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# Newsletter No. 1

## March 1999

**Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, OA**

### **Issue 16**

#### **Editorial**

##### Note from the President:

The President and the Committee are very grateful for the suggestions that

were received for the title of the proposed journal. Among those seriously considered were the *Antipodean Miner* and *The Digger*. The problem was to remove all ambiguity and with 'Digger' being the term used to describe the Aussie soldier then we thought that we would not be popular if hundreds of belligerent ex-servicemen were to subscribe to a journal, which had to do with digging holes in the ground! Eventually we settled on a title that summarised the breadth of the association and which was inclusive of all the facets of mining that we hope

contributors will address. The proposed title is *Australasian Mining History Journal*. Not too imaginative but neither are other major journal titles which tend to be specific and unambiguous.

Thanks are extended to Jan Wegner who volunteered to be part of the refereeing panel for the journal. Hopefully I won't be sending all the contributions to Jan, so a few more volunteers would be gratefully appreciated.

As noted in the last newsletter, we have been fortunate in recruiting people to the editorial committee. With those duties covered, I hope shortly to be able to solicit contributions for the first issue.

Best wishes and I look forward to seeing many of our members in Hobart.

Pat Bertola

### **Forthcoming Conferences**

#### National Association of Mining History Associations (UK)

The Carn Brea Society and Camborne School of Mines will be organising a conference on behalf of NAMHO at Truro, Cornwall between 14-18 July 2000. The theme of the conference will be "Acquire, Record & Display".

For further information contact Tony Brooks, Polstrong Cottage, Polstrong, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 0QA

e.mail: [NAMHO@csm.ex.ac.uk](mailto:NAMHO@csm.ex.ac.uk)

#### AMHA Conference, Hobart,

29 September - 1 October, 1999

Glad to say that interest in the Hobart conference is high and offers of papers keep flowing in. Meanwhile, please note that the Tasmanian committee of Greg Dickens, Glyn Roberts and Tony Webster have arranged to **run mining tours** on the two days preceding the official start of the conference. Thus on the **27<sup>th</sup>** and **28<sup>th</sup>** September. Full details of the tours will be given in the next newsletter, or contact me if you urgently require information before that time (next edition due in June). Note we will strictly adhere to the following deadline for abstracts.

**Last call for Abstracts. These should reach me by 30 May at the latest. Please restrict to between 200-300 words.**

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## **Regional News**

### South Australia

Member Keith Johns informs that the Copper Coast District Council have opened Wheal Hughes at Moonta as a tourist mine and that the Burra District Council has made an application for Federal funds to enhance Morphett's Engine House at the Burra Burra Mine. For location of these sites see the Mining Heritage Trails booklet sent out with the last newsletter.

### ACT/New South Wales

Barry McGowan had a busy year in 1998, not only in presenting papers at conferences but also in the area of research, as is obvious from the following report which records heritage work which Barry and others undertook:

A conservation and heritage overview of the Araluen, Bell's Creek and Major's Creek goldfields in the Braidwood area was submitted to the Lower South Coast Catchment Management Committee in August 1998. These goldfields were among the largest and most productive of the New South Wales goldfields, with the Araluen field being in continuous and healthy production from the early 1850s to the mid 1920s. The project took 12 months to complete and involved the identification and recording of all historic mining sites on these goldfields, together with an assessment of their potential environmental degradation. Steps to undertake major rehabilitation work on some sites are currently in train.

A post contact heritage conservation and management plan of the Yalwal goldfield, near Nowra was submitted by Barry McGowan and Brendan O'Keefe to the Shoalhaven City Council in December 1998. The project included the provision of a history of the Yalwal goldfields, an inventory of items of non-Aboriginal culture, and recommendations on the public presentation of these items. Steps are currently in train to introduce measures to protect the Yalwal goldfield from further environmental degradation and to develop the area for a more controlled and interpretative visitor access.

An assessment manual to assist in the recording, analysis and heritage assessment of mining heritage places was submitted by Barry McGowan and Dr Michael Pearson to the Australian Council of National Trusts. The project was funded under the 1996-97 National Estates Grants program. Included in the manual is a guide to the recording, analysis and assessment of mining heritage places, a guide to filling in heritage register forms, a selective bibliography on published sources, a guide to common mining terminology, and model type profiles for mining places. The bibliography differs from the AMHA bibliography in that it concentrates on publications with a heritage emphasis, for example, Mining department reports that include site, technological and historic material. Because of the vast number of such reports, however, only a selected number

have been included. This manual should be of considerable use to the growing body of professional and non-professional persons working in this area.

For further information, contact Barry McGowan at LPO Box A336, ANU, Canberra, ACT 2601.

e.mail: Barry@compu-tech.com.au

## Victoria

On 20th February, AMHA member David White took a group of some twenty, including members' friends and families of the Gippsland Branch of the Aus IMM on a tour of the historic Kilcunda and Wonthaggi (State Mine) coalfields on the Bass Straight coast.

First stop was at the site of the Kilcunda coal mine which had been partly capitalised by the father of Dame Nellie Melba, David Mitchell. From the comfort of the couch grass, former miners demonstrated the physical constraints associated with mining coal seams of twenty inches and under, and showed the group the art of driving longwall gate roads. Returning to Kilcunda Township, the well-preserved formation of the 'Kilcunda to Point Griffith in Westport Bay tramway' was noted. The rights to the tramway had been granted to the Western Port Coal Mining Company in November 1871.

Towards Wonthaggi, time was spent at the No. 20 Shaft Historic Marker, which commemorates the explosion in 1937, that took the lives of 13 men. A lesson on the uncertainties of mining was then contemplated at the site of 'Selwyn's' Inland Shaft & Bore' of 1858 which lies on the southern boundary of Wonthaggi golf course. Selwyn, the first Director of the Victorian Geological Survey, was unfortunate in that the small knoll he chose for his investment lay above a fault/interbasin zone between the future productive State Mines of No. 1 Bench, McBride Tunnel and the Station Area mine. Following inspection of a number of relics in the area, the group's attention was caught by the shrill call of the State Mine whistle which having been preserved, is these days connected to compressed air. There followed a hunt in the scrub which soon came across the No. 1 Shaft where in March 1909 a rich eight feet seam of coal was discovered only 39 feet from the surface. It was then time to visit the State Mine Power House with its well preserved iron-clad boiler house, brick machinery hall and adjacent Oregon-beamed workshops, nowadays leased out for production of concrete products.

To the west of the Power House the No. 9 & 10 Shafts (1910), winding engine, horizontal Cornish pump, and Capell Fan foundations were examined, and on the site healthy debate ensued as to the desirability of leaving *in situ* fragments of ropeway rollers and brow wheels rather than removing these to a museum.

It was then time to adjourn to the Eastern Area Tourist Mine where a barbecue and underground visit via the back and main heading adits was enjoyed. A successful day was concluded with a roadside stop adjacent to the forlorn Kirrak Brace, the last colliery run by Victoria's State Coal Mines, which closed in 1968.

## **Shared Information**

John Shoebridge has suggested that members might like to advertise their areas of interest in the newsletter so as to enable an exchange of information. To start off the column, John has thrown his research areas into the arena and says that he would be more than happy to receive information, or to share his research with other members interested in the following areas:

\*Newcastle Coal & Copper Company,

Newcastle.

\*The AA Company Collieries,

Newcastle and Weston.

\*Tomago Colliery, Hexham.

\*Leconfield Colliery, Greta.

\*Denton Park Colliery, Maitland.

\*New Australasian Mine Disaster,

Creswick.

\*Blackall Arsenic refinery, Fassifern.

\*Australian Alum Mines, Bulladelah.

John can be contacted at 30 Baker Street, Dora Creek, NSW 2264. Tel. 02-49731087.

Should anyone else wish to advertise their fields of interest then please feel free to forward them for publication.

## **Mining History Tours**

Atalaya Tours have produced their tour guide for 1999, and as usual the selection of tours would whet the appetite of any self-respecting mining historian. Organised to cater for groups of 7 or 8 up to 15, the tours are arranged around a programme of site visits, which mix abandoned sites with working mines, museums and periods of free time for

participants. Knowledgeable guides lead all tours and these are often supplemented by local geologists, archaeologists, historians or mine staff. The 1999 tours in date order are:

9 - 17 April: Spain - Rio Tinto and the Iberian Pyrite belt (that stretches some 250 km from Seville in Spain to the Atlantic coast of Portugal).

14 - 24 May: Greece and Cyprus that cover the major sites of both ancient and more recent mining activities. These include the ancient silver mines of Laurion which saved the Athenian State from the Persian army of Xerxes and paid for the victorious Athenian fleet at Salamis in 480 BC. In Cyprus even more ancient copper mining sites which date back to the 4th millennium BC.

25 June - 4 July: Northern Spain and Portugal, where sites ranging from Roman gold workings to the copper mines in the Cordilleras and more modern activities associated with coal extraction in the Asturia region.

17-25 July: Germany, where the tour will cover the medieval silver mining centres of Saxony and the Harz Mountains.

13 - 23 August: Western Britain, where visits will be made to Cornwall, Devon and Wales and where sites ranging from prehistoric copper workings to the developments of the industrial revolution, often in spectacular settings.

29 October - 12 November: Mexico, where the silver mines that kept centuries of Spanish kings in clover can be visited. The tour includes working mines as well as old sites, and those who saw the spectacular photographs in the December 1998 Newsletter might well contemplate upon the value of the tour.

For prices, and more detail, contact:

Atalaya Tours Ltd., Aberystwyth, Ceinionfa, Capel Dewi, Aberystwyth

SY23 3HR, UK.

Tel & fax: +44 (0) 1970 828989

e.mail: [atalayajt@aol.com](mailto:atalayajt@aol.com)

## **Journal**

In the editorial the President announced that he would be soon looking for articles to include in the first edition. To hurry along the first edition, we now call for submissions, which you might like to contribute to either the refereed or the 'general articles' section. That appeal also includes members who contributed to the 1998 conference at Sydney who might like to see their efforts appear in print.

## **Publications**

Mary Talbot Cross, *The Foundling: a tale of the Burra Burra Mine*, Shalimar Press, 1999.

We would not normally publicise a work of fiction in the newsletter, but the title of this novel by Jenny Carter (who writes fiction under the pseudonym of Mary Talbot Cross) could not be ignored, and it's certain that some of our members will be tempted to read the work which follows not only a dramatic story-line but also contains well researched historical background. Jenny, who in 1997 co-authored with Roger Cross, an article on the smelting of Burra copper ores which was published in *the Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia*, has taken her historical researches a little further than most academics by imagining what life was like for miners and families in the Company Township of Kooringa during the mid nineteenth-century. Towards this objective, life is seen through the eyes of Julia Stephen, whose resourcefulness and spirit triumph over the many hardships and harshness particular to the time and place.

For some light but informative reading of this mining saga, send a cheque or money order for \$25.95 (includes postage) to J. Carter, 13 Grandview Terrace, Kew, Vic. 3101. If you wish the author to sign the book, please say so.

## **Book Review**

Anne and Robin Bailey, *A Windy Morn of Matlock: The History of a Victorian Mountain Goldfield*, Mountain Home Press, Melbourne, 1998.

During the nineteenth century the central goldfields of Victoria was one of the great mining districts of the new world, and cities such as Ballarat and Bendigo and towns such as Creswick or Wedderburn are magnificent reminders of the importance of gold. Today the visitor can wander through these communities and admire the architecture of the gold rush period. At museums, such as Sovereign Hill at Ballarat or the Central Deborah at

Bendigo, they can learn much about the technology of mining. Yet gold was not only mined in the central districts of Victoria for prospectors spread throughout the colony. One of the less hospitable districts was the Great Dividing Range, north of Melbourne.

In *A Windy Morn of Matlock*, Anne and Robin Bailey tell the story of life on one of the mining districts of the Great Dividing Range. In the twentieth century Matlock has been known as a timber town. The Bailey's curiosity about Matlock was aroused when they noticed that a lands Department map of Matlock in 1864 bore no relation to the present day timber town. This commenced their affair with Matlock and they set about exploring the early history of the town through extensive research at the Public records Office, through newspaper searches, through Mines department publications and files, and through archaeological diggings.

The story that emerged from their research was not of one of the great gold fields, but of a field that lasted less than ten years. In December 1862 the Loch Fyne Reef was discovered and in the following year the All Nations and Emerald reefs were discovered. These discoveries were poor, and share prices on the Nations reef collapsed in less than two years, and by the second half of 1865 the town was in decline. When Anthony Trollope visited the town in

1872 it was the 'most wretched place' he had ever seen and in December 1872 the town was destroyed by fire.

