



Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc.

PO BOX 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702

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THE MINERS VOICE

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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: 16 DECEMBER 2019

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

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

TOPICS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Treasurers Report

Secretary's Report

Police Report

Noel Towers DNRME

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, Membership renewals were due again as of the 1st July 2019.

Please use the attached form for your renewal and include a cheque, money order or cash and don't forget to sign and date your form and return to the address on the form. I will post your receipt by return mail.

Well another year has come to an end and what a busy one it has been.

I know we are all looking forward to a break and some quality time with loved ones.

I personally would like to thank our team for all their hard work and dedication.

Carol Graham, Secretary like no other, Lord only knows where we would be without you my friend, your knowledge is unbelievable and vast and between you and Alan what you two can achieve is just beyond words.

Greg and Carol Graham, the knowledge you two have of mining is well beyond what most of us put together out here could even imagine.

Alan Freeman, researcher extraordinaire, where would we be without you.

Laurie Bell, also researching and checking on legislation, all the little things that you all pick up and we never knew about, little loops holes which hopefully we can use in our quest for a better outcome for the miners.

John Hartley, goffer as he puts it and the help with the newsletters, all the little things you do, mounts up to a lot at the end of the day.

Andrew Knight, also checking and researching.

We each do individual things but come together as a team to do our best for the miners.

I would also like to take this time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Kind regards

Megan Harwood

Treasurer/Assistant Secretary

QSMA Inc.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Secretary

QSMA Inc. Secretary's December 2019 Review.

QSMA continues to pursue legislative reforms on Designated Fossicking Lands and Small-Scale Mining issue reforms. We have drafted a working paper of the DFL & SSM legislation reform issues on a confidential basis.

Our aim is to finalise through the stakeholders, Small Scale Mining and fossicking Legislation issues with recommendations, on a State-wide consultation basis of Small-Scale Mining Organisations, Gem & Faceting Clubs, local Progress Associations and Councils. Consultation period ending December 31st2019.

Our continued persistence with regards these reforms on SSM & DFL issues on a Ministerial level has been met with a "no review" stance by the current Queensland Government Mines Minister and his Executive Director.

The Executive Director and his Associates are open to an inspection of our area with QSMA representatives to discuss the stated position of government and explore potential opportunities *outside of the legislative framework*. A visit to our area is planned for early next year, we will continue to push these reforms at any available opportunity.

What we have been advocating at Ministerial level was legislative reforms to the Acts, and their overlapping legislation, not so much the regulations.

A meeting between QSMA and Queensland Opal Miners Association (QOMA) was conducted at Parliament House in late November with opposition Ministers to see what, and if, our required legislative changes will be put on the agenda should there be a change in Government at the upcoming State elections. Our position as a member of the Queensland Small Miners Council will be part of the five-group body to focus on Legislative changes and those changes to be tabulated for the opposition Ministers including the problems and solutions going forward.

The Committee has had to undertake a review of Mining Quarry Safety and Health Regulation, our input was a review of the Regulations Not Relevant to Small Scale Mining this was finalised by the review deadline in October.

The Land Act Regulation review was also undertaken by your committee and this review was lodged on 3rd December.

The Queensland Small Miners Council submission to Discussion paper for review of the Cultural Heritage Acts was submitted as a collective in late November, this was delivered at a meeting by QOMA (Qld Opal Miners Association) Executives in Brisbane.

A viewing of these documents by paid up members will be available on prior appointment with the secretary if required.

These reviews are commissioned every ten years.

The Governments Resource authority regulatory efficiency and duplication investigation outcomes and actions was delivered in October 2019. Those wishing to view this report go to

<https://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/mining-resources/initiatives/resource-assessment-efficiency-consultation>

QSMA were not informed of this review therefore were unable to participate.

This is the upshot of that review.

small-scale mining industry

- DNRME, in consultation with relevant government agencies, will engage an independent entity to assess the benefits and costs associated with small mining, including any benefits the sector creates for regional communities and the state, and will publish this assessment by June 2020.

