



# AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### AMHA 25th Annual Conference, Atherton, QLD, 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Conference is almost on us. If you wish to attend please register asap. We have an interesting programme but there are still a few slots available for presentations. If you hurry and send in your abstract you can be featured as a star. If so, please contact the Secretary at [mel.davies@uwa.edu.au](mailto:mel.davies@uwa.edu.au)

As noted in the previous newsletter, Cairns is the nearest main centre to Atherton, and transport has been arranged to convey people from there to Atherton on the 6<sup>th</sup> July – information on pickups will be passed on to those who register when its closer to the conference. There is also a regular bus service serving Cairns-Atherton at: <http://www.transnorthbus.com/cairnsatherton.asp>

We hope to see you there.

#### International Mining History Congress 2020

As noted in the previous arrangements are well under way for the 12th meeting of the International Mining History Congress, which will meet at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, between **18-22 June 2020**. If interested in attending, or in presenting a paper, please see the attached document from Organiser

Jeremy Mouat (who also is a member of our organisation).

As noted in the attachment, the deadline for abstract submissions is **1st November 2019**.

### BITS & PIECES

#### Management of mining history in the context of mine rehabilitation policy development

Corrine Unger has referred members to link to the Senate inquiry into Commonwealth responsibilities into mine rehabilitation where the full report can be downloaded (all submissions are accessible from this site as well)

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/MiningandResources/Report](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/MiningandResources/Report)

The submission by Australia ICOMOS is referred to in the context of mining heritage values (submission 28). This link may be of interest to the membership:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/MiningandResources/Submissions](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/MiningandResources/Submissions)

In July 2018, AICOMOS made a submission to the Queensland Government as it develops its abandoned mine policy, encouraging attention to cultural heritage values. See:

[https://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/AICOMOS-submission\\_QLD-abandoned-mines-Disc-Paper\\_16-July-2018.pdf](https://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/AICOMOS-submission_QLD-abandoned-mines-Disc-Paper_16-July-2018.pdf)

Corrine was co-author in both AICOMOS submissions and gave evidence to the Senate Inquiry following a submission on mine rehabilitation and closure.

100 years of mine history at the University Mine Indooroopilly, Brisbane.

The University of Queensland mine celebrated its 100-year anniversary on Saturday 30 March 2019. Morning tea included cake cutting and was followed by presentations on geology, mining and metallurgy including the early days of minerals processing research. Attendees included JKMRRC, Sustainable Minerals Institute personnel as well as ex-researchers including the legendary Alban Lynch <http://125.ausimm.com/profile/alban-lynch/>. Community groups participating included the Cubberla Witton Catchment Network and Indooroopilly and District Historical Society. This site has valuable contemporary connections to industry through research, and important connections through the local community. Opportunities exist to meld the old with the new to ensure preservation of both the valuable mining history and cultural heritage values, as well as the pocket of intact native ecosystem within the mine precinct.

Ken Grubb's, *Silver Hill: The University of Queensland Silver Mine Precinct*, Indooroopilly, Queensland, 2013, is a useful reference if anyone wants to read more about the Uni mine's history. Corinne Unger (*Friend of the UQ Mine*)

### INFORMATION WANTED

A request has been received from John Jenkin regarding some of his ancestors who were on the West Australian goldfields. First is mining engineer **Alexandre Frederick Theodore Bernier de la Grange**, who at one time fled France to come to Australia. Second, is de la Grange's daughter **Roberta Bernier**

**de la Grange** who married John's grandfather, **the Rev John Grenfell Jenkin** who was a Methodist minister at Menzies between 1897-1899, and at Kalgoorlie in 1900-1901.

