



AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL

Here's your March (cough) issue of the Newsletter. When people mention the 'late Jan Wegner', they're not talking funerals and sympathy cards.

Who has been painting a target on south-east Australia? – drought, fire, plague, flood – what's left? We hope our members were not affected by the latest disaster, and extend our sympathies to those who were.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Good news is that, COVID permitting, both Burra 2021 and NZ West Coast 2022 are on the way, with organising committees in place.

Not so good is that I haven't received messages from any potential volunteers for the positions needing to be filled at the Burra AGM. We need a treasurer, a vice-president, an editor-in-waiting, and an early career rep. Contact the current incumbents if you need to know what's involved before you put your hand up (list at the end of the newsletter).

BITS & PIECES

Mel Davies sent a link to the *National Resources Review* web page if you'd like to check it out for recent mining news: <https://www.nationalresourcesreview.com.au/all-news/>.

Mel also notes that *Digging and Drilling Australasia* has a couple of items of interest: "Pilbara Ports Authority (PPA) has introduced a new cash grab, er, port charge at the Port of Port Hedland. Effective from 1 March 2021, the PPA has decreed that vessels exporting iron ore that use the inner harbour of Port Hedland must pay a "Port Hedland Voluntary Buy-Back Scheme" charge." The fee is estimated at \$13,450 per iron ore carrier giving a yearly total income of \$85.4 million, meant to pay for the relocation of nearby houses away from the thick pall of iron ore dust that falls over the neighbourhood of the port. The author wonders why the burden falls on the shipping industry and not the (State Government owned) port, and speculates that even after the area around the port empties of residents, the charge will continue. What a cynic. Federal income tax was introduced to help pay for the First World War, and that's been over for only 103 years.

Another article of interest: "Should oil companies be investing in solar, wind, battery technology and networks of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations? Maybe, in the broader view of themselves as energy companies. And especially if the consumer shifts to EVs faster than expected, crushing demand for

transportation fuels.” BP and Total are leading the charge: “Both have committed to become ‘carbon net zero’ by 2050. For traditional oil giants, this is a radical pivot.” The main areas of investment are solar, wind and biofuels, while plastics recycling and bans on single-use plastics will reduce demand for petrochemicals.

While we’re delving into the future rather than the past, who’s heard of phytomining? ‘Hyperaccumulator’ plants concentrate minerals to the point that they’re economic to grow and harvest. Read more at <https://smi.uq.edu.au/leaders-energy-transition-sustainable-source-critical-metals-phytomining>

Mining has had some bad press recently over destruction of Aboriginal heritage sites, and the national inquiry that revealed how often this has happened despite protests by Aboriginal communities. The Minerals Council of Australia adopted new guidelines at the beginning of March, the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) initiative first started by the Mining Association of Canada in 2004. Among the guidelines are protocols for dealing with Indigenous peoples – see <https://mining.ca/towards-sustainable-mining/protocols-frameworks/indigenous-and-community-relationships/>.

CONFERENCE

AMHA 2021 Conference and Call for Papers - Reminder

The 2021 Conference will be held in Burra, South Australia from 27 September to 1 October, with a post-conference tour to Moonta and Wallaroo on 2-3 October. See the website for details.

There is no specific theme for the conference - oral and poster presentations will be welcome on any topic relevant to mining history. Please submit abstracts to Ross Both (rosannb@bigpond.net.au) by 30th June @ 2021.

A Travel Grant is available to enable a post-graduate, Honours or final year undergraduate student presenter to participate in the conference. If you know of a student who may be interested please refer them to the information on the website.

PUBLICATIONS

Victor Bibby, who members might remember from his interesting talk at the Beechworth Conference in 2013 (The Story of Raub Gold: Castlemaine to Malaya: a Short History of the life in Australia of William Bibby, gold miner and engineer, from 1859 to 1889), has recently published a book that encompasses the life of his father Fred Bibby, and his own which started in Britain before he became a ward of the state in Australia. The story records his life in the Australian army where he rose to become an officer; his life in commercial aviation, and much more. Reference is also made to his ancestor William Bibby and his activities as miner and engineer. For further details and on how to obtain a copy, see the following link:

<http://www.vividpublishing.com.au/fredandme/>

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

JOURNAL

The Editor of the journal wishes to point out that to date he has only received one article for Volume 19, 2021. He therefore wishes to appeal for contributions. Please contact him at mel.davies@uwa.edu.au if you have something in preparation that you would like considered for publication.