- DNRME will review the existing mining claim application forms and other materials to determine whether there are any redundant requirements and whether forms could be simpler to complete and understand by December 2019.
- DES will initiate a project to undertake a complementary review of financial assurance for small mining. The scope of this project is intended to identify the environmental risks of resource activities; a proportionate management response; and financial provisioning options for small mining into the future.

Of the above dot points QSMA will be a representative to the DES project, Laurie Bell – Committee person has undertaken this position as QSMA representative for Small Scale Mining which is scheduled to begin in March 2020.

QSMA representatives and other interested persons will attend a workshop on the 10th December 2019 at DNRME Emerald with regards to the New Geo Resources that has replaced minesonlinemaps.

Good News!

There were no exceedances of respirable crystalline silica of the Miners monitored in the tests conducted by Noel Towers and Grant Manthey – Hygienist on the Tenements tested on the Gemfields. The results have been communicated to all persons who participated, I would like to personally thank those who did participate. This was a required test and thank you for putting your hands up. There will be a couple more Mines under (test) inspection and this should be completed by end of year. The results of these tests are also to be forwarded to QSMA.

Your Executive and Committee have had a lot to deal with this past year and are mentally exhausted from all these reviews and pushing for Legislative changes.
Hope you all have a safe and Merry Christmas.

Kind regards to all
Carol Graham
Secretary
QSMA Inc.

POLICE REPORT:

UPDATE FROM ANAKIE POLICE

Beware of Door to Door Scammers

Recently, a Gemfields household was reportedly targeted by door to door scammers. These are offenders who use high pressure sales tactics to offer goods and services, then disappear with your money, leaving unfinished or substandard work. In this case, they were offering roof repair, however driveway resurfacing, painting and carpet cleaning are also common.

These offenders are also commonly known as 'rogue traders', 'travelling conman', 'driveway scammers', 'doorstep gypsies', 'fake tradies' and so on. I have heard some other names; however, they are not appropriate to be included in the newsletter. Regardless of what they are called, the tactics are the same. They generally target the vulnerable and elderly and go to great lengths to look and sound genuine. They use all the right industry lingo, fake documents and false accreditation, hoping it'll be enough for you to let your guard down. In some cases, people have suffered serious injury or death by allowing unqualified persons to perform electrical work, structural modifications and asbestos removal.

There are multiple global crime syndicates providing support to rogue trader networks, which turn over millions in illicit profit each year, so do not underestimate them. They are well coordinated and will have done their homework. They know all the legal loopholes to exploit to prevent authorities from building a case against them. Often, groups of offenders will enter the country for a short-term scamming operation, before quickly leaving, to resume their operations in another country. By the time you realise you were scammed, they are gone, your money has already been moved, phone numbers are disconnected, and identities are changed.

If you know someone who you think could be vulnerable to this type of exploitation, take some time to warn them and make sure they know who they can contact if they need support. Try to identify family members or close neighbours who may be in a position, to intervene in a potential dodgy deal. Additionally, it is important to check the credentials of anyone offering services, with the correct regulatory bodies and agencies.

Be alert for red flags:

- Extremely cheap prices
- Demands for up front, cash payment
- Offers to drive you to the bank to get money
- "another nearby job cancelled" or "for today only"

If you suspect you are being targeted:

- Remember it's ok to say no, you don't have to agree to anything.
- Tell them that you will consult with friends/family before agreeing to anything
- Speak clearly and consistently. If you want them to leave, you must explicitly say so
- Ask them for business contact details, accreditation details, etc and write it all down
- Call Qld Crime stoppers and provide all their information – 1800 333 000

Closure of 2016 Missing Person Case

As many of you are now aware, human remains located in July have now been positively identified as Aaron Flynn, who was reported missing from the Gemfields area in November 2016. This was announced in local media a few weeks later. The QPS, in consultation with Aaron's family, a decision was made to delay the release of this information to the general public. This allowed family and close friends time to process this news and grieve in private. I hope that the finding of Aaron's body will give them some degree of closure.

