



Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc.

PO BOX 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702

www.qsma.com.au

THE MINERS VOICE

President: Trevor Harwood

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Secretary: Carol Graham

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Treasurer/Assistant Secretary: Megan Harwood

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MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROVIDE A CENTRAL BODY TO LIAISE, COORDINATE AND PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR MINING AND OTHER ASSOCIATED ISSUES RELATED TO THE CENTRAL QUEENSLAND SAPPHIRE FIELDS.

ISSUE: 12 December 2017

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

Welcome to the latest issue of **The Miners Voice**.

TOPICS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Treasurers Report

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Presidents Report

Cops Corner

2017/2018

Member No:



Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc.

PO BOX 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702 www.qsma.com.au

Membership & Renewal Application Form \$35.00 Per Year

I wish to become a Member of the Q.S.M.A. and agree to abide by the Rules of the Association.

☐ **New Application**

☐ **Renewal**

☐ **Change of Details**

New Membership Applications are subject to Approval.

Title:

Date of Birth: / /

Given Name: Surname:

Current Mailing Address:

State: Postcode:

Phone No: Claim No:

Email:

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS:

Name: Phone No:

How did you hear about us:

☐ Tick the box if you require a copy of the Rules of the Association.

☐ The information I have provided is true and correct.

Signature of Applicant: **Date:**

☐ **CASH**

☐ **CHEQUE**

☐ **MONEY ORDER**

OFFICE ONLY

Receipt Number: Submitted By:

Approved by the Committee

President: Secretary:

Date Approved/Rejected: Date Entered:

TREASURERS REPORT:

I apologise for the lateness of this newsletter, August through to October we were extremely busy with Native Title and getting the signing days sorted out in Emerald. This has been a monumental time for all concerned, QSMA, National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT), The Western Kanguulu People and The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) in both the Emerald and Rockhampton offices. As many of you will already know the signing days were from the 17th Oct to the 20th Oct and this went very smoothly. See Native Title Co-ordinators report for more information.

Membership runs from 1st July to the 30th June. Any cheques or money orders need to be made out to the QSMA Inc, Membership forms need to be completed, signed, dated and returned to the following address:

The Treasurer
QSMA Inc.
PO Box 364
Rubyvale
Qld 4702

Anyone who hasn't renewed in the last 6 months will not be receiving a newsletter as they are no longer a financial member of the QSMA. If you know of anyone who wants to renew their membership please feel free to pass the membership form onto them, they can also find one in the MPC monthly newsletter.

I would like to take this time, to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Safe New Year and may you find many Sapphires.

We, your Committee, will be taking, a much needed and well-deserved break over the Christmas and the New Year period.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Megan Harwood
Treasurer/Assistant Secretary
QSMA Inc.

Raffle Winners for 2017:

Sapphire Raffle was won by Paul Saron, Ticket No: 76

Chivas Regal Raffle was won by Graeme Vidler, Ticket No: 87

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Secretary's Overview of the Year: Where did it go?

- Our complaints with Ergon Low wires on the Gemfields were finally resolved with Ergon doing considerable upgrades after your Committees intervention and report to the Electrical Inspector Mr O'Grady with senior staff from Brisbane in attendance at sight inspections with the QSMA. Central Highlands Regional Council were also lobbied by us in support of this culminating in an upgrade.
- The Permit to Occupy was surrendered due to costs and the unavailability of the land to have a permanent structure on it and the uncertainty of any tenure upgrade. This was mainly due to the requirement of Native Title over the Tenement which comes under the Lands Act not the Mineral Resources Act your mining claims are under.
- Recovery of legal costs owed to the QSMA by Mr Robert Feyen have been discontinued due to his filing for bankruptcy and the unlikelihood of recovering monies from the Bankruptcy trustee. If we were to peruse this further we would be spending good money, with little likelihood of recovery. QSMA Lawyers will keep his file for 7 years in the unlikely scenario he becomes financial. Gilkerson Lawyers were instructed by QSMA to check over the Final Draft of the Ancillary Agreement negotiated by your Negotiation Team with the Western Kangolulu, some amendments were necessary, and a successful Agreement was finalised, sign up days occurred from the 17th -20th October 2017.
- Security Deposits on Claims were discussed with John Tolhurst DNRM whereby Levels of security were as follows: Claim with no infrastructure (Security) \$1000.00 (Financial Assurance) \$400.00 each claim. All infrastructure on claims are tailored for each claim on the amount of buildings, pods etc with regards to further security required. Also, numerous discussions on underground diggers.
- Greg Charlton stepped down as President for health reasons but was retained as a Committeeman, Trevor Harwood was appointed interim President.
- Special Meeting was held for the hearing of an appeal by two Members Robert Feyen and Phil Ashworth – Appeal dismissed by the members and their memberships terminated for life.
- AGM of 19th August 2017 T. Harwood elected as President, M. Harwood re-elected as Treasurer/Assistant Secretary, C. Graham re-elected as Secretary, the previous committee were all re-elected and accepted their posts, these are A. Knight, G. Graham, J. Hartley, L. Bell, B.J. Graham, (G. Charlton declined re-election).
- MOLA Bill Legislative submissions were prepared and sent for consideration. Parliamentary Council invitation to the QSMA and NQMA as a witness to the injustices to MOLA Bill in its current form this was by phone link up by speaker phone on 11th October 2017 with NQMA to the Parliament, your executive was in attendance, Carol spoke for the QSMA on several aspects of the Current MOLA bill and re-iterated the need for Small Miners to have separate legislation as we are currently governed by Large Mine Legislation. This was also a topic addressed by Fiona Abbey President of NQMA.
- Native Title Ancillary Agreement and Section 31 Deed finally completed by the QSMA negotiation team.