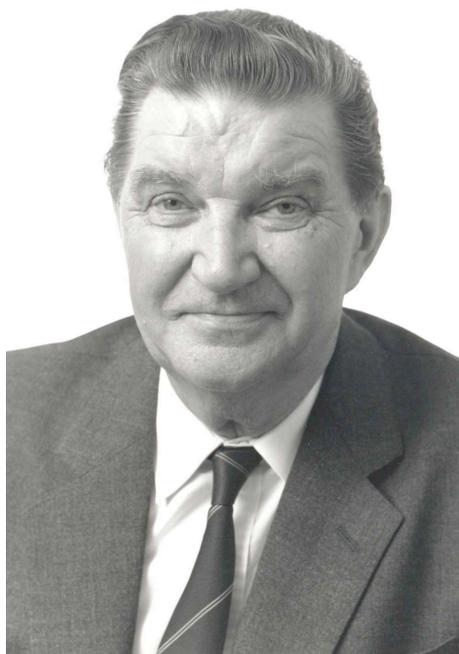
If anyone has information, please contact John at [jjenkin6@bigpond.com](mailto:jjenkin6@bigpond.com)

### OBITUARY

It is with regret that we announce the death of one of our more distinguished members, **Sir Arvi Parbo**, who passed away on the 1<sup>st</sup> May. We are indebted to Gilbert Ralph who was a long-time compatriot of Sir Arvi for the following account of his long and eventful life:

#### **Sir ARVI PARBO: AC, Kt**

Arvi Hillar Parbo was born on 10th February 1926 in Tallinn, Estonia. When the war ended in May 1945 he entered a Displaced Persons Camp in Lübeck. Later he enrolled at the Clausthal Mining Academy in West Germany. After two years he decided he would immigrate to Australia. He arrived in Melbourne in November 1949 and was sent to work in a quarry south of Adelaide. Later he went to Adelaide University where after three years of part-time and two years full-time study, he completed Mining Engineering with First Class Honours in 1955.



In April 1956 Arvi joined WMC at its Great Western Consolidated gold mine at Bullfinch where he was a surveyor. He soon came under the notice of the General Superintendent, (Sir) Laurence Brodie-Hall, who recognised his numerous talents and appointed him Underground Manager of the Nevoria Mine in 1958. Two years later he was transferred to Melbourne as Technical Assistant to the Managing Director, William M. Morgan. He also assisted the Chairman, (Sir) Lindesay Clark, with the negotiations, which led to the formation of Alcoa of Australia Ltd in 1961.

In 1964 Arvi was transferred to Kalgoorlie as Deputy General Superintendent. He played an important role in the development of the iron ore project at Koolanooka and the establishment of Kambalda Nickel Operations. He returned to Melbourne in 1967 and was appointed General Manager in 1968, Director in 1970, Managing Director in 1971 and Chairman and Managing Director in 1974.

Visitors to his office would have noted the absence of clutter - there were never any overflowing trays or heaps of unattended papers on Arvi's desk. He had a nice habit of keeping everything other than the item being discussed concealed, giving the visitor the impression that his attention is fully devoted to the subject under discussion. He also possessed an incredible memory for names, facts, figures and events which, combined with his exceptional capacity to quickly arrive at the crux of an issue, no doubt contributed to his remarkable success as a business leader.

WMC grew appreciably during the period Sir Arvi was Chairman and MD – capital increased enormously, nickel production trebled, gold output increased fourteen fold, talc operations expanded, oil and gas exploration and production commenced, the Olympic Dam copper-uranium deposit was brought into production and Queensland phosphate operations were re-established. In 1986

after 15 years as Managing Director Sir Arvi stepped aside in favour of Hugh Morgan but remained Executive Chairman until December 1990 when he retired as an executive of the Company, but remained Chairman until 1999.

Outside of WMC Sir Arvi was Chairman of Alcoa of Australia, a Director of Aluminum Company of America, Chairman of Munich Reinsurance Company of Australia Limited Chairman of Zurich Australian Insurance Group, Hoechst Australian Investments, Chase AMP Bank and Sara Lee Corporation.

