



## AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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### EDITORIAL

Following the recent mining boom in Western Australia, there has been great interest, in particular, on the developments that have taken place in the Pilbara region of the state. It is therefore a pleasure to note that there have recently been a couple of publications that record the history of that region, and an even greater pleasure to note that members of the AMHA have authored them. The latest publication, noted below, is authored by Prof. Bradon Ellem (*The Pilbara: From the Deserts Profits Come*), while another recent book that discusses the area and its impacts on the Australian economy and social developments, is by David Lee (*The Second Rush: Mining and the Transformation of Australia* – noted in Newsletter 86, December 2016). Reviews of both these excellent publications will be presented in this year's edition of the Association's journal.

Hopefully the future will see many more of our members appear in print, and anyone intending to do so is encouraged to bring their ideas to one of our conferences. This is an intentional Plug!!

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### **AMHA 23rd Annual Conference, Traralgon, Victoria, 25-29 September**

Do you want to save valuable dollars? If so, note the deadline for Early Bird registrations is **14th July 2017**.

For those who are concerned at leaving their vehicles in Traralgon while attending the bus tour on the 31<sup>st</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October, secure parking is kindly being offered by Barry and Joanna Sykes at their property in Traralgon. Those who wish to take up the offer can enquire during the conference.

### Abstracts

The organizing committee urges you to submit an abstract for the Conference. Note that the deadline for receipt of same has been extended to the **14<sup>th</sup> July**.

As a reminder, abstracts must be submitted using the template available on the AMHA website at:

<http://www.mininghistory.asn.au>

though, if you experience difficulties using the template, contact Sandra Kippen or Nick Williams at:

[dskippen@dodo.com.au](mailto:dskippen@dodo.com.au)

[nicolahw9@gmail.com](mailto:nicolahw9@gmail.com)

### Mineralogical Society of NSW

Member, Edward Zbik, advises that the Mineralogical Society of NSW, which has a Science Licence issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, invites members to participate in a forthcoming venture. This involves bush walking and camping into two old mine sites in the Bungonia State Conservation Area and the Morton National Park. The Society's objective is to write a paper about

mineralogy on the sites, and while the bulk of the work is complete, participants will help to investigate the final phase associated with mineral occurrences around the Tolwong locality. For further details contact Edward at: [ecjz@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ecjz@optusnet.com.au)

### **Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition, 24-26 July 2017**

This exhibition that involves hundreds of exhibits, will showcase the latest mining and engineering technical solutions and innovations. Of possible interest to many of our members, the exhibition will be held at The Mackay Showground. For further details see:

<http://www.queenslandminingexpo.com.au/>

The webpage includes information on how to get there, accommodation details, etc.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

**Bradon Ellem, *The Pilbara: From the Deserts Profits Come***, University of Western Australia Publishing, Perth, 2017. 256 pp., and Illustrations. ISBN: 9781742589305, Pb. \$39.99 Pre publication orders accepted at the following link:

<https://uwap.uwa.edu.au/collections/coming-soon/products/the-pilbara-from-the-deserts-profits-come>

To be launched in July, Bradon states:

‘With millions of tonnes of iron ore being shipped out to China, Western Australia’s Pilbara region is a media staple, through stories of mining companies’ profits, the earnings of fly-in-fly-out workers and the wealth of new entrepreneurs. For all this, what we know about the region – which covers over 500,000 square kilometres across the north-west of WA - remains incomplete. After his first trip to Newman in 2001, Bradon spent the next 15 years learning and writing about the region. The result of his exploration is revealed in the publication, which traces the Pilbara’s ancient history, the unions and their power, and the companies that reinvented the Pilbara through workplace control with fly-in-fly-out labour and 12-hour shifts’.

**Joanna Sassoon, *Agents of Empire. How E.L. Mitchell’s photographs shaped Australia***, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2017, 260 pages: illustrations, portraits, approx. 200 photographs. ISBN: 9781925333732. PB. Price \$49.95 at bookshops.

This is an illustrated book that should appeal to members because of the quality of the photographs alone. In particular there are a number of fine photographs of mining activity around Australia (see below).

As noted in the publisher’s information, for nearly 100 years, E.L. Mitchell’s emblematic photographs have shaped ideas about Australia. But who was Mitchell and why did he succeed above his competitors?

*Sapphire washing Policemans Creek, Queensland 1907.*



Photo: E.L. Mitchell

*Sorting copper ore, Whim Creek, 1910*



Photo: E.L. Mitchell

With unprecedented access to private collections and showcasing his extraordinary photographs, *Agents of Empire* charts Mitchell’s rise from struggles as a migrant in New South Wales and Queensland to significant

image-maker in Western Australia. It then follows the journeys of individual photographs across the world, and traces the stories behind the survival and destruction of parts of his archive.

*Agents of Empire* breaks new ground in showing ways that photographs can be used as historical evidence and how archives can shape our understanding of the past.