It was unfortunate (but hardly surprising) to see some Facebook Warriors throwing in their two cents about the adequacy of the searches. Although I was not stationed at Anakie until 2017, I am familiar with the people involved, the areas searched and the broader circumstances of what occurred, some of which has not been publicly released. The people involved in searching for Aaron were faced with the very difficult task of searching for a person, in a very large area of bushland, with no clear indication of his intentions.

The majority of these people were also unpaid volunteers, giving up their free time for the benefit of the community, who are overwhelmingly grateful for their sacrifice. Consequently, I would like to remind those Facebook Warriors that the SES is always looking for new members. If you think it is all so easy, why not turn off Facebook and go volunteer. You won't be paid, but at least you prove us all wrong and show us how it's done. I'll leave you with a quote from Theodore Roosevelt, President of the USA, 1901-1909:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man, who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcomings;

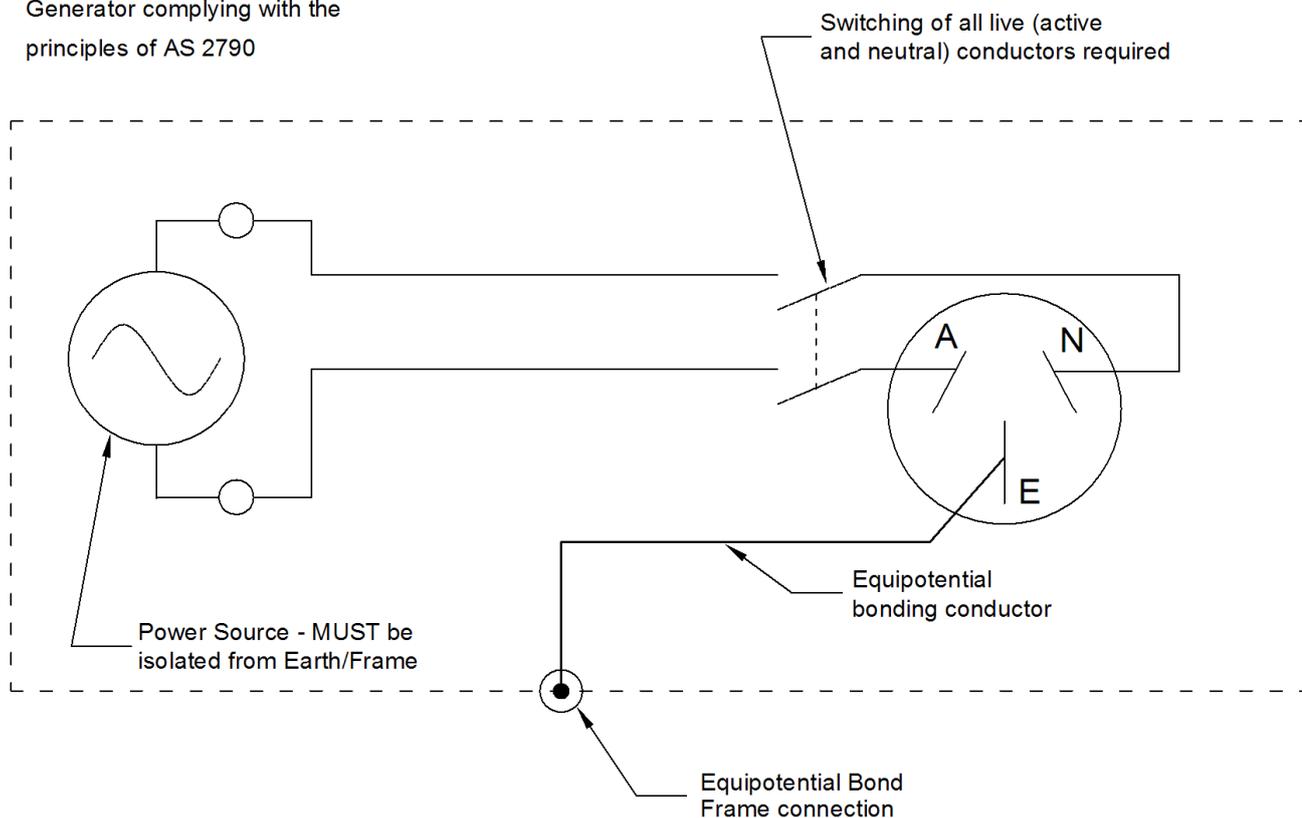
Sergeant Paul Cagnet
OIC Anakie Police Station