We have had a very busy year and I personally am exhausted. I do hope you all have a very happy and healthy Christmas and new year.

Thank you all for your very much needed support and encouragement, without you we would not have succeeded in our accomplishments, to all members a sincere thank you and well done!!

Warm wishes & Merry Christmas

Carol Graham
Secretary
QSMA Inc

NATIVE TITLE:



Above, Greg and Carol Graham, Trevor Harwood and Greg Charlton, were the first to sign the Ancillary Agreement and the Section 31 Deed.



Above, Member Helen Shurven (NNTT), Kate Gallagher(DNRM), Trevor Harwood (Miner), Jason Turner (DNRM), Greg Charlton (Miner), Julie Hookey and Julieanne Butteriss from the DNRM (Rockhampton Office). Trevor and Greg are holding the letter of renewal for their claims.

NATIVE TITLE CO-ORDINATORS REPORT



From left to Right, Julie Hookey (DNRM), Karen Broome, Cynthia Broome, Jonno Malone (Western Kangoulu People), Rachel Bray (QSNTS), Julieanne Butteriss (DNRM) and Hedley Henningsen (Western Kangoulu People), on their signing days in Bundaberg.

As you will now all be aware the Native Title Agreement with The Western Kangoulu People is now finalised and a signing day of all documents was held in Bundaberg on the 11th and 12th of October 2017. The importance of this event should not be underestimated by anyone. The signing days that were held in the DNRM offices in Emerald were well received. I understand that around 181 Mining Permits were signed off on in person and the bulk will be posted out. To those of you whom are to receive the documents by mail, please ensure that you **sign all documents where required, if you don't, your mining permit will not go to grant or renewal, it is your responsibility to ensure that this is done correctly and to follow all the instructions given by the DNRM to the letter, I cannot over emphasise this point.**

THE NEGOTIATIONS:

During these negotiations, I received several telephone calls as to why the process was taking so long. The first three batches of mining permits had to go through the advertising process and the one month, notification period before any negotiations could even commence, this was a time factor. Once this was done the QSMA negotiation team set about to draw up a Template Ancillary Agreement, another time factor. I travelled to Rockhampton to meet with the Native Title Party and their Legal Team, Queensland South Native Title Services (QSNTS). In all there were about eighteen months of preparation. During all negotiations the QSMA Team had sat down at the negotiating table 28 times, some of these were two negotiations in a single day, plus the number of times the Team had met to discuss things.

Negotiations started on 27th May 2015 and by December of 2016 an Agreement in Principle had been reached, unfortunately on the 2nd Of February 2017 the Federal Courts had made a ruling that put all Agreements Australia wide into limbo, this had placed another seven months onto the Agreement being finalised. Now considering that the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) took nearly ten years to be

finalised, the short time frame to finalise the Right to Negotiate Process (RTN) is a great achievement by all Parties.

During the Negotiations Mrs Priscilla Broome passed away. Aunty Cilla as she was best known was a much respected and loved Elder within her community.

Aunty Cilla had been a Prominent Figure during the ILUA negotiations and knew this land quite well.

