



**AUSTRALASIAN
MINING
HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter Editor: Jan Wegner
Janice.Wegner@jcu.edu.au

Newsletter No 1 March 2024

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754

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

ISSUE 115

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/720189911426071/>

EDITORIAL

This newsletter is a bumper edition due to the final 2023 edition failing to emerge when the Editor had 26cm of muddy Barron River water through her house in mid December, in the highest flood ever experienced in the Cairns northern beaches (thanks, TC Jasper). So, it combines two newsletters in one. Notice how many '1 in 100 year' floods Australia has been having lately? Of course mines suffer from floods as well – the sparkling new lake in northwest Queensland's Capricorn copper mine, courtesy of TC Megan delivering 500mm of rain recently, is not appreciated by mine management!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Executive Committee of the AMHA has held four Zoom meetings since the Reefcon Conference and there has been one Advisory and Executive Committee Meeting. At this latter meeting it was agreed that the Annual Conferences

should be offered at a discounted rate for AMHA Members, and this will be introduced for the 28th Conference in Leonora in September and is be an additional benefit of membership.

The Advisory Committee comprises State, Territory and New Zealand representatives and are listed on the web site

<https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/officer-s-of-the-australasian-mining-history-association/>, and are the regional eyes and ears of the Association. If you would like to participate on this committee or assist in other ways, please let me know. We would like to get some assistance with our web site and IT in general, so if you would like to help, shout out.

I am delighted that Ross Both has taken on the role of Acting Treasurer. Ross has certainly made very significant contributions to AMHA over the years including as President 2014-16 and has again stepped up to the plate.

A reminder email to renew membership subscriptions has recently gone out so if you have received one it would be appreciated if you would renew your membership promptly. The new association management system TidyHQ was introduced at the start of the year and,

although there have been a few teething problems, it will serve us well in future.

I am pleased to advise that the following people have taken out AMHA membership: Leigh Bettenay, Richard Hooker, Lorraine Nelson, Leigh Twine and Denis Yan. I welcome them to the AMHA and look forward to their participation.

We are busy working on the 28th Annual Conference to be held in Leonora in early September. Vice-President Wendy Carter is organiser and as she is now living in Leonora, she has her finger on the pulse.

My wife and I went to the North Island of New Zealand in January to visit friends and met up for lunch with Philip and Sylvia Hart and Chris and Mary Crawford in Hamilton, and renewed the acquaintance made at Reefton.

I also visited the historic Waihi Gold Mine where my great grandfather, Thomas Plummer Clarke, was Battery Manager in the late 1800's and my grandfather Thomas George Clarke trained as an assayer before moving to Leonora in the early 1900's and then Kalgoorlie where he worked as a metallurgist and later at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines.

Best wishes and I look forward to seeing many members at the Leonora Conference.

Geoff Hudson



Headstone of Thomas Plummer and Frances Clarke, Waihi Cemetery

BITS & PIECES

Herberton Mining Museum Award

Congratulations to the Herberton Mining Museum, which was awarded a Royal Historical Society of Queensland Centenary Medal in November last year. Dr Ruth Kerr presented the medal in December. Some of our members may remember visiting the HMM during the Atherton conference.



Ruth presenting the medal to volunteer Ivan Searston (HMM Facebook)



Cooktown Sesquicentenary

Cooktown celebrated its 150th year in October last year. Established as the port for the Palmer gold rush in 1873, the town languished after gold production declined in the 1880s and survived on its pastoral, mining and agricultural hinterland through the short railway to Laura.



The town soon after establishment in 1873. Photo: Cooktown Historical Society.

Charters Towers Miners Memorial Walk

This heritage trail was opened in December last year and includes interpretive signage, replica headframes, and an elevated boardwalk to a viewing platform over an old mineshaft (historical Wyndham No.3). It commemorates the lives lost in mining, milling and quarry accidents on the Charters Towers goldfields. For a virtual tour, see <https://youtu.be/HHnfS55wA6c>



Charters Towers mines in glass

While on the subject of Charters Towers heritage, Jim Morrison advises that the North Queensland branch of the AusIMM and volunteers of the Charters Towers branch of the Qld National Trust have restored a glass model of the Charters Towers mines, originally produced by Gold Mines of Australia Ltd in 1935. It's held in the Zara Clark museum and thought to be the last remaining such model in the world.



