

## Dick Sillitoe's Acceptance Speech

Thank you to the SMEDG Committee for this unexpected honour. It was with considerable surprise that I received notification of the award because I didn't think itinerant poms would be eligible to become SMEDG life members. I suppose it might be justified by my long involvement and fascination with Australian ore deposits and past appearances at SMEDG events. It is another pom and then bona fide Australian, Roger Shakesby, to whom I owe my introduction to Australian metallogeny, including iconic deposits like Mt Lyell and Renison. In the early 1980s, he decided that a young geologist with a bit of experience in the Andes and West Africa could add value to a gold exploration programme in eastern Australia. Whether or not that was achieved is a moot point but a most informative and enjoyable time was had by all concerned. Many of you will know that Roger sadly passed away three months ago so please join me in raising a glass to his memory, preferably containing a fine red in deference to his sensibilities.