

# **NORM CORNER**

## **EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST**



**1948 – 2007**

A life full of amazing adventures ended on January 7, 2007 when Norm Corner died in Wellington after a short illness. Norm was an exploration geologist with 37 years of experience dedicated to exploring for minerals.

He graduated BSc (Hons), First Class in geology, from the University of Otago, New Zealand, 1969. His thesis involved mapping and petrology of an area of Eglington Volcanics in Fiordland. Self education continued to be important to him throughout his career as he saw this as an ongoing process and he enjoyed the challenge and stimulation of learning and applying new exploration models, techniques and technology.

His career commenced in 1970 working for Kennecott Exploration in west Otago and Fiordland and later in eastern Queensland, and many of his lasting friendships and associations go back to those days.

Between 1974 and 1980 he was employed by Resource Associates of Alaska, at the time the largest consulting group in Alaska. This was a group renowned for its "can do" attitude in a logistically demanding frontier environment. Clad in what was probably the first Swanni to be introduced to Alaska, Norm always more than met the challenge. Through this period he was instrumental the recognition of a new volcanic massive sulphide province and work that lead to one of the biggest native claim settlements in the State.

Since 1981 Norm acted as an independent consulting exploration geologist and conducted work for a large number of clients in New Zealand, eastern Australia and Alaska, USA, but also in Pakistan, Chile, eastern Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Madagascar and Kalimantan, Indonesia. He developed a reputation for professionalism, dedication and integrity through effective project management, self motivation, a positive problem-solving approach and the application of sound exploration methodology.

Publications have included joint authorship papers on the Rise and Shine Shear Zone, Otago, the Globe-Progress deposit, Reefton, New Zealand and a comparison with other orogenic gold deposits, the Harvester offshore gold project, and an overview of the mineral resources of the northwest South Island, New Zealand. He also produced and contributed to over 70 unpublished company reports.

He considered his career highlights to have included being involved in adding significant resources to the Frasers ore shoots at the Macraes Gold Mine, Otago; contributing to the knowledge of the Globe-Progress and Caplestone gold fields at Reefton; making major contributions to massive sulfide discoveries in the Alaska Range, USA; and work that assisted in demonstrating bulk mineable potential in the Victorian goldfields and at prospects in Indonesia.

In 1994 he married to Susan Brierly, a freelance editor, and initiated some new directions. They traveled to India, Mexico and trekked in the Nepalese Annapurna Himalaya where he felt very much at peace.

We farewelled him overlooking the Wellington Harbour to the strains of his favourite jazz music and the taste of some fine wines that he himself had selected for the occasion.

As well as never missing the opportunity to try a new adventure, his inquisitive disposition, courtesy and respect for others will always be remembered.

Norm lived his life with “**gusto**” and true to the promise, he did “have hammer and he did travel”.