Using a wide range of sources the Baileys are able to paint a vivid picture of life in Matlock. For those who made it to this isolated field, life was harsh, especially during bitterly cold winters. And there were financial dangers. When the mines collapsed shareholders lost their investments, and miners were bad risk for local traders. In 1865 Rebecca and Henry Rosenberg had to seek the protection of the insolvency court when miners left in droves leaving unpaid bills.

In their attempts to reconstruct the history of this ill-fated mining community, the Baileys have assiduously mined the archives. However, a novel feature of their work is the use of archaeological evidence. Fire destroyed the town in 1872 and all buildings were destroyed. Much of what was saved was removed. Nonetheless the Baileys, with the aid of plans, have examined the footings of buildings and they have conducted digs in the local tips for remnants of the material culture of this community. No treasure was found but glassware, tableware and even old boots remain to give the reader contact with the diggers of Matlock. Finally there is a useful appendix which describes the current state of the track to Matlock and allows modern visitors to retrace the steps of those who took their chances at Matlock

*A Windy Morn* is a valuable addition to the literature of the Victorian goldfields and reminds the reader that not all gold communities were as grand or as rich as Ballarat or Bendigo.

*Charles Fahey*, La Trobe University, Bendigo.



Note: copies of the book are available from Mountain Home Press, 2 Baroona Court, Brighton, 3186, Vic, at \$30 (includes packing & postage). Cheques should be made out to R.A & AV Bailey.

MJD/March'99



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## Newsletter No. 2

June 1999

**Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, OA**

### **Issue 17**

#### **Editorial**

The fifth AMHA Hobart Conference will be the largest in terms of contributors and probably in terms of numbers attending the proceedings. What is revealing is the interest shown by Tasmanians, a situation that highlights the activities of the local committee of Greg Dickens, Glyn Roberts and Tony Webster who have gone out of their way to garner support. Their success indicates that we have hardly touched the surface with respect to memberships, despite publicity on the net, at conferences and in the columns of some historical and mining related newsletters and journals. From the Tasmanian experience, what is obvious is that it's the personal touch that really counts when it comes to recruitment. While we will continue to spread the word at the organisation level, can we therefore appeal for members to fly the flag of the Association whenever they contact people who show even the mildest interest in mining matters?

If you can also place information in local or State periodicals or publicise at local history meetings, then all the better for the future success of our organisation. Your efforts in this direction will be much appreciated.

**Note from the President- Pat Bertola**

Members will be pleased to know that the first issue of the journal is in the planning stages. We have a number of articles to use; most originally presented as papers at recent AMHA conferences. It is with a good deal of sadness that I note this to be so, for some were destined to be part of a set of proceedings that Michael Tracey set out to edit. However, Michael's continuing ill health means that this is not possible and the Committee has decided to publish those volunteered by the contributors. I will be contacting people regarding papers in the near future.

I am looking forward to catching up with members at the Hobart conference and to the trips that the organisers have planned. The number, diversity and apparent quality of papers being offered bodes well for the success of our fifth annual meeting. This trip across the Strait is my first and will come part way through a sabbatical. Leaving aside incidentals like adding to my research 'productivity', I plan to make the most of the trip to Tasmania as part of the leave that I've not had over the last couple of years and to see whether the idyllic retirement properties that regularly grace the pages of the *Australian* magazine really do exist.

### **Forthcoming Conferences**

*AMHA Conference, Hobart,*

*29 September - 1 October, 1999*

#### *Registration*

As we are piggybacking on the Australian Historical Association (they are arranging venues, supplying teas, etc.), all those attending the conference will be expected to register on the enclosed AHA Registration form. Note the registration cost for our members is \$100 (unwaged \$60). Day registrations are also listed on the form.

All those registering may participate in both the AHA and AMHA activities. Such activities include the AHA dinner at \$40 per person, scheduled for Thursday 30 September.

Please make cheques out to the Australian Historical Association (see separate instructions for the AMHA dinner and tour below. For these latter activities, cheques should be made out to the AMHA, and sent to me)

#### *Tours*

The Hobart sub-committee of Greg Dickens, Tony Webster and Glyn Roberts have been busy organising what look like two very exciting tours. However, because the period of the conference coincides with school holidays, it's absolutely vital that we have some firm bookings (and payment) before they can go ahead with ordering transport and accommodation. The group will be **restricted to 30** people — so rule is, *first in, first served!* **\$90 per person** will cover the cost of transport, evening meal and

accommodation for the night of the 27<sup>th</sup> September at the Beauty Point Motor Hotel, Beaconsfield. That price only applies if you are prepared to share a room with one or two others. We will try to accommodate couples but again, because of the limited number of double rooms, the 'first in' rule also applies here. Alternative accommodation can be arranged but at a higher cost.

As there is some urgency in the matter with respect to booking, the closing date will have to be the **9th July**. Please make out cheques for **\$90** to the **AMHA** and return to me (see slip p.7).

Details of the tour are as follows:

*DAY 1 Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September*

Depart Hobart University, 9.00 am.

Travel up Midland Highway (the Heritage Highway). Three hours travelling.

As well as commentaries by Greg Dickinson and Tony Webster, a strip map that identifies all of the important historic buildings and towns that lie along this original colonial coaching road will be supplied.

Visit the small village of Mangana, the earliest gold town in Tasmania.

Visit Sailors Gully and the remains of the Sovereign Mine, the earliest hard rock gold mine in Tasmania. This may involve a bit of a walk

Travel to Mathinna, a pretty little gold mining town with several surviving gold mining era buildings, and once the largest mining centre in the north-east.

Visit the site of the New Golden Gate and North Gate Gold mines, the second largest gold mine in the state, where extensive remains of the surface treatment plants, a battery site, open cut workings and water races remain.

Travel to Beaconsfield for evening accommodation

*DAY 2, Tuesday 28 September*

Visit the Beaconsfield Gold Mine (possible underground tour for a small group). This historic mine, formerly the richest and highest producing mine in Tasmania has been rejuvenated over the last 10 years and recently went back into production. It is located in the pretty town of Beaconsfield and we will tour some of the other workings and mining-related features of the field (the battery site, the convict limestone ovens and the mine water drainage race to the Tamar River which is still used).

Visit the Grubb Shaft Gold Museum, "one of the best small mining museums I have seen", says Tony Webster. There is a reconstructed water-wheel which drives a 6-head stamp battery salvaged

from an abandoned tin mine on the Blue Tier. This once served as a gold battery.

If time permits, we may try and visit the remains of the former (unsuccessful) iron works that once produced metal from local iron ores.

Evening 28<sup>th</sup> September - return to Hobart.

### *Post-conference, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October*

There is also a day trip to the Saltwater River convict coal-mines site for those prepared to stay an extra day. It's an interesting site and well worth visiting. This will be run if enough people show interest (say a mini bus full). Cost should be very reasonable. A barbecue will probably be organised. Booking for this tour will be taken at the conference.

### **Conference Dinner**

This will take place at the 'Shipwright's Arms Hotel,' Battery Point, Hobart, on the evening of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October. *A la carte* if you wish, but there is a set menu offering 8 entrees, 11 main courses and 7 desserts, for \$24 (payable on the night — don't send a cheque). As we will have to provide numbers then **please confirm** by **9th July** if you intend to join us (see slip page 7).

### *Presentations*

We have received an excellent response to our call for papers, and the conference is shaping up as our biggest function to date. The following is a list of presenters and topics. Abstracts and details of the programme will appear in the next newsletter.

Carol Bacon - *Mining of Oil Shale Northern Tasmania.*

Peter Bell — *The Chinese on Australia's mining fields: problems in the documentary and physical evidence.*

Patrick Bertola — *Kalgoorlie's mines in the 1920s.*

Ralph Birrell - *Claims and Leases in the Bendigo Mining District — the First Twenty years.*

Ron Bugg - *Protecting Mining Heritage: The*

*Gipps Creek Mineral Field.*

Christopher Carter - *Where Old and New*

*Worlds Collide.*

Betty Cosgrove - 'The Captain' — *Company man or pragmatic manipulator?* G. A. Richard at the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company Limited.

Greg Dickens - *A Hundred Years of Mining in Tasmania.*

Charlie Fox - *'God help us poor Victorians'. Mt Lyell's Crisis of 1921-2.*

Denise Gaughwin - *Managing Historic Mining Sites in Tasmania's Wood production Forests.*

Richard G. Hartley - *Filter Presses and Vacuum Filters in Kalgoorlie's rise to World leadership in Gold Metallurgy 1901 — 1908.*

Nic Haygarth - *The Life and Times of James 'Philosopher' Smith up until 1876.*

Adrian Hutton and Leonie Knapman - *Problems Associated with the Mining of Kerosene Shale at Glen Davis.*

Greg Jackman - *90 years at the Marie Louise: Cycles of Tin Scratching and Head Scratching on Blue Tier.*

Roger Kellaway - *Oil Shale at the Mersey: The West Bank 1924-1934.*

Ruth Kerr - *Ruffashell Street and the Tin Battery at Rocky Bluffs on the Stannary Hills Tramway, 1902.*

Barry McGowan - *The Chinese on the goldfields — a case study in stereotypes and historical neglect.*

John Miedecke - *Heritage issues associated with the re-opening of the Historic Beaconsfield Gold Mine.*

Jan Penney, *The Australasian Number 2 Mining Disaster: Can we do it nightly?*

Lou Rae - *Abt Railway: Its role in the development of the Mt Lyell Mining Field.*

Glyn Roberts - *Professionals and the Tasmanian Government in the Early Development of the Metal Mining Industry.*

Peter Ryle - *Elusive Black Gold: The Search for Coal in The Cooktown Area.*

Satchico Sone - *Songs, Work and Identity: Voices from Japanese Coal Mining Women.*

Steve Sorrell - *Mt Bischoff — Mountain of Tin.*

Ian Terry - *Bricks and Mortar: Convict Quarrying on Maria Island.*

James Verrier - *Development and Decline of a Mining Town: Balfour, 1906-21.*

David White - *Prelude to black coal mining by the State in Victoria.*

Lindsay Whitham - *The Railways and Tramways of Zeehan.*

## **5<sup>th</sup> International Mining History Congress — Milos, Greece,**

Pre-registration forms are now available for the 5<sup>th</sup> International Mining History Congress This will be held on the island of Milos, Greece, between 13—17 September, 2000, truly an exotic setting for this major mining history event. However, it might be of interest to note that the island is not only renowned for its famous statue which was discovered there in 1820. It also has an interesting mining heritage that dates back to the Neolithic period when the trade of Obsidian, used for the construction of tools and weapons, played a significant role in the development of the island. Being part of the Aegean volcanic arch, it represents a vast, open air geological and volcanological museum with a mining heritage and civilization which is considered to be as ancient as that of Crete. It continues as an important mining centre today.

Details can be found on the net at

<http://heliotopos.net/conf/imhc/progr.htm>

Upon access, hit 'conferences' and then 'upcoming event'. You can pre-register by using the web to return personal information. However, as many of our members don't have web access, find enclosed a copy of the form that can be sent off by ordinary mail. Pre-registration means that you will be sent further information. You should respond by 30 November 1999. The Second announcement will include registration details, accommodation package, as well as information on the pre and post congress tours, etc.

### *Call for Papers*

If you wish to present a paper at the Congress you should submit an abstract of the proposed paper to the Congress Secretariat (see below) by 31 January 2000. Abstracts should be typed, single spaced, and prepared in A4 (210x297mm) format. Please provide full name and address including telephone, fax, and e-mail of the person to whom all correspondence should be addressed. All abstracts will be reviewed, and authors will be notified about acceptance of their paper on or before 15 March 2000.

### *Topics*

Mining in Greece

The Greek Impact on Mining in the World

Archaeology of Mining Sites

Preservation of Mining Structures, Sites, and Areas

Mining in Ancient Times

Mining Practices

Ore Reduction

Corporate and Financial Developments

Mining Towns and Communities

Workers, Unions, and Unionisation

History of Technology, Geology, and Mining Engineering

History of Mining Law

Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurship

Mining Education

Mining Landscapes and Architecture

Health and Safety

Transportation

Gender in Mining

Environmental Issues

Unless using the net, send pre-registration and abstracts to:

Heliotopos Professional Congress Organisers

Terpsihoris 38, 175 62 Paleo Faliro, Athens, Greece Tel +30 1 9884004, Fax +30 1 9883059, E-mail: helio@hol.gr

As yours truly is a member of the programme and the organizing committee, then feel free to contact me if you require further information.

*National Association of Mining History Associations (UK)*

As mentioned previously, the Carn Brea Society and Camborne School of Mines will be organising a conference on behalf of NAMHO at Truro, Cornwall between 14-18 July 2000. The theme of the conference will be "Acquire, Record & Display".



