



AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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ISSUE 48

Editorial

A couple of years ago we were desperately trying to find locations for our stand-alone annual conferences. However, prodded by the efforts of Greg Drew, today, we are pleased to report, there is an embarrassment of offerings, with locations being offered for Lithgow in NSW; for Victoria, where two locations are offered in the LaTrobe Valley and Beechworth; for Queenstown in rugged Tasmania; for Mt Isa in Queensland, and a firm offer being made for a few locations in New Zealand including Greymouth and Wahi. Incidentally, we are still open to further offers. The Annual General Meeting at Armidale in September should therefore turn out to be a bunfight as the merits of various locations are lauded or discredited! That exciting forum will take place at Armidale where we hold our 13th Annual Conference and where we hope to see a good attendance to decide the venues for conferences over the next few years. The interest expressed to date by members suggests that we should get a good turn out at Armidale, another sign that the Association continues to attract good support after so many years of activity, thanks to the keen participation and interest of members.

Forthcoming Conferences

*13th AMHA Conference Armidale, NSW
23-26 September 2007*

Abstracts: If you did not meet the deadline of 10 April please note that the cut off has been extended to **10 June**. However, don't dilly-dally as we have already received over a dozen offers and there is a limit on the number that can be accepted.

The registration forms for the conference and details of the local tours being organised by our local representatives, Graham Wilson and Graydon Henning are enclosed.

Please note that the **registration fees should be sent directly to the AHA**, while the **money for the tours** should be sent to the Secretary of the AMHA at the address on the newsletter heading.

Graham Wilson will also be organising a dinner venue for our members. Details will be announced later and payment can be made at the conference or at the venue.

To keep up to date with the AHA programme see:

<http://www.theaha.org.au/conf.html>

7th International Mining History Congress, Bhubaneswar, India, 13-16 December 2007

The call has gone out for papers and abstracts should be sent to the organisers by 31 May. For registration, programme, accommodation and other details see the web page at www.imhc2007.com/

Journal

Thanks to those who have already sent in papers for consideration but if you haven't already done so and you would like your work to be considered for publication in 2007 then please submit soon. As you will probably be aware, we have both refereed and non-refereed sections. For further details contact the editor at mel.davies@uwa.edu.au

Bits-and Pieces

Herewith a couple of pieces from our illustrious President:

Centenary of a disaster

March 2007 marks the centenary of one of the pivotal moments in modern mining history - the beginning of the great copper price crash of 1907. The London copper price, which had been riding high since the turn of the century, abruptly plunged by 45% in the course of the year, from £112 per ton in March to £98 in June, and £62 in December. This was well below the cost of production in most base metal mines, and copper mines and smelters closed all over the world. In Australia, the major producers like Mount Lyell, Wallaroo and the rising Mount Morgan struggled on, but most small mines were forced to close down (many local histories will tell you that their local copper mine closed in 1907, blaming an industrial dispute or pumping problems, and completely missing the bigger picture). In the previous ten years, about 65 copper smelters had been built in Australia; in the following ten years only about 14 were built.

Peter Bell

Map the Miner rises again

In 1988 the historic copper mining town of Kapunda celebrated Australia's Bicentenary by erecting an eight metre tall statue of a Cornish miner at the town's gateway. Complete with pick and helmet, the statue was called Map Kernow (son of Cornwall). Although some thought the statue's stern features and luxuriant moustache gave it a startling resemblance to Joseph Stalin, it quickly became a popular tourist icon for the town and South Australia's Cornish heritage. Many visiting mining historians and archaeologists have been photographed at the statue's feet.

In June 2006 a vandal set fire to the fibreglass statue, severely damaging it. However, insurance covered the cost of replacement, and on 28 December the *Adelaide Advertiser* reported that a new Map Kernow has been completed in cold cast bronze (powdered bronze in a resin matrix). A young man is to appear in court on a charge of arson.

Peter Bell

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Foul Air

The following piece from the *West Briton*, 28 October 1842, caught the eye of Victorian member, Brian Fleming. A hardy lot those Cornish before they were softened by the introduction of new fangled technologies!

‘ST. AGNES - FOUL AIR IN MINES - Mr. HARDIMAN, the gentleman who made several experiments with Dr. PAYERNE in the diving bell over the wreck of the Royal George, at Spithead, has been trying other experiments at the royal Polberou Consols mines, in this parish with the newly-invented method of purifying the air. The experiment was made at a depth of about 700 feet below the surface where the air was previously so vitiated that no persons could approach the place, a mere (?) nine fathoms above the level. A powerful air machine attached to the engine rods was put to work some time ago, which barely furnished air for three men with candles to exist. The method of purifying air was brought into action after this air machine had been thrown out of use, and although there were at that time no less than 15 men with candles in the mine, the air in ten minutes was so renovated that all breathed with comparative ease; the improvement was even visible insomuch that where three candles were until then with difficulty made to burn, ten or more now burned freely. As a further test, two holes were blasted, and under the old method no man could approach the top of the rise until half an hour after the explosion, and in some cases longer, but the machine so quickly dissipated the smoke, that in four minutes the men were at their work breathing air comparatively pure, and refreshed with the additional advantage of being as cool as at the surface although there were, as before stated 15 men in the rise.’

Brian Flemming

Solomon Islands Gold

WA member, Mike Freeman thought that readers would be interested in learning something about gold mining in the Solomon Islands. Being myself totally ignorant I also thought the brief but interesting article would appeal to members. The piece was composed by

R.B. (Dick) Thompson now retired to South Australia. Dick was engaged through the British Geological Survey to work in the Solomon Islands in the 1950s-70s, before migrating to Australia in various roles.

Gold Ridge Gold – Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands consists of a chain of some 990 volcanic islands included in the Pacific Rim of Fire. They have been formed over the top of the subduction zone where the Solomon Sea Plate is being subducted towards the northeast below the Pacific Plate. Activity along this plate has been well-demonstrated by the April 2007 great earthquake of magnitude 8 that resulted in moderate deaths from an accompanying tsunami. A number of active volcanoes attest to the geological activity of the islands.

Gold Ridge, a small spur between the Tsarivonga and the Sorvohio rivers, lies on the northern foot-hills of the Guadalcanal mountains on the largest island in the Solomons. Guadalcanal is located 1800km northeast of Townsville in Queensland.

History of gold finds

The initial finds of gold were first described in literature in the reports of the Spanish Expedition to the Pacific under the leadership of Alvaro Mendana in 1568. The Spanish, who originally landed on Santa Ysabel Island, built a small boat there to fully explore all the islands and found alluvial gold in the mouth of the Metapona River the tributaries of which drain Gold Ridge. However, the Spanish found that the inhabitants were hostile and so the gold was not followed upstream to its original rock source. Through these finds, the Spanish dreamed of great prospective riches and so named the group the Solomon Islands, after the supposed great riches of King Solomon in biblical times. Mendana returned to the Solomons 30 years later with the intention of colonising it, but his

navigation was not so good and he landed on Santa Cruz Island where he quickly became sick and died. The rest of those in the expedition were disheartened and left to return home. Mendana's exploits were recorded and delivered to the Spanish court who had sponsored the expeditions.

In 1896 the Austrian Albatross Expedition under the leadership of the geologist Heinrich Foullon von Norbeeck landed on Guadalcanal and proceeded towards Mt Tatuve, a mountain drained by the headwaters of the gold-bearing Satakama River and also a mountain sacred to the islanders. Five of the explorers were killed. Samples collected then were eventually analysed after the death of one of the expedition's survivors and found to contain copper and gold and the family of the deceased applied for a right to prospect. This was refused, as no mining regulations existed in the Protectorate at that time. In 1930, an Australian Geologist, Dr Henderson, aware of the Austrian interest, landed near Wanderer's Bay in southwest Guadalcanal to prospect on his own account. When his money was exhausted, he committed suicide.

Early 1900s finds

In 1931, payable gold was discovered in the Sorvohio river by Kajewski, a botanist from the University of Queensland. A gold rush ensued (this information has been taken from Grover 1965). Alluvial gold in the Sorvohio River which drains Gold Ridge was frenetically worked in the 1930's and good recovery was achieved. The gold price was then US\$20.67 an ounce. Almost daily floods were a hazard and precluded the possibility of using large dredges which were successfully being used in New Guinea. Most of the records of this activity were lost when the Japanese captured Tulagi, the Administrative capital of the Solomons, in 1942. However it is thought that 109kg of gold were won prior to 1940 from the

Kovagombi flats area lying downstream of the junction between the Satakama River and Sorvohio River draining from Gold Ridge. Post-war sampling of the area reported it to be sub-economic at a gold price of A\$20 per ounce.

In 1942 gold and soil was being sluiced off the jungle-covered slopes of Gold Ridge itself. Stream water was captured in the headwaters much higher up the ridge, by a series of small barriers and then led in dug water races or in wooden aqueducts to a discharge point where it could be connected to fire hoses to conduct the sluicing of the soil into boxes at the foot of the slope. Plate 1, photographed by the author in 1956, shows a similar sluicing activity at Wau in PNG. Seven Europeans and about 80 Islanders were working there. It is estimated that about 311kg of gold in small nuggets was won during this period. The Japanese invasion halted this effort not long after it started.

