



# AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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

ISSUE 101

### EDITORIAL

There seems to be some light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel – we may even get a conference next year in Burra, in September-October. We hope you all survived the lockdown without too much insanity (whoever thought cats and kids would have such an embarrassing affinity for Zoom meetings?)

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The executive is considering organising the 2020 AGM, which might be based on an on-line Zoom meeting. We are still looking at the options. All paid up members will be advised sometime in July as to the format and the agenda.

Nic Haygarth

### BITS & PIECES

#### Atherton Presentations:

With all the happenings in the first half of 2020 our last conference in Atherton seems a long time ago – almost an eternity. The Executive and WAG have been considering compiling the presentations from the Atherton conference onto a DVD that could be available for purchase (at cost price) from the Treasurer. Previously this was done for the Greymouth and Cobar conferences.

If any presenters from the Atherton conference do not wish their presentation to be included, please contact Stephen Imrie, [Stephen.Imrie@bigpond.com](mailto:Stephen.Imrie@bigpond.com) who has the files of the presentations.

#### PhD Awarded:

Norma Latchford was recently awarded her PhD from Curtin University. The title of her thesis is:

‘A study of the Relationship between Mining and the Performing Arts in Australia 1850-1914: case studies of the Ballarat and Kalgoorlie-Boulder goldfields’. Congratulations, Norma!

#### Resources:

Member John Attwood sent in the following interesting memoir of the early Victorian diggings:

<https://rememberingthepastaustralia.com/ife-at-the-diggings-letters-from-mcivor-diggings-victoria-1-july-1853-and-bendigo-25-july-1853/>

Tried using QDEX, which contains most of the historical resources you need for Queensland mining history, and found it difficult? Here’s a hint: Google “QDEX Smart Index” and you’ll get to a handy pdf file with links to historic material such as early Geological Survey reports, Queensland Government Mining Journal,

and Annual Reports of the Department of Mines.

### **Prizes and grants:**

Earth Sciences History Group  
(Geological Society of Australia) Tom  
Vallance Medal 2021



The Tom Vallance Medal was introduced in 2011 to recognise people who have made a significant contribution to researching, recording, investigating, documenting and/or publishing about people or places or events of historical importance to the geological sciences in Australia or Australasia. It is awarded biennially and presented at the biennial Convention of the Geological Society of Australia (or similar event).

Dr Thomas George Vallance (1928–1993), geologist and historian of science, was formerly Associate Professor at the University of Sydney. Originally a petrologist, his work tracing geological expertise in Sydney during the late 18th and early 19th centuries shed unexpected light on scientific activity in our young colony and ignited his interest in the history of geology and early workers in the earth sciences. He researched and published many articles and papers on famous, infamous and little-known early pioneers in this field. His legacy was in the form of 3000 index cards of information, memorabilia and jottings on miners, geologists, surveyors, prospectors and mining engineers, which was compiled over a number of years and gathered from a wide variety of sources - especially from 19th century mining journals. After his death this rich resource was compiled into a database, which should prove invaluable for researchers.

**Nominations** for the medal to be presented in Hobart in February 2021 are now open. The deadline for nominations for the 2021 award will close on Wednesday 30 September 2020.

A nomination form can be downloaded from the ESHG website. [https://www.gsa.org.au/Public/Specialist/Earth\\_Sciences\\_History\\_ESHG/Tom\\_Vallance\\_Medal/Public/Specialist\\_Groups/ESHG\\_Sub\\_Pages/ESHG\\_Recognition.aspx?hkey=0cc09a0a-b483-459c-9a1a-e1088650b325](https://www.gsa.org.au/Public/Specialist/Earth_Sciences_History_ESHG/Tom_Vallance_Medal/Public/Specialist_Groups/ESHG_Sub_Pages/ESHG_Recognition.aspx?hkey=0cc09a0a-b483-459c-9a1a-e1088650b325)

Victorian Community History Awards  
Applications are now open for the 2020 Victorian Community History Awards presented by PROV in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Award categories include the Victorian Premier's History Award, History Publication Award, Digital Storytelling Award, Community Diversity Award and Oral History Award presented in collaboration with Oral History Victoria, among others.

Applications due 8 July 2020. <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/victorian-community-history-awards-2020/>

### **OBITUARY**

We are sad to advise that one of our members, John Woodland, died in January.

