



**AUSTRALASIAN  
MINING  
HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION**

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## **Newsletter**

### **December 2024**

**Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey , AC**

ABN 96 220 329 754

Australasian Mining History Association Inc <https://amha.tidyhq.com/>

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#### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

##### President's Report

The Leonora Conference and field trips held in September were a great success with Wendy Carter, locally based in Leonora, pulling together a diverse program in Kalgoorlie, Leonora/Gwalia that combined historic and current mining sites. The only negative was that Covid raised its ugly head with Nick and Mike Williams falling after day one, Aert after three days, and me after four days. Several others managed to complete the conference before they tested positive. As a result, the AGM, scheduled to be held at the conference was postponed and was held by Zoom on Wednesday 9 October.

There were several changes made to the Constitution with one that will see changes to the membership year. In the future, the Membership year will be on a rolling 12 month basis not tied to ending on the 31 December as previously. Notices for the renewal of membership will automatically be sent out prior to the 12 month anniversary of the joining or last renewal date of membership. Several reminders will be sent to slow payers.

A number of reports were tabled with Ross Both, Interim Treasurer, noting that Members Funds in the Balance Sheet stood at \$66,685 compared to \$57,785 the previous year. The Association has now established bank accounts with the NAB replacing the ANZ account, and \$20,000 is now being held in a 12 month fixed deposit account.

Lyndon Megarrity, Journal Editor produced a fine Journal, Volume 22, that has been mailed. Unfortunately the mailing list had some omissions so if you have not received yours let me know. There is an excellent range of papers covering a diverse range of topics from the history of mining houses and personalities to gold and coal mining songs and entertainment, and book reviews.

The website was off air for some time in December but it went live again by mid-month. It continues to provide access to the resources and information about AMHA, but sadly Ken McQueen, Webmaster since 2016 is unwell and Jenny Scott and Stephen Imrie have stepped up to the task. If you have an interest and ability in the Webisphere then please let me know.

Rob Barnes presented a report on the AMHA Facebook which now has a membership of 1078 and provides a valuable site for mining history and related information. Contributors from Australasia and around the world are sharing wonderful stories, experiences and images. Jump on and join up, you will be amazed at what you will find.

A highlight of the AGM included the confirmation of Ken McQueen as an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his long service and participation. His notable achievements include:

- Vice-President 2014-2016
- President 2016-2018
- Member of the Executive and Advisory Committees
- Convenor of the Grants Subcommittee from its inception in 2013-19.
- Webmaster since 2016.
- Instigator of the writing of the AMHA 25th year History.
- Produced the 2022 Journal when we were between editors.
- Chief organiser (with Elizabeth) of the Cobar conference and stepped up to help others in Charters Towers after the death of the then organiser.
- Presented numerous papers and led many field trips at conferences.
- Produced the very useful templates for conference papers, abstracts, and Journal articles, thus reducing the work of the editors.

Designed and analysed answers to the 2021 survey to members, which provided lots of

useful information about members wishes, aspirations etc.

The election of Office Bearers was held with Ruth Kerr in the Chair and the following were elected unopposed:

- President: Geoff Hudson
- Vice President: Wendy Carter
- Secretary: Geoff Anderson
- Treasurer: Ross Both
- Membership Secretary Beverley Phelts

Those elected comprise the Executive Committee together with Past President Nick Williams, and are responsible for the management of the Association. The Advisory Committee, comprising representatives from each of the Australian States and Territories and New Zealand, was appointed

The meeting then dealt with several matters:

- Changes to the Constitution as mentioned above
- Election of the Auditor for 2024-25: Bentleys SA/NT
- Setting of Member and Journal Editor's Fees: no change

The Annual Conference next year is in the famous mining district of Broken Hill, September 1-6 so save the date. Stephen Shortiss and I went to Broken Hill to look at venues and pull together the program and are grateful for the assistance of Robert Williamson of Lodestone Mines who is from Broken Hill who met us there and assisted with local knowledge and introductions.

Put the Broken Hill Conference in your diary and consider presenting a paper. More information early next year.

Best wishes for the Festive season and the New Year

Geoff Hudson

President AMHA

## **AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION WEB PRESENCE**

### **Websites:**

#### [Australasian Mining History](#)

This site has public and private members pages.

