



**AUSTRALASIAN
MINING
HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**

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Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

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EDITORIAL

The 2023 conference is finally here, and it's in a great place to enjoy mining heritage. Fingers crossed for good weather and no hitches. After the unseasonably warm weather in southern Australia, NZ's version of spring (equivalent to our winter) should be welcome.

Once again we are appealing for a volunteer to be Treasurer, which we need under the rules for incorporated bodies. If you want to be an AMHA hero, adored by all, please nominate. You don't have to be a book-keeper or accountant (we can hire people to do that) and there is plenty of help and advice available.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nick says: Please continue to check the website regularly for updated information on our Reefcon Conference which will include our Annual General Meeting. If you're unfortunate enough not to be able to attend, send apologies to our Secretary, Ruth Kerr, at r.kerr3@uq.edu.au.

The AGM is where we elect officials and State representatives. Nick says that the VP and President positions have candidates, but still no-one putting themselves forward for Treasurer. She also advises we will need new second representatives for each of South

Australia, NSW and Victoria. Please advise Ruth at the email address above if you want to nominate for any of these positions.

AGM NOMINATION

Geoff Hudson has been nominated for President at the upcoming AGM and has sent in this brief bio:

Geoff Hudson took on the role as Vice - President of the AMHA earlier this year following his recruitment by Ross Both to assist in the organisation of the 26th Annual Conference in Burra in September 2022. He has a long association with the mining industry as an exploration and research geologist with Western Mining Corporation and Executive Director of the Australian Mineral Foundation. He was a councillor of the AusIMM and President of the Australian Geoscience Council.



Geoff has a BSc(Hons) in Geology from UWA and a PhD from Queens University, Canada. He managed the early exploration of the Olympic Dam Cu-Au-U deposit and regional exploration of the surrounding Stuart Shelf area. He was co-author of the first technical paper describing the Olympic Dam Deposit.

BITS & PIECES

Vintage Loader restoration

Five apprentices at Komatsu's Wacol branch in Brisbane carried out a complete restoration of a vintage loader with the aim of bringing them closer to the heart of the company's culture and heritage.

The Komatsu apprentice crew worked for five months on the iconic two tonne track loader in liaison with the company's skilled technical and trade specialists, as well as supplier partners. The project partnered with Queensland Mine Maintenance as well as local businesses to restore the loader.

Trevor Jackson, who oversaw the restoration project, pre delivered the loader as a first-year apprentice in August 1976.

Apprentices involved in the project were Sam Gray, Matthew Tafai and Ryan Egerton, all fourth-year apprentices, Max Battermah, a third-year apprentice and Oonagh Keogh, a first-year apprentice.



Last of the Cooktown-Laura railway gone

This snippet from the Royal Society of Queensland Bulletin, August 2023, written by Ruth Kerr:

Cooktown – The last visible remains of the railway line in Cooktown has disappeared as part of the Revitalisation

of Charlotte Street Project under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme for the town. Some of the railway line and attached sleepers on the line down to the wharf had been visible under a mango tree in the middle of the street, since the closure of the line in 1961.

Under the revitalisation scheme kerbing and channelling, traffic islands, ramps, parking bays and landscaping are being undertaken. The work is expected to be completed by mid-2024. (*Mareeba Express*, 7 June 2023, p. 12, and personal observation on 20 June 2023).

[The railway was built in 1884-5 for the Palmer River Goldfield, but by the time it reached Laura the goldfield had lost so much population that the line ended there. The rails were taken up for scrap after the closure of the line.]

Mining town saved



Glenden, Central Queensland

Common sense triumphed when Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk intervened to save the coal mining town of Glenden, near Mackay. Mine closure legislation requires the removal of infrastructure such as accommodation, which would have resulted in Glencore being required to demolish over 300 homes and evict around 400 people. The Premier has promised to amend the legislation to allow small mining communities to continue to exist, as Greenvale did when Queensland Nickel closed down. A pity more infrastructure can't be left – archaeologists of the future are going to have a tough time interpreting late 20th-early 21st century mine sites.

Gympie Gold Museum steam displays



Gympie Museum has a Cornish boiler working. This boiler was a popular mining workhorse in the 19th century, being rather more forgiving than the usual alternative, firetube boilers, and cheaper than water tube boilers. The museum features quite a few steam-driven mining machines. (From the Museum's facebook page)

Mining going green

Noticed how many mines are investing in renewable energy and sustainable technologies? Future historians will see 2023 as a significant year for 'decarbonisation'.

Iron ore giant Fortescue is forsaking buying carbon offsets in favour of decarbonisation, including solar power and electric trucks, which are becoming a feature of many mine sites. BHP is trialling recycled truck tyres as road surface in a collaboration between the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), BHP and the Australian Flexible Pavement Association. The aim of the trial was to see if a crumb rubber modified binder made from mining tyres could be used in a spray seal for roads. The trial used two BHP mining tyres, each over four metres high and weighing 4.2 tonnes.