**John Woodland** (5.07.42 – 16.01.20)



John emigrated to Australia from the UK in 1955, coming with his family initially to rural South Australia and then to Melbourne. After leaving school, John studied geology at night school while working days firstly as an industrial chemist and later with an exploration company. As soon as he graduated, John

headed off to Western Australia to a nickel prospect near the old Nepean gold mine south of Coolgardie. This was at the naissance of the 'nickel boom'. There followed many years of exploration in Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland.

Outside of work, John was very handy and there was nothing that he could not imagine and make, using his own vast collection of tools gathered painstakingly over more than half a century. He had many and varied hobbies, including making leadlight glass, model making, woodworking, hand-making model steam engines and of course extensive reading. John was ever an avid reader, mainly of historical non-fiction, and accumulated a large collection of antiquarian books and National Geographic Magazines, some dating back nearly 100 years.

John's interest in history overlapped with his working life. In the later years of John's geological career, he spent significant time in Victoria researching old gold mines as pathfinders to new deposits. Much of this work was focussed on Maldon and Clunes. It sparked a keen interest in the British companies formed to exploit the 19th century gold rush in Australia. He enrolled at Latrobe University, completed some undergraduate studies in history and progressed to a master's thesis titled "RH Bland and the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company", the history of the only successful British-funded gold mining company in the 19th century Australian gold rushes. From John's historical research, RH Bland became something of a hero to him because of Bland's being able to make a profitable company where all others failed, both before and after.

As part of the celebrations to mark 150 years since the discovery of gold in Victoria, John was commissioned to write a book "Sixteen Tons of Clunes Gold". Keen to expand on his research, he went on to undertake a PhD in history at Latrobe University, producing his thesis

on company mining in the 19th century Australian gold rush.

John couldn't stop there and went on to expand his work to include the history of similar companies in the Californian gold rush preceding the Australian rush of the 19th century. This resulted in the publishing in 2014 of his second book, "Money Pits: British Mining Companies in the Californian and Australian Gold Rushes of the 1850s".

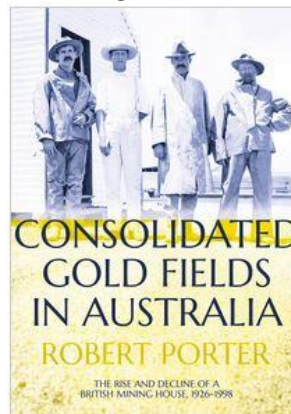
Ever the keen scholar, John harboured ideas for further research, but alas this was not to be.

*Judith Woodland*

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Our members have been busy!

Robert Porter, *Consolidated Gold Fields in Australia: The Rise and Decline of a British Mining House, 1926–1998*



Consolidated Gold Fields was a major British mining house founded by Cecil Rhodes in 1892. Diversifying from its South African gold interests, the company invested widely during the following century. This included investments in the Western Australian gold sector from the 1920s and exploration and mining activities elsewhere in Australia and the Territory of New Guinea. In the 1960s, Consolidated Gold Fields Australia (CGFA) was formed.

CGFA had ambitious plans and the financial backing from London to establish itself as one of the main diversified mining companies in Australia. Investments were held in the historic Mount Lyell Mining and Railway

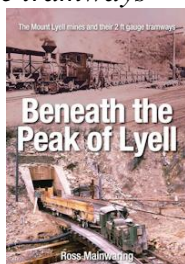
Company, in Renison, and it was one of the first groups to develop iron ore deposits in the Pilbara of Western Australia. It also acquired a major interest in mineral sands.

While the London-based Consolidated Gold Fields ceased to exist in 1989, taken over and dismembered by renowned corporate raider Hanson Plc, its Australian subsidiary, renamed Renison Goldfields Consolidated (RGC), continued for another nine years as a diversified mining group before it suffered its own corporate demise, facilitated by Hanson.

CGFA and RGC were important participants in Australia's post-World War II mining sector. This book is a history of a once great British mining-finance house and its investments in Australia. Consolidated Gold Fields had a rich and broad history in Australia; its ultimate fate did not demonstrate its potential as an Australian mining company.

<https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/consolidated-gold-fields-australia>

Ross Mainwaring, *Beneath the Peak of Lyell: The Mount Lyell mines and their 2 ft gauge tramways*



This book is a comprehensive history of the copper mines of the Mount Lyell area around Queenstown, Tasmania, and associated 2 ft gauge tramways.

