Geoffrey H SHERRINGTON
*Curriculum vitae*

Born 16th June 1941 at Oakey, Queensland, weight 11lb 10 oz. (5.3 kg).

As a child, lived at Parkes, Ipswich, Amberley, Mackay and Townsville, moving around in WWII years as father was in RAAF in Australia and New Guinea.

1955-58 Townsville Grammar School, latterly a Prefect and Cadet Under Officer. Scartwater, Cunningham and Commonwealth scholarships. Queensland state wide Senior exams, 1A, 3B, 3C.

1959-mid 1961 RAAF Academy Point Cook as a Cadet Officer-in-Training. There was a 7 year course leading to B.SC., B.Eng. (Aero) and Wings. Resigned after 2 ½ years on medical grounds after a severe car crash. The start of 1961 was at St Pauls College, University of Sydney, Aeronautical Engineering.

1962-63 Technical assistant for North Broken Hill Ltd. Conducted some of the first significant Australian geochemical surveys under Nick Marshall, Geochemist at Ravenswood, Queensland, then Bathurst, NSW.

1964 May, married Colleen Heather Adamson, from Bathurst.

1964-67 At University College of Townsville, completed requirements for Bachelor of Science degree, chemistry major, and Masters’ Qualifying (Honours, but taken part time). Was a member of the foundation class of what became James Cook University, joining it in its second year.

1966 First child born, Geoffrey James Sherrington, 10th Jan 1966, in Townsville. (Later B. Surv., Curtin).

1964-68 Technical Officer, then Scientist post-degree, with CSIRO Division of Tropical Pastures, Townsville, under Les Edye, who was later awarded the CSIRO Medal for the Townsville stylo animal pasture work. Researched chemical analysis of plant and soil material, conducted factorial experiments about fertilizer levels required for existing and introduced tropical grasses and legumes.

1968-69 Scientist with Austral-Pacific Fertilizers Limited (Dow Chemical Co and W.R. Grace USA). Established a national soil testing laboratory at a large new urea plant at Gibson Island, Brisbane.

1970-72 Part owner and Director of Technical Services, Quantum Laboratories Pty Ltd, Brisbane, services to export-import quality control, chemical analyses for mining and agriculture, soil testing, sale of new chemical instrumentation imported to Australia. Purchased and operated a Kaman Nuclear neutron generator system for activation analysis.

1971 Second and last child born, Paul Sherrington, 26th September 1971, in Brisbane. (Later B.Comm., Melbourne).

1972 Invited by head of exploration, John N Elliston A.O., to be Chief Geochemist for the exploration arm Geopeko, of Peko-Wallsend Operations Limited, an emerging mining house with origins at Tennant Creek (Au, Cu, Bi) and Newcastle (coal). Accepted, remained until closure in 1993.

**About Geopeko.**

John Elliston and others explored around Tennant Creek from the 1950s before the official entity named Geopeko was formed in 1962. The mines that were discovered in the period 1950-1995 are summarised below. Most were in my co-management term of 1973 to 1993.

