AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL

Apologies for disappearing from view for most of last year after TC Jasper's floods chased me out of Cairns to the Atherton Tablelands, which meant far too much time being spent driving up and down the Gillies Highway, dodging rock falls, fallen trees, suicidal motorcyclists and cassowaries (well, one cassowary, who often holds up traffic at the top of the range). Now I'm back in Cairns and able to take up newsletter editing again. Many thanks to Wendy Carter and Jenny Scott for their excellent work undertaking the last newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Celebrating 30 years

The AMHA had its origin at the Third International Mining History Conference, held in June 1994 at Golden, Colorado. Mel Davies had attended two previous International Mining History Conferences and had started to wonder why Australia, one of the major mining nations of the world, did not have a society or association devoted to mining history.

He shared his thoughts with a small group of other Australians attending the conference, including Patrick Bertola, Peter Bell, David Carment, Ruth Kerr and others, and a meeting was held outside the conference hall where it was decided to form an Australian Mining History Association. Mel was elected Secretary and on return to Australia the group corresponded, held a steering committee meeting in Perth and the Association was born and incorporated.

One of the first activities of the fledgling AMHA was to develop and circulate a newsletter to the small but growing membership. Issue No. 1 of the Newsletter was compiled by the Secretary and mailed out in May 1995, 30 years ago.

Since that time the name was modified to Australasian Mining History Association Inc, 28 Annual Conferences have been held in mining centres around Australia and New Zealand, the Journal of Australasian Mining History has recently published Volume 22, and the Newsletter (and Facebook) has kept members informed on matters of mining history.

This is a proud record and the 29th Annual Conference in Broken Hill will be an ideal opportunity to celebrate the 30th anniversary milestone. An impressive line up of distinguished speakers is being assembled and field trips in and around this first world-famous mining district and Australia's first heritage listed city.

Registration is now open. For further information see https://amha.tidyhq.com/

This conference is an ideal opportunity to re-acquaint yourself with this historic district and industry peers and I look forward to seeing you there.

Geoff Hudson

President, AMHA

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Here are two very interesting articles from Wendy Carter:

Australian Opal Centre

The amazing new Australian Opal Centre is emerging from the desert ground of Yuwaalaraay country at Lightning Ridge like a phoenix rising from the ground & will be opening this year, 2025, although they have no date for this at present!

Once it is finished visitors will be able to see the world's premier collection of rare opalised fossils as well as participate in digging for fossils in various venues around Lightning Ridge.

Just as opal is Australia's National gemstone, declared so by Bill Hayden AC the Governor-General on July 23 1993, so black opal is NSW's official gemstone. Some of you may have heard mammologist Tim Flannery talking about finding five opalised fossilised jawbones in a drawer at the Australian Museum during COVID when people could not travel too far afield. These were originally found by miners in Lightning Ridge & generously given to Australian Opal Centre palaeontologist Elizabeth Smith who then passed them on to the Australian Museum.

Opalised fossilised jawbones found by miners in Lightning Ridge

The new centre, designed by architect Wendy Lewin, based on a concept thought up by Wendy and her architect husband Glenn Murcutt, will contain the permanent collections along with education facilities, a cinema, gallery spaces, a research library, a scientific laboratory & underground gardens. Using solar power, water collection (average median rainfall at 48.3 cms in Lightning Ridge is more than double that of Coober Pedy at 17.4 cms) along with gradients of air temperature and pressure, driving passive ventilation systems, not unlike those used by opal miners in the past to keep fresh air flowing through their mines using wind socks.

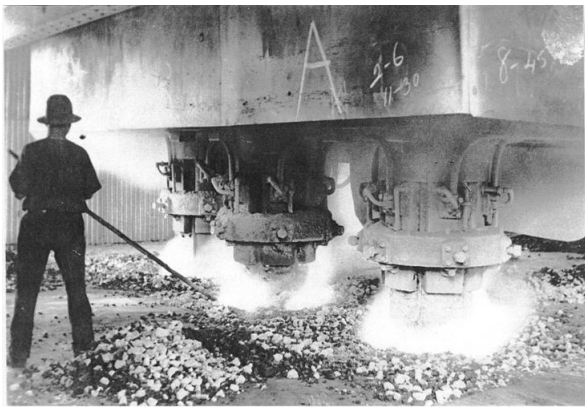
I know that many members of the AMHA will be fascinated to visit the collections & the underground Gondwanan garden with Wollemi pines, ferns, cycads & other plants which lived over 100 million years ago along with the dinosaurs in Lightning Ridge in coming years! A future conference venue!? Maybe 2027?

Carbide lamps, James Gillies & the Australian Commonwealth Carbide Company Ltd.

