

Kim Stanton-Cook's Acceptance Speech

I'm enormously proud to receive this recognition but it's difficult to fathom. I mean, I've just been having fun in a wonderful profession and for someone to say that I deserved a SMEDG Life Membership Award is pretty special for someone like me. Unlike most of the recipients of this award, a wonderful group of lifetime achievers, I did not go on to further studies for an MSc or PhD, I graduated from Macquarie University after being convinced to study geology by Professor Alan Voisey and headed for the field.

Alan showed me some fossils, and plastic dinosaur, and pointed out the outdoor activities, that, as a geologist, I could be involved in. I was convinced; I signed up, enjoyed my time at Macquarie, including useful vacation employment around Australia, graduated and then went bush. I was a bush kid, a farm boy and field geology in mineral exploration suited me down to the ground.

I have had some wonderful mentors, Alan Voisey in the first instance but later, at Getty Oil, Paul Riddell and Sig Muessig who both provided me with examples both of leadership and management skills coupled with geological enthusiasm. I owe them all a great deal. One thing in particular remains with me, the importance of giving people ownership of their work and encouragement when they do well.

A new phase began when Pete Buckle, Bruce Jones and I established Gnomic Exploration Services in Townsville after Getty Oil's Minerals Division closed down in 1985. Gnomic was able to give a number of young geologists their first start as many of them lacked confidence or were unsure of what direction to take. (At this point in my address some cheering and applause was heard from the audience.) I continued... Ah, there could be thirty or forty Gnomes here in the audience.

Anyway, we've all had a wonderful time here tonight, catching up with many old friends in typical SMEDG fashion, but before I finish I have to relate that earlier this year I had a serious health scare. There was a real possibility that I may not have been here and I was advised that it would be a good idea to 'get my affairs in order'. I thought, that's a good idea, I'll do that. There was only one important item, and that was to tell Russell Meares that he was not to write my obituary. Because it was only going to be a cut-and-paste job anyway.

I would like to again thank everybody, it's rewarding for someone who has been connected to SMEDG for as long as I have, to see so many people, especially the next generation, here tonight.

Another thing worth mentioning is that Geoff Loudon, who is about to give me my award, presented my younger son Sam with his BSc Honours degree at the University of Sydney in 2013. There's some circularity there and Geoff's address to the assembled multitude on that day is available as a video, on, of course, the SMEDG web site.

Thank you all for supporting SMEDG, long may it continue.