



Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc.

PO BOX 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702

www.qsma.com.au

THE MINERS VOICE

President: Trevor Harwood

trevor@qsma.com.au 0419 503 298

Secretary: Carol Graham

carolgraham3@bigpond.com.au 07 4985 4290

Treasurer/Assistant Secretary: Megan Harwood

megan@qsma.com.au 0419 503 298

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: 13 JUNE 2018

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

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

TOPICS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Treasurers Report

Secretary's Report

Ambo's Corner

Cops Corner

Firies Corner

Presidents Report

Nomination Form

2018/2019

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:

Well as you can see the season is upon us once more and we are looking forward to meeting many more people as they stop and say hello to us at the Sapphire Sundays Markets. Memberships expire on the 30th June and will need to be renewed, there are a few of you who have done this already, if you're not sure if you have renewed you can check with the boys at the Sunday Markets in Sapphire and enjoy a muffin made by your President Trevor Harwood, not bad at the old baking as many of you have discovered in the past.

We will be holding the AGM and General Meeting on the Saturday the 28th July 2018 at the Multi-Purpose Centre in Sapphire at 1pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the General Meeting which will be held first but only Financial Members will be able to attend the AGM and Vote. At the end of the newsletter you will find the Nomination form for voting on the Executive and the committee, nomination forms must be received by 4pm on the 14th of July 2018. If you prefer to download the nomination form and email it back. The email address is carolgraham3@bigpond.com, it still must be back to Carol by 4pm on the 14th of July 2018. This will allow us time to put the list of nominees together and display it on the notice boards around The Gemfields.

Please send nomination forms to:

The Secretary
QSMA Inc.
PO Box 364
Rubyvale
Qld 4702

Remember if you have any questions regarding mining or what is going on in that sector, the boys are at the Markets on Sundays and will be happy to answer your questions and if they can't at the time, leave us your details and we will endeavour to get the answer to you as soon as we can.

If you are renewing your membership via post, please send to:

The Treasurer
QSMA Inc.
PO Box 364
Rubyvale
Qld 4702

Many thanks for your continued support.

Megan Harwood
Treasurer/Assistant Secretary
QSMA Inc.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

From the Secretary's Desk

Your executive had numerous telephone calls late December and early this year from Members and non-members of the Gemfields appalled by the tree clearing by Cameron Hicks on his Permit to Occupy 0/213359 over Lot 2 CP AP2002 & Lot B CP AP2003 situated in the Divide Designated Fossicking Area. QSMA executive and nominated committee members requested a meeting with SLAM, Veg Management, DNRME and the Mayor CHRC which was subsequently held on 16th January 2018.

- QSMA called for all Grazing tenures over Designated Fossicking Land to be relinquished and the land remain USL for the use of Mining, Fossicking & Tourism only.
Reasons in support of this relinquishment:
(1) To abide by the intent of the Fossicking Act which was for the sole purpose of Mining, Fossicking, Tourism & the longevity of the fossicking areas.
(2) It is in the public Interest due to the numerous people Mining, Fossicking and camping in the areas.

- (3) Will abolish the continual conflicts between Mining, Fossicking & Tourism community and the Graziers in the DFL on the CQ Gemfields.
- (4) Improve access for fossicking and mining which will also encourage tourism as the areas in question have had numerous accesses destroyed by Graziers land clearing, making areas impossible to access for the Mining, Fossicking & Tourism Community.
- (5) Due to the destruction of the trees, these areas now have no shade for Miners, Fossickers or Tourist Communities and has also forced cattle and wildlife to seek shelter at Miners camps causing continual destruction of miner's infrastructure.
- (6) Erosion of areas pulled with natural drain lines obstructed with fallen trees.

- QSMA also called on the Minister to enforce the Deed of Grant special conditions on all Landholders and those laws to be enforced by SLAM with severe penalties on the Landowners who do not comply. The QSMA sent a letter to the Minister on the 28th March, an official reply is yet to be received. This action was sparked by the recent shooting incident perpetrated on two QSMA committee members and their Geologist whilst on their registered tenement by a Landholder who is now before the Courts. The miners are holding the DNRM responsible for this recent shooting for not enforcing these Deeds of Grant special reservations on Landholders.
- Investigations are still a work in progress in regards as to whether the Landholders of the Gemfields complied with Native Title laws by the destruction of trees in the relevant DFL areas, especially those areas that have been previously Culturally cleared by the Western Kangolulu.