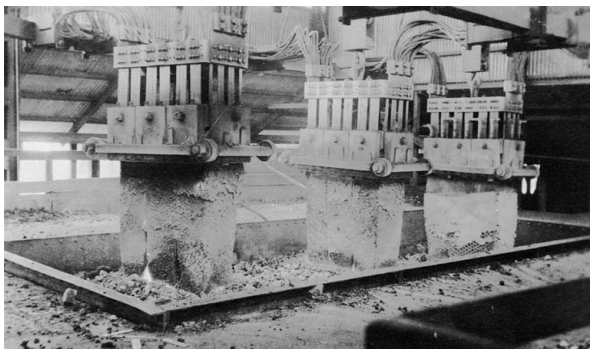
These four carbide lamps are displayed in the Gwalia Museum's Assay Building in WA. Candles were initially used by the Sons of Gwalia miners, progressing to portable acetylene gas or carbide lamps.

Carbide lamps in the Assay Building

Metallurgist James Hyndes Gillies pioneered hydroelectricity in Tasmania to process the electrolytic extraction of zinc as well as starting up a calcium carbide factory in Electrona, south of Hobart in 1917. Gillies chose the town's name due to the hydroelectricity used in the processing. Here the purest quality lime was mixed with quality coal and melted in an electric arc furnace to form calcium carbide which was tapped from the bottom of the furnace in molten form, cooled, solidified and packed in drums. When water is added to calcium carbide it gives off acetylene gas which can be burned for lighting, heating and welding.

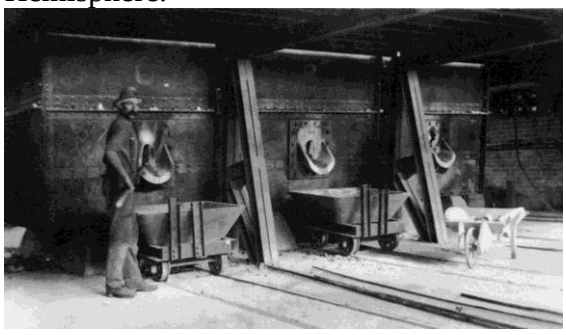


Old furnace – no safety equipment!



Furnace electrodes

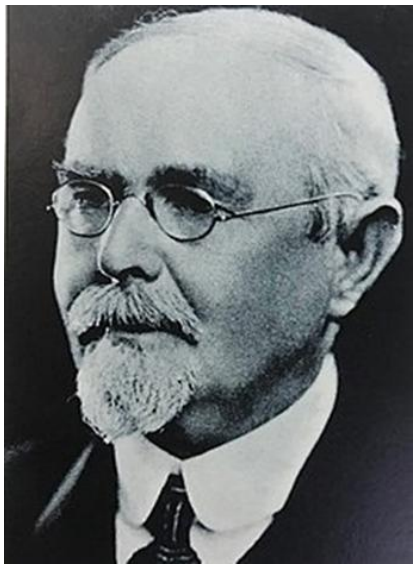
A company town was built for the workers. The limestone was transported on an extension of a previously abandoned timber tramway from Marble Hill to a jetty at Ida Bay. Here it was loaded on ships on the Lune River & taken to Electrona & winched up from the beach to the carbide works; later being delivered by tractor. In its heyday, the works at Electrona employed around 250 people. If you are aware of any other carbide works in Australia please let us know but the Channel Heritage Museum in Tasmania understand that Electrona was the only carbide works in the Southern Hemisphere.



Furnace outlets

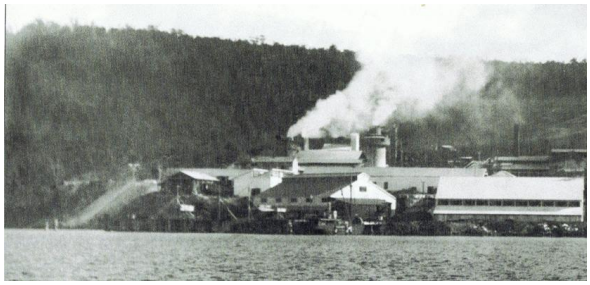
Sadly for Gillies, who had worked so hard to get all these processes started & patented; due to a lack of financial backing, the severe winter of 1912, plus a keen interest from the Tasmanian Government to take over what he had started; the State Government foreclosed his works & ran the plant for eleven years until it was taken over by the Commonwealth Carbide Company of London in 1934. Gillies left Tasmania with no assets or financial gain but continued working on various inventions

until he was finally awarded a special pension in 1935, ten years after this was first mooted, recognizing that his work had significantly improved the economy in Tasmania.



