



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, INCLUDING FOSSICKING, TOURSIM AND ALL MINING RELATED ISSUES.

ISSUE: 14 MARCH 2019

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

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

TOPICS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Treasurers Report

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Cops Corner

DNRME Report

Presidents Report



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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 to all members,

Apologies for the lateness of this newsletter, but we have had a lot going on and are still waiting on answers from various departments, half the time we feel like we are chasing our tails.

Hope you all had a festive Christmas and Happy New Year and welcome to 2019.

The Markets in Sapphire will be starting up again as of Easter weekend and the boys look forward to seeing you all there to renew your memberships or just have a chat. Trevor will still be baking his famous muffins so come on down and say hello and have a muffin if it takes your fancy.

Membership renewals will be due again as of the 1st July 2019 and remember it is a requirement to be a financial member to attend the meetings and to vote or be voted onto a committee.

Myself, Carol and Trevor will not be standing again for the executive or the committee and I believe that some of the other committee members will not be re-standing either. See the Presidents report for further details.

Carol, it has been an absolute pleasure working with you over the last 5 years, you are tireless at what you achieve, I just want you to know that it doesn't go un-noticed, at least not by us anyway. I am very proud to call you my friend and as most people call us, partners in crime. I personally have made some lovely friends during my time on the Committee.

Trevor, The President and my husband, you have kept all of us with level heads. You can be a pain in the butt at times, but you have kept us all together.

Due to so much going on in our personal lives we are no longer able to commit to the QSMA. I wish the future committee and executive the best of luck, this job will do your head in and you will feel like you are going around in circles.

I too, am happy to help the new Treasurer find their feet and settle into the job.

Last but no least, the Committee, dedicated and committed to the cause of the Miners and the QSMA. A great bunch of people couldn't have asked for better, best of luck to any of you willing to continue the fight for the miners.

If you would like to renew your membership via post, please complete the attached form, don't forget to sign and date it and include your \$35 either by cheque, money order or cash, pop it in the post to the address on top of the form, once received, I will put your receipt in the post back to you.

We have one more newsletter to put together after this and before the GM and AGM on the 27th July 2019.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Quite a few issues are still being advanced by the Committee other than the Native Title review. A report by QSMA was sent to Central Highlands Regional Council re: The Willows Water Supply Dam. In a nutshell the Townships only water supply is being used by the adjacent Landholder. This has been occurring for many years now. This dam was for the exclusive use for Town water purposes. This report is still being "Looked at" by Central Highlands Regional Council.

The Petition, re amendments to legislation to ensure that all Designated Fossicking Lands on the Gemfields are given perpetual protection against legislative removal or reduction of land area as well as legislative protection in providing reasonable vehicle access for the purpose of Mining, Fossicking, Tourism & Emergency Services, was lodged at the CHRC in October last year. It was carried at CHRC Council Meeting of 23rd October 2018 that a letter compiled by CHRC be sent to DNRME and advise the concerns raised in the Petition by QSMA. We have been informed they have had no reply so far and investigations are underway. QSMA have also brought this to the attention of the Minister for Mines, Shadow Minister and our local member. Meetings are being arranged for face to face dialogue with the appropriate ministers and the QSMA.

CHANGES TO YOUR FINANCIAL ASSURANCE.

As of the 1st of April 2019, your Financial Assurance money on your Mining Claims will be transferred to the Department of Environment & Science. Your Security money (bond for your buildings etc) will still be held by the Department of Natural Resources Mines & Energy. This will have an impact on transfers as the incoming transferee will need to lodge the Financial Assurance before the transfer can take place. No longer can it be included in the sale of your claim. The outgoing Claim holder will then have the Financial Assurance that is lodged in their name returned to them.

Please read the "Gemfields Respirable Crystalline Silica Monitoring" by the DNRME attached to this newsletter.

Please also read the Changers to Compensation by DNRME also attached to this newsletter.

I will be resigning as QSMA Secretary at the AGM. I am happy to help the new Secretary find his or her feet if required. Due to the sheer volume of work I do privately, my time is fully booked and I am finding it increasingly difficult to juggle, including precious time needed to spend with my grandbabies.

An influencing factor in my decision to step down is the unwarranted criticism (not to my face of cause) by some Claim holders not only of my work but of the hard working QSMA Committee.