These are very serious actions perpetrated by Landholders and is of utmost community concern.

DNRM, SLAM & Vegetation Management confirmed no Permit was issued to the Landholder Hicks. They state in their reply he did not need one due to the area being Category X under Veg Management Act and that condition (9) of his permit to occupy granted in 1999, (which states he must have a permit) Quote: Condition 9 ***"is now redundant, and instead shifted all relevant regulation of vegetation management to the Vegetation Management Act 1999.*** Therefore, nullifying his requirement for a Permit!

This destruction was carried out without any concern or notification whatsoever to any Government Department, Miner, fossicker or camper in the area prior to Dozers bearing down on the area in the early morning a few days shy of Christmas day. Nor were there any signs or notices erected notifying Gemfields residences this was going to occur. This had the potential to kill or injure people and destroyed wildlife habitat. Access by Ambulance to a man with serious health problems in the area was cut.

The Gemfields community are in shock these situations have occurred and the QSMA on behalf of our members want answers from all Departments, with remedies and an assurance this despicable behaviour by Landholders ceases forthwith and relevant penalties to apply to non-compliant Landholders. These Departments have a duty of care to insure the safety of miners and must be taken to task over these issues. Further discussions re the above situations will be addressed at the next General Meeting on the 28th July 2018 and the MPC in Sapphire, 1pm start. The AGM will follow the General Meeting. I would ask those wishing to have questions answered please send in your questions in writing as early as possible to QSMA prior to the meeting so answers can be obtained from relevant authorities if needed.

Question can be sent to:

The Secretary
QSMA Inc.
PO Box 364
Rubyvale
Qld 4702

See you all at the meeting.

Kind regards
Carol Graham
Secretary
QSMA Inc.

AMBOS CORNER:

Are you ready for your medical Emergency?

This month's article is not a new one, but a reiteration of a previous subject; "Are you ready for your medical emergency"?

Wouldn't life be just great if things always went well, there was always an abundance of money and good luck, and we never got sick or had an accident? Clearly, being realists, we know that this doesn't happen, and in relation to our health, we do get sick and we do have accidents. Some far more than others! The Gemfields has a wealth of history with some, of poor social habits; alcohol, smoking and not much health and safety prevention. Now this isn't a knock at any of us. We all have a choice and we live the way we choose to. But it does come at a price. Emphysema, heart problems, diabetes and bangs to the head are just to name a few. And, of course when they flare up and we need help, the ambos will always be here for every one of you lovely people.

The Gemfields is so beautifully unique - the people, the area, the weather, and the property locations. Which brings me to my point. We all know that mining claim numbers are all over the place and not consecutive. So, when someone dials '000' with mining claim number 123456 Rifle Range Road, no current computer system in use will know where that is. The system that the emergency services use, goes on gazetted roads generally. So, it doesn't know locally made area names such as Washpool, Divide, Reward or Sleepy Hollow. This is where Ambo local knowledge comes in. Despite the Gemfields ambulance vehicles having satellite tracking, satellite phones and radios, UHF and VHF radios and all manner of techno stuff, we still utilise the good old fashioned 'mud map' from time to time.

Ambos also have time off (I know, amazing eh?), which means that if we are on annual leave, a relieving ambo may be out here who may never have set foot in the place. Now before you start to worry, we do put continuity plans into process. So new relieving staff will always be experienced ambos with a wealth of clinical knowledge and experience under their belt. The only thing they may not know is the geography of the area. So, we show them around, get them to use the maps, mud and established, and give them our phone numbers to call in the event of needing information. The local firies, God bless 'em, are also called upon to help direct and find locations. My point here is that if you call for an ambulance, especially if you live off the beaten track, don't assume that whoever attends knows the area intimately. Probably yes, if its Andrew the Officer in Charge, or me. But it could be that we are on duty but busy and your ambulance comes from Emerald, and the guys are less familiar with where you are.

There are some things that you can do to help both you and us. First is, don't worry. We WILL find you if you need us! Make sure you know where you live or are calling from. This sounds silly, but people new to the area, or travelling, sometimes don't know their location, and clearly if you don't know where you are, how do we know where you are? Give accurate and current details of your location. A mining claim number is often of little use. As is 'near the tree by the white cow', or 'there's a white ute parked 3 doors down'. Consider putting something outside your dwelling which will make it obvious, such as a stack of tyres painted white, an orange fence, or a skull and crossbones flag! Anything to make the place stand out amongst others. If you live in a property with a house number on a yellow post, make sure it is present and visible. One covered over with foliage could mean a delay of us getting to you.