James Hyndes Gillies

A drum of carbide



The Carbide Works at Electrona in Tasmania

Thank you to the Channel Heritage Museum at Margate, Tasmania, for their information & for supplying some of the photos.

Wendy Carter

Mrs Fischer in Broken Hill

(contributed by Jeff Nixon, and very apt for our next conference)

Pioneers of Broken Hill (*Sydney Mail* 18 December 1935 p. 11)

This delightful article comes to us in the form of a letter from Leipzig, Germany, and is written by the widow of one of the pioneers of the Broken Hill silver mines, Otto Fischer, whose name is well known in connection with the early days of the field.

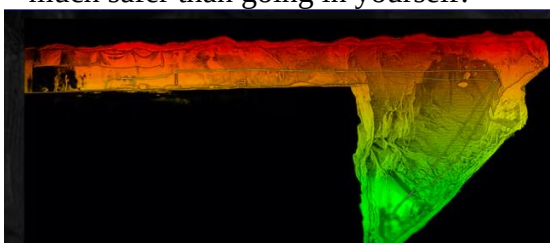
"How vividly a sketch of Broken Hill in the 'Sydney Mail' brings back the days of my youth, the happiest time of my life, in the far-off sunny south! I was just married to Otto Fischer, of Broken Hill, being the eldest daughter of Mr. Oscar Ziegler, of Norwood, Adelaide, and 23 years old. Now I am long since widowed, an old lady of 70 years, but still I can recall many happenings of the then flourishing silver mines. About June 20, 1888, I arrived with my husband by train from Adelaide. We were met by most of the celebrities at the station and greeted with lovely flowers. Our pretty little cottage home was just opposite the smelting works, just as the etching in the 'Mail' describes. Oft I tied my hammock under the verandah (where also hung a waterbag, which was very necessary as water was so scarce) and was enchanted at the sight of the Hill, especially at night. It was easy to imagine a burning volcano in action, with the molten metal running down the hill, poured into cakelike forms, then when cold piled up in heaps, later to be sent by steamer from Port Victor to the Mint in England. My husband and six or seven others were the pioneers of the find. They were fossicking and looking for minerals, and at first thought the outcrop yielded iron. Several bags of the ore were broken off, and my husband trudged for miles to the nearest smithy, where the ore was melted in the most primitive form and turned out to be pure silver. I had a watch-chain, a silver bracelet, and small lumps of

the first melted silver from Broken Hill. Charley Rasp, a German, got the credit of the great discovery and was styled 'the Silver King,' as he had often been riding nearby; but Otto Fischer, Max Rakow, Oswald Wiese, and some others were the pioneers of the Hill, and also were styled the silver kings. They had wandered from Adelaide (fossicking, looking for minerals) with a small two-wheeled cart and several horses, and with just one suit on their bodies. I was told that when they found water they washed their trousers and shirts and lay under the cart till their clothes were dry. They had their tin pannikins for cooking tea, and made damper on the way; even at times they cooked snakes as a relish when the poison glands were extracted and the reptiles skinned. My husband told me they tasted like eels. On nearing the locality of the Broken Hill this party rested, hobbled their horses, and let them wander. Later, they found the horses had gone some distance, so they sent their blackboy in search. He found them at the foot of the Hill. The men followed and found this bizarre outcrop, which turned out to be a mass of silver ore. THE good news and specimens of the ore were sent to the Government. In a few weeks hundreds of men of all classes swarmed to the district and work began. The general manager was Mr. Patton, with whom were associated Mr. Harper (both Americans) and Mr. Schlapp, a German, who had studied mineralogy at Freiburg in Saxony. Z. Lane also played a great part in the development of the mines, and the brothers Charlie and Jack T ? were also workers. I still have photos of my husband and self in the underground shafts, with all these celebrities, 360 or more feet beneath the earth's surface. The mine by that time was about six years in work. Long passages were driven through the rock and supported by enormously heavy planks. The rails ran all along and carried the little trolleys piled with ore to the lift. The walls glittered like diamonds, but this was lead and iron. The entire outcrop of the Hill was a mass of pure native silver. Claims were blocked off. Original shares were sold running up to enormous sums. My husband was then a sharebroker on the Hill and was well known in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. His office (Rakow and Fischer) was in Argent-street. When I lived there for six months the town contained about 10,000 inhabitants of all classes, men and women. Large hotels were already erected, with every comfort. Ted Aldridge was the landlord of the finest house. He and his family also had a cottage out of the township, called Aldridge's Farm. It was a good poultry farm, and there were Shetland ponies for the children. On Sundays everybody was given a hearty welcome, and many a happy, carefree day did we spend there. Two of Mr. Aldridge's brothers also played a part. One of them had quite a zoological museum of stuffed animals of the district and surroundings. I was quite amazed to find this culture in a place so far from all the big cities. We had our American buggy and two grand coal-black horses, so could drive all around. Several times we went to Silverton, where we had friends. Fine picnics were arranged to One-Tree Hill and other spots. A large drag with six horses took the picnickers to the place, and the ladies provided hampers of good things. What glorious days those were — the men all firm friends; money no object. I saw gentlemen playing skittles with unopened champagne bottles placed in an open fireplace, a large wooden ball being used. This costly drink was sometimes used to wash their faces, so scarce was water; indeed, often it was not to be had for money. When Mr. Abigail, Minister for Mines, refused to sanction the boring for water he was hanged in effigy in Argent-street. That was a great day on the Hill, on which my husband forbade me to leave the house. My servant had to save what water we could get for at least two uses, and then use it to wash out the rooms. The rivers were merely sandy ravines, but when the rain did come they were roaring torrents, destroying all in their course. We had two large tanks at the corners of our

