



AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754

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Web page: <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au>

Editorial

At a time when the mining industry is booming it is sad to relate that the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame that was inaugurated in 2001 is on the brink of closing because of lack of sufficient financial support. As Allan Trench, Adjunct Professor at the Western Australian School of Mines reports, 'The Mining Hall of Fame is looking as if it will become the Mining Hall Of Shame'.

To help save this icon an appeal is being made to all companies within the Australian mining sector but also to individuals who can become members for the very reasonable sum of \$30.

In addition to recognizing and celebrating the pioneering activities of individuals associated with the industry, the aims of the hall are several. These include educating the visiting public as to the benefits that mining delivers to the Australian economy. The Hall of Fame also delivers experiential learning opportunities to visitors, including children, which may attract them to the sector in the future. While physically located in Kalgoorlie, one of the objectives is inter-state outreach and online education initiatives of the country's minerals sector.

To allow Hall of Fame Chief

executive officer Andrew Govey* realize his vision we appeal to members of our organization to support the Institution in any way they can. For membership queries contact Andrew Govey at: agovey@mininghall.com

Mystery Members!?

Two members who paid \$25 subs through bank transfers did not record their names, nor send in membership forms. If you've received a reminder slip and believe that you are one of the mystery duo, please contact the Secretary asap. Note that one of the bank deposits was sent from Illawara.

Forthcoming Conferences

Cornish Association of SA: Biennial Seminar Wallaroo 12 May 2011.

Speakers include: professor Geoffrey Blainey and Professor Philip Payton.

<<http://www.kernewek.org>>

Postponed - 9th International Mining History Congress, S. Africa

Please note that the 9th International Congress scheduled for 15-18 August 2011, has been postponed until 17-20 April 2012.

Contact is Richard Bailey at tel. (+27) 12 361 9300, e.mail: <richard@imhc.co.za>

A new web page is currently under construction at <<http://www.imhc.co.za>>

***AMHA 17th Annual Conference,
Handhorf, South Australia 12 - 18
September 2011.***

A great programme has been produced by the SA organizing committee. For details and registration see the fliers enclosed with this newsletter. Also check our web page for further details.

***International Conference: On the
Surface: The Heritage of Mines and
Mining 14-16 April 2011, Innsbruck,
Austria***

A major international conference on mining heritage will be held in Innsbruck, Austria. The Conference is being organised in cooperation between Austria and the UK by the Centre for Tourism and Cultural Change (CTCC) based in the United Kingdom and the Department of History and European Ethnology at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. In the spirit of future planning and international exchange this event will bring together over 150 researchers, mining museums, practitioners and policy makers from over 35 countries to discuss the heritage of mines and mining. The idea is not to focus on the past but to explore how heritage and tourism and the mining sector can co-operate in education and wider regional and national development. The conference will draw upon best practice from international scholars and practitioners, to help develop new research capacities amongst policy makers and professionals.

For more information on this exciting conference please go to http://www.tourismculture.com/news_2.html

Presentations may be made in person or via a poster; flyer/brochure display; sponsorships; or participating in person in networking sessions and the event.

**History Symposium at 34th
International Geological Congress**

The 34th IGC will be held between 5-10 August 2012 in Brisbane. As part of the Congress, INHIGEO will be organising a

number of symposia related to the 'History of Geology'.

Ken McQueen will be coordinating a Symposium on *Geologists, resource exploration and development: An historical perspective*.

This will without doubt be of interest to some members of the AMHA, particularly those of a 'geological bent'. If you would like to offer a presentation (oral or poster) or get more information on the symposium, please contact Ken at: Ken.McQueen@canberra.edu.au.

The Congress web site can be found at: <http://www.34igc.org/>

**Bits and Pieces and Requests for
Information**

***Report on Colloquium, Lewarde, France,
December 2010***

Australian coal miners and their historical contribution to industrial health and safety legislation and their more recent place in the debate on global warming responses featured prominently at an international colloquium held at the Miners' History Centre in Lewarde in northern France during December.

Invited speakers from Wales, Scotland, England, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Spain and China also attended the Colloquium which came as the closing event in a Mining Centre exhibition that ran from April to December.

The event was organised by the Directors and senior archivists and curators of mining museums in Germany, England, Belgium and France. The Colloquium and accompanying exhibition examined the social status of coal miners around the world. An associated Round Table Session saw participation by Geneva-based Joe Drexler of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mining and General Workers' Union and Roland Houpp, a former miner in the Lorraine Basin, a Life Member and former Secretary-General of the French Coal Miner's Union and a former member of the

Standing Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community.

The magnificent Lewarde Centre, which is being considered for World Heritage listing, occupies the site of the former showpiece Delloye Pit and is now the major miners' and mining museum in France. It is, too, a research facility for undergraduate and post-graduate students, writers, scriptwriters, producers and mining historians.

The invitation to Australian coal mining writer Alan Murray, was extended by the organisers through Dr Margaret Faull, an Australian who is Managing Director of the National Coal Museum near Wakefield in Yorkshire. Murray's presentation, *Voices from the Shadows*, examined the early use of convict labour in coal mines in Australia to the formation of the Australasian Coal and Shale Employees' Federation in 1915 and the eventual transformation of that union into the Mining and Energy Division of the CFMEU.

Murray said there was particular interest in how Australian coal miners, particularly through their long-running Australian Coal Miners' Oral History Project had captured and published stories of the lives and times of Australian coal miners in the 20th Century. There was also growing interest in how Australian coal miners, through their Union, were engaging in the various climate change and mining taxation debates in contemporary Australia. He said the Lewarde Colloquium had been a sterling example of the clever intertwining of the engineering and scientific material culture of mining and the place of coal miners in society.

NSW Patents

Member Peter Benkendorff draws attention to a project by ASHETT (Australian Society for History of Engineering and Technology). It involves filling the gaps in the patent lists for NSW from 1855-1884. It's a fascinating list and members will find lots of patents associated with mining machinery,

smelting, and even one (patent No. 2, 1854) for a 'Portable prospector for searching auriferous lands, and for geological surveys'. There are 1,560 patents listed, and this can be downloaded from ASHETT's newsletter at: <http://ashet.org.au/downloads-3/>.

