



Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc.

PO BOX 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702

[www.qsma.com.au](http://www.qsma.com.au)

# THE MINERS VOICE

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Vice President: Alan Freeman	<a href="mailto:alan.f1943@icloud.com">alan.f1943@icloud.com</a>	0408 500 514
Secretary: Carol Graham	<a href="mailto:carolgraham3@bigpond.com.au">carolgraham3@bigpond.com.au</a>	07 4985 4290
Treasurer/Assistant Secretary: Megan Harwood	<a href="mailto:megan@qsma.com.au">megan@qsma.com.au</a>	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: 17**      JULY 2020

## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

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

### TOPICS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Presidents Report

Treasurers Report

Secretary's Report and Vice Presidents Report

DNRME (Native Title) Notice



### Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc.

PO BOX 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702 [www.qsma.com.au](http://www.qsma.com.au)

#### 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: .....

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

DIRECT CREDIT      BSB: 064 704      If you are paying via direct credit please put your name  
ACCOUNT No: 10028037      in the reference so we know who is paying.

**EVERYONE RENEWING THEIR MEMBERSHIPS MUST COMPLETE, SIGN AND DATE THE FORM AND RETURN TO: The Treasurer, QSMA Inc, PO BOX 364, RUBYVALE, QLD 4702**

OFFICE ONLY

Receipt Number: ..... Submitted By: .....

**Approved by the Committee**

President: ..... Secretary: .....

Treasurer: ..... Date Entered: .....

Approved/Rejected

## **TREASURERS REPORT:**

Hello to all members,

I must apologise for the lateness of this newsletter as we have had a huge amount going on and Covid 19 did nothing to help matters at all. Carols report will outline a lot of what we have been doing as will Alan Freemans report.

Membership renewals were due again as of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

Please use the attached form for your renewal and include a cheque, money order or cash and **do not** forget to sign and date your form and return to the address below. If you are paying via direct credit, please put your name in the reference so we know who is paying. I will post your receipt by return mail.

Another financial year is at an end and we are preparing for the General Meeting and The Annual General Meetings. These will be held at the Rubyvale Flats Park on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2020, at 1pm.

**You will need to bring your own chair please.** Due to Covid 19 we are unable to have the meeting in a hall. We are still required to practice social distancing, so that we can keep our community safe.

We will not be attending the markets this year also due to Covid 19 and the age of the committee members will put them at risk. Membership forms can be obtained at the Rubyvale Post Office for renewal and in this newsletter.

There is a nomination form attached to the end of the newsletter, if you are nominating anyone for the executive and committee positions the form will need to be returned to Carol our secretary by 4pm on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

The forms can be either be posted to: The Secretary, QSMA Inc, PO Box 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702 or emailed directly to Carol at [carolgraham3@bigpond.com](mailto:carolgraham3@bigpond.com). Any forms received after this date will not be valid.

The list of nominations will put up on the notice boards around The Gemfields.

**There will be a sign in sheet at the meeting which everyone is required by law to sign and leave a contact address and phone number. This is for the health and safety of everyone attending the meetings.**

Membership forms are required to be sent to the following address:

The Treasurer

QSMA Inc

PO Box 364

Rubyvale

Qld 4702

Please, stay safe and look out for one another.

Kind regards

Megan Harwood

Treasurer/Assistant Secretary

QSMA Inc.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Hello members,

What an interesting year this has been. As the Chinaman said, all we can really wish for is to live in interesting times. I am so glad to see Covid-19 has left us alone out here on the Gemfields.

The QSMA committee, taking all things into consideration have unanimously decided to stand again for another year, with your blessing. Please use the nomination form included. When you read Carol and Alans report you will understand some of the complex issues the committee has been working with and still has to deal with, it is going to be a long bumpy road and at the moment the end is not in sight.

One of the QSMA members, Michelle Johns PH 0428 680 660 is now a Mining Tenure Agent for the DNRME. Should you require help with renewals etc. Michelle is the one to contact.

If you can, please be present at the GM and AGM, 22 Aug. at 1 pm, bring a chair, the ground is hard at Rubyvale Flats.

Trevor Harwood  
President  
QSMA Inc.

## Secretary and Vice President's Report

The past year has been nothing short of challenging. Although we, have not been able to get a meeting with Minister Lynham, he will not approve any SSM or Fossicking review or meaningful meeting with his senior staff. We are in regular contact with DNRME middle management in Mackay, Townsville, Rockhampton and Emerald, but they are not in a position to further our concerns. The greatest impediment is the rotation of middle management senior staff. You get to know and work with one and they are moved.

Due to Minister Lynham refusing to approve any meaningful meeting, or review of legislation, we are committed to working with the four Boulder Opal and North Queensland mining Associations, all of whom have the same or similar mining issues.

