

Blainey wins mining honours

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HISTORIAN and author Geoffrey Blainey was one of five individuals inducted into the Australian Prospectors & Miners Hall of Fame on Friday.

The honours list, organised by the Kalgoorlie-based Mining Hall of Fame, recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the mining industry.

Along with Blainey, 2008's inductees included the likes of daring rescuers, successful explorers and committed educators.

The five inductees were:

Albert Arthur Charles Mason (1914-2000) – Recognised for his mineral exploration and development achievements, Mason was involved in the Telfer project from its early exploration days, right through to production. A geologist and mining engineer, Mason also headed up an influential tin mining consortium.

Edward Norman Milligan (1932-1999) – New Zealand-born Milligan was one of the most successful coal exploration geologists of his time. His extensive knowledge and detailed approach to exploration prompted the discovery of new coal-bearing basins and the development of eight major coal mines.

Emeritus Professor John Robert de Laeter – Honoured for his contribution to science education, de Laeter was responsible for the development of scientific and technological research into mineral science. He is best known for his work in geochronology, the science of dating and determining the time sequence of the earth.

Professor Geoffrey Norman Blainey – A noted historian and scholar, Blainey was inducted to the Hall of Fame for his work in chronicling the history of the Australian mining sector and for his contribution to public debate on mining. His work is widely regarded as having opened the world of mining to a broader audience, while in his role as an academic and mining authority he has earned a reputation as a strong advocate of the industry.

Alfred Alexander Smith (1903-1984) – Nominated in the 'Hero' category, Smith was awarded a bravery medal in 1943 for his rescue efforts in a mine accident. He rescued one man and attempted to save three others after a fume leak overcame workers at the great Boulder mine.