It describes the copper mining and ore treatment processes over the life of the various mines from the beginning around 1890, and the way the extensive series of 2 ft gauge tramways were essential to the mines' success. Motive power included horse, steam, electric, battery-electric, and internal-combustion, as well as cable haulage. It also describes the constant

need to seek efficiencies to keep the mines viable as the quality of the ore steadily fell, and the world copper price see-sawed.

[https://www.lrrsa.org.au/Lrr\\_Pubs.htm](https://www.lrrsa.org.au/Lrr_Pubs.htm)

or for a preview see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGNUtHQP8oo>

Robert W.P. Ashley, *The Mining Expert: Phillip Davies, 1831-1898*

This is a re-release of Robert Ashley's 2019 history of the wide-ranging activities of this 19<sup>th</sup> century miner, mine-owner, investor, company director and mine investigator. Like the first release, it is a limited edition. Contact the author Robert W. P. Ashley, R.A. Research, P. O. Box 128, Wendouree, Victoria, 3355. E-Mail contact address: [ashley.rwp@bigpond.com](mailto:ashley.rwp@bigpond.com).

For other recent publications, check the AMHA website <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/books/>

## JOURNAL

Don't forget there's a Journal issue coming out in the second half of the year. If you had a paper planned for our cancelled conference, now is the time to convert it into an article. Send to Mel at [mel.davies@uwa.edu.au](mailto:mel.davies@uwa.edu.au). He is looking for papers of about 8,000 words (excluding endnotes), though good shorter pieces will be considered. Formatting instructions can be found in the style sheet on our webpage <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/journal-2/> or email Mel for a copy.

## WEBSITE NEWS

As flagged in the last Newsletter, a compilation of useful online resource links has now been added to the AMHA website. These can be found on the For Members page titled Mining History Research Resources Online. If you click here you will be taken to a page with all the current listings. Clicking on these will take you directly to the appropriate

website pages. Many thanks to those who contributed links for this resource. If any members have suggestions for other useful resource sites please let Ken McQueen know.

The WAG is also interested in suggestions and ideas for additional material that could be added to the website to interest and assist members.

The WAG is still looking for an additional volunteer to help with the website. I am sure there are people out there who have picked up good ideas from browsing websites or improved their IT skills during the Corona lock down!

*Ken McQueen (for WAG)*

Having problems logging in to the Members Only page? – contact Ken at [Ken.McQueen@canberra.edu.au](mailto:Ken.McQueen@canberra.edu.au)

## **MINING HERITAGE**

### **Hazelwood Power Station**

For those of you who went field-tripping at the Traralgon conference, Mel Davies notes that the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project demolished part of the Power Station there on Monday 25 May, with the controlled collapse of the eight chimneys, between the power station block and the former coal slot bunker. See <https://youtu.be/-97-LSKX8TE?t=18>



### **Pit horse statue**

The town of Kurri Kurri has raised \$100,000 to erect a bronze statue of a pit horse, skip and wheeler, and the statue will be finished soon. It commemorates the work of the pit horses of the South Maitland coalfields and will be erected in

Rotary Park. The model will be based on 'Miner', a horse from the Aberdare Extended mine (below).



The park already features a statue to the coal miners of Cessnock.

## **CONFERENCES**

Not forgetting our own at Burra, S.A., 27 September – 1 October 2021.

NAMHO (National Association of Mining History Organisations)



Can hardly wait to go international conferencing once the world is safe from COVID-19? Try this one: NAMHO 2021 Conference 2nd to 5th July 2021 at Preston Montford near Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England, hosted by the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club. Delegates will be offered a range of surface and underground mine visits, and a lecture programme. The conference theme is Sixty Years of Mining History Projects. You are invited to submit an abstract if you would like to give a lecture / presentation at NAMHO-2021 about a group project. Projects can be past, present or future, and range from surface and underground conservation projects through to archival studies. With hindsight and experience, would you have been done the project differently? Talks on other topics will also be considered. It is intended to hold the lecture programme on the Saturday and if necessary, or for

practical reasons, it may continue on the Sunday. Notify Rob Vernon (Email: [rbtrvernon@aol.com](mailto:rbtrvernon@aol.com)) by mid-October 2020 of your intention to give a talk at the Conference, and its title. See <https://www.namho.org/index.php?param=NAMHO%20Conference>

Mining History Association (U.S.):  
30th Annual Conference 2021

Elko, Nevada is the host for the Mining History Association's 30th Annual Conference in 2021. Elko is at the base of the beautiful Ruby Mountains and surrounded by the rugged Great Basin Desert, and was a major railhead for a large silver and gold mining region.

