



Editors:
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“Australian Mineral Discoverers”: 1950-2010

The Royal Society of Tasmania is proud to announce the planned publication of a book about Australian mineral explorers. The Society has historically maintained a strong connection with exploration and discovery across a broad spectrum of natural sciences, including medical, biological and geological sciences. Geologists have played an important role in the Society, beginning with RM Johnston, a highly active and influential member, who authored the first book on the Geology of Tasmania which was commissioned by the Tasmania Government in 1884 to promote exploration and mining in Tasmania. His contributions were recognised by the Society with the production of the R.M. Johnston Medal.

Mineral discoveries in the 1950 to 2010 period have been the backbone of wealth creation for all Australians and helped to maintain Australia’s economic position as the “Lucky Country”. However as you will read in these 65 biographies of Australian explorers and educators, discovery of buried minerals is an extremely complex science that requires knowledge, innovation, disciplined application of geological principles, teamwork, persistence and an ounce of luck.

“Australian Mineral Discoverers”: 1950-2010

In this book you will read 65 exciting and sometimes unbelievable stories of the life and achievements of a cross section of Australian mineral explorers who have advanced the science of discovery and contributed to the wealth of Australia for all Australians. Without these mineral discoveries, most in remote and inhospitable parts of Australia, many of us would not enjoy the high standards of living achieved in this country.

The stories told in these pages include the discovery of 150 mineral deposits, from the very largest (Olympic Dam of over 6 billion tonnes of copper gold and uranium ore) to the smallest (the gold rich Juno deposit in Tennant Creek). Collectively these mineral discoveries amount to many 100's of billions of in ground value, that have supported many mines, towns and communities in outback Australia for 50 years and beyond.

***Price: \$50 members of the Royal Society of Tasmania
\$55 + postage for non-members (pre Dec 1)
\$60 + postage for non-members (post Dec. 1)***

“ Outstanding geoscientists resemble a first-class poet, painter, architect, mechanical inventor, medical scientist; all have creative minds, and all are explorers. They have to explore, with their mind, a subterranean world that was slowly taking shape long before human beings existed. They have to work out how fire and water, land and sea, created or altered huge mineral deposits. They guide the expensive task of drilling deep holes to test whether their hypotheses are correct: often they are not. Failure is a memorable teacher. ”

Geoffrey Blainey **AC**

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