



**AUSTRALIAN  
MINING  
HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION**

All correspondence to: Mel Davies

Department of Economics

University of Western Australia

Nedlands 6907, W. Australia

Tel. (09) 3802939

Fax (09) 3801016

E.mail: [mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au](mailto:mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au)

## **Newsletter No. 1**

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### **Issue 8**

#### **Editorial**

It's always nice to achieve a goal and we are pleased to say that the AMHA can now boast that it has met its plan of building up an extensive mining history bibliography, a task which we set out to do a year or so ago. In the first instance the bibliography will be published in Roger Burt's International Mining History pages on the web: <http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RBurt/MinHistNet/>

We also intend to produce the bibliography on our own web page which will be opened in the near future (hopefully by the time the next newsletter is due).

The bibliography contains over 2,400 entries and is divided into States and into various sub-categories. It should prove invaluable to all mining history researchers. We shall attempt to update as time goes on and any additional items, or suggestions as to layout, etc., will be gratefully accepted in this quarter. For further details and plaudits, see below.

#### **Local News**

##### Victoria

Ray Supple reports that The Heritage Council of Victoria has resolved to form a Historic Mining Places and Objects Advisory Committee. Membership of this committee will be drawn from the following:

two members from the Heritage Council; four members from the Chamber of Mines, AusIMM, Australian Mining Industry Council, and Geological Society of Victoria; two members from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

The mission of this new committee is:

to ensure that the historic mining stakeholders interests are understood and represented in the determinations of the Heritage Council of Victoria.

The functions of the committee are:

\*a) advising the Executive Director and the Heritage Council of Victoria on places worthy of inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register;

\*b) where required, advising on development proposals for historic mining sites;

\*c) undertaking projects commissioned by the Heritage Council of Victoria;

\*d) advising the Executive Director and the Heritage Council of Victoria on options and proposals for the interpretation of historic mining sites and the development of education programs for such sites;

\*e) advising the Heritage Council on sources of funding to assist the council

undertaking the responsibilities for historic mining sites.

### New South Wales

Ross Mainwaring sent in an interesting cutting from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 Sept'96, which links present mining development with the first Australian gold rush. This took place over 140 years ago in the Bathurst area when prospectors descended on the tableland towns of Cadia and nearby Lucknow. This predates the time when the discoveries were outclassed by the Bendigo and Ballarat finds. The NSW government has recently given the go ahead for Newcrest Mining Ltd to undertake a 1.2 km open-cut mine expected to have a life of 12 years and production of 9.4 million ounces of gold and 1.2 million tonnes of copper. According to Premier Bob Carr, the company has agreed to 108 conditions with respect to environmental considerations. Newcrest has also agreed to pay for the restoration of an 1860s engine house on the Cadia site for use as a visitor centre, and will also pay for the relocation of the miners' cemetery.

### South Australia

Peter Bell reports that the South Australian launch of the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame was held in Adelaide on 21st February, perhaps appropriately, at 'Ayers House'. The house was built by Chemist William Paxton a major shareholder in

the Burra Burra Mines before it was purchased and lavishly refurbished by Henry Ayers, Secretary of the South Australian Mining Association which owned the mines. As was the case of many who held interests in Burra Buarra, Henry Ayers gained substantial wealth and became a powerful political identity, being seven times Premier of the colony.

This was the last launch of those held around Australia, and Adelaide provided the biggest turnout since the initial meeting at the Perth Mint in November. Most members of the South Australian AMHA were present among a gathering of about 80 persons who included among their midst the Governor and a 'Who's Who' of distinguished figures from the Chamber of Mines and the Mines Department. Robert Champion de Crespigny, Chairman of Normandy Mining, spoke about the aims of the Hall of Fame, and the guest speaker was Norm Shierlaw, mining engineer and stockbroker, former Poseidon director and founder of the Australian Mineral Foundation.

The biggest and most welcome surprise for mining historians was the presentation by Norma Latchford, Archivist with the Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines\* who described the work that has been done in collecting, conserving and cataloguing tonnes of gold mining company records collected from offices and the leases that are now being mined by the 'Superpit' at Kalgoorlie. KCGM is also storing mining machinery and artefacts collected from the path of the opencut, and this material will form the core of the Hall of Fame collection.

The intention is for there to be regional exhibitions associated with the central Hall of Fame at Kalgoorlie, and in that light, the South Australian Museum in cooperation with the Hall of Fame, has agreed to find space for a mining history exhibition in Adelaide.

*\*Hopefully we can persuade Norma to submit a report for the next newsletter!*

## **Conferences**

### Engineering Heritage

The Institution of Engineers will be holding the 9th National Conference on Engineering Heritage in Ballarat from 15th to 18th March **1998**.

The theme for the conference is "Wealth of a Nation". The conference will focus

on the development of national infrastructure, industry, mining, and architecture contributing to the "Wealth of a Nation". Intending authors are invited to submit an abstract of not more than 200 words by Friday 15 March **1997**. Information about the conference can be obtained from:

Ray Martin, Conference Convenor 9th National Engineering Heritage

Conference, P. O. Box 53, Creswick, Victoria 3363.

email: rlm@fs3.ballarat.edu.au

Ph: 03 5327 9131. Fax: 03 5327 9137.

Please note that while this is run by the Institute of Engineers, and that the conference is built around engineering heritage, two of our committee members, Ray Supple and James Whitehead who are also Institute members, have persuaded the organisers to accept papers with a general mining flavour.

### International Mining History Conference

Members might be interested to know that the final location and timing of the 1998 conference is still to be determined. Currently, there is some debate as to whether it will be held in S. Africa, Mexico or Queensland. The matter should be finalised during the next couple of weeks at the latest, so if you can't wait until the next newsletter, pick up the phone or e.mail me for details.

### Mining History Association (USA)

Those intending to cross the Pacific this coming Australian winter might like to bear in mind that the Mining History Association will be holding their annual conference in Houghton, between 5-8 June. Preceding this will be a conference of the Society for Industrial Archaeology which meets between 29 May and 1st June. Houghton is in copper country and linked to such legendary names as the Calumet & Hecla, and the Quincy mining companies which were among the most profitable mining ventures in the US during the 19th century. The venue is close to major historic mining sites and the Keweenaw National Park and the organisers promise a juicy itinerary of sightseeing and social events. The conference centre will be at the Franklin Square Inn, Houghton (for early reservations call 906-487-1700). In the meanwhile if you are desperate to obtain further information, contact: Pat Martin, Social Sciences Department, Michigan Tech, Houghton, MI 49931-1295, USA.

### Latin American Mining History

This conference will be held in San Luis Potosi, Mexico between 14-18 July 1997. Papers are called for and application for details should be addressed to Ines Herrera, National Institute of Anthropology and History, History Studies, Anexo al Castillo de Chapultepec, Apartado, Postal 5-119, Mexico D.F.C.P. 06500.

Fax: 553-63-47;

e.mail: Smithers@servidor.unam.mx

### AMHA Conference - update

As noted in the December 1996 Newsletter, the 1997 conference which will be held in conjunction with the Australian Historical Association Regional Conference at Newcastle, NSW, between 28 - 30 September. You were informed that the deadline for abstracts would be 31st March, but the organisers of the AHA have now put that forward to **30th April**, which gives you folk out there a little more time to get prepared and organised. Please treat this with some **urgency** - to date I've only received three tentative offers of papers!

### **Mining History Bibliography**

Containing over 2,400 entries (with only minimal duplication), the bibliography is set out by State/Territory, and into sub groups - 'General', 'Associated Social & Economic History', 'Heritage', 'People and Organisations', 'Processes', 'Equipment & Structures', various minerals and energy sources. While fairly comprehensive there will without doubt be some gaps which we hope will be filled through feedback from the membership. The contents should prove a boon to mining history researchers in most fields. The problem in compiling such a list is what to exclude. Volumes could, for example, be devoted to geology, so it takes some vetting to decide whether there is any historic content or not. One area where we are rather short relates to those theses and dissertations which must be accumulating dust in their hundreds around the

country. Often these are at honours level and so receive no outside acknowledgement, yet they can contain extremely valuable information. So an appeal to anyone who can obtain lists to please send them in for inclusion in the bibliography.

In setting out and furnishing much of the material in the bibliography, thanks must foremost go to Peter Donovan & Associates for use of the bibliography contained in their, *A Mining History of Australia, Part 1* (Australian Heritage Commission, 1995). This, indeed formed the body of and the format for the bibliography. Thanks also for valuable contributions by, Peter Bell, Patrick Bertola, Greg Dickens, Greg Drew, Ross Mainwaring, Diane Menghetti, Bernie O'Neil, John Shoebridge, Ed. Tonks and Jan Wegner.

### **Museum Information**

In response to our appeal for information on museums containing mining material, John Shoebridge has kindly sent in a list of data he has collected on the subject in NSW. It struck me that if we could build up a comprehensive list of such material it would be of great assistance to members and researchers in the field. John has provided 39 items which include details of museums and preserved mining artefacts, structures and memorials (marked with\*). He has not included material that is not officially listed for preservation. John's format seems a helpful one, and it is hoped that the examples **given below** will inspire members from other States to furnish similar material which we could perhaps publish or place on the net for easy access. Please give it some thought and don't be shy to come forward with any such information. Your contribution will be appreciated and acknowledged. *Examples:*

Albion Park NSW: *Illawara Narrow Gauge Railway Museum*: Locomotives (steam, electric and diesel) together with rolling stock from various (underground and surface) mining railways.

Armidale, NSW: *New England Local History Museum*: Contains photographs and some artefacts from Hillgrove gold mines.

Awaba, NSW: *Freemans Waterholes Mineworkers Memorial*: headframe (ex Wallsend Colliery) re-erected on site (5 km W of Awaba). Enclosed Museum building with models, doramas and some coal mining artefacts. Music Shell Memorial to mineworkers (Future in some doubt).

Cobar, NSW: *Regional Museum*: has one floor devoted to gold and copper mining in Cobar District, an electric locomotive and other mining artefacts are preserved in the open.

Korramburra, NSW: *Coal Creek Pioneer Village*: Re-created mining village set on site of original coal mine, restored dwellings and public buildings, some machinery underground mine, operating steam railway, mining and railway artefacts, purpose built office and amenities building. Consucted tours.

\* Aberdare, NSW: *Turner Park*: Flywheel from Ward-Leonard generator set ex Aberdare Colliery set on a plinth in public park.

\* Bellbird, NSW: *Public Reserve*, plaque commemorates Bellbird Colliery Explosion.

\* Junction Reefs, NSW: *Belubula River Dam*: Brick hydro power storage dam (built c1899 for Junction Reefs Gold Mines) listed for preservation in situ.

### **Book Review**

*Peter Bell, "If Anything Too Safe". The Mount Mulligan Coalmine Disaster of 1921* (Department of History & Politics, James Cook University of North Queensland, Townsville 1996).

There is one particularly poignant line in this fine book. Nelie Houston, the teaching assistant at the local school has just pointed out to her headmaster the spume of dust rising from the mine entrance half a mile away as the explosion ripped its deadly way through the mine. Bell writes "Smith ran immediately to the mine leaving her to care for the newly orphaned children of Mt Mulligan".

I read "*If anything, Too Safe*" with an acute sense of horror. Even for those with only an empathetic understanding of underground mining this book will evoke disbelief and grief, especially when they read on to find the Mt Mulligan disaster contextualized in the appalling history of coal mine disasters in Australia. Bell has obviously written this book as an "archaeology of the present". It is, in effect, an eloquent appeal for an end to what

he calls the re-active approach to safety reform; where accidents happen and Governments react in an apparently endlessly futile cycle.

Seventy-five men were killed in the Mt Mulligan explosion, the third worst coal mine accident in Australian history. The book examines the explosion and its devastating effects with insight and sympathy. It subjects the subsequent royal commission to a close critique and analyses the disaster's aftermath in the small, isolated and close knit community of Mt Mulligan. Then it situates the whole episode in the longer term history of the mine itself, until its close in 1957.

*If Anything, Too Safe*, is a a welcome addition to the, as yet, small historiography of mining disasters in Australia. My one reservation about it is that it did not pursue the longer term history of the disaster, the ways in which it percolated through the collective memory. I would have liked to see another chapter along the lines of the later chapters in Piggin & Lee's book, *The Mt Kembla Disaster*. Otherwise, this book deserves to be widely read.

