



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: 15 JUNE 2019

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

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

TOPICS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Treasurers Report

Secretary's Report

Presidents Report

Nomination Form



Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc.

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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,

Membership renewals are due again as of the 1st July 2019. Please remember it is a requirement to be a financial member to attend the meetings and to vote or be voted onto a committee, therefore as of the 30th June 2019 those who have not renewed their membership are no longer financial.

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 Treasurer
QSMA Inc
PO Box 364
Rubyvale
Qld 4702

once received, I will put your receipt in the post.

You can also renew your membership at the Sapphire Sunday Markets as the boys are down there every Sunday except if its been raining. Trevor's famous Muffins are also there most Sundays

Regarding Native Title, once again there is chat about the place to do with Native Title and once again, we are telling you, that if it didn't come from either myself (Megan), Carol or Trevor then it is a load of rubbish. We are the only three people who are involved in the negotiations and therefore the only three people that know what is going on.

After receiving Carols report for the newsletter and having a lengthy conversation with her just recently, regarding everything going on with the QSMA, I have decided to put my hand up one more time for the position of Treasurer/Assistant Secretary, that's if the members are happy for me to do so, I have thought long and hard about this decision so it is not a decision I have made lightly. We are so close to so many outcomes for the miners and it is important that we see them through to the end. It would take a huge amount of time to explain to someone coming into either position, that by the time we had explained it all, we probably would have had an outcome.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter the General Meeting (GM) and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the Saturday the 27th Of July 2019, at the Multi- Purpose Centre Hall in Sapphire at 1pm. Everyone attending will be required to be a financial member for the purposes of voting and being voted into positions on the Executive and Committee.

At the end of this newsletter you will find the nomination form, which will need to be completed, signed, dated and return to the Secretary by 4pm on Friday the 18th of July 2019, either by post or email, this will allow me time to put the list of nominees together for the notice boards around the Gemfields. Emails can be sent to carolgraham3@bigpond.com. Nomination forms will also be available from the QSMA table at the Sunday markets in Sapphire.

If you are posting your nomination, please send to:

The Secretary
QSMA Inc
PO Box 364
Rubyvale
Qld 4702

Kind regards
Megan Harwood
Treasurer/Assistant Secretary
QSMA Inc.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The QSMA have sent and received several Ministerial Letters, topics include encroachment on the rights of Sapphire Miners in Central Queensland Gemfields, of particular concern is the layer constraints within the various Acts that govern our industry, the inconsistency's within those Acts and the need to strengthen the protections afforded by the Mineral Resources Act 1989 & Fossicking Act 1994. Your committee are requesting a Review of the Mineral Resources Act, Land Act and Vegetation Management Act to recognise Mining /Fossicking DFL Areas as a legitimate and priority land use. A QSMA meeting with the Minister Anthony Lynham has been requested by our Local Member and Mines Shadow Minister Dale Last to further discuss the importance of these issues.

An invitation was sent to QSMA from Policy Advisor Mark Simpson, Regulatory, Support & Performance, Mineral & Energy Resources, seeking feedback on the review of the Mining Fossicking Regulations 2009 that is about to commence. These regulations are required to be remade every 10 years in order to maintain their relevance to the community. The QSMA are viewed by the Department as stakeholders in this process. Your committee undertook this assignment with a deadline of 31st May, this has now been lodged. Note that the review was limited to only issues pertaining to the Fossicking Regulations 2009 therefore the concerns QSMA have re: The Fossicking Act 1994, unfortunately are not relevant to this submission.

A New Bio Security and Other Legislation amendment Regulation 2019 was made 24th April 2019 which will have dire consequences for Miners, Tourists and fossickers to our area. This is now Section 41 A and 41B of the Biosecurity Regulation 2016. <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/sl-2019-0056>. In a nut shell, If a landholder draws up a Bio Security Plan (*he can devise this as he wishes*) with the stated signage at his property's entry that he has a bio security Plan, you must adhere to every requirement he has devised under that plan.

This is one example a Landholder has already drawn up: Every person entering the Property will need to have their vehicles **certified weed free** (this cost approx. \$250.00). Those who enter (and on each & every entry) will have their clothes, shoes and belongings searched by the Landholder or their agent. If your **certified weed free vehicle** does not pass inspection to the **Landholders personal approval**, he may clean your vehicle at his "Washdown" area on his farm **and charge you for it**. If your clothes do not pass his inspection, he will be able to refuse entry. If you pass his inspection and are allowed to enter the area, the same process will apply on your exit. This is for all persons entering and exiting the area, weather you are a Miner, Explorer, Visitor/Fossicker/Tourist. This example is currently in action on a "dry land cattle farm" not a feed lot or other intense farming. Note: This "Bio Security Plan" consisting of 175 pages can be viewed by members on application. It is obvious many Landholders can and will push this barrow for all it's worth to keep the Miner/Explorer or Tourist/Fossicker out, in effect locking up the States Minerals.

