NOMINATION OF RON BERRY FOR THE TWELVETREES MEDAL

Ron Berry is well deserving of the award of the Twelvetrees Medal. Over a career spanning some thirty five years he has made numerous and significant contributions to the understanding of the tectonic development of Tasmania. This has resulted from his own research, his CODES research, and the supervision of 20 Honours, and 27 PhD (8 of whom had projects in Tasmania) students through the University of Tasmania. This work has resulted in the co-authorship of 33 published papers and 34 reports to industry on a range of Topics relating to the geology of Tasmania.

In 1988 his joint seminal papers with Tony Crawford introducing the allochthonous nature of the Cambrian mafic-ultramafic complexes changed the face of Tasmanian geologic evolution.

There is no doubt that Ron's recognition and definition of the Cambrian obduction event has been a defining moment for the understanding of Tasmanian geologic evolution. His definition of a metamorphic sole involving westward emplacement of the ultramafic complexes in the late 1980's, and more recently his coauthored work with Chmielowski on the metamorphic history of the obducted paraautochthonous continental margin has demanded a major change to our view of the way Tasmania has developed. The structural and metamorphic complexity of Tasmania has now been placed into a context that is more readily explainable.

As part of this development Ron has been involved with the development of chemical U-Th-Pb monazite dating of the Tasmanian metamorphic complexes. This was done jointly with David Steele, and Sebastian Meffre and R Chmielowski.

The CODES research on the structure and mineralisation of western Tasmania led by Ron through the early 1990's led to significant structural understanding of the Mt Read Volcanic Belt on the west coast and the structure of the Rosebery deposit and Mt Lyell leases. The construction of numerous cross sections undertaken through the belt introduced the concept of structural inversion from reactivated extensional faults. This work was completed jointly with PhD students, postdoctoral students and with Richard Keele, who worked in the central Northern part of the Mt Read belt.

Ron has also been involved with significant research on placing Tasmania in a global plate setting for the Neoproterozoic, Proterozoic and Cambrian. This has resulted in co-authored papers in Geology (with Clive Burrett) and Earth and Planetary Science Letters (with G. Jenner, S. Meffre and N. Tubrett).

In short, Ron Berry has had a major influence on our current understanding of Tasmanian geology, as clearly evidenced in the recently published GSA Special Publication 24 on the "Geological Evolution of Tasmania".

Ron has also left his mark on the Tasmanian geological community. He has been Head (3 years) and Deputy Head (6 years) of the School of Earth Sciences at UTas and was Deputy Director of CODES from 1989-1995. He has served as Chairman (3 years), Secretary (2 years) and Committee member (for un-counted years) of the Tasmanian Division of the GSA, and was Co-Convenor of the 17th AGC in 2004.

Ron therefore meets two of the criteria for award of the Twelvetrees Medal; his significant published works that have influenced our current understanding of Tasmanian geological evolution and tectonics, and his meritorious service to the Earth Sciences, through teaching and administration in Tasmania. It is high time that his contribution to Tasmanian geology is acknowledged.

David Gray

Selwyn Medalist 1996 SW Carey Medalist 1997 Australian Professorial Fellow (2002-2006) University of Tasmania "University Associate"(2014-2017)

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