

Mike Smith –Acceptance Speech at SMEDG Jubilee Dinner

SMEDG has always been the great bringing together of exploration professionals in the Sydney region and beyond – geochemists, hydrogeologists, geophysicists, ore geneticists, drilling experts and even economists are welcome to tell their stories at SMEDG. I am extraordinarily thrilled to be appointed a Life Member of SMEDG, especially at this Golden Jubilee Dinner of SMEDG and in such illustrious company as Jane Barron, Dick Sillitoe and Kim Stanton-Cook.

Steve Collins has kindly detailed my volunteer services to the geoscience community, and I need to explain that committing such extensive time to volunteer activities requires full support from one's spouse. I would like to acknowledge the continuing tolerance and encouragement of my wife Berenice, who herself has devoted over 30 years of volunteerism in the Scout Movement, caringly guiding the early lives of many hundreds of boys and girls. It is pleasing to see so many young people attending this dinner, and I do encourage each of you to join one or other of our geoscience committees – you will be rewarded for this service through mentoring with older geoscientists and by developing new skills.

Currently, my volunteer work is focussed on the creation of the National Rock Garden as an innovative geoscience education and tourism facility in Canberra, and I have already contacted many of you to provide technical advice on target rocks, or perhaps to make a substantial financial contribution. I am delighted to acknowledge the outstanding donation of \$10,000 from SMEDG for the transportation and preparation for display of a gneissic rock representing the host to the famous Broken Hill orebody. If I have not called you, you may expect my contact in the near future. Finally, I wish to thank the honourable team of SMEDG Elders who nominated and approved this wonderful award of the SMEDG Life Membership Medal and Certificate.