



PO BOX 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702

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.

ISSUE: 3 24th October 2014

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

Welcome to the latest issue of [The Miners Voice](#).

What a fantastic turnout to the AGM on the 16th Sept 2014.

There were many issues raised and discussed at the meeting and are noted in this newsletter. RTN/Native Title was one of the biggest issues, please see Greg Charlton's Native Title section of this newsletter. It was very disappointing for the members not to have had a representative from the DNRM as previously arranged.

ONGOING ISSUES THAT WE ARE LOOKING INTO:

- Inconsistencies from the DNRM
- Stand pipe at Rubyvale
- Security Deposits for claims (Several issues with this subject)
- Questions to the DNRM

ITEMS NOTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Memberships: Megan Harwood (Treasurer/Membership Co-ordinator)
- ERE (ENDANGERED REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM), MMOL (My Mines On Line), Emergency Rescue and Fire Levy, Census and Royalty forms, The Miners Common Proclamation: Carol Graham (Secretary)
- Progress on **“The Block”**. Danny McLoughlin (Committee)
- End of year BBQ:
- MR’s Corner (Mining Registra’s Corner): John Tolhurst from DNRM
- 100 Meter Rule, The Concert, Gemfest, a building for **“THE BLOCK”** and Security Deposits on claims: Garnet Ross (President)
- Right To Negotiate/Ancillary Agreement: Greg Charlton our Native Title Co-ordinator

From Your Treasurer

I would like to extend a very warm welcome all our new members and also our renewing members. I am very pleased to announce that our membership is up on last year. I have now introduced Membership cards with a Membership No that will be your number whilst you are a financial member of the QSMA.

Those of you that have email addresses will receive your newsletter by email and the rest of the members will receive their newsletter by post.

Please ensure that your contact details are up to date with me by either emailing me on megstrevharwood@hotmail.com or by phoning 0403 365 335. If you live on the Gemfields, a PO Box is preferable.

The financial Report has been sent to the Office of Fair Trading as required with a list of the current elected Committee Members.

As the markets at Sapphire have finished for the year anyone wanting to renew or if you know of anyone who wishes to join the QSMA, can contact a committee member for an application/renewal form or you can contact me by email or phone above. We will resume at the markets next year when they start up again around Easter.

Please Remember: “WE ARE HERE FOR YOU”.

From Your Secretary

If you were unable to attend the General Meeting and AGM on the 16th September 2014 here is a recap of the Issues covered:

Greg Charlton covered the issue of the Native Title process we are undertaking for our Members, please see Greg's dot point explanation regarding this issue attached to this Newsletter.

Your Committee have done an enormous amount of work trying to drive answers from all levels of Government in relation to important aspects that affect us as miners of the RA 1 area of the Anakie Mineral Field which includes the Miners Common which is now in its 100th year of proclamation. Firstly, the DNRM have introduced lodgement of tenure information to MMOL (**My Mines Online**). Megan (your Treasurer) and I have had some tuition by DNRM on the lodgement of the following documents: RENEWAL OF MINING CLAIMS & LEASES, TRANSFERS OF MINING CLAIMS AND LEASES AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS OF ALL TENURE HOLDERS. I am informed by Emerald Office of DNRM that they hope to have us lodging more documents by the year's end.

It would be extremely helpful if everyone could register on line for MMOL as that would make our job so much easier for lodging your Renewals/Transfers. This can be done at the Mines Dept.

Unfortunately technology has caught up with us and your Committee gave an undertaking to work with the DNRM to try and understand and streamline the implementation of the MMOL by offering to progress this technology with help from your QSMA committee.

It is important for all claim holders to note that MMOL has not done away with the paper form required for lodgement of transfers or renewals. You still have to fill some of those forms in as you need to upload these documents and others in the MMOL process. If you do not understand this process, please see either myself or Megan and we can prepare this for you and lodge it online. Our fee for completing paperwork is \$50.00 per hour. A lodgement fee of \$30.00 per transaction for your completed documents to be uploaded to MMOL is to cover QSMA expenses. **(Please ensure you have all the required information to minimize the cost you. These fees are for members).**

There are several Mining Services firms that can also do this for you: Tecsol Australia is one firm who do a lot of work for members of the NQMA. Their basic fee is \$120.00 per hour + GST.

The Issue of the Miners Common Proclamation: Our local member Vaughan Johnston gave an undertaking during a public meeting held at sapphire on the 30th April this year to do research through Government library facilities on the 'validity of the **miner's common and the proclamations in regards to it**. Unfortunately he has researched the wrong proclamation he has researched the "**Anakie Mineral Field Proclamation**" instead of "**The Miners Common**" two independently distinct proclamations!

This proclamation will now need to be once again addressed and hopefully the correct proclamations will be researched. If not, there is no other option than us, as miners, need to pursue this matter with a legal opinion if funds become available or a pro bono opinion may be obtained.