The organisers are now calling for speakers and papers. If you are going to attend the proceedings and would like to appear as an overseas speaker either let me know, or directly contact Andy Wetherelt on e mail:

awethere@csm.ex.ac.uk

You can also obtain information from Tony Brooks, Polstrong Cottage, Polstrong, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 0QA

e.mail: NAMHO@csm.ex.ac.uk

## **Regional News**

### *Queensland*

Ruth Kerr reports:

**Chillagoe Smelters** is the focus of attention by Chillagoe residents, led by Mary Bolam, advocating its restoration. They are seeking a Centenary of Federation Fund grant. The *Cairns Post* in its editorial of 25 February 1999 supported their efforts and highlighted the prime candidacy of the remains of the smelters including three chimneys for restoration by Government. The smelters were opened in 1901 as a major inland industrial development of North Queensland by Broken Hill and Melbourne capital. The copper field had been discovered in 1887, promoted by John Moffat of Irvinebank in 1892 and 1896; the *Mareeba to Chillagoe Railway Act* was passed in 1897 and construction of the railway and smelters commenced in 1898. The smelters closed in 1914, and re-opened after they were taken over by the Queensland Government as a State Enterprise in 1919. The smelters were never profitable as there was insufficient local ore. They closed briefly in 1926 amid controversy over operations. It was the centre of a Royal Commission and civil court case involving former Queensland Premier, and Federal Treasurer, Ted Theodore, and Premier, Speaker and former Cabinet Minister, William McCormack, in 1930 and 1931. Chillagoe smelters closed in 1943 after Mount Isa Mines Ltd was instructed in 1942 by Australia's wartime Controller of Mineral Production in Canberra to commence copper smelting. The moveable equipment and tools were sold at auction in 1949. (*Cairns Post*, 25 February 1999, pp. 7, 8)

(The Department of Environment and Heritage received \$100,000 of the Keating Government's "One Nation" Funding Program and partly repaired one of the smaller chimneys in 1992.)

**Chillagoe** residents continue to be concerned about the future and preservation of the Chillagoe smelters.

the Mareeba Shire Council has informed the *Cairns Post* that the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Hon Rod Welford MLA, has ordered that regulatory signs of warning of the unsound condition of the ruins and toxic contaminants be erected at the

smelters. The *Cairns Post* reported that, "Mr Welford said that there were other significant places within the shire which could benefit from an application of scarce conservation resources." Mr Welford was reported as communicating to the Mareeba Shire Council: "I recommend that council consider applying for funds to undertake cultural heritage management projects in relation to these other places." Mareeba Shire Council has decided to meet with the Environment protection Agency in Cairns to discuss strategies for Chillagoe and Mount Mulligan and a possible application for Federation funding. (*Cairns Post*, 3 April 1999, p. 11)

## **Publications**

### Book Launch

G. K. Bolton and Ruth S. Kerr, *Chillagoe: a town with a sense of adventure* (G. K. Bolton, Cairns, 1998).

Atherton's newspaper, *The Tablelander* reported that sixty people gathered at the Black Cockatoo Hotel in Chillagoe on 28th November, for the launch by Cr Fred Cantarossi of Mareeba Shire Council, of the above book by Bolton and our Queensland member, Ruth Kerr. Representatives of Eacham Historical Society also attended the launch, along with Chillagoe miners and National Parks staff. The evening launch was rounded off with a barbecue.

The new 36 page book is spectacularly illustrated with colour photos of aerial shots of Chillagoe town and smelter site, the lime bluffs, the marble mining, the town's shops, residences and hotels, the museum caving, cattle and the railway.

*Chillagoe: a town with a sense of adventure* is a co-operative result of the skills of Bob Bolton in photography, design and enterprise, and of Ruth's historical research and writing. The new book incorporates Ruth's *Chillagoe: copper, cattle and caves: an historical guide*, that ran for two editions and which included many historical photos of Chillagoe, O.K., Almaden, Mungana and Cardross. A selection of these photos complements the modern colour presentations. Both the present and past photos of Chillagoe smelters site provide an evidentiary record of the mining heritage that the Chillagoe people seek to preserve as a national cultural heritage site and a focus for tourism in the Mareeba Shire.

Two maps in the book set Chillagoe in its regional context, and the centrepiece vividly captures the essence of the Chillagoe lime bluffs as an ancient coral reef comparable to the Great Barrier Reef and the Napier Range in the Kimberley in north-west Australia.

The history of the railway to Chillagoe is featured on pages 15 and 18 and includes a poem, "The Navvy's Rallying Cry to his Comrades", published in Herberton's *Wild River Times* newspaper during the construction of the line in 1898. Services on the line from

Almaden to Chillagoe were suspended on 31 December 1992 and the sad photo of the Chillagoe railway station in the book illustrates the urgency of its preservation.

Ruth travelled to Chillagoe for the weekend specially for the book launch and spoke at the function about the area's history. Bob Bolton, whose Bolton's Printers in Cairns has printed so much northern history and promoted the North's tourism and development potential, spoke of his aim to popularise and promote Chillagoe. He saw it as a focus for tourists seeking outback experiences, cave visits, exploration and visits to mining heritage sites.

The book sells for \$15 at Chillagoe outlets - Sue Colman's Arts & Crafts, Evans's Museum, the Chillagoe Tourist Village, the General Store, and the Chillagoe Caves Lodge. It is also available at Tableland bookstores, and the Cairns Museum and Walker's Bookstore.

*Chillagoe: a town with a sense of adventure* will certainly add a new dimension to Savanalander train travellers' visits to Almaden and Chillagoe. It is also a significant contribution to the promotion of Mareeba Shire's eco-tourism experiences.

### New Books

Kerrin Cook and Daniel Garvey, *The Glint of Gold, A History and Tourist Guide of the Gold Fields of the Central West of NSW*, 1999. 464 pages; 500 black & white, 400 colour photographs.

Available in July/August, *The Glint of Gold* contains a history of all the large and small goldmining towns/villages in the Lachlan Fault of the Central West of NSW. One chapter is devoted to the Hargrave myth of the discovery of gold in New South Wales

There is a limited hard book edition (1,000 copies) available at \$55, and a soft cover edition for \$39.95. Payment by cash or cheque, to:

Genlin Investments, c/- Kerrin Cook, 22 Kumali Circuit, Orange, NSW 2800.

Tel. 02-6362 9190

### *New & for Review*

The following three books have been received and will hopefully be reviewed for the next edition of the Newsletter:

Glyn Roberts, *The Role of Government in the development of the Tasmanian Metal Mining Industry: 1803-1883* (Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, University of Tasmania, 1999),

viii + 139 pgs, photographs, maps. ISBN 0-85901-829-6.

Price \$25. The book can be obtained from, Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, School of History and Classics, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252 - 81, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001. Please add \$2 for postage in Tasmania, or \$3 for postage beyond Tasmania.

Raymond E. Dumett, *El Dorado in West Africa. The Gold-Mining frontier, African Labor, and Colonial Capitalism in the Gold Coast, 1875-1900* (Ohio University Press, 1998).

xvi +396 pgs., photographs, maps. ISBN 0-85255-769-8 (Cl), 0-85255-768-X (pbk).

Raymond E. Dumett (ed.), *Gentlemanly Capitalism and British Imperialism*.

*The New debate on Empire* (Longman, London/New York, 1999), xi + 234 pgs. ISBN 0-582-327822 (pbk), 0-582-327814 (CSD).

### **Contributions Invited:**

*ASHA — 'Common Wealth' Book*

The Australian Society of Historical Archaeology has been awarded a grant of \$27,600 from Australia's National Council for the Centenary of Federation. The purpose of the 'Common Wealth' Book, to be launched by December 2000, is to serve as a source book on Australia's material culture. It will examine its diversity and distinctiveness in both private and public contexts. The award of the grant is principally to pay for the publication.

Members are called upon to contribute images of mining *circa* 1901 with an expansive text (no more than 1,000 words). Contact: Aedeon Cremin, Archaeology A14, University of Sydney NSW 2006; Fax: (02) 9351 3639; email: <aedeon.cremin@history.usyd.edu.au>

### **Information Wanted**

*Mining History Bibliography*

I am currently extending the *Mining History Bibliography* that was published in 1997, and adding new sections on New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. I would appreciate any reference information, especially for very recent publications, or on any aspects of mining history and mining history heritage that you might think I will miss on the national library lists. These would include local history publications, theses and dissertations, published papers, etc. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated.

## *Mining Disasters*

Peter Bell is looking into the subject of mine safety, and having drawn up a list of 'Major' accidents in Australia and New Zealand, he wishes to know whether this list is definitive? A 'major' accident is defined as an accident which resulted in six or more deaths (that magic number is chosen simply because if you take the casualties down to five, the number of cases abruptly blows out to a much larger number).

If you know of other major mine accidents that can be added to the list, please contact Peter at the following address:

Dr Peter Bell, Historical Research Pty Ltd., PO Box 3044, Rundle Mall, Adelaide, SA 5000.

Phone/fax: 08-83382460: mobile 0407 793 652. E.mail: [pbell@mail.adelaide.on.net](mailto:pbell@mail.adelaide.on.net)

### Mine Date Type Dead

Creswick Vic 12Dec1882 F 22

Bulli NSW 23Mar1887 Expl 81

Hamilton NSW 22Jun1889 Roof f 11

Eclipse Qld 04Feb1893 Flood 07

South Broken Hill NSW 18Jul1895 Roof f 09

Brunner NZ 26Mar1896 Expl 65

Stockton NSW 06Dec1896 Gas 11

Dudley NSW 21Mar1898 Expl 15

Mt Kembla NSW 31Jul1902 Expl 96

Brilliant Qld 14Oct1904 Fire 07

Stanford Merthyr NSW 29Oct1905 Expl 06

North Lyell Tas 12Oct1912 Fire 42

Mt Mulligan Qld 19Sep1901 Expl 76

Golden Horseshoe WA 06Dec1921 Cage f 06

Bellbird NSW 01Sep1923 Gas 21

Wonthaggi Vic 15Feb1937 Expl 13

Collinsville Qld 13Oct1934 Gas 07

Box Flat Qld 31Jul1972 Expl 17

Kianga Qld 20Sep1975 Expl 13

Appin NSW 24Jul1979 Expl 14

Moura No. 4 Qld 16Jul1986 Expl 12

Moura No. 2 Qld 07Aug1994 Expl 11

Key: Expl = Explosion; Roof f = Roof fall.

Cage f = Cage fall.

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**AMHA CONFERENCE TOUR 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Please book ..... places on the tour @ \$90 each

Total enclosed \$...... (make out cheques to AMHA)

Please book ..... places for the AMHA Dinner at the 'Shipwright's Arms Hotel,' Battery Point, Hobart, on the evening of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October.



All correspondence to: Mel Davies

Department of Economics

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Nedlands 6907, W. Australia

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Fax (08) 93801016

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# Newsletter No. 3

## September 1999

**Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AO**

### **Issue 18**

#### **Editorial**

The fifth AMHA Hobart Conference promises to be the most exciting to date. There are 28 papers on offer and a selection that should meet all appetites. The 'warm-up' that involves a two-day tour should set the mood and the dinner at the Shipwright's Arms on the final night should round off affairs in convivial fashion. Hopefully, the proceedings will stimulate further interest in the AMHA among visiting historians and especially from historians in the host state. Hope you can make it, and we look forward to meeting some old friends and new faces at the Sandy Bay venue

#### **Honour Award**

I'm sure that all members will join the committee in congratulating Dr. Ruth Kerr for being selected into the Australian Honours list that was announced in June. Ruth has been a leading figure in Australian community history and in particular, is well known for her publications on Australian mining history and the history of Queensland. She was

awarded an Order of Australia Medal for 'service to the preservation of Australian history and the community'. Ruth has also been a passionate and stalwart supporter of the

AHMA since its formation and we are thus doubly delighted that she has been so honoured.

### **Misnumbered Newsletter**

Some of the more observant might have noticed that the June newsletter was labelled No. 1, 1999. It should have been number 2. This notice is to allay the fears of those who might believe that they've been short-changed by missing an edition.

### **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will be held in Room 206, at the Sandy Bay Campus, University of Tasmania, Hobart, between 3.30pm and 5.30pm, Friday **1st October**. Any substantive **general motions** or **motions to alter the constitution** should be sent to reach me by **11th September**. Please note that the attached Agenda will become the official agenda if no motions are received by that date.

Anyone not attending the meeting but wishing to **nominate or re-nominate** for a position on the committee, should forward their interest to me by that date.