If you have a car, put it on the road or track, where it is visible and put the lights or indicators on, especially at night; it acts like a beacon. Many of you are on 12v, and so you can relatively cheaply buy a flashing orange beacon like the ones on the roof of the road workers cars. Fix it on the top of a tall pole and when you call us, hook it up to a 12volt battery and voila! Like a light house. Keep your mobile phone switched on after you call us. We might need to call you back for directions. I realise that not everyone has phone signal and that you may have had to drive away from the patient to get a signal, returning to the patient after the call ends. In which case put something else into play to counteract this, such as find and send a neighbour to meet us at a well-known land mark to guide us in. Some of you chose to drive to the ambo station, and that's fine if it's appropriate. But if the patient is you, you're feeling faint, with excruciating chest pain, or you're bleeding severely from a chain saw accident, driving may not be sensible. It raises heart rate and risks crashing, which opens up a whole new can of worms.

The state of Queensland rams it home regularly about preparing for disaster. This same principle applies to utilising the ambos. A little bit of preparation before you need us, might save a whole lot of issue when you do! And remember, it is not only others who may need an ambulance, it could one day be you too.

Stay safe and well,

Dave The Ambo.

COPS CORNER:

It has been just over one year since I began as the new OIC of Anakie Station. Policework in the Gemfields is very different to my previous line of work and I am greatly enjoying it. My wife Debbie and I are happy to have made the move and I'd like to thank all the people who have made us feel welcome.

Capricorn Highway Upgrade

In December 2016, there was a fatal traffic crash outside of Anakie, along the Capricorn Highway. I know that many emergency service volunteers and others were involved in responding to this. I have no doubt that it would have been a very distressing scene for all present. Senior Constable Sam Angus was still working by himself in Anakie during this time, and he is very appreciative of the help he received from everyone that day.

Since then, the speed limits along Anakie-Sapphire Road were adjusted and some different signage options were trailed in that area. The good news is that Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRC) have recently approved further road works at the Capricorn Highway intersection. It is anticipated that the improvements will involve rumble strips being added on the south-bound approach along with greater signage in all directions. I am sure that all Gemfields residents will be happy to see this upgrade when it is finally completed. Please be careful when driving through that area during the forthcoming roadworks.

Recent Stealing from Keilambete Road

Many of you would be aware already of a stealing incident over the weekend of 5 - 6 May this year, where batteries and diesel fuel were stolen from a grader and truck, parked out near Reward. The company owning the vehicles had been engaged by the council to improve the quality of the roads, particularly along Keilambete Road. By the time this happened, they had already completed considerable work on the road into Reward. Obviously, it is disappointing that someone would steal from a company as they are in the process of helping to improve the safety and appeal of the local roads. I am sure that this incident will only make it more difficult for improvements to be completed in the future. If anyone has any information about this, or about people who may be involved, please contact the Anakie Police. As always, we will respect your wishes if you prefer to speak anonymously.

Farewell to Sam

Lastly, I would like to offer a farewell to Senior Constable Sam Angus, who will be transferring away from Anakie in the near future. He has been selected for a position in the Blackwater Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), where he will work as a Detective. Sam began working in Anakie in July 2016 and has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many people in this area. Although I am sure he will miss many aspects of policing in The Gemfields, he is very much looking forward to a new challenge and a different line of work. On a personal note, I would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication. I appreciate the support that he and his family have given to me and my wife as we settled in. I wish all the best for the Angus family and I am sure that Sam will achieve many great things in the future.

Paul Cognet
OIC Anakie Police Station

FIRIES CORNER:

A message from the first officer Gemfields Rural Fire Brigade

Even though winter is approaching there is still a potential fire hazard on the Gemfields. The lack of cattle and other factors on the "Common" has left heavily grassed areas which have since dried out. It is the responsibility of the land or claim holder to maintain their property in a tidy fashion; if a fire starts on your property you are responsible for that fire and its consequences.

ABOUT PERMITS TO BURN: A permit to burn is for any fire that has fuel (sticks, logs, grass and leaves etc, any larger than two meters in area, it has nothing to do with the flame heights! It's the amount of fuel you're going to burn. Permits can be obtained from our local fire warden. The fire warden and the Brigade can also give advice on what you need to do prior to obtaining a permit and whether you may require a fire truck to attend. A permit to burn is requires some paper work but is FREE.

