



Members in Profile

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Colin Sale

I was born in 1934 and developed a very strong love of the Geography from a very early age through my Grandmother's impressive collection of world pictures viewed through a Stereoscope, and her National Geographic Magazines, and I developed a life-long ambition to see and explore our *Wonderful World* at first hand. I loved studying Geography at school and for the three years at Sydney University leading to a BA degree conferred in 1956, and I trained to become a Geography Teacher at Sydney Teachers College. I first joined the GSNSW as a university student and attended their monthly lectures at *Science House* in the Rocks. After three years of teaching in Sydney and Albury, my wife and I went off to explore the world, teaching in high schools in England and Canada, from 1960 to 1962, and seeing as much as possible of Europe and North America over three years.



Returning to Australia, we were both appointed as lecturers at Wagga Teachers College in 1963, and soon became involved in writing Geography secondary school text books published from 1964; a total of 19 texts were authored or co-authored, culminating with *Our Wonderful World* in two editions, 1988 and 1994 (440 pp, with 60,800 copies sold world-wide to 2008). I published three papers on the *Geography of the Riverina* for the *Institute of Riverina Studies* (1967-1971), contributed text and photos for the *Macquarie Atlas* (1984) and *Readers Digest Children's Atlas* (1998), and was commissioned by the *Australian Information Service* to produce a book on Australia's Geography – *Australia, the Land and its Development* (64,000 copies) for overseas distribution free to schools. Royalty earnings allowed the two of us to undertake travels to many parts of the world for first-hand geographical studies, and also to have two years Study Leave in London, travelling there overland across Eurasia and returning overland through Africa. From the University of London, I obtained my MSc degree in *Physical Geography* by advanced study, examinations, and dissertation at University College London in 1970.

From 1972, I became Senior Lecturer in Geography, Head of the Social Sciences Department, and Head of the Secondary Social Science Teacher Education Program at Alexander Mackie Teachers College, which would become part of *Sydney College of Advanced Education* in 1983, and then *Sydney Institute of Education* within Sydney University in 1990, and from here, after considerable staff rationalisations, I was offered and accepted early retirement in 1991. I continued with some part-time lecturing, but in the second semester of the years 1986 to 1998, I gave an annual lecture course on the *Australian Environment*, with field studies, to visiting students from Rollins College, Florida, in their *Australian Studies Semester Program*, and on three occasions was guest lecturer for their January Winter Term at Rollins.

From 1976, following the death Maxine, I had started leading *Vacation Tours* for teachers all over the world, and from 1988, having joined the Council of the GSNSW, I began organising and leading the Society's Study Tours. These gradually became very popular and from 1992, I trained myself to become a professional travel agent. I have now organised and led a total of 52 Study Tours to 2011, with 1020 people having participated in them, earning the Society \$191,385. As a Councillor in the GSNSW since 1986, I have held the positions of President and Vice President, and, in 1994 I was awarded the Society's Fellowship.

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