The house shown in Plate 2, photographed in 1955, was built prior to 1942 on the crest of the ridge and just above the datum peg for the mining lease on the ridge, estimated to be at an altitude of 640m. The house was built for Mr E.G. Theodore, who had taken out leases on Gold Ridge in 1941. All the corrugated iron for the roof was carried up by human porters, and the walls and floor were constructed from the very straight strips of the hard outer shell of the wild betel nut palm (areca palm) that grows plentifully throughout the jungle. The house was originally built on stumps but these all collapsed during an earthquake. It was the centrepiece of Camp Theodore. The house was a landmark in the hills and was noted by the Japanese soldiers who tried to visit it. As the clearing around the house afforded an excellent view over the narrow sea channel between Guadalcanal and the Florida Islands and the

Guadalcanal plains, the Coast Watchers used it as an effective observation station.

Wartime

In April 1942 the Japanese bombing had started and invasion was anticipated. On Tulagi, the pre-war island government headquarters of the Solomons, the European and Chinese inhabitants evacuated by ship, abandoning their stores and possessions. The government bond store was thrown open to whomever wanted its contents, especially as nobody wanted the Japanese to enjoy the liquor.

K.D. (Ken) Hay who had ferried large quantities of supplies from Tulagi to Guadalcanal, decided to move them inland up to Gold Ridge where there was a comparatively nice house. A refrigerator was also carried up there. Ken Hay was joined by a naval intelligence officer lieutenant Macfarlan from Tulagi headquarters with a radio transmitter and he continued transmitting information on the ship and aircraft movements around Tulagi and in the narrow channel between there and Guadalcanal until long after the American landings on Guadalcanal on 7th August 1942. F.M. Campbell and his two sons also stayed at the camp during this period (this information was extracted from *The Coastwatchers* by E Feldt, 1946). The Japanese had noticed the Gold Ridge House and suspected that it was occupied and subsequently a patrol was sent into the jungle to eliminate it. The Coastwatchers were warned of the patrol by loyal islanders and moved further up-stream into the mountains to near Suta Village. The house was also occasionally attacked by aircraft.

Postwar mining

After the war, particularly in 1949 and 1950 onwards when the gold price had risen to US\$40 an ounce, various people looked at the Gold Ridge prospect and the downstream alluvial flats, did some sampling and came to the conclusion that

it was not worth further investment. The price of gold was low and the political situation in the Solomons was not completely settled.

In 1955 the jungle had regrown over the ridge and the soil developed. The Solomon Islands Geological Survey did a little trench sampling in quartzitic veinlets in the Kuper's creek area and elsewhere in leached quartzitic material. One analysis gave a value of 60g Au per tonne but most were in the range of 2 to 20g Au per tonne and averaging 10g per tonne. Free gold often with a brown ferruginous coating could be seen in the quartz. The gold crystals, where present, were reminiscent of small cornflakes. The results of this work were published in 1958 but it did not encourage further company exploration. A small hot-spring bubbled to the surface on the northern flank of the ridge close to the Tsarivonga River confirming the probable volcanic origin of the deposit. From 1942 onwards the Solomon islander villagers used to pan a little gold from the streams draining the ridge or dive in the clear pools wearing diving goggles and recover small nuggets. From 1994 to 1997 about 25kg of gold was recovered and sold to the bank.

About 1970, ConZinc Riotinto Australia Exploration obtained a prospecting licence over the area, did some sampling and mapping, and sank several diamond drill holes. Their report showed that the gold mineralisation had once extended on both sides of the Tsarivonga river and that the near-surface gold had been leached out of the rock.

In early 1990 the independent Solomon Islands government was particularly short of money and when the gold price rose to about US\$400 an ounce, it followed a UN consultant's recommendation and decided to offer out the Gold Ridge leases to public tender. Thirteen companies tendered and the successful company was

required to prepare an environmental impact assessment. In the meantime in 1997 the Solomon Islands government made an agreement with the landowners permitting the development of a major mine. Gold Ridge Mining Company was the successful tenderer. It was a subsidiary of the Ross Mining NL which had been actively prospecting in the Gold Ridge area since 1995. The first pour of gold was made on 12 August 1998, and by June 2000 approximately 6.5 tonnes of gold had been produced currently valued at about \$Aus160M. In April 2000 the Gold Ridge Mining Company and its parent Ross Mining had been amalgamated into Delta Gold NL. During June 2000 ethnic violence erupted on Guadalcanal and the mine was abandoned. The mine was taken over by American Home Assurance Company and the Commonwealth Development Corporation as creditors and the sale of the mine was recommended.

Australian Solomons Gold (ASG) was the successful tenderer in 2004 and it reaffirmed with the Solomon Islands Government the agreements made with the landowners in 1997 to allow the development to go ahead as peace returned to the islands. The return to law and order in the Solomons had been greatly assisted by the presence of RAMSI (Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands) led by Australia. From May 2005 to Dec 2006, ASG carried out 2000m of drilling to support a bankable feasibility study that showed:

* Measured and indicated 28Mt @1.72g Au/t (for approx 48t of gold currently valued at over \$1billion).

* Inferred 8Mt @ 1.78g Au/t (approx 14t)

* Planned production is 4.5t Au/a.

Production is planned to recommence in 2007.

I am sure that the original Gold Ridge house must have gone even though it stood on barren ground.

For further reading see:

(1) J.C.Grover, *The Solomon Islands-Geological Exploration and Research 1953-1956*, HMSO, 1958, 151pp. (2) J.C.Grover, *The British Solomon Islands Geological Record 1957-8*, London, British Solomon Island Govt., 1960. (3) J.C Grover, *The British Solomon Islands Geological Record*, 1960 and later.

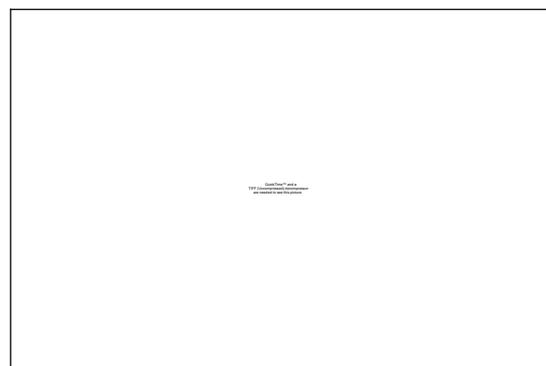


Plate 1: Sluicing gold using gravity-powered monitors, Wau PNG, 1956.



Plate 2: "The House" on Gold Ridge, 1955. European men are J.G. Grover, R.B. Thompson (author) and P.A. Pudley Dawson. Solomon Islanders are Perido, Charles, Sala, Anesaia and Daniel.

Dick Thompson can be contacted at: PO Box 136, Kadina SA 5554.

MJD/March'07



**Pre-Conference Mining History Tours, University of New England, Armidale
22 – 23 September 2007**

Saturday 22 September 2007, Tingha (Wing Hing Long Store/Museum: Tin mining and its impact on the landscape, and Moredum Dam)

Cost (\$40) includes morning tea and admission to museum. Lunch can be purchased in Tingha,

Brief History

Tin was discovered in Tingha in the 1870s and this led to a dramatic increase in population. It is believed that 25% may have been of Chinese descent. A Post Office was established in 1872 and a town proclaimed in 1885. A Catholic and Public School was established as well as three hotels (only one survives), a courthouse and police station, banks, community halls and numerous shops. In the early 1900s a number of large tin mining companies moved into the area with the use of tin dredges.

The Wing Hing Store/Museum at Tingha bears testimony to the presence of the Chinese in the town. The photographs and artefacts, including rare tin mining equipment, give an insight into this fascinating town, its development and decline.

Moredun Dam, near Tingha, constructed of logs and earth, will also be visited. Its structure is an interesting example of early construction techniques.

Sunday 23 September 2007, Hillgrove and Metz, Dangarsleigh, Uralla and Rocky River.

Cost (\$30) includes morning tea and admission to museum. Lunch can be purchased at Uralla.

Brief History

Antimony was discovered in Baker's Creek Gorge at Hillgrove in 1857 but it was not until the 1870s that major mining occurred. The town boomed in the 1880s and 1890s and gold production almost equalled Broken Hill. There was an equal balance of men and women and Hillgrove developed at least six hotels, four churches, two schools, a school of arts, hospital, banks, a stock exchange, courthouse, police station and cordial factory. It was lit by hydro-electricity in 1895.

The town declined from the early 1900s and today only the school, post office, school of arts and church remain. The surviving school building houses the Hillgrove Rural Life and Industry Museum.

Also visited will be the deserted township of Metz (West Hillgrove). The Metz Lookout provides a wonderful view of the workings.

A highlight of the tour will be a visit to Urulla and the award winning McCrossins Mill (a restored flour mill converted into a museum). The museum contains early Chinese artefacts reputedly from Tingha, and mining equipment. A visit will be made to the Chinese cemetery and the Urulla Rocky River goldfields to see evidence of sluicing and early water races. The Rocky River Goldfield dates from 1852 and it was an important field for some twenty years. The gold and granite fields provide archaeological evidence of tunnelling and dredging.

