

Burra 2021

The Australasian Mining History Association Conference for 2021 will be held in Burra, South Australia, 27 September - 3 October

Copper ore was discovered at Burra, 160 km north of Adelaide, in 1845. The discovery proved to be an extremely rich oxidised ore deposit, and a large mine (the “Monster Mine”) and a nearby township were soon established. The mine created a settlement of about 5,000 people, the largest inland town in Australia before the gold rushes. Cornish technology was imported to develop the mine and by the 1850s the first large-scale Cornish mining landscape in Australia had been created. Mining continued until 1877 when rising costs and a downturn in the copper price brought about its closure. Further mining by open cut took place from 1971 until 1983.

Burra encompasses one of Australia’s largest and best-preserved nineteenth century mining towns and both the township and the mine site were proclaimed a State Heritage Area in 1994 and included in the National Heritage List in 2017. The township retains many buildings and structures from the time when mine was one of the world’s great copper producers. The former mine site includes three surviving Cornish engine houses, one of which has been restored as an interpretation centre, and several other significant masonry structures such as the powder magazine.

Preliminary conference program:

26 September: Arrival at Burra and registration.*

27 September-1 October: Conference sessions and local excursions, including Burra and Kapunda.

2-3 October: Post-conference excursion to Moonta and Wallaroo with overnight in Kadina and returning to Adelaide on the afternoon of 3 October.

**It is strongly recommended that attendees arrive in Burra not later than the afternoon of Sunday 26 September.*

There is no specific theme for the conference - papers will be welcome on any topic relevant to mining history. A call for papers will be made early 2021 along with a date for submission of abstracts.

Following suggestions from members, it is planned to allocate time in one of the conference sessions to a workshop on how to access information on mining history.

The venue for the conference will be the Burra Town Hall.



Morphett's Engine House and Museum



Burra Town Hall, 1874

Accommodation:

A wide variety of accommodation is available in Burra. There are several hotels, 2 motels, numerous B & Bs or self-catering cottages and a caravan park. Information and reservations are available on the Burra Visitor Centre website <https://www.visitburra.com/accommodation/>

Transport:

Public transport access to Burra is limited; the only option is the daily bus to Broken Hill which arrives in Burra late evening. It is proposed to use mini-buses driven by AMHA members to transport people from Adelaide to Burra on 26 September and back from Burra on 2 October or Moonta on 3 October. Larger buses with professional drivers will be used for the local tours.

Weather:

Don't assume that Burra in September will be warm enough for your shorts and thongs. Burra is on an inland plateau at nearly 500m altitude with average September maximum temperature of 17°C and average minimum 6°C. On average, there are 12 rain days in September, totalling 66mm of rainfall. Bring clothes suitable for cool temperatures and showers.



Miners' row cottages, Redruth



Redruth Gaol, 1856

After the Conference:

Many options are available for those with private transport wishing to make more extended visits. These include the Clare Valley wine district, Peterborough Heritage Rail Centre, Wilpena Pound in the Flinders Ranges and the Blinman Heritage Copper Mine.