



AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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ISSUE 83

EDITORIAL

With the Christmas rush and a dozen tasks at hand, the Editor will forsake the chance to preach to members and will devote his comments to wishing everyone the Compliments of the Season. The big event for the year will again be our Annual Conference. This year Ken McQueen and his committee will be getting things organised and no doubt bringing about some pleasant mining surprises for the Cobar meeting next October. With the New Year about to begin we hope that you have the dates (given below) written into your 2016 diaries.

Some members (six known to date but possibly some more) will be travelling even further afield to the 11th International Mining History Congress in Spain – lucky them!

In the meantime may your halls be decked with holly and may 2016 bring you a host of mining ventures.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Its that time of year again when we dig deeply into our pockets in a celebration of giving. It's hope that high on your gift list will be payment of your membership fee to the AMHA. While we still accept paper registration forms and payments by cheque, members are encouraged to alleviate the administrative effort by rejoining on line at:

<http://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?ID=19330>

Online registrations will be activated from 1st January and early renewals would be greatly appreciated.

Fees will remain the same for 2016, viz: Ordinary members \$35; Family \$45; Institutions and Societies \$50; Student members \$15; Overseas members an additional \$10 to cover postage costs, and if sending a foreign cheque an additional \$15 to cover the bank charges.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Australian Historical Association
Annual Conference 4-8 July 2016.**

Some of our members might be interested in attending the forthcoming conference of the AHA to be held in Ballarat between the 4-8 July, The theme of the conference will be '**From Boom To Bust**' and as noted in the conference description will look at: 'the changing fortunes of the mining, industrial, cultural, environmental, and heritage sectors – and

the histories of everything in between – will be exposed and scrutinised. The conference will give historians a forum in which to explain the rhetorical value of ‘boom to bust’ histories, challenge their veracity and expand what we actually think of as booming and busting’.

For further information see the AHA web page at:

<http://www.theaha.org.au/from-boom-tobust-aha-conference-2016/>

International Mining History Conference, Linares, Spain

Registrations are now open for the 11th International Mining History Congress to be held in Linares, Spain between the 6th and 11th September 2016.

The programme should appeal to all members, as there is a smorgasbord of activities that include convivial gatherings, trips to various mining venues, visits to museums, tapas events and excursions, as well, of course, as the more serious business sessions. Get in early to take advantage of ‘Early Bird’ registration fees. A happy hint: wait until the organisers have completed arrangements with ‘Pay Pal’ to transfer your fees (they don’t have credit card arrangements) – this will prove much cheaper than electronic transfers via your friendly banker.

NOTE: The conference web site also provides information on travel and accommodation. For full registration and other details see the web page at: <http://www.mining2016linares.com/?lang=en>

AMHA 22nd Annual Conference, Cobar, NSW, 16-21 October 2016. ‘Mining History in an Active Mining Centre’

Planning for the AMHA Conference in Cobar is well underway with the venue booked and a number of the proposed field trips now locked in (Great Cobar, CSA, Mt Boppy) and two others to finalise. The Planning Committee is obtaining quotes and preparing the budget.

As it would be useful to get a feel for likely numbers attending. If you could

email Ken at Ken.McQueen@canberra.edu.au

indicating either that you are definitely attending or possibly planning to attend, the Committee would be much obliged. They are also hoping to rope in a number of non-AMHA attendees, including some Cobar locals and members of AusIMM.

Remember to book your accommodation as soon as possible to guarantee your preferred option (see details on AMHA website or check <http://www.cobar.nsw.gov.au/tourism>

The next circular for the conference will be issued early in the New Year with an update on the program, a call for presentations (both oral and poster), list of deadlines and registration costs. This will be posted on the AMHA website.

PUBLICATIONS

Garry Richardson, *Lotta and the Anchor: The History of a Tin Mine and a Dependant Town, North East Tasmania, Wandereer photographics, St Helens, Tas. HB, A4, 280pp, over 270 images. Cost \$59.*

Member Garry Richardson has published yet another book on Tasmanian mining. The following is a description of the contents:

“In the late nineteenth century tin was the metal of the age. This was a time of depression in Tasmania and the discovery of tin and the expansion of mining in general provided desperately needed jobs and revenue.

In Tasmania’s North-East pioneer miners contended with dense forests, almost impassable bush tracks, remoteness and loneliness. These men and women built tent settlements that grew rapidly into towns as tin boomed. They soon boasted hotels, schools, post offices, policemen, sports teams, shops and churches.

The population of the North-East fluctuated with the price of tin. The mines ran their inevitable course to exhaustion and, as a result, the townships of the North-East that still exist around Blue Tier are mere shells of their past glory,

while the rest have been rendered almost invisible by encroaching nature”.

