



AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Secretary/Treasurer: Mel Davies OAM
Business School, Economics MBDP M251
University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway,
Crawley 6009, W. Australia
Tel. (W) 08-64882926 (H) 08-92953265
Fax: 08-64881016
Email: mel.davies@uwa.edu.au

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

Newsletter No. 3 September 2020

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754

Web page: <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au>

ISSUE 101

EDITORIAL

Hope all are well and dodging the 'rona bullet. This newsletter is a little late, due to the Editor's inability to say 'no' to her many volunteer organisations and research students. Apparently retirement isn't about kicking back on a tropical beach, sipping cool drinks and admiring the stinger nets and croc warning signs. One day maybe. Talking of crocs, one was once found in a disused mine shaft near the north Qld town of Croydon – over 200km from the sea. They get around.

BITS & PIECES

Resources:

QDEX: the last newsletter mentioned QDEX as a source of historical material. They've updated their website so your previous link to the Smart Index may not work. However, the new QDEX Open Data Portal works far better than the previous search facility, so Queenslanders, try it: <https://geoscience.data.qld.gov.au/>
However, to access historic Mines Department annual reports, you'll still need the Smart Index which unfortunately

isn't linked yet to the Portal – please email newsletter editor for the pdf.

Opalised Fossils Stamp Issue

Australian Opal Centre (AOC) <contact@australianopalcentre.com> advises that Australia Post's Opalised Fossils stamp issue is now available. The stamps are based on photographs by Robert A. Smith of fossil plants, invertebrate and vertebrate animals, with a pine cone from Lightning Ridge and opalised wood from Koroit in Queensland, a moon snail from the ancient inland sea of Coober Pedy, and the tooth of a theropod dinosaur from Lightning Ridge. The AOC is offering celebratory packs each including a copy of the collectable, out-of-print book Black Opal Fossils of Lightning Ridge, signed by author Elizabeth T. Smith and photographer Robert T. Smith and packaged with a booklet of 10 stamps to use; a stamp pack and first day cover to keep; and three opalised fossil postcards, for the price of \$175 including postage in Australia (international postage at cost) - simply email us at contact@australianopalcentre.com to find out more.

Jim Enever

On a sadder note, Marj Enever is advising that Jim Enever's archival material is stored in boxes in her garage, and if anyone is interested in acquiring the material could they contact Marj by mail at PO Box 460, Somers, VIC 3927.

PUBLICATIONS

A correction about member Robert Ashley's history of 19th century Welsh mining expert Phillip Davies, which was misrepresented as a re-release: it's the original book, issued in 2020. Robert has provided more details: Davies promoted hydraulic sluicing in the Kiandra region after visiting California and later part owned and managed the Mitchell's Creek Freehold Gold Estate, near Wellington, considered for many years to be the premier gold mine in NSW. The nearby town that sprung up was known as Daviesville for a number of years.

His early years in Victoria saw him associated with mining for coal at Cape Patterson and later managing successfully quartz mines in the Ballarat district. He became underground manager for the Prince of Wales mine at Sebastopol and was a signatory to the visit by the Prince of Wales. He was later charged with stealing gold from the Crown and wrongfully jailed. The hue and cry from this procedure saw his early release but the famous Supreme court case became one of the important factors leading to the Mining on Private Property Act of 1883-84. Ten years later the NSW Govt. passed similar legislation which had its impact on later mining activities involving Davies at Gundagai.

The book contains numerous genealogical references to various people associated with mining throughout Australia, and will provide historians with a ready source of information. It includes histories of such places as Parkes, Forbes, Stewart's Brook, Cangai near Grafton

June Reefs, Gundagai, Kiandra, Temora, Barmedman and other places as well as Mount Wells in the Northern Territory and tin mines in Tasmania.

Only 150 copies of the book have been printed, selling for \$87.00 plus \$13 for postage and packing. Payment can be made to Robert W. P. Ashley, BSB number 633-000 Account number 131103665, or by cheque to Robert W. P. Ashley, P.O. Box 128, Wendouree, Victoria 3355.

AMHA 25 YEAR HISTORY

Nick Williams (with Mel's help) is forging ahead with this history, with a framework of conferences, committee elections, student travel awards, and important events in our Association's history. To help her put flesh on the bones, contact her with anecdotes (e.g. conference happenings, field trips) at nicolahw9@gmail.com. If the tales are startling enough, you may even put yourself in the running for the prestigious Coathanger and Brake Shoe Awards.

