



# AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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

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### EDITORIAL

As you've probably noticed, it's January 2021 rather than December 2020. Hopefully it will be a kinder year than last – though it's not starting well with borders opening and closing like daffodils on speed as clusters of the dreaded virus bloom and wilt. The weather may also not be better behaved. As I write, the first cyclone of the season is wandering past Cairns, while there are floods threatening in NSW and bushfire alerts in WA. I recently saw a t-shirt printed with 'Eternal Summer'. Let's hope not.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our new President, Nick Williams, has a couple of important messages:

**Conference:** As far as I can see, the most important problem we have at present as an Association is to find organisers and a venue for the 2022 conference, following the cancellation of the Bathurst offer. So I'm asking each group of state representatives to get together, and see if you can come up with a viable suggestion. (Not, of course, those who are working on a conference already). Bookings really need to be done by the middle of next year, so we haven't a lot of leeway.

**Early Career Representative on the Advisory Committee:** The other thing

I'd like you all to think about is how to find a new early-career representative for the Committee - it's an important first step in enticing more young people to join the AMHA.

### BITS & PIECES

#### Resources:

Don't forget we have a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/720189911426071/>. Lots of great contributions and discussions there, and plenty of space for more. Our thanks to Robert Barnes for co-ordinating the site so carefully.

**AGM:** We had a successful Annual General Meeting in November, thanks to Edward Zbik's masterly organisation and running of the Zoom meeting, which had nearly 40 attendees over several countries and time zones. Because it went so well we will be exploring more Zoom options e.g. live-streaming conference presentations, future AGMs even if held in a physical location, and individual papers for discussion. The Executive thought members might enjoy meeting a few times a year by Zoom, say every 2-3 months, for an interesting talk, followed by Q&A. Probably the session would be one hour total: 40 mins talk, and 20 mins Q&A, but this could vary. Edward Zbik has kindly said that he would be willing to

host it, but we'd need speakers to volunteer. Anyone interested please email Nick: [nicolahw9@gmail.com](mailto:nicolahw9@gmail.com) .

There were some changes to the Executive from the AGM:

President: Nick Williams

Vice-President: Nic Haygarth

Secretary: Ruth Kerr

Mel Davies has relinquished another of his many responsibilities to Ruth and is now 'only' Treasurer and Journal Editor. The other positions on the Advisory Committee are the same:

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.

Facebook co-ordinator: Robert Barnes.

Early Career representative: Vacancy

Some of the other items arising at the meeting were:

Volunteers are wanted for a **list of experts** on mining history in regions and within particular themes. Please let Nick Williams know.

Nick would also like contributions to the **AMHA History**. They don't have to be long - just a special memory, with photo if possible. [nicolahw9@gmail.com](mailto:nicolahw9@gmail.com). Mel has made a good start by raiding past newsletters and his own memories, but more anecdotes are wanted, preferably not too libelous.

## CONFERENCES

Another conference has fallen victim to COVID-caused uncertainty. The International Mining History Conference, Sudbury, Canada was scheduled for July 2021 but has been cancelled due to the virus and logistical problems. Discussions

are, however, being currently conducted with other interested parties regarding the next international meeting. Watch this space!

## PUBLICATIONS

The second volume of Denis Porter's *Coal: the Australian Story* is now available from the publisher, Connor Court Publishing. This volume is titled *Coal: the Australian Story 1970 to 2020*, and as the title suggests, details the development and evolution of the coal industry in NSW and Queensland from the 1970s to the present. Denis was employed by the NSW Coal Association and NSW Minerals Council for 12 years, and was the CEO of the Council from 1998 to 2001. The first volume of *Coal: the Australian Story*, sub-titled *From convict mining to the birth of a world leader*, was published in 2019.

The 1970s was a decade which saw economic upheavals around the world, primarily due to the oil shocks of 1973 and 1979, and also the emergence of a major new world trade in thermal coal in the late 1970s as countries reacted to the hikes in oil prices with plans for new power stations fired by coal, gas and nuclear energy.

The years since the 1970s have seen the Australian coal industry grow to become the dominant supplier of metallurgical coal to major world markets and the number two exporter of thermal coal, supplying quality coal to the power stations of Asia. This period has also been one which has seen major industrial turmoil, restructuring of the industry and its regulatory structure, tragic safety lapses and controversies involving coal prices and contracts, foreign investment, taxation, royalties and rail freight rates. These are issues covered in the newly published second volume of *Coal: the Australian Story*.

This new book will be of interest to those who have worked or continue to work in the industry and those who have been involved with the industry including policy makers, regulators, service providers, investors, consultants, lawyers and contractors, as well as those who live in mining communities and those interested in what has been and continues to be one of the most important sectors of the Australian mining industry.

\* \* \*

Prolific author Professor Philip Payton has just published *Pictorial History of Australia's Little Cornwall* (Wakefield Press, 2020, \$29.95).

In the 1840s Cornish miners and their families came pouring into South Australia to take their part in the new colony's great copper boom. They came to lend their home-grown expertise to extracting the rich ore that gave South Australia a world-wide reputation as being the Copper Kingdom.