cottage and these would be filled to overflowing. We also needed water for the horses. My husband had pepper-trees planted all around our little property. Prettily laid-out gardens with all kinds of flowers and bulbs were my pride, but we did have to be careful of watering all along. I remember one day, when I had gone to see Mrs. Aldridge, the rain came down in torrents. It was impossible to reach my cottage on foot. My husband was away in Silverton. Dr. Johnson came along in his buggy and offered to drive me home. The lowlying square of ground used for cricketing and football was so submerged that the horse actually swam a small distance and the buggy nearly tipped over. I also experienced a terrific red sandstorm. Although all windows and doors were securely fastened, the sand penetrated all tissues, and, later, layers of dust were on all the window-sills, etc. My husband was out on horseback in that storm and he said he could not see his horse's head before him. Another vivid experience concerned our coachman, Jack. He was a foolhardy fellow. He often drove me over unmade roads. Usually Mrs. Harper or Mrs. Schlapp accompanied me. One day— I believe the man was intoxicated — he drove us over a pretty high hill, no road at all, up one side and down the other, Mrs. Schlapp, her little boy, and I clinging in deadly fear to the back seat of the buggy. At last the horses bolted, and we were terror-stricken. Fortunately Dr. Johnson came in view, and seeing the danger sprang from his buggy, grasped the bridle of our horses, and most likely saved our lives. We had many social gatherings, afternoon teas, days 'at home', and tennis parties, quite in style; also, two large balls in the best hotels. The dinners were brought ready (only to be warmed), per express train from Melbourne. Good orchestras were also to hand. We ladies drove out to the surrounding spots where innumerable scarlet desert-peas grew. We filled washbaskets with these trailing garlands, which were hung around the whitewashed walls along with many coloured flags. It was quite festive. The ladies dressed well, and champagne was the main drink, so time flowed on in perfect enjoyment. General manager Patton, the Harpers, and the Schlapps had comfortable little houses at the farther end of the mines, where Z. Lane's villa, with fine garden and tennis lawn, was also situated; but it was not healthy living there, too near the mines. Mrs. Lane told me they could not keep canaries; all died sooner or later of lead-poisoning. This was all 45 years ago. Now I am lonely and old. I think it must have been a dream. Oh, for the happy days of the sunny south! My husband died in December, 1903, and left me a widow with six young children. So the riches of Broken Hill soon faded to a shadow."

BITS & PIECES

Mapping the Carrapateena mega cave: LiDAR has been used lots recently to map surface workings, but could prove particularly useful for exploring and mapping old underground mine workings – much safer than going in yourself!



The Carrapateena mine in South Australia is one of the largest copper reserves in the world. When a 5m diameter hole appeared at the surface in 2023 and continued to grow over the next few months, regular scanning was needed in order to ensure both the safety of mine personnel and the stability of its operations.

Carrapateena used Emesent Hovermap to safely capture the required data. Hovermap builds on a decade of pioneering research at CSIRO. Its algorithms combine autonomy, SLAM and LiDAR technologies to feature capabilities such as Omnidirectional Collision Avoidance, position hold, and intelligent Return-to-Home.

(Video of a demonstration at https://emesent.com/autonomy/)

New uses for old mines

Based on 'A multi-million dollar opportunity from mine closures' by Eliza Freeman

Algae farm, Western Australia

Algae could transform post-mine landscapes, both rehabilitation and post-mining economic use. Algae has a ready market, worth $US1.9–5.3 billion in 2023, and growing around 5–6 per cent.

A report from the CSIRO, the University of Queensland and Murdoch University shows cultivating algal biomass in contaminated mine site water could improve mine closure outcomes.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Transformations in Mining Economies (CRC TiME) believes 240 Australian mines will close by 2040. With algae-based technologies, the environmental impact from mines could be significantly decreased while diversifying regional economies including Indigenous.

