



AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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Newsletter No. 4 December 2021

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ISSUE 107

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

EDITORIAL

Welcome to 2022 and a blast from the recent past, i.e. the (nominally) December 2021 Newsletter. I hope you're all well and unworried by the latest version of the pandemic. I keep hearing 'it'll all be over by February...' – kind of like 'it'll all be over by Christmas' in 1914. As long as it's mainly over by September in Burra!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Some items from President Nick Williams' latest email newsletter:

Ed Zbik's **survey** of approximately 900 Australian Historical Societies has received over 100 responses, which Ed is pursuing. We hope some of these respondents will be interested in joining us on projects of mutual interest, such as state based visits to local mining history sites, museums and other collections. Potential problems for such visits, such as insurance, are being worked out at present.

I would like to **thank** all the Executive and Advisory committee members for their work during this rather difficult year. Also, the co-ordinators of the special groups which keep our organization going, but especially Jan Wegner for the Newsletter, Ken McQueen and Steve Imrie for the

website, Rob Barnes for the Facebook page, Ross Both for the Grants Sub Committee, Ross Both and Peter Bell for the Burra organizing committee, and of course Mel Davies for his continuing production of our Journal.

I'm also very pleased to confirm that returning member Jason Nitz has accepted the role of **Journal Editor** for 2022, and he'll be assisted by Wendy Carter as sub-Editor. Howard Tew will take over as Treasurer when Mel Davies retires from that position, which he has held from the very beginning of our organization, in 1994. And for the first time, we have an overseas member on the Advisory committee; we welcome David Knott, from Pennsylvania, USA.

Remembering that **elections** will be held at the AGM at Burra, I would ask you all to consider further involvement in the AMHA. We need an Early Career representative on the Advisory committee, to help us work out the best way to attract younger members; and Ken McQueen really needs more help to run the website.

To round off, I wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season, and hope to see you all in Burra in September 2022.

BITS & PIECES

Mel Davies shared some snippets from the September 2021 issue of *National Resources Review*:

Coal While coal exports to China have suffered because of the diplomatic issues that have been in the news lately, exports to Japan and South Korea have increased which offset the loss to some extent. However, China is increasing the number of its coal-fired power stations while Japan is cancelling planned new stations to meet its emission targets, and South Korea has also planned to reduce its current coal-fired power stations. Both South Korea and China have pledged not to finance any more coal-fired power stations in developing countries, which would mean those countries producing coal will have to export it.

Trade Of the record \$80 bn Australian trade surplus achieved in the financial year ending 30 June 2021, mineral exports accounted for 66%.

Rock Library The Mt Isa Rock Library is being upgraded, with particular emphasis on a dedicated drill core viewing facility which will be climate controlled (very useful in Mt Isa), well-lit and dust-free. It is due for completion in June this year. The collection has samples up to 130 years old.

QUERIES

Can you help Anders?

Anders Aamand from the Danish Broadcast Corporation has sent a request for information via the AMHA Facebook page:

I am a journalist in Danish Broadcast Corporation doing some research about the Danish gold diggers in Victoria in the 1850's. We are doing a TV-show about Danes who have travelled the world making some kind of impact. I am interested in finding the best experts in mining history in Australia. Some one who can help me in my research. In March we are planning to come to Australia to do some location scouting

and meeting people related to one of the old gold diggers (Claus Grøn). In May we will return to do the actual recordings. I hope you can point me in the right direction according to whom to contact.

Kind regards, [Anders Aamand](#) (message Anders through the link)

Informal field trip insurance

Following up on a suggestion for informal local field trips, does anyone belong to an organisation that already does this, and if so how do they handle insurance? Please let Jan Wegner or President Nick Williams know.

CONFERENCE

Arrangements for the Burra conference are being rolled over for 2022 and the call for papers and posters continues to be open. The conference is now on 18-25 September. Contact Ross Both at rosannb@bigpond.net.au with title and abstract. There's a template on the website at <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/next-conference/> where you'll also find the registration link. If you know of any students doing original research into mining history, please let them know about the Student Travel Grant (link also on the website above).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thanks to Ed Zbik for organising our 2021 AGM by Zoom on 10 October. It was very good to see our Patron, Geoff Blainey, present, along with 41 other members. President Nick Williams reported on the AMHA History and other important aspects of the previous year's activities. Other information from the AGM is lurking elsewhere in the Newsletter.