Acting BMA (BHP Mitsubishi Alliance) asset president Tim Day said the approach provided the mining industry a sustainable

way to reuse tyre waste that would otherwise may just up in landfill.

"It will have a positive impact on the environment, as more than 6,000 tonnes of tyres can be used to seal roads," Day said. So far, the road surface is performing well in central Queensland conditions.

Suppliers are also getting in on the act, such as Cummins approving renewable diesel including hydro-treated vegetable oil for its high horsepower engines. The company says this reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 90%, reduces particulate tailpipe emissions (like smoke) up to 50%, and doesn't affect maintenance intervals. There is a reduction in power, but only 1 to 2%.

A fair walk

Nick Williams shared this piece from the Outback History Blog about a Bendigo family who walked from Fremantle to Coolgardie in August/September 1895 to join their husband and father at the Londonderry Mine. There was no room for the children on the wagonette carrying the family's goods, so they (stepmother, one brother of 25 and another of 13, and four sisters aged 22, 18, 15 and 9) walked behind, for four weeks. Annie and Elizabeth said their feet hurt so much they took off their shoes but couldn't get them back onto their swollen feet, so their brother took the soft lining from a discarded port to bind their feet. A long sandy stretch and the heat caused the horses to collapse and it was only a kindly teamster, who hitched his team to the wagonette, that got them through. It took them three weeks to recover from the ordeal.



An example of the type of country between Southern Cross and Coolgardie

Mine timber

Last week, the Editor asked if anyone had come across evidence for certain timbers being specified in historic mines, as there were for boilers. Peter McCarthy says: My area is Victoria in the 19th Century. I have seen many adverts for “firewood” and “timber for mining purposes”, sometimes “round timber and laths”. I suspect everyone knew what species were suited as mining timber. The only area where I think it was critical was shaft timbering where blue gum and grey box were sought, though don’t recall specific advertisements.

For more ‘bits and pieces’, check our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/720189911426071/> . If you’re not a Facebook fan but want to post mining related stuff, contact Robert Barnes barnesrg112@hotmail.com .

PUBLICATIONS

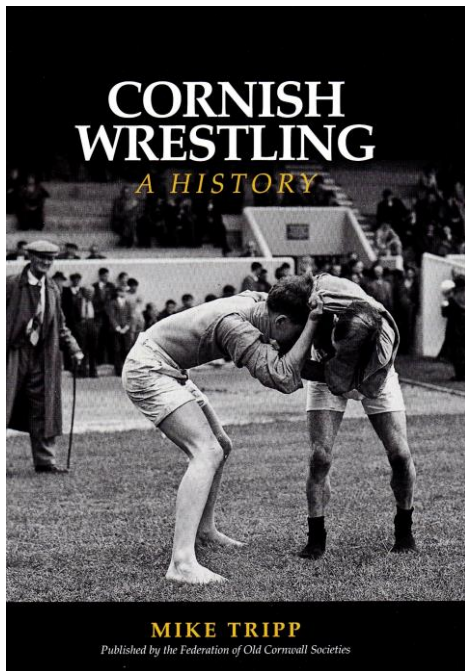
William (Eddie) Edmundson has just released his biography of Daniel Ludwig, entitled *Capitalism in the Epic Sense: Daniel Ludwig's adventure in the Brazilian Amazon*, on Amazon Kindle (available in 14 countries, including Australia: \$7.37). He notes that the book includes a detailed history of Daniel Ludwig’s decision, in 1970, to invest in coal mining at the Clutha Coal Mine in New South Wales.



See

https://www.amazon.com.au/Capitalism-Epic-Sense-adventure-Brazilian-ebook/dp/B0C2JQDR34/ref=sr_1_1?crid=R6EXSXGMVWGM&keywords=Capitalism+in+the+epic+sense&qid=1693838531&s=digital-text&sprefix=capitalism+in+the+epic+sen%2Cdigital-text%2C280&sr=1-1

Mike Tripp has just published *Cornish Wrestling: A History*. He says ‘it is the first book written about the history of what is Cornwall’s oldest and longest surviving sport and was also the most popular in the nineteenth century before rugby was introduced.’ He also notes its popularity with Cornish miners all over the world, including Australia.



The book is available from the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies at 5 British Road, St Agnes, Cornwall, TR5 OTX, and is priced at £20.00, plus £4.00 p&p.

Payments should be made to the 'Federation of Old Cornwall Societies' and orders and payments can be made via the online shop at <https://kernowgoth.org/product/cornish-wrestling-a-history/> by PayPal or by Bank Transfer to the same payee as above, at NatWest Bank, Sort Code 55 70 45 and A/c No 11058161.

