



THE MINERS VOICE

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 1 P.O. Box 364, Rubyvale, Queensland. 4702

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

Welcome to the new Newsletter format for the QSMA Inc. There are a few reasons for this change:

1. We your elected Chair and Committee will be able to keep you far better informed of all goals and business at hand for the QSMA Inc.
2. Due to cost savings involved in Postage, printing etc. We can keep you up to date on issues on a far more regular basis than previously. Our goal is to keep all members in the loop with what is going on, our current issues, and what we are doing about them.
3. We also need to free up time for the Committee to work more efficiently and effectively for the association.

Business:

The name change has been finalised from the QSPA Inc to the QSMA Inc. Your Committee has had excellent feedback due to our name change from the Premier down and especially from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Please note our new letterhead motto above and all stationery has been printed. We now have laminated and numbered membership cards that will be sent to each member on the 2014 annual membership renewal and all new applications.

Our newly appointed Treasurer Steve Urch has resigned the post of Treasurer, due to personal reasons. He has been retained by your Committee as a very valuable Committee member, he put forward as replacement Treasurer Mrs Megan Harwood who has been helping the Committee with a lot of assistant work. She has accountancy experience and is an invaluable asset to our organization. We welcome Megan to our Executive as Treasurer.

The QSMA Inc will have Committee representatives manning a stall at the Sapphire Markets every Sunday. Please stop by and see us for any renewals or new memberships. You will find us opposite the Canteen.

The QSMA Inc has made application for a Permit to Occupy over 1500sq metres on the corner of Rockhound Road and Sapphire/Rubyvale Road for an Office/Information area. The annual fee for this is well within the QSMA Inc budget. We are in desperate need of this and will be much easier for members to consult with your Committeemen & women including Government Departments.

Kelvin Johnston has relinquished the post of pegging Mining Claims for members.

B.J. Graham is now pegging for Members and is in the process of teaching other Committee members the art of pegging claims without problem. A fee for this service is required. His phone is 0749854290 business hours.

On the 26/2/14 Chairman Garnet Ross and nominated Committee members of the QSMA Inc had a Delegation with Member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnston with regard to some Issues raised in previous General meetings and further mentioned at recent Committee meetings.

These issues are:

The Miners Common and Native Title and its relevance:

We put forward that in our opinion due to the Proclamation of 1914 by Sir Arthur Morgan proclaiming the Anakie Mineral Field a miners Common, which has never been repealed by Proclamation. We believe Native title is excluded on the Miners Common and should come under the Exclusive Possessions Act.

Endangered Regional Eco Systems (ERE) (a large section of the Miners Common and the RA1 of the Anakie Gemfields has been made unavailable for mining within 1000 metres of this ERE) This has taken up vast tracts of Sapphire bearing land in our area. We pointed out that the Sapphire Dump is situated in the centre of this ERE.

We have requested that all mapped areas of this ERE be removed from the RA1 area of the Anakie Gemfields and requested that all Level 2 Mining Leases and all Mining Claim holders be allowed to mine the area under our current conditions without the restriction of this ERE.

SIZE OF MINING CLAIMS to be extended to maximum of 2ha, and being the 100mtr rule for pegging Claims (from dwellings etc) be replaced by 10 metre from the Boundary fence line of the Tenement.

Royalties: Were addressed with regard to actual volumes of sapphires required by Department of Natural Resources and Mines to be recorded on Royalty returns.

Mr Johnston advised he agreed these issues had gone on for too long and said he would raise these issues in Parliament in a Private Members Bill in the very near future. We will inform members of this result in our next newsletter.

Work to do:

You would all have received your latest rate notice and note that we have a new State Fire Levy on Mining Claims and Leases. Leases in particular have been singled out and Group Classed with the Large Coal Mines Levy.

We are in the process of negotiating a far more reasonable levy for our Sapphire Leases and liaising with the Small Miners Council on this issue.

We are to re-ignite the issue on the small machinery submissions.

An up and coming membership drive is also being planned.

We are also preparing for an up and coming Delegation with the Federal Minister for Aboriginal affairs Senator Nigel Scullion, Vaughan Johnston Member for Gregory and Federal Member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd, re our issues on Native Title. This will also be attended by Chris Shepherd who has thoroughly researched the History of Aboriginal Tribes in our area and will explain all the issues he has uncovered in his research. He has informed the QSMA Inc at the latest Committee meeting 25/3/14, that the Minister can alter a Regulation without going to Parliament to change legislation. He has requested that an amendment to Native Title (Indigenous Land Use Agreements) Regulations, 1999 add a new section 10. (1) No Indigenous Land Use Agreement becomes enforceable until after land rights have been granted by the Federal Court, covering lands referred to in the I.L.U.A.

As at the moment, as the law stands, numerous Native Title Claimants **can** lodge an application over our Miners Common of which we would then be liable to go through a Right to Negotiate with each Tribal Application.

This is a very important meeting which will take a lot of work by your Executive and Committee. The result of this meeting will be reported to all members in our next NEWS LETTER.

Wishing you all good health and prosperity.

Garnet Ross – Chairman

Philip Ashworth – Vice Chairman

Carol Graham – Secretary

Megan Harwood - Treasurer