Sir George Fisher Lecture

Our patron, Geoffrey Blainey, delivered the Sir George Fisher Lecture in Townsville last year, hosted by the North Qld branch of the AusIMM. If you'd like to listen, click on <https://www.ausimm.com/news-and-media/community-news/sir-george-fisher-lecture-2023---video-of-professor-geoffrey-blainey-ac/> . It's a fascinating talk mainly about John Campbell (Cam) Miles, discoverer of the Mount Isa lode, and George Fisher, so important to the

development of Mount Isa as a world-class mine; along with examples of what mining has done for Australia.



Ranger: from uranium to tourism

The Ranger uranium mine ran for 40 years before it finally closed in 2021, the longest running uranium mine in Australia. As the rehabilitation process nears completion (in 2026), the mining town of Jabiru is in transition to a sustainable Indigenous-led tourism and regional services hub with a \$135.5 million contribution by the Northern Territory government. The town is the gateway to Kakadu National Park and West Arnhem Land, and is a central community for the Mirarr people.



Heavy mineral map

The latest help for prospectors: Using samples from the continental-scale National Geochemical Survey of Australia (NGSA), new mineralogical data have been collected to develop the Heavy Mineral Map of Australia (<https://www.eftf.ga.gov.au/national-geochemical-framework>). The Heavy

Mineral Map of Australia is the world's first public domain, continental-scale heavy mineral dataset and atlas. Heavy minerals are used extensively around the world for mineral or energy exploration, including in the search for critical minerals. In a collaboration between Geoscience Australia and Curtin University, 1315 archived samples from across Australia have been analysed for automated identification and quantification of heavy minerals. The analysis reveals information about the upland and underlying bedrock, which is of particular importance in areas of cover where traditional methods of exploration such as geochemistry can be ineffective. The Heavy Mineral Map of Australia and accompanying cloud-based mineral network analysis (MNA) tool (<https://geoscienceaustralia.shinyapps.io/mna4hm>) can positively impact mineral exploration and prospectivity modelling around Australia, as well as have other applications in earth and environmental sciences.



<https://portal.ga.gov.au/persona/heavy-mineral-map-of-australia> Just click on any of the dots...

Historic mine rehabilitation

An article on the rehabilitation of the Donnybrook Shafts area in WA, where gold mining occurred between 1897 and 1903, raises some questions. Rehab was done through the Mining Rehabilitation Fund, which uses Indigenous businesses to clean up abandoned mines, paid for by a levy on current miners with the aim of using the money to clean up mine sites if a miner defaults on its environmental

responsibilities. Interest on the fund pays for ‘legacy’ abandoned mines. All very good, but none of the advisory panel to the fund is an archaeologist or historian. The shafts are now back-filled and how well they were recorded, researched or analysed is not mentioned.



Mine? What mine?



The shaft about to be filled.
<https://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Documents/Petroleum/MRF22-23-Yearly-Report.pdf>

Even modern mines raise the same questions. Remediation can control pollutants and restore land of value to agriculture and nearby towns, but what material remains are the mining historians and archaeologists of the future going to use to understand late 20th/early 21st century mining? Consider the wealth of remains on 19th and early 20th century mine sites and then look at these clean-ups of the Ellendale diamond mine and camp (2002-2015):



Future mining archaeologists will have their work cut out for them.

The NSW government, on the other hand, aims to preserve historic remains at the now-defunct Lake George mine at Captains Flat, which produced lead, zinc, copper, pyrite, silver and gold from the late 1880s to the 1960s. It has caused significant pollution along the Molonglo River and remediation has been aimed at stabilising the dumps and preventing water leaching from the underground workings.