<https://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/ElkoNevada2020.htm>

International Mining History Conference  
Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario  
20-26 June, 2021

<https://www.facebook.com/events/faculty-of-arts-at-laurentian-university-in-sudbury-ontario/12th-international-mining-history-congress-june-2021/2225360380866169/>

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Mel will be contacting you soon for your hard-earned cash if you still haven't paid up...if you're among the guilty, you can fill in and return the membership form attached, or register on-line by clicking on the Register Now link: <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=37235>

**WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY**

**Mining predicted to fuel economic recovery from the Corona Pandemic**  
(contributed by Ken McQueen)

A recent article in AIG News by Dave Shatwell predicts that mining will be crucial to Australia's economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. Mining is the nation's largest export earner, at more than half of all export revenue (\$198 billion in 2016-17). About 30% of these

exports go to China. Mining contributes 6% of GDP, third after services and construction. The virus is disrupting both mine output and industrial production, affecting the supply of and demand for raw materials, thus influencing metal prices. In Australia there have been restrictions on interstate travel requiring adjustments for FIFO workers and social distancing strategies have been implemented at the mine sites. Despite these restrictions, no major Australian company has reported mine closures or that the coronavirus will seriously affect production. The industry appears well placed to weather the storm, maintain export income and underpin the economic recovery. Mining history in the making!

*Some interesting statistics of the situation in Australia and two other major mineral exporting countries:*

COUNTRY DATA	AUSTRALIA	CANADA	PERU
Area, million km <sup>2</sup>	7,692	9,985	1,285
Population, millions	25.0	37.6	32.0
Population density per km <sup>2</sup>	3.3	3.8	24.9
GDP per capita, USD	57,374	46,233	6,941
Median age, years	37	41	31
CORONAVIRUS STATISTICS - 15 MAY 2020			
Coronavirus tests per million population	38,889	32,495	18,394
Active cases	913	32,156	54,956
Total cases	7,019	74,613	84,495
Total deaths	98	5,562	2,392
Mortality rate for those infected	1.5%	13.1%	N.A.
Deaths per million population	4	148	73

To read the full article see [https://www.aig.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/aig\\_news\\_140\\_02\\_v9\\_FINAL\\_MR\\_1UP.pdf](https://www.aig.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/aig_news_140_02_v9_FINAL_MR_1UP.pdf)

Jan Wegner  
(Editor)

**AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION Inc.**

ABN 96 220 329 754

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL 2020**

This form is a tax invoice. No GST is applicable.

**Membership Fees:**

Full memberships	\$35	<b>Please only pay the current year's fee</b> as subscription rates may change <b>Note:</b> a copy of the Annual Journal is included in the fee for all memberships.
Joint Family Membership	\$45	
Unwaged Student	\$15	
Institutions:	\$50	

**Overseas members:** Please **add \$A10** to the above to cover journal postage costs and an **additional \$15** if paying by overseas cheque to cover bank charges.

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr., Prof. etc.) .....

Surname.....First Name.....

Address for correspondence..... Post Code .....

Telephone ..... Email: .....

Distribution of the newsletters by email results in significant savings in printing and postage costs as well as reducing the Secretary's workload. Note that current and past newsletters are available on the website at <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/newsletters/>

**AMHA Privacy Policy:**

*AMHA members contact details are securely maintained and used for AMHA business. The Association may use email to communicate with members so please ensure you print it clearly on this form. Please indicate any contact details you do not wish to be used by AMHA officials.*

Signed ..... date .....

My Mining History interests are: .....

**Annual Membership fee** \$.....

**Please send me copies of:**

- 1) Patrick Bertola & Karen Miller (eds), *Proceedings of the Australian Mining History Association Conferences 1997-2000* (AMHA, Crawley, WA, 2001). \$.....
- 2) *Journal of Australasian Mining History*, ~~Vol. 1, 2003~~; V.2 2004; V. 3 2005; V. 4 2006; V 5, 2007; V. 6, 2008; V. 7 2009; V. 8 2010; V. 9 2011, V. 10 2012, V. 11 2013; V. 12 2014; V. 13 2015; V. 14 2016; V. 15 2017; V. 16 2018; V. 17 2019. Please Circle choices: \$.....

