



Vale Peter Macnab

1942 – 2015

A number of SMEDG members knew and admired Peter Macnab, who passed away last week, and who had a long and successful career as a geologist and prospector, concentrating largely in Papua New Guinea.

Peter began his career in PNG as a Bureau of Mineral Resources Geologist in 1965 on regional mapping programs such as at Frieda River. Later he recognised the economic importance of Misima, eventually selling the tenement to Placer which took it into production. He carried out reconnaissance of PNG for the Kennecott-Niugini Mining Joint Venture which led to the giant Lihir gold discovery followed by the nearby Simberi gold mine. He worked extensively throughout PNG making his mark on the early exploration of many projects. In later years he became, with his wife Maureen, an accomplished aviator in PNG. Together they travelled worldwide.

Peter's farewell was held on Thursday, 10th December, at the North Chapel of the Northern Suburbs Crematorium at 199 Delhi Road, North Ryde.

SMEDG members would like to take the opportunity to offer their sincerest condolences to Peter's family.

[BRW Article on Peter 2011](#)

[Courier Mail Article on Peter](#)

“It's a combination of enjoying the bush and enjoying the challenge. At Lihir I saw two geologists arguing over the name of a rock type shortly after discovery. I wasn't interested. The argument should be, is it \$2 a tonne or \$10 a tonne.”