Joadja Creek, NSW

Ruth Kerr suggests that members who visited the remains of the oil-shale township in the attractive Joadja Valley during the Lithgow Conference might be interested to learn that the property was recently put up for sale by auction under mortgagees' instructions. The property last sold for \$1.4million in 2002 by a syndicate that built a distillery there. At the auction the main 290-hectare village holding was expected to reach about \$1.5million, while cheaper blocks were expected to be auctioned for \$200,000 plus. Leonie Knapman and other Joadjaites will rest assured that strict heritage controls are in place to protect the industrial ruins, workers' cottages and the manager's homestead.

New Publications

The following information taken from the Earth Sciences History Group E.mail *Bulletin* No, 23, might be of interest to some of our members;

Scanning Project (HQSP) is scanning all scales and all editions of approximately 250,000 topographic maps published by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) since the inception of the topographic mapping program in 1884. This scanning will provide a comprehensive digital repository of USGS topographic maps, available to the public at no cost. This project serves the dual purpose of creating a master catalogue and digital archive copies of the irreplaceable collection of topographic maps in the USGS Reston Map Library as well as making the maps available for viewing and downloading from the USGS Store and The National Map Viewer. Details can be found at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011.old/3009/>
MJD/March-April' 11



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Newsletter No. 2 June 2011

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754

Web page: <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au>

ISSUE 65

Editorial

With plans already underway for our second conference visit to New Zealand in 2012, it's time to consider a change of name for the Association. As foreshadowed in 2010 at the Greymouth AGM, members will this year be asked to vote on whether to change our name to encompass recognition of our Kiwi cousins by changing the title to **Australasian** Mining History Association. As you will be aware, when we went ahead with the naming of our journal it was decided that the name Australasian should be embraced, and with such a rich heritage of mining history in New Zealand, that was indeed an appropriate decision. Please note in your diaries that the decision will be made at the Handhorf conference, the AGM being scheduled to take place at 5.00pm on Friday 16th September

This is also an opportune time to remind members that if they wish to have any substantive issues discussed, they should e.mail or write to the Secretary, so that the items can be placed on the agenda.

Mystery Members?

The names and details of two members who paid \$25 subs through bank transfers is still a mystery. If you paid this amount in January/February and receive a reminder with this newsletter, please contact the Secretary with your details.

Forthcoming Conferences

AMHA 17th Annual Conference, Handhorf, South Australia 12 - 18 September 2011.

Members are requested to get their forms in soon, so as to take advantage of the **Early Bird registration** offer that closes on **1st August**. There were 40 booking up to 17 June and the rush is still to come! Note that there are limits on numbers for the many excursions listed on the registration form. First in first served – so get in early to avoid disappointment.

Attend the welcome reception at Auchendarroch House, Mt Barker on 13 September, followed by business sessions and tours of mining and other related sites in the Adelaide Hills, every day to Sunday 18th. For updates, registration forms, programme details, information on accommodation and transport availability, view our AMHA webpage at: www.mininghistory.asn.au or, if you have specific queries, contact Greg Drew at gldrew@internode.on.net

Note the theme of the conference is 'Australia's Earliest Mining Era' – a reminder that the first big mineral rush in Australia was not in New South Wales but in South Australia where copper was king! The SA committee will be sure to see that you visit some of those early sites. See attached preliminary programme for the tempting offerings.

Postponed - 9th International Mining History Congress, S. Africa

Please note that the 9th International Congress scheduled for 15-18 Aug. 2011, has been postponed until 17-20 April 2012.

Contact is Richard Bailey at tel. (+27) 12 361 9300, e.mail: <richard@imhc.co.za>

A new web page is currently under construction at <<http://www.imhc.co.za>>

Bits and Pieces and Requests for Information

Nominees for Australian Mining Hall of Fame

The Australian Mining Hall of Fame (AMHF) has contacted our Association so that members can nominate mining figures for the Hall of Fame. Nominations for 2011 close on 30 June but if too late for this year you can put on your thinking cap for the 2012 awards.

There are a number of categories for nominees who have made an outstanding contribution to the Australian minerals industry. They include Prospectors & Discoverers; Entrepreneurs & Promoters; Directors & Management; Technologists & Scientists; Governments & Administration; Educators; Historians & Journalists; Representatives of Labour; Environmental Care; Safety & Occupational Health; Community Representatives; and Heroes.

Note that to qualify, living people will be eligible only after they have reached 75 years of age, which I should imagine leaves the field wide open for people in the AMHA!

Applications will go through a selection process and presentations will be made at a dinner in November. Note, that our President, Ruth Kerr, has recently joined the Selection Committee.

For further details either see their web page or e.mail the Hall of Fame at: enquiries@mininghall.com

Mining & Prospectors Hall of Fame

The editorial in the last newsletter highlighted the financial difficulties faced by the Hall of Fame in Kalgoorlie. Fortunately, after much publicity and appeals to the mining community,

sufficient funds (\$1 million) were raised to see the Hall through until 2012.

WA Mines and Petroleum Minister Norman Moore had recently warned that taxpayers would not support the facility indefinitely and urged the resources sector to contribute. The Minister noted that WesTrac and Independence Group had made particularly generous contributions but donations had also come from BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Fortescue Metals Group, and Hancock Prospecting.

It should be noted that the APMHF is not a state-run enterprise and the board now has 12 months financial security to establish a formal business plan, improve accounting and develop marketing strategies to ensure industry continues to support it into the future. Hopefully, under the guiding hand of the new chairman, former resources minister, Peter Jones, matters will be resolved satisfactorily.

Matlock Collection

Anyone interested in the 1860s Victorian gold mining town of Matlock will undoubtedly be interested to learn that member, Robin Bailey, recently deposited his large collection of information (and artefacts) on the town, to the *Jamieson and District Historical Society* and to the Bendigo branch of LaTrobe University.

New Publications

David Upton, *The Olympic Dam Story: How Western Mining defied the odds to discover and develop the world's largest mineral deposit*, Upton Financial P.R., Armadale, Victoria, 2010. ISBN 978-0-646-54381-9. 180pp, including maps and photographs. Price \$35 including GST.