In August 1987, Sir Arvi was appointed a Director of Broken Hill Proprietary and was Chairman from 1989 to 1992. He was also Chairman of the PriceWaterhouseCoopers Energy and Mining Advisory Board, and a member of the Degussa AG Supervisory Board, PA Consulting Group, Chase International Advisory Committee, Blake Dawson Waldron Advisory Board, China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC) International Advisory Council and a Director of the Eron Zehnder Global Corporate Governance Advisory Board.

In 1983, the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, arranged a meeting of business, government and union leaders to an 'Economic Summit'. Sir Arvi, who had no political affiliations, attended the Summit and made such an impact with his common-sense proposals that he became a spokesman for the business community. Shortly after he was elected inaugural President of the Business Council of Australia.

Among the many other honours awarded to Sir Arvi were the Queen's Jubilee Medal, Knight Bachelor, Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, Australian Achiever for 1990 from the Australia Day Council, Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), the Order of the White Star from the President of the

Republic of Estonia in February 2001 and the Australian Centenary Medal in August 2003.

He was also awarded Honorary Doctorates from Deakin, Monash, Curtin, Flinders, Sydney and Central Queensland universities.

As President of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in 1990 Sir Arvi visited every active branch of the Institute throughout Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea, delivering a unique address at each. His 34 addresses were published in a 300-paged book, *DownUnder - Mineral Heritage in Australia*.

Sir Arvi retired from his WMC executive role in December 1990 but remained Chairman of the Board until 1999. At a retirement dinner, Sir Arvi reflected on his association with WMC when he said;

*I have been truly privileged to spend my working life with Western Mining. I have always enjoyed whatever I have been doing and the opportunity to work with people I respect and admire - true professionals in whatever their function in the company. I cannot remember a day when I was not looking forward to going to work. I have appreciated the comradeship, and the high ethical standards which have made me proud to be a part of Western Mining. These standards were set by Sir Lindesay and have been maintained since then.*

Sir Arvi became President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering in 1995, which involved a considerable amount of time in representing the Academy and participating in its widespread activities. His views and opinions were sought on a wide range of matters by numerous industry groups and by several governments including the Republic of China.

Immediately following his retirement from the Board of WMC Sir Arvi began writing his recollections of 25 years of

Chairmanship of the Company. He was determined to not only record the history of the Company during his term of office, but to add a personal commentary on the events and activities which occurred along the way. This huge manuscript has been deposited in the National Library in Canberra. His passion for mining history was also evident in that he was a member of the Australasian Mining History Association and served on the Selection Committee of the Australian Miners' Hall of Fame. He was Patron of the Melbourne Mining Club from its formation in 2001.

Sir Arvi's views, advice and opinions have been sought on all manner of topics and he was well known for his approachability, balanced views, commonsense commentaries and straight-forward logic. He earned the respect and trust of a great many Australians from all walks of life and has been heralded as a 'Great Australian', even though modesty would not allow him to acknowledge it.

Sir Arvi died peacefully at his home in Melbourne on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019. He is survived by his wife, Saima, daughter, Ellen and sons Peeter and Martin, and six grandchildren.

*Gilbert Ralph*

#### **Vale Peter Schulze**

It is also with regret that we announce the recent death of Tasmanian member Peter Schulze. Some will remember that Peter presented a paper to the Queenstown, Tasmania conference in 2008 and subsequently published his findings in our Journal Vol. 9 in 2011 ('North Mt Lyell Disaster – A miscarriage of Justice') An obituary will be presented in the next newsletter.

#### **AWARD – Barry McGowan OAM**

Member Juanita Kwok gave the welcome news that a report by Barry McGowan and Genevieve Mott, *True Australians and Pioneers: A Thematic Study of the Chinese People in the Orange, Blayney and Cabonne Shires and the Town of Wellington*, has just been announced as winner of the Heritage Resources

category in the National Trust Heritage Awards.

See. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/new/national-trust-heritage-awards-shortlist-announced-for-2019/>

The report was nominated by Alison Russell, Community Museum and Heritage Manager for Orange Council who worked with Barry and Genevieve on publishing it. Juanita was also included in the plaudits, as after Barry spoke to Alison about her research she accompanied Barry to visit and obtain information from families in Wellington. So Juanita has also been recorded as a winner alongside Barry and Genevieve.