NON Member visitors may access the Journal Archive and the general information about mining history in Australia and New Zealand.

In addition to the general information about mining history and association activities Members have access to the newsletters and past 5 years of AMHA Journals.

#### [AMHA TidyHq](#)

This site is the more recent webpage that is now the place to make payment for membership and find information and registration for AMHA Conferences

HINT: Despite the online protocol warnings about not doing so, in this case, it is useful to use the same “username”, email & password for the two websites to avoid confusion when moving between the 2 sites.

### **Social Media:**

Members are encouraged to post items of mining history interest to these sites.

#### [FaceBook:](#)

#### [Instagram](#)

## **29th ANNUAL CONFERENCE BROKEN HILL**

Will be held in Australia's first heritage listed city from the 31 August to 6 September 2025

Now is the time to start planning your papers, ready for call for the submission of papers in 2025

A Template Abstract for the conference may be printed from the website:

[Next Conference](#)

### **AMHA OFFERS TWO AWARDS.**

Please draw them to the attention of anyone (members or non-members) who could be interested.

#### **Student Travel Grant**

The travel grant is to enable a student presenter to participate in the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held in 2025 in Broken Hill.

The grant will consist of:

- \$1,000 for travel and accommodation
- free conference registration, conference dinner and excursions
- 12 months free Student Membership of the Association (including the Journal of Australasian Mining History)

Further information is available at <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/next-conference/>

#### **Early Career Historian Award**

An Award is offered for the best paper published in the refereed section of the Journal of Australasian Mining History by an early career historian.

The award will be announced at the annual conference, for a paper published in the preceding issue of the Journal.

Prior membership of AMHA is not a requirement for the award.

The award can be offered in two categories:

- A completing undergraduate student (including a 4th year of Honors);
- An early career historian, with up to 5 years experience after graduation from a Bachelor Degree.

Eligible papers will be judged by members of the Editorial Board of the Journal

The Award consists of:

- \$500
- 12 months free AMHA membership

For further information go to

<https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/grants-and-awards/>

## AMHA LEONORA CONFERENCE

6 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2024

Forty-seven Australasian Mining History Association delegates recently visited Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Leonora-Gwalia for their annual conference. These are held in different States & Territories & New Zealand on an annual basis. Last year the conference was held in South Island, New Zealand, in Reefton. Next year the conference is being held in Broken Hill.

Delegates came from all over Australia as well as Wales and Alaska. The conference kicked off with a great evening at the Goldfields Repertory Club with talks on the Golden Mile by Scott Wilson and on the role of music and theatre in WA's Goldfields in the 1800's by Dr. Norma Latchford.

The following day, it was off to visit Mt Charlotte, the Museum of the Goldfields then out to visit the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society for dry blowing & gold panning demonstrations by members Lindsay Stockdale & Gerry Lamont there followed by lunch prepared & cooked by members.



From the old ways to the new ways

Saturday afternoon saw delegates out at the super pit look-out & on a sponsored visit to Northern Star mine site before moving on to the Boulder Pioneer Cemetery.



Sunday involved a morning visit to the Kanowna Heritage Trail with guide Scott Wilson with morning tea supplied courtesy of John Fanetti, Bryce Greatorex & Maria Wilson. Lunch was had at Hammond Park with a special performance by the Goldfields Brass Band in the magnificent rotunda before a trip to the King Battery with guide & geologist Sandra Close, who also heads up the heritage arm of the AusIMM.

Monday morning saw members bright & early at the Joe Lord Core Library and Geological Survey with dynamic Manager Alicia Verbeeten before heading off to the Two-up for lively tales & a demonstration at the Two-up Ring with Danny Sheehan before heading north to Menzies, Kookynie and Leonora.

Mine talks & tours were provided at Genesis, Murrin Murrin & the Leonora State Battery during the week.

As well as a visit to the Gwalia Historical Precinct & a film night on the Hoover House lawn.



Norm Williams and the delegates at the Leonora State Battery

Apart from the four delegates who went down with COVID during the conference, everyone thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Kalgoorlie-Boulder & Leonora-Gwalia & the surrounding countryside.



Joe Lord Core Library



Kanowna Puddler

A big thank you is due to Northern Star, for their sponsorship, & to all the locals who assisted in bringing the Conference together.