Charlie Fox, History Department, University of Western Australia

### **New Books**

We are please to announce two new books produced by members of the AMHA. The first is by Nic Klasssens and is the story of the development, trials and tribulations of the Leigh Creek coal mining community in South Australia, titled, *Leigh Creek an oasis in the desert* (Flinders Ranges Research, Eden Hills, 1997). A flyer on same is enclosed and

with 640 pages in hardback, plus over 500 photographs, the \$39 price tag suggests a good bargain in today's book buying world.

The second is also on South Australia with committee member Bernie O'Neil being one of the editors and contributors. While the book is not solely associated with mining, it contains chapters which examine developments during the era when Premier Sir Thomas Playford held office. The book is made up of 17 essays and includes topics covering immigration, industrialisation, mining, urban growth, the arts, entertainment and heritage preservation. Produced by the Association of Professional Historians, it is available from selected bookshops or by mail order from APH, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, SA 5000, tel/Fax (08) 8270 1770. Price for the hardback 408 pages (with 130 illustrations) is \$45 within SA, \$50 elsewhere in Australia, and \$60 (prepayment in \$A) for overseas buyers. The details: Bernard O'Neil, Judith Rafferty, Kerrie Round (eds), *Playford's South Australia. Essays on the history of South Australia 1933-1968* ( Association of Professional Historians, Adelaide, 1996).

### **Journal Articles**

In our December newsletter, the attention of members was drawn to the Light Railway Research Society. In their latest journal, *Light Railways*, No. 134, October, 1996, there is

an excellent article by one of our members John Shoebridge, 'The Cangai Railway: Grafton Copper Company Firewood Tramway'. The article not only discusses transportation but also gives a great deal of background history on the Cangai (NSW) Copper Mines and Smelter. To repeat previous information, membership to the society is \$33 and this entitles you to six newsletters and 4 journal copies a year. Contact: Phil Rickard, Hon. Secretary, L.R.R.S.A., PO Box 21, Surrey Hills, Vic 321.

The Society is also on the Web and may be found at:

<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~telica>

### **Book Bargains**

Members might be interested to note the following book bargains contained in a catalogue supplied by Goulds Book Arcade, 32-38 King Street, Newtown, NSW. tel.(02) 9519-8947,

Fax (02) 9550-5924.

*The Opal Book*, by F. Leechman - 4.95 P/back. Shelf 96A.

*Conflict and Coal*, by K. Hince, H/back, \$8.95. Shelf 74.

*The Gold Escort Robbery Trials*, by N. Thurgood, Illus H/back, \$8.95. Shelf 76

*The Golden Miles*, by H. H. Wilson, Kalgoorlie, Illus H/back, \$9.95. Shelf 78.

*The Mt Kembla Disaster*, by Pigin & Lee, Illus H/back, \$19.95. Shelf 58.

*Lassestter's Last Ride*, by Ion Idriess, H/back, \$8.95. Shelf 58.

*To Broken Hill & Back*, by Ward McNally, Illus H/back, \$12.95. Shelf 77 [Mines?].

*Men & Mines*, by J. Reynolds, P/back, \$4.95. Shelf 76.

*Mining & Australia*, by Richmond & Sharma(eds), P/back, \$9.95. Shelf 61.

*What's Good for Australia*, by A. Trengov, Illus H/back, \$15. Shelf 47 (re. BHP).

*Fuels Rush In*, by R. Murray, P/back, \$4.95. Shelf 74 (re. oil and gas in Australia).

*Aboriginal Land Rights Law in the Northern Territory*, by Graeme Neale, Vol. 1, H/back, \$9.95. Shelf 211H.

*River of Tears*, by R. West, P/back, \$9.95. Shelf 49 (rise of Con Zinc Rio



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All correspondence to:

Mel Davies  
Department of Economics  
University of Western Australia  
Nedlands 6907, W. Australia

Tel. (08) 93802939  
Fax (08) 93801016

E.mail: [mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au](mailto:mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au)

## **Newsletter No. 2 , Issue 9**

June 1997

### **Editorial**

Over the last few months I've been able to meet with quite a few members of the AMHA at various locations and what struck me was their enthusiasm for the discipline, their wish to continue to support the AMHA and also to share their knowledge with others of like mind. Such enthusiasm makes the chore of administrating worthwhile and generates the feeling that the newsletter is after all a valuable medium by which people can communicate with the mining history fraternity. With that object in view I would appeal to people to continue to feed the editor with material for publication. With that in mind please note that the next newsletter will come out a couple of weeks before the Newcastle Conference and it would be appreciated if news items could be transmitted to me by the first week in September.

### **Mining History Bibliography**

The promised Australian mining history bibliography is now on the web. I'm glad to report that we have received a large amount of material from members which has been added to the core provided by Peter Donovan and associates from their work, *A Mining History of Australia*,

*Part 1* (1995). The bibliography should prove extremely useful to all researchers and even those familiar with local mining history sources might be surprised to find 'unknown' items that have evaded them. It is appreciated that not everyone has a website to turn to but in that case it is suggested that you consider approaching a friendly web owner to download a copy for your use. Possibly at some juncture we might even consider printing a few copies at cost for members if there is a demand.

Any feedback in the form of corrections or additional materials will be gratefully received as it is intended to update as frequently as possible. To find the website click on the international mining history page:

<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RBurt/MinHistNet/>

## **Conferences**

### AMHA Conference 28-30 September, Newcastle, NSW

We are pleased to report that there has been an enthusiastic response to the call for papers with 18 people meeting the 30 April deadline. The variety of subjects suggests that this will prove another successful and stimulating meeting. A listing of the papers will appear in the next newsletter.

Please note that registrations for the conference should be sent to Dr. Nancy Cushing at Newcastle University on the form **enclosed** with this newsletter.

Also note that John Shoebridge and Ross Mainwaring have agreed to organise a tour of mining sites in the Newcastle area on the afternoon of Saturday 27th September. Details and applications for bookings will be sent out with the next newsletter.

### International Mining History Conference

At last the venue has been finalised. Unfortunately S. Africa had to pull out because of financial constraints which had been placed on the would-be organisers but fortunately Mexico has picked up the tab for 1998. In an earlier letter, when Chile was the forerunner, I suggested that people dust up their Spanish and buy a Sombrero - the same

message now applies. The Australian presence has been prominent in all previous international conferences and hopefully we will see a similar high profile attendance again in Mexico. Definite dates and venue are currently tentative but the event will most likely take place in Mexico City in November 1998. See final details in the next newsletter.

### XXth International Congress of the History of Science

A little late with this information but the above congress will be held at Liege, Belgium between 20-26 July, 1997. The congress includes a symposium 'Development and Cultural Influence of Geological Sciences' which will have two themes: (1) Geology and Mining in the Old and New Worlds; (2) Use of Non-Written sources for the History of Geological Sciences. This latter section is sponsored by INHEIGEO (International Commission for the History of Geological Sciences of the International Union of Geological Sciences). Contact, the Secretary-General, Prof. David Olroyd, 28 Cassandra Avenue, St. Ives, NSW 2075. Fax 02-91444529;

E.mail: D.Olroyd@unsw.edu.au

### **Archival Material**

NSW Member David Branagan provides information on the Tom Vallance database which is composed of an index of more than 3,000 cards containing information on miners, geologists, surveyors, prospectors and mining engineers which was compiled over a number of years by the late Tom Vallance. The data was gathered from a wide variety of sources, especially from 19th century mining journals. The database which should prove invaluable for researchers has been prepared on Claris Works This available for sale at \$30 for individuals and \$50 for organisations. For details, contact Dr. David Branagan, 83 Mininbah Road, Northbridge, NSW 2063.

E.mail: dbranaga@mail.usyd.edu.au

David also points out that members might be interested in examining the *Australian Town and Country Journal* which contains a plethora of mining information and large numbers of mining related photographs. The 1896 issues, for example, contain a series of articles and photos of Western Australian mines. There are also sufficient articles on mining techniques and machinery to gladden the hearts of aficionados.

Ruth Kerr informs that if you have an odd £16,995 to spare you can now obtain a whole set of the Archive of Antony Gibbs and Sons, 1744-1953, set in 315 reels on 35mm silver positive roll microfilm. For the more discerning, individual reels cost £65. Antony Gibbs & Sons and associated companies traded actively with Bolivia, Brazil, Chile Mexico, Gibraltar, Peru, Spain, the USA and Australia. The Australian material deals principally with Guano (Correspondence 1840-56, in Ms.11,047 and Ledgers 1850-65 in Ms. 11,057); Amby Downs Station in southern Queensland, 1883-87 (Ms. 11,086 - reel 137); and Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney offices, 1883-84, 1910-30 (Ms. 11,108-111 on reels 143 - 161). The above can be obtained from World Microfilms, Microworld House, 2-6 Foscoate Mews, London W9 2HH.

### **1997 Community Heritage Grants**

The National Library of Australia is prepared to consider applications for grants for the purpose of assisting with the preservation or copying and storage of historical records and documents. A wide range of activities will be considered which include: surveying the preservation needs of collections and planning action; specialised training for staff who will be engaged in preservation work; copying material to other media such as microfilm or microfiche; salvaging material damaged by fire, flood or other disaster; physical treatment of documents, including boxing, binding and restoration; bibliographic recording of preserved documentary heritage to assist access by researchers; environmental control and storage, particularly in tropical areas.

Should you have any projects in mind you might like to inform the AMHA or write to the Director National Initiatives and Collaboration Branch, National Library of Australia,

Canberra, ACT 2600 for an application form. Note that 1997 applications close on 1 August.

### **Museums List & Information**

Diane Nisbett has written to inform that John Reed who was instrumental in the development of the Sovereign Hill complex is working on a new museum project at Broken Hill to be called the 'Line of Load'. Diane also informs that South Australian, Haggis Shackelton, et. al, will soon be issuing a second edition of their publication *Exploring Australia's Mining Heritage*. She also furnished an extensive list of South Australian and NSW mining heritage and museum material for our files which comes from her current research. In the meanwhile, we would still appreciate obtaining lists of mining museums, memorials, public artefacts, etc. from other members, as outlined in the last newsletter. Hopefully this will allow us to compile a comprehensive list which will cover the whole of Australia.

Thanks also to John Shoebridge for extending the list that started off the quest for the 'museum' information.

### **Publications**

David Carment has a message for those who glow in the dark - ie., those interested in uranium mining. A recent article can be found under:

Shirley Shepherd, 'Uranium Mining at Slesiebeck', in *Journal of Northern Territory History*, No. 8, 1997, pp. 34-44.

Having mentioned David Branagan earlier in these columns, members might be interested to read his article, 'The Broken Hill Orebody, New South Wales, Australia: The First Ten Geological Years', in *Mineral Search in the South-West Pacific region. A Memorial to Ken Glasson*, The Eighth Edgeworth David Day Symposium, University of Sydney, September 1995, pp. 65-82. The paper introduces the subject of the too often ignored geology of mining and the work of geologists and mineralogists. David outlines the contribution of geological personalities such as C. S. Wilkinson, E.F. Pittman, H.Y.L. Brown, and others who provided varied opinions as to the makeup of the lodes at the mines. David concludes that despite the wealth of information provided, mining companies tended to ignore the expert opinions to the ultimate detriment of expedient development and at subsequent cost to the shareholders.

Member James Lerk whom I had the pleasure of meeting over Easter, in Bendigo, has another publication under his belt, having just recently launched a book in the centre of the goldfield, at Battery Hill. Called *Bendigo's Gold Mining Revival 1929-1954* (J & E Lerk, Bendigo, 1997), the work has 100,000 words of text, a number of appendices, including a list of 3,500 miners and the mines in which they worked, and more than 200 photographs. James states that it is a quality printed and bound publication with a limited run of 500 copies. These sell at \$49.95 but there is in addition, a very limited number of

copies available bound in half leather and pictorially embossed by one of Central Victoria's craftsmen. Intended for the serious collector, this de-lux edition will sell for \$145. Orders and cheques should be addressed to J & E Lerk, 8 Mackensie Street West, Golden Square, Victoria 3555 (enclose \$5 extra for postage).