We now have a collective voice of at least 4,500 state-wide Miners, and that should have a future impact upon Government, leading up to the State election.

We are in constant communication with various Shadow Ministers, their staff and policy advisors, including Natural Resources, tourism, Biosecurity and Emergency Services. We also have interest from the Katter and One nation party. With an election looming, we must keep our options open. We have 40 lapidary and gem clubs State-wide, giving support to legislative changes, to issues affecting the Designated and Declared Fossicking areas on the Gemfields, assisting in the promotion of tourism supporting Regional businesses.

Our Executive contributed to several reviews on specific legislation, some in cooperation with the Opal mining groups. We know that most of the time, the legislative changes have been predetermined, but we must try to change the mindset, and at least, try to forcibly put our views over. It is worthy to note, that the Native Title issues on the Gemfields, after some years of intense negotiation, have been at last, finalised, but Biosecurity, workplace, health and safety, crystalline silica dust prevention, monitoring, analysis and reporting, work programs, financial assurance and mining Claim renewal issues, raise their heads as being current concerns. Safe Work Australia already has a policy which is in legislation, to reduce silica from current .1mg/mg<sup>3</sup> to .05mg/mg<sup>3</sup> to .025mg/mg<sup>3</sup>. Regardless, that will impact a lot of mines, and place serious legislative requirements on all holders. The Mining practices and attitudes, of the past, are dead and buried, and will be subjected to greater compliance and enforcement.

Our Executive believes it necessary, to look at how mining claim holders seeking to renew the mining claim, should address the issue of landholder compensation. It is a State-wide problem. Landholders are obviously being represented or advised by legal or grazing Associations, and the claim holder should follow and prepare documents, in line with Land Court provisions and decisions handed down. There appears to be a propensity for claim holders, to prepare paperwork and attend a hearing ill prepared, with the resulting failure to address or negative the landholder's compensation issues. Compensation effects meanings are outlined under Section 81 (4), S.85A of MERCPC and 281-2 of the MRA and all application renewals should consider these legislative requirements. (Alan is currently researching Land Court Compensation Legislation for future synopsis).

Another real issue that has just surfaced, is the apparent proposal by Government to deregulate the Small-Scale mining industry. We are seeking clarification and impact, but it could have significant impact upon Land Court hearings, compensation and Mining Claim renewals and New Applications.

The \$400.00 Financial Assurance (FA) that was split from Tenement security Bonds in April last year are no longer problematic for transferring claim holders. There was some confusion with the FA on transfers whilst the DNRME was updating the new Transfer Document to reflect that both the bonds and the FA were transferable with a tick box on the new form.

This year's General Meeting promises to provide plenty of topics for discussion, on the year's activities. While we appreciate the support given by our members, it would be great if those Miners, benefiting from our long hours of toil and sleepless nights, would join our Association, rather than complaining to the ill-informed. We cannot stop predetermined legislation, despite all our efforts, but we will advise our members of legislative requirements and impacts.

We all would appreciate growing stronger, with extra support, from new members. We could all speak to our mining neighbours and suggest, that in today's changing climate, it would be in their interest to have access, to an Association, who can provide meaningful support in their mining activities. Knowledge gained may prevent an enforcement notice.

We are actively "watching your backs".

Look forward to seeing you all again at the GM and AGM.

Carol Graham – Secretary

Alan Freeman – Vice President

QSMA Inc.

**REPORT FOR DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING AND ENERGY (DNRME)**

**NATIVE TITLE ANCILLARY AGREEMENT AND SECTION 31 NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (Cth) DEED**

The Ancillary Agreement and Section 31 *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (NTA) Deed is being mailed out, through Australia Post, to Applicants for the grant or renewal of Mining Claims and Mining Leases on the Gemfields. When you receive your correspondence, Ancillary Agreement and Section 31 NTA Deed:

- Execute, by signing the s31 NTA Deed and have your signature/s witnessed
- Execute, by signing the 2 copies of the Ancillary Agreement and keep **ONE** copy for yourself and return the other Ancillary Agreement with the Section 31 NTA Deed in the return to the department in the envelope provided and again, have your signature/s witnessed
- Make payment of the Native Title monies identified in the correspondence by including a cheque or money order made payable to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, in the return envelope or by phoning the department on 4447 9230 to make payment by credit card. Please note, the department does not accept AMEX.

Please note that **ALL** Applicants for the grant or renewal of the Mining Claim or Mining Lease **MUST** execute the Section 31 NTA Deed and Ancillary Agreement. When you are mailing the documents back to the department, you will need to pay the cost of the postage.

Regards,

Julieanne

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM  
FOR 2020/2021 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE

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 received either by mail or email by 4pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020

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