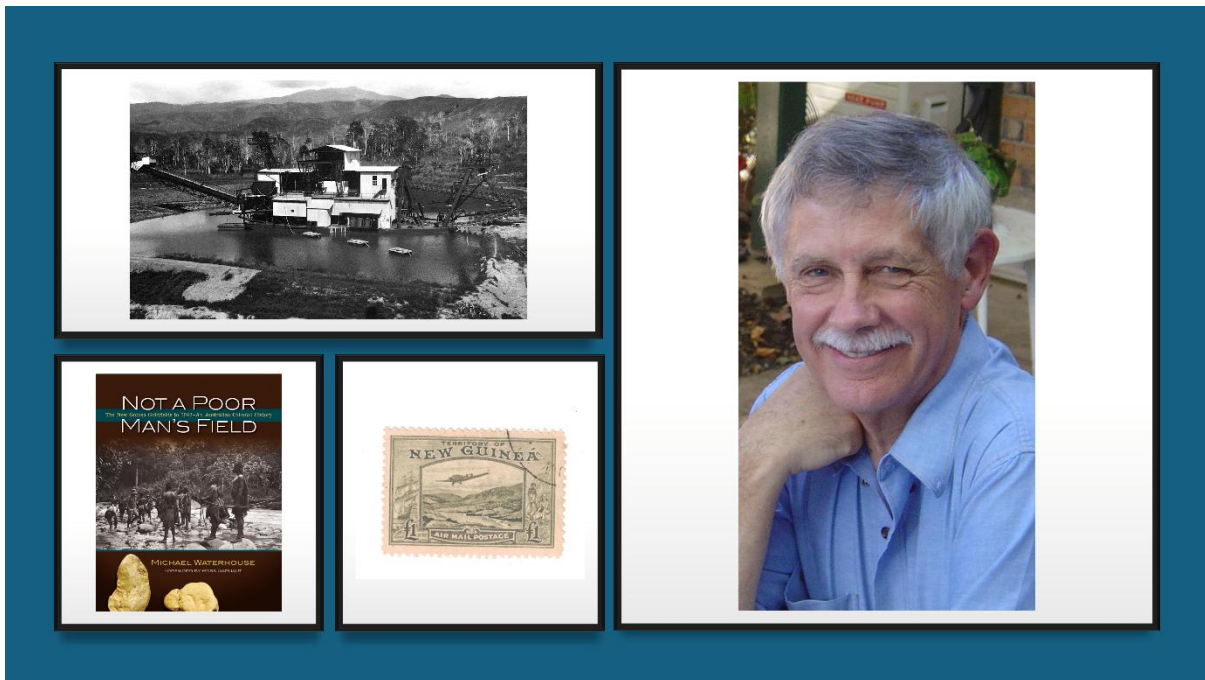


Advance notice – joint SMEDG/AusIMM technical meeting

Thursday February 27, 5.30 pm for 6.00 pm, Club York.

For privacy reasons this will not be broadcast on Zoom, however registration for attendees is requested to help in catering – registration details will follow shortly

The New Guinea Goldfields in the 1930s



A feature-length film showing the little-known story of black-white encounters, world aviation records, and one of the world's most unusual gold mining operations at Bulolo

Michael Waterhouse is the author of the book *Not a Poor Man's Field - The New Guinea Goldfields to 1942*, and has held senior executive positions as an economist with the Commonwealth Treasury and Westpac Bank. His grandfather (Les Waterhouse), was a mining engineer and a director of Placer Development, as well as a former President of the AusIMM. He played a major role in the planning and management of the largest and most successful gold mining operation in pre-war New Guinea from 1932 to 1942. This involved the construction and operation of nine dredges and three hydro-electric power plants in the Bulolo valley, inland from Lae.

In the absence of roads, everything had to be flown in by Junkers aircraft to construct and support one of the largest mining operations in Australasia. In consequence, New Guinea led the world in volumes of freight flown throughout the 1930s. During his research, Michael

discovered films taken by Les and an associate which had been thought lost. He has edited the footage to reveal the largely forgotten Bulolo story in startling detail.

As the film is silent, Michael will provide a commentary while it is being shown. He will have copies of his book available for sale at the meeting. The book price will be \$60 for soft cover copies, and \$120 for hard cover copies which will include an historic £1 Bulolo stamp.

The event will be open to the public, so feel free invite any friends who may be interested in this amazing story. Note that this will be an “in-person” only meeting, and for privacy reasons the meeting will not be available on Zoom.

The venue will be the Red Room on Level 2 at our usual venue – Club York at 95-99 York Street, Sydney. The room will be open from 5.30pm, and as the film runs for ~80 minutes, the meeting will start promptly at 6pm, with an interval of 10 minutes and a Q&A session at the end of the screening.

As usual there will be a free drink and snacks for attendees upon arrival, and a cash bar following that.

The meeting is free, however we request that attendees register to help with numbers for catering and the room setup. Orders to buy the book on the night can also be placed when registering. Hard cover copies are limited, and thus will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Registration details will be provided later.

See more information about Michael and the book at <https://www.notapoorfields.com>





The crane at Lae was pivotal to Bulolo Gold Dredging's success. It ran on railway tracks linking the jetty at Voco Point to the aerodrome a distance of 1,200 yards. The water at Lae was too deep for the construction of a jetty capable of mooring large ships, so ships had to stand offshore, loading everything onto lighters. The crane would then unload the lighters before conveying everything to the aerodrome where it would in due course load them onto aeroplanes for Bulolo and Bulwa.