



**AUSTRALASIAN
MINING
HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter Editor: Jan Wegner
Janice.Wegner@jcu.edu.au

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Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2023, and if you were doing anything exciting over the Easter break, I hope the weather was good to you.

Please note President Nick's plea for a Vice-President to replace Edward Zbik. Ed has been a powerhouse for the AMHA with various projects such as the seminar series and the survey of societies involved in mining history, and using his Zoom expertise to organise meetings. We are very sorry to hear he's been laid low with health problems and hope he has a full recovery from them soon.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Some of you may remember the two Polish delegates (Monika and Jan) to our Atherton conference, who told us about their upcoming mining history conference in the ancient salt mining town of Wieliczka, and hoped some of us would be able to attend. COVID upset the arrangements, as it did ours, but the conference is now going ahead, and the organising committee had asked that a delegate could attend from the AMHA. Ed Zbik, a Polish speaker, was all set to go, but his health has now deteriorated, and he's had to pull out.

I'm delighted to tell you that ex-president Nic Haygarth will now be our delegate to the conference next month, centred on the

historic salt mine. (do check it out, www.muzeum.wieliczka.pl.) The salt industry there dates back to 4000 BCE, and rock salt mining started in the second half of the C13th. There are many kilometre of galleries; shafts, chambers of all sizes, murals, chandeliers, carvings, all made of salt. The museum also holds a unique collection of original wooden vertical hauling machines, mining equipment and tools. The mine and the Saltworks Castle above are now included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Mike and I visited in 1989, and found it all amazing.

We hope Nic has a wonderful visit, and look forward to his photos and more detail at our next meeting".

Nick Williams (President).

Nick further asks that people consider volunteering first for Vice-President, as Edward Zbik has unfortunately had to resign, with a view to taking over as President at the Reefton conference for at least a year. She has a volunteer who is willing to become Vice-Pres at Reefton. So if you'd like to continue the good work of previous Presidents, or you'd like more information on what's involved, contact Nick at nicolahw9@gmail.com.

And a personal note:

WARNING: emails purporting to be from Nick, but wrong email address, are being sent to some members. Please always

check address of origin, and if not recognised, don't click on any links in message, just delete.

JOURNAL

Just a reminder that Journal editor Lyndon Megarrity is looking for contributions to the next edition of the journal. All kinds of articles related to mining history are welcome, and are due by 1 July 2023. Details on how to submit an article are found on the AMHA's website, or please email drlyndon@bigpond.net.au for more information.

Don't forget to let Lyndon know any area of your mining history expertise that would make you a great reviewer for Journal articles – former editor Mel said once that finding reviewers was the most difficult task for an editor!

BITS & PIECES

INHIGEO (International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences) has an interesting web page with short pieces on various aspects of the history of geology as a discipline, including NSW, Tasmania and NZ. See <https://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries.html>

The **Earth Sciences History Group** is still looking for short biographies of the following, with emphasis on their contributions to geology, for their website:

Edward de Courcy Clarke
Richard Daintree
Samuel Benson Dickinson
Norman Henry (Doc) Fisher
Charles Gould
John Walter Gregory
Dorothy Hill
Edwin Sherbon Hills
Terence D Hills
Joseph Beete Jukes
Clive Loftus-Hills
Lyndon Charles Noakes
Reginald Claude Sprigg
William Harper Twelvetrees

George Henry Frederick Ulrich

Leonard Keith Ward

Samuel Warren Carey

For examples of what they're looking for, see

https://www.gsa.org.au/Public/Specialist/Earth_Sciences_History_ESHG/ESHG_Biographies/Public/Specialist_Groups/ESHG_Sub_Pages/ESHG_Biographies.aspx?key=1bfc25ca-efd5-4f91-9536-dabf175139ce

The **AusIMM Heritage Committee** has loaded on their webpage some interesting films taken around the world in 1936 and 1939 by metallurgist Samuel Turrell, including scenes of Kalgoorlie, Tasmania, Broken Hill, Mt Isa, Norseman, Mt Morgan, other WA mines and South Australia. You can find the links to the films and film notes at <https://www.ausimm.com/communities/committees/ausimm-heritage-committee/> Not often you find such detailed images of mining and processing plants pre-WWII.

For more interesting bits and pieces, check our Facebook and Instagram pages: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/720189911426071/> . If you're not a Facebook fan and want to post mining related stuff, contact Robert Barnes barnesrg112@hotmail.com . Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/australasian_mining_history/?hl=en , administrator June Scott.

