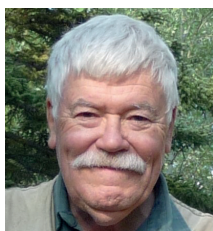## AAG COUNCILLORS FOR 2023–2024

Aaron Baensch

Aaron is a multifaceted geoscientist and technologist with 25 years of international experience, spanning technology development and research, global business development and strategy, and mining operations and mineral exploration. He is also a strong advocate and promoter of sustainability, diversity, and STEM pathways for the next generations entering the resources industry. Aaron's passion is centred around deep engagement and collaboration with the Mining Equipment, Technology, and Services (METS), Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG), and research sectors for the delivery of Mining Industry 4.0 across the entire mine life cycle and value chain. This draws on his experience in material characterization, sensors, IIoT, analytics, robotics, and automation, as well as over a decade of operational experience. This aligns well with the emerging landscape of decarbonization, digital transformation, automation, and the future of work in the resources industry.

Aaron is currently employed by Eurasian Resources Group (ERG) as the Head of Smart Exploration Technologies, concentrating on new opportunities in Saudi Arabia. Prior to this, he spent 15 years focusing on a wide range of mining and exploration technologies, including the adaption of systems used by NASA on the Mars Curiosity Rover. He was also an embedded researcher and project manager at MinEx CRC and Deep Exploration Technologies CRC, where he was a co-inventor of the Lab-At-Rig® system. Aaron spent his first decade working in a variety of management, operational, and exploration roles across a range of gold, nickel, and copper projects.

Professionally, Aaron is a proud graduate of the Western Australian School of Mines, Kalgoorlie (WASM), and holds a Bachelor of Science in mineral exploration and mining geology with 1st class honours. He is a registered professional geoscientist (AIG - RPGeo #10255 for Mining and Geochemistry) as well as a Fellow of the AusIMM, AIG, SEG, and AAG. Aaron is also a qualified snowboard instructor, and you can find him hitting the slopes during the winter in the USA, Canada, NZ, and Australia, as well as 4WD-ing, boating, and fishing with his family and friends throughout the warmer months.

Ray Lett

Ray obtained a BSc from the University of London, UK, in 1968, an MSc from the University of Leicester, UK, in 1970, and a PhD from the University of British Columbia, Canada, in 1979. He is a geochemical consultant and university sessional lecturer in geochemistry and economic geology at the University of Victoria, Canada. He was a laboratory supervisor and senior geochemist for the British Columbia Geological Survey between 1990 and 2010. Prior to that, he was a geochemist for Barringer Research/Magenta from 1980 to 1990 and an exploration geochemist/geologist for Amax Exploration/Fox Geological/BP Minerals in Vancouver, BC, between 1970 and 1979. Ray served as AAG Secretary from 1980 to 1985; as a Councillor (1990–1992, 1999–2000, 2006–2009, and 2015–2017); and as a member of the AAG Education Committee (2010–2022) and the Strategy Committee (2016–2017). Ray retired from the British Columbia Geological Survey after 20 years with the government as a geochemist and now spends his time consulting, teaching (part-time) undergraduate university courses in geochemistry and economic geology, and serving on various geoscience committees. As a geochemist for over 50 years, he has been fortunate to have had outstanding mentors, e.g., Clifford James, Kay Fletcher, so he feels that it is vital for us all to encourage new generations of students to consider a career in geochemistry.

Paul Morris

Dr. Paul Morris was university educated in New Zealand at Otago University and Victoria University (Wellington), followed by stints at the University of Sydney in Australia and Shimane University in western Japan. In 2018, he retired from a 30-year career at the Geological Survey of Western Australia, where he was Chief Geochemist for 22 years. He joined AAG (then AEG) in 1999 and has been a Fellow since 2002. During his AAG membership, he has held various positions, including Councillor, Symposium Coordinator, President, and Chair of the Awards and Medals Committee and the Education Committee, and is currently Chair of the New Membership Committee. He provides regular editorial assistance to the Association's newsletter, *EXPLORE*.

Ryan Noble

Dr. Ryan Noble is a Senior Principal Research Scientist and the Group Leader of Predictive Mineral Systems Science with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Perth, Western Australia. He has been with CSIRO for 17 years working on geochemical research with application to the exploration industry. Ryan earned a BSc and MSc in soil science from the University of Tennessee, USA, and a PhD in applied geology from Curtin University, Australia. Ryan has worked on numerous regolith and groundwater geochemistry projects related to gold, base metal, Ni, and U mineral exploration. More recently, he has been researching clay-sized fraction chemistry and spectral mineralogy using machine learning to put the results into landscape contexts. He is a Past-President and Fellow of the Association of Applied Geochemists. Currently, Ryan serves on the Editorial Board for GEEA and as a Board member of the Australian Geoscience Council and *Elements* magazine. He is the current Chair of Australian Earth Science Education (AusEarthEd). Building on his earlier activities in the AAG, Ryan is keen to continue his involvement to strengthen the AAG and the benefits to its members.

Pim van Geffen

Dr. Pim van Geffen is Technical Director of Geochemistry & Geometallurgy at CSA Global, an ERM Group Company. He is a professional geoscientist with 18 years of experience in mineral exploration and mining across the globe. He is a leader in the fields of geochemistry and geometallurgy and is passionate about innovation and improved business practices in the sector. From exploration to operations, closure, and remediation, he focuses on material characterization and process optimization throughout the mining value chain. He sees tremendous value in underutilized geoscientific data for characterizing ore and waste, minimizing operational risk, and maximizing return. Pim has delivered many public and private short courses and conference contributions on geochemical data analysis and its geometallurgical applications. He is a Fellow of the Association of Applied Geochemists.