



AUSTRALASIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL

The Future of Trove

Those among of us who have long gone down on our knees in thanks for the convenience of 'Trove' in our research endeavours will be seriously concerned to hear that this wonderful service is facing an uncertain future. This is because of cutbacks at the National Library of Australia that threaten the maintenance of the service, and a halt to the harvesting of new collections. Among others who are concerned is the President of the Australian Historical Societies federation, who has appealed in that Society's *Newsletter*, for any society or individual interested in protecting the service to try to combat this. To do so, you can contact your local federal representatives (of any political hue) to express your concern, and to also sign a petition to protect the service at:

[Stop Cuts to National Library of Australia & Save Trove](#)

Every approach helps, and we hope that our members will express their interest in sustaining and improving this excellent service.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AMHA 22nd Annual Conference, Cobar, NSW, 16-21 October 2016.

A reminder that the **deadline** for submission of extended abstracts and early bird registration rate for the Cobar 2016 conference is fast approaching (**31st July**). We are still calling for oral and

poster presentations (e.g. the latter could include displays of maps, compilations etc.). To assist with preparation of the conference volume please use the abstract template available on the AMHA website. Just type in your material at the relevant places following the instructions and erase the instructions when you have finished – make sure you don't erase the header and footer. Abstracts need to be camera ready and if you can submit a little earlier than the deadline that will also help should you need to make corrections.

Please make sure you book your accommodation early (if anyone is having problems finding accommodation at this stage please contact Ken McQueen at Ken.McQueen@canberra.edu.au

For anyone travelling to Dubbo by air or rail who may need a transfer from Dubbo to Cobar, we have a limited number of places on a mini bus that Adrian Hutton will be picking up in Dubbo (leaving Dubbo airport at about 1.30pm, and the railway station at approx. 2.00pm Sunday 16th) at a cost of \$20 per person each way (first in first served).

Those who use Adrian's service will be emailed beforehand with final details. Please contact Adrian Hutton at: marie.hutton@bigpond.com
There is also the railway bus that goes each day from Dubbo to Cobar.

Field trips for the conference have been organised. For those people who have not opted to go on the one-day trip

to Nymagee, as an alternative we can offer a trip to Mt Grenfell (given sufficient numbers) to see the aboriginal rock art (cost \$20 on the day). Please let Ken McQueen know if you are interested.

For all field activities you will need to bring stout footwear and suitable clothing (including a hat). For the mine site visits you will be required to wear long sleeve shirt and long trousers. If you have, or can obtain, any of: steel capped boots, hard hat, high-vis vest, and safety glasses please bring these with you as supplies on site are limited. These items are required on all mine sites if you leave the bus.

To register on-line download forms from our web site or click on the following: <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=20571>

N.B.: When registering please note the instruction that informs you that the dinner cost is included in the registration fee. The \$50 payment for the dinner is an option related only to those who take out a one-day registration.

BITS AND PIECES

New Archive

Member Noreen Kirkman furnishes the following useful information:

Members of the AMHA will be interested in the Mining & Energy WA archive being established by the State Library of Western Australia. The Project Manager for the archive is Dr Susanna Iuliano, Battye Historian, email: susanna.iuliano@slwa.wa.gov.au

The State Library of Western Australia Foundation has launched a fund raising campaign - 'Mining & Energy WA: Treasuring our Resource History.' See:

<https://statelibraryfoundation.org.au/index.php/mining-and-energy-wa-archive-campaign>.

Heritage Council of NSW

Also from the AMHA *Newsletter* a call for nominations to the Heritage Council for members to sit on its specialist committees. It seeks specialists with experience and technical skills in

archaeology (historic and/or maritime), conservation of environmental heritage, local government, moveable heritage, natural heritage, planning, property, planning or environmental law, property economics, rural interests, Aboriginal heritage, architecture, the built environment, landscape heritage, the building, development and property industries, engineering, sustainability, NSW or Australian history and cultural landscapes.

Applications close on Wednesday 20 July 2016. For information see:

<http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au/heritage-council-nominations/>

Queensland Talk

From the pages of the AHA Newsletter comes the following information on a public talk by AMHA member Lyndon Megaritty. Lyndon will present a paper titled '*From Pioneer to Premier – The Life and Times of Sir Robert Philp*'. The presentation will be made at the Museum of Tropical Queensland on Tuesday 14 June 2016, at 12.00pm.

Every household should have one!!