For further information contact Graham Wilson, 14 Todd Close, Armidale, NSW 2350. Tel/Fax: 02-6772-7586. E.mail: helenaw@ceinternet.com.au

NOTE: For Conference Registration forms see <http://www.theaha.org.au/conf.html>

Hard copies will be distributed with the June Newsletter.

Payment: Please send to Mel Davies, Secretary/Treasurer AMHA, Business School M251, University of Western Australia, Crawley, WA 6009. Tel. (08) 6488 2939. E.mail: mel.davies@uwa.edu.au

Please make Cheques or Postal Orders out to Australian Mining History Association (no card facilities).

I wish to book places for the tour on Saturday 22 September 2007 @ \$40 \$.....

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Name & contact details



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ISSUE 49

Editorial

Extreme marking pressure associated with student papers and exams has turned off my brain for compilation of an intelligent editorial, so unless I have a last minute brainstorm this is it for edition 49. A sudden thought – the next newsletter due in September will see us hit the half-century – any contributions (especially a guest editorial) to what should be a ‘Special’ edition will be more than welcome. Don’t be shy about hitting your computer keys, and keep the submissions rolling in.

Forthcoming Conferences

*13th AMHA Conference Armidale, NSW
23-26 September 2007*

Abstracts: The deadline for abstracts of 10 April having been extended, you still have time to submit a presentation. However, don’t be too tardy and certainly not later than 10 July. To date we have received 17 magnificent submissions but can still accommodate your own priceless contribution to mining history!

Afraid the registration forms arrived too late for the last newsletter but a copy is enclosed with this edition. Note that the **registration fees should be sent directly to the AHA**, while the **money for the tours** should be sent to the Secretary of

the AMHA at the address on the newsletter heading.

Graham Wilson will also be organising a dinner venue for our members. Details will be announced later and payment can be made at the conference or at the venue. To keep up to date with the AHA programme see:

<http://www.theaha.org.au/conf.html>

7th International Mining History Congress, Bhubaneswar, India, 13-16 December 2007

Still time to get in abstracts if you hurry. For registration, accommodation, programme and other details see the web page at www.imhc2007.com/ To date it looks as if Australia will be well represented.

Journal

Thanks to those who have already sent in papers for consideration but if you haven’t already done so and you would like to see yourself featured in Volume 5, we still have room for another couple of articles. If submitting, please look at the style sheet on our web page or request a copy from me. As the refereeing and editing takes some time it would be appreciated if papers could be forwarded by the end of June [Ed.].

Bits-and Pieces

For an excellent web site that contains lots of mining history information and links to other sites, see the pages run by our UK member Peter Claughton at:

<http://www.people.ex.ac.uk/pfclaugh/mhinf/contents.htm>

Member Brian Sheldon has also pointed to a very useful web page on local coalmining. See: www.illawaracoal.com

Obituary

It is with regret that we report the death in December 2006, of one of our valued and esteemed members, Don Fairweather. As recorded below by his daughter, Helen Lawrence, Don's contribution to mining and to society was full, varied and fruitful. There are people in all walks of life, including this Association, who will be saddened by his passing. Our condolences are extended to his wife, Alwynne Fairweather, their children and extended families.

Don Fairweather

23.7.1921 – 21.12.2006

Don Fairweather, the youngest of five children of Nellie Byrne and James (Jim) Fairweather, was born and raised in Adelaide. After his family moved to Sydney, he undertook his secondary studies at The Scots College and, having won a scholarship for tertiary education (then called a Public Exhibition), enrolled at the University of Sydney.

In 1942 he was awarded, with honours, a Bachelor of Engineering in Mining and Metallurgy. Work placement in New South Wales during his undergraduate years included experience in mines in Broken Hill and in Cobar. Following graduation, he worked briefly at the Cowarra Gold Mine and then at Captain's Flat (near Canberra) before joining the Australian Military Forces. Although mining was a reserved occupation during WWII, Don finally managed to enlist in the Army and undertook officer training

with the Royal Australian Engineers (AIF), subsequently serving in Papua New Guinea and Balikpapan in southern Borneo (now Kalimantan).

During his university years Don had met and courted a young Science student, Alwynne Bennett, with whom he shared a keen interest in geology and a passion for music. They married in 1944 while Don was on leave. His son, Robert, was born during his absence overseas. On being discharged from the Army in 1946, he was offered work as a Mining Engineer at Broken Hill South, a mine where his father's cousin, Andrew Fairweather, had formerly been Mine Manager. Having obtained his Mine Manager's Certificate in 1949, Don worked his way up to Assistant Underground Manager. He was subsequently promoted through Underground Manager and Mine Superintendent to Mine Manager in 1962.

Two daughters—Helen and Janet—were born to Alwynne and Don in Broken Hill. The Fairweathers enjoyed family life and greatly contributed to the Broken Hill community. Alwynne and Don actively participated in community music and lent their support to youth organisations, and to charitable and welfare groups. They also served on the local committees of the ABC and Musica Viva. Don was strongly involved with Legacy, devoting his time to assisting widows and their children in the district. He was also concerned with larger projects that involved the local community and the mining companies, for the benefit of Broken Hill people. Don and Alwynne contributed to the intellectual life of Broken Hill and obtained a reputation for their generosity and hospitality.

In his senior management roles, Don was keen to introduce new mining methods and technologies, and to improve occupational health and safety at the South Mine. He was a promoter of further education and served as a mentor for

many junior staff and young graduates. He encouraged his colleagues and staff to work towards international best practice in the mining and minerals industry, and he sought to improve industrial relations between the unions and the mining companies. As a young undergraduate, Don had been a union card-holder and he proudly kept his card all his life.

In 1970, Don was offered a position in Melbourne with Conzinc Riotinto of Australia (CRA) where he became General Manager of CRA's General Mining Division. Here he held responsibility not only for general mining operations but also for the group's policies and programs in relation to occupational health and safety, Indigenous affairs, and environmental practice. Concurrently, he served as a Director of several companies—including Mary Kathleen Uranium and Western Mineral Sands—and on a number of committees of the Australian Mining Industry Council. He retired from CRA in 1981.

Don Fairweather was an early member of the Australian Conservation Foundation and, after retirement, he continued to follow his interest in environmental issues, seeking to find a balance between conservation needs and mining practices. In 1991, he became part-time Secretary to the Australian Minerals and Energy Environment Foundation (AMEEF), a newly-formed independent body that sought to promote excellence in environmental science within the energies and minerals industries. In retirement, he also served on the Victorian Planning Appeals Board where he dealt mainly with cases on mining issues.

Don received many forms of recognition for his contributions to his profession and to the wider community. He was a member of the Canadian, American and UK institutes of Mining and Metallurgy, a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers

Australia and an Honorary Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) in which he held continuous membership for 66 years. Throughout his life, he served as an office-bearer on many committees of various organisations, both professional and avocational. In his later years, he became a member of the Australian Mining History Association.

Don's retirement years allowed him to pursue his creative and research interests. As a violist, he played in the Zelman Memorial Symphony Orchestra and, later, in the U3A Orchestra in Melbourne. He participated in chamber music groups and actively encouraged younger musicians, including family members. He studied the craft of musical instrument-making, and produced many stringed instruments: violins, violas and cellos.

Don's interests and activities were wide-ranging including, of course, history. He spent countless hours researching family history, music history, and mining history. In his later years he served as a volunteer in the University of Melbourne Archives, patiently sorting and cataloguing historical records relating to Broken Hill and mining. During his life, he produced numerous reports on mining and issues relating to the mining industry and, through AMEEF, assisted in facilitating the publication of volumes on Mining and the Environment. He contributed 13 entries on mining identities to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and a chapter on Broken Hill to *Down Under: Mineral Heritage in Australasia* (Parbo 1992). Earlier, he published a commemorative history of the Zelman Memorial Symphony Orchestra, with a foreword by Geoffrey Blainey, titled '*Your Friend Alberto Zelman*': *The Story of Alberto Zelman and the Zelman Memorial Symphony Orchestra* (1984). His contributions to different fields are cited or acknowledged in, for example, technical and geological

publications, mining histories, in *Australian made – Australian played: Handcrafted Musical Instruments from Didjeridu to Synthesiser* (Atherton 1990), and in the *Oxford Companion to Australian Music* (Bebbington, ed. 1997).

In the months immediately prior to his death, Don was researching the background for a study of Andrew Fairweather and his contribution to Australian mining in the early 20th century. His intention was to examine the life of Andrew Fairweather within a contextual framework of Broken Hill history and the developments in mining technology and industrial relations during that period. Concurrently, through interviewing and facilitating, Don was assisting Alban Lynch in his proposed study of an international history of mineral processing, focusing specifically on the development of flotation. Alban Lynch informed Don that the project ‘has to be done carefully and with input from people such as you’ (Lynch, Oct. 2006: pers. comm.), but Don’s death just prior to Christmas 2006 prevented him from seeing this project come to fruition. Likewise, Don’s proposed study of Andrew Fairweather’s life and times remains incomplete.