**Price per copy for items in 1 & 2:** Aus \$20; NZ \$27; Elsewhere \$30. (includes postage)

- 3) Mel Davies (Compiler), *Bibliography of the Mining History of Australia, New Zealand & Papua New Guinea* (AMHA and Department of Economics, UWA, Crawley, 2002). **In CD only.** Copies including postage: Aus \$11; NZ \$12; Elsewhere \$13 \$.....

**Total** \$.....

**Send me: A. a print copy of the 2019 Journal ....; B. A digital copy only .....; Both A & B ..... (tick)**

**NEW MEMBERS** – For our records, please advise how you learned about the AMHA? (a) through the AMHA webpage; (b) through a member of the AMHA; (c) through attending an AMHA conference? d) through other source (please provide detail) [please circle answer]

**Return form to:**

Mel Davies, Secretary, AMHA, Business School, Economics MBDP M251, University of Western Australia, Crawley 6009, Western Australia. [mel.davies@uwa.edu.au](mailto:mel.davies@uwa.edu.au)

**Payment by Cheque:** Cheques should be made payable to AMHA. If sending a **personal** cheque, **overseas members** should add the equivalent of **A\$15** to cover bank charges (note: if you send a bank cheque or draft made out in Australian dollars then only send the relevant fee).

**Electronic Payment:** The Association uses online payment system *Register Now*. Overseas members should find paying online to be cheaper and more convenient than using other systems. Please note the system now allows for payment by Pay Pal but does not support AMEX Credit cards. You can enter the portal at:

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=37235> or AMHA website (Membership tab)

## **Australasian Mining History Association Privacy Policy**

The Australasian Mining History Association (AMHA) respects the privacy of its members and is committed to protecting their personal information. This privacy policy details how AMHA manages members' personal information and safeguards their privacy.

### **The National Privacy Principles**

From 21 December 2001 it has been obligatory for private sector organisations to manage personal information relating to individuals in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)* and the National Privacy Principles (NPPs). AMHA has chosen to implement a privacy policy that is reflective of the National Privacy Policy Principles (NPPs) as a form of best practice in the management of membership information.

### Collection of personal information

AMHA only collects personal information which is necessary to perform the objectives of the Association, namely to:

- promote and co-ordinate national activities and programmes related to mining history;
- encourage the study, discussion, writing and publication of mining history;
- encourage the identification and preservation of records, sites, relics and materials relevant to Australasian mining;
- act as a focus for correspondence between those persons within Australasia and elsewhere interested in mining history; and
- disseminate information of interest to members through a website, newsletter and/or journal.

The Association receives information including name, address, telephone, email and facsimile contact details from members and non-members on membership applications, membership renewal forms and conference registrations. AMHA maintains and uses this information in written and/or electronic form.

### **Website**

The AMHA may collect some information from you when you use our website [www.mininghistory.asn.au](http://www.mininghistory.asn.au). Your use of the facilities and services available through our website will determine the amount and type of information which we collect about you. The only personal information the AMHA collects about you when you use our website is what you tell us about yourself, for example, by completing an online form when you complete a questionnaire. As with most websites we do track usage. Each time you visit our website a web server makes a record of your visit. It records your date of visit and the pages accessed and documents downloaded.

### **Use of personal information**

Personal information collected by AMHA is essential to its organisational activities and is used for:

- managing membership and membership renewals
- fulfilling subscription requests and member services
- registrations for conference
- organising conferences
- distribution of publications
- notifying AMHA members via the website, regular mail or email about important news and announcements.

Normal communication with members will be conducted using the email address provided in the membership application/renewal form, unless a request is made to use a different email address.

### Disclosure of personal information

Information collected by AMHA will only be used for the purposes for which it was collected or to provide members with additional information about the Associations services. AMHA does not share or sell membership information to third parties.

### Access to personal information

Members may request access to their personal information held by AMHA. Requests will be responded to as quickly as possible. Members may request to be removed from the mailing list at any time. Members wishing to access their personal information or to raise a query or make a complaint about AMHA's use of their personal information should contact the Secretary.