A report on the *West Australian* of 10th June reveals that a Kalgoorlie house topped the Statewide list for most damage caused to a property. This occurred after something went wrong when the householder attempted to use the kitchen to extract gold from ore. A police investigation found a quantity of mercury at the property. As stated "The discovery of a home gold 'refinery' in public housing is highly unusual". After causing damage valued at \$370,000 the tenant was evicted on the basis that the activities on the premise was 'dangerous'. AMHA members beware of nomadic refiners who might wish to lease your property for mining related purposes.

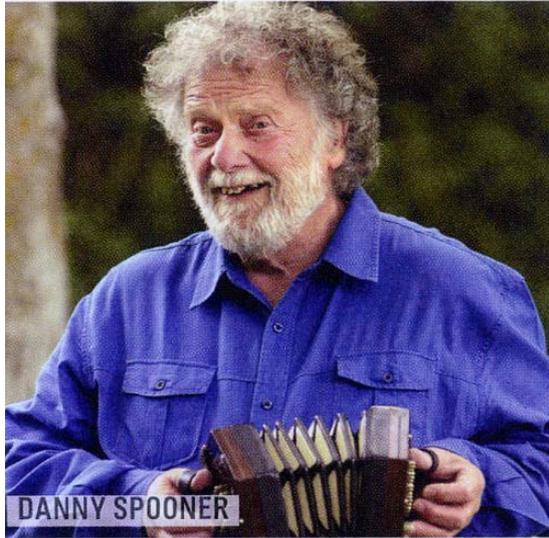
2016 Victorian Community History Awards.

Yet another notice from the AHA Newsletter to announce that entries are open for the Victorian Community History Awards which celebrate the

people involved in community history projects who are dedicated to telling local stories which help all Victorians to better understand their past. The awards are being presented by Public Record Office Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Entries close 2pm Friday **29 July 2016**. For details see:

<http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/programs/victorian-community-history-awards>

AWARD



AMHA Members who were at the Beechworth Conference dinner will no doubt remember the lively renditions of Danny Spooner with his songs of the popular goldfields entertainer Charles Thatcher. At the 50th National Folk Festival in Canberra at Easter of this year, Danny received a *Life Time Achievement Award*, it being pointed out that ‘This is awarded to a person who, throughout their lifetime, has made a significant commitment and contribution to enriching folk music and culture in this country. For our milestone 50th Festival the Board of Directors will honour two outstanding champions of folk music. Phyl Lobl and Danny Spooner’. The citation goes on to say: ‘Danny Spooner’s passion is the expression of British and Australian culture through folk music. Born into a working-class family in the East End of London, Danny arrived in Australia in 1962. Influenced by the likes of Dedan Affley, Martyn Wyndham-Read and Margaret RoadKnight, Danny developed

his craft and soon understood the importance of the social context of folk song. He has performed in folk clubs all over Australia, New Zealand and in Britain on his visits home. He has appeared at every major folk festival in Australia, at which he has given a vast range of workshops on aspects of folk songs of Britain and Australia, many of them recorded by the ABC national radio. His passion is getting people singing and he has inspired and encouraged many to develop their singing craft. Nothing gives him more pleasure at a festival than getting a good singing session going. Described as “a living national treasure”. Danny Spooner can make traditional music seem new, and make new songs seem old’.

I’m sure you’ll be pleased to know that Ken McQueen and his organizing committee have booked Danny to take part in the Cobar Conference. We look forward to catching up with Danny again, and to listen to more of his wonderful songs at the conference dinner (and maybe elsewhere!).

INFORMATION WANTED

John Bentham Neales

Member Sally Grundy is a descendant of **John Bentham Neales** (1806-1873). Neales was a celebrated figure in South Australia in the 19th century being an established auctioneer, a politician, a friend and supporter of Capt. Charles Sturt on the latter’s epic 1844 expedition across Australia in 1844, and also a man with various business interests. He was an early shareholder and director of the South Australian Mining Association (proprietors of the Burra Burra Mine) but sold out his interests in 1849 when share prices were at their peak. He also chaired the meeting when that Mining Association was floated in 1845. During his lifetime he gained the appellation ‘Father of Mining in the Colony’. It is also alleged that previous to coming to South Australia in 1838 he had interests in Cornish mining.