### **New Books**

i) Recently received was a copy of *Bendigo the German Connection*, edited by member and well known author, Frank Cusack. As the name suggests, this is the story of the German settlers in that goldfields town and their contribution to mining and other economic and social contributions in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As well as chapters specifically on mining by the editor and Ralph Birrell, the text contains an invaluable section providing bibliographical details of the German community. I shan't say anymore as that will mean stealing the thunder of the reviewer who has been asked to report back for a future edition of the newsletter.

Frank Cusack (ed.), *Bendigo the German Chapter*, The German Heritage Society, Bendigo, 1998, pp. 275 + iv, photographs, illustrations,

ISBN 0 646 33773 4

Price: \$49.50 plus \$5.50 postage, from The German Heritage Society, Bendigo, PO Box 44, Kangaroo Flat, Vic. 3555



ii) A book that will appeal to geologists, mining engineers, prospectors, historians and cartographers is *The Classic Robert Logan Jack Map Collection*. A limited edition and high quality production, this promises to become a collector's item. The author, Inspector of Mines at Charters Towers, Ross Thomas, has produced a limited edition, leather bound A3 sized book that will be individually numbered. It boasts 24 carat gold lettering with a novel magnification lens bookmark complete with a gold tassel.

For the information of readers, Robert Logan Jack was arguably Queensland's most famous Geologist who laboured for over 22 years from 1876 to 1899, producing geological reports for the colony. The maps and text detail not only geological and mining information, but historical data on Cobb and Co. routes, old camp sites, hotels, Chinese market gardens and much more. Some of the maps in the book have never before been published. Also provided is

a description of each map, historical detail and photographs of the man and his family.

The author states that Jack's tombstone lies shattered in Waverley Cemetery in Sydney and that he is hopeful the publication will raise an awareness of the importance of the man that might prompt some corrective action.

Publication details:

Ross Thomas, *The Classic Robert Logan Jack Map Collection*, 1999. Copies at \$240 (includes postage) are available from North Queensland Mining Museums Pty. Ltd., 2 High Street, Charters Towers, Qld 4820.

Alternatively, order direct via the web at:

[www.users.bigpond.com/pasi/rljbook](http://www.users.bigpond.com/pasi/rljbook)

### **A pat-on-the back**

Following the appeal for information on mine disasters contained in the last newsletter, Peter Bell was extremely gratified with the response. Not only did the replies provide him with details of seven accidents of which he had been previously unaware but also the respondents were able to contribute further detail and useful methodological comment. As Peter states, 'Clearly the collective information in the possession of AMHA members is an awesome research resource, and their willingness to help is most impressive.' So a

pat on the back to the membership, and a reminder that these columns are open for any requests for help on any issue.

### **Secretary's Absence**

Yours truly will be delving in various archives in the UK from 2 October to 20<sup>th</sup> November. During my absence, please address any urgent enquiries to our President Pat Bertola. He can be found at:

School of Social Sciences & Asian Languages, Curtin University, GPO Box U1987, Perth, WA 6845. Tel. 08-92667395

e.mail: Bertolap@spectrum.curtin.edu.au

### **Hobart Conference Timetable**

#### *Wednesday 29 September*

8.30 - 9.30am — Registration, Room 211.

9.30 - 10.00am — Opening address by Dr Neal Blewett. Arts lecture Theatre.

All Mining History Sessions in Room 206

Session 1 (11.15 — 12.45). Chair: TBA

Greg Dickens - *A Hundred Years of Mining in Tasmania*.

James Verrier — *Development and decline of a mining town: Balfour 1906-21*.

Session 2 (1.45 — 3.15). Chair: Patrick Bertola

Glyn Roberts — *Professionals and the Tasmanian Government in the early development of the metal mining industry*.

Nic Haygarth - *The Life and Times of James 'Philosopher' Smith up until 1876*.

Steve Sorrell — *Mt Biscoff — mountain of tin*.

Session 3 (3.30 — 5.00). Chair: Mel Davies

Sachiko Sone — *Japanese coal mining — social life and relationships on the Chikuho coalfield from the late nineteenth century to recent times*.

Christopher Carter — *Where old and new worlds collide (pictorial)*.

*Thursday 30 September*

Session 1 (9.30 — 11.00). Chair: Greg Dickens

Ralph Birrell — *Claims and leases in the Bendigo Mining District — the first twenty years.*

David White — *Prelude to the black coal mining by the State in Victoria*

Jan Penney — *The Australian Number 2 Mining Disaster: can we do it nightly?*

Session 2 (11.15—12.45). Chair: Tony Webster

Peter Bell — *The Chinese on Australia's mining fields: some historical and archaeological problems.*

Geoff Hansen — *The Chinese on the Cape River Gold Field, North Queensland.*

Barry McGowan — *The Chinese on the goldfields — a case study in stereotypes and historical neglect.*

Session 3 (1.45 — 3.15). Chair: Glyn Roberts

Patrick Bertola — *Kalgoorlie's mines in the 1920s.*

Betty Cosgrove — *'The Captain' — company man or pragmatic manipulator? G. A. Richard at the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company Limited.*

Greg Jackman — *90 years at the Marie Louise: cycles of tin scratching on Blue Tier.*

Session 4 (4.45 — 5.15). Chair: Ruth Kerr

Richard G. Hartley — *Filter presses and vacuum filters in Kalgoorlie's rise to world leadership in gold metallurgy 1901 — 1908.*

Adrian Hutton & Leonie Knapman - *Problems associated with the mining of kerosene.*

Roger Kellaway - *Oil shale at the Mersey: the West Bank 1924- 1934.*

7.00 for 7.30 — Australian Historical Association Conference Dinner — Hadley's Restaurant.

*Friday 1 October*

Session 1 (9.30 — 11.00). Chair: Chris Carter

*Battery at Rocky Bluffs on the Stannary Hills Tramway, 1902.*

Lindsay Witham — *The railways and tramways of Zeehan.*

Lou Rae — *Abt Railway: Its role in the development of the Mt Lyell Mining Field (Pictorial)*.

Session 2(11.15—12.45).Chair:Barry McGowan

Carol Bacon — *Convict coalmines at Salt Water River, Tasmania*.

Peter Ryle — *Elusive black gold: the search for coal in the Cooktown area*.

Ian Terry — *Bricks and mortar: convict quarrying on Maria Island*.

Session 3 (1.45 — 3.15). Chair: Peter Bell

Ron Bugg — *Protecting mining heritage — the Gipps Creek Mineral Field*

Denise Gaughwin — *Managing historic mining sites in Tasmania's wood productron forests*.

John Miedecke — *Heritage issues associated with the re-opening of the historic Beaconsfield Gold Mine*.

Ruth Kerr — *Ruffashell Street and the Tin*

3.30—5.30

AMHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.00 for 7.30 —

AMHA CONFERENCE DINNER— Shipwright's Arms Hotel

### **Hobart Conference Abstracts**

As anyone looking at these columns will realise, the conference promises a very tempting menu in the mining field. No doubt, some of the offerings will later be presented as articles in the new AMHA journal.

#### **Carol Bacon**

*Convict Coalmines at Salt Water River, Tasmania*.

Abstract to be forwarded.

#### **Peter Bell**

*The Chinese on Australia's Mining Fields: some Historical and Archaeological Problems*

While it is probably no longer necessary to describe the history of the Chinese in Australia as "a neglected topic", there is still a lot that we do not understand. This paper points out of the poorly-understood areas in our knowledge of the Chinese on Australia's mining fields: the varying means of immigration and supply infrastructure, giving rise to diverse social organisation and material culture among the Chinese in Australia; the effects of European discriminatory measures on Chinese communities; the nature of internal Chinese migration between Australian mining fields, and the role of violence between Europeans and

Chinese, both in folklore and reality. The paper also considers some parallel puzzles in the archaeological evidence.

The net effect of these problems suggests that the degree of diversity among Chinese communities in Australia was so great that it is not very useful to think of "The Chinese" as a single group. To do this invites superficial generalisation at best, and racist stereotyping at worst. Historians seeking to make sense of topics involving the Chinese on Australian mining fields in future will need to do more work on who they were, where they came from, and why they were there.

## **Patrick Bertola**

### *Kalgoorlie's mines in the 1920s*

In the 1920s many gold mining companies in Kalgoorlie, and indeed worldwide, faced serious threats to their survival. While the increases in costs they had experienced during and after the war had to some extent been offset by the premiums on the standard price of gold, those premiums declined markedly from the early 1920s and, in effect, were negligible from 1923. On the one hand, profits fell sharply, and on the other, companies could not finance the new developments they had curtailed during the war and that now were critical for their survival. This paper examines the responses of mining companies to the developing crisis. It identifies four main categories of action: direct attacks on the wages and conditions of labour; attempts to modify the arrangements under which mining was carried out; re-structuring of companies; and attempts to elicit state support for the industry. It suggests that labour suffered a major reversal in terms of the numbers employed and its social relations with employers, and that these were critical conditions for companies to proceed with new developments. Further, it proposes that the most successful companies at the end of the decade were those who were also able to marshal new capital and, to a lesser extent, to establish a positive relationship with the state in regards to its proposals for re-structuring the industry in Kalgoorlie.

## **Ralph Birrell**

### *Claims and Leases in the Bendigo Mining District — the First Twenty years*

Early Victorian governments took years to develop a consistent policy on the issue of mining claims and mining leases for goldfields. Pastoralists, businessmen, miners and mining companies alternately exerted their influence. At the time of the initial discovery of gold in mid 1851, the government followed the policy adopted by the government of New South Wales. However, in subsequent regulations it endeavoured to implement the policy of the local pastoralists so as to force the miners to return to their previous employment. When the contribution of gold to colonial development was realised the local businessmen pressured the government to encourage mining but the pastoralists prevented any reduction of the licence fee for a mining claim.

Whereas English mining companies influenced the early regulations on leases, the miners frustrated these regulations by pegging claims on the areas advertised for leasing. After Eureka, the miners effectively gained control of the regulations for claims and indirect control of the size of leases, though by 1859, the government had regained total control of leases. Regulations under the Mining Statute of 1865, brought relative stability.

This paper discusses changes to the regulations between 1851 and 1873, and in the process will analyse statistics associated with claim applications, forfeitures, amalgamation of leases, and the effect of quartz mining and changing economic conditions upon the changing scenario.

## **Ron Bugg**

## *Protecting Mining Heritage — The Gipps Creek Mineral Field*

The Fingal Valley - Ben Lomond area of Tasmania has a rich mining heritage for both metallic minerals and coal. Coal was known to exist in the area from the early 1840s, while gold, which has been mined intermittently ever since, was discovered at Lord's Nook (later Mangana) in February 1852. Tin and tungsten were discovered on the southern flanks of the Ben Lomond Plateau in the early 1870s.

Several mines in the Gipps Creek area were worked from 1872, many of them using a separation plant at the Great Republic Mine. While all the mines had closed by had ceased to operate by the turn of the century, one or two reopened for short periods in the early 1900s and during the Second World War.

Small dormitory towns, connected by a network of bush tracks and small gauge bush railways grew up along with the mines. The townships have long since disappeared but a heritage of artefacts and foundation 'drawn' plans are evident in the reclaimed bush. Ready access by the public and proximity to forestry operations today pose a potential threat to the integrity of the sites. As the sites lay near an education camp at the old mine site of Storeys Creek, they have the potential to become a rich educational source for visiting school groups. The camp already contains a historic photographic and artefact display of the area and has the potential to supplement activities carried out at the mine and the dormitory town sites. Safety on the sites is, however, a concern and Mineral Sources Tasmania has co-operated to bring up the safety standards thus making them suitable for use by large groups. The paper briefly discusses the mining and associated social history of the area, the work that Mineral Resources Tasmania are carrying out to make the area safe for public use, and how the area may be used as an educational resource.

### **Christopher Carter**

#### *Where Old and New Worlds Collide.*

Potosi, Bolivia, was the world's richest silver mine during the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. While the early miners simply gathered rich silver ore from the surface and exposed veins, production increased from about 1575 following the introduction of Old World technology utilising water power and mercury amalgamation. The success of both extraction and processing resulted in Potosi becoming the largest city in the New World by 1620. Potosi's history is well recorded and there are numerous publications detailing its wealth, development and systems of enforced labour. The archaeological evidence demonstrating the adaptation of known technologies to suit the site, particularly in the early years, has been less well studied.

This paper seeks to highlight the importance of the utilisation of technologies developed in Europe and their implementation in foreign and often hostile environments. It also highlights the cultural and industrial heritage of Potosi and how such aspects of mining history require management practices to ensure their protection and conservation for the future.

### **Betty Cosgrove**

#### *'The Captain' — Company man or pragmatic manipulator? G. A. Richard at the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company Limited.*

The Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company management paradigm was not unusual in its concept for the progress of a large enterprise. The resident general manager was the authority in a hierarchical system that encompassed section managers, shift bosses and every section of the mine and Works. In the role of 'company man' the general manager had also to honour responsibility to Board and shareholders. This paper will focus on the space and place of metallurgist G. A. Richard, during his term (1904-1912) as the fourth of six general managers of the mine, which closed in 1927.

