



**AUSTRALASIAN
MINING
HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**

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EDITORIAL

Sadly our conference is yet another victim of the Delta COVID-19 strain. Even Cairns suffered the terrible inconvenience of a three day lockdown (I'm waiting for members in NSW and Victoria to blow a gasket over that statement...) Current talk by various governments about opening up may mean we'll finally see each other in Burra next year.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(in case you missed her email about the cancellation of our conference):

Burra Conference organisers Peter, Ross and Philip are happy for it to be rescheduled to September next year; John Taylor says that 'Reefton isn't going anywhere', and that ~September 2023 will be fine for the West Coast NZ conference; and Wendy Carter has said that 2024 for Leonora may be even better than 2023. There is also great enthusiasm among various influential members of that local community, who really want the AMHA to go there, which is most encouraging.

So, we can shunt everything on by around 12 months, which is a great relief. Mel is contacting the current Burra registrants with information about refunds, and I remind all who have

booked accommodation to cancel those bookings too.

Please consider volunteering, or arranging nominations for, the positions which need to be filled for the coming year, as I outlined in President's Letter #2: Election of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor and Advisory Committee; and appointment of Editor, Assistant Journal Editor, Editor-in-Waiting, Webmaster, Facebook Coordinator, and Early Career Representative.

Looking forward to meeting you all, at least on Zoom, for this year, but face to face next year,

Nick

BITS & PIECES



This interesting bridge is the High Trestle Trail Bridge in Madrid, Ohio. The website says: "41 geometric steel frames encircle the pathway along the bridge, creating a design similar to the view through a mine shaft and a nod to Iowa's coal mining history." If an Iowa coal mine shaft looked like this, someone should have sacked the mine manager.

QUERIES

Field Trip Invitation Qld: My name is Philip Dudley, I live in Brisbane, I am a retired geologist and I recently joined the AMHA. I have an interest in organizing regular field trips to places of interest for members of the AMHA. These trips might be only of a day or two to visit an old or even current mining site and perhaps including say a short camping trip in the area, or indeed something of a longer duration with some travel involved. Some possible suggestions might be to visit the revitalized Silver Spur Mining operation in Texas, Qld, a visit to Gympie to have a good look at the historic gold mining operations there and next year in the cooler months, a trip up to Chillagoe to visit the historic townships and mining sites in the area. I suggest if this is something you would like to be kept informed about, you could contact me via email or text message to be placed on a list of interested people who would be kept informed about any forthcoming trips. Love to hear from you. Philip Dudley pandmdudley@gmail.com or text me on 0488488204.

Dr Mark Pinner

mark.pinner79@gmail.com is looking for photographs from the 19th century that show miners and brass bands together. The specific area of interest is in Newcastle NSW, with anything from the miners' strikes of 1861 – probably too early, although one photo of the Waratah Miners' Band exists – up to 1888. The 1874 agreement between miners and the managers is also of interest.

This is for a music journal article.

Jason Nitz says: I'm after people's feedback on what they found appealed to them most at a historical mine site they've visited in the past in terms of its presentation and historical impact. In other words, what made them think "that was a great visit and well presented site?" Was it the informational story boards? The old machinery on display? Artefacts found around the mine that show its history? Old photos and stories?

The context is I've just returned from the US where I worked for Newmont in Colorado, and I'm now living in Orange as I have a new role with Newcrest at Cadia as Manager - Technology & Innovation. I recently visited the Wentworth Main Mine at Lucknow and thought it was well preserved and a great little gem in Lucknow. The Orange City Council bought the mine some years ago and allocates a small budget for its upkeep, but not enough to create an outstanding visitor experience. I'm hoping if we can get some ideas from members as to what they felt made their visit to a historic mine memorable, we can implement aspects of that, or at least put it to Council for further funding. I've recently registered with the Council as a volunteer and will spend my time at the mine on weekends when it's open to the public.

People can respond directly to me (jason.nitz@gmail.com) or they can respond to the AMHA Facebook post, though by the time the newsletter comes out it could be down the list a bit.

CONFERENCES

Papers offered for 2021 will of course now be presented at the 2022 conference (she said, optimistically), and the call for papers continues to be open. 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/>

Nick Williams contributed this notice:

The Australian Opal Centre is delighted to be hosting the first Science of Opal Formation Symposium on 22 October 2021, in collaboration with colleagues from around Australia.

This will be a half-day forum conducted online via Zoom, with expert speakers from a range of research areas. There will be sessions on the geological environments of opal formation, physical and chemical processes, the age of opal, formation of opalised fossils, and applications of research to opal exploration.

There's a nominal fee of \$15 to cover costs, with student registrations free of charge. Register or Find Out More <https://events.humanitix.com/science-of-opal>

The aim of this event is to bring together researchers and others interested in the science of formation of precious opal, to discuss current knowledge and future research. We will be looking to identify and document common knowledge, identify knowledge gaps, then look to target future research on these areas. This will be a short, sharp online symposium to lay the groundwork for future research and symposia. Proceedings will be documented as a paper summarising current understandings, areas of dispute / uncertainty, and future research priorities.