Just received from Mark Steen, owner of Gold Hill Books, is the latest catalogue of new and out-of-print mining publications in stock. Included are two publications by Clark C. Spence: a reprint of his, *Mining Engineers and the American West: the Lace Boot Brigade, 1849-1933* (1993) which is a study of the role of professionally trained mining engineers, geologists and metallurgists who transformed the American West, and a new book, *The Northern Gold Fleet: Twentieth-Century Gold Dredging in Alaska* (1996) which touches upon the evolvement of gold-dredging in New Zealand, Montana and California before going on to describe the developments in Alaska. With the anniversary of Klondike coming up at the end of 1997, readers might also be particularly interested in a reprint of Tappan Adney's 1899, *The Klondike Stampede* (1994). The catalogue lists 36 titles in all, covering various aspects of mining from Britain to South Africa, South America, the USA and beyond. For further details and for orders contact: Gold Hill Books, PO Box 1523, Longmont, Colorado 80502, USA. Tel 303-651-2985.

Bernie O'Neil (SA) informs that a book on the petroleum and gas industry has just been published which should interest some members. It deals with the origins and introduction of many of the oil and gas well names around the country, and is written by Rick Wikinson. It is aptly called *Well, Well, Well - Behind Australia's Wildcat Names*. The book is published by Christopher Beck Books, Ascot, Qld.

## **Book Reviews**

Barry McGowan, *Lost Mines Revisited: historic mining communities of the Monaro, Southern Tablelands and South West Slopes Districts of New South Wales*, (the author, Canberra, 1996), paperbound, pp. 236 + iv, retail \$29.95, ISBN 0 646 30384 9, available from Barry McGowan, 28 Haines Street, Curtin 2605.

This is a comprehensive historical and physical study of the mines in a relatively small area of south-eastern New South Wales, centred roughly on Canberra. Perhaps it is best to start with the book's pedigree, to relate it to other work published by the same author. Barry McGowan obtained two National Estate Grants in 1993 and 1995, which gave rise to twin reports to the Australian Heritage Commission: 'Historic Mining Sites in the Monaro Southern Tablelands Districts of New South Wales', and 'Historic Mining Sites in the Shoalhaven and South West Slopes Districts of New South Wales'. The first study was published as *Lost Mines* in 1994, and sold out rapidly. Now the two studies have been issued in revised and expanded editions; this volume covers roughly the western slopes of the Dividing Range from Coomanorth to Yass and Goulburn, while its companion volume *Bungonia to Braidwood* (same imprint, ISBN 0 958 67650 X) covers the mining districts east of the range on the tributaries of the Shoalhaven River.

The study area is part of that zone of complex small-scale mineralisation that characterises nearly all of the eastern uplands of Australia, and the book mentions extraction sites for gold, copper, lead, silver and wolfram. But most of the mines described were very small, and the majority were clearly unsuccessful. The physical evidence of mining dates for the most part from the nineteenth century, although many of the gold mines were re-worked in the 1930s, and the Frogmore tungsten mine operated until 1954.

Because the book's brief is to describe "lost" mines, the one internationally-famous mining operation in the study area, Captain's Flat, is excluded on grounds of being neither lost nor unknown. This is a very different approach from that of many heritage studies which seek out the historic and technological gems of the district and ignore the numerous more typical mining operations. While most of the sites described here are small and obscure, some are extremely evocative, such as the Kyloe copper mine and smelter, now half-submerged in the artificial pondage of Lake Eucumbene, or the Bushy Hill battery ruin, exposed on a treeless hilltop. The study takes nothing for granted, and explains to the reader the various forms of extractive and treatment technology which are encountered, how the economic and administrative background to mining altered over time, and the evidence of settlement and social life that arose from the mining industry.

Many of the small mines in the study area have only poor documentary evidence in existence, and oral information and site investigation provide the most valuable historical evidence available. McGowan comments on the complex subsistence economy that arose in many bush settlements, where opportunistic mining was supplemented by small farming, hunting and seasonal agricultural labouring. This inter-relationship of mining and subsistence farming has been noted elsewhere by researchers such as Susan Lawrence in Victoria and Janice Wegner in Queensland.

The book is well-illustrated with site plans and both historic and modern photographs, thoroughly footnoted, and has a good index. It is rare for a study of historic mining sites to combine such diligent scholarship with such thorough and extensive field investigations. Barry McGowan's work is clearly a labour of love, and can be commended as a model to other researchers undertaking heritage studies of similar sites elsewhere in

Australia.

*Peter Bell, Adelaide*

Richard Hartley, *Industry and Infrastructure in Western Australia 1829-1940*, Institution of Engineering Australia, Western Australian Division, 1995. Available from Institution of Engineers, 712 Murray Street, West Perth, WA 6005, at \$25, plus \$6.90 for packaging & postage. ISBN 0 909421 26 9

Because it does not deal solely with mining, the attention of only a few people interested in mining matters will have been drawn to this book. The publication was prepared by

Richard (one of our members) for the Heritage Council of WA so as to provide an overview of the geographical and temporal distribution of industrial activity in the State, from the beginning of settlement in 1829 to the early years of the 2nd World War. As such, the emphasis is on the processing activities in manufacturing, timber, mining and fishing industries, and the infrastructural developments that resulted from and supported such developments. While it draws largely on previously published works it succeeds in pulling the information together in a complementary and linked fashion so as to provide an excellent overview of economic development in the West. Of particular interest to members will be the compilation of material on mining that is probably difficult to access from outside the State. Thus, tables of production of base metals and revised annual production of gold from 1899-1940 which are presented as a complete series. The text also contains some well executed maps of various mineral fields. What particularly interested the reader was the way that mining affected ancillary developments in other areas of the economy, something which many concerned with mining history tend to forget. The famed Mundaring-Kalgoorlie water pipeline, for example, spawned a whole host of manufacturing industries that continued long after construction of the pipeline was completed in 1903. Think again of the effect on the timber industry and of course, on railways

which were projected to open up mining areas and which in turn opened up new country for agriculture. The linkage and multiplier effects of mining on the local economy were enormous.

Overall, the book covers a surprisingly large amount of detail on processing and infrastructural development and should prove a useful quick reference source for anyone interested in development of the West.

*Mel Davies, Univ. of WA*

### **Information Wanted**

Lyndon Megarrity is currently working on a PhD thesis entitled "Philp the Miner, the Political and Personal Influence of Sir Robert Philp (1851-1922) on Mining in Queensland". Philp who served as Premier of Queensland between 1899-1903 and 1907-08, was also Minister for Mines between 1893-1903. He invested heavily in mining. Lyndon wishes to know if other members have researched similar studies of Miner-Politicians, and if so whether they would like to contact him?

This is a long shot but John Bisley from the USA has contacted me to see whether anyone has any information on a gold miner who was in Australia in the period circa 1900 plus or minus 15 years. The name could be spelt Schoen or Schoene or Schone. The person concerned was born in Cosel, Germany about 1860, travelled to the USA and then made his way to Australia where he opened a gold mine and later died in this country. Little else seems to be known but if any of you have any leads then I'll be glad to pass them on.

## **Stranger than Fiction!**

The word is getting around as to the existence of our organisation. A few weeks ago I received a letter from India containing a CV and a request for a job with *our organisation* as a mining engineer! All was not lost, as the request was passed on to Western Mining who promised that the matter would be followed up.

## **A Fun Day in the Bush!**

A few editions ago we had a small item on the restoration programme being conducted by Adrienne Hicks and associates at the Tyrconnell Gold Mine site on the Hodgkinson goldfield, some 150 km west of Cairns. Adrienne now invites everyone to attend the Tyrconnell Historic Gold Mine Cricket Day on August 10th, where a Tyrconnell Miners' Team and a number of regional teams will play limited overs cricket for the Tyrconnell Trophy. This will both reflect the interest in sport exhibited by the local pioneers and will help raise funds to restore and preserve the mining structures and turn the site into a working museum. As well as cricket matches, there will be activities for children and for those who turn up in the styles of the late 1880s/early 1900s prizes for the best costume. A BBQ lunch, soft drinks and the heavier stuff will be on sale. So why not take the family along to both support the project and to have a good time? For further details, contact: Adrienne Hicks on 070-315497.

## **Bereavements**

It is with regret that we learned of the death of member **Dayrell Wolff** (13 April 1934 to 19 February 1997) who passed away on the eve of his retirement. Dayrell lived at Yorkeys Knob, Queensland, and mining had been part and parcel of his working life. He was a keen sportsman and sporting administrator who also played a vital part in the community with honorary posts as Chairman of the West Coast (Tasmania) Branch of the A.I.M.M., the Rosebery Pre School and State School Parents and Friends Association, and the Rosebery District Hospital.

Among a long list of mining positions which he held was that of Metallurgical Assistant for the Brisbane based Raub-Australian Gold Mining Co. in Malaya

(as it was then called) during the emergency in 1949-50. He held a similar position for King Island Scheelite Ltd., at King Island, Tasmania, in 1950-51 before shifting to the North Kalgurli Mine, WA, in 1952. Between 1955-59 he held the positions of Geological Assistant and Mine Surveyor at that mine before graduating from the WA School of Mines in 1959 with a diploma in Mining Engineering. In subsequent years he took out many more qualifications. In 1962 he was made an Associate of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and in 1968 a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Dayrell's list of mining positions held is formidable. To highlight only a few, . he acted as Chief Mining Engineer and held other positions at various times between 1959-75 at

Electrolytic Zinc's Rosebery Mines in Tasmania. He was Mine Manager for R.B. Mining at their Mt. Carbine Mine (North Queensland) between 1975-78, and then took over the management of Queensland Wolfram on the same field and continued in that position under new owners, Poseidon Minerals. When the Mine closed in 1986 Dayrell continued as Manager while the mine was decommissioned and rehabilitation took place. During his latter years he worked as relief manager at Kidston Gold Mines, was a consultant for Norminco at its Leichhardt Creek operation and in addition was consultant to Mt Carbine Quarries at Mount Molloy.

Dayrell was a respected mining engineer who communicated easily with people from all walks of life. He had a great thirst for knowledge and left behind a mountain of mining material which is currently being sorted and categorised. A collection of his North Queensland material will be placed with the Cairns Historical Society. His Tasmanian, Malayan and other collections will be presented to the Melbourne University Archive.

Dayrell had planned to spend his retirement working on and publishing his beloved history projects but unfortunately that was not to be. While he had a general interest in mining history he was specifically interested in the discipline from a human interest point of view and his family hope that others will now continue with and finalise the historical projects that he had assiduously worked on over the years.

We extend our condolences to Dayrell's wife Barbara and family

It was also with sadness and regret that we learned of the death of **Lewis Lloyd** of Llanfair, near Harlech, North Wales, at the age of 57 years. Lewis graduated in Law from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth before gaining his Ph.D at the ANU, Canberra in the 1970s. His thesis 'The Sources and Development of

Australian Mining Law' will be familiar

to many of our members. Lewis took a great interest in our organisation and intended to visit Australia in the near future to follow up his mining interests and other academic pursuits. Lewis produced a book on Welsh immigrants in Australia and was a respected Maritime historian with a formidable list of books on that subject to his name. He was also a personal friend which makes this obituary even more poignant. The last time I saw him was about three years ago when I presented a paper on mining to one of his classes at Coleg Harlech, snuggled below the imposing heights of Harlech Castle. The previous evening he took me to one of the local hostelrys where I was royally entertained both in body and soul - the spirit coming from the conversation (and occasional fervent songs) of Lewis and some of the local characters who were all ardently Welsh in their devotions. He was renowned for his generosity, as I can vouch, and many a researcher sang his praises for the unselfish way with which he was prepared to share his information. He will be sadly missed by his students and historians in the various fields of his interests.

**Kalgoorlie**

Recently opened at the Goldfields Museum were the refurbished Jarrah lined rooms of Claude de Bernales, dating from the 1930s. Yours truly was delighted to receive an invitation from the Friends of the Museum to deliver a talk on de Bernales following the official opening which gave me the opportunity to catch up with local AMHA members and to also visit some of the mining and heritage sites. Goaded on by Wendy Carter I was lucky enough to strike gold, coming home to Perth with a flake smaller than a match head, after furiously panning at Hannan's heritage park along with other would be get-rich merchants!

