mineral Resources. John's persuasive voice, his advocacy for the industry, and his leadership in government were instrumental in delivering the successful NSW Government exploration-promotion initiatives Discovery 2000 and Exploration NSW.

John initially joined the Geological Survey of NSW in 1968 following several formative years in South Australia's Geological Survey where he gained a strong appreciation of the challenges for exploration under cover and the fundamental value of government geoscience to exploration success. Between 1968 and 1990 (except for the Victorian interlude) John held the responsibilities of Principal Geologist (Regional Mapping) and then Chief Coal Geologist in NSW.

John was appointed Director of the Geological Survey of NSW in 1990 and he led the NSW Survey out of the wilderness following a period of widespread decline in geological surveys across Australia in the 1970s and 1980s resulting from government budget pressures and the wind-down of most of the states' older programs of 1:250 000 scale geological mapping. By the early 1990s the majority of the 1:250 000 maps were over 20 years old and were inadequate as a framework for modern mineral exploration. There was growing concern from industry that governments weren't providing sufficient geoscience support for company exploration efforts.

Recognising the changing industry priorities and expectations of government, John led a comprehensive organisational review of the Geological Survey. The review included broad industry, client and staff consultation leading to government support for a substantial

increase to the resources allocated to regional geological mapping, a greater focus on delivery of publications, reports, new maps and data and greater promotion of the State's mineral, coal and petroleum resource opportunities.

John played a key advocacy and leadership role in working with BMR/AGSO and other state and territory agencies to establish the National Geoscience Mapping Accord (NGMA) with the aim of producing a new generation of geoscience maps and data sets in areas which were recognised as being of high resource priority. John oversaw the rollout of the NGMA as it progressed rapidly in NSW, with jointly funded projects in the Lachlan Fold Belt and at Broken Hill. Airborne geophysical surveys flown from 1991 covered the Bathurst and Dubbo 1:250000 sheets and a substantial part of the Broken Hill Block.

The appointment of Dr Garry Lowder as the Department's Director-General in 1993 marked a critical turning point in the Geological Survey's fortunes. A partnership between the new Director-General and John and his team delivered a proposal that convinced the NSW Government to provide a budget enhancement of \$40 million over 6 years to accelerate generation and promotion of new high quality geological and geophysical information and an improved framework for regional mapping and mineral exploration.

Under John's leadership, the Discovery 2000 exploration initiative over the following six years delivered an extraordinary volume of high resolution airborne magnetic and radiometric data, new regional geoscience and mineral resource mapping and a broad range of digital information systems and data bases, most notably DIGS® online access to the vast knowledge-base of open-file company exploration reports. Discovery 2000 was hailed by industry as a success and an outstanding model for governments to encourage an increase in the quality and quantity of mineral exploration.

The NSW Government also gave the highest acknowledgment to Discovery 2000. Premier Bob Carr was known to call John "that Discovery 2000 bloke", endorsing the Government's Discovery 2000 program with "it has worked brilliantly". Following the successful completion of the Discovery 2000 programs in 1999, John and his team presented a compelling proposal which delivered the Government's new exploration initiative, Exploration NSW – Mining Beyond 2000, funded to \$30 million over seven years, and paving the way for exploration success in the coming decades.

From the early 1970s, John has been a strong voice and advocate for the exploration and mining industry. He has been an active contributor to SMEDG and served on the SMEDG committee. Following his retirement from Government in 2001 and from consulting in 2008, he has continued to be a passionate advocate for the resources sector.

It is with much pleasure that we award a SMEDG Life Member Medal to John Cramsie.