Some things you can do to prepare for a fire, make sure your yard is tidy and mowed. Don't just do inside your yard, do outside your fence line as well and give yourself a buffer, large flames can jump small fire breaks. Check your hoses are in good order and preferably have one front and back of your dwelling. Clean out your gutters, if your gutters are full of leaves, and we have an ember attack your gutter will catch alight and you could lose your house. Those properties that have meter high grass up to their backdoors will surely be in serious trouble.

For those who are fortunate to have a fire hydrant near them "ADOPT THE HYDRENT" keep it clear and visible. All fire trucks only carry a certain amount of water and sometimes we need to connect to a hydrant especially at a structural fire. If the hydrant is covered over or full of sand, we may not be able to access the water in a hurry. If you'd like to be shown the proper way to service your hydrant ask the brigade or a brigade member, we can show you how, word of warning snakes love to hide in hydrants so be aware if you lift the lid.

Drivers also need to be aware, when safe you need to pull over, where safe, to the left, to allow emergency vehicles with red and blue lights flashing and sometimes with siren, to pass unimpeded, in some cases time is critical for emergency vehicles.

If you see smoke or are worried about a fire dial 000 it's the fastest way to get any emergency vehicle to you fast.

One more point you may not be aware of, the members of your local Rural Fire Brigade the people in "yellow" are all volunteers and not paid in anyway, if you would like to join as a fire fighter or just a support member and help YOUR community please contact the office bearers listed below, not 000.

Thank you.

Contact Numbers:

EMERGENCY Ph. 000

1st Officer, Andrew McArthur Ph. 0418753350.

2nd Officer, Kris Nillson Ph. 0429803381.

Fire Warden, John Riley Ph. 0427580654.

Brigade Secretary, Terrie Heatherington Ph. 49854469.

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Hi Members,

Several items of concern have been brought to my attention lately by both members and tourists.

1. The clearing of vegetation on the fossicking land (Divide, Willows and Graves Hill), has restricted track access and devastated the camping spots. The QSMA Committee has walked the DFL assessing the destruction and as you see in Carols report several letters have been written. One member slipped into a hole made by a felled tree sustaining minor cuts and abrasions. My conclusion is, WHY was the DFL cleared at all and what benefit is this to marginal grazing land. There is no shade for Tourist, Wildlife or Cattle. The QSMA are doing their level best to see that this does not happening again in the future. Tourists have said they will no longer fossick in these areas as the felled trees make it unsafe to walk and there are not many camping areas or shade left. Not good for tourism. Be aware and be safe.

2. Unsafe, abandoned claims, collapsed mineshafts and cave ins have also been mentioned. One recently reported to the QSMA at Divide where a member rescued a wallaby from the shaft. This was reported to the DNRME and nothing was done about it. The QSMA followed up and send an email to John Tolhurst regarding our concerns and this was filled in on the 6th of June, many thanks to all involved and a big thanks to the Member who rescued the poor wallaby, who received a few minimal injuries for his efforts and a very happy wallaby who jumped away. If in your travels you come across a potential danger, note where it is or even better GPS its position and report it to the DNRME, should you have no luck with them, let the QSMA know and we will follow it up.
3. The Fire Boys have attended a couple of minor fires recently. When driving off the main track, please remember the grass is very dry and your exhaust and muffler very hot, Not a good combination.

Remember the AGM and General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 28th of July at the MPC in Sapphire. Your committee have worked very hard this financial year and I am pleased to say, I couldn't wish to be working with a better team than what we have, many thanks to the executive and committee for all your efforts during the last financial year.

If you are travelling to The Gemfields or from The Gemfields, please, travel safe, be happy and enjoy.
See you at the Markets.

Kind regards
Trevor Harwood
President
QSMA Inc.

.....**CUT HERE**.....

Q.S.M.A Inc.
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

I..... Nominate.....

for the position of

Nominee Signature..... Date.....

Membership No:

Nominator Signature..... Date.....

Membership No:

Seconders Signature..... Date.....

Membership No.....

All Nominees, Nominators and Seconders must be current financial members of the Q.S.M.A Inc.

Nomination forms must be either received by mail or email by 4pm on the 14th July 2018