Remains of the flotation plant

In the meantime, researchers at Melbourne’s Monash University have introduced a program to help catalogue and eventually rehabilitate old mine shafts. It has found around 80,000 of them.

Dubbed the Mining Incidence Documentation and Assessment Scheme (MIDAS), the program is used to catalogue and compare active or inactive mine data. MIDAS uses geographic information system spatial analyses and environmental risk assessments to show the proximity of shafts to infrastructure and environmental receptors.



Chillagoe Smelters – a modern mining site that looked like this would be a target for ‘rehabilitation’

Mount Isa

The town was celebrating its centenary last year when miner Glencore made the shock announcement that it was closing down the historic mine in 2025 because of low ore grades and aging infrastructure. It plans to keep operating the copper smelter, the George Fisher mine, the zinc-lead concentrator, the lead smelter in Mount Isa, and the copper refinery in Townsville. The Queensland government has announced a \$50 million support package but other miners in the rich north-west Queensland mineral province are anxious that the copper concentrator, also slated to close, remain open. The recent success of True North Copper at Mt Oxide (first found and worked in 1882 by Ernest Henry and Aboriginal prospector Toby) shows that there’s plenty of life in that region yet - and Mt Oxide concentrates are being treated at the Mount Isa smelters.



The copper concentrator plant in 2020

Great Fingall – another old W.A. mine lives again

Westgold Resources has identified rich gold ore at depth in the Murchison at Great Fingall mine. The mine was first worked underground between 1891 and 1918 to a depth of 786 metres, then by three open cut campaigns between 1995 and 2020 to a

total depth of 170m. A decline has been started from the pit floor, anticipated to go to 4000m, and the nearby Golden Crown historic mine will also be worked.

The reef was originally named the Day Dawn Reef, found by Ned Hefferman in 1891. Great Fingall Consolidated Ltd took over the mine in 1898 and renamed it. The company built the heritage-listed stone mine and assay office in 1902, now the only building surviving from the former Day Dawn township.



As can be seen above, the building is perched precariously on the lip of the open cut and Cue Shire Council is seeking the \$3 million needed to relocate it.

Moonta Mines World Heritage Listing

Michael Freeman drew our attention to another positive step in the application process:

Burra and Moonta Mines is now one step away from tentative listing after Deputy Premier Susan Close announced the government would support the bid on Tuesday, November 7.

Once the tentative listing submission is presented to the federal government in early 2024, the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation will deem it successful or unsuccessful.

Ms Close said Burra and Moonta Mines offer exceptional evidence of Australia's Cornish mining heritage and the transfer of Cornish culture to another country.

"The state government proudly supports the nomination for World Heritage Listing and has written to the Commonwealth to convey this support," Ms Close said.

"The state government will continue to work with councils to achieve this important recognition for this site."



Hughes Engine House Moonta

Alumina refinery demolition



Rio Tinto is undertaking what it claims is 'the largest demolition in Australia's history' at its Gove aluminium refinery, which processed local bauxite from 1972 to 2014. Mining will cease later this decade. 142,000 tonnes of scrap metal is destined for Asia and 300,000 tonnes of concrete is destined for local roads and other projects. Some buildings will go to the traditional owners, the Gumatj.

More of the 'biggest'

Did you know that Australia has the largest producer of lithium in the world? Greenbushes, near Bunbury in WA, is also said to have the highest grade lithium spodumene in the world.

Mining began in the area with tin discovered in 1886 by a WA Government Geologist and a rush started in 1888. Tin mining predominated until the 1950s, with tantalum also being mined by open cut from World War II. It was while exploring underground for tantalum that the Greenbushes Tin Ltd found spodumene in 1980 and lithium mining began in 1983. The mine was bought by Sons of Gwalia which collapsed in 2004 and the present owners, Talison, took over in 2007. Mine life is estimated at a remarkable 20 years. It produces 1.95 million tonnes per year and supplies nearly a quarter of the world market.



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 .

SOME NICE WA HISTORY

Cobb & Co.