SURVEYS

Membership Survey

The recent AMHA Membership Survey is still open (see Latest President's Letter circulated by email on Tuesday 14/12/21). We are hoping to get at least

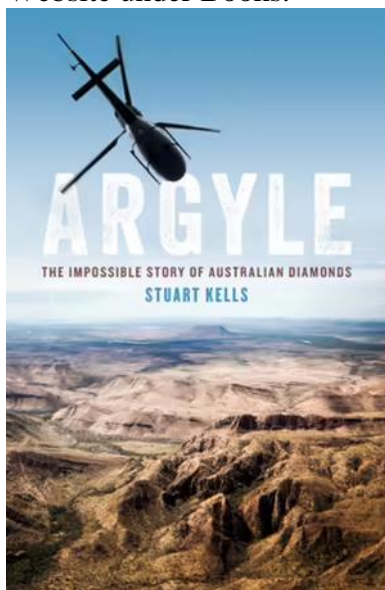
100 responses so we can launch the book prize and get a useful sample of our membership of 205 but so far there are only 78 respondents. The information will help with forward planning of AMHA activities. If you have not done the Survey yet, please take a few moments to complete it. Your feedback and suggestions will be extremely valuable and you can still be in the draw for the book prize valued at over \$100. The Survey Link is <https://s.surveypal.com/br23rbq3> . If you're concerned about privacy, survey results are not linked to individual respondents. You can also be totally anonymous by not including your email address, which is only optional.

PUBLICATIONS

An Interesting Book

Argyle: The Impossible Story of Australian Diamonds by Stuart Kells,

The fascinating story of the discovery and development of the Argyle diamond deposit, the largest known diamond pipe in the world and the source of rare pink diamonds. For details see the AMHA Website under Books.



Check out the list of mining publications on the AMHA website <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/books/>

and let the Newsletter Editor know if you'd like to notify members of a forthcoming book. Reviews of books are also welcome – send to Ken McQueen for a link from the website. Mel Davies would also appreciate publishing details of any new publications. Details are required to keep up to date the AMHA's Bibliography of the Mining History of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Email Mel at mel.davies@uwa.edu.au

JOURNAL

Jason Nitz will be taking over the editorship of our Journal, starting with the 2022 issue, and is asking for articles, book reviews etc. to be submitted as early as possible. Late submissions make things very difficult, as referees have to be organised and printing timelines must be met. If you have a half-completed article in your files, please consider finishing it off, and sending it to Jason at the new address: amhajournaleditor@gmail.com . 'The Instructions to Authors' have been revised and are up on the website; please check these before you submit.

ARTICLE

Jack Barrett contributes the following interesting paper:

Herbert Hoover and his Steps in WA

Between 1929 to 1933 Herbert Hoover was the 31st President of the United States, due to a series of steps after commencing a mining investment career in Western Australia.

Hoover's parents died in Iowa when he was quite young so he was brought up by an uncle and worked for a period as an office assistant for his uncle's real estate office before attending Stanford University. After graduating in geology 1895 and working in various low-level mining jobs in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, he was hired by Bewick, Moreing & Co., a London-based company that operated gold mines in

Western Australia, to look at further investment options there.

After arrival there Hoover formed a link to a small syndicate who were trying to develop an underground mine there on the "Sons of Gwalia" lease area. Seeing its potential, Hoover recommended it as an investment. The London and Western Australian Company subsequently took over control of the mine on 17 November 1897. In January 1898, the London and Western Australian Exploration Company was launched on the London Stock Exchange to acquire the property with Bewick Moreing securing the controlling financial interest. Herbert Hoover was put in charge of L & WA from 1 May 1898. He improved the operations and brought in firmer working arrangements which led to it being successful.

As the improvements to it were nearer completion, he was sent to China for a year where Bewick Moreing established effective control over a Chinese mining company. He then became an operating partner of Bewick Moreing in late 1901 and, whilst being London based, continually travelled the world on behalf of them visiting mines operated by the company on different continents. One of the final mines that the group took over and managed in that phase of his career was the Lancefield Gold Mining Company in Western Australia. It was taken over in July 1904 with Bewick Moreing & Co as general managers and Herbert Hoover, as one of the Directors. The company eventually controlled approximately 50 percent of gold production in Western Australia.