Hopefully, a few new members for our organisation will eventuate from the visit.

### **Conference Proceedings**

Work is in progress to produce the Proceedings of the 1996 Melbourne AMHA Conference in published form. Ruth Kerr will undertake the editing and Michael Tracey the task of printing the papers. We hope to produce copies at cost for members who wish to read the papers. Further details provided in the next newsletter.

### **Telephone Numbers**

Please note the change of telephone and fax numbers as typed on the heading of this newsletter.

MJD/June 1997



**AUSTRALIAN  
MINING  
HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION**

All correspondence to: Mel Davies  
Department of Economics  
University of Western Australia  
Nedlands 6907, W. Australia

Tel. (08) 93802939  
Fax (08) 93801016

E.mail: [mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au](mailto:mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au)

## **Newsletter No. 3 ,**

### **Issue 10**

August 1997

#### **Editorial**

As we come up to our third Annual General Meeting it's pleasing to report that the initial enthusiasm of members has not died. Indeed, from the number of letters that land on my desk and the e.mail that flows in, there is little doubt that there is a growing interest among members to promote the mining history discipline. That enthusiasm tends to be stimulated by our annual meetings and conference proceedings, as people with similar interests gather together to socialise and exchange ideas. The benefits of the proceedings may be seen in the cross-fertilisation of ideas, leading to expanded horizons and ultimately enriched research. With those points in mind, the committee would encourage you to register for the Newcastle conference in September. With 17 papers, plus a few additional mining related papers among the AHA menu, the event promises to prove at least as stimulating as our previous conferences held in Townsville and Melbourne.

Those unable to come along might still flavour the topics, if not the atmosphere, as we shall probably publish the proceedings which will become available to members at cost. This reminds me that

the 1996 Proceedings should be in print shortly thanks to the efforts of Michael Tracey and Jill Kerr, and now that the bugs have been ironed out of the collating and publishing areas, we should be able to get the 1997 Proceedings into print before the end of this year. Keep a watch on these pages for further details.

We are also pleased to report that we now have (or at least we will have within a few days) our own Home Page on the web. It contains details of members; the mining history bibliography, past newsletters, and other items. Find us on:

<http://www.econs.ecel.uwa.edu.au/AMHA/AMHAmain.html>

## **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will be held at the Customs House, Newcastle, between 3.30 pm and 5.30 pm, Monday **29th September**. Any substantive **general motions** or **motions to alter the constitution** should be sent to reach me by **8th September**. Please note that the attached Agenda will become the official agenda if no motions are received by 8th September.

Anyone wishing to nominate for a position on the committee or wishing to re-nominate might also like to contact me by that date.

## **Information Wanted**

Peter Bell is doing some work for the South Australian State Heritage Register on the Moonta and Wallaroo strike of 1864. He states that there are plenty of primary sources but that he cannot find any written work on the subject other than the 1954 thesis by Keith Bowes. If anyone is aware of any research, an article, or seminar paper on the incident, Peter would appreciate a call. He can be contacted at:

Historical Research Pty Ltd., PO Box 3044, Rundle Mall, SA 5000. Phone/fax: (08) 8338 2460. E.mail:

[pbell@adelaide.on.net](mailto:pbell@adelaide.on.net)

## **Property for Sale**

Ross Mainwaring has drawn my attention to a nice property for sale in Wales which should appeal to anyone with a yen for mining history. For £79,000 you can purchase the Count House, Level Fawr, which was built by John Taylor circa 1834. The attraction for members might not only be the association with John Taylor but with the two mile long adit which has its entrance in the back yard.

Ross found this gem in the newsletter of the Peak District Mines Historical Society. For those who might be interested in that organisation's activities, try the following web address:

<http://info.exeter.ac.uk/~RBurt/MinHistNet>

Incidentally, that's the address in which the AMHA is also featured.

The item reminds me of an acquaintance in my youth at Cwmavon in Wales. He was quite a character with a rather large family who eked out a living and paid for his roisterous nights out at the 'Rolling Mill Arms', by opening a coal mine in his garden. I know that child labour was banned in 1842 but Ron even had his 4 year old doing his bit for the cause. Sadly his entrepreneurship came to a sudden and sticky end when the Coalboard received complaints from local coal vendors that their sales were grossly

down in the village. Caught in the act, Ron's response was that he had been digging in his garden and had got rather carried away with the exercise - at the time he was some 30 yards into the seam!

### **Joadja Creek Video**

Ross Mainwaring also informs that there is an excellent video on the Joadja Creek Oil Shale mining town, NSW. It's been put together by Leonie Knapman and features hundreds of photographs brought to life with narration. Copies can be obtained at \$25 (post \$4.50 extra) from Leonie Knapman, 59 Regent Street, Mittagong, NSW 2575. Tel. 048 711804. Copies of Leonie's book on the township can also be obtained at \$25 (plus \$7.95 post) from the same address.

### **Great Tyrconnell Cricket Match**

According to Jan Wegner this proved a great success marred only by some participants in the day's events who actually took the cricket seriously her opinion was that the deadly taipan seen slithering around the cyanide tank was a far more interesting feature of affairs. Great interest was taken by all in the refurbished 10 head stamper which ran for the first time in front of a public gathering while the activated Wilfley table also proved of interest to mining enthusiasts. Unfortunately the stone breaker was not quite ready for action, though Janice says that owner, Adrienne Hick's son Andrew and partner Cate are working feverishly to complete the renovation of this item and other projects while living at the mine site.

Janice points out that to complete the restoration paying customers are required and she suggests that anyone planning a trip to North Queensland and who is interested in heritage projects should keep the venue in mind. The Tyrconnell is at the centre of a fascinating mining heritage area with Mt Mulligan (see our March'97 Newsletter where Peter Bell's book on the 1921 coal disaster is reviewed), Chillagoe and it's smelters, and Irvinebank within easy distance. If you wish to plan a trip, contact Janice

Wegner, History Dept, James Cook University, Cairns Campus, PO Box 6811, Cairns 4870. tel. 61 1 70 421100.

E mail: Janice.Wegner@jcu.edu.au

### **Timetable: Newcastle Conference 27-30th September**

To view the **full** programme on the net, visit the River AHA Conference Home Page:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/department/hi/river/river.html>

### **Monday 29th September**

9.00-10.30 - Chair - Patrick Bertola

- a. Charlie Fox - *The Mt Lyell Mining and Railway Co. and the State.*
- b. Rebecca Parkes - *Camel Camps and Mining Towns: Archaeology and the role of Afghan cameleers in Australian mining.*
- c. Michael Tracey, Jennifer Tracey, Peter Evans and Peter Smith (presented by Michael Tracey), *A light industrial tramway - Adelong Goldfields.*

11.00-12.30 - Chair - Dianne Menghetti

- a. Patrick Bertola - *Capitalisation and its implications in the early phases of mining in Kalgoorlie.*
- b. Lyndon Megarrity - *British investment in overseas gold mines in the late nineteenth century: the Queensland experience.*
- c. Mel Davies - *Leakages and boomerangs - whatever happened to overseas dividends? The case of John Benjamin Graham & his South Australian made mining fortune.*

1.30 - 3.00 - Chair - Charlie Fox

- a. Philip Hart - *Maori and Mining: A case -study of Te Aroha.*
- b. Betty Cosgrove - *Mount Morgan social history - the making of a culture 1890-1917.*
- c. Barry McGowan - *The Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894: miners versus capital.*

3.30 - 5.30

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Tuesday 30th September**

11.00-12.30 - Chair - Peter Bell

- a. Ken McQueen - *Difficulties with refractory ores: history of the Tolwong Mines, Shoalhaven Gorge, NSW.*
- b. Jennifer Tracey - *Gold beneath Gibson's Plains: working the Kiandra Deep Lead on New Chum Hill 1860-1883.*

c. Ruth Kerr - *Mount Morgan and Dr Robertson - enigmas in Queensland mining.*

1.30 - 3.00 - Chair - Michael Tracey

a. Chris Carter - *Adjungbilly Creek, NSW -*

*An Alluvial Mining Landscape.*

b. Ross Mainwaring - *More than meets the*

*eye - the interpretation of what you don't*

*see in a mining scene.*

c. Wendy Carter - *The Australian*

*Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame - a*

*2001 odyssey!*

### **Abstracts of Papers** (in order of presentation)

Charlie Fox

*The Mt Lyell Mining & Railway Co. and the State*

The paper explores some aspects of the relationship between the Mt Lyell Mining and Railway Company and the state. The state intervened in the Company's affairs in many ways. At the Commonwealth level the Government set tariffs on imported machinery, encouraged the processing of Mt Lyell ore in Australia, while the arbitration system regulated conditions of work. It provided migrant workers while taking company workers off to war and it both quarantined and provided aid to Tasmania during the influenza pandemic. At the state level, the level which concerns this paper, it regulated the company's day to day operations through the Mines' Departments, leased it crown land, bought electric power from it, prescribed conditions of work through local wages boards and regulated its railway to the coast. It provided for workers compensation and employer liability, policed the Mt Lyell towns and set up coroners' courts to inquire into accidents, and much more besides.

In general the Company fought hard to limit state

intervention in its affairs. When it could it pulled

strings in Parliament to reject or amend legislation it thought was intrusive. When such legislation was imposed, it tried to obstruct, limit or shape the practical effects of the legislation. By using examples from the relationship between the Company and the

Tasmanian state, such as conflicts over the work of local mines' inspectors, over judgements handed down at Coroners' courts and over legislation regarding wages boards, this paper suggests that the Company engaged in a continuous struggle against state intervention. It used a range of strategies to defeat enemies and threats where and when they appeared and did so on the whole with great success. But it was never able to relax, partly because the idea of an interventionist state was abhorrent to its management ethos, and partly because its own workforce kept proposing further state incursions into its domain.

Rebecca Parkes

*Camel Camps and Mining Towns: Archaeology and the role of Afghan cameleers in Australian mining.*

It was in 1837 that the idea of bringing camels into Australia was first put forward, but it was not until 1860 that a truly successful importation took place. This was also the first time that Afghan camel handlers were brought out with the camels. Then in 1866, the first of many large scale importations organised by Thomas Elder and Samuel Stuckey occurred. From that time until the 1920s, the Afghan led camel teams were one of the main means of transport to outback mining settlements.

From western New South Wales and Queensland, across to Western Australia, wherever there was mining activity, there were at one time or another camel teams. Often there were permanent or semi-permanent Afghan settlements associated with mining towns such as Broken Hill, Coolgardie and Cloncurry.

It is the aim of this paper to examine the role of the Afghans and their camels in the transport of provisions, equipment and ore to and from the mining settlements in Australia. Furthermore, this paper aims to highlight some of what the archaeological record tells in relation to these activities. Examples will mainly be taken from the Flinders Ranges, and the area around Broken Hill where I have been undertaking fieldwork over the last six months.

Michael Tracey, Jennifer Tracey, Peter Evans and Peter Smith (presented by Michael Tracey)

*A light industrial tramway - Adelong Goldfields.*

In the mid 1850s gold was found in Adelong Creek. Mining entrepreneurs undertook the construction of small-scale mining infrastructure such as batteries and hydrological work to enable successful processing of the extracted ore. The predominantly sulphide ores while rich in gold were difficult to process. The location of the mines atop steep hills also presented particular operating problems. The transportation of ore from the mine to the batteries usually situated in the valleys to avail the use of the almost constant water supply from Adelong Creek required special engineering incentives. The transport of the ore was undertaken by a light railway system with specially constructed engines capable

of handling steep gradients leading to the mines. In the later days of operations the railways system was sold and shifted to other mining interests further down Adelong Creek at Gibraltar Hill. Here the engine was used initially to transport ore and was later modified to drive a lifting motor to a cable system for the cages in the mines.

Patrick Bertola

*Capitalisation and its implications in the early phases of mining in Kalgoorlie.*

Within two years of the discovery of gold at Kalgoorlie in mid-1893, virtually all of what were to become the main mines on the field had been incorporated, principally in London. As McCarty has pointed out, this process resulted in only a fraction of the capital raised being directed to the actual processes of mining in Kalgoorlie. Instead, much found its way into the pockets of a group of finance capitalists operating out of the City of London.