THE CENSUS FORMS: All claim holders will be receiving this form from the DNRM in June 2015 for lodgement before middle of July 2015. I must stress these forms be must be filled in and returned otherwise a late fee of \$100.00 will apply and 100 penalty units may apply for failure to lodge this form. You can do this on line or by paper form, a **guidelines form** on how to fill it out will accompany this form. Basically the main purpose for this form is DNRM need to know how many hours you worked, the number of workers and what industry we work in. For the past few years only a few people were receiving these census forms to fill in, in a randomly selected manner only because the DNRM systems haven't caught up with the rest of you. The QSMA has been given a letter from DNRM John Tolhurst that all tenure holders will be issued these in 2015 and you must submit this. He has advised their data base will now include all miners in this census in 2015.

ROYALTY FORMS by now to be completed by 30th September. If you have not had earnings of \$100,000 from your **Claim** in the last 12 months, just ignore the notice. If you have **Mining Leases** you must fill in your royalty form.

An update on the **Emergency Rescue and Fire Levy** that is included in your rates notice. We have gone into battle with the Central Highlands Regional Council and the Emergency Management Fire & Rescue Command Centre in Brisbane over this.

Unfortunately the **fire levy** on our rate notices has to be paid with the annual fee for **mining claims** being currently **\$ 23.40**. We had some success with changing the status of some Leases to the following: **mining leases** that **do not** have sheds with cement floors or dwellings on them come under category E-2 with a fee of \$93.20 per annum. Leases **with dwellings or sheds** on them are levied at group 6 class e of \$1315.60 per annum. (Anyone still being charged with the large levy on leases please come and see me at Armfest).

THE ERE (ENDANGERED REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM): The ERE which has its tentacles firmly wrapped over our viable mining land on the Gemfields will need a lot of work and force to have it removed. I have had talks with EHP (Environment & Heritage Protection) on how we can have this removed. They have sent me reams of paperwork showing this is a very complicated and in depth process which involves the Queensland Herbarium. I sent this information to " Land Reclamation Services " Gill Fletcher (a professional in this field) for his analysis. His advice was that we would need to hire a **botanist** for this complicated process to be undertaken. I am still in the process of more research into this matter. We may need to go down a political route to have this sorted out or through the media as our **Sapphire Dump** is right in the middle of this so called ERE. The restrictions placed on us as miners is that we cannot mine within one kilometre radius of this category B Environmentally sensitive area..... but **"The Council"** can have a dump wholly inside it.

Carol Graham

(Secretary)

PROGRESS ON “THE BLOCK” (Danny)

LEVELING “THE BLOCK” More earth fill is required to square off and level the main site area, several loads required, (Arrangements are in progress).

WATER: The water was connected to the site on Wednesday the 15th October, thanks to the most obliging crew of men from the Council.

POWER: We greatly appreciate the donated equipment and services of “**NLIGHTN**” Electrical, and “**Armfest**”, with a special thanks to “**Gemlec**” for their prompt service at such short notice in equipping the power pole for installation. We would also like to thank “**Keith Millard**” for his valued assistance.

I would like to remind our members to please support the business’s that support the Q.S.M.A.

Many thanks

Danny McLoughlin

“**THE BLOCK** “ Co-Ordinator

END OF YEAR BBQ:

The Q.S.M.A is holding an end of year BBQ for its members on Sunday the 7th December. The Location is “**THE BLOCK**” on the corner of Rockhound Rd, Sapphire.

All food and soft drinks will be supplied by the QSMA, if you want other drinks it is a BYO.

This will be held from 12noon to 4pm. Please bring your own chairs if you need to sit.

Come and join us for an end of year get together, get to meet your committee in a social setting and kick back and enjoy. There will be a lolly scramble for the kids.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, we would also like to take this oppitunity to wish everyone, their families and friends and very merry and safe Christmas and a very Happy New Year. The committee are taking a few weeks off to relax and enjoy as we have had an extremely busy year this year.

The MR's (Mining Registra's) Corner

Welcome to the first edition of *MR's Corner*.

In conjunction with the Queensland Sapphire Miners Association (QSMA) executive it is a pleasure to be able to provide its members with an update from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM).

DNRM have continued to forge a collaborative working relationship with the QSMA executive over recent times with a primary goal in providing a service to its members.

In June 2014 the first release of the departments new My Mines Online (MMOL) was released publically. This release allowed both renewal and transfer applications for mining tenures to be lodged and processed on-line. In July 2014 the department provided training in these applications to members of the QSMA executive.

The next public release of MMOL is planned for late October 2014. As part of the release all new applications for mining tenures will be able to be lodged on-line. At this time the department will provide further training to members of the QSMA executive to assist them in not only providing advice but also the option of providing a wider range of services to members wanting to lodge applications.