By cultivating the right kinds of algae, pollutants and carbon dioxide could be expelled from the water.

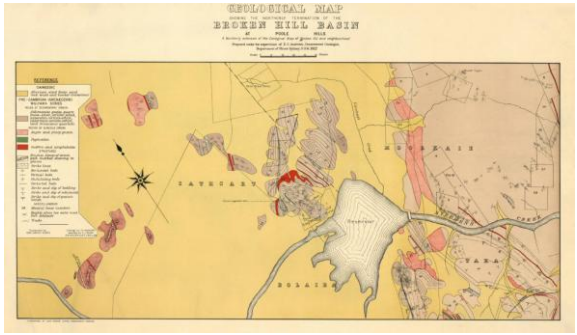
Senior CSIRO principal research scientist Dr. Anna H. Kaksonen said "Algal technologies offer exciting opportunities for mine sites for mine water treatment, mine waste stabilisation, dust suppression and creating topsoil for improving plant growth during rehabilitation." The next step is lab-scale tests to determine the best algal technologies for larger scale operations.

https://www.australianmining.com.au/a-multi-million-dollar-opportunity-from-mine-closures/

(Algae are used for food, stock food, biofuel, pharmaceuticals, dyes, fertilisers, bioplastics, carbon sequestration and mercury rehabilitation)

Geological Survey of NSW celebrates 150 years

(Based on an article by Dylan Brown, 7 March 2025)



The Geological Survey of New South Wales (GSNSW) is celebrating 150 years of service to mining, exploration and geological research. It was established in 1875 to map the state's mineral resources. The GSNSW played a crucial role in mapping new mineral fields, identifying underground water sources, and collecting rock and fossil samples for research.

In 1875, it published its first geological map, covering the Hartley area, later to see the Broken Hill ore deposit in 1883 becoming one of the world's most significant mineral finds.

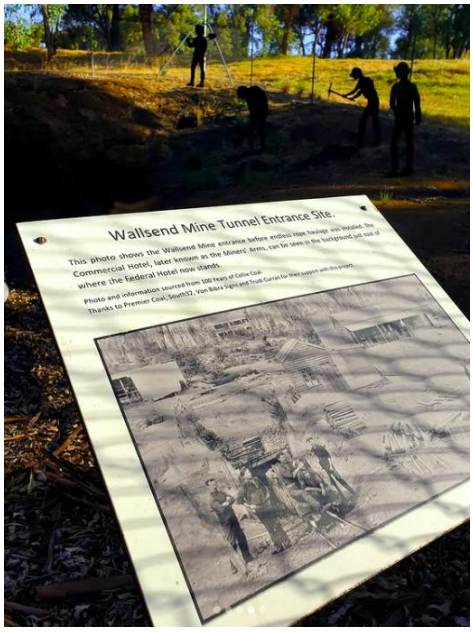
By the 1930s, aerial mapping and fieldwork vehicles, including a Chevrolet roadster, modernised geological surveying. The 1950s saw the launch of systematic geological mapping, covering extensive regions at a 1:250,000 scale.

The launch of MinView in 2002 provided industry and government with web-based access to geological data, revolutionising exploration.

In 2018, the release of Seamless Geology v1 transformed the way geological maps and data were compiled, making exploration more efficient.

To commemorate its 150th anniversary, the GSNSW has planned a series of events throughout 2025.
https://www.australianmining.com.au/geological-survey-of-nsw-celebrates-150-years/
https://www.resources.nsw.gov.au/geological-survey/150-years-of-geological-survey-of-nsw

New pathway built at historical mine site (adapted from an articl**e** by Dylan Brown 14 March 2025)



In Collie, New South Wales, a $10,000 joint donation by Premier Coal and South32 Worsley Alumina, coupled with a $3000 contribution from Wesfarmers, will enable the construction of a new pathway that connects the Collie Shire's River Walk to the Wallsend mine entrances. The mine dates back to 1898.
"With the Wallsend underground mine site being added to Collie Rail to River Heritage Trail walk as a tourist attraction, we recognised the need to upgrade the path so people can safely view the site," Collie Retired Mine Workers Association president Run Guilfoyle said. "This is just another attraction as Collie transitions into being a tourist town and we are proud to play a part in that."
The Collie Retired Mine Workers Association is made up of 65 members who worked in the mining industry and is a not-for-profit community group. They meet monthly with the aim of preserving the history of mining in Collie for locals and tourists.
https://www.australianmining.com.au/new-pathway-built-at-historical-mine-site/

Unlocking a historic Victorian gold mine

Adapted from an article by Dylan Brown (Old mines never die…)

