



AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

All correspondence to: Mel Davies
Business School, Economics MBDP M251
University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway,
Crawley 6009, W. Australia
Tel. (W) 08-64882939 (H) 08-92953265
Fax (08) 64881016
E.mail: mel.davies@uwa.edu.au

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Editorial

I've run out of words of wisdom (and time), so this section shall remain blank, other than to say that the number of registrations suggest it we are going to enjoy another great gabfest at the Queenstown Conference. One year leaps out to grab at the next, and forward planners should note our 15th Annual Conference that will take place at Lithgow towards the end of 2009 under the eagle eye of Leonie Knapman. Details available in the December newsletter.

Forthcoming Conferences

AMHA 14th Annual Conference, Queenstown, Tas. 4-10th October '08.

If numbers are anything to go by the Queenstown conference should be a success. To date we have about 80 registrations, and 29 presentations that are spread over the programme. These nestle among a host of social activities being organised by Greg Dickens and his local committee. The only area where we are a few short of the targeted number is the Abt Railway trip, probably because a number of people have already experienced the joys of that venture. But if you are among that group and want to enjoy the company of fellow rock hounds then please think again and let Greg Dickens or myself know and we'll be delighted to accommodate you.

Those attending should note that the location of the **Civic Reception** has been changed from Queentown's TAFE to '**Penghana**', the historic former residence of Mt Lyell's General Manager, Robert Sticht.

In addition, there has been a change of venue for the morning tea and lunch scheduled for Thursday 9 October. This will now be held at the **Central Motel** (opposite the Zeehan Museum) rather than at the Zeehan RSL Club.

Also, note that the buses leaving **Launceston** will make the first pick up at **9.00am** at the **Avis Rental depot** that's located at the **Hotel Grand Chancellor** in the CBD. Address is 29 Cameron Street, Launceston, and it lies one block away from the GPO. The other pickup will take place at the **Airport** at 10.00am.

8th International Mining History Congress, Cornwall, June 2009

As major contributors to these events, it comes as no surprise to find that a fair number of members have already registered and forwarded abstracts to the conference organisers of the Congress that will be held at Redruth, between **12-15 June 2009**. Peter Claughton will be delighted to receive abstracts. These should be prepared so as to reach him by 1st December 2008. His

contact: <p.f.claughton@ex.ac.uk > or, hand them to him personally at our Queenstown conference.

See web page for further details re the programme, accommodation, etc. at:

www.huss.ex.ac.uk/history/imhc/index.htm

NAMHO Mining History Conference June 2009 – Call for papers

The 2009 National Association of Mining History Organisations Conference (UK) will be held at Matlock on the weekend of **19-22 June** (a few days after the International Congress). There will be the usual wide range of surface and underground field visits (at all grades of difficulty) extending from Friday to Monday, and a lecture programme on the Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday. Contributions to the lecture programme are now invited: the main theme will be mining landscapes, especially underground, and contributions concerning overseas mining. In particular papers relating to British ventures or technical linkages will be welcome. Papers will be published in *Mining History* and written drafts should be available at the conference.

For contributions to the lecture programme: contact Lynn Willies as soon as possible at <lynnwillies@Hotmail.com>

Preliminary Programme booking details will be available from November 2008 contact Robin Hall at: <www.peakmines.co.uk>

Colloque au Centre Historique Minier, 13, 14, 15 November 2008

Not much notice but some members may be interested in attending this international meeting run by the Mining History Centre of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region and CILAC - the National Association for Industrial Archaeology. The conference entitled 'Mining landscapes, a controversial heritage', will deal with all sorts of mining in France and abroad. The aim is to assess the state of the research on mining landscapes, and preservation. Registration forms and calls for papers can be found at:

<<http://groups.google.com.au/group/ticcih-inoz?hl=en>>

A little bird informs we'll be represented at this meet by Ruth Kerr!

Journal

Thankfully, there was a last minute rush of contributions, so that we can breath yet again. However, to ensure fewer sleepless nights, the eds would welcome early contributions for the 2009 volume. Make our Christmas by posting early!

Information Wanted

Philip's on a 'Bender'!