If you have any queries or need further information contact publications@oldcornwall.net.

More new books are on the AMHA website

<https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/books/>. Anyone want to write a review of one for the website, the Journal, or the Newsletter?

Let the Newsletter Editor know if you'd like to notify members of a forthcoming book, and don't forget to also let Mel Davies know about new publications so he can keep up to date the AMHA's *Bibliography of the Mining History of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea*. Email Mel at mel.davies@uwa.edu.au

OBITUARY

The death of former member Ruth Ann Gardner (nee Richmond) a year ago passed us by. Some of you may remember her attending past AMHA conferences – her last one, in a wheelchair. Ruth Ann was 92 when she died on 19 October 2022. She was born and raised in Seward, Nebraska. She graduated in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nebraska and became the first female mining engineer at Kennecott Copper Corporation. She gained a further degree in mining engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno in 1975. She became interested in mining history after her marriage to John Gardner, who taught at the University of Wyoming. She was a member of the Society of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, the Klepetko Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archaeology, the Mining History Association, the Australian Mining History Association and the Western Museum of Mining and Industry in Colorado Springs. Widowed twice, she is survived by her two daughters whom she raised mostly alone and supported by various engineering jobs, and two step-daughters and their families.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

To make the process of payment painless and quick, you can use the following link to Register Now: <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=49088> which really will get you to 2023 memberships now, honest. If paying by direct bank transfer please make sure you enter your given name and surname as a reference, and also email or mail your membership/registration form showing your preferences for type of membership etc. You can access the membership form on the web page <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au> or at the end of this newsletter and send that to AMHATreasurer23@gmail.com. For account details for direct bank transfer or mailing address for cheques, contact the

Treasurer at the email address provided above.

WEBSITE EXPERT STILL NEEDED

IT-technophile needed to help update our Website. Please contact Ken McQueen ken.mcqueen@canberra.edu.au .

CURRENT AMHA COMMITTEE

President: Nick Williams.

Vice President: Geoff Hudson

Hon Secretary: Ruth Kerr.

Hon Treasurer: **VACANT AND DESPERATELY NEEDED**

Membership secretary: Bev Phelts

State Representatives:

ACT Aert Driessen and Ken McQueen.

SA Geoff Hudson and Peter Bell

NSW Jason Nitz and Stephen Shortis

NT David Carment and Bev Phelts.

QLD Ruth Kerr OAM and Jan Wegner.

VIC Matthew Churchward and Geoff Anderson

TAS Greg Dickens, Nic Haygarth

WA Wendy Carter and Howard Tew

NZ Philip Hart and John Taylor

International: David Knott, North Versailles, PA, USA

Journal Editor: Lyndon Megarrity

Website administration: Stephen Imrie, Ken McQueen, Jenny Scott

Newsletter editor: Jan Wegner

Facebook co-ordinators: Robert Barnes and June Scott.

Early Career representative: **VACANT**

JUST FOR FUN

You may have noticed the Editor loves bad puns. Imagine her glee at finding whole web pages devoted to terrible geology puns. Here's a selection:

How did the geologist feel about the new mineral he found?

He was in ore.

Why did the rock have seizures on seeing the light show?

Because it was epilithic.

Did you hear about the geologist who was reading a book about helium?
He just couldn't put it down.

Did you see the geologist towing a crate of rocks behind his car?
He had a wide lode sign.

What do they do with dead geologists?
They barium.

Q: What did the bartender say when oxygen, hydrogen, sulfur, sodium, and phosphorous walked into his bar?

A: OH SNaP!

This is how sand looks under microscope



And the usual machinery disaster:

Remember folks. You can only swing 16 times to the left before the excavator unscrews itself



PHOTO TIME



Pit ponies at the South Bulli Colliery, c. 1906. Note the pads on the top of many horses' heads – presumably for the same reason the miners wore caps - to cushion them against bumping on the timbers or roof! (National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-143433858>)

Jan Wegner
(Newsletter Editor)

AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION Inc.

ABN 96 220 329 754

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL 2023

This form is a tax invoice. No GST is applicable.

Membership Fees:

Full memberships	\$45	Please only pay the current year's fee
Joint Family Membership	\$55	as subscription rates may change.
Unwaged Student	\$15	Note: a copy of the annual volume of JAMH is included in the
Institutions:	\$60	fee for all memberships.

Overseas members: Please **add \$A10** to the above to cover journal postage costs and an **additional \$15** if paying by overseas cheque to cover bank charges.

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr., Prof. etc.)

Surname.....First Name.....

Address for correspondence..... Post Code.....

Telephone Email:

Distribution of the newsletters by email results in significant savings in printing and postage costs as well as reducing the Editor's workload. Note that current and past newsletters are available on the website at <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/newsletters/>

AMHA Privacy Policy:

AMHA members contact details are securely maintained and used for AMHA business. The Association may use email to communicate with members so please ensure you print it clearly on this form. Please indicate any contact details you do not wish to be used by AMHA officials.