This article and photos by Vice-Pres Wendy Carter (photos of places on the road between Leonora and Leinster, and to be visited on the conference field trip):

There is a fascinating extract by Dorothy Walsh in Alex Palmer's book *Agnew*, in which she describes the mail coach trip

between Lawlers and Leonora in the Northern Goldfields of WA:-

"I can remember it vividly. It began before daylight by Cobb & Co. coach, a vehicle drawn by four or six horses on the first leg of the journey which was 80 miles to Leonora, where the railway began. At intervals along the eighty miles were roadside hotels – three in all – the first Poison Creek where breakfast was provided – the second Doyles Well for lunch & the third Diorite for tea. There was a change of horses along the route. The coach trundled into Leonora after dark & the night would be spent at one of the hotels."



Poison Creek today



Doyles Well for lunch. Now a ruin. (On the conference field trip agenda!)

Doyle's Well Hotel even had a swimming pool, the first in the district. People from outlying communities would go the hotel for the weekend to enjoy the facilities!



Doyle's Well Hotel Pool today

Cobb & Co had been travelling in WA since the 1880s on the Perth to Albany run and then, following gold discoveries at Coolgardie, to Kalgoorlie-Boulder and around Menzies on the mail run from Southern Cross to the Goldfields in the 1890s. The company usually travelled between the railheads and outlying places, and as the railways were extended, they moved on again. They carried everything from passengers and post, to freight and gold.

James Nicholas (Gina Rinehart's maternal grandfather) bought Cobb & Co. in 1896. Once the railway arrived in Menzies in 1898, the company traded between Menzies to Malcolm, Wiluna and Lawlers, then, as the railway was extended to Leonora in 1902, moving out again. Trading as Kidman & Nicholas, along with Sidney Kidman, they expanded till they had up to 1200 horses across Australia, with stations to keep them on, as they worked them hard on short spells and then had to rest them up for a few days to let them recover. So, Dorothy Walsh's trip above, most likely involved three changes of horses between Lawlers and Leonora.

Nicholas described seeing his first motor car in Laverton and realised at once that the days of Cobb & Co., as it was, were on their way out: *"So I at once began cutting big coaches down and making them into vans...I also disposed of horses and other coaching equipment as soon as possible and began carrying on the business of Cobb & Co. per motor cars instead of the old methods."*



Photo courtesy of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society
Truly the end of an amazing era.

CONFERENCE

Wendy Carter reports on the September conference this year: The Executive Committee are working hard on the program and costings for the Leonora Conference in September. We were hoping to have registrations available in March, but due to a few difficulties with the pricing, which we are endeavouring to keep as low as possible while at the same time covering costs, this is taking longer than we hoped. However, registrations will be available on TidyHQ in April. The program is shaping up well with a lot of help from local people in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Leonora-Gwalia.

For those coming to Kalgoorie-Boulder for the weekend prior to the conference in Leonora we will kick-off at the Goldfields Repertory Theatre at the uphill end of Brookman Street right in the centre of Kalgoorlie at 5.30 pm on Friday 6 September. At 6 pm we will have a presentation on the development of the Golden Mile by Scott Wilson, past State President of the Amalgamated Prospectors & Leaseholders Association and a Life Member of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society. Then after a simple dinner of potluck stew and bread we will have another presentation by Dr. Norma Latchford who wrote her thesis on the relationship between mining and the performing arts in Australia from 1850 to 1914. I have been advised that the cheapest drinks in Kalgoorlie-Boulder will be available for purchase at the bar!

Saturday will see us around Kalgoorlie-Boulder from Mount Charlotte to the Boulder Cemetery as well as a dry blowing demonstration by Golden Gecko award winning prospector Lindsay Stockdale at the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society. This award recognises leading practices and innovation in environmental management in prospecting. In the afternoon Northern Star are providing a sponsored bus trip around the famous Kalgoorlie Consolidated Goldmines superpit.

On Sunday we will kick-off with a two up game at the famous Kalgoorlie two-up ring under the tutelage of Danny Sheehan after which Scott Wilson will be our guide out around Kanowna, followed by an afternoon at the King Battery which Gerry MacGill described so well in Volume 2, September 2004 of the *Australasian Mining History Journal* for anyone who has time to do some reading before they journey to the conference!

