

## Announcement of the Award of the 2006 Butt-Smith Medal

The BUTT SMITH MEDAL is jointly awarded by CSIRO Exploration and Mining and CRC LEME *‘For outstanding and sustained contribution linking regolith science to exploration in Australia.’*

The Medal is awarded every two years with the recipient receiving an honorarium and the opportunity to give a commemorative address.

The inaugural winner was Dr Richard Mazzucchelli in 2004.

The medal honours two great Australian Geoscientists.

While working at CSIRO Mining and Exploration, Dr Charles Butt and Dr Ray Smith have played a significant role in the development of exploration in deep cover over the past three decades.

Charles and Ray are internationally recognised as outstanding scientists that have successfully tackled the issue of developing exploration solutions in landscapes dominated by regolith cover. Thanks to them, we now understand simple but vital messages based on complex concepts – minerals are dispersed in the regolith, some media such as calcrete and laterites are important indicators of buried mineralisation, and different landform settings require different exploration methods.

On behalf of Dr Peter Lilly Chief of CSIRO Exploration and Mining and myself, it is my great pleasure to announce the **2006 winner of the Butt Smith Medal - Dr Ravi Anand.**

It is fitting that Ravi Anand becomes the second recipient of the Butt Smith Medal.

For three decades he has been involved in regolith research and has emerged as a worthy leader to follow in the footsteps of his colleagues who lend their names to this medal.

His work has provided an understanding of the processes involved in the formation of geochemical anomalies – the result of which have led to more effective and efficient geochemical tools in modern mineral exploration.

Ravi is internationally recognised for developing techniques for interpreting deep weathering profiles of the Australian environment. These techniques have now been applied to lateritic profiles elsewhere in the world. He has shown how to integrate diagnostic lithological, mineralogical and geochemical features with landscape evolution and metal mobility. This work has contributed to the acceptance by the mineral exploration industry that regolith process knowledge is essential in designing exploration strategies and interpreting geochemical data.

His compendium on Western Australian regolith, published in the Australian Journal of Earth Sciences in 2002, is a landmark publication. He was the convener and editor of the recently published LEME thematic volume on the regolith Landforms of Australia and was instrumental in initiating an exemplary regional approach to regolith evolution with the recent production of the Northern Territory Regolith Map and Atlas with the Northern Territory Geological Survey.

Specifically, he has shown that geochemical anomalies in complex regolith result from the superimposition of several hydromorphic dispersion events over considerable periods of geological time.

Recently, he has demonstrated that the deep-rooted mulga tree in transported regolith over some Australian mineral provinces act as hydraulic pumps for dissolved metal ions at depth, and consequently express detectable geochemical anomalies in surface tissues leaves – this is an exciting scientific breakthrough.

Ravi Anand has assembled research teams that are cohesive, focused and productive. He has been the driving force in several successful industry-funded research projects in numerous geological provinces in Australia and overseas, notably the recently commenced AMIRA P778 Predictive Geochemistry Project.

He is also noted for the graciousness of his dealings with colleagues, and his supervision and inspiration to many post-graduate students.

The Butt Smith Medal complements Ravi's previous accolades of the Sir Ian McLennan Achievement for Industry Award, the CSIRO Research Medal and the Stillwell Award.

We will be formally presenting the Medal to Ravi in November during the annual LEME Regolith Symposium to be held in Hahndorf, South Australia.

However, please join with me now in congratulating Ravi on winning this well deserved award.