MINING HERITAGE

Uses for Old Mines

It seems that old mines have uses other than waiting to be re-opened. According to the National Resources Review, a group of Monash University engineers led by Associate Professor of Resources Engineering, Mohan Yellishetty, has created a database of 80,000 inactive mine sites with potential ranging from archaeological heritage and tourism, to unique habitats for biodiversity enhancement. (Remember the healthy colony of rare Green and Golden Bell Frogs found in a former Sydney industrial site?) The group says that while many mines are liabilities with high rehabilitation costs likely, others could be used for recreational and tourism potential, such as recreational lakes;

carbon farming; renewable energy generation, such as the Kidston Pumped Storage Hydro Project; and waste sites.

AusIMM Heritage

The AusIMM Heritage Committee has been developing a register of mining heritage sites and has articles on mining heritage on their website <https://ausimm.com/our-communities/heritage-committee/>.

CONFERENCES

The International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) is gambling that the COVID-19 crisis will be over by mid-next year, and is meeting in 2021 at the Polish Academy of Arts and Science in Krakow, Poland, 18-24 July 2021. Expressions of interest for papers or attendance by 30 November 2020 to inhigeo@pgi.gov.pl. Conference themes are: history of geological surveys and biographies of their creators; history of geological societies; history and development of geological cartography; mining history; general contributions and biographies of famous geologists. Field trips will be to the old Carpathian oilfield and the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine (some of you may remember Salt Mine representatives Jan Godłowski and Monika Dziobek – Motyka, who attended our Atherton conference last year).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you've been ignoring Mel's attempts to coax a renewal out of you, here's your opportunity to make good. You can fill in and return the membership form attached, or register on-line by clicking on the Register Now link: <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/register.aspx?E=37235>.

PROJECTS

AMHA members Paul Macgregor and Juanita Kwok form association to research Chinese temples on the gold and tin fields of the New England and North West region of NSW.

(Juanita Kwok)

AMHA members Paul Macgregor and Juanita Kwok teamed up this year with a genealogist and two family historians to plan a project to photograph, digitise, translate and research the Chinese-language inscriptions on artefacts from Chinese temples which once existed on the Rocky River goldfield in Uralla and the tin-fields of Tingha and Emmaville. These temples no longer exist, but almost 100 items from their contents are preserved at five museums in New England North West: Wing Hing Long Museum, McCrossin's Mill Museum, Inverell Pioneer Village Museum, Green Valley Farm Museum and Emmaville Mining Museum. Historical linguist Ely Finch has been engaged to work with us on translation and research.

In order to apply for a grant to provide some funding for the project, we formed a not-for-profit, incorporated association called Our Chinese Past Inc. through which we aim to conduct projects to support local museums in preserving, researching and promoting Chinese Australian heritage artefacts in their collections.

Our Chinese Past came about as a result of a road trip around North West NSW that Paul Macgregor and I took when returning from the Australian Historical Association conference in Toowoomba in 2019. We first drove through the forgotten Northern Goldfields of Drake and Tooloom, then together with genealogist Gill Oxley, visited and photographed Chinese heritage objects at regional museums in the New England and Northwest.

Our Chinese Past's project titled "Chinese temples heritage of the New

England and North West region of New South Wales, Australia” was awarded a \$5000 grant under the NSW 2020 Small Grants Program for Local History and Archives, a funding program administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government through the Heritage Council of NSW.

The project will expand on research by conducted by Janis Wilton in 2004 for the Golden Threads project on Chinese in Regional New South Wales, and in her more recent paper on temples which appears in the Chinese Southern Diaspora Studies online journal Vol 8, 2019. This issue of the CSDS journal is dedicated to the memory of Dr Barry McGowan, and contains a number of mining-related papers written by AMHA members including Paul Macgregor, Juanita Kwok and Neville Ritchie.

When Paul Macgregor presented a paper on Chinese tin-mining at the 2016 AMHA conference in Cobar, he argued that temples appear to have been built in mining regions particularly when the mining was lucrative, and that temples moved with the miners. There is evidence that temple furnishings at Rocky River were packed up and carried by the miners when they migrated to the Emmaville/Tingha tinfields. Research done through this project may substantiate this.

Depending on Covid restrictions, Paul plans to re-visit the museums and re-photograph the artefacts later this year. The Chinese language inscriptions will be translated and research on the temples will be done by Juanita and Gill Oxley in the new year. The photographs and translations will be made publicly accessible on a website. We expect this project will create a better understanding of the Chinese gold mining community on the Rocky River and the tin-miners at Emmaville and Tingha.



(Paul Macgregor and Juanita Kwok in front of part of the magnificent Chinese temple exhibit at McCrossin’s Mill Museum in Uralla.)