This paper outlines some of the preliminary conclusions of research into the period between discovery of the field and the incorporation of the main companies, particularly focussing on the processes by which finance capital maximised profits during this early phase. The paper also notes the results in terms of the structure of capital at Kalgoorlie and explores some of the implications for the future development of relations among labour and employers in Kalgoorlie (and Boulder).

Lyndon Megarrity

*British investment in overseas gold mines in the late nineteenth century: the Queensland experience.*

British investment in overseas mining during the period 1880-1914 was immense. This paper examines the nature of the London market and how its way of operating impacted upon the Queensland goldfields at

that time. It will be shown that the British trend towards over-speculation in 'fashionable' mining areas was highly detrimental to the economic health and reputation of the 'host' country. In the 1880s, Queensland was a significant early victim of the London money market's pattern of over-capitalising mines in one area to the exclusion of all others, and then abandoning that area when 'Wild Cats' had had their disillusioning effect. The poor reputation of Queensland's goldfields in London mining circles lasted well into the 1900s.

Mel Davies

*Leakages and boomerangs - whatever happened to overseas dividends? The case of John Benjamin Graham & his South Australian made mining fortune.*

There is perhaps one flaw in the excellent work of Bill Rubenstein when estimating the wealth accrued in Australia during the 19th century, for while he does a magnificent job in quantifying the accumulated wealth of residents from probate records, there is no way

in which he has been able to capture the wealth that was generated but which left in the pockets of Europeans and others who returned home. John Benjamin Graham was the major shareholder in the Burra Burra Mines, SA, who made his fortune from the mines between 1845-1877. When he left the colony in 1848 to live in England and Germany, his fabulous earnings from the mines went with him and continued to follow him until his death in 1877. What is of interest is the destiny of this fortune, not only in the type of conspicuous consumption that almost inevitably accompanied successful venturers associated with mining but also in terms of the back-flow of funds to South Australia. JBG invested heavily in property mortgaging but also in sheep farming and this paper outlines why he continued to be attracted by South Australian opportunities and examines some of his strategies used to maximise his outlays

Philip Hart

*Maori and Mining: A case-study of Te Aroha.*

Te Aroha in 1880 was on the frontier of European settlement. The land on which gold was to be discovered, and a township built, was owned by Maori. From the time of the discovery of gold at Thames in 1867, local Maori had been in increasing contact with miners, and were hospitable to the increasing number of Europeans visiting Te Aroha. In part this was because of the income derived from people visiting the hot springs. Goldfields revenue from Thames mining also encouraged Maori chiefs to permit prospecting in the hope of reaping financial returns.

Maori were also very involved in prospecting and to a lesser extent mining and share speculation. This was not a new development, but started with the first discoveries in New Zealand. Limited skills meant Maori were mostly prospectors, and the structure of Maori society meant that revenue from mining mostly benefited the chiefs.

Hone Werahiko was the discoverer of gold at Te Aroha. Lavishly praised by Europeans for his skill, he led prospecting parties of Europeans and directed initial work on his main finds. His life was an interesting case-study of inter-racial harmony because he lived up to European ideas of worthiness and was able to work with Europeans as an equal.

Betty Cosgrove

*Mount Morgan social history - the making of a culture 1890-1917*

The town of Mount Morgan clings to life, after more than a century of rise and decline that preceded ultimate closure of the mine. The dynamic of the place in its prolonged survival without an industry is the relic of a town mentality independent of the mine. The aim of this paper is to present the townspeople of early decades, a diverse population whose backgrounds and traditions were integral to the forging of a Mount Morgan culture. Such a study must also address the question: What neglected aspects of social history - this invariably masculinist and mine focussed, to the exclusion and historical invisibility

of women, children, Aborigines and Chinese - support the argument for an inclusive social tradition?

Barry McGowan

*The Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894: miners versus capital.*

In the period 1850 to 1900, mining and gold mining in particular, was one of the most important industries in New South Wales; at some stages it was the most important industry. Access to private land for mining had been an issue since the earliest gold rush days, and the *Mining on Private Lands Bill* sought to address this issue. The debate on the legislation during the 1890s involved primarily the question of coexistence of title, and can be looked at from a number of aspects. Such issues involve, for example, the conflict between the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, the role of the then fledgling Labor Party, the role of Government in addressing the 1890s depression and the perennial conflict between those who purported to support the 'working miner' and those who wished to encourage capital. This paper will focus primarily on the latter aspect, although attention will also be given to other issues mentioned above.

Ken McQueen

*Difficulties with refractory ores: history of the Tolwong Mines, Shoalhaven Gorge, NSW.*

The Tolwong copper-tin-arsenic deposits were discovered around 1904 by John Siverwright as exposed outcrops in a tributary of the Shoalhaven Gorge, 10 km southeast of Bungonia. The deposits occur as cross-cutting lodes in dilational fractures within tightly folded Ordovician slates and sandstones in an area intruded by Carboniferous granites. Mineralisation consists of abundant arsenopyrite with lesser amounts of stannite, chalcopyrite and galena, and minor sphalerite, pyrite, tetrahedrite and bournonite. Quartz and fluorite are common gangue minerals.

In 1907 the Tolwong Mineral Company was formed to exploit the deposits. Typical ore assayed 6 - 10% copper,

2 - 5% tin, 1 - 15% As, 30 - 60 g/t silver and trace gold. The main lode was developed by numerous small workings and several interconnected tunnels. Difficulties with the steep terrain were overcome by using two electrically powered aerial tramways, one from the top of Shoalhaven Gorge to a treatment plant on the river, and a second from the mines to the plant. The presence of stannite as the main copper-tin mineral led the company to model their smelting plant on the Oonah Proprietary Zeehan in Tasmania where similar and unusual stannite ores had been encountered and were being experimentally treated. A roasting plant, complete with arsenic collection chambers, and a reverberatory furnace were constructed at the site between 1909 and 1910. The roasting process was an important adjunct to smelting to remove the deleterious arsenic from the ore. Ore production commenced in 1910 and the first attempts at smelting were in 1911. Approximately 350 tons of ore were smelted in 1911 for production of 10 tons of 55%

copper matte worth £237. Smelting at the site was abandoned at this stage with attention focussed on arsenic oxide production from ore roasting and sale of the roasted product for smelting elsewhere.

Production from the Tolwong mines continued sporadically until 1913 when the Tolwong Mineral Company went into liquidation after expenditure of £23,000. Total ore production was probably less than 1,500 tons. The refractory nature of the ore, and in particular the presence of stannite as the main copper-tin mineral, was a major factor in the failure of the venture. Details mineragraphic studies by the author have confirmed the complex nature of the Tolwong ore assemblage and its refractory nature.

b. Jennifer Tracey

*Gold beneath Gibson's Plains: working the Kiandra Deep Lead on New Chum Hill 1860-1883.*

Initially the rich alluvial claims on the Kiandra Goldfield in south western New South Wales were generally confined to the small creeks leading up to the basalt-capped hills which stretch for a distance of fifteen kilometres north and south of Kiandra. By tracing the auriferous deposits up the creeks it was found that the ancient river drift existed in large quantities under this north-south extension. Working these deep leads by tunnelling deep into the hills brought problems that were overcome with ingenuity and versatility. Capital investment saw the materialisation of extensive infrastructure including the construction of a large dam on Three Mile Creek and the cutting of water races to bring water down onto the claims.

This paper examines the methods of mining used on New Chum Hill during the period 1860-1883, including various applications of tunnelling and finally hydraulic sluicing. In particular, it investigates the erection of a stamper battery, officially reported to be forty-head, to crush the auriferous conglomerate alluvium extracted from the Great Emperor Tunnel. Reports of this battery's operation are scarce and anomalies in the description of the battery exist in the historical record. The extent of the hydraulic sluicing claims has eradicated much of the archaeological evidence of the earlier workings and the battery site. The battery only operated for four years before being sold to the Perseverance Gold Mining Company. It was transported by bullock teams over the mountains to the Adelong Goldfield where it was re-erected on the banks of Adelong Creek. There it was used to crush auriferous quartz from the reef mines on Victoria Hill.

Ruth Kerr

*Mount Morgan and Dr Robertson - enigmas in Queensland mining.*

The landscape of the Mount Morgan mine site in central Queensland symbolises the harvest of human behaviour in nineteenth century mining-entrepreneurship, greed and environmental change. The skills of Dr John Robertson, magnate of Hunter and Illawara coalfields, who investigated many prospective mining investments in Queensland, were

inappropriate for assessing the type of mineral deposit in the mountain in 1882. The freehold title of the land determined much about the forms of mining and financial management. Throughout the period of spectacular profitability, the Mount Morgan Mining Company paid no royalties on the gold. The paper focuses on the entrepreneurs and the administrative and legal issues of mining illustrated by Mount Morgan history, and the legacy of cultural apathy in the broader community toward the site.

Chris Carter

*Adjungbilly Creek, NSW - An Alluvial Mining Landscape.*

The mining of alluvial gold in Australia has left distinct landscapes as a result of human actions. However, in many areas, increased activity and technological development, together with natural erosive forces, often combine to leave little evidence of the early mining activities. A site containing evidence of several mining phases, separated by both time and space, can, therefore, provide a valuable insight into the history of mining activity within a particular area.

Adjungbilly Creek is a tributary of the Tumut River in NSW. Gold was first discovered in the area in 1855 and a small 'rush' followed, including both Chinese and European miners. The amount of gold reported from the area was never considerable but returns were sufficient to warrant continued activity until early this century. However, the landscape surrounding Adjungbilly Creek is, in itself, an artefact demonstrating the impact of alluvial mining from 1855 to present day. Evidence of all phases of mining, including surface sluicing, hydraulicking and dredging, is visible along the creek as are remains of a number of huts, representative of the homes of the early miners. The landscape has also been altered as miners dammed and diverted the creek to control the water for their activities. However, documentary evidence is scarce and official records provide little detail of the mining activities within the area.

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Wendy Carter

*The Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame - a 2001 odyssey!*

It is hoped that the Australian Prospectors & Miners Hall of Fame, based in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, will be opened in the year 2001 for the Centenary of Federation. That centenary is significant in more ways than one, for it was the people of the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia, many of them 't'other siders' with allegiances to the eastern colonies who swung the balance in the vote to determine whether Western Australia should join the Federation at the turn of the century.

That the Hall of Fame should be based in Kalgoorlie-Boulder is appropriate in that the area is one of the few that has enjoyed a history of continuous gold mining since the late 19th century and despite the vicissitudes of activity over the years it is still today one of the major gold producing areas in Australia.

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Hope to see you in Newcastle!

**AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION INC.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**To be held at: The Customs House, Newcastle**

**Monday 29th September, 1997**

**at 3.30 pm**

**AGENDA**

**1. Minutes of AGM 17 July, 1996.**

**2. Matters Arising from Minutes**

### **3 Treasurer's Report**

### **4. Correspondence**

### **5. Election of Officers**

- a) President
- b) Secretary
- c) Treasurer
- d) Not less than seven additional members #

### **5. Changes to Constitution**

### **6. Setting of Fees for 1998**

### **7. General Business**

- a) Venue and date for next Conference

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Secretary Mel Davies (WA)

Treasurer Lenore Layman (WA)

Current Committee members :

ACT Barry McGowan, Michael Tracey

SA Peter Bell, Bernard O'Neil

NSW Ross Mainwaring, Graham Wilson

NT David Carment

Qld Ruth Kerr, Diane Menghetti (Janice Wegner - co-opted)

Vic Ray Supple, Jim Whitehead

WA Charlie Fox (Wendy Carter - co-opted)



**AUSTRALIAN  
MINING  
HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION**

All correspondence to: Mel Davies

Department of Economics

University of Western Australia

Nedlands 6907, W. Australia

Tel. (08) 93802939

Fax (08) 93801016

E.mail: [mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au](mailto:mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au)

## **Newsletter No. 3**

August 1997

### **Issue 10**

#### **Editorial**

As we come up to our third Annual General Meeting it's pleasing to report that the initial enthusiasm of members has not died. Indeed, from the number of letters that land on my desk and the e.mail that flows in, there is little doubt that there is a growing interest among members to promote the mining history discipline. That enthusiasm tends to be stimulated by our annual meetings and conference proceedings, as people with similar interests gather together to socialise and exchange ideas. The benefits of the proceedings may be seen in the cross-fertilisation of ideas, leading to expanded horizons and ultimately enriched research. With those points in mind, the committee would encourage you to register for the Newcastle conference in September. With 17 papers, plus a few additional mining related papers among the AHA menu, the event promises to prove at least as stimulating as our previous conferences held in Townsville and Melbourne.