Kaiser Reef has seen significant progress in its diamond drilling program at the A1 gold mine in Victoria, uncovering high-grade gold results from the Nova zone.
"The first two drill holes returned strong results…these drill holes confirm the potential for discovering and planning new high grade reef systems."
Kaiser's geologists have indicated wider quartz reef systems in later drill holes, with assays expected in the coming weeks.
The mine has been operating almost continuously since 1861, having historically delivered up to 1000 ounces (oz) of gold per vertical metre, making it one of Victoria's most significant gold mines. However, the past 30 years of remnant mining have yielded less than 237oz per vertical metre on average. By targeting the Nova zone and its un-mined regions, Kaiser Reef expects to achieve higher recovery rates. The discovery could reinvigorate one of Australia's oldest gold mines.
https://www.australianmining.com.au/unlocking-a-historic-victorian-gold-mine/

And another one:

True North's plan to unlock Great Australia

TOM PARKER 5 March 2025

True North Copper will carry out a 15-hole, 2900m drill program at the Great Australia mine (GAM) in Queensland [near Cloncurry] as it looks to revive the historic asset.

The company has identified the Whip, Coppermine Creek and Python drill targets at Great Australia after analysis of a new induced polarisation survey.

"These targets within key mineralised structural trends indicate the potential for discovery of new large zones of mineralisation that could add significantly to the resource base at GAM," True North said.

The Great Australia mine already boasts known resources at Copperhead (4.66 million tonnes at 0.88 per cent copper), Orphan Shear (1.03Mt at 0.56 per cent copper), Taipan North and Paddock Lode South (5.11Mt at 0.57 per cent copper).

True North plans to commence drilling in late March, with the program to run for two weeks before moving to the Mt Oxide project.

"Since Ernest Henry discovered Great Australia in 1867, exploration in this area has been sporadic. However, we believe that GAM, Taipan, Orphan Shear, and these newly identified targets are part of a larger, interconnected mineralised system with the potential to aggregate into a significantly larger resource base than previously envisioned."

The company also has the Mt Oxide project, located 1.5 hours up the road. Mt Oxide is a copper-silver-cobalt project and was also discovered by Ernest Henry, in 1882. True North intends exploring it for copper.

https://www.australianresourcesandinvestment.com.au/2025/03/04/true-norths-plan-to-unlock-great-australia/

For heaps 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 .

CONFERENCE

Planning for the Briken Hill Conference is well under way, and we are in the process of obtaining final costings with a view to opening registrations in mid-March.

The Conference will be held 1-7 September this year, with a City Council reception on the 31st August. It will comprise 3 days of presentations in the Civic Centre and three days of tour/site visits. Please note that accommodation at this time of year in Broken Hill is tight so book early.

We are delighted to advise that Foundation Broken Hill is the principal sponsor with other support received from Lodestone Mines, Broken Hill Mines and others ,to ensure that we can put on a great conference in this historic area with its world renowned orebody.

We have identified some excellent key-note speakers but would welcome contributions from the membership and others with an interest in mining history, archaeology and heritage. If you are interested in submitting a paper, contact me or Jeff Nixon who is looking after presentations.

Field tours are being finalised with one day being devoted to the Line of Lode mineralisation and mining, one day looking at historic mines and buildings at Day Dream and Silverton, and a visit to the Living Desert State Park with its cultural walk and sculptures. The third day will be spent in and around the sites and museums of Broken Hill.

Keep a look out for Registration Form online at https://amha.tidyhq.com/schedule/events and take advantage of the early bird savings.

Looking forward to seeing you in Broken Hill.

Geoff Hudson, President AMHA

JOURNAL

A reminder by journal editor Lyndon that we are looking for contributions to Volume 23 of the JAMH, our prestigious Journal that creates a permanent record of refereed and unrefereed papers by our membership and others.

The Journal is published in October but submissions are due in to the the Editor, Lyndon Megarrity, by 1st July to allow sufficient time to prepare them for publication. If you have presented a paper at one of our conferences recently it may be an opportunity to dust it off and turn it into a fully published article, or if you have other mining historians in your orbit you might ask them to consider submitting a paper.

The Journal welcomes the submission of all kinds of articles related to mining history, including biographical portraits, industrial archaeology, folklore, race relations, tourism, gender, company investment, geology, mining towns and social history. For more details about the submission process, please consult the web page for the journal: https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/journal-2/ or contact Lyndon Megarrity at drlyndon@bigpond.net.au . Book and film reviews are also welcome.

PUBLICATIONS

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

New book notifications are also 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?

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

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

Overseas members:

Please add $A10 to the above to cover journal postage costs and an additional $15 if paying by overseas cheque so we can cover bank charges.