**In short, in constant 2015 values, the total sales of product to date exceed $62 billion.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **VALUE OF DISCOVERIES $2015** | COMPANY: |  | GEOPEKO |  |
| STATE BASE MINE |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |  |   |  |  |  | **VALUE $million** |
|   |  |   | Found | Dev.  | By | Prodn | Resource |
|   |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |
| NEW SOUTH WALES |  |  |  |  |   |
|   | PARKES |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | NORTHPARKES | 1977 | 1993 | NORTH  | 7,894 | 5,213 |
|   |   | COWAL | 1989 | 2005 | BARRICK | 3,860 | 4,480 |
|   |   | DUBBO ZIRCONIA |   |   | ALKANE |   | 38,221 |
|   | COBAR |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | McKINNONS | 1989 |   | BURDEKIN | 219 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| QUEENSLAND |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | MOUNT MORGAN |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | MT CHALMERS | 1978 | 1980 | PEKO | 190 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | TOWNSVILLE |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | SURVEYOR  | 1977 |   |   | ? | 1,977 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| NORTHERN TERRITORY |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | TENNANT CREEK |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | JUNO | 1964 | 1965 | PEKO | 3,265 |   |
|   |   | IVANHOE | 1961 | 1962 | PEKO | 1,389 |   |
|   |   | ORLANDO | 1958 | 1960 | PEKO | 1,300 |   |
|   |   | WARREGO | 1962 | 1969 | PEKO | 10,905 |   |
|   |   | GECKO | 1969 | 1971 | PEKO | 1,728 |   |
|   |   | ARGO | 1970 | 1984 | PEKO | 200 |   |
|   |   | ORLANDO EAST | 1985 |   |   | 26 |   |
|   |   | ROVER 1 |   |   |   |   | 5,968 |
|   |   | EXPLORER 108 |   |   |   |   | 1,878 |
|   | DARWIN |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | RANGER 1 | 1970 | 1979 | ERA | 22,166 | 1,921 |
|   |   | RANGER 68 | 1976 |   |   |   | 10,184 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| WESTERN AUSTRALIA |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | PERTH |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | PEAK HILL | 1980 | 1988 | PEKO  | 245 |   |
|   |   | KANOWNA QED | 1985 | 1990 | PEKO | 61 |   |
|   |   | KANOWNA BELLE | 1990 | 1993 | PEKO  | 8,379 | 424 |
|   |   | ABRA | 1980 |   |   |   | 8,643 |
| TASMANIA |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | KING ISLAND |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | DOLPHIN | 1969 | 1973 | PEKO | 583 | 458 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| STATE TOTALS |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | NEW SOUTH WALES |   |   |   | 11,973 | 47,913 |
|   | QUEENSLAND |   |   |   | 190 | 1,977 |
|   | NORTHERN TERRITORY |   |   |   | 40,979 | 19,951 |
|   | WESTERRN AUSTRALIA |   |   |   | 8,685 | 9,067 |
|   | TASMANIA |   |   |   | 583 | 458 |
| AUSTRALIA TOTAL |   |   |   | 62,411 | 79,366 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

While in the employ of Geopeko, I was assigned many miscellaneous tasks as a general factotum.

1974. A year managing Chlorine technology Limited, a pilot plant at Mt Morgan using 10 tonnes of chlorine a day to convert the beach sand minerals rutile and ilmenite to synthetic titanium dioxide, the “whitest of white minerals”.

1978. Some weeks in Tehran, Iran, relief manager for Austirex Aerial Surveys division of Peko, a $US15.5 million airborne mineral survey operational just before and after the Shah was deposed. We purchased 2 Nomad aircraft to fly lines with ground clearance of 80 metres. We designed and installed the navigation and geophysical equipment modules to global state of art standards.

1980. One of 3 scientists elected to represent Australia for a 3-month international geochemical interchange in Moscow USSR, cancelled on Russians invading Afghanistan.

1982. Invited paper delivered at Saskatoon, Canada, 9th Annual Geochemical Exploration Symposium, May 12-14, 1982. This was the first formal release of scientific data about the Number 3 orebody at Ranger One, Jabiru, Australia, discovered by Geopeko in 1969.

1984. Hosted Kerry O’Brien and Four Corners ABC team at Jabiru, appearing in starring role as Charles Copeman’s ‘heavy’.

1986. Conceived and managed a legal challenge to the Federal Minister for Environment over plans to render nugatory Peko-EZ legally held interests in the Alligator Rivers Uranium Province by inscribing certain areas in the World Heritage Register. Won in Federal Court, (1986) 70 ALR 523, lost on appeal to the Full Federal Court (1987) 75 ALR 218. The Full Bench of the High Court refused leave to further appeal while admitting that the issue had become too complex.

1986-92. Elected Vice-President then President of the Northern Territory Chamber of Mines. Because Federal law prevailed when there was an overlap with Territory law, this was an excellent listening post for impending actions and policies from Canberra about natural resources and the national economy in general. Required monthly travel from Sydney (later Melbourne) to Darwin.

1980. By 1979, I had established an energy-dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectrometer in Geopeko Gordon office. Our geologists were encouraged to submit rock samples for quick, multi-element analysis for unsuspected minerals. We found high levels of Tantalum, Niobium and Rare Earths in some rocks from near Dubbo. This has since become a focus for Alkane Mineral’s Toongi prospect, which was calculated to have an in-ground mine value of some $38,000 million in 2015 values. It is not yet known if it will be mined.

