



AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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ISSUE 80

EDITORIAL

If you haven't already noticed, this is Issue No. 80, which reminds me that as Ed. I'll soon be reaching that milestone myself. I'm happy to continue in my capacity as editor of the Newsletter should the membership wish, but just wonder, on the grounds that at this age, milestones can easily translate into tombstones, whether we shouldn't have a couple of editions produced by others prepared to cast their pearls on these pages? Fame, fortune and Walkley awards are there for the taking for those prepared to undertake the task even on a temporary basis, and with the view that should the inevitable happen, they could take over this illustrious position!

PS – note that the usual generous remuneration amounting to \$00.00 goes with the job.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Australian Institute of Geoscientist – Yilgarn Retrospective Workshop

As recently reported in the *Earth Sciences History Group Bulletin* of 9th February, the AIG, along with the Geological Survey of Australia and AusIMM will hold a 2-day symposium on the Yilgarn Craton (WA), on 30-31st March 2015, in Dalkeith, Perth. The meeting will look at all aspects of the momentous events of the period 1950-1999 that resulted in spectacular discoveries and exploitation

of gold, iron ore, bauxite, uranium, copper-silver-lead-nickel, and other commodity deposits in that period. The events led to research that resulted in new deposit models and appreciation of the regolith that blankets the Yilgarn, and the tools to work below the regolith.

There is a call for abstracts and a number of slots are still available from anyone wishing to make a contribution. If interested you can register your abstract at: training@geosymposia.com.au
For further details click on:
www.geosymposia.com.au

AMHA 21st Annual Conference, Darwin 2015 (21st-25th June)

Its all systems go for the next AMHA celebration this coming June. Please note that you should use the **updated form** when registering. The old form included a visit to the War Museum at \$15, but because of a clash with an arranged visit to the Oil & Gas facilities, that item has been cancelled.

We have already received a variety of interesting papers, including two by our 2015 Student Grant winners, but still have places available on the programme for presentations. While the closing date was originally the 1st April, in our usual more than generous way we have decided to extend that to **1st May**. **Please send your ABSTRACTS asap.**

It would also be appreciated if

registrations could be completed sooner rather than later, as this will allow us to finalize our planning with greater certainty. You also still have a few days to meet the 'Early Bird' pricing option. To register, please go to the web page, or register on-line by clicking on:

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=14863>

P.S.: for some unfathomable technological reason associated with Acrobat, you might not be able to enter the portal to download the document if using the pdf document. If so, try clicking the address on the Word doc. Or type in the address.

Happy signing-up, and hope to see you there.

DARWIN ACCOMMODATION

In the meanwhile, if you do intend to travel to Darwin for the conference, ensure that you book accommodation soon, as our Darwin committee member Bev Phelts has informed us that our event clashes with a visit of the V8 Supercars to Darwin. They appear to be following us around, as those who stayed in Townsville last year before moving on to Charters Towers found the streets and hotels full of petrol heads. So to ensure you get accommodation you'll have to book soon.

Note that the **Hilton Hotel** is still offering concession rooms. Please contact me for email details for this offer..

PINE CREEK ACCOMMODATION

I'm afraid that the block bookings that I made have been filled, so if you wish to get accommodation for the night of the 26th June in that fair town you will have to go through the usual web channels. At the moment of writing there are places available at **The Lazy Lizard**, and at the **Diggers Rest**, and just one room available at the **Iulia Guesthouse**.

Australian Prospectors & Miners' Hall of Fame, and AMEC Awards 2015

The Australian Prospectors & Miners' Hall of Fame, in conjunction with the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC), is delighted to

advise that the 2015 AMEC Awards & Mining Hall of Fame Induction Dinner will be held on Wednesday, 24th of June, 2015, at Crown Perth.

Each year, the Australian Prospectors & Miners' Hall of Fame seeks nominations for induction by any person to recognise lasting greatness and to promote greater awareness of the contributions of an exceptional few to Australian mining history. The induction process also provides a real opportunity to promote the very significant contribution the Australian mineral industry makes to Australian society.

Bookings can be made through the Australian Prospectors & Miners' Hall of Fame. Ticket cost is \$225.00 for members and \$270.00 for non-members (including GST) and includes pre-dinner drinks, a 3-course dinner including beer, wine and soft drinks, and entertainment.