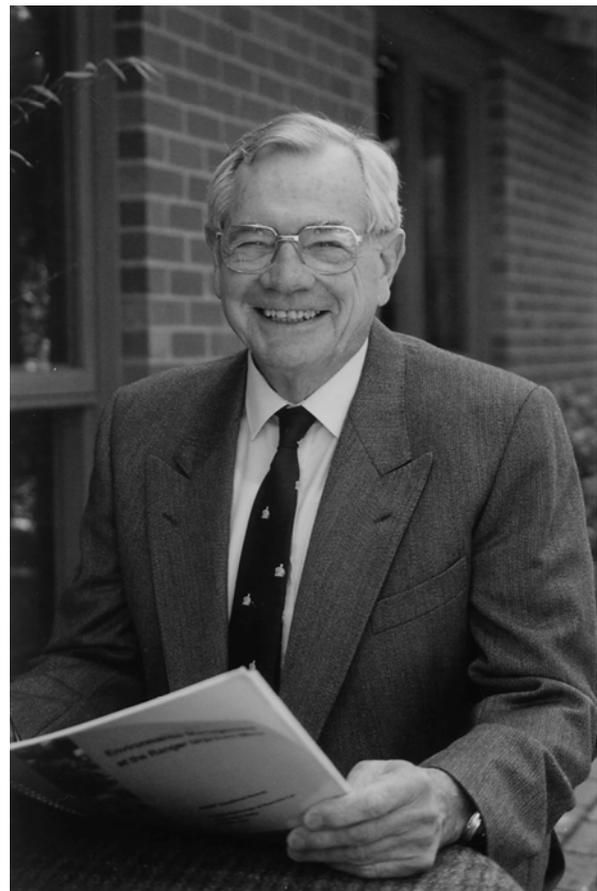
Don Fairweather died at the age of 85. He was a great family man. He undertook his duties and his interests, both professional and avocational, with enthusiasm and commitment. He enjoyed serving as a facilitator and mentor, and was a firm believer in the sharing of knowledge. His generosity, his concern for others, and his activities in the mining industry and in the community—in Broken Hill and in Melbourne—earned him a wide circle of friends and colleagues. There was standing room only at his funeral service in which hundreds of people participated. In his eulogy, the eminent Australian geologist, R.L. (Dick) Stanton, wrote that Don Fairweather was: “...a person whose solidness one would never doubt. A

person of great balance and fairness... A professional man of great analytical ability – one who tackled problems with remarkable rationality but who was always ready to listen to, and take into account the views of others. A great capacity for enthusiasm, though always balanced and well-controlled, and an ability to infect others with it. And last, and perhaps above all, an enormous integrity... Don was one of that small band of people of whom it may be said that they had a breath of greatness”.

Helen Lawrence, May 2007

Acknowledgements

In writing this obituary, I have drawn upon information provided by Chris Haslam, John Reynolds, Alban Lynch, Dick Stanton and Alwynne Fairweather. I gratefully acknowledge the use of this information.



Don Fairweather in AusIMM tie and appears to be holding a report on environmental issues and the Ranger Uranium Mine National Archives of Australia Fellowships

For anyone interested, the following information has recently been furnished for anyone wishing to utilise the National Archives for research purposes:

“Applications close 29 June 2007 for the National Archives of Australia Frederick Watson Fellowship and the Margaret George Award.

The National Archives encourages and facilitates the use of the collection. We promote archival research in Australia and encourage scholarly use of our holdings.

The Frederick Watson Fellowship assists established scholars in the completion of innovative and quality research projects with significance for Australian audiences.

The National Archives offers Margaret George Awards annually to individuals interested in conducting research substantially utilising our collection. Applicants could be emergent historians, academics, independent researchers or journalists with a talent for research.

Previous winners have explored the relationship between governments and media, challenges to the White Australia Policy in the 1940s, the experiences of Australians interned overseas and literary censorship.”

For further information on the two fellowships see:

http://www.naa.gov.au/about_us/margaret_george.html

and

http://www.naa.gov.au/About_Us/frederick_watson.html

Or contact:

Margaret Wade, Online Marketing Manager,
Access and Communications Branch,
National Archives of Australia
PO Box 7425

Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

Phone: (02) 6212 6245

E.mail: <marg.wade@naa.gov.au>

Annual General Meeting

Please note that the Annual General Meeting will be held during the Armadale Conference in September. Any proposed changes to the constitution or motions and nominations for positions on the executive or committee should be forwarded to reach the Secretary by the end of August.

Power Point

For long I have railed against the disasters caused by Power Point, not only the disruption caused at conferences and seminars when breakdowns occur but also by the boredom that often (but not always) accompanies such presentations. Was this just myself exhibiting Luddite tendencies I wondered, when lo and behold my thoughts on the subject were recently reinforced by the findings of Prof. Jon Sweller (Univ. NSW) who after in-depth research has concluded that ‘Power Point is Pointless!’ Among his findings he notes that the way Power Point is being used as a presentation tool is ‘a disaster’, as it often turns presenters into bores and degrades the quality and credibility of presentations. As he states ‘if we could convert Power Point slides into pills, insomnia, like smallpox, would be eradicated from the earth’. The newspaper article that quoted the findings further noted that ‘in universities, at conferences, in meetings everywhere, this is how people are communicating; the world condensed into a few upbeat slides, with seven or so words to a line, seven or so lines on a slide’. ‘Instead of engaging with an audience, presenters insist on reading out simplistic bullet points ... Good speakers don’t fall into the trap of requiring audiences to read as they listen’ even when using Power Point - but the good are ‘vastly outnumbered by the inept’.

While the findings make me feel smug and vindicated, no doubt there are believers out there, even among our own members, who would disagree – if so, your thoughts on the matter will be considered for publication in the September issue should you wish to respond.

MJD/June’0



AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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***Until 8th December 2007**

Newsletter No. 3 SEPTEMBER 2007

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754

ISSUE 50

Web page: http://www.biz.uwa.edu.au/home/research/research_associations/australian_mining_history_association

Editorial

As the newsletter has hit the magic half-century, this being issue No. 50, it was thought that licence should be given to entertain a few light hearted commentaries as a change to the normally heavy intellectual content of this epistle! Thus the veil will be lifted off the conduct of certain members of our fraternity at a recent conference, so as to show that participating spells more than just beer and Cornish pasties. Also included is a poetic indulgence by one of our aspiring and more literate talents who follows the standards set by Wordsworth or Coleridge, Should you wish to take the opportunity, there's no reason why your potential as a scribe should not also be satisfied – therefore a plea to all and sundry to contribute pieces to our next 50 editions.

It is pleasing to report in this half-century edition that our attraction as an organization continues to grow and that at present we have a record membership of seven institutions and 176 individuals – and there are still a half-a-dozen who are expected to rejoin. Our only concern is the ageing profile, though we are not the only organization to note this phenomenon. If anyone has any ideas on how to attract the young, then please make your suggestions known.

On a sad note and perhaps reflecting that previous observation of an ageing membership, we recently received notice of the deaths of two valued members: **Tim**

Jones, whose obituary is recorded below; and **James (Jim) Whitehead** who did much over the years to keep alive AusIMM. Jim's obituary will hopefully be published in the next newsletter.

Change of Address

Please note that as the Secretary will be retiring from his place of work at the end of the year (he's also ageing!). All correspondence should be sent to his home address, which is **220 Lance Street, Mt Helena, WA 6082**. As he will be in India from 9 December to 10th January 2008 then there might be some delay in answering correspondence. The e.mail address will remain the same, as detailed in the newsletter heading.

Note that the web page address at top of the newsletter has also been changed.

Forthcoming Conferences

**13th AMHA Conference Armidale, NSW
23-26 September 2007**

The forthcoming conference at the University of New England has attracted a splendid bundle of papers (see attached), with topics that should appeal to most palates. This augurs well for the proceedings and attendance at our **dinner** that Graham Wilson has arranged for **6.00pm on Monday 24th September**, as well as for the AGM on Wednesday 26 September. **Dinner venue and details will be announced at the**

conference. Payment for dinner to be made at the venue.

The **mining tours** have attracted about 40 people. Please note the following pick up arrangements:

Saturday **22nd** & Sunday **23rd** September:

8.30am - Duval College, UNE

9.00am - Tourist Info. Centre, corner of Dumaresq & Marsh Streets, Armidale.

To keep up to date with the AHA Conference programme see:

<http://www.une.edu.au/campus/confco/aha2007/>

7th International Mining History Congress, Bhubaneswar, India, 13-16 December 2007

It looks as if we will have about five or six of our members present papers at The Mayfair Lagoon venue. Its expected that the local organizers, the Society of Geoscientists and Allied Technologists will be organising some interesting cultural events that should please those attending. Hopefully, glowing reports in the December –come-January newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at the University of New England, Armidale, on **Monday 24th September, at 6.00pm**. The Agenda will be circulated at the beginning of the AGM. Reports will be received from the officers and discussion allowed from the floor. However, if no substantive motions have been received in writing within the obligatory 21 days previous to the meeting, there will be no decisions made on changing of the constitution. Matters of interest will no doubt revolve around the locations for our conferences over the next few years. Solid notice has already been received from members interested in taking the venues to Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand and we are sure that decisions will be made in an amicable manner. We hope to see a fair number in attendance.