Everyone is welcome - feel free to circulate this notice. If you represent an organisation, please extend this invitation to your members or colleagues on our behalf.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Committee have set the date for the AGM at 10 October 2021 at 2pm AEDT by Zoom. Thanks to Ed Zbik's expertise,

last year's Zoomed AGM went smoothly so hopefully all will be well again this year. It's too late to put up motions to change the constitution, but other matters can be raised at the general meeting following the AGM. For the agendas, you should have received those in an email from our secretary, Ruth Kerr – if you haven't, please let Ruth or another of the Committee know. Ed Zbik has just emailed the Zoom link (2 October) so check your inbox and save that email.

PUBLICATIONS

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

With no conference for two years running, there are no conference presentations being converted to papers for the Journal. Mel, our Journal Editor, found offers coming in slowly for this year's forthcoming issue and is worried that the trickle will reduce even further for next year's. So, start developing those ideas you've been mulling over for some time.

AWARDS

Two of our members have been honoured by the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, Dr Ruth Kerr OAM and Dr Lenore Layman AM.

The Council of FAHS “unanimously decided to award a Fellowship to Dr Ruth

Kerr, OAM. They did so on the basis of the extraordinary contribution made by her in such areas as community history leadership.

Ruth Kerr commenced her professional career as a high school teacher at Goomeri, Murgon, Yeronga and Ipswich. She subsequently joined the Queensland public service where she served in many roles in Archives, the Parliamentary Library, Crown Law Office, and the Mines and Energy and Primary Industries Departments. With her legal qualifications she rose to a senior position dealing with mining leases and native title issues.

Ruth has long had an interest in mining history, and wrote her PhD in History on mining entrepreneur, John Moffat, and has been the President of the Australasian Mining History Association. She has also been a member of many other history and heritage organisations, and frequently has been an office bearer. Her memberships have included the Brisbane City Council Heritage Advisory Committee, the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (Australian Branch), the Institute of Public Administration, the Australian Society of Historical Archaeologists and the Australian Society of Archivists. Ruth was a founding member of the Professional Historians Association (Queensland) in 1990 and President in 1992-95 and 2004-07 and on the Management Committee 1990-2000 and 2003 to date.

She has written numerous publications which have made a significant contribution to local, mining, school and institutional history relating to Queensland, Northern Territory, New South Wales and Tasmania.

Since 2007 Ruth has been an Adjunct Professor of History, Philosophy,

Religion and the Classics at the University of Queensland.

It is Ruth's contribution to the community history and heritage movement that FAHS most wishes to recognise. She has been a councillor of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland for over 40 years and is a former President of that Society (1992-95 – the first female President) and has been the Honorary Secretary since 1995. She has also been the longest-serving member of the FAHS Council, from 1987 to 2020, serving as President from 2000-04 and 2012-14, and as Honorary Secretary of on three occasions, 1995-2000, 2008-12 and 2014-20.

Ruth has been given many awards for her service including the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1999, The Certificate of Distinction for a decade of Excellence in Native Title Work, Life membership of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, the MacGregor Medal for Meritorious Service in The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, the John Kerr Medal of Distinction for Research and Writing Australian History and the John White Medal for research assistance in medical topics.

FAHS also recognises the establishment in 2005 by The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Professional Historians' Association (Queensland) of the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction, in memory of her very endearing and much-missed late husband, who was a Councillor, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Librarian of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and a founder and Honorary Treasurer of the Professional Historians' Association (Queensland). The award is now named the John and Ruth Kerr Medal."

Congratulations to Ruth, who is pictured below with Dr Don Garden OAM, FAHS President, in June 2021 at the presentation of the Fellowship.



The Council also unanimously agreed to award a Fellowship to Dr Lenore Layman AM for her contribution to the research and writing of History.

The work by Lenore which merited the decision to grant her the Fellowship included “her work nationally as the expert historian for the Australian Asbestos Network Project team, as well as her publications on matters such as migration and movable heritage, and her membership of the Australian Dictionary of Biography Board. Within Western Australia Lenore has published in the fields of occupational health and safety in the mining industry, and occupational health and ethical imperatives in oral history practice. She has been a President of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and is still a member of its Council. Lenore is an Adjunct Professor of History at Murdoch University where her teaching career took place.”

The photograph below shows Lenore holding the certificate just presented to her by Bob Nicholson, Federation Councillor and Chair of the Awards Committee. Congratulations to Lenore!



