SMEDG

SYDNEY MINERAL EXPLORATION DISCUSSION GROUP

Rocks Geotour
Saturday April 1, 2023, from lunchtime

Please join us on the SMEDG/ASEG 2023 Rocks Geotour, hosted by Jim Austin and Tony Webster on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

It is planned to start at lunch at one of the historic hotels in the Rocks, undertake the walking tour, and then finish at another one of the hotels for dinner. The tour will look at the history and geology of the Rocks, and the interaction of the two.
The tour itself is free, however food and refreshments along the way will be at your own expense.

So as we don't inconvenience other users of the Rocks and to make the group manageable, numbers will be limited to 30 and therefore registration is essential. There will also be a waitlist for those who initially miss out.

Details of the meeting place and time, and tour, will be emailed out on Thursday or Friday.

Registrations will open at 9.00 am tomorrow (Tuesday) morning - please follow this link to register. Also, if you change your mind after registering please contact Fiona to cancel - text preferred.

Contacts are Mark Gordon – SMEDG (please use as the primary contact) - 0437 867 931, Jim Austin - ASEG - 0459 886 302, Fiona Czuzman - Registrations - 0402 209 505.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF GEOSCIENTISTS

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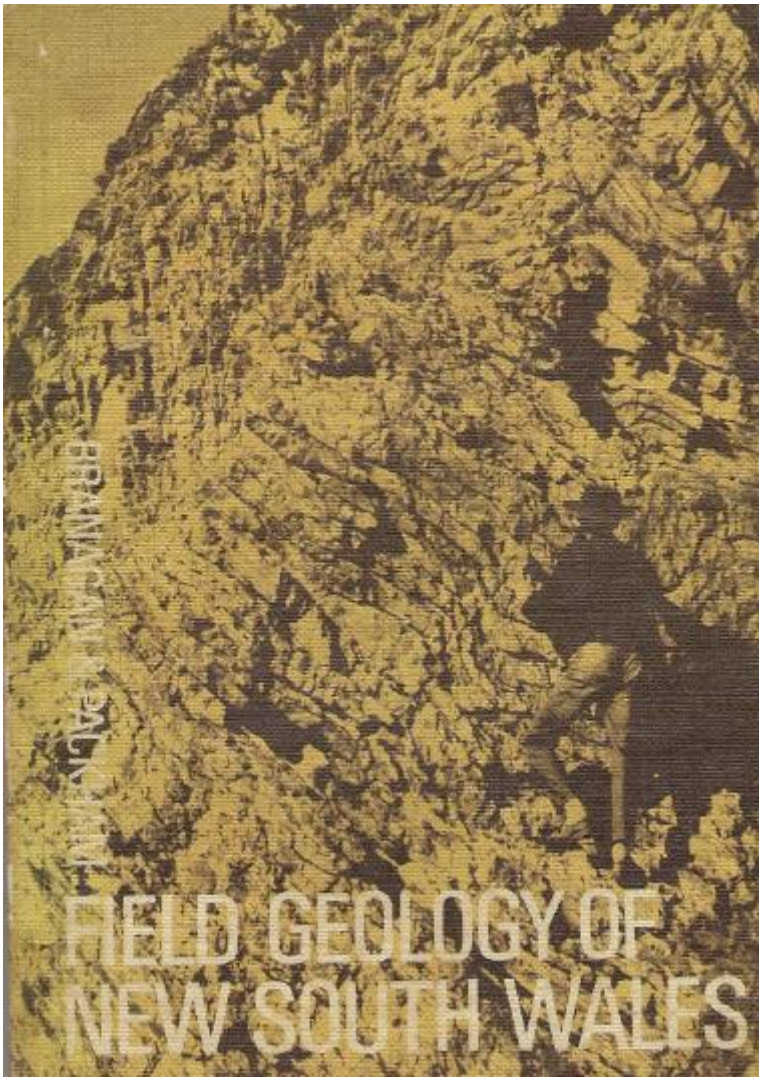

SYDNEY BUILDING STONES EXCURSION

City buildings give an unrivalled opportunity to examine a great variety of building stones.