\* In 1910 Whim Well mine employed 146 people. While the miners were paid £4 per week, the boys who sorted the ore were paid £2 to £2.10s per week.

## **BITS & PIECES**

### **Heritage Listing**

Our illustrious Vice-President, Nic Haygarth, and also our equally illustrious ex-President Peter Bell, both forwarded the following piece of good news for the attention of readers: It relates to a press release by the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP: and some background information by Peter Bell:

The National Heritage Listing is the culmination of a nine-year process, beginning with a nomination to the Federal government by the SA Heritage Council, acting on the advice of a working party including Association past and present members Peter Bell, Ross Both, Philip Payton and Greg Drew.

The announcement was somewhat choreographed to coincide with the annual meeting in Adelaide of the Heritage Chairs and Officials group, who visited Burra for the occasion. It was made in a ceremony at the Burra railway station, with local people from Burra and Moonta attending. Later, Philip Payton and Peter Bell acted as Tour Leaders for the visit to the site of the Burra Burra mines. There's an inspiring photograph of Peter on one side, and Philip on the other, propping up a group of heritage supporters at one of the old engine houses – unfortunately its much too large to reproduce here.

These are the words uttered by the Hon. Josh Frydenberg:

'Today I am delighted to announce that Australian Cornish mining sites, Burra and Moonta, will become the 109th and 110th places to be added to the National Heritage List. These South Australian towns are renowned for their role in Australia's mining history.

Copper was discovered in South Australia in 1842 and the richness of further deposits found meant the new colony was soon producing five per cent of the world's copper resources, earning it the nickname the 'Copper Kingdom.'

Burra's Monster Mine was the largest in Australia for more than 10 years and supported a thriving mining community. By 1851 Burra was Australia's largest inland settlement, with a population of around 5000. The opening of the Moonta Mines in 1861 produced a significant boost to the South Australian economy, earning 67,000 pounds in its first year of operation. By 1870 the population of Moonta was second only to Adelaide.

A generation of Cornish miners, engineers and tradespeople worked in the copper mines bringing traditions and a culture that are still celebrated to this day. The Cornish mining system spread from South Australia to other mining regions like Broken Hill, Bendigo, Kalgoorlie and Charters Towers. Today Burra and Moonta give us the earliest examples of Cornish mining and domestic architecture in Australia. The fabric of these places is well preserved thanks to the care of the local community and the efforts of the National Trust.

Their history and character have become central to the area's thriving tourism industry. Every year tens of thousands of visitors experience this slice of Cornwall for themselves.

National Heritage listing builds on Burra and Moonta's existing state heritage listings and does not change land ownership. Together they join South Australia's other National Heritage places, including Koonalda Cave, Ediacara Fossil Site-Nilpena and the Old and New Parliament Houses.

The National Heritage List recognises our most significant Indigenous, natural and historic heritage sites. There are more than 100 places on the list and together they tell the story of our shared experience on this ancient continent while showcasing our achievements and stunning natural environment’.

### **Heritage – Radium Hill**

Former Director General of the SA Department of Mines and Energy, and notable AMHA member, Keith Johns OAM, has been in touch to report that the Radium Hill Townsite and Cemetery has received a provisional entry as a State Heritage Place in the Heritage Places Register. It has been registered because ‘it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State’s history’. Radium Hill Townsite and Cemetery are significant for their close associations with the early development of uranium mining in South Australia. Radium Hill has a number of important historic associations, including as the site of one of Australia’s earliest uranium finds, its naming by Douglas Mawson, and desultory mining activities from 1906 to the early 1940s. However, it was not until after the Second World War that the location really came into prominence. For further history, including maps and developments see: [http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/our\\_places/cultural-heritage/SA\\_Heritage\\_Register/entries-confirmation](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/our_places/cultural-heritage/SA_Heritage_Register/entries-confirmation)

### **Call for Victorian Mining History Materials**

Established in 1854, the Prahran Mechanics’ Institute Victorian History Library is a community owned and run library specialising in the history of the State. PMI has 30,000 books for loan, and provides a professional information service for its members and provides a central resource for research.

While it has historical mining material in its collection, it is an area that they would like to expand, and thus appeal for donations. The PMI is especially seeking mining and geology reports because it wishes to play a key

part in preserving the history of mining in Victoria. If you have, or know of someone who has, mining or geology books that are looking for a good home, and want to donate, please send your contributions to help preserve the mining and geology history of Victoria.

For further details, contact the PMI At Telephone: 0395103393, email: [library@pmi.net.au](mailto:library@pmi.net.au) or call in at 39 St. Edmonds Road, Prahran, Vic. 3181.

### **Research Fellowships**

The State Library of New South Wales is offering \$160,00 in paid research fellowships. The extensive Fellowships programme supports original research that seeks to discover or offer new perspectives on Australian history and culture, and the range of subjects is endless – sport religion, popular culture, architecture, law – and presumably mining history!

