

SMEDG Life Member Medal to Dr Ken Maiden

Citation by Dr Verity Borthwick

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For meritorious service to the exploration community of NSW, **SMEDG** would like to award a SMEDG Life Member Medal to **Ken Maiden**.

Ken has more than 40 years professional experience in academia and industry, and his geological career has taken him all around the world. His methodical approach to exploration, and the sense of wonder and joy he brings to the act of striving to understanding the ground beneath our feet, has made Ken an excellent mineral exploration geologist throughout his career in geology, as well as an inspiring mentor and supervisor to younger geologists and university students.

Ken started down this geological pathway with a Bachelor of Science with honours at the University of New South Wales, closely followed by a Doctorate, in 1968, at the same institution. His PhD project was on the Broken Hill silver-lead-zinc deposit, and this early start in economic geology spring boarded him into roles as an exploration Geologist with CSR Limited, which included work in South Australia, New South Wales and Indonesia.

Following this he spent ten years in academia, initially working as a lecturer in Geology at the Canberra College of Advanced Education (now University of Canberra) and then as Senior Lecturer in Economic Geology, and later Associate Professor at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. During his time in research he supervised numerous PhD, masters and honours students with project areas in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Returning to Australia, Ken worked as Principal Geologist for Mount Isa Mines in Northern Queensland and later as a mineral exploration consultant. He then focussed again on southern Africa, establishing a tenement portfolio and exploration programmes for copper in Namibia and Botswana.

More recently Ken has established a number of exploration companies. He is one of the founding directors of International Base Metals (IBML). After securing a Joint Venture in the Mount Kelly project, in Northern Queensland, successful exploration drilling intersected a significant copper oxide resource, which led to the creation of CopperCo Limited as a vehicle for the project with Ken as the Chief Geologist. During his time with IBML, Ken has been responsible for exploration throughout Australia and internationally, including in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Namibia, in a number of executive as well as technical roles.

Ken has a great deal of involvement with professional Scientific Societies in Australia and abroad. He is a long standing supporter of SMEDG; not only has he been a regular attendee of

meetings and cruises, and a regular presenter at SMEDG meetings over the years, he is also quite the poet and has regaled us with his witty limericks over the years, including as judge of the best presentations at the Mines and Wines Conference often presented in rhyme.

So it only seems appropriate to finish with one. It's certainly not up to Ken's standard but I'll give it a go anyway.

There was a young lad called Ken,
found geology was sort of zen
he studied rocks of this planet
from sandstone to granite
and found time for a rhyme, now and then

We're so happy to award Ken with this inaugural SMEDG Life Member Medal. We thank him for his laudable work in mineral exploration, and all his support of the SMEDG community over the years.