

We look forward to seeing you at the second technical meeting for 2024, to be held at 5.30 for 6.00 pm at the Club York Function Centre, Level 2, 95-99 York Street, Sydney on **Thursday March 21, 2024**. This will also be broadcast on Zoom, with registration (for Zoom only) required [here](#). After registering you will receive an email with meeting details. Also, Kathy Ehrig's last month's talks are available online - available [here](#).

**The speaker for this month is John Martyn**

***‘Compiling a book on the Sydney Basin: Geology that stopped me in my tracks’***

This will not only cover the geology of the Basin, but includes the botany as well, and will be a very informative and interesting talk covering the close to home area that most of us live in, but maybe not take too much notice of!



#### Talk Abstract:

Researching and compiling books featuring the geology and flora of the Sydney Basin has involved a huge number of field visits and journeys over the past decade (both geological and botanical), including many within a newly defined georegion on Sydney's northside.

The approach has always been curiosity-driven – to question and understand everything. So confronting striking features like the sub-Antarctic setting of the Sydney Basin, the Pokolbin Carboniferous inliers, the end-Permian extinction, the phonolite laccoliths of the Barigan district, the mind-boggling number of diatremes in the basin, including 8 in our local georegion, and the stunning wildflower blooms brought on by the Black Summer fires, has stretched the brain to its limits, and has involved much research beyond that which can be squeezed between the covers of a book.

The talk will be a strongly pictorial journey highlighting features both geological and botanical, that have stopped me in my tracks. Comments, and especially new information, will be very welcome!

#### **John Martyn's Bio**

After graduating from Sheffield University in 1965, John studied for his Ph.D at Bedford College, London University, on the geology, volcanology and structure of the Lake Baringo area of the East African Rift Valley, Kenya, submitting it in 1969. His first work assignment was in the Zambian Copperbelt whereafter he relocated from UK to Perth to the newly formed office of London-based geological and mining consultants Mackay & Schnellmann Pty Ltd.

Subsequently, after an assignment mapping the Mt Tom Price iron ore deposit, he moved in 1972 to join image-interpretation company Loxton Hunting and Associates: in those days primarily doing regional air photo interpretation.

In 1973 John joined the Perth office of the Minerals Dept of Esso Australia Ltd as geologist, senior geologist then regional studies supervisor, relocating in 1979 to their head office in Sydney. Leading a team of up to 3 geologists, his role involved broad-based regional practical and conceptual studies for base metals, gold, uranium and oil shale throughout Australia. In 1986, Esso pulled out of mineral exploration and he went out on his own as a consultant, with many client companies both large and small. His basic geological mapping skills

came to the fore in large project areas throughout Australia, and also in China, Mauritania and Uruguay.

Retiring from full time geology in 2003, he completed major mapping and book publication projects including bushwalking maps of the entire Lane Cove and Middle Harbour catchments, plus the books: *Sydney's Natural World* (2007), *Field Guide to the Bushland of the Lane Cove Valley* (2010), *Understanding the Weather* (2013), and *Rocks and Trees* (2018). All these have been published through the North Shore community environmental group called STEP. He is currently completing a book that covers the whole Sydney Basin.

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**Upcoming events (may be changed or extra events may arise - keep an eye on the website, as well as emails):**

- **Regular meetings (4th Thursday of the month, may be changed if necessary) - March 21, April 18, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 28 - note that the March and April meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursdays due to Easter and Anzac Day respectively**
- **Winter Harbour Cruise - Friday June 28**
- **David Timms Christmas Harbour Cruise - Friday December 15**
- **Mines and Wines, Albury - Thursday September 5 to Friday September 6, with optional field visits and wine tour before and after. Details on the Mines and Wines [website](#)**
- **Mineral Industry Group North Sydney (MIGNS, a SMEDG subsidiary) Friday lunches, generally on the first Friday of the month at Arrin Thai in Milsons Point - if you wish to be included in the WhatsApp group for lunch notifications please contact Murray Hutton at Geos Mining**

[SMEDG website](#)

- **A treasure trove of current and historic information, including updated events schedules - well worth exploring!**

**Club York and Regular Meetings**

- **Regular SMEDG meetings are held in the Club York Function Centre, located on Level 2 of the Club, 95-99 York Street, just north of the Market Street intersection.**
- **These are also broadcast through Zoom, for which registration is required, with details on the notice of meeting email**
- **Entry is usually through the lifts located in the building foyer immediately to the left (south) of the Club entrance, however if for some reason the lifts are locked, entry can be gained through the Club - just let the concierge know that you are attending a function, and you will be let through. After meeting**

dinners are usually held at the Zabou Bistro on Level 1, however we sometimes go to Primi Italian for pizza on the ground floor.

- The bar is open at meetings, and we shout each attendee one drink upon arrival.

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