



# AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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ISSUE 99

### EDITORIAL

As determined at the last Annual General Meeting this will be my final newsletter, as Jan Wegner's offer to take over the task was gratefully accepted. Hopefully this introduction of new blood into the functioning of the organisation will set the tone for further examples of hands being raised for positions at our future meetings. Many thanks to those who have contributed to the broadsheet over the years and if you wish to contribute items to Jan you can contact her directly at: [janice.wegner@jcu.edu.au](mailto:janice.wegner@jcu.edu.au)

I've enjoyed the editorship and am pleased to announce my retirement from these pages with an 'average' that equals that of the great Don Bradman, that being Newsletter No. 99.

### International Mining History Congress, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, 18-22 June 2020

Please note that the submission of abstracts to the Congress has now been extended to **31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**. Submissions should be sent to Prof. Jeremy Mouat, at: [jmouat@ualberta.ca](mailto:jmouat@ualberta.ca)

When submitting your abstract, also include your name (or names if more than one person is involved), and also your email address, phone number, and any formal institutional affiliation. For further details see the Congress webpage at: <http://imhc2020sudbury.com/2020/en/>

### 26th Annual Conference, Bathurst, NSW, 9th to 14th November 2020

The theme chosen for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is 'Diversity – Dig into Mining History and Heritage', though all papers are welcomed. The conference will be held at the Greens on William (formerly the Bathurst Community Club), William Street, Bathurst, and will include visits to Hill End, Bald Hill Mine, Tambaroora, Lewis Ponds Creek, Sunny Corner, Hartley Vale and Cadia.

Registration forms will be forwarded in the near future, in addition to details on submissions of abstracts.

### BITS & PIECES

#### Obituaries of Mining Engineers

The following information kindly forwarded by Mike Gill of the Northern Mines Research Society UK, and our member Roger Burt (Exeter University) should prove of interest to some of our members. It is derived from work done by David Dixon when working on his PhD at the University of Southampton sometime before the 1960s, on the future careers of the graduates of the Royal School of Mines and the Camborne School of Mines. As part of his research he collected all of the obituaries that were published in the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy Transactions. These have

recently been digitised by Mike Gill and are open for free access.

The collection details some 1700 obituaries covering the period 1892-1968, and are now available on the NMRS website, at:

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nmrs.org.uk%2Fresources%2Fobituariesofmembers%2F&data=02%7C01%7CR.Burt%40exeter.ac.uk%7Ca29e43e2bc642673e9908d739ce23bc%7C912a5d77fb984eeaf321334d8f04a53%7C0%7C1%7C637041429855532927&wddata=%2FFlu6vIvxDmVTvnrRG00g5HQqIwmXJy5LibUricNsc%3D&reserved=0>

As these leading professional hard rock mining engineers moved around the world, including to New Zealand and Australia, this collection should prove of great interest to anyone conducting mining history research.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Denis Porter**, *Coal: The Australian Story: From convict mining to the birth of a world leader*.

The book was launched in Brisbane on 9 October by Ian Macfarlane, CEO of the Queensland Resources Council, and in Sydney on 15 October by Tony Haraldson, ex CEO of Coal & Allied Industries Ltd and Billiton Coal Australia. The book traces the development of the coal industry in NSW and Queensland from the early days of the colony to the 1960s. Sub-titled *From convict mining to the birth of a world leader*, the book brings together many of the major events and stories about the industry, including its industrial conflicts, inquiries and major developments. The Australian coal industry has been the subject of a number of books, papers and university theses, but there has been no recent book to bring together the overall story of the development of the industry in the two major coal exporting states. This new book now does this in a way that the general reader as well as those acquainted with the industry should find informative.

*Coal: the Australian Story* is a story which deserves to be better understood by all Australians. It is a story, not only of

turmoil, but also of perseverance, major reforms and restructuring, and a story which involves an industry which has been of fundamental importance to the Australian economy for most of the industry's life. The book's final chapter deals with the 1960s, the period when the industry was beginning its fundamental re-orientation to the export market, with major new contracts from the Japanese steel mills and the massive new mine developments in the Bowen Basin in Queensland. That decade was arguably the period when the industry began on its path to becoming a world leading industry, a path however which was to prove rocky and strewn with obstacles in the form of competition from other exporters and low prices.

The book is divided into the following chapters:

1. Colonisation and the 1800s
2. Federation to World War One
3. The Lost Years: between the wars
4. World War Two: the Industry Fails to Meet the Challenge
5. The Industry at the End of World War Two
6. The Joint Coal Board and Queensland Coal Board Era Commences
7. Post War Industrial Relations
8. Mechanisation the Catchery: the 1950s
9. The Queensland Giant Comes Alive

Cost is \$49.95 plus \$4.00 for postage.

To order see link below:  
[www.connorcourtpublishing.com.au](http://www.connorcourtpublishing.com.au)

Denis is also working on a second volume which covers the period from the 1970s to the present, and he hopes it will be published in 2020.

**Karl Wolzac**, *No Royalty No Deal: The Story of Royce (Bill) William Allen – Prospector, Karl Wolzac, Digital Printing, 2019*.