I have had the absolute pleasure of working with Megan & Trevor. No finer Treasurer/Secretary I could have wished to have had by my side over the past five years and I thank her explicitly, and Trevor our President, a man of vision, compassion and knowledge to guide the direction of the QSMA will be impossible to replace.... I will definitely miss his cakes at committee meetings! I shall also miss our fine Committee, able to respond to important matters at the drop of a hat and enabling the Executive to have a balanced view of matters within this community. I would also like to thank the members who have loyally supported us.... It is no easy job and quite frankly a thankless task for the amount of work we have had to do.

I hope this finds you all well.

Kind regards
Carol Graham
Secretary
QSMA Inc

COPS CORNER:

New Local Officer:

After five months of running solo, Anakie Station finally has a second officer. Senior Constable Tim Elliott has started here, upon transfer from Cunnamulla Station. He replaces Sam, who left for the Blackwater CIB earlier last year. He is quickly becoming familiar with the local area and his family are settling in well. Tim has also commenced duties as Anakie State School's Adopt a Cop and is looking forward to meeting all the local students. As with all new police officers in this area, he will likely be waving you down to ask for directions every now and then.

Operation Quebec Shepherd:

Late last year, Operation Quebec Shepherd was brought to a closure. This attracted a significant amount of media attention and resulted in the dismantling of a major drug trafficking network in the local area. Those of you who were up early enough to see the convoy of police cars rolling into town, would have been in for an impressive sight. The matter is now before the court and I won't be disclosing any of the specifics. However, I think it is safe to say that this, particular issue has been an ongoing problem for the Anakie Police and the Gemfields community for quite some time.

Tim and I were pleased that many members of the public thanked us and offered congratulations after hearing about this in the news. It is very reassuring to know that the wider community is in support of police efforts in this area. Officers in Anakie have been assisting and advising with the planning of various aspects of this operation over the last several months, however our Detectives in Emerald and beyond are the ones who put in all the hard work. I am grateful to have such competent investigators nearby.

Sharing information and Stopping Crime:

As with any large investigation, information from the public played a key role. People who wish to help stop crime in their communities must give information to the authorities if they seek change. Understandably, people are sometimes reluctant to speak out, for a variety of reasons. As a measure of reassurance, the police have implemented a range of channels by which information can be communicated including

1. contacting officers from your local station, in person by phone;
2. calling Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000; or
3. reporting online at <https://www.crimestoppersqld.com.au> (go to top of screen, click on 'report crime information', fill out boxes below) or download smart phone App "Crime Stoppers Queensland".

You can report information via any of these channels, in relation to any type of crime or suspicious activity. Regardless of how you report, the following points are key:

1. **Specific information is much more useful.** When reporting, provide as much specific information as possible (dates, times, addresses, phone numbers, names, car registrations, mining claim Numbers, etc.)
2. **Your confidentiality will be respected.** If you wish, you can report anonymously. If you report anonymously to crime stoppers, no identifying information will be given to police and we will not even attempt to identify you. We will not track your IP address or phone number etc. Where you do provide your name and number (so that we may contact you to clarify if needed), your details are not disclosed to any other person at all, other than the police officer/s directly dealing with your report.
3. **Please remain patient.** As recent experiences have shown, it may take a long time to properly investigate serious criminal allegations. There is a lot of work behind the scenes and the investigative process is far more complicated than just 'doing a raid' and making an arrest. So please don't feel that your information has been ignored, because it won't be.

As always, thank you for your support and help. I hope everyone had a good Christmas Holiday. We look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Gemfields Respirable Crystalline Silica Monitoring (RCS)

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) is seeking an initial expression of interest from gem miners who would like to participate in a gem fields dust monitoring program.

We have engaged the services of an occupational hygienist who will conduct personal exposure monitoring at several operations for us to develop risk profile for respirable crystalline silica exposure on the gem fields. Feedback on the levels of hazardous dust levels will be given to the relevant operators and the Queensland Sapphire Miner's Association (QSMA).

Background

Mining activities such as drilling, loading and processing of rock result in the creation of dust. The composition and size of dust particles can have a detrimental effect on workers' health causing lung disease such as silicosis.

Quartz is the most common type of crystalline silica and is present in most rock types. During mining processes very small dust particles, which are not visible to the naked eye, are released into the atmosphere and may be breathed in.

They are small enough to be able to travel to the deepest parts of the lung and can cause disease such as silicosis or other lung diseases.

Due to recent recordings of pneumoconiosis among mine workers, DNRME have published a Guideline for Management of Respirable Crystalline Silica in Queensland Mineral Mines and Quarries.

