



EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY GROUP
(A Specialist Group of the Geological Society of Australia Inc.)

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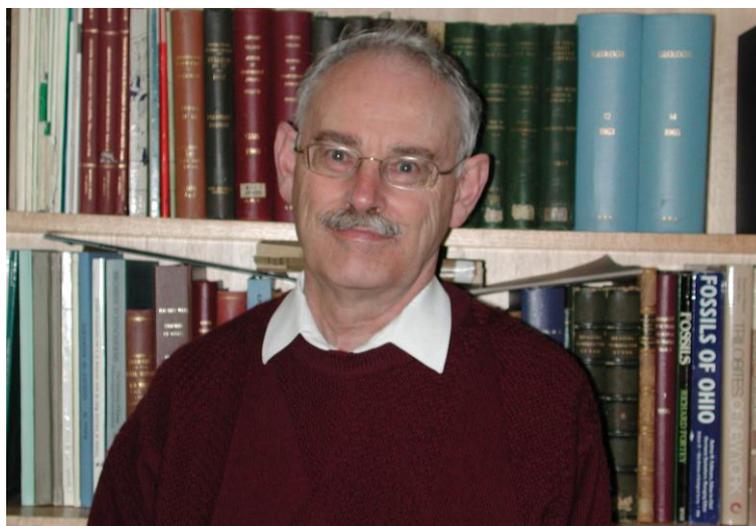
Award of the Tom Vallance Medal

The Tom Vallance Medal is awarded every two years and presented, insofar as is practical or possible, at the Society's biennial Australian Earth Sciences Convention, which this year was held in Adelaide from 26 to 30 June.

The objective of the award is to recognize people who have made a significant contribution to researching, recording, investigating, documenting and/or publishing about people, places or events of historical importance to the geological sciences in Australia/Australasia.

It honours Dr Thomas George Vallance (1928–1993) who was formerly Associate Professor at the University of Sydney. Originally a petrologist, his work tracing geological expertise in Sydney during the late 18th and early 19th centuries shed unexpected light on scientific activity in the colony and ignited his interest in the history of geology. He researched and published many articles and papers on famous, infamous and little-known early pioneers in this field.

The 2016 Tom Vallance Medal has been awarded to Tom Darragh. The award was announced and the citation read by Ian Withnall at the awards ceremony during the Australian Earth Science Convention in Adelaide on 30 June. However, because Tom was unable to be in Adelaide in person, the medal was presented at a meeting of the Victorian Division in Tom's home town of Melbourne. The medal was presented to Tom by Bernie Joyce.



Tom Darragh (photograph by David Holloway)

The citation for the award to Tom is as follows:

Tom Darragh has been an active researcher in the history of geology of Australia especially Victoria for decades and was highly regarded by Tom Vallance. Tom's publication record reveals the breadth and depth of his contribution, as does his longstanding membership of the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO). Tom Darragh has shown special interest in the biographies of Australian geologists, history of palaeontology, early geological maps, institutional history and the geological contribution of German scientists in Australia. Notably Tom has been enlisted by the Australian Dictionary of Biography to undertake a large number of biographical entries on their behalf. He has also contributed papers to the highly regarded "Historical Records of Australian Science". Most recently Tom's work on the translation, editing and commentary on the Leichhardt diaries deserves special praise.



Tom Darragh responding to his award with Bernie Joyce looking on (photograph by Michelle Grosser, Secretary of the Victorian Division).

In accepting the award Tom responded as follows:

I am very honoured to receive the Vallance Medal, particularly as Tom Vallance was my mentor. It was he who first encouraged my interest in the history of geology and we had a long and enjoyable correspondence on matters historical over many years about our common interests in Victoria and New South Wales, and beyond. He was a font of wisdom and I was greatly saddened by his early death. I also recall that the Vallance book collection was for a time housed in this very building - Earth Sciences.

In concluding the medal presentation Bernie Joyce was able to assure Tom that the Vallance collection now forms a significant part of the University's Rare Book Collection.

Item of Interest

INHIGEO Annual Record

The International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) Annual Record No. 48 covering activities generally in 2015 was issued in June 2016. The annual record includes information on the commission's activities, national reports, book reviews, interviews and occasional historical articles. The latest edition was compiled and edited by Wolf Mayer (INHIGEO Editor) and can be downloaded from the INHIGEO website at <http://www.inhigeo.org/newsletters>

Wolf Mayer will be retiring at the coming INHIGEO meeting in Cape Town. He will be remembered for his magnificent efforts over the past four years during which the INHIGEO Newsletter has been transformed into a larger and more impressive INHIGEO Annual Record.

His successor as INHIGEO Editor will be Emeritus Professor William R. (Bill) Brice, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania USA

Contributions for the ESHG Newsletter

Although two articles have now been received for the ESHG Newsletter, we are holding over publication until later this year, when hopefully we will be able to publish papers presented during the session on Australian geologists in World War 1 at the AESC. However, articles on other topics are still welcome and if you already have an article for the newsletter, you are welcome submit it to the Newsletter Editor, Mr John Draper at jdraper@hn.ozemail.com.au.

Upcoming Conference



**AUSTRALASIAN
MINING
HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**

Australian Mining History Association 22nd Annual Conference

Web: <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au>

Cobar Bowling and Golf Club

COBAR

16th October to 21st October 2016

For registration and details, follow the link

<https://cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au/plus/index.php/s/THmnCMcPB7TnCbG>

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