**Karl Wolzac**, a member of the AMHA and AusIMM, is a cartographer/surveyor and principal of Resource Mapping Pty Ltd, and has

written this fascinating book on WA 'battler' Bill Allen who was responsible for discovering among other deposits, the 'Golden Cities' deposit, which currently has an indicated source of 1,124 million ozs of gold. A modest man, in 2005 he was honoured by being voted by his peers as Prospector of the Year by the Amalgamated Leaseholder and Prospectors Association. As noted in the preface, Bill breathed life into an area that had previously been designated as of little interest to gold miners, and the 'discovery turned accepted geological thinking on its head and opened a whole new province that can no longer be ignored'.

But this fascinating account goes further than just the story of Bill Allen's trials and tribulations, as the story is prefaced by the author's excellently researched background into the gold mining industry in Western Australia. As the author points out, before Bill's discoveries, 'The mere thought of gold in granites in the Eastern Goldfields ... was considered farcical but not to Bill, he had faith. The Golden Cities mines went on to become the second largest gold in granite deposit in the world'.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Condolences to Robert Ashley and family on the death of his wife Elizabeth, on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Elizabeth who attended the Beechworth conference along with Robert in 2013, will be fondly remembered by those who were also present. Elizabeth had suffered a long illness, but as reported by Robert, she 'died peacefully in her sleep and in death was most dignified'.

### **OBITUARY**

**Jim Enever (17 December 1945 – 09 October 2019)**

It came as a shock to those who attended the Atherton Conference in July, to hear that Jim Enever passed away in October, for he was very much part of the proceedings, providing us with a paper in his usual erudite style. Jim who has been one of our staunchest supporters, having

provided articles in a few of our journals, and numerous papers at our conferences will be greatly missed. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Margery who always accompanied Jim to our conferences, and also to the family. Thanks to son, David Enever, for providing the following obituary to his father. As noted, Jim was a man of many parts, and contributed much to society.

### **VALE JIM ENEVER**

Jim grew up in Brighton. He was the son of the well-known butcher, Albert, and Scottish Immigrant Margaret. He attended Brighton State School and then Brighton Tech where he exhibited an academic bent. He then went to RMIT where he simultaneously completed diplomas in civil engineering, geology and mining engineering. He did this in the time most of his peers completed one. He then converted his civil engineering diploma into a bachelors at Melbourne University and went on to complete his master's degree. His special interest was the field of stress in the earth's crust and its relationship to the stability of mining and civil excavations. After a brief stint at BHP Jim obtained a role at CSIRO where he eventually became a senior principal research scientist and program manager. Jim authored and co-authored over 90 scientific papers, presenting his research all over the world where he gained an international reputation. His research, that was developed over 30 years ago is still being used today as the international standard for rock stress investigations.

Jim enjoyed many sports with varied success. An early enthusiasm was skiing, where he and some scout mates built a ski lodge at Mount Baw Baw during the 60s. It was a weekend at the lodge where Jim met Marj. They went on to marry in 1970.

In retirement Jim and Marj moved to Somers, and Jim went back to university where he completed post graduate diplomas in Archaeology and History. Amongst other things, Jim became an active member of the

Frankston Lapidary club. Jim and Marj continued to travel extensively, both overseas and within Australia. Often, they would fossick for semi-precious stones that could later be cut and set into jewellery. Marj couldn't wear it all so they started a market stall and sold the gems under the banner Jim's Gems.

*James Roger Enever*



Jim was always in search of the next challenge, and he threw himself into many endeavours. Jim's lifelong passion for mining and history was satisfied when he discovered the Australian Mining History Association. He spent many hours of his final years cloistered in libraries, online or traveling around Australia researching his latest paper. He loved every minute of it! He regularly delivered papers at the annual conferences and some were published in the journal. He looked forward to each conference where he would enjoy catching up with other members of the association, many of whom had become friends.

Sadly, Jim died at the Alfred Hospital on the 9th October 2019. Many friends and family attended his memorial at the Somers Yacht Club on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2019.

*David Enever*

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Victorian Local History Grants Program, 2019-2020 Applications Open**

The Victorian Government recognises that local and community history is an important part of Victoria's memory. The Local History Grants Program encourages and fosters community activities that preserve, record and share the local, social and community history of Victoria and Victorians.

**Applications due 8 January 2020**

[Further information](#)

## **JOURNAL**

As paid up members will know, Volume 17 of our journal was published and mailed out in early November. However, that doesn't mean that we now sit on our laurels, for we are keen to receive articles of the next volume.

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 webpage or email me for a copy.

*The Ed.*

## **HELP NEEDED**

The Website Administration Group is looking for an additional volunteer to assist with developing and maintaining the AMHA website. Some familiarity with websites and particularly WordPress would be an advantage. If you can help please contact Ken McQueen ([Ken.McQueen@canberra.edu.au](mailto:Ken.McQueen@canberra.edu.au)) or the Secretary ([mel.davies@uwa.edu.au](mailto:mel.davies@uwa.edu.au)).

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Please see the attached membership form and pay by cheque, or preferably register on-line at **Register Now**, through the following link Also on the web page):

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=37235>

**MJD/Dec'19**