This Section 41 has huge ramifications on our DFL areas and all Mining/Exploration in Queensland if Bio Security Plans are installed. Your committee are currently in negotiations with Bio Security Queensland, the Department and the Minister on this matter.

This regulation was rushed through by our current State Government to deter the "vegan activists" trespassing on farms, but this has had a much wider repercussion on those with legal reasons for entry onto property's with Mining/Fossicking and Exploration interests.

QSMA Committee had a meeting with Noel Towers (Inspector of Mines) and Kate Du Preez (Mining Commissioner) on 22nd May. This visit was to familiarize her with Gemfields type of operations and feedback with the proposed Gem Miners Handbook being prepared by DNR & M in liaison with QSMA Committee. They are also looking for approximately 6 Miners to undertake an air sampling during their daily operations for tests on Gemfields miners for Respirable Crystalline Silica Monitoring (RCS). So far, we have three miners willing to undertake this testing. If you would like to be involved in this testing process please ring Noel Towers on 0427465137 or e-mail noel.towers@dnrme.qld.gov.au.

We have had communications with the Acting Manager Assessment: Small Scale Mining Hub in Rockhampton re Information sessions for Gemfields Miners, they are currently proposing a plan to have teams from Myminesonline, the Department of Environment & Science (DES) and Safety and Health in attendance around Gemfest time, they will also be conducting these sessions for Winton & Quilpie. Once we have a set time and date schedule from them, we will keep you informed. Please make sure you have a current e-mail address for this. Notices will also be put up on the QSMA Notice Boards.

Now for the topic of my proposed resignation at the end of this term. Due to the overwhelming support by numerous members and some committee for my continuance as Secretary, I have re thought my position and in the interest of the QSMA, its members and the melting pot of issues that we are currently dealing with and some on the cusp of bringing to completion, it would be foolish to try and bring a new Secretary to this position who has no intimate knowledge of the issues at foot or the requirements needed to further these issues, therefore I have decided to stand for one more term only, should this be the wish of the members.

Please find below a few of the requirements necessary for an incoming Secretary:

Due to the fast pace of changes to Policy and Legislation in the Queensland mining industry and other Acts that affect our industry on the Gemfields, any incoming Secretary must have the time and knowledge to adhere to timeframes and procedural steps needed for various submissions required by the QSMA as stakeholders in aspects of these changes, therefore the Secretary must have a working knowledge of the various Acts: MRA 1989, MOWLA Act 2018, MERC Act 2014, Biosecurity Act 2014, Native Title Act 1993 and The Cultural Heritage Act 2003. Have a firm understanding of the Mining history of the Gemfields and be able to liaise with the relevant Departmental Officers in all Statutory Departments. The secretary will need to deal with numerous phone calls from members requiring information or sorting out their paperwork with regards to various problems that need answering or explanation if they do not understand the directions given to them by the Department.

The Secretary must be able to draft letters and respond to correspondence from the Ministry, Policy advisors and various Government bodies as per the Committees direction. Take minutes of each meeting. Attend all Committee meetings where possible and General meeting briefings. Prepare Committee update for each Newsletter and filing of correspondence. The Membership register is currently being kept updated by the Treasurer/Assistant Secretary who also compiles and edits the Newsletter for distribution.

Regarding My Mines On Line renewals and applications. I am unable to continue to lodge these for members as it takes up a considerable amount of my time and given the number of issues we are dealing with as a committee, I just cant find enough hours in a day to juggle everything, with running a business at the same time.

I hope this finds you all well and keep warm!

Carol Graham
Secretary
QSMA Inc.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Hello Members,

Most of you will be aware that the second Native Title Ancillary Agreement negotiation is coming to a satisfactory conclusion. The negotiation will most likely be finalised this financial year, with that in mind, I feel that it would make sense for the negotiation team (Carol, Megan and myself) to remain in place for the time being. Should the members wish this to be, I will stand for another year as your President.

I urge all members to read the Secretary’s report regarding the new Bio Security Legislation amendments as it will affect everyone, miner and tourists alike.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the QSMA Inc., Executive and Committee.

Just to remind you that the General Meeting and the Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 27th of July 2019 at the Multi-purpose Centre Hall in Sapphire at 1pm, it is in the best interests of all financial members to attend. Nomination form below to be returned to the Secretary by 4pm on Friday the 18th July.

Trevor Harwood
President
QSMA Inc.

..... CUT HERE

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 18th July 2019