Then up to Leonora on Monday 9 September and back to Kalgoorlie on the Friday afternoon. Full details will be available on the website

<https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/next-conference/> .

More field trip teasers from Wendy...

we will be visiting the Niagara Dam and Kookynie on the Monday 9 September en route to Leonora.

Photo attached of the Niagara Dam last weekend. Locals said they have never seen it so full! The dam was built with the idea of providing water for the steam locomotives which would be on the line from Menzies to Malcolm, both gold mining towns at the time. It cost the Government 62,000 pounds to build, but at the time rainfall was low and then they found a lot of underground water in Kookynie so at the time it was considered a white elephant. However, for locals & tourists it has been a real boon for camping, picnics etc!



Two iconic Leonora buildings:



Masonic Lodge



Barnes Federal Theatre



...and a scene from Gwalia's main street – so typical of mining towns in the past, apart from the bitumen!

And a report from Wendy on the Big Wet and the WA goldfields:

Rain and the Cosmopolitan Hotel

In the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia, the Menzies Shire website reports that the Cosmopolitan or Englishman Mine at Kookynie had to be dewatered to the tune of 250,000 gallons a day in the early days somewhere between 1897 & 1911. I wonder what they did with all the water? Maybe they grew some good vegetables!

At the moment, the cellar at the ruins of the old Cosmopolitan pub in Kookynie could do with dewatering too after all the heavy rain this region has had of late! So much for wine and whisky!



Ruins of the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Kookynie (also on the field trip agenda)

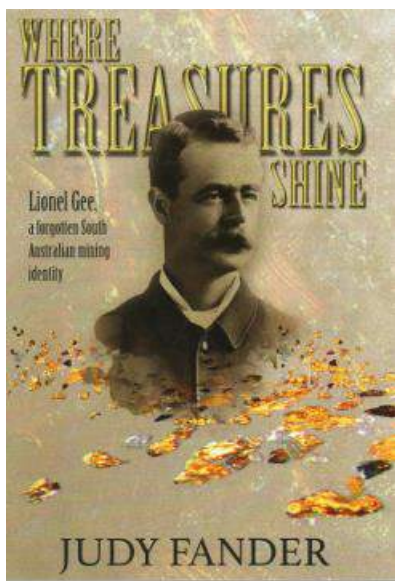
One of the mines east of Laverton received an average of two years' rain in 48 hours. And 'Dingo' the man in charge of the Leonora airport who works for the Shire of Leonora was kept busy during the recent rainy period with a lot of extra planes landing at the Leonora airport because they were unable to take the fly in fly out workers out to the mines as the mostly dirt airstrips had been deluged. Dingo reckons that he is lucky to get five planes landing here on most Tuesdays but during the rains he had seven planes landing before 9 a.m. causing a fair bit of havoc!

However, the good news for the mining history conference in September is that the rains should result in a really good wild flower season!

PUBLICATIONS

Judy Fander *Where Treasures Shine: Lionel Gee, a forgotten South Australian mining identity*. It is the first book written

about this significant SA public servant, who was Warden at goldfields both SA and the NT, when the NT was administered by SA. He was the warden of goldfields during gold rushes at Teetulpa and Tarcoola (SA) and later at Arltunga and the Tanami (NT). His responsibilities included overseeing the mining legislation and departmental publications such as the Record of the Mines of South Australia (1908). He worked closely with the Government Geologist HYL Brown.



Copies are available directly from Judy Fander, for \$45.00 including postage and handling within Australia. Overseas pricing on request, prepayment required. Phone orders: 0412 758 766 email orders: jfander@ozemail.com.au

Payment by EFT to ANZ, BSB 015 257, Account Name: Judy M Fander, Account Number: 408582884

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

OBITUARIES

Don Perkin

Don, one of our long term members, sadly passed away on 8 December last year, aged 84. His daughter Rebecca wrote to let us know, and said of him "Don cherished his family and friends and was always keen for a chat and to reminisce about the good ol' days!