Our Kiwi cousin, Philip Hart, wishes to know whether anyone has come across a Russian-born American mining engineer and general self-proclaimed expert by the name of William Bender who claimed to have worked in the Americas and Europe before settling in New Zealand? He also claimed to be Dr Bender, though this would appear to have been a stretch of his imagination. He was active in first quarter of the twentieth century in prospecting for both gold and oil. If you can help, please contact Philip at: <prhart@waikato.ac.nz>

Bits and Pieces

ASHET

Our esteemed member from James Cook Uni., Jan Wegner, has drawn attention to an organization that may be of interest. This is ASHET, the Australian Society for History of Engineering and Technology, a non-profit society, incorporated in New South Wales and affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society. ASHET was formed in Sydney in 2003. Its objects are to encourage and promote community interest and education in the history of engineering and technology in Australia. Annual membership of ASHET is \$20 for ordinary members and \$30 for family membership. For more information or to download a membership application form, go to the ASHET website: <http://www.aset.org.au/>

ASHET's June newsletter contained an interesting article on Broken Hill, the personnel who formed the company, and the technological/chemical solutions found to recover the various metals in the ores.

Is the Pasty the new Champagne!?

This piece taken directly from a report 'Cornwall Protects its pasties' by Valerie Elliott in the *The Australian* of 28 July, will no doubt fill our Hancocks' and Johns' with ancestral pride – for the rare delicacy looks as if by decree of Brussels it will be removed from the list of endangered European species! So, to continue the pasty saga that has unfolded in past editions of this newsletter, we record the following:

'There are pasties and there are Cornish pasties, and it has been left to a vegetarian to tell them apart. A six-year campaign by pasty-makers in Cornwall has persuaded British Rural Affairs Minister Hilary Benn, a vegetarian, that the name "Cornish Pasty" should be protected in law. He has decided that the Cornish should have the exclusive right to use their county's name when selling pasties, which took off as a staple food for the county's tin miners in the 18th century.

If Brussels approves, the Cornish pasty will join the prestigious club of other top-quality produce in Europe such as Parma ham and champagne.

According to the rules put forward by the Cornish Pasty Association [shame on you Keith Johns if you're not a member], the authentic pasty must have a distinctive D shape and be crimped on the side. This feature was demanded by miners who had dirty hands. They were able to eat the meat and vegetable pie and then throw away the grimy crust. The filling must be uncooked mince or roughly cut chunks of beef – at least 12.5 per cent of the filling – mixed with potato, onion, swede or turnip, and a light peppery seasoning. The pastry is then glazed with milk or egg and baked'.

Thus, not only does this newsletter bring you the latest on the great pasty saga but also the recipe for those hungry for this newly elevated Cornish dish. What next we wonder - a revolutionary Cornish anthem in honour of the delicacy to be sung to The Internationale?

*'Arise ye starvelings, from your slumbers;
Arise ye prisoners of want;
For pasties now are here aplenty;
and ends at last the age of cant' ...*

Chorus

*So comrades, come rally
And the last fight let us face
The humble Cornish pasty
Unites the human race.*

Radium Hill Heritage Museum

Kevan Kakoschke has provided the following report on an award recently made to the Radium Hill Museum to the Radium Hill Museum:

'In 2008, ABC Radio National, conducted an Australia wide 'Marvellous Regional Museum's' competition. A special mention was awarded to the Radium Hill Heritage Museum for "working in most difficult circumstances", it being located in an isolated, ancient desert landscape of saltbush and bindii and suffering the harsh conditions of excessive temperature (49C in 2007) and dust. What caught the eye of the adjudicators were unusual problems caused by an under-floor resident goanna clawing holes in the concrete verandah, plus rabbits that undermined the building stumps necessitating major repairs. Such incidents helped sway the judges and caused them to comment that, "the Radium Hill Heritage Museum exhibited the additional, elusive 'something' that elevated you above your competition. Congratulations, Radium Hill".

Radium Hill was the site of Australia's first uranium mine (1906) and in the 1950's a town to accommodate up to 1200 people was built to house its employees and their families. The mine closed in December 1961 and all houses and mine buildings

were removed from the site. In 1994, the Treloar family, owners of the nearby sheep station, Tikalina, made an ex-station hand's house available (complete with bullet holes) to the Radium Hill Historical Association so that it could be rehabilitated and used for preserving and displaying memorabilia and artifacts of Radium Hill as part of the Olary region's history and cultural heritage. The resulting Radium Hill Heritage Museum has helped encapsulate the Radium Hill story from its initial discovery, its association with Sir Douglas Mawson, its heyday during the 1950's and its closure. It now houses its memories, legacies and historical artifacts'.

