

## THE NATIONAL ROCK GARDEN

### ABSTRACT

SMEDG Life Member Mike Smith has served as a volunteer director of the National Rock Garden (NRG) since 2014. In June 2022, he co-signed the agreement between the ACT Government and the National Rock Garden Trust to enable the NRG's display of large rocks to be moved into the National Arboretum Canberra. The Arboretum is the ACT's third most popular tourist destination, attracting around 700,000 visitors annually, including more than 30,000 school students in facilitated programs.

On 21 February 2023, the NRG Board received a major boost to the process of accomplishing this transition, gaining formal Works Approval of the Landscape Design for the new site. At the March SMEDG meeting, Mike will explain what the Rock Garden is all about, what it offers to geoscience education for schools and for the general public, and what are the plans for the re-location into the Arboretum. The important role of numerous NSW geologists in assisting the development of the Rock Garden will be acknowledged.