As you all know he loved sharing his knowledge of all things geology, anything science related, Australian history, classical music and rugby union just to name a few!"

Graydon Henning



You may recall a notice sent out in October last year that Graydon Henning had died. Sally Henning sent this obituary: GRAYDON READ HENNING 19/02/1936 - 23/10/2023

Graydon was born on 19 February 1936 at Maylands, South Australia, which is a suburb of Adelaide. He completed a BEc and BA at the University of Adelaide and a MA at the University of Melbourne.

He held positions at the University of Melbourne and Monash University before joining the staff of the University of New England (UNE) in 1973. Graydon was at UNE for 30 years, retiring as a Senior Lecturer but continuing his association with UNE as an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the School of Business until 2018.

Graydon's research was divided between three main areas - Australian maritime history, the history of trade and shipping between Australia and the Pacific Northwest and mining history. He also contributed to academia outside his Faculty, for example, he was a founding member of the Heritage Futures Research Centre in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, UNE, and more broadly, for example, Graydon was a foundation member of the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand (ACSANZ).

In 1996 Graydon was elected to represent Australia on the International Commission for Maritime History (ICMH). In 2000 he was elected one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commission and in 2005 Graydon was elected President of the ICMH, a position he held for eleven years.

Apart from his academic career and his love for his family, Graydon was involved in the Armidale community being an Honorary Life Member of the Armidale and District Historical Society and on the Armidale City Council's Folk Museum Committee for 20 years. He also presented a fine music program on the community radio station for many years and performed with the Armidale Playhouse. Graydon's faith was an integral part of him and he was active in the Student Christian Movement and the Uniting Church.

Barry Cooper 23 September 1948 – 13 October 2023



Barry was born in Victoria and showed an early interest in geology and history. He studied geology at Melbourne University and gained a PhD in palaeontology at Ohio State University in 1974. He was appointed as a palaeontologist with the

Geological Survey of South Australia and served in various offices in that state until he retired in 2009. He became an adjunct professor of geology with the University of South Australia.

Barry combined his interests in history and geology by becoming the founding chair of the Earth Sciences History Group of the Geological Society of Australia, formalised in 1984. He was also instrumental in beginning the Heritage Stone Task Group of the International Union of Geological Sciences in 2012. A very able administrator and organiser, he became President and Secretary-General of the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) between 2008 and 2020. Nearly all of his 126 publications are in the field of the history of geology and his work was recognised in 2021 by the award of the Tom Vallance Medal, which recognises people who have made a significant contribution to researching, recording, investigating, documenting and/or publishing about people or places or events of historical importance to the geological sciences in Australia or Australasia.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We have a new way of paying for membership.

To renew or take out Membership of the AMHA go to <https://amha.tidyhq.com/> and follow the instructions below.

Renewing Members

Click on green 'Log On' box at top right of the page and 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 and correct or add to your personal details.

If you wish to pay by EFT or cheque, email 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 for further information. Member subscription payments from outside Australia should be by credit card to avoid excessive bank fees.

Note: Membership fees have been the same for many years and at the Reefton Conference AGM it was agreed that there should be a small increase of \$5 for each level of membership except student membership. The additional funds will contribute to new management software that will deliver improved services to the membership.

INTERNATIONAL New Year Greetings



Each year Antonio Ángel, the Secretary of the Colectivo Proyecto Arrayanes in Linares, Spain, sends a New Year greeting. The Colectivo is a very active group involved in interpretation and conservation of the historic mining remains in the Linares-La Carolina district and they organised the International Mining History Congress in Linares in 2016.

Ross Both normally forwards the email to those who went to the conference but as Antonio is now on the Editorial Board of JAMH. He has a paper in the recent issue in which he describes our shared mining heritage, so Ross asked that I forward his email and attachment on to the general membership. For further information go to their website <https://www.proyectoarrayanes.org/>

"The Colectivo Proyecto Arrayanes hopes that the New Year will fulfil your wishes and expectations and provide an opportunity to recover, protect and enhance the value of our common mining heritage.