Signed date

My Mining History interests are:

Annual Membership fee \$.....

Voluntary donation \$.....

Please send me copies of:

1) Patrick Bertola & Karen Miller (eds), *Proceedings of the Australian Mining History Association Conferences 1997-2000* (AMHA, Crawley, WA, 2001). \$.....

2) *Journal of Australasian Mining History*, V.2 2004; V. 3 2005; V. 4 2006; V 5, 2007; V. 6, 2008; V. 7 2009; V. 8 2010; V. 9 2011, V. 10 2012, V. 11 2013; V. 12 2014; V. 13 2015; V. 14 2016; V. 15 2017; V. 16 2018; V. 17 2019; V. 18 2020; V.19 2021. Please Circle choices: \$.....

Price per copy for items in 1 & 2: Aus \$20; NZ \$27; Elsewhere \$30. (includes postage) **SEE special offer on the Journal at <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/news-items/>**

3) Mel Davies (Compiler), *Bibliography of the Mining History of Australia, New Zealand & Papua New Guinea ,2002, updated to 2020 (In CD only)*. Copies including postage: Aus \$11; NZ \$12; Elsewhere \$13 \$.....

Total \$.....

I would like digital access to the For Members page of the AMHA Website (included in fee) (tick)

Send me: A. a print copy of the JAMH; B. A digital copy only Both A & B (tick applicable)

NEW MEMBERS – For our records, please advise how you learned of the AMHA: (a) through the AMHA webpage; (b) through a member of the AMHA; (c) through attending an AMHA conference; d) through other source (please provide detail) [please circle answer]

Return form to:

bev.phelts@hotmail.com

Payment by Cheque: Cheques should be made payable to AMHA. Contact Warwick Chant on the email above for a postal address. If sending a **personal** cheque, **overseas members** should add the equivalent of **A\$15** to cover bank charges (note: if you send a bank cheque or draft made out in Australian dollars then only send the relevant fee).

Electronic Payment: The Association uses online payment through *Register Now*. Overseas members should find paying online to be cheaper and more convenient than using other systems. Please note that *Register Now* allows payment by Pay Pal but does not support AMEX Credit cards. You can enter the portal at: <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=49088>
The link can also be found on the AMHA website under the Membership tab.

Australasian Mining History Association Privacy Policy

The Australasian Mining History Association (AMHA) respects the privacy of its members and is committed to protecting their personal information. This privacy policy details how AMHA manages members' personal information and safeguards their privacy.

The National Privacy Principles

From 21 December 2001 it has been obligatory for private sector organisations to manage personal information relating to individuals in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)* and the National Privacy Principles (NPPs). AMHA has chosen to implement a privacy policy that is reflective of the National Privacy Policy Principles (NPPs) as a form of best practice in the management of membership information.

Collection of personal information

AMHA only collects personal information which is necessary to perform the objectives of the Association, namely to:

- promote and co-ordinate national activities and programmes related to mining history;
- encourage the study, discussion, writing and publication of mining history;
- encourage the identification and preservation of records, sites, relics and materials relevant to Australasian mining;
- act as a focus for correspondence between those persons within Australasia and elsewhere interested in mining history; and
- disseminate information of interest to members through a website, newsletter and/or journal.

The Association receives information including name, address, telephone, email and facsimile contact details from members and non-members on membership applications, membership renewal forms and conference registrations. AMHA maintains and uses this information in written and/or electronic form.

Website

The AMHA may collect some information from you when you use our website www.mininghistory.asn.au. Your use of the facilities and services available through our website will determine the amount and type of information which we collect about you. The only personal information the AMHA collects about you when you use our website is what you tell us about yourself, for example, by completing an online form when you complete a questionnaire. As with most websites we do track usage. Each time you visit our website a web server makes a record of your visit. It records your date of visit and the pages accessed and documents downloaded.

Use of personal information

Personal information collected by AMHA is essential to its organisational activities and is used for:

- managing membership and membership renewals
- fulfilling subscription requests and member services
- registrations for conference
- organising conferences
- distribution of publications
- notifying AMHA members via the website, regular mail or email about important news and announcements.

Normal communication with members will be conducted using the email address provided in the membership application/renewal form, unless a request is made to use a different email address.

Disclosure of personal information

Information collected by AMHA will only be used for the purposes for which it was collected or to provide members with additional information about the Associations services. AMHA does not share or sell membership information to third parties.

Access to personal information

Members may request access to their personal information held by AMHA. Requests will be responded to as quickly as possible. Members may request to be removed from the mailing list at any time. Members wishing

to access their personal information or to raise a query or make a complaint about AMHA's use of their personal information should contact the Secretary.