Although Aunty Cilla was unable to attend meetings, her background knowledge was of great importance. I as Native Title Co-ordinator had been hopeful of meeting Aunty Cilla, unfortunately for me this was not to be.

Sadly, during the negotiations Richard Broome also passed away suddenly, this had come as a shock to us all. I had met Richard on several occasions and found him to be an easy person to talk to. Richard had a passion for his Culture and Heritage and I had asked him many questions about this and Richard was only too happy to provide answers for me. Richards father played a key role with the ILUA negotiations and the mantle to negotiate the RTN process had been handed down from father to son. Sadly, neither Aunty Cilla nor Richard were able to witness such a positive outcome, Vale to you both.

As this is my last report, I would like to thank the Representatives for the Western Kangoulu People and their Legal Team (QSNTS and the State represented by the DNRM for being proactive with the negotiations and patient with me, The NNTT for their guidance and the QSMA negotiating team, Carol Graham, Trevor and Megan Harwood for their tremendous efforts, and for putting up with me, the whip cracker.

This is Greg Charlton, Native Title Co-ordinator signing off for the last time, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Cheers.

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Dear Members

After reading through the previous reports from the Committee, I've conclude, that you, the Members have an outstanding team working on your behalf and I feel very proud to be a part of the team. We have achieved much over the past 3-4 years and this is not only a great benefit to our members but to the whole community. I have had many personal thankyou's from Members and Megan has had many emails also thanking us for the work we have accomplished. There is still much to do regarding Mining and associated issues here on The Gemfields and with your support, I am hopeful that this can be achieved.

Looking forward to our interesting discussions with you at the Sapphire Sunday Markets in the new season.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards
Trevor Harwood
President
QSMA Inc.

COPS CORNER:

Anakie Police want your help,

As a crime prevention initiative Anakie Police are asking that when you leave the Gemfields for a pro-longed period, that you provide them with your details, so we can keep an eye on your place.

In recent times there has been an increase in the amount of break and enter offences occurring on vacated mining claims. Due to the lengthy time frame that many people leave the Gemfields, a vacated mining claim is a prime target for people who commit break and enter offences.

Without knowing which mining claim is occupied or not, and due to the isolation of many claims, police are unable to properly and proactively patrol all the mining claims on the Gemfields. However, with your help in identifying which claims are vacated for a pro-longed period, we will try and keep a constant eye on your place.

All we ask is that you fill out the attached form and return it to either your local post office or the Anakie Police Station, its free and simple to do. Simply complete your details, and in the items of interest part just fill out what you want us to look out for. For example, your vehicle/s or any property in the front/back yard, and any other items you think could get taken in your absence, or, even better, provide us with a photo to keep on record.

Then while you are away we can conduct patrols around your place and keep an eye on it for you, you can go away knowing that the local Police are doing everything they can to protect your home.

Your details will remain confidential to police and will not be disclosed in any event to any other person.

Officers from the Anakie Police Station take this time to thank you for your involvement to help reduce crime in our community.

Anakie Police Station
Cook Street, Anakie, Qld 4702
C/- Post Office, Sapphire, Qld 4702
Telephone, (07) 4985 4200

HOME SECURITY AUDIT

Things to consider before leaving your house unattended.

Doors:

Front door lockable – Yes / No
Rear door lockable – Yes / No
Side door lockable – Yes / No
Sliding door lockable – Yes / No

Windows:

Front Windows Lockable – Yes / No
Rear Windows Lockable – Yes / No
Side Windows Lockable – Yes / No

Garage:

Doors lockable – Yes / No
Windows lockable – Yes / No

Property Markings/Boundary:

Clear and identifiable – Yes / No

Other considerations:

Tools marked and secured – Yes / No
Personal documents disposed of and/or secured (credit cards/birth certificate) – Yes/No
Meter box secured – Yes / No
Hoses and garden tools away and secured – Yes / No
Gates to yard secured – Yes / No
Bins secured - Yes / No
Smoke alarms on and new battery – Yes / No

Anakie Police Station
Cook Street, Anakie, Qld 4702
C/- Post Office, Sapphire, Qld 4702
Telephone, (07) 4985 4200
CLAIM KEYHOLDERS INDEX

Address/Claim number:.....

Keyholders details

Title: Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms (Circle one)

Surname.....

Given Names:.....

Date of birth:.....

Contact number/s:.....

Term of absence:

Date leaving the Gemfields:.....

Duration of leave:

Location you're leaving to:

Items of value/interest:

[illegible]