Best regards on behalf the Colectivo.
Antonio Ángel"

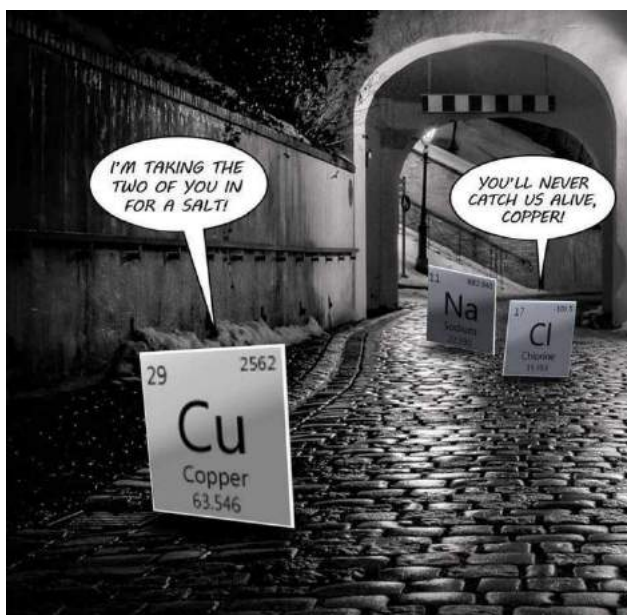
WEBSITE EXPERT STILL NEEDED
IT-technophile needed to help update our Website. Please contact Ken McQueen ken.mcqueen@canberra.edu.au .

CURRENT AMHA COMMITTEE

President : Dr Geoff Hudson
Vice President : Ms Wendy Carter
Secretary : Mr Geoff Anderson
Acting Treasurer : Dr Ross Both
Membership Secretary: Dr Beverley Phelts
Website administration: Dr Ken McQueen, Ms Jenny Scott, Mr. Stephen Imrie
Journal Editor: Dr Lyndon Megarrity
Newsletter Editor: Dr Jan Wegner
Facebook Co-ordinator: Mr Robert Barnes
Advisory Committee (State and Country Representatives):
ACT : Dr. Ken McQueen, Mr Jeff Nixon
NSW: Mr Stephen Shortis
NT : Dr. David Carment, Dr. Beverley Phelts
QLD : Dr. Ruth Kerr, Dr. Jan Wegner
SA : Dr. Ross Both, Mr Jim Jago
TAS : Mr Greg Dickens, Dr Nick Haygarth
VIC : Mr. Mathew Churchward
WA : Ms. Wendy Carter, Mr. Mel Davies

New Zealand: Mr John Taylor, Dr.
Philip Hart
International: Mr David Knott

JUST FOR FUN



Whenever I doubt myself as a mother,
I whip out this picture of a 6 yr. old
coal miner smoking a pipe in 1910.



PHOTO ESSAY

Member Wendy Carter has contributed this series of photos and information about the Fraser and Chalmers winding engine, formerly at the Sons of Gwalia mine and now in the Gwalia Museum in Leonora. No doubt another on the conference field trip agenda...



She says: In Chicago in 1871, Fraser & Chalmers founded a partnership, at first employing 60 men to manufacture mining machinery, boilers and pumps. By 1890 the company expanded out from Chicago to take up acreage alongside the River Thames at Erith in England. By 1890 they employed over 1,000 men becoming one of the world's largest manufacturers of mining equipment. Then in 1901 they merged with three other companies to become Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co. and produced not only mining equipment but equipment for farming and construction, and power generation and transmission, as well as machinery for use in factories, mills and refineries. They employed over 4,000 workers.

The enormous and beautifully manufactured Fraser & Chalmers winding engine made in Erith, England in 1912, the largest of its type in Australia, one of only three surviving in

Australia, was transported all the way out by ship and then carried by donkey teams. It was installed at the Sons of Gwalia in 1913.



