



# AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

All correspondence to: Mel Davies OAM  
Business School, Economics MBDP M251  
University of Western Australia  
35 Stirling Highway,  
Crawley 6009, W. Australia  
Tel. (W) 08-64882926 (H) 08-92953265  
Fax: 08-64881016  
Email: [mel.davies@uwa.edu.au](mailto:mel.davies@uwa.edu.au)

## Newsletter No. 1 March - APRIL 2018

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754

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

ISSUE 92

### EDITORIAL

We apologize to those who for the last few months have been inconvenienced when trying to access our webpage. This has not been because of any lack of dedication by our Webmaster, but was caused when our contract came up for renewal and we discovered our 'Provider' responsible for licencing our pages had disappeared from the face of the earth. We now have another Provider but the setting up of the new pages took longer than anticipated. We are now back on line thanks to the efforts of our esteemed President, Ken McQueen, who valiantly and assiduously worked to make new contacts and to ensure that we had a much-improved presentation. See below for the President's appeal to help in improving the setting out of information.

Among those patiently waiting have been members who in 2017 opted for a digital copy of the journal. The wait is almost over and they will soon be able to download or just view Vol. 15 at their leisure. If you are in this category, instructions will soon be sent out to advise you how to gain on-line access.

All of this I'm afraid is just one of the complications with this new-fangled technology – oh for the uncomplicated days of pen and paper, and chalk and blackboards. But looking at my world-view as a Luddite, those golden days are, I'm afraid, long gone.

### FACEBOOK REMINDER

For those interested in keeping in contact with fellow members, our Facebook page is active and awaits your participation. Rob Barnes is the administrator and you can link up by clicking on the address below:

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

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Just a gentle reminder to those who intend but have not yet renewed their membership for 2018, that you can do so with great ease by tapping into our 'Register Now' on-line registration process with a simple click on the following address (if you have trouble just copy the address directly into Google or other search engine).

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=28349>

You can also of course send in a paper registration, but the Secretary would prefer the on-line process, as it cuts down on his time and effort.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to Prof. **David Branagan** who at the age of 87 years was recently recognized for his contribution to Geology with the award of AM. Recently celebrating 61 years of marriage to Gillian, they are now enjoying retirement with the extended

family of five children and five grandchildren in Willoughby, NSW.

Thanks to Stephen Shortis for providing this information.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

#### **AMHA 24th Annual Conference, Cromwell, NZ, 16-21 October 2018.**

Registration details are now available on our web page, under the Conferences tab. As usual, you have the option of either registering on paper, or in-line with 'Register Now'. Download forms from our website or Click on the following to register on-line:

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=30010>

Anyone wishing to offer either an oral or poster presentation should send their expression of interest with name and title of the presentation to the Secretary, [mel.davies@uwa.edu.au](mailto:mel.davies@uwa.edu.au)

Also book your accommodation as soon as possible so as to guarantee your preferred option (see details on AMHA website or check the attachment sent with this newsletter). Also attached is information on how to get to Cromwell.

Abstracts should in the first place be sent to the Secretary by **1st August 2018**. However, to help the planning process, if you intend to present a paper, it would be appreciated if you could send a confirmation asap to the Secretary, so as to give the local organizer, Lloyd Carpenter, an idea of how to allocate the presentation slots on the programme.

Lloyd promises that the conference tours will be memorable, so get your boots polished up for those occasions.

#### **International Mining History Conference, Sudbury, Canada**

The Executive of the International Mining History Congress is happy to announce that Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario will host the Twelfth International Mining History Congress, from 18 to 22 June 2020. This is the first time for the Congress to be held in Canada. The organiser is AMHA member Jeremy Mouat who some members will remember from various international mining history conferences, and through

his publications that include Australian mining history topics. .

To be included in future mail-outs and to receive Congress updates, please get in touch with Jeremy at the following email address: [jmouat@ualberta.ca](mailto:jmouat@ualberta.ca)

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

#### **'American Cottages'**

Member Ray Boyle is conducting research into his family history and among illustrious forefathers he has researched has been the life of his great-great-grandfather the Very Rev Archdeacon J R Wollaston of WA. Ray has now moved onto the story of his grandfather Ramsden Gledstanes Talbot.

RGT was manager of *Waverley* Station, near St Lawrence Qld (about 100 miles north of Rockhampton) from 1901 to 1914 when he bought his own property near *Waverley*. This was a prestigious property settled by J.A. Macartney in the 1860s and owned by him until 1897. Macartney was a famous explorer and landholder of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, having owned over 30 properties in Qld and NT over a 40-year period. His history alone rates significant mention in Ray's study of RGT, of *Waverley* and of St Lawrence.

St Lawrence was founded around *Waverley* and was the port for the export of copper from the Peak Downs mine during its life, the copper being brought in drays by road over the Connors Range – and with wool from the same area over a very much shorter route than by road to the port of Rockhampton.

Ray's research has uncovered the facts of Macartney's first move to *Waverley*, quoted in Matthew Fox's, *History of Queensland*, where stated he "arrived overland at *Waverley* on Friday 3 February 1860 and began to erect a homestead on the site of the present estate." It was further reported that he travelled to the remote property using bullock transport, and among his possessions were two **American digger's cottages** and a quantity of general necessary equipment. Ray would like to know if anyone has come across other

references to such buildings, and if so, what was their link to America? Were they pre-fabricated and brought from overseas, or were they locally constructed and built to American gold rush design and conveyed in prefabricated form to various parts of the country?