Juanita points out that this is a great posthumous recognition of Barry's work on Chinese rural communities and Genevieve's collaboration with Barry on this report and Tracking the Dragon publications and exhibitions.

Barry would have been extremely proud to gain this recognition, and all who knew Barry will be delighted to see this work recognised.

### **BARRY MCGOWAN'S LIBRARY**

The former information leads us to the Barry McGowan library, and the task of its disposal for which member Robin McLachlan is responsible.

As Robin states: Barry had many good friends among members of the Australasian Mining History Association. We always looked forward to meeting up with Barry at our annual conferences, as he was certain to bring both good humour and insightful scholarship to the gathering.

As you might expect, Barry left an extensive library, which is in the process of being dispersed by family and friends to new homes, particularly to libraries and organisations, which aided his research. I raised the suggestion that some of his AMHA friends might appreciate the gift of books from Barry's library, tokens of their memories of Barry but equally useful references for one's own research. This suggestion was accepted and I have

volunteered to manage the distribution. To have books that belonged to a deceased friend on your bookshelf is a wonderful way to remember him.

If you would like a book, or indeed more than one book, from Barry McGowan's library, please read and follow the arrangement set out below:

1. From the list of available books accompanying this AMHA newsletter, select what books you would like, to a maximum of ten books.
2. List your chosen books in order of preference in an email addressed to [Chintola@bigpond.com](mailto:Chintola@bigpond.com) Include your name and postal address.
3. In the email subject line, write "Barry's books" and your surname.
4. Books will be distributed on a first come/first served basis. I will attempt to give people something from their top choices, to a maximum of five books. (I am not limiting requests to just a single book, so you may ask for and receive more than one book. However, if you want only a single book by which to remember Barry, just let me know in your email and I will select one from your list or pick one at random.)
5. **The books are FREE. However, you have to pay the postage.** I am using pre-paid envelopes and parcel-post satchels, as in 500g envelopes (single thin book) @ \$5.35, 500g satchels@\$8.55 and 1kilogram satchels@\$11.55. The books vary in weight, but roughly, I can fit one or two in a 500g satchel and two to three in the larger satchel. I will pack them with economy in mind. (Sorry, I am not prepared to send or deliver them any other way.)
6. The above pre-paid are for Australian delivery only. If you live overseas, I can purchase international post-paid satchels. But, be aware the cost will be more.
7. When I have filled your order, I will send you an email listing the books you will receive, the cost of mailing and instructions on how to reimburse me. On confirmation by return email that you are

happy with the selection and postage cost, they will be mailed.

8. This offer will expire one month after the publication of this AMHA newsletter.

9. On receiving your book(s), write on the flyleaf, "From the Library of Barry McGowan" (Barry seems to have rarely written his name in his books. Trusting soul!)

10. There may be a second tranche from Barry's library offered through a future AMHA newsletter, mainly heritage studies, official reports, academic theses, and similar.

*Robin McLachlan,*

As you'll note, the list of Barry's books is attached to this email

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Following our last email reminder, there are still some renewals to be made for 2019. To remove any feeling of guilt, please click on the following link (or copy and paste into your Chrome or other search engine) to sign up with Register Now, or request a form from the Secretary, or go to the webpage to download a paper membership form.

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=33012>

## **JOURNAL**

Note that as this newsletter goes out, there is room in the 2019 volume for additional articles. This is therefore an appeal to all would be authors to send in contributions asap. Submissions will be gratefully received for either the refereed or un-refereed sections.

As a reminder papers of about 8,000 words (excluding endnotes) are the ideal, though shorter applications of merit will be considered. If interested, please contact the Editor/Secretary by presenting your paper in in Word, Times Roman 12. For further instructions please view the style sheet on our web page, or email me for a copy.

*The Ed.*

**MJD/June'19**