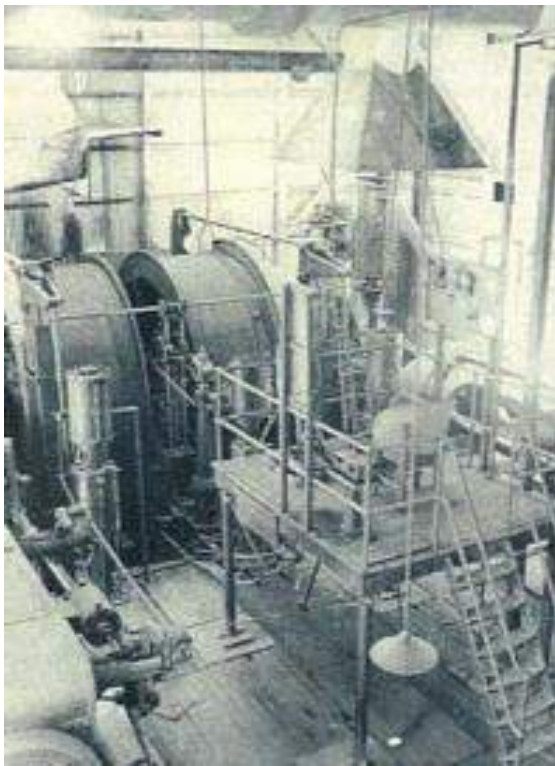
[Note the spiral indicators for levels, sitting above the drums.] 2 rings or knocks to lower, 3 to raise and 4 to hoist to the surface! An extremely responsible job for the winder driver who was the second highest paid man on the mines due to the responsibility he carried for the safety of the men, the horses which were also transported underground to work, and for the ore coming up! So much so he was not allowed to leave the winding house when on shift and a special dunny can was put in place in the corner of the winding house just for him to use.

Thanks for a very interesting article and photos, Wendy.

For the technically minded, the following is quoted from the WA Mines Department's Annual Report for 1912:

The new engine is by Fraser and Chalmers, Ltd., and is a direct-acting, double-drum engine. The cylinders are 27in. diameter with 60in. stroke, and diameter of drums is 10ft. It is fitted with Corliss valve gear [prominent in the foreground of Wendy's first photo] and governor. The post brakes, friction clutches and reversing gear are all

operated by steam, and the disc brakes are operated by foot levers. Both drums are loose on shaft, and are operated by friction clutches. The cut-off gear has a range from zero to 7/8 of the stroke, and is operated by the Seymour patent late tripping arrangement, which has the advantage of securing an equal cut-off [of the steam supply] at each end of the stroke at all points of cut-off. There are two sets of post brakes operated by weighted steam brake engines of Fraser and Chalmers design, which includes the Whitmore patent self-adjusting variable load appliance, thus enabling the driver to apply any desired load to the brakes, ranging from zero to the full load. The brakes are applied by the weights and released by steam. This arrangement, of course, enables a driver to apply the brakes in case of steam failure through a burst pipe or other cause. The disc brakes are connected by means of a substantial wayshaft and levers to foot levers on the platform. The depth indicators consist of cylinders spirally grooved, and fitted with necessary pointers. The cylinders are driven by cut gearing from each drum, and will indicate a total depth of 5,000 feet.



For these and other exciting details for the technophiles, see the nomination of the winder and its headframe by Engineers Australia for Engineering Heritage Recognition, <https://portal.engineersaustralia.org.au/system/files/engineering-heritage-australia/nomination-title/HRP.Sons%20of%20Gwalia%20Underground%20Mine.Nomination.V3.updated%2029.01.16.pdf>

Jan Wegner
(Newsletter Editor)

AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION Inc.

ABN 96 220 329 754

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL 2024

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

Membership Fees:

Full memberships	\$50	Please only pay the current year's fee
Joint Family Membership	\$60	as subscription rates may change.
Unwaged Student	\$15	Note: a copy of the annual volume of JAMH is included in the
Institutions:	\$65	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 Bev Phelts 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: see pages 12-13 of this Newsletter.

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.