Nomination of John Nethery FAusIMM
for an Institute or Resources Sector Service Award

John Nethery FAusIMM is being nominated for this Award in recognition of his consistent and significant contribution to the ongoing success of the resources sector by building better understanding and respect between the resources sector professionals operating in Far North Queensland and local communities, as well as a large number of tourists visiting the Region.

Geoscience Support for Far North Queensland Mineral Exploration

As a resident of the historic and current mining town of Chillagoe, for over 30 years, John has provided geological expertise, technical and logistical support to many explorers of the district over that time.

John has been a major supporter of companies and as such has saved the industry large sums of money by his efficiency and dedication, and in fact his presence, in an isolated part of Queensland.

John runs a major base for core storage, management, and sample processing unique in the Far North and his base is a stepping-stone for access to the western Cape, the Palmer River and the major programs along the Palmerville Fault.

Support of the FarNQ Branch of The AusIMM

He is a regular contributor to the AusIMM FNQ Branch Annual Roundup and Technical Sessions which has been held since 2008, and a longstanding member of the local branch Committee.

John is also a regular attendee and contributor of samples and expertise at the Annual North Queensland Gold Panning Championships in Mareeba, where the FNQ Branch of the Institute holds a stall promoting the Institute and the industry.

Media Commentator and Support of Schools Education in FNQ

John is a regular contributor to media outlets having appeared on Television, is a regular “Go-to” expert for ABC radio talkback communications in Cairns and is a regular newspaper contributor. He is often a guest speaker at schools in
the Far North including Mount St Bernard’s College in Herberton. He plays a significant role in the science knowledge of students and brings some reality into the understanding of the resources sector. John is also a member of EGRU Advisory Board at JCU Townsville.

**Development of the Chillagoe Geological Hub**

The HUB is Chillagoe's information and interpretive centre and is also part of the Queensland Heritage Trails Network Project. John has provided maps, geological history and interpretation including the Chillagoe Smelter and the well-known limestone caves. John Dunlop FAusIMM (CP), a member of The AusIMM Far North Qld Branch has expressed great appreciation of John Nethery’s contribution to the History Trails project.

![Photo 1: John Nethery at the Chillagoe Hub with his works at the Hub](image)

*Photo by AM Robinson*

**Development of the Chillagoe Smelter Trail**

Working with Queensland National Parks at the Chillagoe Smelter, John has been responsible for the development of interpretive signage on an all-weather walking trail - including geological and mining history and education, providing a major information source for the community and the developing tourist industry. Tourism is becoming a significant industry in the western
areas of Far North Queensland, and it is John’s knowledge and expertise within the geological, exploration and mining industries that is making the mining history of the area a significant part of that burgeoning aspect of the economy. In doing so brings to the attention of the public the significance of that history and continuing contribution.

Photo 2 John Nethery at the Chillagoe Smelter Trail displaying his contributions
Photo by AM Robinson

Development of Geological Commentary on the Savannahlander Tourist Train

His latest activity is in developing an interpretive commentary on the Savannah-Lander tourist/ train that runs from Cairns to Forsayth in Far North Queensland. John has been travelling on the train recording geological and historic commentary based on the mileage posts for location. Promoted through the popular ‘Railways Australia’ television program, John’s work has already brought the natural and mining history of a much larger area to the attention of both Australian and international visitors numbering in the thousands annually.
Etheridge Shire Council Geoscience and Mining Heritage Reference Group

John Nethery is a key member of the Etheridge Shire Council Geotourism Advisory Group, working closely with the Geotourism Standing Committee of the Geological Society of Australia, which included the Chair Angus M Robinson FAusIMM (CP) and AusIMM link, Geoff Sharrock Hon F AusIMM (CP). In this capacity, John has been providing ongoing geological and historic mining information for the development of geotourism within the ‘Unearth Etheridge Scenic Area’. The Etheridge geo-region has a very long geological history extending back at least 1.7 billion years, and punctuated by subsequent, very intense, episodic periods of activity almost to the present day, and these have contributed to the fascinating diversity in the region’s geology, richly endowed mineral resources and landscapes.

Summary

His nomination for an Award for his service to The Institute and the Resources Industry is commended for his long-standing interaction between the Institute, the Industry and the community at large and is supported by the FNQ Branch Committee of which he is a longstanding member.

John Nethery is building a better understanding and respect between mining professionals and their industry with the broader community, acting in a key role that is well deserving of a Resources Sector Service Award.

Brett Duck F AusIMM
Chairman
FNQ Branch AusIMM
0429440604
22nd September 2019

Support:
Letter of support from the Mayor of Mareeba Shire - attached

Referees:
Geoff Sharrock Hon F AusIMM (CP),
Angus M Robinson F AusIMM (CP)