A 1908 share scrip of that company, signed by Hoover as a director, is shown below.

Hoover subsequently left Bewick, Moreing and commenced work as a London-based independent mining consultant and financier. In that phase he was focused on raising money, restructuring corporate organizations, and financing new ventures, specializing in rejuvenating troubled mining operations

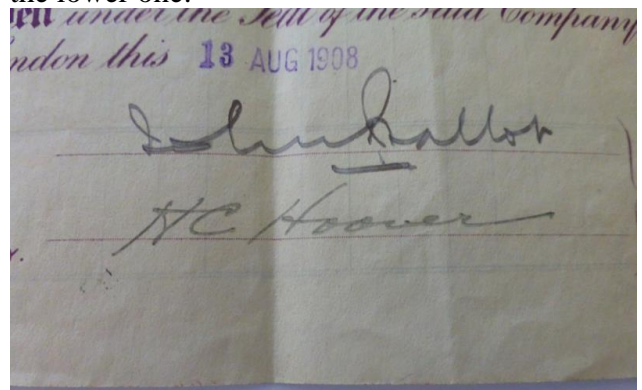
and taking a share of the profits in exchange for his technical and financial expertise.

By 1914, Hoover was a very wealthy man, with an estimated personal fortune of US \$4 million (equivalent to US \$103.35 million in 2020). He then underwent steps that led to him having major roles in America's administration before becoming Secretary of Commerce for the United States from 1921 to 1928 and then being elected as President of the USA in 1929 where he held a four year term.

The scrip and his signature on it:



The directors' signatures are on the lower right hand section of it, Hoover's being the lower one:



SAD NEWS

Bill Criena: President Nick Williams writes 'We extend our sympathy to Criena Fitzgerald and family on the death of her husband, Bill, early in November. Professor Bill Musk was a respiratory physician, and a significant figure in

asbestos disease care and research. His research focus was the epidemiology of respiratory diseases and cancer, particularly related to Wittenoom blue asbestos workers, Kalgoorlie goldminers and the Busselton population.’ (Details taken from obituaries by the National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases, and the Australian Asbestos Network).

Mel Davies adds: Bill was a member and attended a couple of our conferences with Criena, and also attended the International Mining History Congress in Bhubaneswar, India. He also gave a paper at one of our conferences. His contribution to medicine especially in the field of Asbestosis was outstanding, and he will be greatly missed.

Anthony John Hosking: Tony Hosking, a long term and well respected member of the AMHA, died on 14 October last year. A geologist who graduated from University of Adelaide, he worked in Perth with a mining company before moving to Darwin in the early 1980s and working with the Northern Territory Geological Survey. He also worked for ASARCO in the early years of his career. Later he set up his own geological consultant company. In more recent years he searched for gold and base metals in the Tennant Creek area. He was interested in the history of mining in Australia generally, but particularly the Cornish miners in the Moonta area. Our sympathies to his family and partner.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

The Australian Historical Association has a number of prizes which can be found at <http://www.theaha.org.au/awards-and-prizes/>

WEBSITE NEWS

Don't forget that Ken McQueen had to reorganise the AMHA website after an intruder left sticky little pawprints through it. So we'll have to choose new passwords to log into the Members Only page. If you have problems, contact Ken at Ken.McQueen@canberra.edu.au.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The AGM voted to accept an increase in membership subscriptions, by \$10 a year, as of 1 January this year because of rising web costs. Memberships now are: Ordinary members \$45; Joint family membership \$55; unwaged students \$15; Institutions \$60. An additional charge of \$10 will be levied on overseas members to cover postage costs.

Not sure if your membership is up to date? – ask Mel mel.davies@uwa.edu.au . See his latest email for more details.

To pay your membership online, see the Register Now link: <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=37235> or see the attached membership form.