CONFERENCES

Reefton The next AMHA Conference is in New Zealand, 15-21 October. Intending presenters should keep checking the website at <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/next-conference/> as registration will be up soon. Offers of both oral and poster presentations can be made by submitting an extended Abstract. To ensure a consistent format and assist with editing, please use the abstract template, which can be downloaded as a Word file at the

link below. Abstracts should be up to a one page in length including text, images and references. and printed on a single page. Send Abstracts to John Taylor at taylor.john.nz@gmail.com. See <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/next-conference/> for links to the preliminary program, abstract template, accommodation and registration. Advice from Reefton: book your accommodation soon!

Poland

Don't forget the conference at the Cracow Saltworks Museum in Wieliczka, Poland. The **2nd International Conference of Mining and Underground Museums (ICMUM2023)** will be held from 22 to 25 May 2023, and the sessions and accompanying events will be organised in salt and coal mines and historic surface facilities belonging to these institutions, in Wieliczka and Zabrze in Poland.

More details available on the conference website www.icmum.pl.

You could then holiday in Europe and stick around so you could attend the **48th INHIGEO Annual Symposium**, Kraków (Poland), 31 July – 4 August 2023, with field trips from 26 July. Conference themes are: the history of geological mapping; the history of mining and old mines as objects of geological and mining heritage and their contemporary use (tourist, balneological objects, etc.); history of geodiversity conservation and the formation of geoparks; origin and development of geological research; and general contributions and biographies of famous geologists. See

https://www.inhigeo.com/First_Circular_2023.pdf and <https://www.inhigeo.com/symposia.html>.

The society is offering some limited assistance to students and early career scholars to attend. They don't have to be members, but do have to give a paper.

UK

Then there's the **NAMHO (National Association of Mining History Organisations) conference** in Grasmere, the Lakes District, Friday 7th to Monday 10th July 2023. Some great field trips planned. See the conference website https://www.namho.org/conf2023/confpages/conf_home.php.

USA

The American Mining History Association conference is 8-11 June at Socorro, New Mexico, home of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, where the conference will take place. The area was known for silver-lead and zinc, and more recently, perlite. If you're planning a visit to the U.S. of A. in June and would like to attend, check <https://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/Socorro2023.htm>.

I like the way they refer to election of a new President at their Conferences as the 'passing of the pick'. If someone has an old mining tool in their collection they'd like to donate, maybe we could start a similar tradition – similar to the long-lost AMHA Coathanger.



Passing of the pick, 2019.

Northern Territory

The **Chinese Heritage in Northern Australia Inc (CHINA Inc)**, in conjunction with Darwin's **Chung Wah Society**, is planning its annual conference in Darwin in 2024. The NT is the only place in Australia that Chinese miners took to hard rock mining in a big way, and they dominated gold mining there.

Should be some interesting papers come out of it. If you're interested, keep an eye on <https://chinainc.yolasite.com/>

CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS

Mt Isa is celebrating its centenary – it's been 100 years since prospector John Campbell Miles found silver-lead there in 1923. He sent off his mineral specimens for analysis on 23 February, now considered Mt Isa Day, but did not start Mount Isa Mines until 19 January the next year. Keep an eye on the Mt Isa City Council website for events <https://www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/100years>

Some of you may remember our visit to Irvinebank during the Atherton conference. The Irvinebank Festival will be held 5-6 August.



The various State National Trusts are holding the annual Heritage Festival in April - May. You can search for events near you at https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/explore/?content=ahf_event&ahfdate-search=. Some mining towns are involved such as Kalgoorlie's Museum of the Goldfields, and Greenbushes (WA) Community Mining Heritage Festival 22 April.

If you enjoyed last year's conference in South Australia's Copper Triangle, you might like to re-visit for the Kernewek-Lowender Cornish Copper Festival 15-21 May. <https://www.kernewek.org/> for details.



PUBLICATIONS

Some new books in our list on the AMHA website <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/books/>. Anyone want to write a review of one for the website, the Journal, or the Newsletter?

Let the Newsletter Editor know if you'd like to notify members of a forthcoming book, and don't forget to also let Mel Davies know about new publications so he can 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

SAD NEWS

Some of you will have received Richard Mazzucchelli's email about the death of his beloved wife Brenda on the 3rd of March. Brenda attended some of our conferences so she will be known to many of us. Our heartfelt sympathies to Richard.

MEMBERS ONLINE

Guess who turned up on the American Mining History Association web page photos for their 2017 conference in Alaska – looks like they were enjoying weather very different from their home places!



The Gold Daughters from Down Under. Rhonda Matthews (left) is from Queensland and Wendy Carter (right) is from the Kimberly of Western Australia.