Journal

As this letter goes out, the 5th volume of our journal is almost ready for the printers. Thanks to all the contributors and to the hard working referees who have kindly vetted the

refereed papers. Unfortunately, because of our policy of having ‘blind’ refereeing, we cannot reveal their names, but as Ed. I thank them from the bottom of my heart!

Please note that only those paid up for 2007 will be eligible to receive the volume.

Information Wanted

Tasmanian member, Volker Hahl asks if anyone can direct him in his search for information. Herewith his request:

‘I am researching the history of the Storys Creek Mine and community in north east Tasmania. An adjacent mine was the Aberfoyle mine near Rossarden. About c.1958 Aberfoyle started a take over of Storys Creek through the Aberfoyle subsidiary Northern Aust Uranium. This take over was complete in the early 1970s. Such is the information that I have but a good deal more detail would be very welcome. To this end I thought a look at the Aberfoyle annual reports to shareholders might be useful, but where to find them? Aberfoyle are now defunct and the company that took them over have apparently ditched all the records. So if anybody out there knows where Aberfoyle Annual Reports can be found I would be grateful for the information. Mind you if the same information on the take over could be had from other sources it would be appreciated. If anyone can help I would be most obliged.

The E'mail is snauw@tassie.net.au

Bits-and Pieces

Coathanger Saga

Those present at the 2006 conference on the copper triangle centred at Kadina will recall the frequent reference to the great shortage of coathangers in the district. All was revealed when on the final day tour the guide announced that iron objects, including coat hangers, were thrown into the precipitation channels to recover copper. This was a revelation that proved of great relief to the aristocratic Keith Johns who had tied in the disappearance of the said objects with the carryings-on at the Duke of Cornwall, where a few stalwart members endured nights of sleeplessness and trauma. That story was put into print by the said gentleman between sessions of pasty gorging and is here recorded for all to see. A response from yours truly was subsequently

despatched to record the veracity of the story. As a result – and to ensure that the valiant efforts of the gallant are recorded for posterity, Greg Drew, who was one of the organisers of the conference, has presented our organization with a ‘Coathanger Trophy’ that will be presented at future conferences, and starting in Armidale.

The following was sent by Mr Johns on the anniversary of those stirring events:

Coat Hanger Scandal Linked to Siege: Is Peninsula War Over?

News has been received at The Burra (generally regarded as the Centre of the Universe) that civil unrest (which has simmered in the Copper Triangle since closure of the Cornish clotted cream mines in 1923) is at an end.

It has been revealed recently that treatment of remnant waste dumps (commonly regarded as the Forgotten Twenty Years) for the recovery of their milk and honey, impacted adversely on the expatriate Cornish community – one and all. The process of lixiviation, followed by that of cementation, consumed enormous quantities of metal coat hangers at the Moonta Skimmed Milk and Clotted Cream Recovery Works – the chemistry of which has not been divulged.

By 1943 it was clear that there was trouble at the mill. The supply of iron coat hangers (hand made by Cornish women and much favoured by Welsh artisans) had been exhausted; since when, covert operations based on plastic coat hangers have been conducted on a desultory basis. The Bal was scattered; the Bal Maidens (except apparently for Amy and Sarah) were made redundant; Richman’s Engine was switched off; the buddles, addle plant, cream separators and picky lines were closed; and the Masonic Lodge was opened to riff-raff. The Cross Roads Primitive Methodist Church and that at Moonta Mines (with organ and gallery) remain as symbols of the Cornish past, together with the Cornish crimped pasty shop in Ellen Street, clotted cream in take-away packages from El-Cantana, and (latterly) pumpkin soup.

However, the peace of this once-flourishing region (which, hitherto, had enjoyed the weekly bouts of Cornish wrestling in Ryan Street) was disturbed during the night of 5 July 2006, when marauders occupied the upper precincts of the Cornwall Hotel (which has deteriorated somewhat since it was opened in 1865 at the

intersection of Ryan and Ellen Streets), stole a can of clotted cream and the few coat hangers that had survived the Industrial Revolution. They are believed to have engaged, while in the breakfast area, in bare knuckle fights (frowned on by our Cornish cuzzins).

Worse was to come: as the gang (obviously from across the Tamar) returned, together with Amy and Sarah, and laid siege to the Duke’s primary property. While Ladysmith and Mafeking had been relieved earlier by external forces, it was left to a fifth column (a ‘Gang of Five’) to relieve themselves on the morning of Saturday 8 July 2006 – a date that will go down in history as they were subject to extreme terror but survived this last (?) campaign of the Peninsula War. Despite waves of cowardice, acts of heroism were mentioned in Dispatches and these are likely to have been conveyed to the Palace. Such behaviour, as displayed during the hours 12.30am – 4.15am on that date, will have left their scars and will provide fodder for the AMHA Conferences (papers with appropriate End Notes) long into the future. It is believed that the party included the following:

- A Welchman choir boy – oh who wore leekes (sic) in his Monmouth cap. He had fallen from his monocycle at ‘The Games’; a quiet introvert he was not given to jollity; he had shaken hands with the Prince. Another Prince/Duke (for whom he had performed); he was a natural leader and had served with the 7th Welsh Fusiliers, Foot and Mouth. Code named ‘Llwchyr’ he displayed great daring during this campaign; despite a blocked drain, he slipped through enemy lines (heavily reinforced with 4 letter expletives) to take a message to a King who was in another building, parked alongside of which was said to be a pink Cadillac. He called the shots from PlayStation 1 at the head of the back stairs (even though he had been known to have gone to water when matched against a good brass band).
- A Maori chap who (from the back row) performed a throat-slitting Kapa O Pango Haka. He was later quoted as saying, ‘I was pumped up...it was good for the game’.
- A chap from Tasmania, played real footy, wore a tie bearing South Australian colonial colours. He provided

advice on the enemy – disposition, broken windows, door, cigarette butts, floor stained with blood.

- A real Taswegian, garrulous; had a privileged position in the bridal Suite (with choice of three beds under which to cower) adjacent to the alarmed stairs that were almost alarmed as much as those who were besieged!
- Little is known of the quiet, reserved, shy chap who defended a post on the western flank between the head of the alarmed stairs and latrine. Possibly descended from the Druids, he was said to have been a part-time collector of tithes.

AND the RESPONSE:

Dear Sir Keith,

Received your remarkable account of the dramatic and historic events that took place at the ancient Cornwall Hotel, Moonta, and was most impressed that a gentleman of your vintage had almost total recall. It was indeed a masterly account that captured the true essence of events – the threat to our very existence and the dramatic saga associated with the missing coathangers. Indeed, your account is worthy of publication in the prestigious AMHA newsletter or even the Journal (though of course I would have expected properly set out references of sources, etc.), but I fear that it would only make sense to those who had actually experienced the traumas that we were exposed to. I note your modesty in only referring to yourself as the collector of tithes when in fact you took a central part in the campaign, being involved from the very first moments of residence in alerting our gallant band to the surfeit of coathangers. Had we taken more notice of your sensitive observation and thus moved elsewhere then perhaps we would have been spared the agonies of sleepless nights, blood-curdling screams, kicked in doors, smashed chairs, windows, and blood on the walls – but then your gallantry and that of others, in the full face of the assault would not have left the indelible mark on history that it has – a mark that will go down in the annals of the AMHA when in years to come each Conference will be opened with five minutes silence in honour of those martyrs who so bravely stood against an unknown enemy (apart that is from

Amy and Sarah) and in the end triumphed, not only to live to see the resurrection of the ‘King’ (including pink Cadillac) but to partake of swanky and Cornish pasties, and to try to sing in front of loud brass bands!

Sir Keith, I will see to it that each of the other three stalwarts who stood so bravely **behind their locked doors** shall have a copy of your noble account that they may pass on to their children, grand children and descendants of countless generations to come. Thus, this will become a saga, in the true tradition of Beauwolf or even Eskimo Nell, that will be recited whenever or wherever mining historians of any hue – whether experts in precipitation, or merely hole digging – deign to gather and swap yarns. Let me end, as did Monty Python in the ‘Life Of Brian’, by saying ‘Blessed are the Cheesemakers’ and extending to say ‘as are those who face unknown odds in ancient Inns’.

PS - Any further commentary on these dark events will be heavily censored. For those interested in details on the fate of the Moonta hangers see Peter Bell’s article in the forthcoming vol. 5 of the Journal.

Contribution 2

As these narrow columns pose a problem for recording verse, a contribution from our Poet Laureate-in-waiting, Leonie Knapman, is presented on the last page of the newsletter. This has been compiled by Leonie from a story written by J.I. McNamara (courtesy Wollongong Library).