MINING HERITAGE

The biggest export from New Caledonia is minerals, and has been since the 19th century. The island is well known for its nickel mining, the longest running mineral production, leading also to extraction of coal and gypsum for nickel smelting. From 1890 to 1910 the island produced most of the world's cobalt. However, the best-known mining heritage is in the northeast at Ouegoa, where gold mining began in 1870 and copper mining in 1872, though both ended by 1900. Mining created the port of Pam and attracted many Australian miners. A copper smelter was established in 1890 near Pam and the remains, and those of the larger mines, are becoming minor tourist attractions. The photos below are the Pilou-Nemou copper/zinc mine, 1908 and today.



LIKE ORGANISATIONS

Thank you to the North Queensland Miners Association Inc for advertising us in their newsletter. Small miners' and prospectors' associations like this one are very helpful for negotiating the tangles of bureaucratic requirements, and lobbying for small miners, prospectors and fossickers. You can tell how militant they are by the Eureka flag appearing on some home pages! They often have an interest in historic mining fields and mining heritage.

In Queensland, see the Qld Small Miners Council website

<https://www.qsmc.org.au/about-us.htm> .

Victoria: Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria

<https://pmav.org.au/>. An affiliated

organisation is the Victorian Historical Mine Shaft Chasers, a bunch of certifiable danger-seekers who explore old mines. Great photos of underground workings, though – see their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/TheVictorianHistoricalMineChasers/>. Vic also has the

Victorian Metal Detector and Prospectors Association

<https://business.facebook.com/VMDPA/> .

WA: Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association of W.A., the most historic, formed in 1904

<https://www.apla.com.au/>, and Eastern

Goldfields Prospectors Association <https://egpa.org.au/>. Tassie: Prospectors and Miners Association of Tasmania <https://www.pmat.org.au/>. NSW: NSW and ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc <https://www.napfa.net/> . Not all fossicking, prospecting, metal detecting and lapidary clubs belong to these associations (and there are dozens of them) but you can find these on the Prospecting Australia forum <https://www.prospectingaustralia.com.au/forum/>.

NEW AMHA COMMITTEE

The AGM on 10 October saw the election of the 2020-21 Committee below. Thank you to this terrific group of volunteers who will keep our Association going for the next year, and let me know if I've missed anyone:

President: Nick Williams.

Vice President: Ed Zbik

Hon Secretary: Ruth Kerr.

Hon Treasurer: Mel Davies (to retire in favour of Howard Tew at some unspecified date)

Representatives:

ACT Aert Driessen and Ken McQueen.

SA Ross Both.

NSW Ed Zbik, Jason Nitz and Stephen Sortis

NT David Carment and Bev Phelts.

QLD Ruth Kerr OAM and Jan Wegner.

VIC Matthew Churchward, Geoff Anderson, and Ian Scott.

TAS Greg Dickens and Chris Boron

WA Wendy Carter and Howard Tew

NZ Philip Hart and Nic McArthur

International: David Knott, North Versailles, PA, USA

Assistant Journal Editor: Wendy Carter.

Editor in waiting: Matthew Churchward.

Webmaster: Stephen Imrie.

Newsletter editor: Jan Wegner

Facebook co-ordinator: Robert Barnes.

Early Career representative: Still vacant

PHOTO TIME



The Publicity Section's plan to reproduce Stonehenge in dump trucks is finally underway.

Jan Wegner
(Newsletter Editor)

AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION Inc.

ABN 96 220 329 754

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL 2021

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

Membership Fees:

Full memberships	\$45	Please only pay the current year's fee
Joint Family Membership	\$55	as subscription rates may change.
Unwaged Student	\$15	Note: a copy of the annual volume of JAMH is included in the
Institutions:	\$60	fee for all memberships.

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 <https://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 \$.....

Voluntary donation \$.....

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*, 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; V. 18 2020. 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 ,2002, updated to 2020 (In CD only)*. Copies including postage: Aus \$11; NZ \$12; Elsewhere \$13 \$.....

Total \$.....

I would like digital access to the For Members page of the AMHA Website (included in fee) (tick)

Send me: A. a print copy of the JAMH; B. A digital copy only Both A & B (tick applicable)

NEW MEMBERS – For our records, please advise how you learned of 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, Treasurer, AMHA, Business School, Economics MBDP M251, University of Western Australia, Crawley 6009, Western Australia. 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 through *Register Now*. Overseas members should find paying online to be cheaper and more convenient than using other systems. Please note that *Register Now* allows 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=41906>

The link can also be found on the AMHA website under the 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. 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.