The guideline requires of all mining operations to engage an occupational hygienist to develop a respirable crystalline silica (RCS) monitoring program. Personal dust monitoring then takes place over a representative shift to determine the concentration of respirable dust inhaled by the worker and the corresponding amount of silica breathed in (measured in mg/m³). An occupational exposure limit (OEL) is in place and corrective action must be taken if the limit is exceeded.

The OEL is defined as the airborne concentrations of individual substances which, according to current knowledge, should not cause health effects to nearly all workers.

How to be involved

So that we can also gather representative data across our gem fields, we are looking for interested gem miners to participate in our program. To register your interest, or if you have any queries about the program, please contact the QSMA committee member or contact Noel Towers, DNRME, by email noel.towers@dnrme.qld.gov.au or phone 0427 465 137.

Changes to compensation agreement processes for mining claims and mining leases

New legislation has changed some processes for resolving compensation before a mining claim or mining lease can be granted or renewed. These changes commenced on 25 October 2018.

What you need to know – negotiating compensation

For new grant or renewal applications lodged on or after 25 October 2018:

- DNRME will no longer refer unresolved compensation matters to the Land Court
- Instead, either the land owner or miner need to apply to the Land Court directly for the Court to decide compensation.
- If compensation isn't finalised or there's no Land Court referral three months after objections close or any Land Court recommendation, the Minister may refuse the application for grant or renewal.

Outstanding applications as at 24 October 2018

The new rules do not apply for undecided applications to grant or renew a mining claim as at 24 October 2018. DNRME will still refer these unresolved compensation matters to the Land Court three months after the last objection day or Land Court recommendation on a mining objection (whichever is later).

What you need to know – removing reference to 'stamp duty'

The *Mineral Resources Act* no longer references compensation agreements being "stamped" by the Office of State Revenue (OSR) before being filed with DNRME.

What you need to know – notifying the land owner of your renewal application

From 25 October 2018 you **must** notify any land owner within five business days of applying to **renew** your mining Claim or Lease. Note: **(you do not need to do this if your Mining Claim is situated on Unallocated State Land (USL) but if your Claim is situated on a Road Reserve you will need to Notify the Central Highlands Regional Council)**. When notifying you must provide a copy of your renewal application and any existing compensation agreement or determination

	MineralHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au	CoalHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au	SSMHub@nre.qld.gov.au
(07) 4936 0169		(07) 4987 9350	

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Hello Members,

Welcome to the second to last newsletter from this sitting committee.

The Western Kangoulu now have a new legal team and most of you will now be aware that their legal representative is calling for a change in the Ancillary Agreement for batches No 32 and onward. The QSMA negotiation team Megan, Carol and I previously felt it may have been necessary to call a General Meeting to inform claim holders of the intended changes in the Ancillary Agreement. This meeting now will not be called due to the minor changes involved. The QSMA negotiation team, the Western Kangoulu's representative, the DNRME and National Native Title Tribunal have now held two meetings discussing the intended changes, the outcome to date is very positive with an early final agreement prior to the AGM predicted. As previously declared by NNTT, negotiations are CONFIDENTIAL, and none of the negotiating team can discuss any of the meetings with anyone so any roomers you hear are just that, roomers.

I heard another roomer the other day, it went like this, the QSMA intends to increase the membership fees to \$50 per year. Let me assure you, the committee has no intention of increasing members fees.

The QSMA are having the GM and AGM on Saturday the 27th July 2019 at the Multi-purpose Centre in Sapphire, time is 1pm. Most committee members have other commitments and will not be available for re-election. Should any financial members feel they may be able to fill the vacant positions, you will need to get a financial member to nominate you and a seconder using the nomination form in the next newsletter, you will also need to sign to accept the nomination. In the event, a committee is not formed, the QSMA will dissolve and its assets will go to an association with similar objectives.

I must thank Carol and Megan once again for their tireless efforts over the last 5 years in keeping the QSMA running. Criticism from some claim holders and being ignored by state and federal government has finally bought an end to their commitment to the association. You both deserve a medal and a rest. The association will not be the same without you two ladies. I will not be standing for re-election either.

It has been a pleasure to work with the executive and the committee members over the past 5 years, we have had a great team and I just hope that their will still be a QSMA and another great team to follow on from us.

So, until the next newsletter in June with the nomination forms attached, I'll sign off for now.

Trevor Harwood
President
QSMA Inc.