Recently Keith Johns published his account of the discovery of and machinations associated with the opening by Western Mining of the Olympic Dam mine at Roxby Downs, South Australia (see review by Barry Cooper in our journal, vol. 8). Being the largest uranium source, the fourth largest copper and fifth largest gold resource in the world to date, it is no wonder that the resource has attracted attention. Thus no surprise that another book should soon follow Keith's work, this

time from the pen of another AMHA member, David Upton, who has set out to cast light on the discovery and development of the mine. Those who have passed by the area on the road from Adelaide to Broken Hill will wonder what inspired drilling in an area that bore no surface indication of the mineral deposits that lay far under the surface but David reveals that geological interpretation and dogged persistence were important ingredients leading to success. This is a well-written book that will satisfy both the technically minded and the general reader with an interest in mining – but you can read more about David's publication in the next volume of our journal where it will be reviewed. For those who can't wait, more information can be seen on David's website: www.theolympicdamstory.com Purchases can be made at Dymock stores or directly from the author by contacting him at: david@theolympicdamstory.com

Scanning Project

The following information taken from the Earth Sciences History Group E.mail *Bulletin* No, 23, might be of interest to some of our members;

Scanning Project (HQSP) is scanning all scales and all editions of approximately 250,000 topographic maps published by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) since the inception of the topographic mapping program in 1884. This scanning will provide a comprehensive digital repository of USGS topographic maps, available to the public at no cost. This project serves the dual purpose of creating a master catalogue and digital archive copies of the irreplaceable collection of topographic maps in the USGS Reston Map Library as well as making the maps available for viewing and downloading from the USGS Store and The National Map Viewer. Details can be found at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011.old/3009/>

Greymouth Conference DVD

Brian Hill, Ross and Anne Both have edited an excellent DVD recording the papers and social activities at the Greymouth Conference in July 2010. All

attendees and sponsors having been supplied, we have a few spares that can be obtained from the Secretary at the bargain price of \$5 plus \$1.80 postage. First in, first served!

Peter Claughton, Catherine Mills (eds), *Mining Perspectives: Proceedings of the 8th International Mining History Congress 2009*, Truro, 2011, pp. 190, 180 illustrations. ISBN 978-1-903798-77-5. Price £12.50 (\$20), excluding postage.

See the enclosed flier for information on the papers (including a number on Australian topics)

Copies can be obtained by contacting the editors - Peter Claughton at: p.f.claughton@exeter.ac.uk or Catherine Mills at; c.j.mills@stir.ac.uk

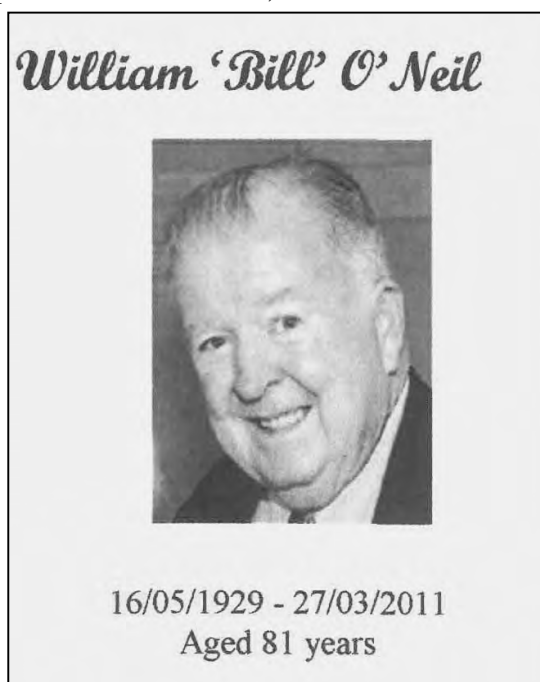
Obituary

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of one of our most stalwart supporters, **Bill** 'William Sydney' **O'Neil**, who passed away in Adelaide on 27th March, aged 81 years.

Bill, an ex-miner and ardent Trade Unionist, who followed in the footsteps of his father 'Shorty' O'Neil, was well respected at the Barrier by workers and mining companies alike,* and although a hard bargainer, he always had a twinkle in his eye and enjoyed harmonious personal relations with all and sundry. He was a first class negotiator and great contributor to the working class movement. He also had an elevated social conscience that he put into practice in his everyday relations and in the community projects in which he was involved.

Bill spent 27 years working in the mines, first with the Zinc Corporation and later NBHC as an underground loco-driver before becoming and serving 20 years as Secretary of the Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association. In 1985 he took over Presidency of the Barrier Industrial Council and in the mid 1990s he was a main force in forming the local branch of the Construction Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU). Despite these and other time-consuming duties, Bill still found time to actively

promote Broken Hill, both as a Councillor



and as chairman of the Broken Hill Base Hospital. He also served as chairman of the Far West Area Health Service, where he did much to promote Aboriginal health, a move that led to formation of the Maari Ma Health organisation.

In his 'spare time', Bill was an avid supporter of local sporting organisations, being a foundation member of the Broken Hill Amateur Swimming Club where he was involved in fund raising and in competitive swimming. In addition he was a member of the local rifle-shooting club, where in his youth he had won several championship trophies.

As far as members who knew him are concerned, Bill will be remembered for his affable charm and unassuming nature – characteristics that he shared with his partner Dallas Bartley and which they exhibited when participating in many of our recent conferences. The author still has pleasant memories of the Broken Hill Conference that we ran in 2003, which was held at the Broken Hill Trades Hall, but especially memorable was the occasion when Bill brought in the local choir and Silver Band to entertain the troops. His piece de resistance was to end proceedings with a stirring rendition of the 'Red Flag' and it gave him great delight to note that Gilbert Ralph and other ex-mining

company directors joined in with gusto! It is fitting to note, that this rendition was also the final farewell that Bill received at his funeral that took place in the City Cathedral on 4 April.

Bill will certainly be missed at our future functions. As long-time partner Dallas Bartley noted, before Bill was taken ill, they were really looking forward to attending yet another enjoyable the Conference at Handhorf in the Adelaide hills.