1990. Relocated Sydney to Melbourne after merger of Peko and North Broken Hill Ltd. New title was Manager, Government Relations, with freedom to continue geochemistry. Reported to Chief Executive, Peter Wade. Attended monthly management meetings for the main subsidiaries such as the mining groups, Australian Pulp and Paper Mills and Warman International. We managed multi-billion dollar budgets and activities, much of the wealth deriving from Geopeko discoveries.

1990. Within the North Head Office, established a polling body with voluntary staff manning phones with bar coded data collection, able to gather some 2,000 answers to poll questions in a couple of hours after work and present derived statistical data the same evening.

1991. Created and managed an in-house seminar at North on Property Rights, bringing in some overseas experts like Chicago’s Richard Epstein to address a dozen local identities.

1991. Attended the annual ALP Federal Conference in Hobart. Was assigned as wing man to Deputy Prime Minister Brian Howe for formal proceedings, with open access to PM Hawke. Howe was from the Socialist Left, I was not. (One morning, some newspapers had Colleen and I front page photo, leaving the Conference early.)

1992. Met with geologist Warwick Hughes at Tasman Institute which I helped fund corporately. He sought help to access data from Phil Jones at University of East Anglia, which led to that often-quoted email “Why should I make the data available to you, when your aim is to try and find something wrong with it.”

1993. In April, was retrenched from North Limited as the bigger mining houses like Rio Tinto and BHP mopped up many smaller Australian producers. These two global conglomerates seemed to place public relations experts ahead of experienced scientists, which explained their comparative lack of success with resource discovery.

**After Peko/North etc.**

1993-95. Made 5 private visits to Yunnan province, far western China, attempting without success to join the flood of investment that had already started in east coastal China. There were abundant projects like existing mines that needed finance, but my Australian financial links were via conservative people.

1999-2000 Research and sales of high energy industrial laser machinery with Laser Resources Pty Ltd. In Melbourne.

**Hobbies.**

Photography. In 2003, passed examinations with the Australian Photographic Society, gaining honours as onours honoursAAPS. Formally judged some international photographic competitions.

Horticulture. Variously a member of the International Camellia Society, Australian Camellia Society (Life member), Australian Rhododendron Society. Presented two invited lectures at International Camellia Society annual conferences. (Jersey, Melbourne). Compiled an illustrated CD of all registered Australian camellias 1953 to 2006, over 600 named camellias.

Computing. Purchased a forerunner of the PC, a Digital Equipment Corporation PDP8e, in 1970. Wrote some machine language programs at low level. Maintained a variable interest in computing and programming until now (2020). For many years, lectured on graphics to bodies like Corel Down Under, Australia.

Philately. Compiled a reasonably good collection of postage stamps of Australia, 1913 to 2014 (the first 100 years of federal stamps of Australia). Compiled and sold an illustrated DVD data base of all stamps issued by Australia Post 1913 to 2014.

**Formal Peer Reviewed Publications.**

‘Some Aspects of Natural Gamma Radiation in Ore Search’. Journal of Geochemical Exploration 8 (1977) 325-335. Geoffrey H Sherrington.

‘Number Three Orebody, Ranger One, Australia - a Case History’. Journal of Geochemical Exploration 19 (1983) 7-9. *(Extended extract of my delivered speech).* Geoffrey H Sherrington, A.L.L. Browne, R H Duffin and M J Danielson.

**Informal Publications.**

Authored 2 books with copious illustrations, both available in electronic form.

“The Open Door Beckons” is about 5 visits to west China 1993-5.

“Critical Mess” is based on a few dozen letters (of a few hundred) published by the Editor of The Australian newspaper 1978 to 1990 on the broad topic of Australian cultural oddities illustrated by attitudes towards peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

**Memberships.**

At various past times, now inactive, was elected or subscribed to learned societies:

Associate, Royal Australian Chemical Institute ARACI

Member, Australian Institute of Agricultural Science MAIAS

Foundation Member, Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand MEIANZ

Member, Association of Exploration Geochemists MAEG

Fellow, [Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy](http://www.ausimm.com.au/) FAusIMM

(END). Compiled and updated in April, 2021.