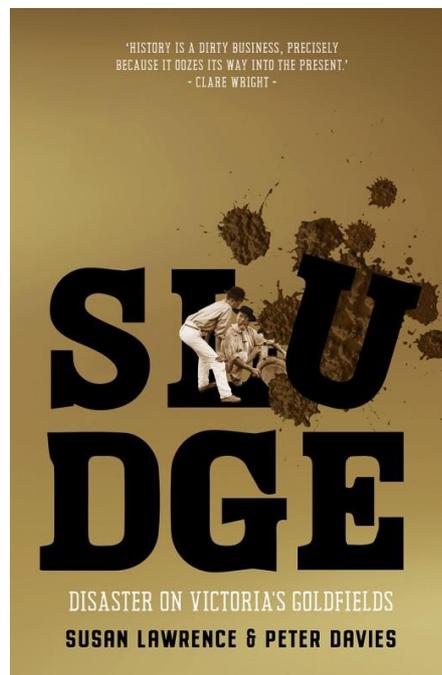
Book Commendations

We missed the commendations last year for *Sludge: Disaster on Victoria's Goldfields* by members Susan Lawrence and Peter Davies.

Shortlisted, 2020 Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Australian History

Highly commended, 2020 Graham Connah Award for Best Publication.

The story of Victoria’s alluvial mining sludge is a fascinating one. Congratulations to Susan and Peter.



SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

This message from Women & Leadership Australia: We are currently offering professional development scholarships for the Australasian Mining History Association staff and members. The

scholarships are open to women across all areas of the mining and resources sector, and we encourage you to share this opportunity with your members.

Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) supports emerging, middle, and senior women leaders across all sectors and industries. Our career-defining leadership programs bring together a focus on applied learning with the latest in leadership theory and practice. We believe that advancing gender equity, especially in leadership, is central to creating a more fair and inclusive society.

Through our Industry Partnership Framework, we work with hundreds of Australian associations and professional bodies to increase awareness and action around gender equity. With your support, we can continue to create meaningful opportunities for women leaders across the country.

To encourage more women to step into leadership roles across the mining and resources sector, WLA is offering scholarships for three leadership development courses. Scholarships of \$1000-\$5000 per person are available for women in the mining and resources sector. Apply by 30 November or find out more by clicking here: <https://www.wla.edu.au/miningresources.html>

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

WEBSITE NEWS

Ken McQueen is, as ever, doing a great job on the website, but it's a lot of work and he would welcome help from members with some time and/or expertise. He reports that there was a recent intruder on our website, who had done a small amount of damage. Ken organised a

cleanup, and everything is now OK again. This is why we have to choose new passwords.

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Mel is a forgiving soul so if you haven't paid your membership dues yet, do contact him and cough up. 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>

or see the attached membership form.

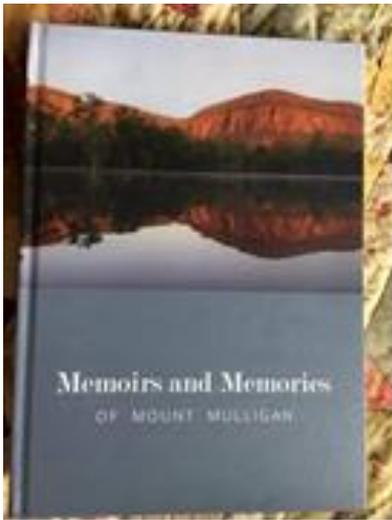
MINING HERITAGE



THE CABLE DRUMS, BLOWN 50 FT. FROM THEIR FOUNDATIONS.

19 September was the centenary of the Mt Mulligan coal mine disaster, still the worst in Queensland's history with 75 (or 76) killed in a coal dust explosion. The definitive history of the disaster is still Peter Bell's book, the latest edition titled *Alas it seems cruel: the Mount Mulligan Coal Mine Disaster of 1921*. Listen to Peter's radio interview on the disaster at <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/north-qld-drive/mount-mulligan-disaster/13551374>

To commemorate the occasion the families of Mt Mulligan (Ngarrabulgan) have produced a book of reminiscences about the town. It can be ordered from the Facebook page below.



This aerial photo of the Mt Mulligan plant remains was posted by Mark Parcell on the Tribute Mt Mulligan facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1549614635362839/media> . If you can see '1921' on the rock face, supposed to have appeared after the disaster, you win the admiration of your fellow members.

SAD NEWS

President Nick says: We were all very sad to hear that Marj Enever died on 10th September, after a short illness. Marj and Jim were long-time members of the AMHA, and Marj was the sort of person who was always ready to help, with whatever needed to be done. She was a very valuable member of the Victorian conference organising committees, both for Beechworth and Traralgon, and helped on registration desks, or wherever she was needed, at many other conferences. We will all miss her.

CURRENT AMHA COMMITTEE

Please note that all positions will be made vacant at the AGM in September. Some of the Committee have indicated their

willingness to continue but we do need others to volunteer. Contact the incumbents below to find out what's involved if you're interested in any position.

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.

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.

Newsletter editor: Jan Wegner

Facebook co-ordinator: Robert Barnes.

Early Career representative: Still vacant

(Geoff Anderson has also volunteered to be on the Advisory Committee as a representative of Victoria).

PHOTO TIME



Taking the term 'dump truck' too literally

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 \$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.