

## Speaker Contact Details

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### **Angus M Robinson**<sup>1</sup>

Angus is an exploration geologist by profession. After the past 20 years working in technology and industry development executive roles, and as the former CEO of a manufacturing industry association, he is now working in geotourism industry development as Chair of the Geotourism Standing Committee of the Geological Society of Australia.

### **Dr Young Ng**<sup>2</sup>

Dr Young Ng is the founder and chairman of the Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong. He is a pioneer in geological conservation in the Asia Pacific region and is the original proposer and advocator of the UNESCO Hong Kong Global Geopark. He is currently advisors of seven UNESCO world heritages and global geoparks in China.

### **Geoff Sharrock**<sup>3</sup>

Originally a geologist at Planet Oil, Esso, and Caltex, Geoff became CEO of four coal operations in NSW. A consultant for seven years, conducting mine safety evaluations in Australia, Indonesia and India. Appointed to a Gateway Panel by the NSW Minister of Planning in 2014. President of The AusIMM, 2013-14.

### **Abstract Title : Proposed Hunter Valley National Mining Park – A Vision Beyond Mine Site Rehabilitation**

It is proposed that the largest national mining park in the world be established – a fitting celebration of the significant role that mining has played for Australia’s development – first undertaken by Europeans with coal mining in Australia commencing near Nobbys Head in Newcastle in the 1790s.

Created and promoted by the NSW State Government, this iconic ‘park’ could embrace the region including mining and mining purposes lands from the Port of Newcastle and the Lower Hunter, Cessnock through to the Upper Hunter, and be nurtured within a regional, collaborative, multi-land use strategy which will provide for specified development within rehabilitated mined areas with the following uses:

- native flora and fauna habitat conservation – all connected through existing and proposed corridors;
- ‘soft adventure’ recreation;
- coal mining heritage sites, geosites and geotrails;
- areas set aside for renewable energy generation (solar arrays, wind farms, biomass production) and embracing light industrial sites for industry services and ‘value adding’ manufacturing;
- innovative, ‘value add’ manufacturing; and
- engagement with the six strategic hubs of the Strategic Aboriginal Culture and Enterprise Scheme of the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

As one key outcome, it is proposed that the strategy delivers a geotourism destination of global significance which would incorporate as well the outstanding wine tourism and other natural heritage attributes of the Hunter Valley.