Richard's term was paradoxical, for in many aspects of administration he was agent, yet in others, victim. His experience encompassed the rise to highest office and fall from company favour, the latter in an era of failing economy and emergent industrial conflict at the mine. The paper explores his pragmatic use of authority at management level and also as it impacted on the workers. A sometimes visionary for the industry, Richard dealt with the challenges of production, marketing, and labour that embraced the wider sphere of the union movement. However, to his detriment, he was not privy to the inner politics of a profit directed Board. In collapsing time to attempt an interpretation of the era and the man behind the Richard persona, the paper begs questions of perceived character flaw and the ultimate vulnerability of power.

## **Greg Dickens**

### *A Hundred Years of Mining in Tasmania*

Mining in Tasmania has a long and varied history. The Tasmanian aborigines were the first to become involved, mining flints, salt and ochre on a small scale. However, it was the result of the 1851 gold rush in Victoria that stimulated an interest in local mineral exploration. The first payable gold was found at Mangana in the northeast in 1852 and this was soon followed by the discovery of hundreds of small to medium sized alluvial and lode gold deposits in the surrounding areas.

The most important mineral discovery occurred in 1871, when a large tin deposit was located at Mt. Bischoff. This led to the progressive discovery of the other major West Coast mineral fields at Corinna, Heemskirk, Zeehan, Dundas, Lyell, Rosebery and Farrell. Since 1903, there have been few significant mineral discoveries, with the exception of King Island, Rossarden, Cleveland, Savage River, Que River, Hellyer and more recently, the Henty Gold Mine.

With an estimated 4,000 mines and prospects, it indicates that Tasmania is highly mineralised for its size, and with some of the above-mentioned producers it has mines of world class in terms of grade and production. The intention of this paper is to provide a brief history of the major mining developments in Tasmania during the first hundred years of European settlement.

## **Denise Gaughwin**

### *Managing Historic Mining Sites in Tasmania's Wood production Forests*

The long-term management of mining heritage presents a number of challenges in wood production forests. The nature of much of the historic mining means that large areas of the landscape contain workings and processing areas. These have been abandoned long enough to have mature forests covering the sites. As the forest industry moves from harvesting native forest and regeneration to clear fall and plantation development, the number of competing interests for the land increases. Water races present another land management difficulty as they may criss-cross many harvesting coupes.

This paper will outline the problems in managing these competing interests and the methods employed to ensure effective management of significant sites for the future. Management options include generating as full an inventory as possible, field recording of sites, assessing the significance, and developing management options. The principles of the Burra Charter are embodied in the Forest Practice Code and

guide the management of these sites. On-site management is promoted as a first option, with avoidance of sites normally recommended. Removal of component sites is only recommended as a last resort.

## **Geoff Hansen**

### *The Chinese on the Cape River Gold Field, North Queensland*

Tense race relations between Chinese and Europeans feature largely in the historiography on north Queensland's nineteenth century gold fields. Although varying in degrees of moderation, the relevant works provide a single message - the tensions were the result of white racism. Research on the Cape River gold field (north Queensland's first viable field discovered in 1867) revealed that there was another side to Chinese-European relations on the Cape. Predictably, there were records of some clashes between Chinese and European diggers. However, the research also revealed that harmonious relationships existed in various

ways. The evidence signals another side to Chinese-European relations on north Queensland's gold fields. While not denying the importance of racism on these fields, this new evidence may help contribute to a more balanced presentation of Chinese-European relations.

## **Richard G. Hartley**

Filter Presses and Vacuum Filters in Kalgoorlie's rise to World leadership in Gold Metallurgy 1901 - 1908  
The 1900s were years of remarkable creativity and innovation in Kalgoorlie gold metallurgy. New types of equipment for processing the telluride-containing sulphide ores were introduced in rapid succession and competition for cost reductions led to process costs being reduced by a factor of three between 1901 and 1905.

Kalgoorlie's most important contribution to gold metallurgy was not so much the introduction and refinement of new equipment such as the filter press and the tube mill, but rather the development of a new approach to ore treatment. In this sphere, all ore was processed as slimes in what was initially called the 'Australian all-sliming process'. Essential to success was the use of equipment that was capable of holding cyanided slimes while gold was removed from them in solution. The Kalgoorlie filter press was rapidly adopted for this purpose on many goldfields around the world, except in the USA where the type of equipment most favoured was the vacuum filter.

This paper looks at the competitive international development of the two filtering systems and, in particular, at the Ridgway vacuum filter, the first fully automatic continuous-flow vacuum filter in the world. This system replaced filter presses at Kalgoorlie's leading mine, the Great Boulder, in 1906. The history of the rapid international adoption of the Ridgway filter and its equally rapid fall from favour offer some interesting insights into the international nature of mining between 1900 and 1915. It also highlights the disadvantages faced by Australian inventors trying to market new technologies, especially those that were technically far in advance of others in general use.

## **Nic Haygarth**

### *The Life and Times of James 'Philosopher' Smith up until 1876*

As discoverer of tin at Mt Bischoff, James 'Philosopher' Smith is probably the most important figure in the history of mining in Tasmania. Mt Bischoff was not only an enormous economic boost to the colony, but provided the impetus to exploration which resulted in the discovery of the rich western mining province, including tin at Renison Bell, and the Zeehan silver-lead field, Mt Lyell.



Smith is not as well known as his discoveries. Earnest, scrupulous and scholarly, he is regarded almost as a saint in Tasmania. This paper provides a careful insight into his character and speculates as to how it developed. Focus will concentrate on the most active part of Smith's life up until his resignation as a director of the Mt Bischoff Tin Mining Company in 1876. By this time he had married, settled down and given up long prospecting tours. Regarded as the elder statesman of mining in Tasmania, prospectors found in him a model of industry and perseverance. One of his proteges was George Renison Bell.

As well as painting a picture of Smith's life and his influence over Tasmanian mining, the paper also discusses his early mining career and experiences in the bush. Particular reference will be made to his geological activities on the learning grounds of the Penguin-Dial Range and Forth River-Middlesex areas

### **Adrian Hutton and Leonie Knapman**

#### *Problems Associated with the Mining of Kerosene Shale at Glen Davis*

Although the mining of kerosene shale (torbanite) took place near Glen Davis, New South Wales, during the latter part of the 1800s, it was not a major part of Australia's kerosene shale mining history until World War II when the venture came into existence because of an act of the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

Kerosene shale mining at Glen Davis is closely linked with that at Newnes. Built in 1905, Newnes was the hub of the Australian oil industry from then until the 1920s. Retorting started there in June 1911 but technical and financial difficulties brought operations to a stop four months later. Other sporadic attempts at mining were undertaken after this but the high cost of production and labour problems forced the company to close in January 1923. During the 1930s there were a number of attempts to re-establish the Newnes site but in 1938 the works were moved to Newnes North. This site became Glen Davis.

In this paper we look at a number of problems that beset the fledgling Glen Davis venture and the engineering projects that were undertaken to solve these. In all cases, one question has to be asked: were the solutions in the best interests of Glen Davis and its people, workers and families alike?

### **Greg Jackman**

#### *90 years at the Marie Louise: Cycles of Tin Scratching and Head Scratching on Blue Tier*

The Marie Louise formation on the Blue Tier tin-field, North East Tasmania, was the focus for dozens of discrete prospecting and mining operations from the 1870s to the 1960s. Early opportunistic surface mining by local syndicates developed into moderately capitalised industrial operations during the 1890s boom, before regressing again into small scale fossicking activities predicated on lines of social allegiance.

The Marie Louise was one of the most consistently misunderstood elements on Blue Tier, and is presented as a case study for charting the impact of local dynasticism on long-lived marginal mining fields.

### **Roger Kellaway**

#### *Oil Shale at the Mersey: The West Bank 1924-1934*

Oil shale was discovered in Northwest Tasmania in 1851. Early attempts were made to exploit the deposit but significant development occurred only after 1910. The first retorts were located on the east bank of the Mersey River at the point where it exits the Great Bend. Whilst the original company was not a success, this site became the focus of the dozen companies that followed in attempting to produce crude oil by the distillation of tasmanite. However, the history of operations on the east bank is almost incomprehensible.

Company after company littered the landscape with shafts, adits, tramways and retorts without any discernible strategy.

My aim is to investigate operations on the west bank of the Mersey. This location, directly opposite the above site, has two advantages. Firstly, it is significantly less complex having had only three companies involved in retorting over a ten-year period. Secondly, the works established by the Australian Shale Oil Corporation in 1924 were erected at a grand scale. The company's retorts were intended to process all the shale mined in Tasmania. It was the intention of the State Government that this facility would overcome the chronic problem of small, under-resourced companies attempting to mine, distil and refine on their own account. The establishment of this "monopoly" was immediately controversial and eventually unsuccessful. The Bronder retort, like all others on the field, worked efficiently for only a short period. The company was forced to cease operations in 1928 after producing only 65,000 gallons of crude. The property was taken over by L and N (Tas) Ltd in 1929 and the Shale Oil Demonstrating Company in 1932 with similar lack of success.

## **Ruth Kerr**

### *Ruffashell Street and the Tin Battery at Rocky Bluffs on the Stannary Hills Tramway, 1902*

The Stannary Hills tramway in the Cairns Hinterland stimulates excitement and curiosity from both historians and railway enthusiasts. Constructed in 1902 by a South Australian company, the Stannary Hills tramway extended 14 miles from Boonmoo on the Chillagoe railway and had a branch line from Stannary Hills to Rocky Bluffs on the Walsh River. The tin battery there operated from 1903 to the early 1920s and a town that included a school, sprang up around the battery in the period 1905 to 1911. The town, tramway and battery are all typically representative of the raw frontier of north Queensland mining investment, social life and engineering developments. This paper surveys the role that the Rocky Bluffs town and mill played in the north Queensland mining industry and assesses the significance of the site today."

## **Barry McGowan**

### *The Chinese on the goldfields — a case study in stereotypes and historical neglect*

When discussing the Chinese on the goldfields almost all historians refer to the more sensational incidents such as the Lambing Flat and Buckland riots and the violent and racist nature of the goldfields fraternity. A few historians acknowledge that most contemporary observers found the Chinese to be law abiding, hardworking and honest but say little else.

Lydon, Ryan and Bell have commented upon the narrow focus of most historians in this area. Ryan for example, comments that the 'token fragments' of Chinese experiences in Australian histories reveal stereotypes of Chinese in various roles as coolies, gold-diggers, market gardeners and cooks. She states that the histories ignore the different cultural backgrounds of the Chinese and the different conditions and circumstances to which they responded. Peter Bell has commented that it is unusual for the amateur historian to give other than an updated version of the nineteenth century stereotype of the Chinese and that what we read now is usually bigoted, at best condescending.

In the paper, the often conflicting evidence for racist based violence on the goldfields will be discussed, as will the broader question of race relationships, and the wider contribution of the Chinese to Australia's economic and cultural life. Examples will be taken from more recent studies, in particular in southern New South Wales and northeast Victoria. I will suggest strongly that in hiding behind a number of convenient stereotypes, historians generally have missed an important opportunity to make a serious contribution on the role of the Chinese in colonial and post-colonial Australian society.

## **John Miedecke**

### *Heritage issues associated with the re-opening of the Historic Beaconsfield Gold Mine*

The Beaconsfield gold mine located in the township of Beaconsfield in Northern Tasmania operated from the late 1880s to 1914. It was famous for its high-grade ore body, water inflows and the associated pumping equipment, which was state of the art at the time. After its closure in 1914, the mine site progressively fell into disrepair as old mine buildings and shafts collapsed. By the late 1970s, the only remains were the magnificent brick mine buildings. These buildings are listed by the National Trust and are on the register of the National Estate.

Since 1979, various companies have been involved with the reopening of the shaft and dewatering of the old workings in order to develop the famous Tasmania reef below. Now in 1999, seventy-five years after its closure, the mine has reopened by the Beaconsfield Mine Joint Venture and modern mining is progressing beneath the historic 455 metre level.

The paper addresses heritage issues associated with the mine's reopening, in particular the magnificent mine buildings constructed from 1903 to 1904. The subsequent recovery and display of Cornish pumping equipment (the only ones of their type on the surface of the world) and other items of heritage are also covered. Of the three mine buildings, two are now part of the Grubb Shaft Museum and the other, the Hart Shaft building, has now been refurbished and is the production winder house.