Those unable to come along might still flavour the topics, if not the atmosphere, as we shall probably publish the proceedings which will become available to members at cost. This reminds me that

the 1996 Proceedings should be in print shortly thanks to the efforts of Michael Tracey and Jill Kerr, and now that the bugs have been ironed out of the collating and publishing areas, we should be able to get the 1997 Proceedings into print before the end of this year. Keep a watch on these pages for further details.

We are also pleased to report that we now have (or at least we will have within a few days) our own Home Page on the web. It contains details of members; the mining history bibliography, past newsletters, and other items. Find us on:

<http://www.econs.ece1.uwa.edu.au/AMHA/AMHAmain.html>

### **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will be held at the Customs House, Newcastle, between 3.30 pm and 5.30 pm, Monday **29th September**. Any substantive **general motions** or **motions to alter the constitution** should be sent to reach me by **8th September**. Please note that the attached Agenda will become the official agenda if no motions are received by 8th September.

Anyone wishing to nominate for a position on the committee or wishing to re-nominate might also like to contact me by that date.

### **Information Wanted**

Peter Bell is doing some work for the South Australian State Heritage Register on the Moonta and Wallaroo strike of 1864. He states that there are plenty of primary sources but that he cannot find any written work on the subject other than the 1954 thesis by Keith Bowes. If anyone is aware of any research, an article, or seminar paper on the incident, Peter would appreciate a call. He can be contacted at:

Historical Research Pty Ltd., PO Box 3044, Rundle Mall, SA 5000. Phone/fax: (08) 8338 2460. E.mail:

[pbell@adelaide.on.net](mailto:pbell@adelaide.on.net)

### **Property for Sale**

Ross Mainwaring has drawn my attention to a nice property for sale in Wales which should appeal to anyone with a yen for mining history. For £79,000 you can purchase the Count House, Level Fawr, which was built by John Taylor circa 1834. The attraction for members might not only be the association with John Taylor but with the two mile long adit which has its entrance in the back yard.

Ross found this gem in the newsletter of the Peak District Mines Historical Society. For those who might be interested in that organisation's activities, try the following web address:

<http://info.exeter.ac.uk/~RBurt/MinHistNet>

Incidentally, that's the address in which the AMHA is also featured.

The item reminds me of an acquaintance in my youth at Cwmavon in Wales. He was quite a character with a rather large family who eked out a living and paid for his roisterous nights out at the 'Rolling Mill Arms', by opening a coal mine in his garden. I know that child labour was banned in 1842 but Ron even had his 4 year old doing his bit for the cause. Sadly his entrepreneurship came to a sudden and sticky end when the Coalboard received complaints from local coal vendors that their sales were grossly

down in the village. Caught in the act, Ron's response was that he had been digging in his garden and had got rather carried away with the exercise - at the time he was some 30 yards into the seam!

### **Joadja Creek Video**

Ross Mainwaring also informs that there is an excellent video on the Joadja Creek Oil Shale mining town, NSW. It's been put together by Leonie Knapman and features hundreds of photographs brought to life with narration. Copies can be obtained at \$25 (post \$4.50 extra) from Leonie Knapman, 59 Regent Street, Mittagong, NSW 2575. Tel. 048 711804. Copies of Leonie's book on the township can also be obtained at \$25 (plus \$7.95 post) from the same address.

### **Great Tyrconnell Cricket Match**

According to Jan Wegner this proved a great success marred only by some participants in the day's events who actually took the cricket seriously her opinion was that the deadly taipan seen slithering around the cyanide tank was a far more interesting feature of affairs. Great interest was taken by all in the refurbished 10 head stamper which ran for the first time in front of a public gathering while the activated Wilfley table also proved of interest to mining enthusiasts. Unfortunately the stone breaker was not quite ready for action, though Janice says that owner, Adrienne Hick's son Andrew and partner Cate are working feverishly to complete the renovation of this item and other projects while living at the mine site.

Janice points out that to complete the restoration paying customers are required and she suggests that anyone planning a trip to North Queensland and who is interested in heritage projects should keep the venue in mind. The Tyrconnell is at the centre of a fascinating mining heritage area with Mt Mulligan (see our March'97 Newsletter where Peter Bell's book on the 1921 coal disaster is reviewed), Chillagoe and its smelters, and Irvinebank within easy distance. If you wish to plan a trip, contact Janice

Wegner, History Dept, James Cook University, Cairns Campus, PO Box 6811, Cairns 4870. tel. 61 1 70 421100.

E mail: [Janice.Wegner@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Janice.Wegner@jcu.edu.au)

**Timetable: Newcastle Conference 27-30th September**

To view the **full** programme on the net, visit the River AHA Conference Home Page:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/department/hi/river/river.html>

### **Monday 29th September**

9.00-10.30 - Chair - Patrick Bertola

- a. Charlie Fox - *The Mt Lyell Mining and Railway Co. and the State.*
- b. Rebecca Parkes - *Camel Camps and Mining Towns: Archaeology and the role of Afghan cameleers in Australian mining.*
- c. Michael Tracey, Jennifer Tracey, Peter Evans and Peter Smith (presented by Michael Tracey), *A light industrial tramway - Adelong Goldfields.*

11.00-12.30 - Chair - Dianne Menghetti

- a. Patrick Bertola - *Capitalisation and its implications in the early phases of mining in Kalgoorlie.*
- b. Lyndon Megarrity - *British investment in overseas gold mines in the late nineteenth century: the Queensland experience.*
- c. Mel Davies - *Leakages and boomerangs - whatever happened to overseas dividends? The case of John Benjamin Graham & his South Australian made mining fortune.*

1.30 - 3.00 - Chair - Charlie Fox

- a. Philip Hart - *Maori and Mining: A case -study of Te Aroha.*
- b. Betty Cosgrove - *Mount Morgan social history - the making of a culture 1890-1917.*
- c. Barry McGowan - *The Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894: miners versus capital.*

3.30 - 5.30

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Tuesday 30th September**

11.00-12.30 - Chair - Peter Bell

- a. Ken McQueen - *Difficulties with*

*refractory ores: history of the Tolwong*

*Mines, Shoalhaven Gorge, NSW.*

b. Jennifer Tracey - *Gold beneath Gibson's Plains: working the Kiandra Deep Lead on New Chum Hill 1860-1883.*

c. Ruth Kerr - *Mount Morgan and Dr Robertson - enigmas in Queensland mining.*

1.30 - 3.00 - Chair - Michael Tracey

a. Chris Carter - *Adjungbilly Creek, NSW -*

*An Alluvial Mining Landscape.*

b. Ross Mainwaring - *More than meets the*

*eye - the interpretation of what you don't*

*see in a mining scene.*

c. Wendy Carter - *The Australian*

*Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame - a*

*2001 odyssey!*

### **Abstracts of Papers** (in order of presentation)

Charlie Fox

*The Mt Lyell Mining & Railway Co. and the State*

The paper explores some aspects of the relationship between the Mt Lyell Mining and Railway Company and the state. The state intervened in the Company's affairs in many ways. At the Commonwealth level the Government set tariffs on imported machinery, encouraged the processing of Mt Lyell ore in Australia, while the arbitration system regulated conditions of work. It provided migrant workers while taking company workers off to war and it both quarantined and provided aid to Tasmania during the influenza pandemic. At the state level, the level which concerns this paper, it regulated the company's day to day operations through the Mines' Departments, leased it crown land, bought electric power from it, prescribed conditions of work through local wages boards and regulated its railway to the coast. It provided for workers compensation and employer liability, policed the Mt Lyell towns and set up coroners' courts to inquire into accidents, and much more besides.

In general the Company fought hard to limit state intervention in its affairs. When it could it pulled

strings in Parliament to reject or amend legislation it thought was intrusive. When such legislation was imposed, it tried to obstruct, limit or shape the practical effects of the legislation. By using examples from the relationship between the Company and the Tasmanian state, such as conflicts over the work of local mines' inspectors, over judgements handed down at Coroners' courts and over legislation regarding wages boards, this paper suggests that the Company engaged in a continuous struggle against state intervention. It used a range of strategies to defeat enemies and threats where and when they appeared and did so on the whole with great success. But it was never able to relax, partly because the idea of an interventionist state was abhorrent to its management ethos, and partly because its own workforce kept proposing further state incursions into its domain.

Rebecca Parkes

*Camel Camps and Mining Towns: Archaeology and the role of Afghan cameleers in Australian mining.*

It was in 1837 that the idea of bringing camels into Australia was first put forward, but it was not until 1860 that a truly successful importation took place. This was also the first time that Afghan camel handlers were brought out with the camels. Then in 1866, the first of many large scale importations organised by Thomas Elder and Samuel Stuckey occurred. From that time until the 1920s, the Afghan led camel teams were one of the main means of transport to outback mining settlements.

From western New South Wales and Queensland, across to Western Australia, wherever there was mining activity, there were at one time or another camel teams. Often there were permanent or semi-permanent Afghan settlements associated with mining towns such as Broken Hill, Coolgardie and Cloncurry.

It is the aim of this paper to examine the role of the Afghans and their camels in the transport of provisions, equipment and ore to and from the mining settlements in Australia. Furthermore, this paper aims to highlight some of what the archaeological record tells in relation to these activities. Examples will mainly be taken from the Flinders Ranges, and the area around Broken Hill where I have been undertaking fieldwork over the last six months.

Michael Tracey, Jennifer Tracey, Peter Evans and Peter Smith (presented by Michael Tracey)

*A light industrial tramway - Adelong Goldfields.*

In the mid 1850s gold was found in Adelong Creek. Mining entrepreneurs undertook the construction of small-scale mining infrastructure such as batteries and hydrological work to enable successful processing of the extracted ore. The predominantly sulphide ores while rich in gold were difficult to process. The location of the mines atop steep hills also presented particular operating problems. The transportation of ore from the mine to the batteries usually situated in the valleys to avail the use of the almost constant water supply from Adelong Creek required special engineering incentives. The transport of the ore was undertaken by a light railway system with specially constructed engines capable of handling steep gradients leading to the mines. In the later days of operations the railways system was sold and shifted to other mining interests further down Adelong Creek at Gibraltar Hill. Here the engine was used initially to transport ore and was later modified to drive a lifting motor to a cable system for the cages in the mines.

Patrick Bertola

*Capitalisation and its implications in the early phases of mining in Kalgoorlie.*

Within two years of the discovery of gold at Kalgoorlie in mid-1893, virtually all of what were to become the main mines on the field had been incorporated, principally in London. As McCarty has pointed out, this process resulted in only a fraction of the capital raised being directed to the actual processes of mining in Kalgoorlie. Instead, much found its way into the pockets of a group of finance capitalists operating out of the City of London.

This paper outlines some of the preliminary conclusions of research into the period between discovery of the field and the incorporation of the main companies, particularly focussing on the processes by which finance capital maximised profits during this early phase. The paper also notes the results in terms of the structure of capital at Kalgoorlie and explores some of the implications for the future development of relations among labour and employers in Kalgoorlie (and Boulder).

Lyndon Megarrity

*British investment in overseas gold mines in the late nineteenth century: the Queensland experience.*

British investment in overseas mining during the period 1880-1914 was immense. This paper examines the nature of the London market and how its way of operating impacted upon the Queensland goldfields at

that time. It will be shown that the British trend towards over-speculation in 'fashionable' mining areas was highly detrimental to the economic health and reputation of the 'host' country. In the 1880s, Queensland was a significant early victim of the London money market's pattern of over-capitalising mines in one area to the exclusion of all others, and then abandoning that area when 'Wild Cats' had had their disillusioning effect. The poor reputation of Queensland's goldfields in London mining circles lasted well into the 1900s.