All Fellows enjoy special access to the Library’s rich collection and a dedicated place for scholarly research and debate. Applications for all State Library Fellowships close at 11.59pm, **17 July 2017**. For more information and to apply, visit: [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/fellowships](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/fellowships)

### **South Australian History Fund**

The South Australian History Fund (SAHF) is an annual grant program offered by the History Trust of South Australia intended to support the production and sharing of South Australia’s history. This year, total funding of \$50,000 is available for History grants and Training & Development grants. Applications close **Tuesday 25 July 2017**. Click on: [Further information.](#)

### **Oils ain’t Oils**

Members might think twice before draining and getting rid of their sump oils after reading the following piece of interesting and useful information:

The Witwatersrand basin in South Africa hosts the largest known gold repository on Earth – but how was it formed? Scientists of the GEOMAR



Helmholtz Centre of Ocean Research Kiel and Canadian research institutes were able to figure out how parts of the Earth's largest gold deposits formed about three billion years ago. Crude oil and hot hydrothermal fluids played a major role. This study has been currently published in the journal *Precambrian Research*.

In this study, the scientists analysed samples from the Witwatersrand ore deposits with high-resolution scanning- and transmission-electron microscopes, and then processed their data using novel 2D and 3D software. "We were able to find out that fossil oil, that has been formed by organic matter derived from the first living organisms on Earth, mobilized uranium in the basin. Uraninite nanoparticles flocculated in the oil and formed uranium ore", explains Dr. Sebastian Fuchs from the GEOMAR, the first author of the study. "Hot hydrothermal fluids, similar to those fluids that we find today in modern seafloor Black Smoker systems, transported dissolved gold and formed oil-in-water emulsions at the site of the deposits. The oil droplets in the hydrothermal fluids initiated the efficient chemical precipitation of native gold and the formation of very complex-structured gold and uranium ore." Using high-resolution imaging techniques, the researchers were able to visualize a to date unknown ore-forming process, in which migrating oil plays the dominant role in the distribution and concentration of metals. "With our method we have been able to show remnants of fossil oil entrapped in gold for the very first time" says Dr. Sebastian Fuchs. "We are surprised to see such an intimate spatial relationship between the oil products and the metals", reports Dr. Fuchs. "We hope that our study gives new impulses to industry and science to explore new mineral deposits. Perhaps it is possible at some day to extract gold and other metals from mined crude oil."

For more information on this and other marine related comments on Marine Resource research, see:

<http://www.geomar.de/en/research/marine-resources/>

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our Patron, **Prof. Geoffrey Blainey AC**, who recently, at the Queensland Day Dinner on 6<sup>th</sup> June, added the John Douglas Kerr medal to his already long list of honours.

The medal, in the presence of the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency Paul de Jersey, was awarded by the Professional Association of Queensland and the Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

The award recognized his excellence in historiography, historical research and writing, among which were listed his many publications in the area of mining history.

Also, Congratulations to member **Prof. Philip Payton**, Flinders University, who was recently received the South Australian Historian of the Year award, thus recognizing his work in both Labour and Mining history.

## INFORMATION WANTED

### Lewis Lloyd 1842-1902

Member Robin McLachlan, better known to conference attendees for his Klondike odysseys than copper, wishes to know if anyone has come across a photograph of the subject of the following copper miner and smelter? The person is Lewis Lloyd who has been nominated for a plaque for being a 'Pillar of Bathurst', this recognition being for his notable contribution to Bathurst's development and history.

Originally from a Welsh copper mining area, Lewis Lloyd, unable to speak English and with only pennies in his pocket, arrived in 1862 to work as a copper-smelter at Cadia. His expert knowledge and business acumen soon led to great success as a mining entrepreneur. Lloyd initiated a number of copper mining and smelting operations in New South Wales, notably Lloyd's Copper Mine at Burruga and the Lithgow Smelting Works.

Lewis Lloyd employed hundreds of workers and made a significant contribution to the development of the colony's mineral resources. His claim that he exported more copper from the colony than any other individual or company was indisputable, as was his unofficial title of "Copper King".

His remarkable rise began in the Bathurst region, particularly with the copper mines at Cow Flat. He quickly went from employee to taking on the mining operation under a tribute (leasing) arrangement, supplying the ore mined to his own company's smelter. Financial success at Cow Flat opened the way for even greater achievements at Burranga and elsewhere. For many years, Lewis Lloyd made Bathurst his home and was the district's parliamentary representative from 1884-87.

*Plaque added to Bathurst Pillars on 7 May 2017.*



A photograph is needed for his entry in the 'Pillars' booklet, for amazing to report, there is no photograph of Lewis Lloyd to be found in the usual sources. If you can help, Robin McLachlan will be delighted to hear from you at: [rmclachlan@csu.edu.au](mailto:rmclachlan@csu.edu.au)

MJD/ June'17