Requirement for generators

Isolated Winding Generator with Integral Socket Outlets

The use of an RCD with this configuration will not contribute to the safety of the installation and is not permitted.

Generator complying with the principles of AS 2790



- This configuration **MUST NOT** contact earth, an earth electrode, electrical earthing system or any other extraneous conductive parts of equipment (either intentionally or accidentally), such as conveyor belt structures, metal piping etc. See AS/NZS3000:2007 Clause 7.4.6
- Maintenance of the generator, extension cables and tools used with the generator is critical to the safe operation of this configuration. Regular electrical testing to AS/NZS3000 is essential for the continued safe use of this type of equipment (Insulation and earth bonding tests).
- Power boards must not be used with this configuration.
- Only one item of Class I (earthed conductive parts) or one item of Class II (double insulated) electrical equipment is to be connected at any one time to this generator.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

NATIVE TITLE:

The QSMA are pleased to finally announce the Native Title Negotiations for The Gemfields have been completed, this was finalised and verified at 2.58pm on Friday 18th October 2019.

The amount of compensation required remains at \$130.00 for a claim not exceeding 900 Sq. meters for a period of 10 years, CPI indexed on each anniversary of the agreement.

Those who are awaiting Renewals and Grants will be notified by postal letters sent from the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy.

Signing days are currently being organised and you will be notified of the dates and times. Should you be unable to attend the signing days, you will be sent the documents for signature by post. Instructions will be given with those documents of what you will be required to do.

This has been a very demanding, stressful and time-consuming exercise by your negotiation team, and we are grateful it is now complete. We thank you all for your patience.

I sincerely thank Carol and Megan for their steadfast approach to the Native Title negotiations, allowing the miner and the Native Title claimant a clearer Ancillary Agreement document. Hopefully this will be the last time we are required to do so.

MEMBERS CONCERNS:

Correspondence relating to the \$400 paid to the DNRME for environmental rehabilitation has caused some misunderstanding for some people. Basically, all that is happening is your \$400 paid for each claim is being transferred from the DNRME to the DES (Department of Environmental Science).

Self assessment notice received from the DNRME is just that. It can assist the claim holder in determining the amount of security deposit payable on items on the claim. In the foreseeable event that the claim will be inspected by DNRME and subsequently a demand for extra security deposit sent to the claim holder. Having a good tidy up or your claim will save you money.

This is legislation and nothing to do with the QSMA, to view the Operational Policy online this is the link:
<https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.business.qld.gov.au%2Findustries%2Fmining-energy-water%2Fresources%2Fminerals-coal%2Flegislation-policies%2Fpolicies-guidelines&data=02%7C01%7C%7C9492719354ec4ed546ec08d781f473c1%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637120759549142556&sdata=kKSht67RjJVJhFuxsitHJUne1qzlbU6xH29UIAU6KTE%3D&reserved=0>.

I would like to thank the committee for their dedication and hard work put in during this last year and I know we are all looking forward to a well, deserved break over Christmas and the new year.

Take care over Christmas, drive safe and all the best for the coming new year.

Trevor Harwood
President
QSMA Inc.

