



Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc.

PO BOX 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702

www.qsma.com.au

THE MINERS VOICE

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| Native Title Co-Ordinator: Greg Charlton | greg@qsma.com.au | 0419 748 432 |
| Acting 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 | 0403 653 335 |

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: 10 31st March 2017

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

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

TOPICS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Treasurers Report

Secretarys Report

Presidents/Native Title Co-ordinators Report

Welcome

Special Notices (Special General Meeting)

General Notices



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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:

Hello everyone and welcome to a new year. Let's hope that 2017 will be a great year for everyone. It was good to have a bit of a break and now is the time to get back into it all again. I hope that everyone had a great Christmas and New Year catching up with family and friends and just enjoying some time out.

My Apologies for the newsletter getting out a bit late as we were waiting on information to supply to you that in the end was not forthcoming.

The Sunday Markets at Sapphire have started up again as of the 9th April 2017, also there is a Saturday Markets at the Rubyvale Flats which started on the 8th April 2017

Memberships were due for renewal as at the 1st of July 2016. Membership runs from 1st July to the 30th June. Any member who hasn't renewed for this financial year won't be receiving any more newsletters as they are no longer financial. If you know of anyone who may be inquiring about why they are no longer receiving newsletters please remind them that they need to be a financial member to be able to receive a newsletter. Attached is a membership form for anyone wanting to renew their membership and may have forgotten, if you could pass this onto them so that they can renew, this would be very helpful and I thank you in advance, you can also find the membership form in the MPC Newsletter. Any cheques or money orders need to be made out to the QMSA Inc.

Membership forms need to be completed, signed, dated and returned to the following address:

The Treasurer
QMSA Inc.
PO Box 364
Rubyvale
Qld 4702

Many thanks for your continued support.

Megan Harwood
Treasurer/Assistant Secretary
QMSA Inc.

PS. As the season is now beginning, Carol is extremely busy with her own business as well assisting members with their renewals online. I ask that you please respect her position and do the right thing by Carol and phone for an appointment first, (4985 4290), if you have made an appointment and can't make it, please out of courtesy to Carol, phone to cancel, otherwise please ensure that you turn up on time. This will help both you and Carol. Many Thanks in advance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

I hope you are all well, and enjoying life whether it be on our beautiful Gemfields or the Maldives! In this issue, I need to bring to your attention a few important issues that have arisen and what your Committee have done in response.

In July 2015 when the QSMA were granted its Permit to Occupy at Lot 237 On Plan AP21061 we were led to believe that we could build a structure on this land for our meetings/Office, with power and water attached necessary for our needs as we blossomed into an organisation that could, as a mining group, have a real impact with all Government bodies, Tourism and Community as the miners input for our areas future needs going forward.

Meetings your Executive had with Local Government, Local Members of Parliament, DNRM and the Local Police were in favour of our vision and assured us of their full support. We then applied for Grant Applications of which all were unsuccessful mainly due to the uncertain tenure of the Permit to Occupy. We addressed the topic of converting the Permit to Freehold with the relevant authorities, the then Central Highlands Regional Council Mayor and CEO both were in full support should this avenue be followed by the QSMA. After much investigation and following through with this action, we were finally informed by DNRM that under the current Permit, we would be unable to build a permanent structure on the land under its current tenure and upgrading the tenure had enormous risk and financial expense attached, which included a Native Title agreement under the Lands Act, this process was to be far more complex than the Negotiations under the Mining Act we are currently involved in. Therefore, the land was now not suitable for the QSMA for its original purpose. After the committee carefully considered all avenues a motion was put forward and the committee agreed to surrender the Permit to Occupy, this was completed on 21st December 2016.

The Waste Management Charges applied by the CHRC continue to be discussed at the CRG meetings with the fee under consideration for review in the lead up to the forthcoming CHRC budget. We will keep you informed on any progress on this issue as soon as any information comes to hand.

Several members have approached me on the substantial increases in Financial Assurance (FA) the DNRM are enforcing on many renewals. I have been led to believe that due to the 10 year tenure terms the Department are looking at your tenure infrastructure and disturbance as to how much this would cost the Department (should you abandon your claim) to restore after the 10 year term expired. Remember, you do have the ability to have your cash FA as a fixed deposit in your own bank, insuring you get interest on your own money.

I have also had members complaining on the various notices the Department has sent out, these notices are compliance notices, where on inspection by the Department certain conditions were vastly lacking. The main notices I have seen were for work compliance, and keeping your claim tidy.

Note: (1) (Untidy Claims) An untidy claim will attract the attention of the Department, and it is a part of your Obligation History Statement declaration of which you signed on your renewal that you must keep your claim tidy. A good idea before you leave your claim after Winter is to store your mining equipment in a safe place, this will minimise any theft and your equipment will not encounter any of the severe summer storms that are the norm in our area.