The Leonora AMHA conference was a great success thanks to the splendid organisation of Wendy Carter and local Leonora people - the Shire Council, "Shorty" at the Motel, the IGA Cafe. The bowls club was an appropriate venue for our sized conference.

An outstanding feature was the local catering. The delivery of fresh sandwiches on the road to the dam at lunchtime was an example.

Minesite visits were a highlight.

Visits to Historical Societies and deserted towns, especially Gwalia, and railway stations enabled conference attendees to understand the whole Kalgoorlie - Leonora - Murrin Murrin region.

*Comments from Ruth Kerr*

## More Photos from the Leonora Conference



Mr Hannan and Party Planting Tree to mark Hannan's Find, Kalgoorlie

For anyone who attended the visit to Paddy Hannan's tree on the first day of the 2024 conference. *(Photo courtesy of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society.)*



Evening social function



Experiencing social history at the Kalgoorlie Two-Up Ring



Genesis Pit



Presentation at Murrin Murrin Mine

## **AMHA AFFILIATED MEMBERSHIP, THE AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

The AMHA has recently renewed its affiliated membership with the Australian Historical Association (AHA). For the benefit of AMHA members not familiar with AHA, the following is based on information provided by the Administrative Officer of AHA.

AHA is the peak national organisation of historians working in all fields of history. Founded in 1973, the AHA boasts almost 1,000 members who are drawn from various professional occupations and career stages, and who hail from every part of the country. The AHA is committed to quality and integrity in the practice of history and advocacy on issues relating to the history profession in Australia. In addition to its national conference, the AHA offers a range of annual and biennial prizes and awards, publishes the quarterly scholarly journal *History Australia*, and conducts various other activities in support of the historical profession. As an affiliated society, the AMHA enjoys the benefit of receiving the AHA's fortnightly newsletter, increased visibility through the AHA's professional networks, and more!

Affiliates of the AHA enjoy all the benefits of individual membership with the exception of the right to vote and stand for election. Members of affiliated organisations need to be individual members of the AHA to present at annual AHA conferences. (*Note: This does not apply in the case of joint conferences.*)

Additional benefits of affiliation include:

- Promotion of organisations through listing on the AHA website.

- Publicity of organisation's news and events through AHA social media channels.
- With the agreement of the conference organiser, access to the AHA annual conference as an affiliated special stream. (*Note: We have held joint AHA-AMHA conferences in the past, e.g. Armidale in 2007*)
- Discounted conference registration cost for members of affiliated organisations.

The AHA 2025 Conference will be held in Townsville, from 30 June to 4 July 2025.

### AHA NEWS

#### **CFP: AHA Conference 2025, Looking Up**

James Cook University, Bebegu Yumba Campus, Townsville, 30 June to 4 July 2025

The organising committee are now accepting submissions for the 2025 AHA Conference, jointly hosted by James Cook University and Central Queensland University on Bindal and Wulgurukaba Country. Participants are encouraged to relate their work to the conference theme of looking up and applying the historian's toolkit to make a meaningful contribution to contemporary debate.

#### **Call for Papers close 17 February 2025**

Congratulations to **Robert Porter** for the publication of his book *Mining Men: Individuals Who Shaped Australia's Post-War Development*. The book follows the careers of eight influential people who played key roles in Australia's pre-and-post-Second World War mining environments, working in companies which were responsible for the development of an integrated aluminium industry, the establishment of the main pillar of Australia's iron ore export industry and a copper and gold mining operation on Bougainville Island. Congratulations, Robert!

To purchase a copy, please contact

<mailto:rpir@iinet.net.au>



## BITS AND PIECES

Following on from the March Newsletter which reported on the glass model of the Charters Towers Mine here is a photo of the glass model of the underground of the Sons of Gwalia Mine.