We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to Dallas and to Bill's immediate and extended families. Their loss is ours too!

* See report by Andrew Robertson, 'Bill O'Neil 1929-2011, City mourns death of union stalwart', *Barrier Daily Truth*, 31 March 2011, p. 5.

Journal

A very positive report in that we have received more articles for consideration than ever before. On the negative side, it means that because of weight constraints regarding postage, we will have to make some hard decisions regarding which papers will appear in this year's volume, and which will be laid over until volume 10 in 2012. Unfortunate, but to try to ameliorate the situation, this year's volume will see the spacing between lines reduced and photographs and diagrams carefully vetted and published only if they directly add to the utility of the article.

We are also extremely pleased to report that Newcrest Mining Limited have kindly agreed, for the second year running, to renew their sponsorship of the journal.

Mining History Bibliography

Just to remind members that we are still adding to the mining history bibliography. So if you come across any new articles or books on mining history in Australia, New Zealand or Papua New Guinea, please provide details to the Secretary.

Also to remind you that CDs of the bibliography can be provided by sending an order along with \$11 (cheques made out to the AMHA).



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Newsletter No. 3 September 2011

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754

ISSUE 66

Web page: <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au>

Editorial

While we manage to present excellent conferences that appeal to the membership, getting them off the ground requires a surprising amount of heavy work. Thanks to our local organizers we have always come up with excellently organized meetings and activities but there is always anxiety about finding suitable venues and local organizers for future conferences. Next year we are holding our second New Zealand located conference at Waihi on the north island; in 2013 plans are already underway for Beechworth in Victoria; and the following year there's the possibility of our locating at Cobar, New South Wales. With the need to set Planning for conferences at least two-years in advance we need members to put on their thinking caps so as to allow us to plan well in advance. Should you have any ideas, the place to put them forward is at the annual general meeting, with your next opportunity being at the Handhorf Conference AGM on 16 September. See the attached agenda for that event and note that your suggestions and comments at that meeting on this and any other topic will be welcomed. Among topics to be discussed will be payment systems, especially in view of our closer relationships with New Zealand members and thus the need to find

easy and reasonably costed transfer systems for registration and membership fees.

Forthcoming Conferences

AMHA 17th Annual Conference, Handhorf, 12 - 18 September 2011.

There's been an excellent response and we can expect a large attendance at Handhorf in September. We already have over 70 who have signed up, and no doubt there will be quite a few more before the conference commences. There's a fine menu of papers and also a large variety of tours on offer. See the details in the previous newsletter, or update on our web pages for the latest reports.

9th International Mining History Congress, S. Africa, 17 – 20 April 2012

Contact is Richard Bailey at tel. (+27) 12 361 9300, e.mail: <richard@imhc.co.za>

Abstracts of papers have to be submitted by 1 November 2011. For further details and registration fees, accommodation, etc., see <http://www.imhc.co.za/call-for-papers.php>

34th International Geological Congress, Brisbane, 5-10 August 2012, in association with the 37th meeting of the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

Plans are well underway for this prestigious international event, and it's pleasing to note that some of our members are heavily

involved. Overall convenor of the conference is Barry Cooper, while both Ken McQueen and Carol Bacon are organising sessions in the section devoted to the history of geology. David Branagan, as well as being to the fore in the organising of field trips, is having one of the sessions dedicated to him in honour of his contribution to the biographic studies of eminent geologists. This historical section of the world Congress is split into the following component parts, and should you be interested in contributing papers, then please contact the relevant convenors for the sessions listed below:

1. Biographic studies of eminent geologists: a symposium in honour of David Branagan. Convenor David Olroyd, Sydney. dolroyd@bigpond.com
2. The early history of continental drift: a centenary tribute to Alfred Wegener (1912). Convenors Homer Le Grand, Melbourne and Allan Krill, Trondheim. homerlegrand@arts.monash.edu.au and allan.krill@ntnu.no
3. Major achievements in 20th-century geology. Convenor Carol Bacon, Hobart. cbacon@mrt.tas.gov.au
4. Geology in tropical regions. Convenor Bernie Joyce, Melbourne. ebj@unimelb.au
5. Geologists, resource exploration and development: an historical perspective. Convenor Ken McQueen, Canberra. ken.mcqueen@edu.au
6. General contributions on the history of geology. Convenor Barry Cooper, Adelaide. barry.cooper@unisa.edu.au
For additional information on the Congress, Google, IGC Brisbane 2012, or on web at: <http://www.34igc.org/index.php>

AMHA – Waihi Conference, New Zealand, November 2012

Final details still to be determined and information on accommodation, etc, will be available at the Handhorf conference. For starters, Philip Hart has provided the following information regarding dates:

‘People attending pre-conference activities need to arrive on Sunday 4 November for the two-day trip on 5th and 6th. Papers, etc., Wednesday 7th to Saturday 10th November inclusive. Extra day touring (helicopter option available for those who don’t wish to keep their feet on the ground!) on Sunday 11th November’.

Bits and Pieces and Requests for Information

Exhibitions

Member John Blockley has drawn attention to details of two mining related exhibitions listed in the ESHG E.mail Bulletin. While WA o’centric, they should prove of interest to local members and to the odd (in the rare sense of the word!) visitor that we get from interstate or overseas:

1. ‘Unearthed’ at Geraldton Museum

The Mid West region of WA covers an area of about 470,000 km² inland from Geraldton. Aborigines mined ochre there for some 30,000 years before European settlement, and it was the site of some of Western Australia's first mineral discoveries after colonization. These include the Northampton Mineral Field, which is represented by a collection of historic mineral specimens. The exhibition runs until October 23rd. Details are at:

<http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/unearthed/>

2. ‘Rock Breakers’ at Fremantle Prison

In 1881, the Reverend Charles Nicolay, Chaplain at Fremantle Prison and scientific adviser to the Governor, was authorised to curate a public collection of rocks, minerals and fossils. This was the first government funded collection in Western Australia, and became known as the Geological Museum. Over the following decade the collection was housed in number 2 The Terrace (the ex-guardroom), adjacent to Nicolay's house at number 8. Nicolay curated the collection from 1881 to 1889 after which it was transferred from Fremantle Prison to the Old Perth Gaol. It was housed in the former Court Room and formed the basis of the state's collection. Much of the original Nicolay collection is still located today at the Western Australian Museum in Welshpool.

