

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GOLD

Synopsis

Dr Garry Lowder

Few people would argue that gold does not have a special mystique. Throughout history, more so than any other metal, gold has been woven into the fabric of human culture.

But why? What is so special about gold? How much gold is there and what use is it anyway?

In this talk, geologist Garry Lowder looks at gold's role in human history, culture and mythology. From the Egyptian Pharaohs to the Incas of Peru, and from medieval alchemy to privations in the Yukon, gold has long held a special place in human endeavour.

Australia is no exception. From the Eureka Stockade to Lassetter's Lost Reef, and from the Golden Mile to the modern gold boom, the yellow metal has played, and still plays, a pivotal role in the population, development and wealth of Australia.

BIONOTE – DR GARRY LOWDER

Garry Lowder is a geologist who spent more than five decades working across Australia, Indonesia and elsewhere in search of golden bonanzas, with considerable success. From the arid outback to dripping rainforests, he experienced the natural world in all its drama and diversity. Throughout his long career Garry visited many exotic places, met legions of interesting people and had some adventures with more than a whiff of Indiana Jones. His memoir, *"A Journey Through the Elements"*, published in 2019 by *Connor Court Publishing*, documents that working life in a vivid and entertaining way.

Over the years Garry was a key player in several important mineral discoveries, including the Northparkes copper and Cowal gold deposits in NSW, and the Paddington gold and Wodgina tantalum deposits in WA. For four years in the 1990's he was Director General of Mineral Resources in NSW, during which time he conceived, obtained government funding for and implemented the *Discovery 2000* program, which materially enhanced mineral exploration in the state.

Garry is a graduate of the University of Sydney, the University of California, Berkeley and the Harvard Business School. He is also a Life Member of SMEDG and was a prime mover in the organisation's early days.