Sally has discovered one myth - that being, he was not a nephew to the famed

economist Jeremy Bentham who according to some written sources financed John Bentham Neales' migration to South Australia. But what of his involvement in South Australian mining ventures other than at the Burra Burra mines? Sally asks whether anyone has come across evidence of any such involvement in his mining activities, either in Cornwall or in South Australia? If members have unearthed reference to Neales' involvement in mining she would be delighted if you could contact her at: sally@mundooisland.com.au

Mining Museums Victoria

Member Serena Ioannucci of the Sovereign Hill Museum would appreciate the help of members who have information on Victorian Tourist Mine operators. Serena states:

'A small group of Tourist Mine Operators are wanting to meet for an exchange of ideas, historical information and insights into operational innovations that each of our unique and wonderful historical mines encounter. Sovereign Hill will host this initial meeting in early December 2016 and as a group (unnamed as yet!) we would like to extend the invitation to any Tourist Mine Operators who would like to participate.

If you know of any tourist mines, regardless of size, whose owners might like to participate, please contact: sioannucci@soereignhill.com.au Your help will be very much appreciated'.

OBITUARY

Jim Killick 1945-2016

It is with regret we announce that following a stroke, member Jim Killick, passed away on 22nd January 2016.

Jim was born in Cornwall on 18th July 1945 and died in Adelaide on 22nd January 2016, aged 70 years.

He studied at Adelaide University and graduated with a Master of Civil Engineering degree. His career was always involved with water, and for many years he worked with the State water authority. In later years he became

involved with a company operating in developing countries, and travelled a lot in south and south-east Asia.

As a boy his main hobby was collecting and identifying minerals, and he had to toss up between studying geology or engineering. While engineering won-out, his interest in geology continued and he spent much time exploring old mine sites all over SA, and in later years he visited many interstate sites.

Jim Killick

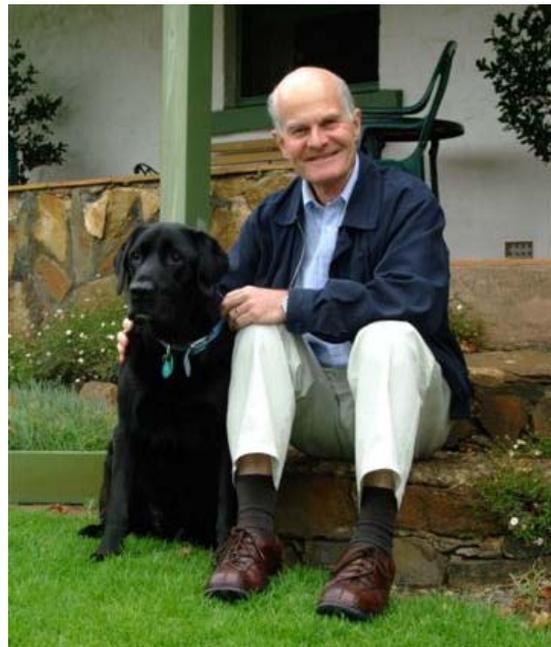


Photo – courtesy Margaret Killick

As a member of the AMHA, he was part of the committee which organized the AMHA conference in the Adelaide Hills in September 2011. Following this conference a new informal group of mining enthusiasts formed the SA Mining History Group, and Jim was a keen member of that organisation for the four years before he passed away.

Our sincere condolences go out to Jim's wife, Margaret, and family. His valuable contributions to mining history are appreciated, and he will be missed.

OBITUARY

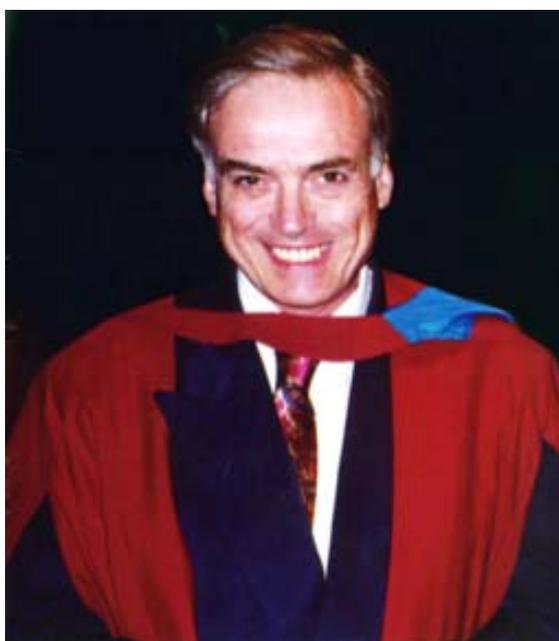
Dr Richard Gordon Hartley

30 June 1939 - 5 May 2016

Richard Hartley who passed away while flying home with his wife Pat, after what Pat describes as 'a wonderful holiday in France', will be familiar to many of our

members, not only for his presentations at past conferences (including Darwin) but also for his excellent publications on mining history.