AMHA 25 YEAR HISTORY PROJECT

The documentation of the 25 year history of the AMHA is progressing slowly. A short Summary section has been compiled by Ken McQueen and Nick Williams,

with help from a small number of members. The second more detailed section entitled 'Highlights and Details' is still incomplete and Nick is keen to get more input from members, including photographs from conferences, field trips and of people. To help with inspiration, why not send Nick a short statement about what you have experienced as a highlight or perhaps your most memorable/unusual story during your membership of the AMHA. There must be some interesting tales to tell and record.

WEBSITE NEWS

We really do need more help with some aspects of the website. Ken McQueen would welcome help from members with some expertise.

Having problems logging in to the Members Only page? – contact Ken at Ken.McQueen@canberra.edu.au.

MINING HERITAGE

Your newsletter editor and Dr Dave Phoenix have been conducting a significance assessment of the Herberton Mining Museum, which many of you visited during the Atherton conference. As well as the mineral collections, interpretive displays and artefacts you would have seen, the Museum has a large and growing archives with an emphasis on tin dredging, hard rock tin mining, geological consulting and Herberton's social and community life. Anyone wanting to research the archives should contact Mary Searston (Searstons@gmail.com)

Another mining heritage trail: the 3 km Greenbushes Mining Heritage Walk in W.A., created by Talison Lithium in conjunction with the community around 2006. It features shafts and adits dating from the late 1880s and a modern open cut. It is closed at the moment because of

work for the Talison Lithium Expansion Project. Apparently Greenbushes has largest hard rock deposit of the lithium mineral spodumene in the world.

If you know of a good mining heritage trail, write a short description and send it in.

QUERIES

James Andrew Adams is undertaking a PhD in business history at the University of NSW, and is looking for information on jewellers in NSW 1901-1929. In particular he wants to find where they sourced their materials. He states that knowing where Australian miners sent their ore would be helpful, whether to local processors or overseas. Anyone who knows either secondary or primary sources which might answer these questions can contact James at j.a.g.adams@hotmail.com.

Kathy Allen writes: "Have a picture marked 'Australia' in the late 1800s or early 1900s of a group of men with the title of 'Deepsinkers'. As my husband's grandfather and grandmother came to Canada from Australia we are trying to find out something about this picture. Grandfather's name was William Charles Allen, his grandmother's name was Elsie". Anyone with information can contact Kathy at bkallen13@shaw.ca.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

While the Treasurer was pleased to receive a number of membership renewals after his last appeal that was included in the Burra Questionnaire email, there are still a large number who have not yet responded. He would appreciate any outstanding renewals. He also points out that if you are not sure if you have paid, then please contact him at mel.davies@uwa.edu.au

To pay online, see the Register Now link:

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

PHOTO TIME

You'd get a few muscles from operating spring dollies to crush your ore. This elaborate contraption is in the *Queensland Government Mining Journal* November 1908. The one following is in the *Queensland Government Mining Journal* of May 1908. Does anyone know of any studies of spring dollies?



VIC Matthew Churchward and Ian Scott.
TAS Chris Boron and Greg Dickens.
WA Wendy Carter and Howard Tew.
NZ Philip Hart and Nic McArthur.
Assistant Journal Editor: Nick Williams.
Editor in waiting: Matthew Churchward.
Webmaster: Stephen Imrie.
Facebook co-ordinator: Robert Barnes.
Early Career representative: Still vacant

Jan Wegner
(Newsletter Editor)

CURRENT AMHA COMMITTEE

President: Nick Williams
Vice-President: Nic Haygarth
Secretary: Ruth Kerr
Treasurer and Journal Editor: Mel Davies
Representatives:
ACT Aert Driessen and Ken McQueen.
SA Peter Bell, Ross Both.
NSW Stephen Shortis and Ed Zbik.
NT David Carment and Bev Phelts.
QLD Ruth Kerr OAM and Jan Wegner.

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 \$35 **Please only pay the current year's fee**
Joint Family Membership \$45 as subscription rates may change.
Unwaged Student \$15 **Note:** a copy of the annual volume of JAMH is included in the
Institutions: \$50 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.