

SMEDG Life Member Medal to Dr. Roy Cox

Citation by Geoff Handley

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For meritorious service to **SMEDG** we award the SMEDG Life Member Medal to **Dr. Roy Cox**.

Roy was one of the members of the original SMEDG Organising Committee (together with Alan Blatchford, Kelly O'Connor, John Sharpe & Michael Sharwood) when it held its first meeting on 9th November 1972. The idea to form SMEDG was proposed by Dr Neil Hillhouse (Exploration Manager of Placer Exploration), based on similar groups in Toronto and Vancouver. During the mid-1970s the Organising Committee included **John Dow, Jock Gilfillan, Garry Lowder (Consultant) and others**. Some familiar names there!

Roy had 46 years of professional experience in the international exploration and mining industries (1961-2007) as an economic geologist. He is a graduate of the Royal School of Mines, London (B.Sc. [Special] and ARSM in Mining Geology, 1961) and Sydney University (Ph.D. in Economic Geology, 1968). He also holds a Diploma in Exploration Management from the Australian Mineral Foundation, Adelaide (1980). Roy was a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists, Society of Economic Geologists, Institution of Mining & Metallurgy, and Australasian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy.

Roy started his career as a Field Geologist with the Geological Survey of Yugoslavia in 1960, at the Tajmiste iron ore deposit in Macedonia, during his studies at RSM.

Upon graduating his first job in 1961 was Resident Geologist at Geevor Tin Mine in Cornwall where he had the pleasure of showing Professor Ken Glasson of Sydney University underground. He and an injured miner constructed a 3D model of the mine workings illustrating the spatial distribution of tin within the lodes (20 years before the development of computer modelling). It is still preserved in the local mine museum.

In 1964 Mr. A.A.C Mason of Aberfoyle Limited offered him the position of Resident Geologist at the Cleveland tin-copper prospect on the West Coast of Tasmania. Exploration and evaluation led to the opening of the mine in 1967. After a year of production to verify that his interpretation of the complex structures and metal distribution was correct, he sought new pastures.

He joined Newmont Australia as Project Geologist assessing the old Peak Downs copper mine near Clermont, Queensland in 1969, followed by exploration of the JH and BB nickel prospects near Norseman, WA in 1970-71. Newmont then asked him sort out the complex structural geology and ore-grade evaluation problems at their newly-opened copper mine at

Granduc in British Columbia (1971-72).

Upon his return to Australia he joined Placer Exploration as Senior Geologist in October 1972. He was promoted to Chief Geologist in early 1973. During this time, as well as helping to set-up and run SMEDG, he was involved in exploration and evaluation of the Lady Loretta Pb-Zn, Kidston gold, Porgera gold and Wolgan coal deposits. In 1979 he was offered the position of Placer's exploration manager for Eastern Canada but decided his main interests were economic geology, mineral evaluation and ore reserve assessment, not management.

In 1980 he decided to establish his consultancy, Roy Cox & Associates, and enjoyed a wonderful run consulting to various mining & exploration companies, foreign governments and the United Nations world-wide until the boom period ended at the end of the century. Major assignments were undertaken throughout Australasia and in Brazil, Burma, China, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Uganda, and Eastern Europe, especially Romania.

Successful assignments which led to mine development included the management of exploration/evaluation programmes for Roche Bros at Mt Carbine (wolframite), Qld and at Benambra (Cu-Zn), Victoria; and for Outokumpu at Forrestania (nickel), WA. His major success was recognition of Europe's largest under-developed gold resource at Rosia Montana, Romania in the early 1990's. He consulted to Gabriel Resources (now Rosia Montana Resources) until 2000. Mine development there has been held up by protesting environmentalists and the EU authorities over the proposed use of cyanide for gold extraction.

Consulting work in economic geology and mineral exploration dried up significantly at the turn of the century and Roy retired with his wife Pauline to Berry in 2002. His only major assignment since then was the geological report for the prospectus of Klondike Gold in 2007.

Roy was born in 1939 at Letchworth, Hertfordshire, England. He became an Australian citizen in 1972, after returning to his homeland and realising that he belonged here!

It is with great pleasure I award Roy the Life Member Medal.