



**Vale**  
**John Roberts AM**

11 August 1935 - 11 March 2024



John Roberts AM was a founding member of SACOME and served as Council President from 2002 to 2015, during a time of advancing mining activity and the congruent expansion of SACOME. Trained as a geologist, John was a tireless advocate for the mining and energy sector in South Australia throughout his career, which spanned more than 50 years.

He was an inaugural member of the former South Australian Mining and Petroleum Expert Group (SAMPEG) to promote South Australia's resource sector, while also working as the founding chairman of Mithril Resources exploration company.

In 2014, John was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours for significant service to the mining industry, particularly to exploration and professional organisations.

John's death leaves a legacy of achievements for our sector. He played a significant role in shaping South Australia's resources industry.

Our condolences go to his wife Judith and family.

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## Tributes

### **Dr Paul Heithersay PSM**

Chief Executive, Department of Energy and Mining

*Our heartfelt sympathies extend to the family and friends of John Roberts, who recently departed from our midst. John's legacy in the South Australian mining and energy sector is profound. Serving as the president of the council of the South Australian Chamber of Mining and Energy for 13 impactful years until his retirement in 2015, he played an instrumental role in shaping the industry's landscape in South Australia.*

*Additionally, his membership in the former South Australian Mining and Petroleum Expert Group (SAMPEG) underscored his commitment to promoting the state's resource potential and advancing initiatives such as the Plan for Accelerating Exploration (PACE). Through his dual roles in advocacy and advisory capacities, John wielded considerable influence in nurturing the local resources industry and emphasizing the vital role of exploration in fostering discovery and resource development.*

*John's professional journey was marked by many notable achievements. Trained as a geologist, he joined Homestake, a prominent gold miner in Australia, in 1977. His tenure as Managing Director there, saw him guide the group through significant milestones, including the formative years on the Golden Mile Superpit and Homestake's Australian float.*

*His leadership extended to various senior positions, including Non-Executive Chairman for Verdant Minerals Ltd., Non-Executive Chairman at Mithril Resources Ltd., Chairman of Australasia Consolidated Ltd., Chairman at Ballarat Goldfields NL and Director at Nord Pacific Ltd. In celebrating John's life, we recognize his profound impact on the industry, his*

*unwavering dedication, and his invaluable contributions to all who knew him.*

*He leaves behind a rich legacy that will continue to inspire and shape the future of the mining and energy sector in Australia. May his memory be a source of comfort and inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing him.*

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**Jason Kuchel** (former SACOME CEO)

Chief Executive Officer (Interim)

Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia

*John Roberts was a true mentor and friend to me during my time at SACOME. His depth of experience provided a deep well from which he could always draw a helpful story or example, always told with humility and often with a moment of humour thrown in for good measure. John was never one to boast, but over time I came to appreciate that his career was truly remarkable and that he left a legacy wherever he went. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family.*

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**Keith Yates AM**

Friend and Colleague

*John was a very able mining and exploration company leader and advocate for the industry but, first and foremost, he will be remembered as a true gentleman. Over 55 years he became a treasured friend including as my bridge partner in latter years. He will be sadly missed.*

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*October 2019 | SACOME Lunch to honour John Roberts AM.*

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