Orders and further details from Garry Richardson, PO Box 135, St Helens, Tas 7216. Ph/Fax: 0363 762065. Email: grrichard@tassie.net.au Web: www.wandererphotographics.com

‘The Sons of Gwalia Goldmine: A very brief history & the survival of its headframe & Steam Winder Engine’, *Engineering Heritage Australia Magazine*, Vol. 1, No. 8, October 2015, pp. 14-17.

Member Mike Williams alerted the editor to this article that can be downloaded by members of the Engineering Heritage Australia. While the article, condensed from a nomination made by Ian Maitland, Chair of Engineering Heritage WA, for heritage recognition of the Gwalia headframe & winder engine, does not reveal much that was not known previously by mining historians, it does alert us to another source of information that could be of interest to members. No doubt, some of our members will already be members of that organisation. Their webpage can be found at:

<https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au>

BITS AND PIECES

Australian Historical Association Awards

Members may be interested in applying for some of the following awards and bursaries to be presented at the AHA Annual Conference, Ballarat in July 2016.

BIENNIAL PRIZES

Magarey Medal for Biography

This biennial \$10,000 prize is kindly donated by Professor Emerita Susan Magarey, and is administered and judged by a panel established by the Australian Historical Association and the Association for the Study of Australian Literature. It is awarded to the female person who has published the work judged to be the best biographical writing on an Australian subject in 2014 or 2015.

Allan Martin Award

The Allan Martin Award is a research fellowship to assist early career historians further their research in Australian history. The biennial award of up to \$4,000 will assist with the expenses of a research trip undertaken in Australia or overseas in support of a project in Australian history. Applicants are required to show how the research is essential to the completion of their project and how the findings will be published or otherwise made available to the public. It must be spent within two years.

Kay Daniels Award

This Award is sponsored by members and associates of the Australian Historical Association, the University of Tasmania, and the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority. Consisting of a \$1,500 prize and citation, it recognises outstanding original research with a bearing on Australian convict history and heritage including in its international context, published in 2014 or 2015.

W.K. Hancock Prize

The W.K. Hancock Prize was instituted in 1987 by the Australian Historical Association to honour the contribution to the study and writing of history in Australia by Sir Keith Hancock. Offering a \$2,000 prize and citation, it is intended to give recognition and encouragement to an Australian scholar who has published a first scholarly book in any field of history in 2014 or 2015.

The Serle Award

The Serle Award is a biennial prize established through the generosity of Mrs Jessie Serle to honour the contribution to Australian history of her former husband, Dr Geoffrey Serle, for the best postgraduate thesis in Australian History awarded during the previous two years. The \$2,500 biennial award may be used as a publication subsidy or to subsidise other costs associated with transforming the thesis into a book, such as the cost of carrying out extra research, funding

permissions, copyright fees or illustrations: these examples are not exhaustive.

ANNUAL PRIZES

The Jill Roe Prize

The Jill Roe Prize is an annual prize established by the AHA to honour the career of Professor Emerita Jill Roe, an eminent Australian historian who has made a very significant contribution to the writing, teaching and public communication of history in Australia and abroad. The Jill Roe Prize will be awarded annually for the best unpublished article-length work (5,000-8,000 words) of historical research in any area of historical enquiry, produced by a postgraduate student enrolled for a History degree at an Australian university.

SCHOLARSHIPS

National Archives of Australia /AHA scholarships

NAA/AHA scholarships assist talented postgraduate scholars with the cost of copying records held in the Archives. Assistance with digital copying costs will provide access to material that might not otherwise be possible. Four scholarships worth \$650 each will be awarded annually.

BURSARIES

AHA/Copyright Agency Travel and Writing Bursaries

This funding opportunity for postgraduate students and independent historians encourages and supports emerging historians who would otherwise be unable to attend the annual AHA conference. Ten bursaries, of \$700 each, will cover travel and accommodation for participants at the AHA conference at the Federation University Ballarat, 4–8 July 2016; the conference registration fee will be waived for bursary recipients. For full details of prizes including eligibility and deadlines see <http://www.theaha.org.au/awards-and-prizes/>

The Australian Prospectors & Miners' Hall of Fame Presentations

At the recent Gala dinner held in Melbourne on 12 November, the

following members of the mining community were inducted into the Hall of Fame: Sir Ian McLennan into the category of Directors and Management; Mr Charles Wooller Marshall AO into the category of Prospectors and Explorers; and Mr John Noel Whitefoord Elliston into the category of Technologists and Scientists. The event held at the iconic Myer Mural Hall in the heart of Melbourne, welcomed 500 delegates and a host of dignitaries from both State and Federal Government.

CONGRATULATIONS

Barry McGowan has recently been in the limelight with his illustrious publication (Barry's description) on the Chinese people in the Rutherglen Wahgunyah area. This saw him shortlisted and commended in the small publications category of the Victorian Community History Awards 2015. Barry states it's the only award he's ever won, though he seems to have forgotten that he has twice won the celebrated AMHA Brakeshoe trophy that he has hidden in his wardrobe.