## **Jan Penney**

### *The Australasian Number 2 Mining Disaster: Can we do it nightly?*

One of the worst mining disasters in Australian mining history occurred at Creswick in 1882 when 27 men were trapped underground as a result of a drive suddenly flooding. Only five men survived this terrible ordeal. The others slowly drowned or were asphyxiated, several leaving haunting messages for their loved ones who waited on the surface. The heroic rescue efforts involved the boiler engine driver who pushed his boilers past all acceptable limits to try and lower the water level. Men trapped underground who cared for their mates until they died. Navy divers who rushed to the scene via steam train but brought lines which were too short and diving suits not able to be used. Teams of fellow miners working for days to reach the survivors. And one of the largest funerals in the district.

At Sovereign Hill we have often wished to present this story to our visitors to demonstrate the dangers of Deep Lead mining and the ever-present risks of death. Our success with our night show, Blood on the Southern

Cross, has convinced us that our audiences respond to a strongly dramatic historical story based on fact. But the question is can we do something similar with this event. How to tell this story in such a way that we highlight the heroism of the participants without reducing the dramatic impact? How to develop dramatic effects which impress the visitor, yet not demean the story? How to keep to the facts of the event, yet develop it into a meaningful experience for our visitors? In short - can we do it nightly?

## **Lou Rae**

### *Abt Railway: Its role in the development of the Mt Lyell Mining Field*

The Abt Railway was the first of two such systems constructed in Australia and connected the mining town of Queenstown with the seaport of Regatta Point, located near Strahan on Macquarie Harbour.

Built, operated and owned by the Mt Lyell Mining and Railway Company Limited the railway was the lifeblood for the mines in the Mt Lyell area and the communities that had developed around these operations. Rail traffic was the only means of access into and out of Queenstown up until 1932 and, consequently, the railway played an integral role in the every day lifestyles of most people.

Finally, in 1963, the railway was closed after sixty-seven years of continual service. The route which passed through some of the most spectacular countryside in Tasmania was left to become overgrown amid the rainforest. The many bridges had also begun to decay and by the 1990's many had fallen down making walking the route a difficult exercise.

In 1998, the Commonwealth Government approved funding for the restoration of the railway. Work has now progressed on the necessary planning and studies stages and by July 1999, the tenders are ready to be let for the construction of the railway.

This paper looks at the history of the railway, its operational links with the Mt Lyell Company's mining activities and the everyday role it played in the lives of those living in Queenstown. It will also cover various developmental and cultural heritage issues and will include an update in the construction process.

The paper is supported by slide and historical video films (of limited duration).

## **Glyn Roberts**

### *Professionals and the Tasmanian Government in the Early Development of the Metal Mining Industry.*

The paper examines some of the problems faced by professional geologists and surveyors in the Tasmanian public service during the second half of the nineteenth century. Five will be considered: three geologists, Charles Gould, Gustav Thureau and Alexander Montgomery, and two surveyors, Charles Sprent and E. A. Counsell. Each faced problems in maintaining professional standards in the face of interference by Ministers of Lands and Works, and departmental heads. The latter officials were often unable or unwilling to relate to their professional staff or perceive the long-term value of systematic and careful recording of fundamental data for use by prospectors and mining companies.

Gould was diverted from his stated task as Government Geologist to conduct mineral searches for gold. Various Ministers failed to understand Thureau's Germanic background and attitudes nor to appreciate his professional standing as a mining engineer and geologist. Montgomery built on the achievements of his colleagues but was driven out by financial stringencies.

The two surveyors, Sprent and Counsell, struggled with the total failure by their superiors to recognise and react to changing circumstances and consequently Tasmania did not build upon and improve the good basic survey principles set up in the 1850s. Successive Ministers were unwilling to spend sufficient money to cope adequately with the volume of work and the accuracy required for the high standards required to service the mining industry.

## **Peter Ryle**

### *Elusive Black Gold: The Search for Coal in The Cooktown Area*

The mining industry in North Queensland during the first fifty years of European occupancy is best remembered for the discovery and exploitation of gold resources in areas such as Normanton, Croydon,

Charters Towers, and the Palmer River. The gold retrieved from these districts undoubtedly helped the Colony

of Queensland achieve economic stability. However, the history of other minerals, like copper and coal, exposed a significant predisposition on the part of many mining entrepreneurs of the period to make decisions based on feeling, rather than on scientific exploration. The Chillagoe Smelter and its associated infrastructure, and the Mount Molloy Smelter and railway, are prime examples of the results of insufficient exploration work prior to investment.

Attempts to exploit coal reserves in the Cooktown district were in stark contrast to the Chillagoe and Mount Molloy experiences. Entrepreneurs here continued to invest funds in spite of scientific investigations that consistently reported the field as not viable. Logan Jack inspected many surface coal deposits in the district and expressed doubt as to their prospects. Subsequent exploration by diamond drill confirmed his opinions. Despite these results, investors continued to have faith that "black diamonds" would replace gold as an economic generator for Cooktown.

The first attempt to establish a coal mining industry in the Cooktown area occurred soon after the town was settled. Despite the euphoria surrounding the project, it failed to live up to expectations. Coal again came into prominence when the Cooktown to Maytown railway was debated in Parliament. Proponents of the railway claimed that coal reserves near the proposed route would provide fuel for the trains, and revenue from cartage of the coal for export. The railway proceeded to Laura, but the promised coalmines never eventuated. Since that time, successive miners have attempted in vain to prove viable reserves. As recently as the 1980s, miners attempted to locate a viable coal deposit in the Cooktown district. They were no more successful than their predecessors.

## **Sachiko Sone**

*Japanese Coal Mining — Social life and relationship son the Chikuho coalfield from the late nineteenth century to recent times.*

The Japanese coal-mining industry was phased out from the 1950s and ended on 30<sup>th</sup> March

1997 with the closure of the Miike mine, Japan's largest coal mine. Until recently, despite a history extending over 100 years, Japanese historians have shown little interest in the industry and especially in social and labour aspects. The strong Marxian school in particular paid little attention to industrial relations in the industry because non-unionisation of the miners suggested a lack of militancy and because prudishness probably made them resistant to the sexual nature of gender relationships commonly recognised among the coal mining fraternity.

More recently, has come an interest in the social configurations of Japanese industrialisation. From collections of oral materials coming out of the 1960s a wealth of information has highlighted many aspects of popular culture that are proving invaluable to historians. Primary among materials released in 1997 were work songs, which for the first time revealed the arduous life of the miners and the forms of resistance undertaken to ease the burden. My interest, in particular, lies with the voices of the women who worked alongside the men. Turning to the issue of voice — unlike men, women above ground had no time, no public space and no authority to express their feelings. Below ground, women sang while they worked with the men. Their themes include topics both anticipated and surprising: the gruesome labour conditions; relationship to contract bosses; comic songs; songs against social prejudice; and women's songs about love and sexuality.

The paper attempts to illuminate the social world of Japanese coal miners through a gendered cultural history approach, together with the techniques of oral history, including a consideration of poetics as told through the work songs.

## **Steve Sorrell**

### *Mt Bischoff— Mountain of Tin*

For many years, the Mt Bischoff mine, discovered by James 'Philosopher' Smith in 1871, was one of the world's richest tin mines. From 1878, regular dividends were paid to shareholders, with several of them making fortunes. James Smith was not among them.

Originally, the tin ore was treated by sluicing, and then crushing as the ore grades fell and the rock became harder. By 1914, forty stampers, each of 1,000lbs capacity were in operation. The ore was so rich in places that it was simply shovelled into bags and shipped to the smelters located in Launceston.

From about 1910, the grade of ore began to decline, and with tin prices falling heavily in 1914, the mine operated at a financial loss. From about 1929, the mine was worked on tribute, until the demand for tin rose in World War 2, when it was worked by the Commonwealth Government.

After 70 years of continuous production, the Mt Bischoff mine, the mountain of tin, finally closed in 1947. Since then, mining ventures have only been spasmodic. Exploratory drilling, however, has indicated that there are still substantial reserves of ore, perhaps more than six million tonnes. If only the price of tin would rise!

For those interested in mineralogy, more than 100 different mineral species have been recorded from Mt Bischoff. These include aesthetic specimens of colourless, blue, green or purple fluorite, radiating topaz crystals, cassiterite nuggets of many kilograms in weight, as well as rare minerals such as ralstonite, sellaita, bavenite, and prosopite. Steve will take us through 100 years of mining history of the 'Mountain of Tin', and will show some of the minerals that have been and still can be found there.

## **Ian Terry**

### *Bricks and Mortar: Convict Quarrying on Maria Island*

In 1825, a convict station was established on Maria Island, lying off Tasmania's east coast. The convicts sent there were those who had committed further crimes after arrival in the colony. Within a few years, clay and limestone were being quarried to make the bricks and mortar required to build structures more permanent than the original log and plaster huts. Nearby brick clamps and limekilns were used to process the raw material which was sent to Hobart with the aim of establishing an island industry. A sandstone quarry on the waters edge provided 'freestone' for stone buildings.

The physical evidence of this mining activity remains on the island, albeit in places obliterated by quarrying and mining in the late nineteenth century and the 1920s. The paper explains the history of convict quarrying on the island with a brief reference to the physical remains extant today.

## **James Verrier**

### *Development and Decline of a Mining Town: Balfour, 1906-21*

Alluvial tin was discovered on the Balfour Mining Field in the late nineteenth century but it was copper that spurred its growth in the early decades of this century. Like so many other fields, Balfour promised much but delivered little. Only one mine, the Reward Mine, ever succeeded in producing copper ore for sale. Its initial success led others to take up leases in the area. A speculation boom occurred and by 1909, the Balfour mining field stretched from the Arthur River to the Pieman, a distance of over 50 kilometres.

In spite of the size of the field, only one town emerged as a population centre. Not surprisingly, the town grew next to the Reward Mine. It inherited the name of the field, Balfour. The speculation boom ensured that both the town and the field would receive more attention than they truly warranted. To the present day, myth and half truths have created a picture of a town of not less than 1,000 souls whose fortunes vanished overnight with the copper ore of the Reward Mine just at the time an epidemic forced a mass exodus of inhabitants. As is often the case, the truth is less glamorous than fiction. None the less, the history of the town of Balfour is a familiar mining town story.

As befits a mining town, Balfour developed a strong community spirit. Sporting and cultural groups reflected the diversity of interest among the inhabitants. The town's temporary structures belied the strong belief of residents of the town's future but were demonstrative of the speed with which Balfour grew. As a feature of that growth, the town suffered the effects of unplanned development and unreliable communication with the settled districts. These problems were never properly resolved as Balfour's fortunes died with the mines it serviced. Its population had peaked at roughly 300 in the period 1912-14. By the 1921 census, the town had only 46 residents and Balfour took its place among Tasmania's glorious mining failures. The paper recounts the social history of Balfour, and in doing so, reveals the links between the town and the principal mine.

## **David White**

### *Prelude to black coal mining by the State in Victoria*

The black coal potential of Victoria had been known since the 1840s, principally from sea cliff exposures at Cape Patterson and Kilcunda. The limiting factors in development of the resource had been the lack of railway transport, poor government geological research and adverse official opinions of the quality of Victorian coal. Despite the vigour of Parliamentary Committees and Royal Commissions, the provision of rail subsidies and sidings, encouragement of private tramways and head hunting for coal mine managers in the West of Scotland, Victoria's independence from New South Wales coal production had been put to question. This occurred in 1903 with the 'lamentable strike of coal miners' in Victoria, which reduced an annual output of 225,000 tonnes in 1902 to only 64,000 tonnes.

Common opinion would claim the prime cause for State Government establishing a publicly owned coalmine in November 1909, as being the then current New South Wales coal strike. However, for some time, Australian Labor and New Zealand Labour Party policy had been set to bring coal mining into the public sector. In Victoria, a report on readily mined black coal resources had been forwarded to Premier Bent in November 1907. By the time the immediate intention was announced by Minister for Mines, Peter McBride, on 15 June 1909, Crown Land at Wonthaggi had already been reserved to the Government for coal mining purposes. The apogee of activity at the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, occurred in 1929-1930 with 662,000 tonnes being produced by some 1,800 personnel.

This paper sets out to examine parochialism and political patronage v the practicalities of private coal production *in explaining* the establishment of the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, Victoria.

## **Lindsay Whitham**

### *The Railways and Tramways of Zeehan*

The discovery of rich silver-lead deposits in dense rainforest near Mount Zeehan during 1882 marked the beginning of the boomtown of Zeehan. Within twenty years, the town had grown to hold more than 8,000 inhabitants, which made it Tasmania's third largest centre. Because of the climate and terrain of the area, rail transport became the preferred means of servicing the mining field. In fact, rail provided Zeehan's only link to the rest of Tasmania for the ensuing 50 years.