Visit the website to download a booking form. For more information, or to make a booking, contact Kim Hewson on 0412-884-427 or email: admin@mininghalloffame.com.au

POSITIONS OPEN

PhD positions in Humanities Norway

Some of our younger student members might be interested in the following:

The Faculty of Humanities, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), invites scholars to apply for two PhD fellowships affiliated with NTNU's strategic thematic area *Ocean Science and Technology*. The PhD fellowships are to be carried out within research on the historical and ethical aspects of deep sea mining. Deep-sea mining is a pilot project at *NTNU Ocean Science and Technology*. The project is multidisciplinary, building knowledge across technologies and sciences at NTNU. Key research areas are the understanding of geological processes, deepwater exploration, concept development, life cycle analysis as well as environmental and human sciences. There are two PhD positions offered. If interested click on:

<http://www.ntnu.edu/oceans>

INFORMATION WANTED

'Disintegrator'

Volker Hahl, one of our esteemed Tasmanian members, is interested to find information on a piece of machinery referred to as a 'disintegrator'? He states that he has come across the term used by a mining company in the 1880s to describe a rockbreaker. He notes that it clearly wasn't a stamp battery, as in the adverts these are specifically referred to as such. In the advert he viewed, it stated that it could reduce stone by 'graduated degrees' and that it was ideal for small operators and road trusts (municipal councils). Volker suggests this sound like a jaw crusher, but as he has never come across a 'disintegrator' before, he would like someone to confirm the exact purpose of this machine and how it operated. Volker can be contacted at:

snauw@skymesh.com.au

1900s Mining Uniform Inquiry

Tyler Hill is a production Design student at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAAPA), He is currently researching a play about the life of A.B. Facey (of 'A Fortunate Life' fame). During his research he has found several images of hats, such as those worn in the following photograph, that show Kalgoorlie miners wearing a headpiece with a short brim at the front and a longer brim at the back. Does anyone have any information on the style of hat and the function of the peaks?



The image above is from the Victorian Museum and titled 'Five miners' and is dated 1910. The two men

on the left are wearing the said head gear (why five miners when there are only three? – The answer is that the ed. cut out two because of sizing problems).

Mining and Footie!

Stephen Rowcliffe is researching his great-grandfather, Alf Trevillian. Alf, who born at Cornishtown outside Chiltern in 1877, is believed to have worked at mines in and around Rutherglen (north Prentice, Prentice Freehold) until around 1902. In that year his athletic skill was rewarded in his being recruited to play VFL with St Kilda. Alf had earlier been mentored by neighbour and mine manager W.J. Hicks of the Great Northern Mine, who is also believed to have had interests in the Excelsior Mine in the region. In 1896, Hicks, was the benefactor and president of a newly created football team called the Excelsiors that participated in the Ovens Valley competition, and which had followed its precursor the United Miners Football Club that had existed in the Ruthglen area in 1894-96. The suggestion is that the club was renamed because of the support from the Excelsior mining company.

After a few years playing in the VFL. Alf Trevillian ventured to Kalgoorlie where he played for a few months with the Mines Rovers Club before being drafted to play with Perth in 1904, and West Perth in 1905.

Stephen is interested in the connections between mining and sporting concerns in northern Victoria and Kalgoorlie that may have helped facilitate employment for people like his great-grandfather? Stephen suggests that this was important, as in 1896 Alf's older brothers also moved to Western Australia but failed miserably, as they didn't have the contacts or family to help smooth their way in the new environment.

Stephen would be grateful for any guidance that can be offered but his query raises some interesting questions about the role of mining companies in sponsoring or supporting sporting and other community based bodies. Stephen

can be contacted at:

Stephen.Rowcliffe@education.gov.au

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to member Nic Haygarth who was joint winner of the inaugural Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History in Tasmania. Although not categorized as a mining book, his publication, *The Norfolk Plains: a History of Longford, Cressy, Perth and Bishopsbourne, Tasmania, was deemed worthy of* the Tasmanian local history award in memory of historian Marita Bardenhagen, whose paper on bush nursing at Adamsfield, Tasmania was read by Nic at the Queenstown AMHA Conference in 2008. At the time, Marita was unable to be present because of ill health and a car accident. The other winner was Lorraine Dooley, for her book *Building on Firm Foundations*.

Secondly, Nic is to be congratulated for producing a new book co-written with Simon Cubit and called *Historic Tasmanian Mountain Huts: Through the Photographer's Lens*. Among other non-mining stories, the publication deals with the stories of two osmiridium diggers at the Nineteen Mile Creek west of Waratah, Tasmania. The book costs \$50 and is available on-line at <https://simoncubit.com.au/>. It is also in Tasmanian bookshops.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you haven't yet registered for your 2015 membership, its as easy as getting the information from our webpage, or clicking on the following 'Register Now' address:

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?ID=15167>

(the same comment as for the Darwin Registration address – if you can't open using the pdf address, use the Word Doc address to download, or type in the address into your Search Engine).

While we still accept paper registration forms and payments by cheque, it will ease the burden of administration on the Secretary/Treasurer if you pay on-line. **Overseas members** in particular will find this method both more convenient and much cheaper, as the cost by the bank for converting an overseas cheque has recently **been raised to \$15**.

JOURNAL

My usual plea for papers: we still have a few spaces left for the 2015 volume and if interested in getting your article into print please get it to me asap. We already have some very interesting topics, and if you wish to contribute we can guarantee that you'll be in good company.

MJD/March'