Barry has also been busy in other areas, for in June this year, together with his colleague, Ms Genevieve Mott, he was commissioned by the Orange Shire Council to write a Thematic history of the Chinese people in the Cabonne, Blayney and Orange Shires. This is all to do with the new Orange museum, which is under construction. The final report is due in June 2016.

Adding further spice to his life Barry has been invited by the University of Toronto to participate as a discussant with Rachel Silvey (Professor of Geography) and Lisa Mar (Richard Charles Lee Professor in Chinese-Canadian Studies) at the launch of the Honourable Vivienne Poy's new book, *Heroes and Gamblers: Tales of Survival and Good Fortune of the Poy Family*. Vivienne was appointed to the Senate of Canada in 1998 and is the first Canadian senator of Asian ancestry. Her story straddles her family's lives in China, Australia and Canada. Members of the

Australian branch of the family live at Albury and elsewhere.

Barry attended the launch on 27 November. In addition he was invited to be a guest lecturer in the Contemporary Asian Studies program's capstone course, 'CAS400 Critical Perspectives on Asian Modernity', that was open to the faculty, and the public. Should Barry have survived the Arctic temperatures and possible disasters to which he is prone, we will no doubt be regaled with his North American adventures when we get to Cobar next October.

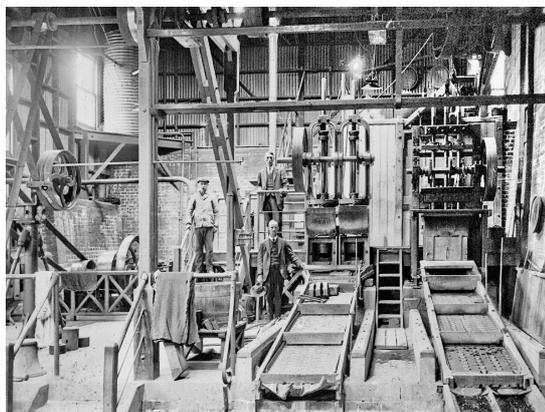
INFORMATION WANTED

Atkinson Historic Photo Collection

David Barnes, who was previously photographer and curator of the photo collection at the Geological Survey of NSW, is seeking information about a large collection of photos that was acquired by the Survey in the 1970s. It is a collection of lantern-slides in good condition and kept in purpose built cedar boxes found during the cleaning out of a house in Canberra. It was offered to the Survey and was apparently collected by a person called Atkinson, who may have been a federal government officer, whose job it was to assemble and use the collection for various lectures etc. According to David the photos range in vintage from the late 1800s to about 1920 and include a large number of photos from Victoria, especially some excellent underground mine photos from Ballarat and other mining centres (see two accompanying examples). David is keen to find out more about the collection and particularly who Atkinson was. He suggests the two following possibilities:

1. They are slides from the Victorian Geological Survey and were brought to The Geological & Mining Museum by an employee who lost his position during one of the Victorian Geological Survey 'shutdowns' - but no record of a NSW G.S. staffer with this name has been found so far OR
2. They belonged to a Commonwealth Government department employee working in Melbourne and were taken to

Canberra when that department moved there. In the mid 1970's they were "discovered under a house" in Canberra and the Geological & Mining Museum purchased them. This story is much more credible as it came from a senior staffer of the Mining Museum who was involved in the purchase.



Anyone who may be able to shed some light on what appears to be an amazing collection of historic photos can contact either David on email: davepb.456@gmail.com or our Vice-President, Ken McQueen, at Ken.McQueen@canberra.edu.au.

OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we report the death of one of our most supportive members, Ken Mills, who passed away peacefully

at Home in Broken Hill in August after a long illness. Ken and wife Frankie will be remembered as attending a number of our annual conferences, which they greatly enjoyed.

The following information on Ken's life has kindly been sent to the editor by Frankie:

Kenneth Llewellyn Mills (05.10.1933 - 16.08.2015) aged 81 years.

Ken was born in Auckland, New Zealand, educated in Onehunga, and completed secondary education at Otahuhu College. He graduated from Auckland University, majoring in physics before joining the laboratory staff at Dulux Paints Auckland. Gradually he rose to be their New Zealand Technical Manager, travelling between Auckland and Wellington and overseas, as required.

Needing a Stage 1 Paper to complete his degree, he studied geology and this sparked a lifelong fascination with the subject. He collected rocks, crystals, minerals and micromounts and enjoyed learning about their structures, elements and locations. Ken also liked learning about people and new developments in industries.

He thoroughly enjoyed the Australasian Mining History Conferences where he gained further understanding and insights into the many diverse topics presented both at the Conferences and in the annual journal.

Ken is survived by his wife of 58 years, Frankie, and their five adult children.

Vale Ken

MJD/December'15