A defence of power point – from a true believer

Its good to see that there are some fighting supporters of the new technologies out there, for member Edmund Porter has set his feet strongly in approval of Power Point presentations, when answering the article by Prof. Sweller, as recorded in the last newsletter. Edmund is of the ‘old school’ but emphasises that age hasn’t withered him, especially his mind. While he doesn’t agree with what the good professor has said in his attack on power point, he thanks him for providing an opportunity to use the word floccinaucinihilipilifacation – a word that Edmund believes is the longest in the English language!

'In recent times, Power Point has been the subject of a great deal of obloquy, and it is worth spending a moment to see whether these animadversions are justified.

The most frequent claim is that Power Point presentations are meretricious and lacking in content, resulting in obnubilation in the audience. This often so, but a bad presentation can be made equally well with any of the aids available to-day, such as whiteboards, flannel boards, blackboards, overhead projectors etc. In other words, a bad presentation is a bad presentation, and the technology used to make it is not responsible. If the presentation be a bad one, IT IS THE FAULT OF THE PRESENTER, AND NOT THE MEDIUM.

If Power Point has a fault, it is that it is very easy to use (surely not all that serious a fault?), with inbuilt templates etc, and hence it has a strong appeal to presenters who hide their lack of knowledge, or inability to communicate effectively, under a gaudy presentation which, they hope, will conceal their inadequacies. Now I would like to mention Prof. Sweller and his 'in-depth research' (whatever that means). If I may distil his findings into a few words, he seems to have discovered that bad presentations send people to sleep. Surprise! Surprise! What is new here? An old dictum says that if the audience is falling asleep, then the first person who should be awakened is the speaker! When it comes to PowerPoint, Prof. Sweller seems to be resorting to **floccinaucinihilipilification**.

I agree with the final conclusion that 'the good are vastly outnumbered by the inept'. How true this is, but **please** do not blame Power Point for it. Power Point, if intelligently used is capable of producing lively and entertaining slide shows. Unfortunately, these are rare. I have recently seen Power Points (some from very prestigious organizations), which have literally made me writhe in my chair. BUT DON'T BLAME THE MEDIUM, BLAME THE PRESENTER!!

I rest my case'.

Edmund Porte

Eds note: if anyone else feels strongly about the pros and cons of the topic then please let us know. Have you any revealing experience of The Good. The Bad or The Ugly, when it comes to presentations?

OBITUARY

It is with a feeling of loss that we note the passing of Canberra member Tim Jones. Tim has been a member of the AMHA for many years and in that time has contributed welcome articles to our journal. Tim's eldest daughter, Carol Keil, has kindly forwarded this obituary:

Tim Jones (1922-2007)

Tim was born in Sydney on the 6th of January 1922 and he died on the 25th of July less than 24 hours after suffering a massive stroke.

Dad's early years were happy. He was a choirboy at St Matthias Church of England at Paddington and this was where he formed his first association with the *nunc dimittis* phrase of which he was extremely fond. He came to Canberra in 1934 and went to Telopea Park Intermediate High School. He had a number of good close friends and they all managed to get up to a great deal of mischief. In his last year at school at the end of the year they evidently advertised the headmaster's car for sale. He was not amused! It was during his school years that he became interested in geology and mines. One of his schoolmasters took a great interest in him and took him around to all the geological sites in Canberra – no map existed in these times and Dad marked them all on a copy of his own. He used to cycle to Captain's Flat to visit the mine and also journeyed by train to many of the coal mines on the south coast. We children were well instructed on mines, steelworks, fossils and gold-panning.

When he finished school he joined the Patents Office as a Clerk Class 1 and moved into the Acton Guest House. To supplement his meagre pay he used to develop and print films. For a short period he also had a darkroom at the back of the Canberra Times. At about this time, he also briefly became a Presbyterian preacher – riding his bicycle out to Hall at least once a week – he was not yet 20 years old. He hated his job in the Patents

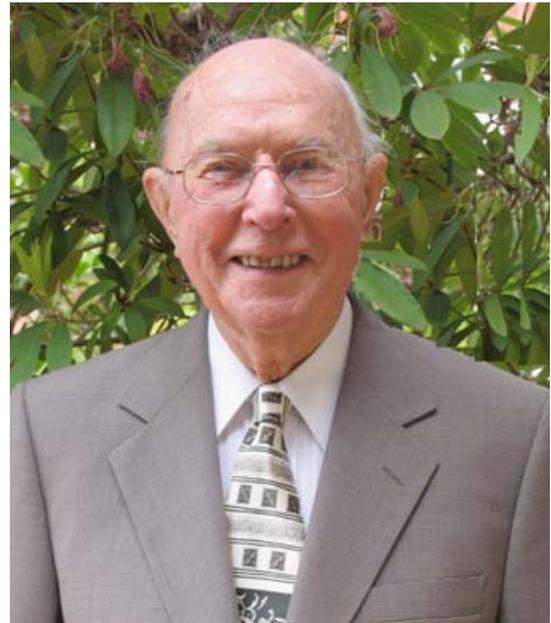
Office and was fortunate to secure a promotion to a Staff Clerk position. He had found his calling. The extra salary enabled him to move to the brand new Barton House where he subsequently met Thelma.

In 1941 he joined the airforce. Unfortunately he failed the colour blindness test quite spectacularly so could not join as aircrew much to his bitter disappointment. However he was asked to join the radar unit as a radio operator and after a period of training went to Milne Bay in 1942. As so many of the soldiers were very young it is not surprising that they were involved in questionable activities. Dad's nickname was 'Arson Jones' a title which conjures up all sorts of images! He and I have always enjoyed a good fire. The radar installation was very secret and Dad kept a diary and surreptitiously took and developed many photos, which have now been given to the War Memorial. An enormous enlargement of his photo of No. 37 Radar station is in the War Memorial next to the AW Radar Station exhibit. When he discovered that no official history existed of his radar unit he contacted four of his wartime friends and with his own research and recollections he wrote a book *Milne Bay Radar* that was published by Australian Military History Publications in 1997.

After the war he came back to Canberra, married Thelma in 1946 and moved into their house in Ainslie, when Ebdon Street was the last street on the slopes of Mt Ainslie. In 1948 he joined the Public Service Board. He studied part-time at the Canberra University College (now the ANU) and in 1954 graduated as Bachelor of Commerce. Class sizes were very small in those days – only eight students in Political science and in the wintertime lectures were at Professor Crisp's home. In 1956 Tim was appointed to the position of itinerant Public Service Inspector for the Northern Territory and he spent some nine-years in this job, which he thoroughly enjoyed. This period was very tough on Thelma as each time he went away for six weeks she had three small children and a household to look after all on her own, as we had no family in Canberra and inevitably if anything went wrong it always waited until Dad had left for Darwin. He loved the Northern Territory and made some close and

abiding friendships. His job involved a significant amount of travel, which meant he was also able to pursue his interest in mines.

At an early age he became interested in the stock market and was already a trader by the time he met Thelma. When we were young silence was required at five-to-six each evening so he could listen to the stock report on the radio to determine if he was ruined or not.



In 1969 he was invited to become an honorary judge at the Canberra racecourse, something he did for the next 20 years. In those days judging was entirely voluntary. Facilities were a trifle basic and on one particularly cold day the secretary took pity on the judges in their unheated tower and sent them up some whisky. Several races later the results that were posted seemed a trifle peculiar and upon investigation the judges were found to be exceedingly well warmed.

Tim retired from the Public Service Board in 1985 after some 37 years and turned his attention to history and writing.

An interest of Tim's over many years had been to research and write the mining history of the Northern Territory. He received a Northern Territory History Award in 1982, and in 1985 *Pegging the Northern Territory* was published by the Northern Territory Department of Mines and Energy. It became

and still is a standard reference work. Tim sent a copy to Professor Geoffrey Blainey who sent him a glowing letter in return.

In 1987 Tim became a Commissioner for the Australian Council of Independent Business Colleges. This job took him all over Australia, with Thelma often accompanying him, inspecting business colleges for accreditation. The inspection process was usually a traumatic experience for the colleges and Tim went out of his way to make it as gentle as possible. After inspecting an aviation college at Bankstown and over coffee Tim mentioned a long-standing ambition to do a take-off in an aeroplane. Upon a subsequent visit to this same college Tim was greeted with 'Ah, the man who wants to do a take-off', which he then proceeded to do under expert tutelage! He also went for his one and only trip in a helicopter after inspecting the Bankstown Helicopters College.

Dad had been interested in China since he was a small boy. He joined the Australia China Friendship Society in 1982, served on the committee and went on to take several tour groups to China. He also enrolled in Mandarin classes at the Reid TAFE and was able to make his way around Beijing on his own. His tour in 1989 was at the time of the Tien Anmen Square incident and the atmosphere was very tense, even sinister in several of the cities they visited.

