

## SMEDG Awards Dinner, Sydney, 27 September 2018

### Reply by Dr. Roy Cox

Thank you, Geoff, for your citation.

I very much appreciate the honour of being awarded the SMEDG Life Membership Medal and wish to express my sincere gratitude to each member of the current SMEDG Organising Committee for honouring me thus, and also for inviting my wife Pauline to join me at this Awards Dinner.

SMEDG was the idea of Dr Neil Hillhouse, Exploration Manager of Placer Exploration Limited. When he took up his post here in Sydney he missed the regular meetings of similar groups in Toronto and Vancouver. *The Vancouver Mining Exploration Group was formed in 1957*. Neil asked Alan Blatchford and me to form a similar group in Sydney. We contacted colleagues John Dow, Jock Gilfillan, Garry Lowder, Lindsay MacAlister, Kelly O'Connor, John Sharpe and Mike Sharwood. I do hope I haven't forgotten anyone. We all discussed how best to go about it, and I sent out a circular to ascertain the degree of interest within the exploration, mining & academic communities.

The response was encouraging and we organised our first meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1972, at which Peter Solomon addressed us on "Geochemical Aspects of Exploration for Massive Sulphide Deposits in the Lachlan Fold Belt". It was a great start and, 46 years later, the rest is history. SMEDG is still going strong!

From conception, SMEDG has always provided a friendly atmosphere for informal, illustrated presentations and discussions on topics of interest covering mineral exploration, evaluation and the geology of mineral deposits & mines. Many of us have had the opportunity to publish papers on our work and read papers published by our colleagues, but the real advantage of a Discussion Group is that the participants can ask the speaker questions, receive answers and have meaningful discussion. This is the main reason for its success, together with social contact.

The number of mineral deposits and mines covered by presentations over the past 46 years has been truly amazing. Many presenters have been too busy at their work to have had the opportunity to publish their work in Aus. IMM, Economic Geology, etc. SMEDG has filled a vital gap in disseminating important technical knowledge.

SMEDG continues to provide us with a unique opportunity to freely share our practical knowledge and experience with fellow members of our industry. Thus we have all become wiser, and at the same time, formed long-lasting friendships.

Neil Hillhouse is now 89, living in West Vancouver. As the founders get older it is up to the younger members here present to continue this wonderful tradition, for everyone's benefit. Long live SMEDG! Thank you.