Note : (2) (Work Compliance) Taking a photo before starting work on any area of your claim and after rehabilitation will help, it is also beneficial to keep a work diary so you have proof of compliance assuring notices of this nature are never an issue for you.

Please feel free to let us know of any problems you may have or if you have any suggestions in improving your organisation.

Carol Graham
Secretary, QSMA Inc

PRESIDENTS REPORT/NATIVE TITLE REPORT:

Welcome to all members, old hands and new. Well here it is, April and soon it will be Christmas before we know it, my times flies. As you may or may not know, the Gemfields has received some good rainfall of late which has been very much appreciated.

MY STEPPING DOWN AS PRESIDENT:

Due to a medical ailment that requires surgery and a long convalescence, I have made the decision to step down as President of the QSMA. This is not a decision that has been made lightly, however there comes a time when a person has to put themselves above all else and this is what I have done.

Your Association has a strong, honest Committee that has always worked for the best interest of its members.

It disappoints me to say that there are two members who appear to be hell bent on bringing not only this Committee into disrepute, but your Association also. The accusations and lies told by this member and the other member acting in concert with him are absolutely despicable and without grounds.

As Native Title Co-Ordinator I can assure you, the Members, that I was less than impressed that this particular member was trying to interfere with the negotiations for Native Title. It should not be underestimated the number of hours that myself and the other three members of the negotiation team have and are still yet to put into Native Title. (More on this next)

No Association should have to put up with people of this ilk as members, as they have shown a blatant disregard for the best interests of you, their fellow members.

NATIVE TITLE NEGOTIATIONS:

As you may have heard by now, there has been a spanner thrown into the works of Native Title. The issue is very complex and will be hard to explain in a couple of paragraphs so I will try to be as brief as I can and keep it in simple English.

In 2010, the Western Australian Court handed down what was known as the Bygraves Decision. What this meant was, it only required the majority of the Native Title Party members to sign any documents and this decision was then used as the benchmark for all negotiations.

In 2016, this decision was challenged by someone from Western Australia (it appears most Native Title challenges come from WA). On the 2nd of February 2017, the full bench of the Federal Court ruled that the Bygraves Decision was invalid which then put all agreements in limbo, (this became the McGlade decision). On the 16th February 2017, the Federal Government passed emergency legislation to rectify only half of the problem. This forgotten half (s) 31 Deed, which makes your agreement with the Native Title Claimants legal and binding, is now in the stages of being sorted out. All parties are now waiting for the State to make its position known.

I would like to assure all members that Native Title does not have to be renegotiated, this is all done.

As soon as the State has made its position clear, it will be full steam ahead. This situation that we are now faced with is not the fault of the State, the Native Title Parties or the QSMA. It happened as we were just about to cross the finish line. This situation will be resolved sooner rather than later.

FINALE:

I have enjoyed my time as President, the people that I have worked with and at times debated vigorously with (this is what makes a strong Committee) are all dedicated to trying to bring about better conditions for Small Miners, we admit not always with success, however that being said at least you have a voice and an Association will only be as strong as the support it receives from its members. I will remain on the Committee and continue in my role as Native Title Co-Ordinator.

In closing I wish you all good health and many finds.

Greg Charlton
Native Title Co-Ordinator

WELCOME:

We extend a warm welcome to, Sergeant Paul Cognet and Senior Constable Sam Angus to the Gemfields. It is great to finally have a permanent Police presence in our community and I'm sure it will make a lot of you feel a bit safer. Many thanks Paul for contributing to the newsletter which will help to keep everyone up to date with what's happening out there in the community. We look forward to reading your section in future issues.

SPECIAL NOTICES:

On Saturday, the 29th April 2017 at 1pm at the Multi-Purpose Centre in Sapphire, the QSMA Inc will be holding a Special General Meeting, followed by a General Meeting.

TOPIC FOR SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING:

The appeal of the termination of two members, Robert Feyen and Phil Ashworth.

TOPICS FOR GENERAL MEETING:

Native Title and any other concerns the members may have.

PROXY VOTING FORM:

A proxy voting form attached can be used if you are unable to attend the meeting. Simply complete the form and return it to The Secretary, PO Box 364, Rubyvale, QLD 4702, or you can complete the form and email it to the Secretary at, carolgraham3@bigpond.com. Please ensure that the member you nominate as your proxy will be attending the meeting otherwise the proxy will be invalid. If you do not know any member that will be at the meeting, you can put The Chair of the meeting as your proxy. A full Committee will be in attendance also. This is a perfectly acceptable and legal way of appointing a proxy. Please take this opportunity to participate in the running of your Association. Just a reminder, you must be a financial member, to be able to vote.