For additional information on the museum competition see: abc.net.au/rn/museums

Kevin Kakoschke OAM

The Mountain Mine

From the pen of our President, the following snippet proves that his mind is always on his on his work.

I was in Dublin for the World Archaeological Congress in July, and took a long detour to visit the Mountain Mine. This is a legendary Cornish engine house, built on a rugged mountainside overlooking the Atlantic Ocean on the tip of the Beara Peninsula at the extreme south-western tip of Ireland. The view from the mine can only be described as spectacular. This is just about as far west as you can go in Europe; the nearest land to your left is Canada.

The copper mine was operated by the Allihies Mining Company, a Cornish cost book company formed in 1812, which founded a little Cornish community in the wilds of West Cork to work the mine. In the village of Allihies at the foot of the mountain, the local mining museum is in the former Methodist chapel, an institution rarely found in Ireland.

The engine house was built in 1862 to house a 36-inch rotative beam engine which was used for ore haulage. It also

operated a man engine. It worked until the mines closed in 1884. The Bearhaven Mines formed a cluster of workings in the vicinity - the Coom Mine and Kealogue Mine enginehouses are also visible from the site, although more tamely sited down on the coastal plain.

There were sporadic attempts to revive the mines until as recently as 1962, and the surroundings are scarred by opencut workings, old and new. The Mountain Mine enginehouse has lost its machinery, but the masonry is in good condition; conservation work carried out by the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland was completed in 2006. There is an account of a visit to the mine by our colleagues at the University of Exeter, on the web at <http://www.projects.ex.ac.uk/cmhp/visit.htm>

Peter Bell

Bereavement

We are sorry to report that Daryl McLeish, the informative guide, who assisted David White on a tour around the Moolort Deep Leads, Carisbrook, Talbot and Majorca, following the Bendigo Conference, passed away a couple of months ago. Since the 2005 Conference, Greg Dickens had kept in touch with him and has conveyed this sad news. Daryl had a number of publications to his credit, including the following mining texts:

Majorca: The Last Eldorado, (2007): *In the Beginning there was Carisbrook*, (2001). The latter two, published by the author, were associated with mining, and printed by McPherson's, Maryborough, Victoria.

Conference Abstracts

It's been practice in the past to publish the conference abstracts and mail the list with the newsletter and AGM Agenda. However 29 papers adds up to a problem of bulk, so to save trees and postage we refer you to our web page where the abstracts will be available. See: <http://amha.asn.au/>

MJD/Sept'08

**AMHA Queenstown Conference
Timetable – 5 – 9 October 2009**

Sunday 5 October

9.30-9.40 – President's Welcome, Peter Bell (and Chairperson for Keynote address).

9.40-10.30 – Keynote Speaker – Prof. Geoffrey Blainey, *Researching Mt. Lyell*

11.00-12.30 – Session 1: –*Transport* - Chairperson, Mel Davies

Peter Brown: *Routes to the West Coast.*

Ruth Kerr: *Recap Mines and Tramway on the Chillagoe Field - it's connection to southern Australia and Queensland politicians 1890 to 1920s.*

Tony Weston: *Mining Lower Grade Ore Through Changes in Mining Technology at The Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Queenstown, Tasmania from 1931 to 1938.*

1.30-3.00 – Session 2: *Geology/Environment* – Chairperson Ken McQueen.

Keith Corbett: *From Blow to go - a geological take on the early days of Mt Lyell.*

Leonie Knapman: *Weather versus Glen Davis.*

Barry McGowan: *Booms, busts and the environment: the life and times of the base metal mining community of Captains Flat.*

7.00-10.00– AMHA Conference Dinner, Silver Hills Hotel

Monday 6 October

11.00-12.30 – Session 3: *Labour/Gender* - Chairperson Anne Both.

Wendy Fowler: *Convicts and Salt Water River Coalmine Research Project.*

Pam Sharp: *Millie's Story: Women, Domesticity and Commerce in Gwalia and Leonora.*

Roger Kellaway: *New Zealanders and the Zeehan Silverfield 1891-1895.*

1.30-3.00 – Session 4: *Mining personalities* – Chairperson Sandra Kippen.

Richard Allsop: *Was Mt Lyell a better teacher than Oxford?*

Philip Hart: *'A carter, a businessman, and a prospector with several things in common'.*

Nic Haygarth: *Chasing a shadow? T.B. Moore, Robert Sticht and the Balfour copper boom.*

Tuesday 7 October

8.30-10.30 – Session 5: *Health & Safety* – Chairperson Peta Chappell.