Mel Davies

*Leakages and boomerangs - whatever happened to overseas dividends? The case of John Benjamin Graham & his South Australian made mining fortune.*

There is perhaps one flaw in the excellent work of Bill Rubenstein when estimating the wealth accrued in Australia during the 19th century, for while he does a magnificent job in quantifying the accumulated wealth of residents from probate records, there is no way in which he has been able to capture the wealth that was generated but which left in the pockets of Europeans and others who returned home. John Benjamin Graham was the major shareholder in the Burra Burra Mines, SA, who made his fortune from the mines between 1845-1877. When he left the colony in 1848 to live in England and Germany, his fabulous earnings from the mines went with him and continued to follow him until his death in 1877. What is of interest is the destiny of this fortune, not only in the type of conspicuous consumption that almost inevitably accompanied successful venturers associated with mining but also in terms of the back-flow of funds to South Australia. JBG invested heavily in property mortgaging but also in sheep farming and this paper outlines why he continued to be attracted by South Australian opportunities and examines some of his strategies used to maximise his outlays

Philip Hart

*Maori and Mining: A case-study of Te Aroha.*

Te Aroha in 1880 was on the frontier of European settlement. The land on which gold was to be discovered, and a township built, was owned by Maori. From the time of the discovery of gold at Thames in 1867, local Maori had been in increasing contact with miners, and were hospitable to the increasing number of Europeans visiting Te Aroha. In part this was because of the income derived from people visiting the hot springs. Goldfields revenue from Thames mining also encouraged Maori chiefs to permit prospecting in the hope of reaping financial returns.

Maori were also very involved in prospecting and to a lesser extent mining and share speculation. This was not a new development, but started with the first discoveries in New Zealand. Limited skills meant Maori were mostly prospectors, and the structure of Maori society meant that revenue from mining mostly benefited the chiefs.

Hone Werahiko was the discoverer of gold at Te Aroha. Lavishly praised by Europeans for his skill, he led prospecting parties of Europeans and directed initial work on his main finds. His life was an interesting case-study of inter-racial harmony because he lived up to European ideas of worthiness and was able to work with Europeans as an equal.

Betty Cosgrove

*Mount Morgan social history - the making of a culture 1890-1917*

The town of Mount Morgan clings to life, after more than a century of rise and decline that preceded ultimate closure of the mine. The dynamic of the place in its prolonged survival without an industry is the relic of a town mentality independent of the mine. The aim of this paper is to present the townspeople of early decades, a diverse population whose backgrounds and traditions were integral to the forging of a Mount Morgan culture. Such a study must also address the question: What neglected aspects of social history - this invariably masculinist and mine focussed, to the exclusion and historical invisibility of women, children, Aborigines and Chinese - support the argument for an inclusive social tradition?

Barry McGowan

*The Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894: miners versus capital.*

In the period 1850 to 1900, mining and gold mining in particular, was one of the most important industries in New South Wales; at some stages it was the most important industry. Access to private land for mining had been an issue since the earliest gold rush days, and the *Mining on Private Lands Bill* sought to address this issue. The debate on the legislation during the 1890s involved primarily the question of coexistence of title, and can be looked at from a number of aspects. Such issues involve, for example, the conflict between the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, the role of the then fledgling Labor Party, the role of Government in addressing the 1890s depression and the perennial conflict between those who purported to support the 'working miner' and those who wished to encourage capital. This paper will focus primarily on the latter aspect, although attention will also be given to other issues mentioned above.

Ken McQueen

*Difficulties with refractory ores: history of the Tolwong Mines, Shoalhaven Gorge, NSW.*

The Tolwong copper-tin-arsenic deposits were discovered around 1904 by John Siverwright as exposed outcrops in a tributary of the Shoalhaven Gorge, 10 km southeast of Bungonia. The deposits occur as cross-cutting lodes in dilational fractures within tightly folded Ordovician slates and sandstones in an area intruded by Carboniferous granites. Mineralisation consists of abundant arsenopyrite with lesser amounts of stannite, chalcopyrite and galena, and minor sphalerite, pyrite, tetrahedrite and bournonite. Quartz and fluorite are common gangue minerals.

In 1907 the Tolwong Mineral Company was formed to exploit the deposits. Typical ore assayed 6 - 10% copper,

2 - 5% tin, 1 - 15% As, 30 - 60 g/t silver and trace gold. The main lode was developed by numerous small workings and several interconnected tunnels. Difficulties with the steep terrain were overcome by using two electrically powered aerial tramways, one from the top of Shoalhaven Gorge to a treatment plant on the river, and a second from the mines to the plant. The presence of stannite as the main copper-tin mineral led the company to

model their smelting plant on the Oonah Proprietary Zeehan in Tasmania where similar and unusual stannite ores had been encountered and were being experimentally treated. A roasting plant, complete with arsenic collection chambers, and a reverberatory furnace were constructed at the site between 1909 and 1910. The roasting process was an important adjunct to smelting to remove the deleterious arsenic from the ore. Ore production commenced in 1910 and the first attempts at smelting were in 1911. Approximately 350 tons of ore were smelted in 1911 for production of 10 tons of 55% copper matte worth £237. Smelting at the site was abandoned at this stage with attention focussed on arsenic oxide production from ore roasting and sale of the roasted product for smelting elsewhere.

Production from the Tolwong mines continued sporadically until 1913 when the Tolwong Mineral Company went into liquidation after expenditure of £23,000. Total ore production was probably less than 1,500 tons. The refractory nature of the ore, and in particular the presence of stannite as the main copper-tin mineral, was a major factor in the failure of the venture. Details mineragraphic studies by the author have confirmed the complex nature of the Tolwong ore assemblage and its refractory nature.

b. Jennifer Tracey

*Gold beneath Gibson's Plains: working the Kiandra Deep Lead on New Chum Hill 1860-1883.*

Initially the rich alluvial claims on the Kiandra Goldfield in south western New South Wales were generally confined to the small creeks leading up to the basalt-capped hills which stretch for a distance of fifteen kilometres north and south of Kiandra. By tracing the auriferous deposits up the creeks it was found that the ancient river drift existed in large quantities under this north-south extension. Working these deep leads by tunnelling deep into the hills brought problems that were overcome with ingenuity and versatility. Capital investment saw the materialisation of extensive infrastructure including the construction of a large dam on Three Mile Creek and the cutting of water races to bring water down onto the claims.

This paper examines the methods of mining used on New Chum Hill during the period 1860-1883, including various applications of tunnelling and finally hydraulic sluicing. In particular, it investigates the erection of a stamper battery, officially reported to be forty-head, to crush the auriferous conglomerate alluvium extracted from the Great Emperor Tunnel. Reports of this battery's operation are scarce and anomalies in the description of the battery exist in the historical record. The extent of the hydraulic sluicing claims has eradicated much of the archaeological evidence of the earlier workings and the battery site. The battery only operated for four years before being sold to the Perseverance Gold Mining Company. It was transported by bullock teams over the mountains to the Adelong Goldfield where it was re-erected on the banks of Adelong Creek. There it was used to crush auriferous quartz from the reef mines on Victoria Hill.

Ruth Kerr

*Mount Morgan and Dr Robertson - enigmas in Queensland mining.*

The landscape of the Mount Morgan mine site in central Queensland symbolises the harvest of human behaviour in nineteenth century mining-entrepreneurship, greed and environmental change. The skills of Dr John Robertson, magnate of Hunter and Illawara coalfields, who investigated many prospective mining investments in Queensland, were inappropriate for assessing the type of mineral deposit in the mountain in 1882. The freehold title of the land determined much about the forms of mining and financial management. Throughout the period of spectacular profitability, the Mount Morgan Mining Company paid no royalties on the gold. The paper focuses on the entrepreneurs and the administrative and legal issues of mining illustrated by Mount Morgan history, and the legacy of cultural apathy in the broader community toward the site.

Chris Carter

*Adjungbilly Creek, NSW - An Alluvial Mining Landscape.*

The mining of alluvial gold in Australia has left distinct landscapes as a result of human actions. However, in many areas, increased activity and technological development, together with natural erosive forces, often combine to leave little evidence of the early mining activities. A site containing evidence of several mining phases, separated by both time and space, can, therefore, provide a valuable insight into the history of mining activity within a particular area.

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This is basically a visual presentation that will involve the interpretation of photographs of a mining landscape

at Hillgrove goldfield, New South Wales. This will be accomplished through the use of either slides or an epidiascope. Furthermore, the underground features will be exhibited by superimposing drawings on the landscape which will exhibit that to a degree the above ground features of the landscape were determined by the geology and underground developments.

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Hope to see you in Newcastle!

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All correspondence to: Mel Davies

Department of Economics

University of Western Australia

Nedlands 6907, W. Australia

Tel. (08) 93802939

Fax (08) 93801016

E.mail: [mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au](mailto:mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au)

**Newsletter No. 4**

**December 1997**

## **Issue 11**

MERRY CHRISTMAS & a Happy New Year to all our members.

### **Editorial**

Here we are, coming up to the end of our third year as an incorporated body to find that the organisation continues to progress and that new objectives are being realized. As you will read below, we have now published our 1996 Conference Proceedings and the 1997 version is in the pipeline for publication early next year. We have also published a bibliography of Australian mining history which will, we are sure, prove a valuable research tool, and we have also opened up our own web page. Another milestone was reached during the year when the number of paid up members on our books exceeded 100. Of further note was that only three of our 1996 members did not renew. Last, but not least, the Newcastle conference which we shared with the Australian Historical Association proved a great success and it was particularly pleasing to note the high quality of presentations and the enthusiasm with which papers were presented and received in our mining history section. Let's hope that 1998 will see us continue to progress even further.

### **AGM Report**

There was a good turnout of 19 members for the Annual general Meeting which went off smoothly under the iron hand of our good President, Patrick Bertola. Among matters

raised, it was decided to again hold the 1998 conference and AGM in conjunction with the Australian Historical Association Conference. This will be held at the University of Sydney between 5th & 10th July. Another decision saw the meeting commit the AMHA to hold its 2001 conference at Boulder/Kalgoorlie. That is the year for the planned opening of the Miners & Prospectors Hall of Fame and the committee of that organisation see it appropriate for the AMHA to utilise the new facilities during the inaugural year.

During General Business, there was great concern expressed at the proposed closure of the Noel Butlin Archive at the Australian National University. It was pointed out that the closure could mean the scattering of this unique archive and even the possible destruction of records many of which are of great interest to mining historians. A motion was passed

for the President to dispatch a letter of protest to the ANU authorities on behalf of our organisation. The latest news is that the protests proved so strong that the administration have discovered the ways and means by which the collection can be kept together at the ANU.

The following officers and committee members were elected for 1997-98:

President: Dr. Patrick Bertola, School of Social Sciences, Curtin University, GPO Box U 1987, Perth, WA 6001.

tel. (08 9266-7236

e.mail - bertola@spectrum.curtin.edu.au

Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. Mel Davies, Economics Dept., Univ. of WA, Nedlands 6009, WA. tel. (08) 9380-2939

e.mail - mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au

#### Committee

Dr. Peter Bell, PO Box 3044, Rundle Mall, Adelaide, SA 5000. tel. 08-83382460

e. mail - pbell@mail.adelaide.on.net

Assoc. Prof. David Carment, PO Box 41813, Casuarina, NT 0811, tel. 089-852685.

e. mail: dcarment@banks.ntu.edu.au

Mr Chris Carter, LPO Box 89, Aust. National Univ. Canberra, ACT 2601

tel. 06 - 2999724

e.mail: ChristopherCarter@anu.edu.au

Ms. Wendy Carter, PO Box 2016, Boulder, WA 6430. tel. 090 - 932736

Mr. Greg Dickens, 18 Anulka Street, Howrah, Tas. 7018. tel. 002 - 477110. Fax. 002 - 338338

Dr. Charles Fox, Department of History, Univ. of W.A., Nedlands, WA 6009, tel. 08 - 93802175 e.mail - cfox@arts.uwa.edu.au

Dr. Graydon Henning, Dept. of Economic History, Univ. of New England, Armidale, NSW 2351. tel. 067 - 732702

e.mail: ghenning@metz.une.edu.au

Dr. Ruth Kerr, 105 Highland Terrace, St. Lucia, Qld 4812, tel. 07-38709588.

e.mail - jkerr@iccu6.ipswich.gil.com.au

Mr. Ross Mainwaring, 5 Sheather Avenue, St. Ives, NSW 2075, tel. 02 - 94492738 Dr. Diane Menghetti, Dept. of History and Politics, James Cook Univ, Townsville, Qld 4811, tel. 077-814244

e. mail: Diane.Menghetti@jcu.edu.au

Mr. Barry McGowan, 28 Haines Street, Curtin, ACT 2605, tel. 06- 2437626

Mr. Ray Supple, 55 Victoria Road, Malvern, Vic 3144, tel.. 9 - 5718348

e.mail - r.supple@dce.vic.gov.au

Dr. Jan Wegner, James Cook University (Cairns Campus), PO Box 6811, tel. 070 -- 421100 e.mail: janice.wegner@jcu.edu.au

## **AMHA Publications**

### Conference Proceedings

Ruth S. Kerr & Michael MacLellan Tracey (eds), *Proceedings of the Australian Mining History Association 1996 Conference* (Home Planet Publishing, for AMHA, Canberra, 1997), 90 pages , including photographs. Cost \$10 (includes postage).

