



AUSTRALASIAN 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) 08-64882926 (H) 08-92953265
Fax: 08-92956624
E.mail: mel.davies@uwa.edu.au

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Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754

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

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EDITORIAL

'The times they are-a-changing'

Members who attended the 2011 Kalgoorlie Conference (remember, it was held the week after 9/11 and accompanied the collapse of Ansett that upset the plans of many) – will be surprised at recent changes noted by Paige Taylor in the *Australian* of 29 May. As Paige points out, once the country's capital of houses of ill repute, the town has become gentrified as more professional staff and miners abandon their fly-in, fly-out lifestyle for permanent settlement. Those who dined at the then recently refurbished and exotic Langtrees in 2011 will be shocked to hear that this up-market establishment has closed down, and will soon re-open as a tapas bar, and that the 18 other 'establishments' in the same street have been reduced to two. Even the 'Skimpie' bars have been tamed with legislation that rules that their fair maidens must wear either bikinis, or bras and briefs.

In recent years tourists paying \$25 each for a brothel tour have brought in more money than is raised through the provision of exotic services. This sounds nothing less than a social revolution – where have the red-blooded young miners who supported these establishments since the town was established in 1893, gone? For over 100 years Kalgoorlie was the only town in Australia where such

establishments were legitimately recognised by the law. What next – coffee and tea to replace the beer halls? The place appears to have been tamed beyond redemption.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AMHA 21st Annual Conference, Darwin 2015 (21st-25th June)

We are pleased to report that just over 80 people have answered the call and will be attendance in Darwin. We have a fair selection of papers with something to suit most palates. The week starts off with a Welcome Reception at the NT Archives Center in Millner, hosted by the Hon Garry Higgins, NT Minister for Arts and Museums. The outline of the sessions and conference events can be found at the end of this newsletter. Following the conference, over 60 of our folk will take to the road to congregate at Pine Creek where they can join in the delights of the Pine Creek Goldfields Annual Festival. One of the highlights of the actual journey to the Festival will be a stop for lunch at the up-market Grove Hill Pub where owner Stan Haesler will entertain with a talk on the local mining scene.

Shiver Me Timbers!

Some advice from Ruth Kerr – if you're travelling to Darwin via the Ghan, take some warm clothes with you, as the air conditioning in the coaches can be quite invigorating!!

International Mining History Conference

Brush up your Spanish, as the 11th International Mining History Congress will be held at Linares, Spain between the 6th and 11th September 2016. For full registration and other details see the web page at: <http://www.mining2016linares.com> Rob Vernon who attended and presented a paper at the Charters Towers Conference has been the instigator of the event, and you can expect a hearty reception from the Spanish hosts.

PUBLICATIONS

Pre-Publication - *History of Australian coal.*

Denis Porter is working on a book that looks at the Australian coal industry, As a preliminary he offers the following account of the areas to be covered that takes in the history of the early coal industry in colonial NSW, to the present day but with emphasis on developments on the years after World War Two that saw a transformation in the industry.

The study is essentially about the black coal industry in NSW and Queensland and deals with the way the industry has been regulated. Denis examines the changes in the regulatory system; industrial relations struggles; the impact of the growth in the Japanese steel industry in the 1960s and 1970s; the impact of the oil shocks of the 1970s; the massive flows of investment from Japan, the USA, and more recently China and India; with the entry of oil companies as major investors in the 1970s and 1980s and their later exit; with the evolution of overseas markets and the way in which coal is sold. Denis also looks at some of the post war pioneers in the development of the industry in Queensland; with controversies over coal prices, cartels of buyers depressing prices, and claims of over-production; with the major union's long campaign, first for nationalisation of the industry, and later for a government authority to manage the marketing of coal; with the mechanisation and modernisation of mines; with the benefits of the industry to the economy; with

government policies on royalties, taxation of profits and de facto taxation through rail freight charges; with the health and safety of workers; with the debate on climate change; and with the industry's role in the coming decades.

Denis is well qualified to comment on the industry, as he was employed by the NSW Coal Association and its successor organisation, the NSW Minerals Council, from 1989 to 2001, including three years as CEO of the latter (1998 to 2001) and so was involved in some of the major changes the industry experienced in that period.

He would welcome contact from members of the Association who are interested in these aspects of the industry's development, including any who can provide a personal perspective of some of the major events and changes in any of the post war periods. Denis can be contacted at: Tel. 02 9438 3346.

Email: dnporter@bigpond.net.au

INFORMATION WANTED & REPLIES TO PAST QUERIES

After a few years playing in the VFL. Alf Trevillian ventured to Kalgoorlie where he played for a few months with the Mines Rovers Club before being drafted to play with Perth in 1904, and West Perth in 1905.

Stephen is interested in the connections between mining and sporting concerns in northern Victoria and Kalgoorlie that may have helped facilitate employment for people like his great-grandfather? Stephen suggests that this was important, as in 1896 Alf's older brothers also moved to Western Australia but failed miserably, as they didn't have the contacts or family to help smooth their way in the new environment.