Now that *Pegging the Northern Territory* had been published Tim decided to research the history of the Chinese in the Northern Territory. He received another history research grant from the Northern Territory Government and with the help of Professor David Carment *The Chinese in the Northern Territory* was published in 1990. Professor Carment sent the following tribute:

"Tim was a fine man who had a very positive impact. My association with him extends back for many years. He made some most important contributions to Northern Territory

history through his excellent books and articles. His books on the Chinese in the NT and NT mining are still the standard works on their subjects. I was pleased that we could include an article on him in the Northern Territory Dictionary of Biography. In my dealings with him, mainly by telephone, correspondence and email, I always found him a complete gentleman".

Tim was very keen that the efforts of the early mining prospectors and identities of the Northern Territory and the Kimberleys were recognized and he wrote a paper on Ping Que that was published in *The Journal of Northern Territory History* and several papers that were published by the Australian Mining History Association in the *Journal of Australasian Mining History*.

Tim was a gentleman who never felt comfortable unless wearing a tie and preferably a suit – the exception being his time in the Northern Territory when shorts, long socks and open-necked shirt were the rule. He had a soft spot for many young people who came his way. He had a remarkable memory and could quote Gilbert and Sullivan at the drop of a hat. He had a quip for most occasions and had perfected the Mikado's glower which he regularly used to good effect. He was a staunch friend of China and maintained his interest until the end. He was a man of great integrity (in the style of the old public servant – providing 'frank and fearless' advice to his superiors). Tim's humour, his gift for the right observation at the right time and his well-based scepticism of pretentiousness, were hallmarks of his personality.

He will be sadly missed.

Carol Keil

Our condolences go out to Tim's family, especially his wife Thelma, daughters Carol in Canberra, Imogen in Italy, and son Mychael in Perth.

MJD/Sept'07



AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754

ISSUE 51

Web page:

http://www.biz.uwa.edu.au/home/research/research_associations/australian_mining_history_association

Editorial

Once more we can congratulate ourselves and local organizer Graham Wilson for on an excellent conference and accompanying social events. The paper sessions at Armidale were well attended; the dinner attracted nearly 50 members, while there were well over 50 who attended the tours to the heritage and mining sites in the Armidale area. The AGM was also well attended and of note was the decision to allot conferences for the next few years. In 2008 we will visit Queenstown in Tasmania, where Greg Dickens and Nic Haygarth have already undertaken some solid planning. The following year, 2009, we will visit the Lithgow area, NSW, where Leonie Knapman and her team have some spectacular sites lined up for the occasion. In 2010 we visit New Zealand for the first time – a few sites are on offer and being currently mulled over by our Kiwi compatriots, Brian Hill, Philip Hart and John Berry. Greg Drew has come to the fore again and he and the SA team would be available to run a conference in the Flinders Ranges. Thus some very interesting

projections that suggest the organization is in excellent health.

Change of Addresses

False Alarm: Despite the comment in the September newsletter, the Secretary's address for correspondence will remain as above. However, expect some delay if corresponding between 9th December and 10 January 2008, as he will be in India. Membership renewals will be sent out in January. So, MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

Note that the web page address will be changed – though a link with our current address will remain for a while. The new webmaster is Greg Drew who can be contacted at: Drew.Greg@saugov.sa.gov.au

Forthcoming Conferences

7th International Mining History Congress, Bhubaneswar, India

It looks as if we will have about five or six of our members present papers at the Mayfair Lagoon venue in December. With temperatures expected to be in the low 70s all are hoping to avoid the Aussie summer heat. Report in the March 2008 Newsletter.

XVth World Economic History Congress, Utrecht, the Netherlands, 3-7 August 2009

The Comparative Aluminium Research Project (CARP) invites our members to participate in their session at the XVth World Economic History Congress, Utrecht, in 2009. The session has the preliminary title 'The Global Economic History of Bauxite'. The aim of this session is to explore the integration of bauxite-producing countries into a complex web of interdependence with the large, vertically integrated multinational aluminium producers. The session will trace the evolving relationship between the host countries, the multinational companies, and the leading industrial powers, and thus give important insights into the globalization process in the 20th Century.

If interested please address questions, comments or abstracts to: mats.ingulstad@eui.eu

AMHA 14th Annual Conference, Queenstown, Tas. 4-10th October '08 'Mines Amongst the Mountains'

Conference delegates will leave Launceston at 9.00am, or the Airport at 10.0am, on Saturday 4th October. At the end of the conference, buses will travel on the morning of Friday 10th October to reach Launceston Airport at approximately 1.30 pm. Queenstown, which is home to the famous Mt. Lyell Mine, is set amongst spectacular mountains, rivers and rainforest. The town is central to the many attractions that are planned for the Conference. Places to be visited include historic Zeehan; Robert Stitch's mansion 'Penghana'; the mining centres of Rosebery, Tullah and Renison Bell; Lake Margaret Power Station; Waratah; Mt. Bischoff Mine; a trip on the Mt. Lyell Railway, as well as a visit to Strahan. A wide range of accommodation is available. Details and registration forms may be sent out in January or will accompany the

March newsletter. Abstracts of papers to reach the AMHA Secretary by 30th July 2008. **Note:** 1st paper already in!

Information Wanted

Ian Braybrook (Geelong) has written to ask if anyone can help him trace information on his great-grandfather, George Gibson Saddler, who was born in Melbourne in 1852. In 1884 whilst living at Allendale, he was involved in a minor mining accident at the Berry Consol shaft. This was reported in the *Creswick Advertiser*, on 17 November. When two of his daughters entered the religious order of St Josephs in 1914 he was described as a mine manager in Victoria.

However, the puzzle Ian is particularly trying to solve concerns a handwritten certificate/card presented to him which is endorsed 'South America Andcolla 25/12/1907'. A Google for Andcolla provides no information. Victorian shipping records show that a G. Saddler, a 50-year old Australian mining engineer arrived in Melbourne on 31 July 1908 on board the *Roon*, a German ship which started at Bremen. G. Saddler boarded at Naples.

Ian has gone through the *Australian Mining Standard* for July-December 1908 and couldn't see his name anywhere in relation to a South American report.

Can anyone shed any light on Saddler and Andcolla in particular and/or point Ian towards further source material?

Ian Braybrook can be contacted at: rondian@pipeline.com.au

Bits-and Pieces

Naica Caves, Mexico

At the Armidale conference, photographs sent to the Secretary by our Canberra member Michael Wright that showed gigantic crystals discovered at the Naica caves in Mexico were shown on a computer screen. While amazing, some folks were suspicious, being mindful of what can be done these days to doctor photos with a computer. However, to assuage suspicions

as to the legitimacy of the images you are invited to get on the web and hit 'Naica Caves'. 'Shame on ye of little faith'!

OBITUARY

James (Jim) Whitehead, 1930-2007

In the September newsletter we noted the passing of our member, Jim Whitehead, well known to many for his work in the mining industry and with AusIMM. We are grateful for the following obituary that was printed in the AusIMM News Bulletin and is reproduced with permission from Jim May, *AusIMM*.

'James (Jim) Hebbard Whitehead died on 19 June 2007 aged 77. His death followed a debilitating illness after major heart surgery in May 2006.

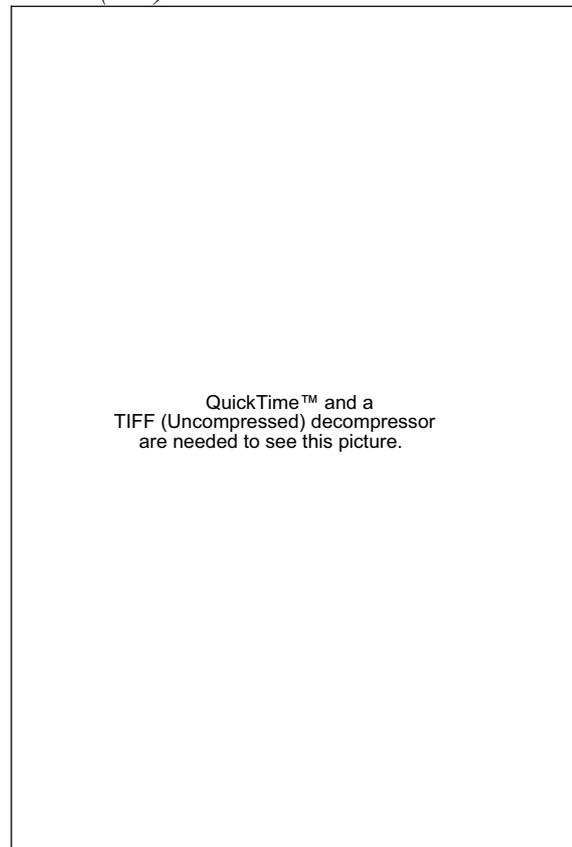
Jim was educated at Melbourne High School going on to RMIT where he graduated with a Diploma in Mining in 1952. He joined the staff of the Coal Production Branch of the State Electricity Commission, Victoria in the LaTrobe Valley and, later, in Head Office in Melbourne.