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.

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, fill out the form towards the end of this newsletter and email it to 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 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 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.
Member subscription payments from outside Australia should be by credit card to avoid excessive bank fees.

CURRENT AMHA COMMITTEE

President: Geoff Hudson
Vice President: Wendy Carter
Hon Secretary: Geoff Anderson
Hon Treasurer (Acting): Ross Both (permanent treasurer still needed!)
Membership secretary: Bev Phelts
State Representatives:
ACT Jeff Nixon.
SA Ross Both, Jim Jago
NSW Stephen Shortis and Jon Attwater
NT David Carment and Bev Phelts.
QLD Ruth Kerr OAM and Jan Wegner.
VIC Matthew Churchward and Geoff Anderson
TAS Greg Dickens, Nic Haygarth
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NZ Philip Hart and John Barry
International: VACANT
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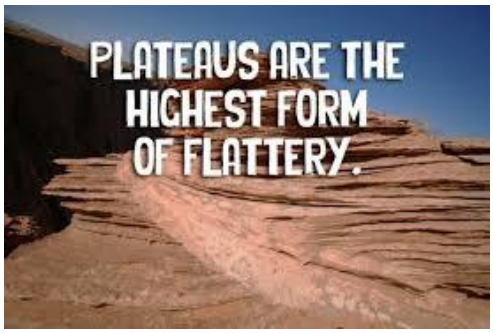
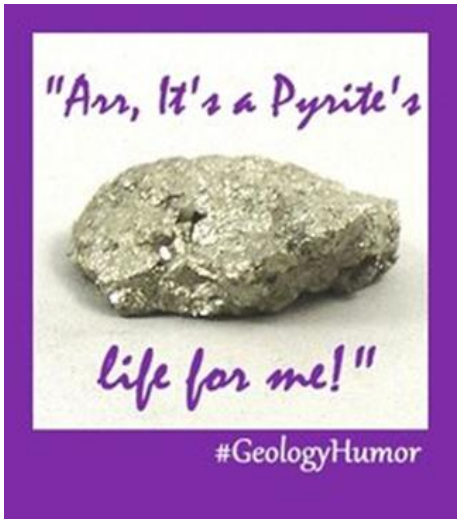
Website administration: Stephen Imrie, Jenny Scott
Newsletter editor: Jan Wegner
Facebook co-ordinator: Robert Barnes
Early Career representative: VACANT

JUST FOR FUN

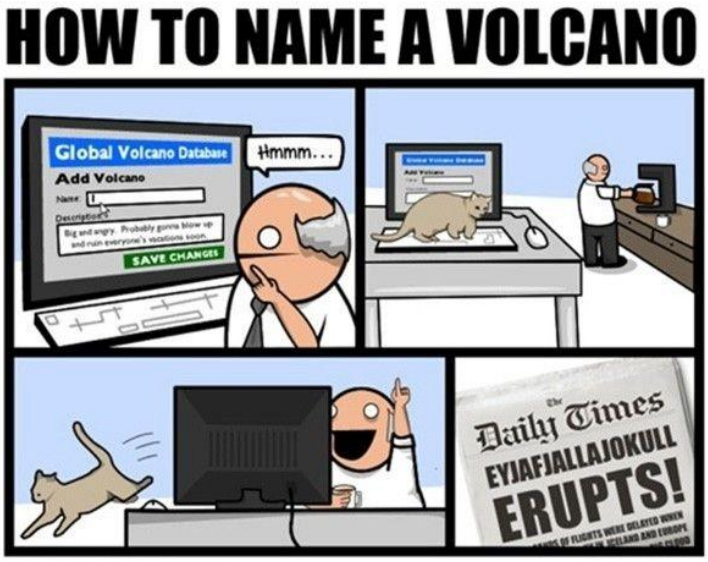
Revival of an ancient technique for predicting gold values in ore

And the inevitable horrible geology puns:





(apologies to any readers from Iceland for the next one)