Stephen would be grateful for any guidance that can be offered but his query raises some interesting questions about the role of mining companies in sponsoring or supporting sporting and other community based bodies. Stephen can be contacted at: Stephen.Rowcliffe@education.gov.au

What is IT?

Simone Brinstead of Beaconsfield Tas, says that the following items were found on a scrap heap about 15 years ago. It's called a Dewar, but what was it used for, and did it have anything to do with mining?



If you can shed any light on it, please contact Simone at beaconsfield@wtc.tas.gov.au

Mining and Footie!

Stephen Rowcliffe is researching his great-grandfather, Alf Trevillian. Alf, who born at Cornishtown outside Chiltern

in 1877, is believed to have worked at mines in and around Rutherglen (north Prentice, Prentice Freehold) until around 1902. In that year his athletic skill was rewarded in his being recruited to play VFL with St Kilda. Alf had earlier been mentored by neighbour and mine manager W.J. Hicks of the Great Northern Mine, who is also believed to have had interests in the Excelsior Mine in the region. In 1896, Hicks, was the benefactor and president of a newly created football team called the Excelsiors that participated in the Ovens Valley competition, and which had followed its precursor the United Miners Football Club that had existed in the Rutherglen area in 1894-96. The suggestion is that the club was renamed because of the support from the Excelsior mining company.

Answers

1900s Mining Uniform Inquiry

Following the query regarding the hats with the long brim over the back of the neck, thanks to member Peter McCarthy for supplying the following answer:

Regarding the hats, they perform the same function as a Sou'wester does for a seaman – keeps the water from running down the back of your neck. Only worn in wet places, particularly shafts and winzes. My source for this is experience in Broken Hill +40 years ago, when hard hats were compulsory but men working in wet areas would put on a soft hat like this under the helmet.

Disintegrator Inquiry

For those who have been losing sleep over Volker Hahl's query about a 'Disintegrator' in the last newsletter, member Peter Benkendorff kindly supplied the following explanation:

'A disintegrator is a type of hammer mill. My Chemical Engineers' Handbook 4th edition (Ed Robert Perry, McGraw-Hill 1963) on page 8-34 has a picture and explanation of a Rietz disintegrator (Reitz Mfg. Co. USA). It says this mill combines attrition, cutting, impact, and a screen in

one unit. On the same page it mentions similar mills are the Tornado mill (F.J. Stokes Corp.), Fitz mills (W.J Fitzpatrick Co.), and Turbo-Pulverisers (Pallman Pulverizers). (Also on page 20-42 of the Perry's Chemical Engineers Handbook 7th Edition 1998).

I think similar mills are in use today for pulverizing rubbish which is fired into cement kilns as RDF (refuse derived fuel)

I have a feeling that some of the early coal mills similar to the Atritor (Alfred Herbert Company UK) which had a horizontal hammer mill in line with an attrition plate for fine grinding of the coal from about 25mm down to about 80% passing 90 micron, were called disintegrators. The Atritors were used on the older kilns at the Maldon cement works NSW and date to around 1949. The Atritor mill includes fan blades drawing in hot air from the clinker cooler and to blow the pulverised coal through the burner pipe. Hammer type mills with a series of hammers on a vertical or horizontal shaft were used on cement kilns with softer US, UK and German coals from the first use of pulverised coal directly fired cement kilns around 1900. The brown coal fired boilers for power generation in the Latrobe Valley use a heated type hammer mill or impactor.

In the second half of the 19th century many companies were producing crushing and grinding mills. Some (particularly US companies) may have called a ordinary hammer mill a disintegrator.

These types of mills have a high maintenance cost if the material being ground is abrasive (eg quartz rock). Also they will clog up with clay if not swept with hot air.

Hammer mills or crushers are still used as primary crushers for ore such as limestone, gypsum, coal, iron ore, bauxite etc. They have a crushing ratio of around 16:1 or more (even up to 50:1 for large units with softer rock). The product can be used without further crushing in fine grinding mills saving capital, and operating costs". Thanks Peter for that expansive explanation.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Those with an interest in the Victorian Goldfields might wish to note the following information from the AHA Newsletter:

Newly released records, Ballarat Archives Centre:

This collection spans records from Karkarook in the far northwest of the state; Horsham in the Wimmera area; Ararat and Stawell in the Grampians area; to Daylesford, Trentham and Bacchus Marsh in the Central Highlands. Rate books, council minutes, correspondence files and letter books are among the recently released records. [Read more](http://prov.vic.gov.au/blog-news/uncover-new-treasures-at-ballarat-archives-centre) or click on: <http://prov.vic.gov.au/blog-news/uncover-new-treasures-at-ballarat-archives-centre>

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to member Nic Haygarth who was joint winner of the inaugural Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History in Tasmania. Although not categorized as a mining book, his publication, *The Norfolk Plains: a History of Longford, Cressy, Perth and Bishopsbourne, Tasmania, was deemed worthy of the Tasmanian local history award in memory of historian Marita Bardenhagen, whose paper on bush nursing at Adamsfield, Tasmania was read by Nic at the Queenstown AMHA Conference in 2008. At the time, Marita was unable to be present because of ill health and a car accident. The other winner was Lorraine Dooley, for her book *Building on Firm Foundations*.*

Secondly, Nic is to be congratulated for producing a new book co-written with Simon Cubit and called *Historic Tasmanian Mountain Huts: Through the Photographer's Lens*. Among other non-mining stories, the publications deals with the stories of two osmiridium diggers at the Nineteen Mile Creek west of Waratah, Tasmania. The book costs \$50 and is available on-line at <https://simoncubit.com.au/>. It is also in Tasmanian bookshops.