In 1954, following his marriage to Barbara Longney, he moved to the staff of Zinc Corporation in Broken Hill. After a short interlude at Broken Hill, he returned to Melbourne where he joined the staff of Ingersoll Rand. At various times he managed their Rock Drill, Mining & Construction and Underground Mining Departments and then oversaw the Special Projects and Operations unit in Papua New Guinea. In 1983, the company decided to close its Australian mining unit and Jim, after almost 30 years service with the company, set up his own consultancy taking with him a number of the agencies formerly managed by Ingersoll Rand. He was well known throughout the Australian mining, quarrying and construction industries,

travelled widely in Australia and overseas and was greatly respected for his knowledge and integrity.

He joined The Institute as a Student Member in September 1947 moving to a Graduate Member in 1952, so had almost 60 years of continuous membership. He acted as the Student Representative on the Melbourne Branch Committee from 1948 until 1950 and then served on the Branch as a Corporate Member for a number of years, including as its Secretary for several years.

James (Jim) Whitehead



He was elected to the Council representing Victoria in 1982 and served until 1990. Jim was one of a new group of younger Councillors who came out of the mining services industry rather than from one of the operating companies or academia. He became the inaugural Chairman of the Mineral Heritage Committee in 1984, retaining this position until his death. He was appointed a Trustee of the Australasian Mineral Heritage Trust when it was set up in 1987. Jim acted as Electoral Officer for

many years. He helped the staff of The Institute with Heritage and other inquiries and is fondly remembered by them.

Jim became involved with the newly formed Australian Tunnelling Association in the 1970s and the evolution to involve both the civil engineering and mining practitioners as the Australian Underground Construction & Tunnelling Association, a joint activity with the Engineers Australia. He served on the National Committee until 2000 as the representative of The Institute and was its Chairman from 1981 to 1984. He was Chairman of the Organising Committee of the 6th Australian Tunnelling Conference and of the 13th General Assembly of the International Tunnelling Association held in Melbourne in 1987. He also chaired the Organising Committee of the very successful 10th Australian Tunnelling Conference in Melbourne in 1999.

He has been a member of the Mining School Advisory Committee at Ballarat University College and Chairman of the Mining School Advisory Committee of RMIT.

In 2005, his long commitment and service to The Institute was recognised with the award of Honorary Fellowship. In this he followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, James Hebbard, who was President of The Institute in 1913 and was made an Honorary Member in 1940.

Jim loved being a mining engineer. He put his heart and soul into everything he did. The Institute has lost one of its greatest supporters and one of its hardest workers.

Outside his professional life one saw exactly the same commitment. He was involved with so many activities and organisations: Rotary, Freemasonry,

the MCC, where he was a Guide for 15 years, Sovereign Hill, Friends of the *SS Great Britain*, Red Cross, the Barbarians, his local church, St James Anglican Church Glen Iris — the list could go on and on. In all this he was never a spectator; always he was thoroughly involved, often holding responsible positions of leadership.

His life has touched so many people not only within his profession but far beyond. We have lost a wonderful friend but we honour a life led to the full. We are all the better for having known him. His three children Jenni, David and Anne and their families to whom we extend our sincere sympathy, survive Jim.

Annual General Meeting

Thirty-three members attended the Armidale AGM and as hinted in the Editorial, all went smoothly – not one egg thrown - and consensual agreement on all issues raised. Among those points was the decision to maintain fees at current levels, a motion to pay the journal editor a honorarium, and the decision to allocate conferences over the next few years, though with the rider that we should not break connections with the Australian Historical Association. It was noted that we had a record membership of 176 individuals plus 10 institutions, though it was felt that we should try to attract more to our ranks and that we should attempt to interest younger members. A suggestion was made that perhaps more should be done at the regional level to recruit people and that individual members should bring the Association to the attention of their contacts.

On other matters, it was agreed that we should keep digital records of the Journal, though the Editor pointed out that we still had substantial stocks at hand in hard copy form. On another issue, Greg Drew stated he would soon take over the web page as he had earlier agreed to do. The meeting ended with thanks to Graham Wilson who had organised an excellent dinner at the Wicklow Hotel (though no responsibility was laid on his shoulders for the

‘performances’ by various members in the social part of the function), and also for the tours that he had organised in the two days before the conference.

The AGM also saw the presentation of the first ‘Duke of Cornwall Coathanger’ award, conjured up by Keith Johns [see account in the September 2007 newsletter]. Ross Both actually presented the award and the fortunate recipient was the Secretary who humbly accepted the tribute for his contribution towards modern technology, it having been learned that he had managed to work out how to receive a message on his mobile (only one!), and that despite his outrageous attack on Powerpoint presentations in the newsletters, had even utilised one of Greg Drew’s Powerpoint photos during his paper presentation. To quote the Minutes of the meeting:

‘The Secretary stated that he was speechless at this great honour that had been bestowed upon him and that he felt humbled by the occasion. While he acknowledged being one of the valiant five [at the Duke of Cornwall in 2006] he believed there were two people more deserving who were present in the room – Greg Dickens who had first spotted the broken beer bottles and blood on the wall, and Nick Haygarth who had been close to the action while ensconced in the bridal suite. Still, he accepted this prestigious award on behalf of the group of heroes and hoped that Keith Johns would be present at a future occasion to present the award in person’.

Election of Officers

The following members were elected:

Patron: Geoffrey Blainey

President Peter Bell

Secretary/Treasurer: Mel Davies

Auditor: Glenda Scully **Committee:**

Committee:

ACT - Chris Carter, Barry McGowan,
NSW- Graydon Henning, Leonie Knapman,
Ross Mainwaring, Graham Wilson.

NT - David Carment.

Qld - Ruth Kerr, Diane Menghetti Jan Wegner.

SA - Ross Both, Greg Drew, Graham Hancock.

TAS - Greg Dickens, Nick Haygarth.

Vic - Sandra Kippen, David White, Mike Williams;
Nick Williams.

WA - Patrick Bertola, Wendy Carter,
Charlie Fox, Richard Hartley, Gerry MacGill,

NZ - Brian Hill, Philip Hart.

Journal Editor: Mel Davies.

Assistant Editor: Nic Williams.

Literary Corner!

The following is the oration that Ross Both gave at the Armidale dinner. Obviously comes from the pen of a pastie-eater but what was true in 1848 bears much that can be entertained on the character of a geologist today.

From *The Adelaide Observer*, 29 April 1848.

The Sydney geologist – A Tale

When mining mania at its height,
Infected each Australian wight,
There sallied forth, in search of ore,
From Sydney Cove, some half a score.
Amongst the rest, one Hardy chap,
Who mightily had plumed his cap,
That, coming fresh from college, he
Was master of geology -
Knew minerals of every grade,
And Cornish boors cast quite in shade.
He rummaged all the mines about,
Into each hole would thrust his snout,
And confidently give his notions,
As formerly he mixed up potions;
For “Chemist” called himself (the lout)
“Before his mother thought him out” -
Well – having filled his bag with stone
And rubbish, off he trots to town;
His specimens with care arrays,
Straightway prepares to make assays -
‘Tis copper, this – galena, that -
No trace of silver – that is flat,
But quite enough of solid lead
To puzzle brains at Addlehead.
At length, a new discovery found,
He grins, and sneers at all around -

“Henceforth,” he cries, “shall men of science
 On me alone now place reliance;
 For I’m the only scientific
 Ass within the wide Pacific.”
 He then proceeds to argument,
 Becomes dogmatic, insolent -
 Hits right and left, and offers bets
 To draw the unwary to his nets;
 And when he thought he’d won the
 trick,
 Lugs out the sample – lo! ‘tis brick!
 The ape, confused, sneaks home again,
 And, landed there, hies to his pen,
 Abuses all, both far and near,
 And thinks it witty and severe
 To blackguard each man who was kind
 To such a worthless, scrubby hind.
 One lesson he may learn, however,
 That be he quack, or fool, or clever,
 If ere again his face he shows
 In Adelaide – they’ll tweak his nose.
TRURO.

Armidale Picture Gallery

Ross Both presents the coveted Duke of Cornwall Coathanger award to the Secretary.

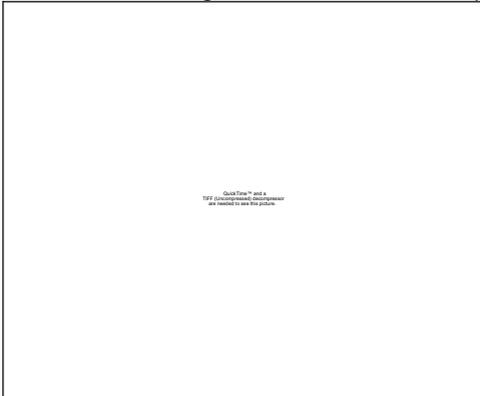


Photo: Greg Drew

‘Where’s Wally?’ Butting -in at Metz, near Hillgrove



Photo: Greg Drew
‘Our after-dinner entertainers’ - Montana Ahwon, Latoya Roberts, & Wendy Carter



Photo: Mel Davies

AMHA Dinner at the Wicklow, Armidale



Photo: Greg Dickens

Old Campaigner, Greg Knapman
 advertising Langtrees House of Passion,
 Kalgoorlie when at the Moredun Ponds Dam



Photo Mel Davies

Rugged mining country – Metz-Hillgrove



Photo: Mel Davies