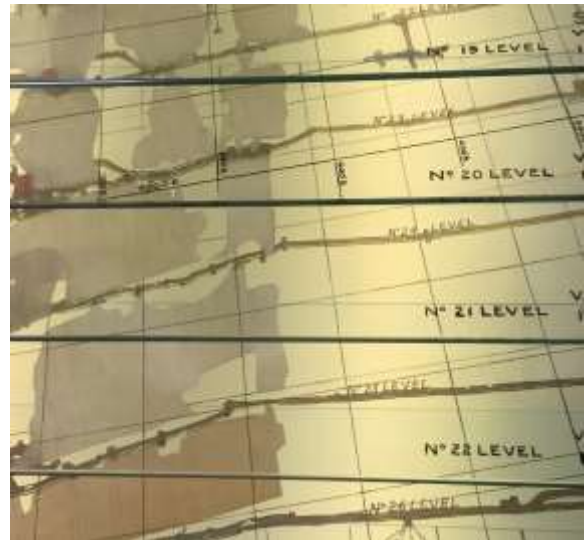
It was made in 1938 to help the engineers & the geologists work out how the mine should be developed.



It is over six feet long & five feet high.

This brass timber & glass model was constructed in London for the Bewick Moreing Co. It depicts 38 levels to a depth of 1,975 metres.

The mine reached the 31 level before its closure in 1963 but is now the deepest underground mine, for trucks, in the world at 2.3 kms deep & still going down. It is a four hour round trip for the drivers who bring up the ore at 5.5 grams of gold per tonne.



## The Use of Oregon

Oregon was often used in the mining industry around the turn of the last century, largely due to the influence of mine managers & engineers coming to Australia from America.

Hence, the last remaining timber 19<sup>th</sup> century incline headframe left in Australia, built at the **Sons of Gwalia Mine**, was initially designed by Herbert Hoover in 1898 to be built from Oregon.



Old Gwalia Headframe, now at the Gwalia Museum

The headframe was later extended higher, due to the increasing depth of the mine & then in 1913,

after the new Fraser & Chalmers 1000 NHP winder from Erith, on the Thames River in the UK, was erected at the mine. (More recently some of the beams, particularly the corner posts, have been replaced with karri.)

Oregon was also used by Hoover for the floors of the mine manager's house, which he commissioned in 1898. This was paid for by Hoover's employers at the time, Bewick Moreing Co Ltd, who were not impressed by the six hundred pound cost of the house, at a time when an adequate family home could be built for one hundred pounds!

Eleven years earlier another American, mining engineer William Patton, had introduced Oregon into the underground workings of the Broken Hill Mines for square-set timbering, as reinforcement to prevent cave-ins & rock falls.

As you might imagine both Broken Hill & the Northern Goldfields of WA were not renowned for large trees &, what little timber there was, was soon used up for domestic use & in the steam boilers, as well as for platforming & stoping.

So, despite the costs of bringing the timber to Australia, (perhaps a topic for Gordon Boyce to explore as a potential paper at the next AMHA conference!?! ) the length, strength & long grain of Oregon, plus the noise it made in creaking & splintering leading up to a rockfall, were sought after qualities of this timber. Leading to over 1.3 million tons of this North American timber being transported to Broken Hill between 1888 & 1964 by the Silverton Tramway Co Ltd.!

## Sam Cash Berdan Pans



Berdan Pans were set at an angle & rotated to grind ore with a heavy metal ball as they turned.

Successful prospector Sam Cash, who discovered over one hundred gold mines, says in his little book "Loaming for Gold", first published in 1934, "*That after the visible gold is picked out, the remaining sands are put through the berdan pan.*"

He explains the processes used in loaming, & provides new chum prospectors with practical tips & advice about how they should conduct themselves & things they should look for.

He says "*By having it all treated in the pan before the crushing is through, the residues could be put through the battery.*"

He also warns that "*Those residues would be worth very little if consisting of quartz or anything except iron.*"!

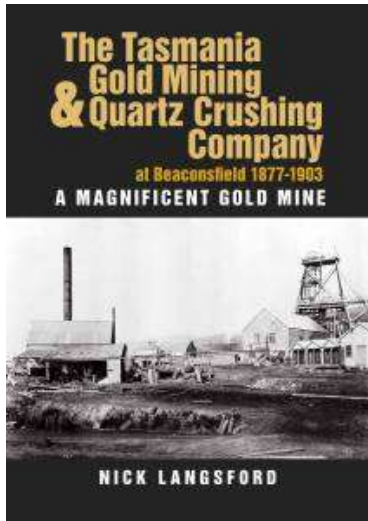


Berdan Pan, after rain

## PUBLICATIONS

New books are on the AMHA website  
<https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/books/>

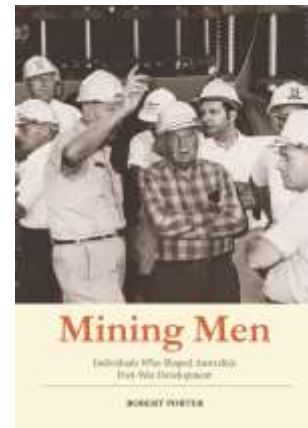
Let the Newsletter Editor know if you'd like to notify members of a forthcoming book.



