

THE GORDON PACKHAM MEETING ON NEW SOUTH WALES GEOLOGY:

A MILESTONE MEETING ON OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE GEOLOGY OF NSW AND ADJACENT AREAS.

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY, SYDNEY NSW

THURSDAY JULY 8 & FRIDAY JULY 9, 2021

BACKGROUND TO THE MEETING

Gordon Packham was an enthusiastic backer of holding a milestone meeting on the geology of NSW and adjacent regions, to mark 51 years since publication (1969) of *The Geology of New South Wales* (G. H. Packham ed.) – known to the geological community as the ‘Pink Elephant’. He was attracted to the idea of a meeting that summarised what we currently know about the geology of NSW. He also thought that it could act as a springboard for future projects that address what we don't know and what we would like to know in order to better understand how NSW was assembled over time. Regrettably Gordon died (in mid-2020), and the meeting is now deferred to 2021, because of constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

Major themes have not as yet been decided, but we envisage the following provisional topics: 1. **The lower crust and upper mantle** and linkages through to plate tectonics and the upper crust; 2. **Key processes that formed the main orogens**, including how tectonically unusual or ho-hum the orogens might be; and also new data that need to be collected to refine and decide between models of formation of orogens: 3. **Mineral provinces**: what our knowledge of orogens tells us about known or suspected major

mineral provinces; 4. **Geology of the last 150 Ma: new basins, new rifts, modifications of old units, landscape evolution.**

Other topics such as basement rocks (eg Broken Hill, Curnamona Province) and Permian to Jurassic sedimentary basins can also be included.

We anticipate that each theme will open with a summary keynote and end with a general discussion of papers presented and topics raised.

The 2-day meeting will include Powerpoint presentations, supplemented by poster displays if required. We have scheduled the meeting to coincide with the mid-year break common to most universities. The registration fee will be kept to a minimum to encourage attendance from students, retired geologists and those between jobs.

The Geological Survey of NSW, GSA NSW Division and the Hunter Division as well as GESSS NSW (GSA Earth Science Student Symposium NSW), along with Macquarie University have all shown interest in supporting the meeting.

We invite expressions of interest in presenting talks, and welcome ideas on topics from the geological community including those in universities, in the exploration sector and in geological surveys (such as NSW, Queensland, Victoria, & Geoscience Australia). And from retired or other geologists, including those who worked with, or were taught by, Gordon.

Dick Glen and Ian Percival, convenors.

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