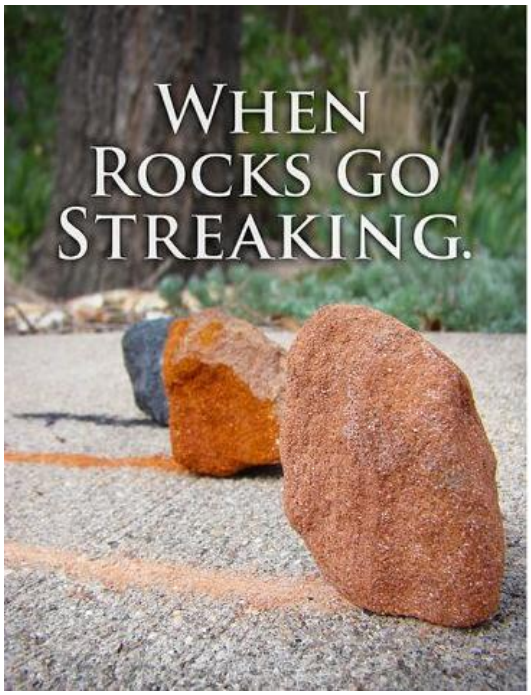
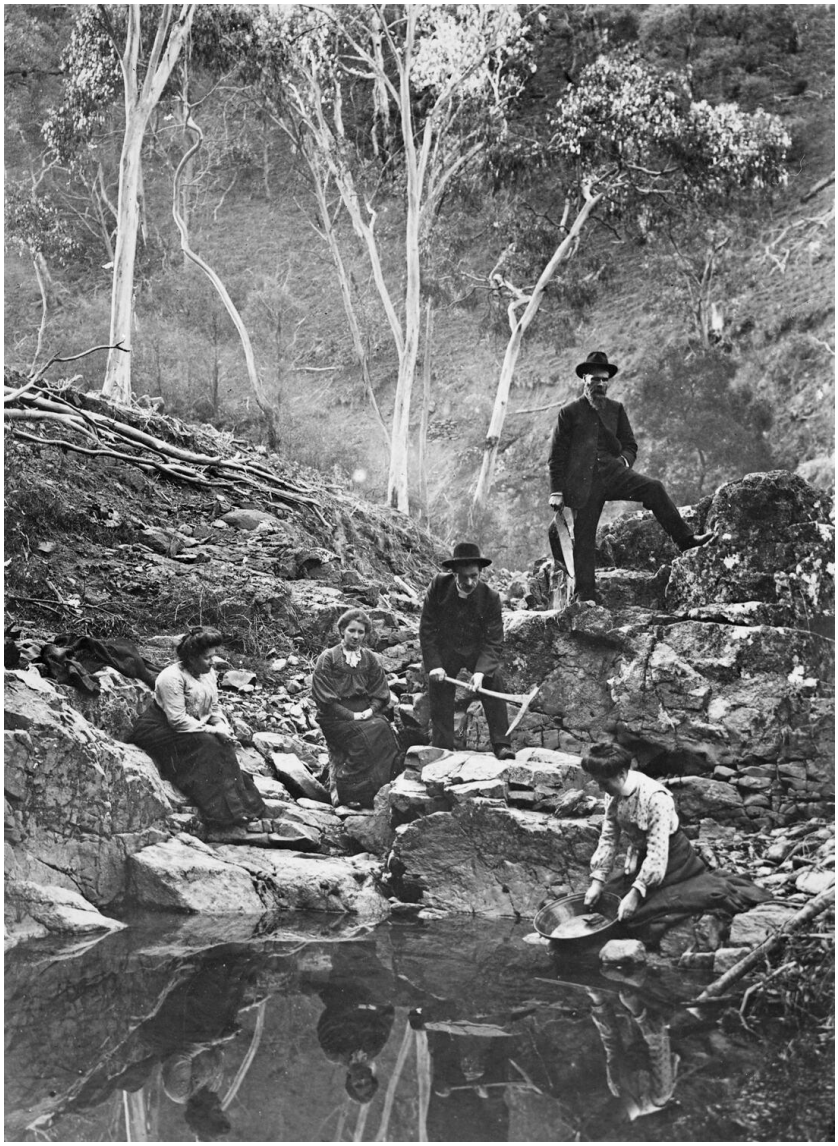


PHOTO TIME



Hardly genuine alluvial mining, as everyone in this 1910s scene in Omeo, Victoria, is in their best clothes and there's not a single ripple in the water, but it's interesting that a woman is posed with the gold pan at the ready. We know women panned for gold on every alluvial goldfield but it wasn't usually celebrated. Maybe it's because the photographer was also a woman – Lillian Louisa Pitts, who was a prolific amateur photographer who took, developed and printed her own photos of rural Victoria and Tasmania from 1904 into the 1910s. https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/764700
Gold was found at Omeo in 1851 and a rush broke out in 1854, but by the 1880s alluvial gold production was dropping. Reef and deep lead mining brought even greater prosperity and the town's population peaked in 1901 with almost 10,000 people. By 1918 though mining was in decline and a bushfire in 1939 destroyed part of the town. By this time however farming was well established and as the town sits on the borders of Victoria's high country it now attracts tourists looking for scenic drives and goldfields era buildings.

Lots more great mining photos on our Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/groups/720189911426071/ !

AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION Inc.

ABN 96 220 329 754

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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.

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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.

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- registrations for conference
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- distribution of publications
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