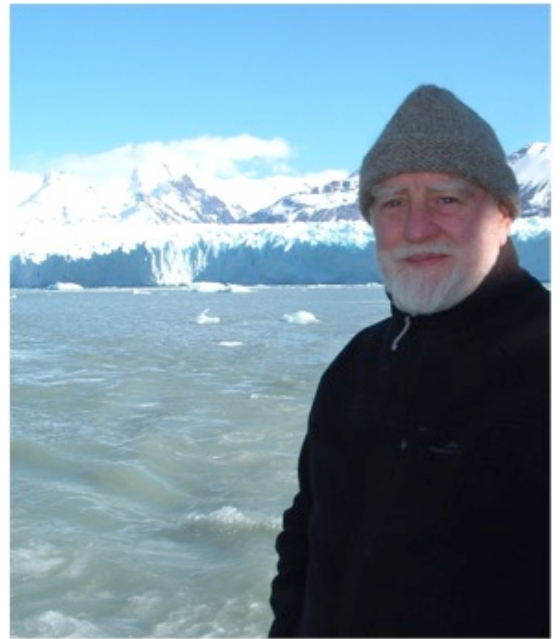


The Geology and Landscape Evolution of the Maldon Area

The 31st Maldon Focus Winter Quarterly Conversation will be presented by Brian Cuffley, who will talk about the ancient rocks in the Maldon area and how Mt. Tarrengower was formed. The Conversation will be held on Monday 18th July at 7:30 pm in the Maldon Community Centre.

Brian Cuffley, a geologist, developed an interest in geology as a child when he inherited part of a rock, mineral and fossil collection belonging to his grandmother. As a teenager he mapped the geology in the Dandenong Ranges. After studying geology at RMIT, his career has been mostly in mineral exploration and mining geology in remote areas of Australia, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands and Chilean Patagonia. Brian also holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management. Brian was instrumental in the discovery of a rich gold shoot at Tarnagulla in 1994, and in 2011 he discovered a new gold-antimony deposit at Costerfield, named the Cuffley Lode, which is still being mined.



Brian will take us on a fascinating journey starting in the Ordovician period 490 million years ago, then moving on to the evolution of the current landscape from a period of glacial erosion 250 million years ago to a change in the course of the Loddon River 2-3 million years ago as a result of basalt lava flows (Moolort Plains). Several kilometres of rock have been eroded, exposing granites which cooled at depth 370 million years ago. The sedimentary rocks surrounding the granite were hardened and now form the Mt Tarrengower-Nuggetty Ranges, whereas the granite weathered at a faster rate and now forms lowlands, such as at Baringhup. A number of buildings and streetscape features in Maldon have been constructed using the main outcropping rock types from the surrounding area.

At 7:30pm in the Maldon Community Centre, Francis St. on Monday 18th July, \$5 donation (includes light supper). No bookings required. Enquiries 0407 770 350, www.maldonfocus.org.au

Bev Phillips
Coordinator, Maldon Focus Quarterly Conversations