Family history query: William Roberts

Graeme Adcock is looking for information on mines in which his ancestor William Roberts may have invested. William Roberts (b. 1816) came to Australia in 1838. He was a publican on 4 occasions, an investor in mines and a horse racing fanatic and gambler. He lived mainly around the Marion, Onkaparinga and Morphett Vale areas in South Australia as a farmer. In 1869 his wife, Caroline (nee Lynch) drowned and he subsequently sold his interests in South Australia and moved to the Wimmera in Victoria in about 1881. Graeme is looking for evidence or proof that William was involved in the following mines, or any others:

- Wheal Maria Mine. Opened as a copper mine in about 1850 and, after being a failure within the year, reopened as the Almanda Mine some years later. There is evidence of this mine in the Scott Creek National Park, however is marked Sect 2759 Hnd Noarlunga on the old 1800s maps. In 1849 William was identified as a director.

- Enterprise Mining Company, Lyndoch Valley. Commenced in the spring of 1847 and believed to have mined sections of lease and freehold land amongst others, sect 5535 on the sixth creek, sect 5607 on the Torrens and sect 267 adjoining the Wheal Gawler Silver-lead mine. It may have been the predecessor to the Munno Para Copper Mining Company. In 1851 the Directors of the Enterprise Mining Company offered for sale 3 sections of 'Mineral Land' in consequence of their having determined to concentrate their capital in the working of the Lyndoch Valley mine. The sections of land offered for sale were Section 1700 in Hundred of Para Wirra near the South Para and between Tenafeate Creek and the river, containing 120 acres more or less; Section 1705 adjoining the previous section; and Section 5604 in the Hundred of Yatala containing 62 acres more or less, situated on the Torrens near Highercombe. In 1851 the company seems to have been reconstructed as the the Adelaide Consolidated Mining Company.

- Prince Alfred Mine (1868)
- The Eagle Mining Company

It appears William was also carting for mines.

Graeme is interested in any information about the ownership and/or shareholdings of these companies. He cautions that there were other men with the name William Roberts around at the time, particularly a mineowner and investor called William Roberts Esq, William Roberts Gentleman, William Roberts of Hackney, William Roberts of Walkerville. His ancestor is usually referred to as William Roberts of Morphett Vale, William Roberts Publican, William Roberts of Marion on Sturt, William Roberts horse dealer or William Roberts of Noarlunga. Anyone who can help Graeme, please email ghadcock@bigpond.com.

IFG Commences a 'Special Project' on Crimes in Minerals, Mining and Metals

The Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) has started a 'Special Project', which has been awarded by the IUGS and will focus on the 'Forensic Geological Analysis of Crimes in International Mining, Minerals and Metals'. Civilisation could not exist, as we know it, without the minerals upon which it relies. However, there is a global growing crime problem. Mining-related crime includes, but is not restricted to: (i) illegal mining beyond regulatory control, (ii) fraud, (iii) theft, (iii) adulteration of mineral concentrates or processed metals, (iv) the substitution of samples ahead of assaying, (v) the mining and trading of conflict minerals, (vi) mineral smuggling and (vii) fakery. The scale of such criminal activity is at present poorly documented, but is suspected to take place around the world and is linked to serious and organised crime cartels, terrorist organisations and some political regimes. As a result, mining crime, can directly or indirectly affect many parts of society. The project will last for two years and aims to report its findings in 'Episodes'. If you would like further information about the Special Project, or would like to contribute to it, please contact Laurance Donnelly (geologist@hotmail.co.uk) or Duncan Pirrie (duncan.pirrie@southwales.ac.uk). We are particularly interested in hearing from geologists working in the global mining and minerals industry.

(Contributed by Ruth Kerr)

AMHA CONFERENCE

Planning is continuing for the Burra conference next year, in the impressive heritage-listed Town Hall. Peter Bell reports that proposed dates are 27 September to 1 October, and with tours inclusive, tentatively 26 September to 4 October. Mark it in your diaries.

(Jan Wegner, Editor)

AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION Inc.

ABN 96 220 329 754

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL 2020

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 Journal is
Institutions:	\$50	included in the 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 <http://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 \$.....

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*, ~~Vol. 1, 2003~~; 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. 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* (AMHA and Department of Economics, UWA, Crawley, 2002). **In CD only.** Copies including postage: Aus \$11; NZ \$12; Elsewhere \$13 \$.....

Total \$.....

Send me: A. a print copy of the 2019 Journal; B. A digital copy only; Both A & B (tick)

NEW MEMBERS – For our records, please advise how you learned about 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, Secretary, 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 system *Register Now*. Overseas members should find paying online to be cheaper and more convenient than using other systems. Please note the system now allows for 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=37235> or AMHA website (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.