If you have any information, please contact Dr Ray Boyle at: [boyle@optusnet.com.au](mailto:boyle@optusnet.com.au)

## **BITS AND PIECES**

### **New AMHA Website Now Live**

After many machinations and frustrating delays, the new AMHA website is now up and running. It still needs some corrections and significant updating of content. This is where members can help by sending their comments and items to our Webmaster, Stephen Imrie at: [Stephen.Imrie@bigpond.com](mailto:Stephen.Imrie@bigpond.com)

In particular, it would be good to get some additional/replacement images for the Home page banner (such images must be free of any copyright restrictions). Photos of AMHA activities, news items and links to other suitable sites are also welcome. Philip Hart is busily working on the page for the Mining History of New Zealand.

Progressively the archive of JAMH articles will be increased so that there will be open access to volumes more than 5 years old, as per the recommendations from the Journal Subcommittee and the 2016 AGM. Digital access to the current issue of the Journal will also be available to paid-up members who request this option. Once an account is set up by our diligent Treasurer, these members will be able to login under the 'For Members' tab of the website and view and download PDF files of the articles.

*Ken McQueen*

### **Success for the Milparinka Heritage and Tourism Association**

In October last year the AMHA supported an application by the Milparinka Heritage and Tourism Association for funding from the NSW State Government to establish a high-quality facility for the interpretation of the mining and related

cultural heritage of the Milparinka-Tibooburra region in the 'corner country' of far northwestern NSW. This area includes the historic Albert Goldfield (see JAMH volumes 5 and 6). In February, it was announced that the application was successful. Congratulations to Ruth Sandow and her team in Milparinka.

*Ken McQueen*

## **Taxation**

### **Why the public sees red!!**

This piece taken from the mining friendly *National Resources Review* might explain why some resources companies receive a bad press and why in some minds mining is seen in a far from benevolent light.

### **Exxon admits it won't pay tax until 2021**

During the final hearing of the Corporate Tax Avoidance Senate Inquiry in Melbourne yesterday, Exxon admitted it does not expect to pay any corporate income tax in Australia until 2021.

The company estimated it would pay around \$600 million in 2021 only after paying nothing for eight years in a row. Make Exxon Pay researcher and hearing witness, Jason Ward, said Exxon's testimony proved the company was "arrogant, entitled and not transparent" when it came to paying no tax in Australia. "Today we saw Exxon admit it won't pay a cent in company tax until 2021. By then Exxon would have made over \$50 billion out of Australia and put back nothing in company tax. That is shocking and will anger millions of taxpayers. At the same time, Exxon has pushed out more than 200 workers from its Longford Plant in Gippsland, Victoria, without pay for 266 days, after the workers faced pay cuts and anti-family shift rosters. The Gippsland workers who Exxon has pushed out without pay have paid more tax than Exxon itself for years now. Exxon claimed that the company's investments created a 'unique' period of no corporate tax payments. But everyday Australians don't get such treatment at tax time. It's time Exxon came clean about how they pay no tax –

they still dodge the real questions,” Mr Ward said.

When asked why the company was cutting the pay of its contracted workforce, Exxon said it was “very comfortable” with the way it treated workers. Locked out workers travelled from Gippsland to the hearing today to rally outside, including Troy Carter, a fitter and AMWU delegate, who said: “It’s wage cuts for us and tax-free money for them. It’s hard enough making ends meet these days especially when you have kids, companies like Exxon don’t realise the pressure they’re putting on ordinary Australians like us.”

“When I found out that Exxon isn’t paying any tax at the same time they expect us all to take pay cuts, I couldn’t believe it,” Mr Carter said. The company was also grilled on its ownership structure, and why the company failed to tell Senators in 2015 that Exxon Australia is in fact owned by a Netherlands Exxon subsidiary. Exxon told Senators they did not read a key submission made to the inquiry by an Oxford academic showing Australia had one of the lowest resource company tax collections in the world. Exxon also said it wouldn’t pay any petroleum resource rent tax (PRRT) on their quarter stake in the Gorgon gas project until the mid-2030s.

## **JOURNAL**

Contributions for the 2018 Journal are currently on the slim side – in fact I’d say they are so thin, they are almost *anorexic*. This is therefore a plea to all aspiring authors to prepare and send in offerings for consideration by the editor. Your early response will be greatly appreciated. Don’t be shy in submitting, and while we can’t guarantee you a Nobel Prize, there will be ample reward in the adulation and praises from our grateful readers.

As most will be aware, submissions can be made for either inclusion in the refereed or un-refereed sections. Further information can be gleaned from the style sheet on our web page, or by applying for same to the Secretary/Editor.

I will also point out, that snippets

for inclusion in the newsletter are also welcomed, as are details of new mining history publications (journal articles and books), for the AMHA Bibliography.

## **STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS**

This year the AMHA will again be offering up to two Student Travel Grants to assist students who would like to attend and present at the 24<sup>th</sup> AMHA Conference in Cromwell, NZ, 7-13<sup>th</sup> October. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to students who have not previously received a grant. Information on the grants and details on how to apply can be found on the AMHA Website at <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/student-travel-grants/>

Members please spread the word!

MJD/April’