Being the first state collection in Western Australia it foreshadowed the development of the present state collection as well as the economic development of the state through mineral exploration and mining. The collection is also significant because it is a physical link between two important cultural institutions in Western Australia, Fremantle Prison and the Western Australian Museum, central to the cultural development and history of the state. Rock Breakers will be on show at Fremantle Prison from August 2011 to January 2012.

Information wanted

Our Kiwi sleuth, detective Philip Hart, is once more on the track of an errant mining character. This time it's to obtain information on Charles S. (possibly Stanislaus) Stafford, who was general manager for some British-based mining companies in Kalgoorlie in 1897, and possibly other years. Only reward for information is the satisfaction of supplying the data! Please contact Philip at: <prhart@waikato.ac.nz>

New Publications

Kevin R. Kakoschke, OAM, *Women of Gold*, the author, Adelaide, 2011. Pp. 190. Price: \$35 plus \$3.00 postage. Available from the author, at 32A Morimer Street, Kuttralta Park, SA 5037, or PIRSA, Mining Branch, 95 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, SA 5000. Also at some bookshop outlets.

The publication information states that, *Women Of Gold*' is a blend of historical 'facts' with a dash of humour. The stories are of the North-eastern Goldfields of South Australia, Teetulpa, Waukaringa etc., during the late 1800's and 1930's depressions. As a babe in the late 1930's, Kevin, together with his five older brothers, (all under seven years of age), was raised in a tent and dugout on the Wadnaminga goldfields near Mannahill, South Australia. Cases of hardship experienced by some women on the goldfields, is injected into the mining narrative to both humanise and personalise what is generally accepted as being just a man's realm. It's a story of young men and women who lusted for

gold, but instead, were carried off to their maker by the deadly typhoid disease. Women were the 'civilisers' of those farflung mining settlements. The role of women, how they coped in the harsh desert conditions, of personal tragedies, love, marriage, birth and death, made them the 'Unsung Heroines of The Goldfields'.

John Milton Hutchins, *Diggers, Constables, and Bushrangers: The New Zealand Gold Rushes as a Frontier Experience, 1852-1876*, Avrooman-Appfelward Press, Lakewood, Colorado, 2010. ISBN 978-1-933933-03-0. HB 342 pp, 20 illustrations.

Available from Aberdeen Bookstore for \$US37.50 plus \$US15 for postage. See website at www.Aberdeenbookstore.com e.mail: aberdeentp@earthlink.net

Journal

A very positive report in that we have received more articles for consideration than ever before. On the negative side, it means that because of weight constraints regarding postage, we will have to make some hard decisions regarding which papers will appear in this year's volume, and which papers will be laid over until volume 10 in 2012. Unfortunate, but to try to ameliorate the situation, this year's volume will see the spacing between lines reduced and photographs and diagrams carefully vetted and published only if they directly add to the utility of the articles.

We are also extremely pleased to report that Newcrest Mining Limited which sponsored the Journal in 2009, has kindly renewed the sponsorship that covers the printing and mailing of the finished product.

Despite the larger number of papers for the forthcoming volume, please keep the articles coming in. Note that its never too early to contribute a paper, indeed, the earlier the better, as the process between submitting and the final production is a long one. As a reminder, we have a refereed and unrefereed section – but before submitting please look at the style sheet on the web page, or request a copy from the Secretary.

MJD Sept/2011

17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Handhorf Conference Venue, South Australia
Commencing at 5.00pm, Friday 16th September 2011

AGENDA

President's Welcome

Apologies

1. Minutes of Greymouth AGM, 10 July 2011
2. Matters Arising from Minutes
 - a) Journal Accreditation with ARC
 - b) Constitution of the AMHA
 - c) Web page
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report/Auditor's Report year ending 30 June 2011.
Treasurer's Report 1 July 2010 to September 2011.
5. Correspondence
6. Motions and Changes to Constitution (see next page)
7. Election, or Confirmation for Appointment of Officers
 - a) Patron; b) President; c) Vice-President; d) Secretary; e) Treasurer, f) Auditor;
 - g) Committee (not less than seven additional members); h) Journal Editor;
 - i) Sub-editor; j) Webmaster.
8. Setting of Fees for 2012
9. Journal Editor's Honorarium
10. Journal Update
11. Web pages update
12. General Business (items may also be raised from the floor)
 - a) Report on venue and date for 2012 Conference
 - b) Report on venue for 2013 Conference
 - c) Nominations for 2014 Conference

Current Officers and Delegates

Patron: Prof. Geoffrey Blainey, AC

Current Executive Committee

President: Dr Ruth Kerr OAM

Vice-President: Dr. Ross Both

Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Mel Davies, OAM

Current Committee members

ACT - Barry McGowan, Ken McQueen.

SA – Peter Bell, Greg Drew, Graham Hancock

NSW - Graydon Henning, Adrian Hutton, Leonie Knapman,
Graham Wilson

NT - David Carment

QLD - Jan Wegner

VIC - Sandra Kippen, Mike Williams; Nick Williams.

WA - Wendy Carter, Charlie Fox, Richard Hartley,

Gerry MacGill,

TAS - Chris Boron, Greg Dickens, Nick Haygarth

NZ - Brian Hill, Philip Hart.

Current Journal Editor: Mel Davies.

Current Journal sub-editor: Nick Williams.

Current Webmaster: Mr. Greg Drew

Journal Editorial Board: Dr. Peter Bell; Dr. Patrick Bertola; Prof. Gordon Boyce; Prof. David Branagan;
Prof. Roger Burt; Prof. David Carment; Ass. Prof. Charlie Fox; Dr. Graydon Henning; Prof. Ken McQueen;
Prof. Jeremy Mouat; Prof. Ian Phimister; Prof. Ian Plimer.