Anne Both: *From a tent to a modern hospital: the role of mine and community in Queenstown health care.*

Marita Bardenhagen – *Invisible women - Bush Nurses at Adamsfield.*

Adrian Hutton: *Bulli and Appin Mine Disasters – Who Was To Blame?*

Peter Schulze: *Tragedy at the Mt Lyell Mine, 1912.*

11.00-12.30 – Session 6: *Materials* – Chairperson David Branagan.

David Branagan: *The Oldest Marble Quarry in Australia.*

Greg Drew: *Pugholes and Brickworks of Adelaide's Western Suburbs.*

Ken McQueen: *Quidong Mineral Field, NSW: An intriguing discovery of W.B. Clarke*

1.30-3.00 – Session 7: *Heritage* - Chairperson Peter Cloughton.

Ross A. Both: *Gilles v. the Glen Osmond Union Mining Company.*

Geoff Cordery: *The Mt Lyell mine - Challenges of operating a large mine in a heritage environment.*

Jo Field: *Getting lost in the Myths: Blue Tier mining history at risk.*

4.15-6.00 – AMHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 8 October

8.30-10.30 – Session 8: *Technology* – Chairperson Nick Haygarth.

Jim Enever: *'Not for Want of trying': The history of the Coopers Creek Copper Mine, Victoria.*

Peter Cloughton: *Mining on the frontier: some comparisons in the working of precious metals at the extremities of English/British rule.*

Richard G. Hartley: *Sons of Gwalia gold mine: reasons for operational longevity.*

Nicola Williams: *FINE or FORGED: Precious Metal Assay Through the Ages.*

11.00-12.30 - Session 9: Tasmanian Exploration & History- Chairperson Ruth Kerr.
Donald J. Perkin: *History of the Discovery of Gold and Iron Ore and the Development of the Magnetite deposits at Savage River, NW Tasmania, from 1877 through to the 21st Century.*
Tim Jetson: *"That some rich lode amongst these hills is waiting for us yet".*
Greg Dickens: *Mining in Western Tasmania - A Brief History of Exploration and Development.*

AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at the Silver Hills Hotel, Queenstown, Tasmania
Tuesday 7 October 2008 at 4.15pm

AGENDA

President's opening observations

- 1. Minutes of Armidale AGM, 26 September 2007**
- 2. Matters Arising from Minutes**
- 3. Treasurer's Report/Auditor's Report year ending 31 December 2007**
Statement of Income and Expenditure 1st January to 20 September 2008
- 4. Correspondence**
- 5. Election or Confirmation of Officers**
a) Patron; b) President; c) Secretary; d) Treasurer; e) Auditor; f) Committee (not less than seven additional members); g) Journal Editor; h) Sub-editor.
- 6. Motions and Changes to Constitution – none submitted**
- 7. Setting of Fees for 2009**
- 8. Journal Update**
- 9. General Business** (items may be raised from the floor)
 - a) Report on venue and date for 2009 Conference
 - b) Report for venue for 2010 Conference

Current Executive Committee members are:

Patron	Prof. Geoffrey Blainey, AC
President	Dr. Peter Bell (SA)
Secretary/Treasurer	Mr. Mel Davies (WA)

Current Committee members are:

ACT	Chris Carter, Barry McGowan, Ken McQueen.
SA	Ross Both, Greg Drew, Graham Hancock.
NSW	Graydon Henning, Leonie Knapman, Ross Mainwaring, Graham Wilson.
NT	David Carment.
Qld	Ruth Kerr, Diane Menghetti Jan Wegner.
Vic	Sandra Kippen, David White, Mike Williams; Nick Williams.
WA	Patrick Bertola, Wendy Carter, Charlie Fox, Richard Hartley, Gerry MacGill,
TAS	Greg Dickens, Nick Haygarth.
NZ	Brian Hill, Philip Hart.

Current Journal Editor: Mel Davies

Current sub-editor: Nick Williams

Editorial Board: Dr. Peter Bell; Dr. Patrick Bertola; Prof. Gordon Boyce; Prof. David Branagan; Prof. Roger Burt; Prof. David Carment; Ass. Prof. Charlie Fox; Dr. Graydon Henning; Dr. Diane Menghetti; Prof. Jeremy Mouat; Prof. Ian Phimister; Prof. Ian Plimer.

Anyone wishing to nominate or wishing to withdraw from any of the above positions, please contact the Secretary.