



Media Release

24 July 2008
Ref 08/



Geoscientist awarded for excellence in research

The 2008 *Butt-Smith Medal for Outstanding and Sustained Research Excellence in Geoscience* was awarded to Dr Nigel Radford of Newmont Asia Pacific in a special presentation at the Australian Earth Science Convention in Perth, 23 July 08. The Award was presented by Dr Steve Rogers, Chief Executive Officer of CRC for Landscape Environments and Mineral Exploration (LEME 2) and Dr Mike McWilliams, Chief of CSIRO Exploration & Mining.

Dr Radford, a Consulting Geochemist at Newmont, is widely known throughout the Australian and International exploration geochemistry community through his personal research in application and testing of innovative ideas in regolith geochemistry. Radford has a world-class reputation in the mineral exploration community, and he is a committed teacher and mentor of younger staff members. He sees improving the understanding of geochemistry for younger professionals as a pleasant duty.

Dr Ravi Anand of CSIRO, who won the Butt-Smith Medal in 2006, said Dr Radford is a visionary geologist. "In the eighties he played an important role in the exploration community, convincing them that the regolith had positive exploration aspects, providing a vital interface between scientists and explorers".

"Dr Radford's work (together with Bill Griffin of Newmont) on the Bulk Leach Extractable Gold technique of stream sediment sampling of gold, has resulted in world leadership in the field. He has also been a strong advocate of the role of organic processes in the regolith and the formation of geochemical anomalies. This initiative has been confirmed by the discovery that metal signatures are preserved in specific organs of native trees".

The Medal honours eminent geoscientists Dr Charles Butt and Dr Ray Smith of CSIRO Exploration and Mining, who have made invaluable contributions to mineral exploration, regolith geochemistry and ore deposit research over the past 37 years. Butt increased awareness of the geochemical processes that operate in deeply weathered, lateritic terrains, while Smith worked on developing methods for locating mineral deposits hidden by deep weathering profiles or overlain by sediments. The Butt Smith-Medal is jointly awarded by CRC LEME and CSIRO Exploration & Mining every two years along with a \$15K grant and an opportunity to present a Commemorative Address.

CRC LEME CEO Steve Rogers said it was fitting that Dr Radford received the Award. "He has a strong association with LEME: he helped develop and present the bid in 1995 for the first CRC for Landscape Evolution and Mineral Exploration (LEME 1), has since served on the Minerals Advisory Council for both LEME 1 and LEME 2 and has been a collaborator in a number of LEME research projects.

CSIRO Exploration & Mining Chief Mike McWilliams added that today's award adds to an already outstanding career. "Dr Radford has been an active member of the Association of Applied Geochemists since 1982, serving on council for eight years and as Association President in 2001. He was the co-chairman of the committee that organised the very successful Applied Geochemistry Symposium in Perth in 2005".

Image and background information available at: <http://crleme.org.au/NewsEvents/index.html>

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