SERIOUS ASSUALT:

Magistrates decision of the serious assault on Committee Member John Hartley by association member Robert Feyen on the 3rd of July 2016 at the QSMA stall at the Sunday Markets held in Sapphire.

On the 6th of March 2017 at the Emerald Courthouse, Robert Feyen was found guilty and convicted of the serious assault on John Hartley, a conviction was recorded and he was fined.

The Magistrate found that the evidence provided by Phil Ashworth, appeared to him (the magistrate), "that there had been some effort made to align his evidence with Mr Feyens account of things".

PROXY VOTING FORM

Special General Meeting - Saturday 29th April 2017

This is part of the advertising of a Special General Meeting of the Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc, to be held on, Saturday 29th April 2017 at the Multi-Purpose Centre in Sapphire at 1pm. Members who are unable to attend the meeting are entitled to vote by appointing a proxy to vote on their behalf. The form if mailed must be received by Friday 28th April 2017 by 4pm and addressed to:

The Secretary, QSMA Inc, PO Box 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702. Email versions of this form can be sent to The Secretary at, carolgraham3@bigpond.com and will be accepted up to Friday 28th April 2017 by 4pm.

.....CUT HERE.....

QUEENSLAND SAPPHIRE MINERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
Special General Meeting 29th April 2017

I of
Name Address

Being a member of the Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc, hereby appoint

..... being a member of the Association as my
Name

proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Special General Meeting of the Association to be held on 29th April 2017 and at any adjournment of the meeting.

Signed Date

.....CUT HERE.....

QUEENSLAND SAPPHIRE MINERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
Special General Meeting 29th April 2017

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Name Address

Being a member of the Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc, hereby appoint

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Signed Date

GENERAL NOTICES:

As you are aware now, Greg Charlton has stepped down from the presidency of the QSMA, and Trevor Harwood was unanimously voted into the position of Acting President and has accepted the job. Many thanks Trevor. Trevor will still be running the table at the markets with other Committee members assisting him and we look forward to seeing many of you there during the season.

VALE:

As many of you are aware by now, on the 19th February 2017 we lost an extremely valued member of our community, Lew Proberts. You would have seen in the latest MPC Newsletter, there have been many people who have made comment about this incredible man and how greatly he is and will be missed by the whole community. Trevor Harwood and his team who have manned the QSMA stall at the Sunday Markets for the past two years have had the privilege of working next to this wonderful man. I can remember the times I would go down to the markets if I wasn't on duty, to check on the boys and how they were going, to ensure that the paperwork was in order. I would barely be out of the car and I could hear Lew saying here comes the boss, look out boys, better make sure all is in order and in the same breath ask me where my dollar was for the raffle ticket. Lew had a way with people and from what I have seen and heard, everyone loved him and he has touched many, many hearts, including ours. Carol and I (Megan) have had the privilege of working beside Lew in the Community Reference Group (CRG), run by the Council, there has been many a time that he has had us all in stitches and we will all miss that very much. The Sunday Markets this year will just not be the same without Lew there, his jokes and his humour and just the man himself in general will be deeply missed.

COPS CORNER:

I wanted to start by thanking Megan for inviting me to contribute to the QSMA newsletter. Since commencing as the new Sergeant at Anakie Station I have met a lot of new people, however I haven't had a chance to meet everyone just yet. This is a good opportunity for me to introduce myself to the members of the QSMA, who evidently make up a significant portion of the local residents. I have come to Anakie Station after working for the past five years in the Child Protection & Investigation Unit, and before that, as a General Duties Constable in Cunnamulla and Ipswich. I have found Anakie and the wider Gemfields areas to be great place to live and work. I have also started to gain an appreciation for some of the more interesting part of Gemfields history. Although I must admit that this area can be difficult to navigate at times. I'm sure many of you have seen me driving the police car in circles around your houses in recent times. Please don't be alarmed, in most cases, I've probably just gotten myself lost.

Anakie Police Station has been without permanent, full time staff for little over a year. I'm happy to report that Senior Constable Sam Angus & myself are now both here on a permanent basis. Sam has been at Anakie for the past eight months and we are both looking forward to maintaining an active police presence here. As the year progresses I would be happy to use this newsletter to keep members of the community informed about police activities in the local area. Unless there are other, urgent policing duties required, Sam and I try to keep the station open on Monday mornings between 8am and midday. We can also be contacted on 4985 4200. Otherwise, if you need to contact us, just flag either of us down the next time you see us driving around. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future.

Cheers

Sergeant Paul Cognet
(OIC) Anakie Police Station
07 4985 4200