Richard was born just before the beginning of WWII in Buckinghamshire, UK and while he demonstrated early academic ability while at boarding school he was diagnosed with the sleep disorder narcolepsy combined with cataplexy where strong emotion or laughter causes a person to collapse but remain conscious. Richard managed these disabling problems privately throughout his life. At Glasgow University, Richard followed two passions – civil engineering and long-distance competitive running.



Following graduation, Richard pursued civil engineering work in London before leaving for Australia where he was employed by the Perth engineering firm, Mansell & Partners to work on the standard gauge railway. On the voyage to Australia in 1968 he met his future wife, Patricia Keene, who was returning home after nursing overseas.

In 1983, Richard's medical problems caused him to retire from Mansell's, a decision that saw him pursue voluntary work at the State Archives and Battye Library. This led him to pursue studies in history leading to his earning his PhD at Murdoch University in 1999 after submitting his thesis 'A history

of technological change in Kalgoorlie gold metallurgy 1895-1915' in which he charted the metallurgical transformation during the period when the Golden Mile was the world leader in industry. As his PhD supervisor, Lenore Layman states, 'He was a meticulous researcher ... and his knowledge of the WA goldfields history became legendary among WA historians'.

In more recent times, Richard completed a work started years before by himself and the late Denis Cumming, *Westralian Founders of Twentieth Century Mining: career biographies of mining engineers, mine managers and metallurgists who worked in the Western Australian mining industry 1890-1920*, that promises to be a source book that will be referred to by mining historians for many years to come (see review in *JAMHA*, vol. 12, October 2014, pp. 243-244). This was but one of many research documents by Richard, including his much quoted thesis, completed in 1992 that was awarded 1st class Honours– 'The 1904 watershed in Bewick Moreing's Western Australian gold mining activities'.

Richard was also a valued contributor on the Engineers of Australia WA Division Heritage Panel. Joining the panel in 1992 he remained an active and enthusiastic member for 24 years, acted as Secretary for three years, was the Honorary Archivist of the division and lodged a wide range of historical documents for future research and reference in the State Library of WA. He also represented the panel on a number of government committees associated with heritage.

Of particular significance has been Richard's publication, *River of Steel: A History of the Western Australian Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply 1895-2003*, published in 2007, that dealt with the construction of the Perth-Kalgoorlie Water Supply pipeline. As a result of this work and his contribution to engineering heritage, Richard was awarded Engineering Heritage Australia's highest honour – the John Monash Medal,

but honours spread further than the shores of Australia, for in 2008 *River of Steel* came to the attention of the American Society of Civil Engineers, resulting in the project gaining ASCE's prestigious International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark award that saw bronze plaques being unveiled at the Mundaring Weir (source of the pipeline) and at Mt Charlotte Reservoir, Kalgoorlie where the pipeline terminated. In 2011 he was awarded the Telford Premium Prize by the Institution of Civil Engineers UK for his paper presented to the Institution on 'Lessons from Western Australia's Goldfields Water Supply Scheme'.

As Lenore Layman has stated, 'We sadly farewell a clever, intellectually passionate, meticulous historian and kind, generous and lovely man'.

Our thoughts go out to Richard's widow, Patricia, and to his children Paul, Rachael, Lucy, and families.

The editor wishes to thank Don Young, Engineers Australia WA Division, Lenore Layman, and his daughter Lucy's eulogy, for much of the information on Richard's rich life.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Just another reminder to those who intend but have not yet renewed their memberships for 2016, that you can do so with great ease by tapping into our 'Register Now' on-line registration process - a simple click on the following address (if you have trouble just copy the address directly into Google or other search engine).

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?ID=19330>

You might prefer to download a form from our web page

JOURNAL

We still have room available for one or two more articles for the forthcoming volume of the journal, but don't leave it much longer, or you might have to wait another year to see your article in print.

We are still interested in finding people to act as referees for papers that are submitted for publication, and also for those who would like to act as reviewers for our book review section. Don't feel shy about stepping up as a volunteer - all offers welcomed.

JOURNAL SPONSORSHIPS

With increases in postage costs, we are more anxious than ever to obtain sponsorships to offset the cost of our journal and postage expenses. If you have contacts in the mining industry, then perhaps you could help by approaching individuals or company representatives to see if they would be prepared to help sustain the Journal? We can. Of course, offer some advertising space in return for donations.

If you'd like to discuss this further, please contact the Secretary at mel.davies@uwa.edu.au or contact by phone at 08-64882926 (afternoons Perth time), or at 08-92953265 (mornings). Any suggestions greatly appreciated.