Railway construction was commenced by the Government in 1892, to connect Zeehan with the port of Strahan on Macquarie Harbour. By 1900, a link had been established with Burnie on the Northwest Coast. Furthermore, there were many government and private lines built to connect Zeehan with surrounding mining fields and to service local mines. Tramways were also established to access nearby timber resources. Zeehan became the railhead for branch lines to the mining communities of Comstock, Renison Bell, Dundas and Williamsford. In addition, there were the privately built narrow gauge tramways that provided a link to numerous mines associated with the Zeehan mining field. As a result, there was a brief period during the early 1900's, when Zeehan was regarded as the busiest railway station in Tasmania.

The paper sets out to illustrate the important role that the railway and tramway network played in the development of the mines and mining communities that surround Zeehan.

### **Milos Conference — Abstracts Reminder**

Just a reminder to those wishing to present papers at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Mining History Congress, Milos, Greece, 13-17 September 2001, that abstracts should be forwarded to the organisers by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2000**. Send to:

Heliotos Professional Congress Organisers, Terphsihoris 38, 175 62 Paleo Faliro, Athens, Greece.

Some pre/post Congress tours have already been mooted, including a variety of cruises to Greek Islands and Turkey, trips to Santorini, Mykanos or Crete, as well as visits to Delphi, Olympia, other famous historic sites, and of course visits to ancient mining sites. For further details see the web site:

<http://www.heliotos.net/conf/imhc/index.htm>

MJD/Sept.99





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# Newsletter No. 4

## December 1999

**Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AO**

### **Issue 19**

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

#### **Editorial**

So, we face the dawning of a new Millennium\* as we celebrate our 7<sup>th</sup> birthday as an organisation. Kind of puts us in perspective doesn't it? But despite our late arrival, hopefully, our presence will be felt as a vital source of mining history in the years to come. An eclectic thought - will some AMHA member in 3000 look back and cherish some archaic fragment from our 20<sup>th</sup> century archive, or is that as hopeful as Adolf Hitler was when forecasting his 1,000 years Reich? Whatever the prognostication, the enthusiasm with which we started in 1994 seems to be as strong as ever, as all those who attended the Hobart Conference will attest, and with such a dedicated bunch of members behind the organisation, we can surely be optimistic for the foreseeable future.

With the Hobart conference behind us,

we can next look forward to our first public event of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the conference to be held at Adelaide in July. Already our South Australian sub-committee is gearing up for

the occasion, so to all those who wish to swing into the new Millennium, a note in your calendar to visit 'the City of Churches', should be your first turn of century resolution.

\* Depending of course on whether one chooses 2000, or 2001, or that one agrees Christ was actually born in the year 4 BC or 6 BC, or whether one believes it's all a load of codswallop, anyway!

## **Hobart Conference Report**

Both the conference and preceding and accompanying social events received overwhelming approval from those who participated in the September/October event. Setting the tone was the pre-conference tour led by Greg Dickson and Tony Webster who took to the mike like Karaoke stars to provide non-stop mining, geological, architectural and historical detail to the proceedings. To provide a blow-by-blow account of the tour would be tedious but the highlights were the visits to the old workings at the Mangana and the Mathinna Goldfields where artifacts and mullock heaps provided indications of past activities, and the visit to the historic and recently re-constituted Beaconsfield Goldfield. The latter visit followed a night spent at the nearby attractive settlement at Beauty Point that lay alongside the banks of the Tamar Estuary.

The Beaconsfield Goldfield was first exploited in June 1877 following discovery of the Tasmania Reef that led to a rush at Cabbage Tree Hill. All leases were amalgamated in 1888 under control of the Tasmania Gold Mining & Quartz Crushing Company, and by 1896 the 'Tasmania Mine' had reached the 250-metre level. Water shortages and increasing costs linked to poor quality ores led to closure of the mine in November 1914. The mine which had produced 854,000 ounces of gold, left as it's heritage the Grubb & Hut Shaft Winder House & Central Boiler House, that have recently been restored to house the Mining Museum and to provide a link with the Mine's days of glory.

Following exploratory works from the late 1970s, the mine was finally reopened in 1987 by Beaconsfield Gold Mines Limited, and following a couple of company reorganisations was finally taken over by a joint venture involving Allstate Exploration NL and Beaconsfield Gold NL during the 1990s. At the end of September 1999, when our party arrived on the scene, the first trial of a new \$20 million treatment plant was taking place. This heralded the arrival of full production for the first time in 75 years.

Following a visit to the excellent Mining Museum that was preceded by a few hours of scrambling through bush in pursuit of artifacts, mullock heaps and old shafts, the party for Launceston and back across the island to Hobart. Thanks go to Tony Webster and Greg Dickson for their informative (printed and oral) interpretations and also for the time, consideration and valuable information provided by the Mine Manager, John Miedecke and other members of the Mine staff.

With 'friendly' relationships established under the 'hot-house' conditions of two days aboard the bus, the success of the conference was almost a foregone conclusion. At the Sandy Bay campus venue, there were a large number of excellent presentations (see details in September newsletter) that ranged from various aspects of local Tasmanian and

mainland mining to more esoteric subjects such as the role of women coal miners in Japan. Thanks to the strict control of the chairpersons, everything ran to time.

Other highlights included the Reception

put on by the Governor and Lady Green in the magnificent surrounds of Government House and the AMHA dinner at the Shipwrights Arms Hotel, Battery Point. At the latter, speeches were kept to a bare minimum but following some lubrication the highlight of the evening was the organising (for which read 'coercion') by the ebullient Wendy Carter who enthusiastically cajoled individual members to their feet to entertain the assembled company. Thus, entertainment that ranged from the singing of Australian mining ditties and the rendering of Devon mining poetry, to the appearance of stand-up comics in our midst and the exhibition of Japanese mining dances and song put on by a 'shy' Satchko Sone. Even yours truly was persuaded to break out into some painful renditions of Welsh song.

Most people departed the next morning for the mainland, though a few stayed on to attend the half-day Saltwater River convict coal mining tour in the Port Arthur area, replete with accompanying barbecue. All in all, an excellent week and thanks once again to the local organisers Greg Dickens, Tony Webster and Glyn Roberts. Also, to AMHA member Richard Ely who had the unenviable task of organising and coordinating the joint conferences.

### **New Publications**

Michael Pearson & Barry McGowan, *Mining heritage places assessment manual*, Australian Council of National Trusts, and Australian Heritage Commission, 1999.

This is the second stage of the *National Mining heritage Research Project* initiated by the ACNT. The illustrated manual provides guidelines to assist non-heritage specialists record and assess mining places, help them to make basic decisions about heritage values, and aid them in nominating mining heritage places to heritage registers.

### **Adelaide Conference 2000**

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual conference will take place at the University of Adelaide between **5 - 9 July**. We already have a small South Australian sub-committee to recruit local participants and to make arrangements for a two-day tour and a dinner. As with past conferences, we will again be working with the Australian Historical Society who will be responsible for the venues and other administrative arrangements. We invite anyone wishing to present a paper, to submit a title to the Secretary. **Abstracts** of between 200 - 250 words should be sent to reach me no later than **30 April**.

**Copper Production - An Update** In AMHA Newsletter No. 3, 1995, Peter Bell published total production figures from some major Australian copper mines, drawing attention to the fact that Olympic Dam after only six years operation had very rapidly

risen to become Australia's third-largest producer of copper metal. Not quite, as it turns out, says Peter, who goes on to say:

This update corrects a serious error in the earlier note, and also brings the figures closer to the present. In 1995 I stated that Olympic Dam had passed the total historical production at each of the three major producers Moonta/Wallaroo, Cobar and Mount Morgan in January, March and June 1995 respectively. Two out of three were right! Unfortunately I did not have the full twentieth century production figures for Cobar, and grossly understated the mine's production at 350,000 tonnes. The correct figure should have been 603,000 tonnes.

Cobar in fact remained the third largest copper producer in Australian history until early 1998, when Olympic Dam overtook it. Total copper metal production at Olympic Dam at the end of 1998 was 670,000 tonnes, still well behind Mount Lyell at 1.4M tonnes and Mount Isa at 4.5M tonnes at the end of that year. An expansion of the Olympic Dam plant completed in March 1999 will raise production to 200,000 tonnes per annum, and Olympic Dam should overtake Mount Lyell to become the second-largest producer in Australia about the year 2002. However, in 1998, MIM also announced it was expanding its copper smelter capacity to 250,000 tonnes per annum, so it may be a very long time before I report that Olympic Dam has hit first place! Those readers breathlessly interested in neck-and-neck copper production races should keep an eye on this newsletter for the next sixty years or so.

Peter Bell

(Olympic Dam figures from WMC annual reports; Cobar from W.G. Cook (ed), *The Cobar Mineral Field*, AusIMM 1996, p. 32; Mt Lyell from Greg Dickens, *Mineral Resources Tasmania*; Mt Isa from MIM Communication Department)

## **Workshop**

Drawn to your attention is a forthcoming workshop on 'The Chinese in Australian and New Zealand History' that will be held at the University of New South Wales from 11 to 13 February 2000. The Workshop will be preceded on Thursday, 10 February, by two special symposia: one on Chinese Transnational Communities and the other on the historical archaeology of the overseas Chinese.

The Workshop and Symposia are being organised by the Department of Chinese and Indonesian Studies in conjunction with the Research Programme in Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of History, and the School of Science and Technology Studies, of the University of New South Wales, the Centre for the Study of the Chinese Southern Diaspora of the Australian

National University, the NSW Heritage Office, the Migration Heritage Centre of NSW, and the Powerhouse Museum.

Information and the programme of the

Workshop and Symposia, together with abstracts of papers may be obtained at the following web site:

<http://www.pnc.com.au/~chanmx/>

Further information may also be obtained from:

Rosanna Cheung, Administrative Assistant, Department of Chinese and Indonesian Studies, School of Modern Language Studies, University of New South Wales, Sydney NSW 2052

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e-mail: [rosanna.cheung@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rosanna.cheung@unsw.edu.au)

### **Warning**

John Kerr states that on the conference visit to Beaconsfield, he was perturbed to see a reprint of an old style history of the township. Much of the material states John, was taken from the work of C.B. Thomas, and amateur historian known because of his links to the Anglican Church as 'The Bishop of Devonport'. Unfortunately, says John he had little historical training and integrity and tended to weave fact with fiction, so much so that the Australian Railway Historical Society stopped using his material because it was discovered that he had a penchant for inventing rail and tramway timetables based on what he thought and what he thought had happened. The warning to all mining history and railway and tramway enthusiasts is therefore to beware of works by the author who contributed to publications covering several states.

PS – if anyone has any other warnings with respect to misleading texts or articles, then we'd be glad to print them – though please ensure you're not stepping into litigious grounds!

### **Book Reviews**

Glyn Roberts, *The Role of Government in the Development of the Tasmanian Metal Mining Industry: 1803 – 1883* (Hobart: Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, University of Tasmania, 1999). viii + 139 pgs, photographs, maps. ISBN 0-85901-829-6. Price \$25.

It is something of a paradox that a number of Australian mining historians have either ignored or given scant attention to either the role of government in mining history or to

the state, an entity more broadly defined than the government as the formal body of elected or appointed political representatives. While there certainly is a developing body of research in the area (Ralph Birrell's recent book on mining legislation in Victoria, for example), concerns about individual struggle at the frontier, prospector heroism or private enterprise succeeding against the odds seem to have narrowed the range of some historical views. In so doing, they appear to have minimised the importance of state sponsored discovery and accrued public knowledge provided as intellectual capital by the society more generally; or to have limited attention given in the historical narrative to the importance of law, administration, regulation, and infrastructure as part of the development of mining in any area.

Such limits are certainly not the case in this important new work. As Glyn Roberts shows in his close study of the role of government in the early development of Tasmanian mining, the state is the locus of a number of non-economic institutions which relate intimately to and with the mining industry within the context of the general economy. Indeed, his study suggests that there is some basis for theoretical positions, arguing that the shape of the state is explained by the nature of the economic structure. In all this, Roberts' text provides a valuable addition to the body of Australian mining history in at least three ways: as an example of careful historical study of a topic based on careful and critical attention to detail; as an illustration of the relationship between the mining sector and the state; and, as a model for what other historians might consider as topics for new research.

Roberts' work is not, however, a heavily theorised or interpretative one for its strengths lie in its detail about the government's actions in several areas: developing (or hindering) the conditions under which mining capital and labour could be attracted to the colony, establishing public infrastructure, law, and defining property relations in the form of leasehold, and so on. Thus, those seeking discussion and analysis of the state apparatus more generally, will be disappointed. But not totally, for I think Roberts does give us a strong intimation of how struggles among historical actors in the form of different fractions of the developing capitalist economy in Tasmania led to particular articulations of the state. Further, he makes a strong case for further study of the roles of non-rural interests in effecting or advancing the sorts of political and economic change that facilitated mining activity.