These 'Cousin Jacks', as they were called, left Old Cornwall by the thousands when the news of the copper discoveries became known. In a matter of only a few years they had created Cornish communities with the same traditions, the same mining prowess, the same piety and the same determination to adhere to their own identity, as the Cornish people they had left behind. Miners, mining Captains and mining engineers stepped ashore at Port Adelaide and immediately set about putting such names as Burra, Kapunda, Moonta and Wallaroo firmly on the map of Australia. These names record not only the vast mines and smelters, but the townships as well ... towns that often 'out-Cornished' Cornwall in their festivals, their religious observances and even in the ever-present local bands.

Even after the end of immigration in the mid-1880s, the mines lived on and the Cornish traditions flourished. In this widely researched book, Philip Payton has recorded in words and pictures the

human face of the history of Australia's Little Cornwall as it was and as it still is today.

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

### **JOURNAL**

Mel is concerned that with no conference in 2020, contributions to the 2021 Journal could come up short. So, please get cracking on that exciting bit of research you've always wanted to do, or fish out that unfinished paper that's been gathering dust in a filing cabinet drawer (yes, I know referencing and proofreading are boring, but that's no excuse).

### **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](mailto:Ken.McQueen@canberra.edu.au).

### **EARLY CAREER MEMBERS**

A perennial concern is attracting younger members to the AMHA. Ross Both conducted a survey of members to consider some alternatives to the current situation, i.e. two student grants to attend the annual conference. One idea was offering small research grants, and the other was an award of \$500 for best article published in the Journal by an early career researcher. The survey results nixed the research grant idea but approved the best article award, with only one student grant for the conference to keep overall costs down. Both include free membership of the Association for a year. While the research grant would be attractive to students, it was felt there was a danger the research would not be completed and the money therefore wasted, and it would be hard to administer. 'Early career researcher' is

defined as someone who graduated less than 5 years ago.

### MINING HERITAGE

The families of the men lost in the Pike River Mine explosion in 2010 have helped to create a memorial to them, the Paparoa Track. It's both a walking and mountain bike track and is the 10<sup>th</sup> New Zealand 'Great Walk'. A short side track takes walkers down to the Pike River Mine Interpretation Centre. The first part of the Paparoa Track is an 1860s goldfields supply route to the Garden Gully area, so there's some 19<sup>th</sup> century heritage on view as well.

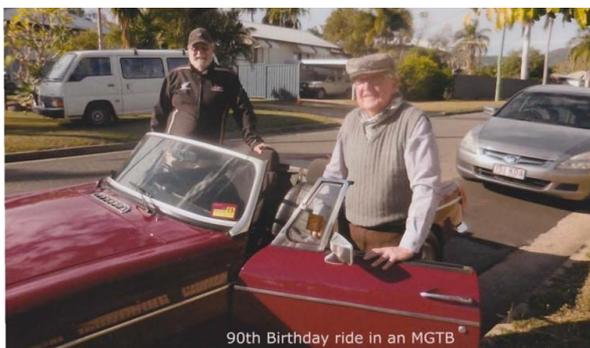
### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Has Mel been nagging you over renewal of membership? You can fill out the attached form, or register on-line by clicking on the Register Now link: <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=37235>

### PHOTO TIME

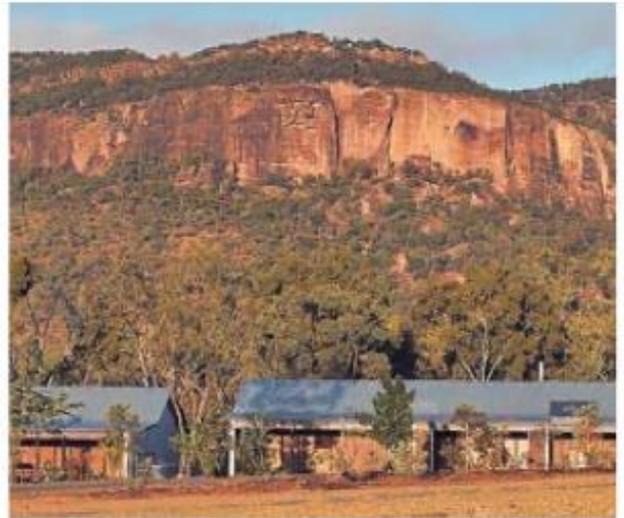


Minesite parking problems (happens more often than you'd think)



Dr Ray Boyle recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, which makes him our oldest

member – congratulations, Ray. He gained his PhD, 'Mount Morgan Limited: The Triumphs and Disappointments 1932-1990' from Central Queensland University in 2014, at the relatively young age of 84.



**LUXURY OUTBACK RETREAT** Stay three nights from only \$3299 per room with this package valued at up to \$5380 at far north North Queensland's newest all-inclusive luxury property, Mt Mulligan Lodge, on a 28,000-hectare working cattle station. Included are all gourmet meals, select drinks and a \$280 lodge credit to spend on premium beverages or exclusive outback experiences such as ATV safaris, guided tours, wildlife spotting and more. There's also unlimited use of paddleboards, kayaks and fishing gear. Book by July 28 for travel until July 1, 2021. Phone 1300 88 99 00. See [luxuryescapes.com](http://luxuryescapes.com)

Those who went on the Mt Mulligan field trip during 2019's Atherton conference will no doubt be asking why the organisers couldn't fit in a luxury outback stay with these bargain prices. Ian Scott shared this notice with us.

Jan Wegner  
(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: .....

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**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 \$.....

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**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](mailto: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](http://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.