NEW FINDS ON OLD MINING FIELDS

Old mining fields never die. In the news lately: The Alice River goldfield on Cape York Peninsula was a very minor field, mined from 1903 to 1917 and again in the big gold boom in the 1980s. Pacgold has intersected some high-grade shoots at depth, leading them to believe that earlier miners just clipped the top of one shoot. In the meantime, Transition Resources has also explored deeper than previous miners at its Duck Creek copper tenements near Cloncurry and is cutting a high grade resource. Copper mining began in that district in 1868. Galileo Mining has found a new sulphide deposit of palladium, platinum, nickel, copper and gold at Norseman (first mined in 1893). Then there's the McPhillamys gold project beginning near Bathurst (first gold mining in Australia, 1851) and the discovery of a 2.6kg nugget (gold in quartz) by a prospector using a metal detector near Ballarat, also mined since 1851.

The Queensland government is taking advantage of interest in critical minerals, opening the Wolfram Camp and Bamford Hill tungsten areas to tender for exploration (first mined 1891, last mined 2018). This is a pilot project for re-commercialisation of abandoned mines. The advantage to the government is having an abandoned mine, with no remediation done, off their hands. Should

be interesting – watch this space. Unfortunately the proposed revival of Mt Morgan, reworking tailings by Heritage Minerals, has failed.

*First I'm waste, then I'm ore,
then I'm waste again. I don't
know who I am anymore, doc.*



The real victim when new technology re-opens old mines (from The Art and Humour of John Kilburn: Cartoons from The Northern Miner)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

To make the process of payment painless and quick, you can use the following link to Register Now: <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=49088> which really will get you to 2023 memberships now, honest.

If paying by direct bank transfer please make sure you enter your given name and surname as a reference, and also email or mail your membership/registration form showing your preferences for type of membership etc. You can access the membership form on the web page <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au> or at the end of this newsletter and send that to AMHATreasurer23@gmail.com. For account details for direct bank transfer or mailing address for cheques, contact the Treasurer at the email address provided above.

WEBSITE EXPERT STILL NEEDED

IT-technophile needed to help update our Website. Please contact Ken McQueen ken.mcqueen@canberra.edu.au.

AMHA COMMITTEE

President: Nick Williams.
Vice President: **VACANT**
Hon Secretary: Ruth Kerr.
Hon Treasurer: Warwick Chant
Membership secretary: Bev Phelts
State Representatives:
ACT Aert Driessen and Ken McQueen.
SA Ross Both and Peter Bell
NSW Jason Nitz and Stephen Shortis
NT David Carment and Bev Phelts.
QLD Ruth Kerr OAM and Jan Wegner.
VIC Matthew Churchward and Geoff Anderson
TAS Chris Boron (retiring), Nic Haygarth
WA Wendy Carter and Howard Tew
NZ Philip Hart and John Taylor
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Journal Editor: Lyndon Megarrity
Website administration: Stephen Imrie, Ken McQueen, Jenny Scott
Newsletter editor: Jan Wegner
Facebook co-ordinator: Robert Barnes.
Instagram co-ordinator: June Scott.
Early Career representative: **VACANT**

PHOTO TIME



Table tennis, 1880s, somewhere in Queensland.

Anyone who's visited the residence areas of a mining site knows what interesting home uses mining equipment can be put to, but this one takes the cake (and yes, it was posed, but apparently cameras *were* capable of dealing with a ball in mid-air by the 1880s!)

Jan Wegner
(Newsletter Editor)

JUST FOR FUN



Too ambitious (note the brand name on the forklift – just add 'ia' to see how the boss probably reacted)

SOME HORRIBLE MINING JOKES

I saw a man with soot all over his face carrying a large pick and wearing a yellow hard hat and orange overalls. But those are just miner details.

In a mine, what do you find next to the basalt?
The bapepper.

I've just seen a geologist sitting in a bar talking to a piece of coal. He must be carbon dating.

What's another name for fool's gold?
Shamrock.

A pyromaniac got a bag of coal for Christmas...
Was he naughty or nice?

(There will be worse next newsletter if no-one contributes any better!)

AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION Inc.

ABN 96 220 329 754

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL 2023

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 Editor'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; V.19 2021. Please Circle choices: \$.....

Price per copy for items in 1 & 2: Aus \$20; NZ \$27; Elsewhere \$30. (includes postage) **SEE special offer on the Journal at <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/news-items/>**

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:

AMHATreasurer23@gmail.com

Payment by Cheque: Cheques should be made payable to AMHA. Contact Warwick Chant on the email above for a postal address. 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=49088>
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.