At the same time, consideration of the political dominance of the pastoral and agricultural sectors or of the divisions between interests based on locale tends to be left at the level of descriptions of representation, major policy formation, and public works, and the contemporary arguments that surrounded such matters. Partly, this level of historical scrutiny is a function of the definition of government, at least in the early part of the text.

Perhaps because of the particular ways that the author defines the relationship between government and economy, there is no discussion of the ways in which the state related to the labour which became part of the mining economy nor how it related to the indigenous occupants of the colonised land. Presumably, relations centred on paid or piecework labour existed in the cases of the quartz mines of the north east and north, and the tin

mines that developed at Mt Bischoff and Heemskirk. In such contexts, one of the essential functions of any state would have been to ensure that not only the infrastructure but also the labour requirements of capital generally or of its constituent elements were met. In so doing and because of its link to the economy more generally, the state inevitably became part of the developing production relations, particularly the processes of defining the relations between employer and employee. Similarly, the state was intimately involved in questions of property and occupancy, access to land, and 'protection' of capital and labour during the process of colonial occupation and dispossession.

In the early part of the text, government is defined largely in terms of the parliament and there is not a distinct section dealing with administrative structures in place to deal with mining. In the latter part of the account, however, Roberts deals more comprehensively with the administrative structure that began to develop along with mining legislation and as the industry could see a more 'gold-tinted age' in prospect. Indeed, Roberts gives this aspect attention in a separate section of the text. Arguably, the limited extent of mining that took place in the early part of the period in question and that is well evidenced by the author would explain the lack of any substantive administrative structure. For instance, the vignette on page 74 tells much about the general attitude to mining: Shaw could be made redundant from the post of gold commissioner notwithstanding his contention that he could be usefully employed by adding other positions to the one he held, and he could then be 'gainfully' placed as Usher of the Black Rod in the Legislative Council. Notwithstanding these factors, the context of the struggles between commercial and pastoral/agricultural interests and the calls for developing conditions under which mining capital could be attracted suggest the value of an earlier, extended discussion on the absence of the specific state apparatus needed to effect the sorts of developments that the proponents of mining sought. Such a discussion could include the ways in which the Colonial Secretary's office administered the mining areas and mining development. These are, however, only minor considerations for the detail provided throughout the first chapters confirms the prevailing antipathy, particularly in the Legislative Council, and the limited nature of the state apparatus supporting mining. What is more noteworthy are the contributions that the work makes to the understanding of government and mining, and its strengths in terms of the author's attention to detail and his rich narrative. These qualities are evident also in the extensive notes, index, bibliography, and maps of the colony. In providing such a comprehensive account of mining developments in the colony, Glyn Roberts establishes a basis for theorising about the involvement of the state in the historical development of mining in Tasmania and for a more general interpretation of the development of a colonial state. Importantly, as well, this is a work embodying considerable empirical material. That material adds significantly to the information that others can use as a source or as a comparative reference in further historical research and writing.

Finally, it hardly needs to be noted that university departments, particularly the humanities are faced with a general diminution of Commonwealth funding and, often, with internal policies that emphasise the need to generate outside income – something that the humanities have to struggle with, not having, for instance, the economically

'rational' attraction of faculties like commerce or law. It is encouraging to note that in such times the School of History and Classics at the University of Tasmania continues to support historical research and publication.

Dr Patrick Bertola,

Curtin University, Perth, Dec. 1999

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Frank Cusack (ed.), *Bendigo – the German chapter* (The German Heritage Society, Bendigo, Inc., Bendigo, 1998).

Softback, 276 pp, \$49.50 (plus \$5.50 packing and postage). Copies available from: The German Heritage Society, Bendigo, Inc., PO Box 44, Kangaroo Flat, Vic. 3555.

Phone enquiries 03 5447 7905

Essentially the 19th century story of the German contribution to the development of Bendigo, *Bendigo – the German chapter* comprises 18 chapters of varying length and quality in some 130 pages, of which 40 pages are devoted to mining and geological matters per se. There follows an 81-page list of the names and biographical details of members of Bendigo's earliest German community ('Family details are not taken beyond the first generation'), 12 pages of a 'family album' of unexplained portraits, a 33-page appendix of German claim holders over a decade and a short index. The book has been brought together and edited by Frank Cusack, a long-time and enthusiastic devotee of the history of Bendigo and its surrounds.

From this description you may gather the impression that, like the gold of the region, in many respects *Bendigo – the German Chapter* is a hotch-potch. And so it is. Unfortunately, it is difficult to see the book satisfying an audience wider than Bendigo and its environs. For example, non-Victorian readers (especially but not only), will be somewhat puzzled by references to people, events and places with which Bendigonians may be familiar but which lack meaning for the majority of outsiders.

There is an unstated assumption that the reader knows the history of the individual goldfields, the gold rush story and the story of Bendigo. The majority who do not will find that the lack of an overall focus and broad historical outline limits their interpretation and understanding of the events and the people. There is a brief introduction but there is no conclusion to draw the pieces together and to make sense of it all. Also, the disjointed and disparate way of presenting the information hinders the reader's sense of time and place.

I wondered at times about the overall level of accuracy of the information. For example, Pastor Augustus Kavel is said on p.12 to have arrived with his congregation in South Australia in 1836, two years before they actually did (yet David Schubert's account of



this pivotal German migration – *Kavel's People* – is cited in the chapter references). Some readers will consider such matters as nitpicking or minor quibbles. But infelicities do detract from the readability and usefulness of a book. Indeed, while we are all human and are prone to make mistakes, the facts underscore the interpretation in historical works and historians of all sorts have to work diligently in pursuing and presenting the facts or the 'truth'.

Nevertheless, *Bendigo* contains interesting stories and material that the contributors have garnered over time. The importance of German architects to the design and building of Bendigo and its regional infrastructure and the significance of artists, religious leaders, teachers and social support through the German Club ('Der Deutscher Verein') are well commented upon. And David Dunstan's 'The Vignerons', the best chapter in the book, highlights the greater potential of what *Bendigo* could have achieved.

Mining for gold brought most of the Germans to the region initially and the book's cover – a painting of 'Theodore and Christopher Ballerstadt' from the La Trobe Collection in the State Library of Victoria – suggests a 19th century mining emphasis. In regards to mining and geological matters, 'The Quartz-Reefers', Ralph Birrell's review of the efforts of Germanic miners at the quartz mines of central Victoria from 1851 through to the mid-1870s, seems necessarily brief to fit the format of the book. An AMHA member, Birrell's compilation of German claim-holders from 1863 to 1872 will be a useful reference for those interested in aspects of, or individuals on, the goldfields. Revealingly, the list occupies many more pages than the chapter! Apart from his chapter, there are two specific mining chapters – 'Adventurers' and 'The Enclaves' – which both refer to some colourful characters and places on the diggings. The authors of these chapters (and some of the others) are not given or acknowledged.

Three aspects of the book's design were somewhat annoying to this reviewer. Firstly, the layout is such that the inner margins of the pages run into the binding area, thus requiring the book to be bent open or flattened to be read easily. Secondly, the quality of the photographs and reproductions is generally good but the inconsistent mix of sizes, margins and some illustrations running off the page (while others do not) detract from the book's appearance. The third frustration is the failure to include any maps. The result is a great inconvenience for readers not familiar with the region or the detail of the mining fields in particular. I consider this to be a serious oversight and one which could have been rectified quite easily, for example, by reproducing at least one geological or mining map from those published by the Victorian Geological Survey or Department of Mines. In dealing with clients as a professional historian and in teaching 'applied historical studies' to a cross-section of young and mature age students, I always stress the value of incorporating well-produced maps so that a sense of place (and, at times, of synthesising and digesting information) can be imparted to the reader. For publications dealing with land-based activities such as mining, farming or town and regional development, maps are a must.

Renate Vollmer's detailed study of migration from Clausthal in Germany – *Auswanderungspolitik und soziale Frage im 19. Jahrhundert: staatlich geförderte*

*Auswanderung aus der Berghauptmannschaft Clausthal nach S,daustralien, Nord- und S,damerika 1848–1854* – is cited as a source of information in the ‘Introduction’ but, curiously for a book on Germans, is erroneously titled as ‘From the Harz

Mountains to Adelaide’. This 1994 doctoral dissertation (published by Peter Lang in Frankfurt-am-Main in 1995) is a valuable source of information for anyone working in the area of the social and political aspects of 19th century German migration, and not just on German miners from the Harz Mountains. An article by her on the theme of northern German miners migrating to Australia was published in volume 44 of the *Australian Journal of Politics and History* in 1998, too late presumably for the editor and authors to refer to. However, AMHA members who are not aware of her work need to be alerted to these publications.

The manner of including the contributor’s work as discrete pieces makes for repetition of some aspects of the story. A better approach would have been to have re-worked the chapters, stories and material and to have melded them into a story, even if a comprehensive history could not be produced. I see *Bendigo – the German chapter* as the start of more work on the Germans in the region rather than the definitive account. Of course, other ethnic groups in the region and elsewhere can follow suit and build upon the model and the work presented here, just as more work will surely follow on the individual Germans and their community in and around Bendigo.

Bernard O’Neil, Adelaide, January 2000

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Thomas A. Darragh & Robert N. Wuchatsch, *From Hamburg to Hobsons Bay: German emigration to Port Phillip (Australia Felix) 1848–51* (Thomas A. Darragh & Robert N. Wuchatsch in association with the Wendish Heritage Society Australia, Melbourne, 1999).

Hardback with dust jacket, 344 + xii pp, \$45 (plus \$5.50 packing and postage) Copies available from: Thomas A. Darragh & Robert N. Wuchatsch, PO Box 189, World Trade Centre, Vic. 3005

In contrast to the above reviewed presentation contained in *Bendigo*, this pioneering book on the role of the Wendish group of Germans in Victoria is assiduously detailed. It provides excellent background and thoughtful insights into the motivation for the migration of the Wends and of their activities in Australia, including a small number identified in the book who went on to the Victorian goldfields. The historical work of Tom Darragh, an experienced palaeontologist in the Museum of Victoria, is well known to many AMHA members through his books and articles on aspects of Germans in Australia.

Rather than review the book – its main focus is not on mining or geological themes – I include the description from the dust cover because the importance of the work warrants *From Hamburg to Hobsons Bay* being brought to the attention of AMHA members:

“Until now, the origins of German migration to Victoria have never been researched in detail. Yet in 1861, Victoria had 10,500 Germans, or just under 2 per cent of the total population. The Germans, including Wends from Upper Lusatia in Saxony, were the largest group of non-British migrants after the Chinese.

Most of Victoria’s Germans came as the result of the gold rushes, but when gold was discovered in 1851, there was already a substantial German presence which dated back to 1849. This book covers the beginnings of German emigration to Victoria, including the significant contribution made by William Westgarth the reactions of some of the pre-Separation emigrants to their new homeland and lists the names of many of those passengers who arrived on the first German vessels.

In researching, writing and compiling *From Hamburg to Hobsons Bay: German emigration to Port Phillip (Australia Felix) 1848-51*, the authors have drawn on a wide range of sources, many previously unknown to Australian readers. Part I, which relates the history of German emigration to Port Phillip, is based on extensive research of Australian and German newspapers and material in the Brudergemeinde (Moravian) Archives, at Herrnhut in Saxony. Also included are over 50 illustrations, such as shipping advertisements, emigration documents and photographs.

Part II, which covers the early reactions and experiences of 10 Port Phillip Germans, is a collection of letters written back to Germany and, in the case of the Wend Carl Traugott Hoehne, a small book published there in 1853 following his return home. Part III contains brief biographies of emigrants mentioned in Hoehne’s book, included here to enable the reader to judge the success or otherwise in Australia of these new settlers.

In the Appendices, the authors have also included the names of as many as possible of the 700-800 pre-Separation Germans as possible. The names of 309 passengers known to have disembarked at Melbourne from the *Godeffroy*, *Wappaus* and *Dockenhuden* are included, along with partially reconstructed lists of names of over 350 passengers from the *Emmy*, *Pribislaw*, *Alfred*, *Sophie*, *Dockenhuden* (second visit) and *Antonie*.

*From Hamburg to Hobsons Bay: German emigration to Port Phillip (Australia Felix) 1848–51* is essential reading for all Australians with German or Wendish ancestry, those people interested in early European settlement in Victoria and social historians interested in the problems faced by non-English speakers in an English-speaking environment.”

Bernard O’Neil, Adelaide, January 2000

**RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORMS ENCLOSED**

MJD Jan/2000