6. Motions and Changes to Constitution

- a) As instructed by the Department of Commerce Western Australia we have to amend our constitution so as to conform with the Associations Incorporation Act (1987), under Schedule 1(6)e of the Act:

It will be moved that an additional Rule 13 be adopted under the heading: 'Proceedings of Committee', and that the current Rule 13 be renumbered Rule 14 and that all other rules thereafter be renumbered to Rule 17 that shall henceforth become Rule 18. The new rule 13 to read as follows:

13. Proceedings of Committee

13.1 The Committee must meet together for the dispatch of business not less than once in each year and the Chairperson, or at least half the members of the Committee, may at any time convene a meeting of the Committee.

13.2 Each Committee member has a deliberative vote.

13.3 A question arising at a Committee meeting must be decided by a majority of votes, but, if there is no majority, the person presiding at the Committee meeting will have a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.

13.4 At a Committee meeting four Committee members constitute a quorum.

13.5 Subject to these rules, the procedure and order of business to be followed at a Committee meeting must be determined by the Committee members present at the Committee meeting.

- b) As foreshadowed at the Greymouth AGM, it is moved that Rule 1.1 of the Constitution be amended so as to change the name of the Association from *Australian Mining History Inc.*, to *Australasian Mining History Association Inc.*
- c) That in compliance with the previous foreshadowed motion, that in Rule 8.4b the word *New Zealand* be placed immediately after the word 'cover'. The Rule to now read: *Not less than 7 additional Committee members (with the object of endeavouring to cover New Zealand and as great a range of States and territories of Australia as possible) all of whom shall be members of the Association.*



AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

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Editorial

A matter of concern for the organisation involves future succession for a number of the functions currently carried out by the Secretary/Treasurer. None of us (unfortunately) will go on forever, and following discussion, the Executive (including the Secretary/Treasurer) felt that we need to find members prepared at a future date to take over some of the duties, or to understudy, so that the Association can continue to function into the future with confidence. While there is some overlap between the functions of Secretary and Treasurer, with cooperation between the two, the duties can be split. The duties are not particularly onerous and anyone with a modicum of common sense should be able to cope with the work load. This is not to herald that the Secretary/Treasurer intends to resign soon but merely to look for a successor(s) who can be coached into what is required. All records of the organisation have been kept in word or pdf format, and hard copies of records have also been kept, and these can be passed on to whoever decides to take over any of the roles. The same applies to the editorship of the journal should anyone be prepared to consider taking over that role. If interested it would be appreciated if you could contact the Secretary, or President Ruth Kerr, at: Ruth.Kerr@deedi.qld.gov.au or Vice-President, Ross Both at: rosannb@bigpond.net.au

9th International Mining History Congress, S. Africa, 17 – 20 April 2012

There's still time to register. Contact is Richard Bailey at tel. (+27) 12 361 9300, e.mail: <richard@imhc.co.za>

For further details see <http://www.imhc.co.za>

18th Annual Conference, Waihi, New Zealand, 4-11 November 2012

Note for those wishing to travel from Auckland Airport to Waihi – contact

Go-Kiwi Ltd for coach services.

The conference registration forms will be sent out with the March newsletter, or will probably be available on our web page before that date.

Philip Hart warns that as the commemoration of the Waihi strike will be held on the Saturday of the conference, accommodation will be very tight on Friday and Saturday nights: so all those interested in attending should book as early as possible. A list of accommodation will shortly be available on the web page.

Philip also announces an additional rambling delight to those already noted at Handhorf, this being a guided tour of his particular goldfield, Waiorongomai, on the slopes of Te Aroha mountain; about 30 minutes by car from Waihi. Some people have already expressed interest, and it would be helpful if those keen to attend could let him know in advance. Those

interested would have to stay two extra nights either at Waihi or maybe Te Aroha, as the exploration would be held on the Monday following the conference. Be warned that boots and other tramping gear would be needed (parka, backpack, and water bottle; shorts desirable; and small torch a good idea, as we'll go underground); and it involves going steadily uphill on pack tracks, bushcrashing up to mines and open stopes, and steep descents down tramway inclines; but sections of flat tramway levels provide relaxing walking. This, for the fit and adventurous only, who are promised an interesting and scenic day out. Contact Philip at: PRHart@waikato.Ac.NZ

Copperopolis

Folk will possibly know that Swansea in South Wales was the centre of world smelting activity in the 18th and 19th century. To celebrate this important role, Swansea University has organised three workshops – one at Swansea University this coming April, one at Burra, South Australia in September, and one in Chile in 2013. Emphasis will be on the impact of the Swansea method of smelting around the world (see the articles by Peter Bell and Justin McCarthy in Vols. 8 & 9 of our journal for the Australian impact). A number of members of the AMHA and historians from other countries where the Welsh method was introduced, have been invited to present papers at the workshops. Reports and further information will be made available in later newsletters.

Report - 17th Annual AMHA Conference, Handorf, 2-18 September 2011

The 17th Annual AMHA Conference was held at Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills. Organisation of the conference was coordinated by Greg Drew with assistance from Lynn Drew, Ross Both, Barbara Parker, Kath Rayner of the Willunga National Trust, Jim Killick of the Mount Lofty Historical Society, Harold Gallasch of the Hahndorf Traders and Phillip Tanner of the City of Onkaparinga.

Conference activities started on Monday 12 September with two one-day pre-conference excursions: the first visited historic and operating silver-lead-zinc and copper mines in the Kanmantoo-Strathalbyn mineral field, the second (organised by the Willunga National Trust) went to the historic township of Willunga with the National Trust Slate Museum and to nearby slate quarries. On the Tuesday evening a reception sponsored by the Mount Barker Council was held at Auchendaroch House in Mount Barker, at which Mayor Ann Ferguson gave a welcoming speech followed by a response from our President Ruth Kerr.