Although the local Hawkesbury and Narrabeen (Gosford) sandstones are commonest, microsyenite (called trachyte by the builders) from Mittagong, granite from Moruya, Tarana and Tocumwal, river gravel from Emu Plains and many overseas varieties may be seen.

Today stone is generally used in thin slabs as a "veneer" of ornamental material (even externally), whereas in stone buildings built before 1900 the stone walls are load-bearing (i.e. they support the weight of the roof and the floors of the building).

The resistance of rocks to weathering differs considerably and some rocks used externally on Sydney buildings are really unsuitable because they weather too rapidly as a whole or suffer uneven weathering. Many of these rocks would be suitable for indoor decorative work.

It is rare for building stone to be completely uniform in composition and one type of stone may show different degrees of weathering. Most of the local quartz-rich sandstones are very resistant, but occasional varieties contain clay in abundance and deteriorate rapidly.

Bridge Street

DE LA SALA HOUSE—rough vesicular basalt.

ASSOCIATED NATIONAL HOUSE—red marble floor, iron-stained white marble low external wall, river gravels in fountain.

LONDON ASSURANCE—pink granite, marble, grey fossiliferous limestone.

SUN ALLIANCE—white marble, green-grey tuff (Bookham, N.S.W.).

PHOENIX ASSURANCE—white sandstone (iron staining), pink granite, orange-brown porphyritic syenite, quartzite entrance.

LANDS DEPARTMENT—sandstone, unpolished red granite, polished brown-green granodiorite with veins.

PUBLIC WORKS—sandstone (weathered around base).

MACQUARIE PLACE—sandstone obelisk (designed by Greenway).

Young Street

PORT LINE HOUSE—sandstone, Welsh slate, serpentine.

Elizabeth Street

COMMONWEALTH BUILDING—gabbro (so-called "Black Granite", Adelong, N.S.W.) diorite, granodiorite terazzo wall slabs, Wombeyan marble and river aggregate pavement.

P & O—ORIENT LINE—sandstone (bleached), green tuff base (Bookham, N.S.W.), green volcanic rock (Germany), gabbro black (Sedan, S. Aust.), greenish micaceous slate floor.

Hunter-Bligh Streets

STOCK EXCHANGE—serpeggianti.

Martin Place

RESERVE BANK—Wombeyan marble, gabbro (Sedan, S. Aust.) on front, pavement of coarse white granite (Tocumwal, Vic.).

RURAL BANK—dark granodiorite, coarse red granite (Cole's Bay, Tas.); note some feldspar are decomposing.

A.P.A.—red granite (Cole's Bay, Tas.).

GRAHAME'S BOOKSHOP—sandstone.

COMMONWEALTH BANK (Cnr. Elizabeth Street)—red granite, interior white fossiliferous marble floor, cream breccia, grey limestone, special feature

COMMONWEALTH BANK (Cnr. Elizabeth Street)—red granite, interior white fossiliferous marble floor, cream breccia, grey limestone, special feature serpentine-breccia columns.

M.L.C.—red granite base, pink-brown feldspar-rich granite above. Quartzite (Italian) floor, breccia trim.

PETROLEUM INFORMATION BUREAU—green metamorphic rock paving, very dark igneous rock.

E.S.A.—syenite (polished and unpolished), sandstone.

COMMONWEALTH BANK (Cnr. Pitt Street)—polished syenite, sandstone above.

G.P.O.—columns of Moruya granite, bases—porphyritic Montague Island granite, sandstone.

Pitt Street

GENERAL ACCIDENT—red granite (polished and unpolished). Serpentine breccia (2 varieties). Cream marble containing fossil crinoid stems. Red marble containing crinoid stems. Red marble, white marble breccia. Grey limestone containing fossil corals and quartzite (unpolished) floor tiles.

EMPIRE INSURANCE—yellow-cream Sicilian marble. Banded greenish impure limestone contains patches and veins of sulphide minerals.

BANK OF N.S.W.—Moruya granite (polished and unpolished).

N.Z. INSURANCE—microsyenite, sandstone vestibule, cream and red marble. Black limestone containing fossil brachiopods.