JOURNAL

My usual plea for papers: we still have a few spaces left for the 2015 volume and if interested in getting your article into print please get it to me asap. We already have some very interesting topics, and if you wish to contribute we can guarantee that you'll be in good company.

BEREAVEMENT

Glyn Tudor Roberts

17 March 1928 -19 March 2015

It is with sadness that we report the death on 19 March of Glyn Tudor Roberts, just two days after his 87th birthday.

Glyn was a native of Brecknockshire, Wales. He obtained his BSC in Geology from Birmingham University in 1950, and followed this by working for the National Coal Board until 1957. He then found employment as a hydrologist in Kenya, Somalia and in Jordan. In 1963 Glyn moved to South Australia, again as a hydrologist, and remained there until 1970 when he joined the Hydro-Electric Commission in Tasmania where he worked as an engineering geologist, mainly on the Gordon and Franklin schemes. In 1981 he returned to Africa, working first for the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation on the provision of local water supply for Tanzanian villages, and then with World Vision on similar projects in Kenya. Making his way back to Tasmania, he ran his own consulting companies for several years. He then took a different direction by resuming tertiary studies in history at the University of Tasmania and taking out his MSC. Glyn then turned his attention to obtaining his PhD, which he was presented with in 2003. He later presented his finding in a well-reviewed book, *Metal Mining in Tasmania, 1804-1914: how government helped shape the mining industry*, Launceston, Tas, Bokprint Pty. Ltd. in conjunction with Fullers Bookshop, 2007.

Among other publications were; 'Tullah (Mount Farrell). Life in a Small Mining Village - 1898-1914', *Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Papers and Proceedings*, 46 (4) pp. 173-232.

And: *The Role of Government in the Development of the Tasmanian Metal Mining Industry: 1803-1883*, Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, Hobart, 1999, pp. 135. And, 'Professionals and the Tasmanian Government in the Early Development of the Metal Mining Industry', in Patrick Bertola & Karen Miller (eds), *Proceedings of the Australian Mining History Association Conferences 1997-2000*, AMHA, Nedlands, 2001, pp.75-80.

Glyn Roberts was a member of the AMHA from 1999 to 2009 and was one of our State representatives for Tasmania for a number of years until family circumstances made it difficult for him to continue.

Our condolences go out to wife, Ida and family.

I am grateful to Greg Dickinson for furnishing much of the above information.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you haven't yet registered for your 2015 membership, its as easy as getting the information from our webpage, or clicking on the following 'Register Now' address:

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?ID=15167>

(if you can't open using the pdf address, use the Word Doc address to download, or type in the address into your Search Engine).

While we still accept paper registration forms and payments by cheque, it will ease the burden of administration on the Secretary/Treasurer if you pay on-line. **Overseas members** in particular will find this method both more convenient and much cheaper, as the cost by the bank for converting an overseas cheque has recently **been raised to \$15**.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the Annual General Meeting will take place at The Theatre, NT Art Gallery and Museum, Darwin, following the end of Conference presentations, at **2.00pm on Thursday 25 June 2015**.

Should you have any substantive items for discussion, or wish to propose changes to the Constitution please contact the Secretary. The following Agenda has been set for the AGM.

21st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NT Art Gallery & Museum Theatre
Commencing at 2.00pm,
Thursday 25 June 2015

AGENDA

President's Welcome

Apologies

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Charters Towers AGM, 1st October 2013.
2. Consideration of President's Report.
3. Consideration of Treasurer's Report for 2014-2015.
4. Consideration of Auditor's Report for 2014-15.
5. Motions and Changes to Constitution:
See *.
7. (i) Election, or Confirmation of Appointment of Officers
a) Patron; b) President; c) Vice-President;
d) Secretary; e) Treasurer, f) Auditor;
g) Committee;
(ii) Appointment of (a) Journal Editor;
(b) Sub-editor; (c) Webmaster.
8. Setting of Subscription fees for 2016.
9. Journal report.
10. Determination of Journal Editor's payment for services.

*** Proposed Changes to the Constitution:**

In item 5 of the Constitution add an additional category 'Honorary Life' and change four categories to five categories. Add an additional clause 5.2 as below:

5.1 There shall be five categories of membership, Full, Family, Full Time Student, Institution, and Honorary Life.

5.2 The award of Honorary Life Membership may be made to an existing member on the basis of a long period of outstanding service to the Association. Recommendations for such an award shall be made by the Advisory Committee and confirmed at an Annual General Meeting.