The venue for the conference was the Hahndorf Institute. Registration numbers were higher than normal (98, possibly a record?), with representatives from USA, UK and Japan. Following the opening remarks by President Ruth Kerr, a short video prepared by Sue Baker Wilson was shown as a tribute to the miners who lost their lives in the Pike River Coal Mine explosion in November 2010. In addition to keynote presentations by Philip Payton of the University of Exeter, our Patron Geoffrey Blainey, and Charles Fahey of LaTrobe University, there were 28 general papers presented. A particularly pleasing feature was the number of papers by “new faces”, a healthy sign for the Association. Several short excursions were held during the conference: Jupiter Creek Gold Diggings, Littlehampton Brickworks, Brukunga Pyrite Mine and treatment plant, and Callington Township-Bremer Mine.

On the social side, the conference dinner was held at the Bird-in-Hand Winery, adjacent to the site of the former gold mine of the same name. The late arrival at the conference of our Secretary Mel Davies (unavoidably delayed by teaching duties) deprived us of his traditional rendition of the Welsh National Anthem, but Dave Clarke and Kathy Townsend of “Rum and Raspberry” entertained us with a fine selection of Australian folk music, including several mining songs. A social evening was also held in the Hahndorf Institute, with entertainment by the Hahndorf Brass Band and the Hahndorf Liedertafel Choir.

The final activity was an excursion on Sunday 18 September to the Old Reynella Stone Quarries and to the sites of several historic gold, silver and copper mines in the Adelaide Hills.

Ross Both (Vice President)

Bits and Pieces and Requests for Information

Tanami Desert

Mike Duggan wishes to know if anyone has information on mining activity in the Tanami Desert in the late 1930s? What mineral exploration was being done and by whom?

Mike reports that while his father swore he'd never go mining, his first job after qualifying as a geologist was at Tanami, on the border of WA and NT. The approach was easy - you took the 'Ghan' train to Port Augusta, a railway to Oodnadatta, a motor truck for as far as a motor truck would go, and finally on the back of a camel. Because of his 'seniority in rank', he was accommodated in a bower shed.

After a year or so in the desert, he got a job with an American Oil Company and enlisted in the RAAF in February 1941, being dispatched he believes to Papua New Guinea.

Mike would appreciate any information, or suggestions as to where to find information on the mining activity, and he can be contacted at: duggancasa@bigpond.com.au

Murder Most Foul!

Steve Hughes requests information on, or suggestions as to likely archival sources, that will enable him to find information on his wife's' ancestor, who was married to a mine engineer by the name of **Thomas Edward Hardy**. Hardy was born in 1868, at Janefield, Victoria. In 1908 he was working as manager at Bwlchglas Lead Mine, near Aberystwyth in Wales, for The Scottish Cardigan Lead Mines Ltd. Scottish Cardigan also ran the Loveden Mine briefly in an attempted revival in 1908 and T. E. Hardy is also credited with managing it.

He apparently left the UK around 1910 and went to work at a mine in Hermosillo, Sonora District, Mexico. It was

here in May 1927 that he was unfortunately murdered.

Thomas Hardy might have been involved with mining prior to managing Bwlchglas Lead Mine and must have been highly placed before arriving there. Steve would greatly appreciate if anyone can help answer whether Thomas Hardy had a mining career in Australia, prior to managing the mines in Wales?

Steve who hails from Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, UK can be contacted at: [<Chimesandchains@aol.com>](mailto:Chimesandchains@aol.com)

Sad tidings! Hall of Fame

Recent concerns regarding the future of Kalgoorlie's 'Australian Miners & Prospectors Hall of Fame' and hopes that the industry would come to the rescue appear to have been in vain. The Hall, it has been announced, faces substantial losses that are expected to reach \$1million before the end of the current financial year. A decision has been made to close the Hall to the public while the board takes stock of the situation. Meanwhile, as from 2 December, contract staff, casual workers and a number of full time staff including Chief Executive Andrew Govey will have been laid off. The Hall has been mothballed rather than closed and will remain so for at least two or three months, after which, it's hoped, some of the problems can be resolved.

PUBLICATIONS

Secretary of the Newcastle Family History Society Elaine Sheehan, has drawn attention to four publications that may be of interest to some of our members. The publications that deal with coalmining deaths, provide not only details of the unfortunate individuals but also examine the history of coalmining in the Hunter Valley area, various disasters, safety measures and details of rescue attempts, etc. All publications contain photographs, maps and other pertinent information.

Details of the publications are:

Frank Maxwell & Elaine Sheehan (Compilers), *Coal Mining Related Deaths Hunter Valley, NSW, 1926-1950*. Newcastle Family History Society, Inc, 2008, 446pp, \$25 plus \$11.20 postage.

Frank Maxwell & Elaine Sheehan (Compilers), *Nineteenth Century Coal Mining Deaths, Hunter Valley, NSW*, Newcastle Family History Society, Inc, 2004, 260pp. \$40, plus \$9.70 postage.

Frank Maxwell & Elaine Sheehan (Compilers), *Coalmining Related Deaths Hunter Valley, NSW, 1901-1925*, Newcastle Family History Society, Inc, 2006, 404pp. \$45 plus \$11.20 postage.

Frank Maxwell & Elaine Sheehan (Compilers), *Coal & Shale Mining Non-fatal Accidents, NSW 1876-1920*, 2006, 263pp. \$35 plus \$11.20 postage.

All publications are also available as CD copies for \$27 plus \$3 postage. A special rate is available for all four publications. Reduced postal rates for multiple orders. For direct credit or money transfers, e.mail: nfhsinc@gmail.com or order from The Secretary, Newcastle Family History Inc., PO Box 233, Lambton, NSW 2299.

Anthony R. Hope, *The Hope Factor: Mineral Discoveries Australia Papua New Guinea & the Philippines*, Anthony R. Hope, Riverwood, NSW, 2012, pp. 536, ISBN: 9780646553214, \$69.95 (Special student price \$59.50).

This is a magnificently presented tome produced by member Tony Hope, that will appeal to anyone interested in the history of mineral discovery, geology, the technologies involved and the personalities he has been involved with in a long career in mining and exploration. The publication is worth purchasing for the high quality illustrations and photographs alone!

Look out for the review of the book that will appear in the 2012 volume of our Journal.

Orders can be sent to The Hope factor, PO Box 21, Battery Point, TAS 7004, or e.mail to arhope@ozemail.com.au or telephone 03-6224 6376.

