



Media Statement

CRC LEME PO Box 1130 Bentley Western Australia 6102

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Nominations sought for geoscience research medal

CRC LEME in collaboration with the CSIRO are currently seeking nominations for the 2006 Butt Smith Medal.

Awarded every two years, the Butt Smith Medal recognises outstanding and sustained research excellence in the field of geoscience.

The medal acknowledges Dr Charles Butt and Dr Ray Smith, who have made invaluable contributions to mineral exploration geochemistry, regolith geology and ore deposit research, through their lifelong association with the CSIRO and CRC LEME.

They have played a significant role in the development of the Australian mineral industry in the past three decades. Dr Butt and Dr Smith have won international respect as outstanding scientists tackling the enormous topic of the Australian regolith and providing exploration solutions.

Thanks to them, we now understand simple but vital messages based on complex concepts – metals can be dispersed in the regolith, some materials are more important than others to sample, and different landform settings require different exploration strategies.

Winner of the inaugural Butt Smith Medal in 2004 was Perth geoscientist, Dr Richard Mazzucchelli. Dr Mazzucchelli's innovative geochemical research led to resource companies such as WMC Resources successfully adopting his pioneering mineral exploration techniques.

"As an employee of WMC Resources, I was in a unique position to document dispersion of elements associated with nickel sulphides in rock, gossan, soil and stream sediment before others, and develop cost-effective exploration methods," Dr Mazzucchelli said.

"WMC was also the first company to recognise the importance of calcrete uranium deposits and I exploited this to demonstrate the effectiveness of hydrogeochemistry in exploration."

Dr Mazzucchelli said he was delighted to be the first recipient of such a prestigious award.

"I felt honoured to be recognised and have my name linked with those of Charles Butt and Ray Smith. Apart from my PhD research in the 1960s at Imperial College London, my work has consisted of developing applications entirely within industry, so I felt fortunate to receive a research award," Dr Mazzucchelli said.

"I am sure this award will continue to play an important role in recognising the work that geoscientific researchers play in discovering the mines of tomorrow."

The winner of the Butt Smith Medal receives a \$15,000 grant and opportunities to present a commemorative address.

Nomination forms for the Butt Smith Medal can be downloaded from the CRC LEME website (<http://crcleme.org.au>). Nominations close on Friday, 28 April.

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