Nick Langsford 2024. Forty South Publishing.  
240 pages, b/w and color photographs fully  
referenced and indexed.

Can be ordered from Forty South Publishing or  
from the author: [nlansford@west.com.au](mailto:nlansford@west.com.au)  
. Price \$49.95 + postage.

In the late 1870s there was a modest alluvial gold rush at Brandy Creek in the West Tamar district. This became an intense 'reefing' rush after the discovery in June 1877 by three Dally brothers of a gossanous and very rich vein system which became the famous Tasmania reef. The Dallys battled over-peggers and a Gold Commissioner initially reluctant to grant their leases, which were soon after sold to Launceston-based politicians who used their influence to acquire complete control of the astonishingly profitable reef. Mining was highly profitable until 1890. In 1903 amidst great acrimony among the directors, management, and shareholders, the mine was sold to British investors. The book is as much about the personalities of the discoverers and developers of, and investors in the reef as it is about the problems of mining the reef.



The development of Australia's minerals sector from the 1950s through to the early 1970s provided a major contribution to Australia's economic development.

Mining integrated Australia into new regional and international markets, it involved nation building projects of a scale not seen in the country, as well as the marshalling of massive amounts of international funding not conceived of previously.

The individuals selected for this book played key roles in Australia's pre-and-post-Second World War mining environments, working in companies which had a common lineage and which were responsible for the development of an integrated aluminium industry, the establishment of the main pillar of Australia's iron ore export industry and a copper and gold mining operation on Bougainville Island.

*Mining Men* profiles the careers of eight extraordinary individuals: William Sydney (W.S.) Robinson, Lyell Bryant (L.B). Robinson, A.J. (Jim) Keast, F.S. (Struan) Anderson, Maurice (Maurie) Mawby, Russel Madigan, Frank Espie and Rod Carnegie. Privately published, limited print run. High quality design and production – 233 pages, 94 images (B&W and colour), 4 tables, 2 maps.

Copies only available from the author  
[rpir@inet.net.au](mailto:rpir@inet.net.au)  
(not available through book shops). \$55 (\$70 including packaging and postage within Australia).

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

A reminder that there is a new way of paying for membership, via <https://amha.tidyhq.com/>

The Membership year will be on a rolling 12 month basis not tied to ending on the 31 December as previously.

Notices for the renewal of membership will automatically be sent out prior to the 12 month anniversary of the joining or last renewal date of membership

### **Membership Fees:**

Full memberships	\$50
Joint Family Membership	\$60
Unwaged Student	\$15
Institutions:	\$65

Note: a copy of the annual volume of JAMH is included in the fee for all memberships.

Please only pay the current year's fee as subscription rates may change.

### **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.

### **To renew or become a new Member**

Go to <https://amha.tidyhq.com/> and follow the instructions below.

### **Renewing Members:**

Click on the green 'Log On' box at the top right of the page to log in with email and password.

If you have not logged in previously, enter your email and the system will ask you to create a password.

Once logged in you will see "Memberships" at the top of the page. Click this and you will be taken to your personal membership information page.

Here you will be able to renew online using the secure credit card payment system. You can also correct or add to your personal details.

If you wish to pay by EFT or cheque, email [treasurer.amha@mail.tidyhq.com](mailto:treasurer.amha@mail.tidyhq.com) for further information.

### **New Members:**

When you arrive at <https://amha.tidyhq.com/> scroll down to the Membership page and chose your Membership type.

Follow the prompts and complete the Membership information and pay using the secure credit card payment system and you will be automatically joined.

If you wish to pay by EFT or cheque, email [treasurer.amha@mail.tidyhq.com](mailto:treasurer.amha@mail.tidyhq.com) for further information.

### **Member subscription payments from outside Australia:**

These should be by credit card to avoid excessive bank fees.

## 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](http://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 Association's 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.