Journal Cover Picture

A few people have asked for an explanation of the picture on the latest volume of the journal (Vol. 9). For those who have suffered from insomnia worrying about this, the following should put you out of your agony:

This is a lithograph by Herman Deutsch (1833-?), that's taken from the State Library of Victoria collection, as referenced on the inside cover of the journal. The summary states that 'There are six vignette images illustrating life on the diggings and various mining methods. In addition there are two illustrations with added gilt paint: the upper central image is the Welcome Nugget discovered at the Red Hill Company's mine at Bakery Hill, Ballarat on 9 June 1858 [Klumpen Konig]. The lower image also with added gilt paint is of gold in its crystalline form i.e. gold crystals'. The right hand image provides details of above ground mine buildings and underground mine shaft. The central image is a goldfields scene and the top right hand image is of diggers eating a meal outside their tent and are both based on engravings of the Mount Alexander diggings (Castlemaine) from the *Illustrated London News*, 3 July 1852, page 8. The image at centre illustrating the pump and the Californian cradle is of the Turon Diggings NSW and is from Gleason's Pictorial Drawing—Room Companion, 1853, page 223. The illustration of the gold escort lower left is of the escort leaving Buninyong and is from *the Illustrated London News*, 22 May 1852, page 401. So now you know!

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Nic Haygarth** who was recently appointed to the Tasmanian Heritage Council, where we are sure he will be promoting the need for conservation of the many mining sites in Tasmania with heritage value. Nic has excellent credentials to help the cause and was appointed by Tasmanian Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, Brian Wightman, MP.

Journal Vol. 10, 2012

Its never too early to submit articles, and indeed, the earlier the better, so if you have a burning desire to see yourself in print in 2012, in either the refereed or unrefereed sections, then send in your papers asap. Try to follow the journal style when submitting and make sure that any illustrations are sharp and clear. Note that copies of

illustrations taken from newspapers don't reproduce well, and also note that illustrations should be limited in number to avoid us of being accused of producing a comic!

It has come to notice that **Vol. 9** has turned up a few '**lemons**' where pages are out of sync. If you have such a copy and require a replacement please contact the Secretary. No need to return the dud copy.

Membership Fees and Conference registrations

Note that you will soon be able to pay your membership fees or register for the Waihi Conference on line via our web page at: <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au>. We are currently investigating the various available systems. Of course, you will still be able to pay by cheque if you so wish, though overseas members, in particular, will find the intended option more convenient and less expensive than either paying with an overseas cheque or by sending a direct electronic transfer to our bank.

Annual General Meeting, Handhorf, SA 16 September

There was a good turnout of 41 members at the AGM held at the Hahndorf Institute. Reports were received and passed and officers and committee elected (see list below). One of the surprises was that the motion to change the name of the organisation to Australasian Mining Associated was defeated under the 75% rule in the constitution, with some NZ members being counted among those who opposed (so nothing to do with cross-Tasman rivalry!).

The President gave a positive report on the year's activities, noting in particular the activities associated with the web, the newsletter and the journal, that enhanced and helped to promote the organisation. She believed the Handhorf conference to have been a great success, with many stimulating papers, including one from our Patron, Professor Geoffrey Blainey. She had found the organisation of the current conference and tours to be superb. Also worthy of special mention was the input of Stephen Imrie whose excellent work in the

IT section had ensured the smooth running of the business sessions.

The Treasurer announced that the financial situation remained healthy, allowing us to maintain fees at their current level.

On the conference front, Philip Hart and Doreen McLeod noted that arrangements for the Waihi conference in 2012 were on track, while Mike Williams reported that the committee for the 2013 Beechworth, Vic, conference were already in action mode. The meeting also moved to approve the running of the 20th Conference at Charters Towers, Queensland in 2014. The latter event is being organised by Prof. Kett Kennedy, and comes 20 years after he ran the 1st conference of the AMHA at James Cook University, Townsville in 1994.

The following officers and committee members were elected:

Patron: Prof. Geoffrey Blainey, AC

President: Dr. Ruth Kerr, OAM

Vice President: Dr. Ross Both

Secretary/Treasurer: Mel Davies, OAM

Committee:

ACT - Barry McGowan, Ken McQueen.

SA - Peter Bell, Greg Drew,
Graham Hancock.

NSW - Graydon Henning, Adrian Hutton,
Greg Knapman; Leonie Knapman;
Graham Wilson.

NT - David Carment.

QLD - Kett Kennedy, Jan Wegner.

VIC - Sandra Kippen, Mike Williams,
Nick Williams.

WA - Wendy Carter, Richard Hartley,
Gerry MacGill, Howard Tew.

TAS - Chris Boron, Greg Dickens,
Nick Haygarth,

NZ - Brian Hill, Philip Hart.

Journal Editor, Mel Davies

Asst. Journal Editor, Nick Williams

Webmaster: Greg Drew

Awards

As usual two prestigious awards were made at the end of the conference: The first, the 'lead foot award' went to **Greg Dickens**. This time, not for what he did, but rather for what he didn't do. His failure to obey directions to attend the Handhorf Conference and to choose to go abroad was

considered so heinous that it was judged to be deserving of the 2011 award. Hopefully this will prove a salutary warning to Greg (and others) that his priorities need to be directed towards the interests of the Association, rather than to 'self-interest'.

The second, the Coathanger Award in memory of those heroic members who suffered the indignities and deprivation in the Duke of Cornwall at the Kadina Conference was this year deservedly awarded to **Frankie Mills** for her valiant efforts in attending all excursions without complaint even though handicapped by pushing a walker. Her determination was the source of admiration by the organisers and all who attended the excursions.

Future Newsletter Delivery

On the enclosed membership renewal form you will see a box that asks you **to opt out** of having the newsletter delivered through snail mail. This will indicate that you are prepared to accept only an e.mail copy of the quarterly document. There is no pressure for you to choose the e.mail option though there will obviously be printing and postage savings for the organisation should you do so, and it will also lead to fewer envelopes being licked by the Secretary.

Season's Greetings

A belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members.



Christmas joy warms the heart

MJD/Dec'11