Ruth and Michael have done a professional job on this attractively presented publication. Contents include:

Anne & Robin Bailey, 'Boom and Bust in a Victorian 1860's Goldmining Town';

Ralph Birrell, 'Gold Mining and Mining Law';

Christopher Carter, 'Bark Huts, Calico Tents and Shanty Towns: Living on a Mining Field';

Mel Davies, 'Metropole and Periphery - City Finance, Claude de Bernales and West Australian Gold Mining 1900-1939';

Ruth S. Kerr, 'When Zinc was a Problem: The Mount Garnet Mineral Freehold';

Ross Mainwaring, 'The Connection between the Australian and American shale oil industries from 1865 to 1952';

Barry McGowan, 'A Regional Study of Mining Communities in NSW';

Jennifer Lambert Tracey, 'Gold on the Adelong! An Historical Archaeological

Landscape Study of the Adelong Goldfield 1853-1916';

Michael MacLellan Tracey, 'No Water No Gold: Applied Hydrology in Nineteenth Century Gold Mining';

Jennifer Lambert Tracey & Michael M. Tracey, 'Glossary of 19th and Early 20th Century Mining Terminology'.

#### Mining History Bibliography

Mel Davies (Compiler), *A Bibliography of Australian Mining History* (for AMHA, University of Western Australia, 1997), pp. i-vii, 1 - 145. \$15 includes postage.

While the Australian Mining History Bibliography can be found and downloaded from our web page, printed copies, attractively bound, are now available for those who either do not have access to the net or who like to have an easy reference at hand. The bibliography is divided into Australian General, and State divisions, and further divided into compartments embracing different, minerals, fuels, social aspects, etc. The bibliography should prove extremely useful to those doing research.

Please use the order form attached if you would like copies of either or both of these publications.

#### **The Net**

My apologies to those who patiently waited for the AMHA web page to appear. I'm afraid that gremlins were hard at work which saw them periodically attack the health of computer assistants and my computer. However, all can now be revealed, including old newsletters, the membership list, and the mining bibliography, on:

<http://www.econs.ecel.uwa.edu.au/AMHA/amhamain.htm>

**Note** that this address is slightly different to that provided previously.

## **Numbering**

Following a request from John Shoebridge it was decided to provide consecutive numbers for the Newsletter from this edition onwards. You might

note, therefore, that in the heading you will see this newsletter referred to as 'Issue 11'.

## **Conferences**

### International Mining History

Papers are called for the 4th International Mining History Conference to be held at Guanajuato, Mexico, between 9th-13th November, 1998. Please submit **abstracts** (300 words) by **the end of April** to:

Dr. Alma Para, Inah,

Cerrada De Acejete 15

San Jeronimo,

Mexico DF

C.P.10200, Mexico

### 1998 AMHA Conference - Call for Papers

Our annual conference will be run in conjunction with the Australian Historical Association's Biennial conference at the University of Sydney between 5th - 10th July 1998. Should you wish to submit a paper, please return to me an abstract of approximately 300 words **by 30 April**.

## **Bits & Pieces**

Ross Mainwaring has again been perusing odd journals and has come up with a number of pearls: one on a grave subject at Cadia, NSW; another on what can happen to over-enthusiastic mining historians who are too enamoured of their interests; and yet another on the possible place of the Ophir mines at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

First, from the *Daily Telegraph*, and also the *Financial Times* of 2nd October, comes the story of the rejuvenation of the Cadia gold, copper and iron ore mine in central-western NSW, south of Orange. Newcrest Mining Ltd. have decided to exploit an estimated \$3 billion ore deposit which is still in the ground despite the valiant effort of miners in the 1850s to the beginning of World War I to exploit the minerals. Unfortunately, the centre

of the mine site lies in the middle of the local cemetery and this poses grave difficulties to the Company who are forced to seek the identity of and the descendants of all the deceased before moving the remains to another location. The job of moving the 100 plus bodies will be accomplished by the middle of next year - but I cannot understand how the *Daily Telegraph* reporter could possibly claim that "The exercise has met with approval from all concerned". Perhaps they used a Ouija board!!

The second story taken from *The Guardian* of 1 September 1994, relates to an extract from *Industrial Gwynedd*, Vol. 1, 1996. It tells the sad story of what happened to ex miner Hinton Sheryn who was fined £500 by a north Devon magistrate for planting a kiss on the lips of one Claire Stacey. Mr Sheryn, aged 47, had just received a £500 publishers advance for a book on the history of mining machinery and was so elated that when he met this casual acquaintance in the street he kissed her on the lips. "I was trying to kiss her on the cheek and I might have missed because I am so short" explained the 5ft 3inch Mr Sheryn. The shocked and insulted Ms Stacey was further humiliated when he asked her to go back to his flat to view his mining machinery videos. Ms Stacey declined this 'turn-on' and reported the incident to the police, explaining that the affair had caused her a sleepless night.

Ross's third newspaper cutting, this time from the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 27th September, details the offer of miner Noel Rawlinson who works the Gunnadoo Gold Mine on the Ophir field, site of Australia's first goldrush in May 1851. He and some of his neighbouring mining compatriots have decided to donate six kilograms of gold to the Games organisers so that they can be turned into medals. They are also convinced that other miners can be persuaded to donate all the silver, copper and tin required to make the silver and bronze medals. This more than generous offer qualifies Mr Rawlinson's opinion that he suffers from gold fever!

### **Kiandra Field Trip**

Chris Carter informs that the Department. of Archaeology and Anthropology, Australian National University, will be conducting its annual field school (Laboratory and Field Techniques) at Kiandra, NSW, from 6 - 17 February, 1998.

Kiandra, situated on the Snowy Mountains Highway between Adiminaby and Tumut, was the site of a busy gold mining area from 1860 until the early 20th Century. Mining techniques employed there include ground sluicing, hydraulicking and dredging. The landscape contains vast areas affected by these mining activities and the ruins of the township is still visible in a few areas. The remains of two dwellings associated with the town will be excavated as part of the 1998 field school.

Anybody travelling in the area is welcome to visit the site and speak to the students as they uncover some of our mining history. The old township also has a walking trail taking in a number of the significant locations within the old township. It is well worth spending a day or so in the area if you are interested in alluvial mining landscapes.

## **Newcastle Mining Tour**

Thanks to John Shoebridge and Ed Tonks for organising a fascinating conference tour which took in mine sites surrounding Newcastle. There was first class commentary linked to the local expert historical knowledge of our two tour organisers who gave detailed information on the history of the region, the railway lines, mining companies, miners and social aspects. The two highlights of the tour were, however, the underground visit to the Newstan Coal Mine, and the second, the visit to the Search & Rescue Headquarters of the region . John Shoebridge had a special interest in the latter, having inaugurated and managed the centre until retiring a couple of years ago.

The Newstan Colliery visit was fascinating as it involved a visit to a

working colliery at the 300 metre level. After being conveyed a few miles underground by shuttle-car, we were deposited at the site of a coal cutter that worked the longwall on a five metre seam and all of us looked in awe as the machine ripped out hundreds of tons of coal which crashed down and was whisked away on a conveyor belt. What hit us was the enormous amount of capital that was involved in the process and also the skill of those who had to manipulate and shift the machinery around the mine.

The visit to the Search & Rescue unit was also a revelation and we looked amazed at the simulation that was required to train the crews for their arduous and often dangerous duties. Altogether, a most memorable and outstanding excursion and one that all those who attended were delighted to experience.

## **Mining Tours**

Ruth Kerr has sent on the 1998 catalogue for mining study tours that are run by Atalaya Tours of Aberystwyth, Wales. The menu includes tours in Spain (Rio Tinto & the Iberian Pyrite Belt; the mining fields of Murcia and eastern Andalucia; gold & metals in the Cordillera Cantabrica; the mines of South West England and Wales; from Real del Monte to Durango in Mexico. The trips include small group travel with experienced guides familiar with the respective areas and mining. For further details and booking forms, contact:

Atalya Tours Ltd., Ceinionfa, Capel Dewi, Aberystwyth, SY23 3HR, UK.

tel & Fax: +44 (0) 1970 828989

## **MA Thesis**

Congratulations to member Glynn Roberts who recently gained his MA at the University of Tasmania for his thesis,

'The Role of the Government in the Development of the Metal Mining Industry, 1803-1883.'

The main body of the dissertation covers three time periods chosen on the basis of significant changes in government policy towards the mining industry.

The first period from 1803-1850, notes various sporadic attempts to find and exploit metallic minerals, all of which were unsuccessful.

The second period encompassing the years 1851-1867, examines the reactions of government and private individuals in Van Diemen's Land to the discovery of gold on the Australian mainland. Early in the period, the views of government were negative but attitudes were gradually changed from the time gold was discovered at Fingal on the east coast. The event which raised hopes was followed by the hiring of the first professional geological surveyor whose unsuccessful attempts to locate forecast gold deposits on the west coast proved a disappointment.

The third phase spans the period 1867-1883. From initial lack of reaction by government to a major tin discovery and collapse of the iron industry, the thesis describes how economic depression forced government out of its lethargy leading to the setting up of a special ministry that became involved in answering demands for an improved infrastructure and financial assistance to the mining industry.

The dissertation also highlights the interaction between key politicians and civil servants with prospectors and members of the business community.

### **Memberships**

Attached you will find a membership application form for 1998. Your early return would be greatly appreciated. Note that the two above mentioned AMHA publications may be ordered on the same form.

### **'The Boulder Block'**

Those who attended the Newcastle Conference will well remember the fervent and stirring rendition of 'The Boulder Block' by Wendy Carter when eulogising the forthcoming benefits of the projected Miners & Prospectors Mining

Hall of Fame. By popular request, the words of Tom 'Crosscut' Wilson are recorded herewith in their entirety. For this and other Wilson mining poems see: Bob Rumery (ed.), *The Boulder Block and Other Verses*, Hovea Press, WA, nd.

'The Boulder Block', 30 June 1906

Rather rowdy

Dingy, cloudy,

Dusty, dirty, dim and dowdy,

Thirsty throats to mock.

Can't mistake `er',

Droughty slaker.

Six pubs to the blooming acre -

That's the Boulder Block.

Weary hummers,

Beery Bummers,

Cadging `deeners', `zacks' and `thrummers',

Mooching in a flock,

Frontpieces hard and chilly,

Sparring pots off `Dick' and `Billy'

(`nough to drive a barman silly)

On the Boulder Block.

Sulphur frying,

Kinchins crying

Cyanide from sand dumps flying,

Senses reel and rack.

Whistles squealing,

Black smoke reeling,

Bingie gets a curious feeling

On the Boulder Block.

Drunks all fighting,

Crowd delighting,

Grimy derelicts exciting  
Sympathy from mugs;  
'Have-beens' viewing  
Past with rueing  
(Watching for a chance of chewing  
Ears of tender 'lugs').  
Miners drinking,  
Crib-cans clinking -  
Just off shift and no one shrinking  
(Never mind the clock!)  
Ragged shirt and gleaming collar,  
Empty 'kick' and mighty dollar;  
Heath, and wealth and grief, and squalor  
That's the Boulder Block.

### **Season's Greetings**

From myself, Patrick Bertola and the rest of the committee, may you enjoy the festive season and what the New Year brings. We hope that we will see you sometime in 1998, possibly at the Sydney conference or in Mexico.

MJD/Dec'97