As part of DNRM's commitment in providing assistance to the QSMA the department has recently purchased two new Garmin hand held GPS devices for the use of members to assist with new applications. These devices will be presented to the QSMA executive in the coming weeks and then be available for the use of members.

On another note I would like to acknowledge the QSMA's extensive work in producing to date a draft Right to Negotiate Ancillary Agreement for the use of its members. I am advised that this project, led by Greg Charlton is nearing completion with the then intention on being available to members.

Just a reminder to all members that the Emerald DNRM office contact details are as follows:

Phone: (07) 4987-7370 or Email: ssmhub@dnrm.qld.gov.au

Regards

John Tolhurst
A/Manager Field and Land Access
Mining & Petroleum Operations Central Region

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all members for your support over the past twelve months. We as a committee have worked overtime to make sure all members are kept informed on all occurrences from government departments, unfortunately due to a lack of consultation, communication and conversation from all Federal, State and Local Government Departments we have discovered extreme inconsistencies that in most cases defy logic. If you have experienced these inconsistencies please contact me in writing as other members have done. **(REMEMBER IF IT IS NOT IN WRITING IT DID NOT HAPPEN)** Do not put yourself in a position of entrapment demand your answers to your questions in writing.

100 Metre Rule:

As you may or may not be aware we publicised via all notice boards a discussion paper in relation to the reduction of the 100 metres to 10 metres from all freehold boundaries. There were no objections lodged prior to the meeting held on the 16th September 2014 and therefore was passed unanimously at that meeting. I will be forwarding the proposal to the Minister for approval.

The Concert:

As you are aware we held a concert at the R.S.L. Club Sapphire hosted by Gaza 4CH our thanks go out to Karl Elvis for a brilliant night along with supporting artists Sylvia and Peter. A special thanks go to the ladies serving food and the fire boys for background entertainment. A very thanks indeed the R.S.L. club for the use of their premises, but most of all, the sponsors, without them we would not have made a profit on the night.

Gemfest:

Once again we had a stand at this venue run by Danny and his helpers, many thanks to all concerned.

Emergency Beacons:

For your safety we suggest that all claim holders invest in some form of audible or visual system to indicate that the claim holder requires the assistance of the emergency services, this system could be of an amber or red flashing light to indicate that you need help, indicate to these services where you are and head direct to you without driving around in circles looking for you and putting your life further in danger, some of these devices are quite cheap to set up and simple to use by remote. **(YOUR LIFE MAY DEPEND ON SUCH A DEVICE, GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT.)** We are here to help you, given the fact that there is in excess of 2000 claims on the Common does make life difficult for Ambulance and Police to locate you in the shortest possible time, as for the Fire Brigade they normally head for smoke and flame, but it would also assist them if you have no communication and you have eliminated the emergency.

Contact us if you need help with the emergency devices and installation.

Animals on Claims:

If you have animals on your claim make sure that they do not leave your claim unattended, and are restrained at all times inside the boundary, claim holders are being blamed for wild life attacks by dogs, be aware of the act in relation to this matter as it has come to the attention of the authorities and show cause notices may be issued.

What's on your mind?

We will be forwarding a series of questions to the DNRM in relation to issues concerning mining on the Miners Common, some of the issues we will be raising will be :- excessive bonds, or to be politically correct (security

deposits), longevity of the Miners Common which appears to be in jeopardy through excessive charges and lack of consultation. However we don't know what is on your mind, this is your chance to be heard, **PLEASE GET YOUR QUESTIONS TO US IN WRITING**, our contact details are on the first page of this newsletter, **Do not be frightened of harassment or reprisal**, I am in receipt of information that may overcome the problem if required, our closing date for questions is the 31st. October 2014 please include your contact details so we can get back to you, sorry about the short notice.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the work done by the interpretive trail steering committee for the promotional activities on the Miners Common/Gemfields well done to all concerned.

As you are all aware we are now concentrating our efforts on establishing a building on our block, it is hopeful that a building can be located and transported to the site before the end of the year, if anyone knows of a building please let us know, a couple of dongas would be perfect but one would be very much appreciated. If you wish to donate to the building fund please feel free to do so.

Once again I have noticed rumblings in the community as to why mining should be allowed to continue on the **MINERS COMMON/GEMFIELDS**. My questions are what is your problem? and do you have a hidden agenda? There are two exits from the Miners Common, feel free to use either one of them and return to where you came from in the first place, mining has been here since the 1800s you haven't.

On that note I thank you.

Garnet Ross
President Q.S.M.A.

From Your Native Title Co-Ordinator

The Q.S.M.A would like to remind all tenure holders that the RTN process is a Commonwealth legislative requirement under the Native Title Act (1993) (Cwth). As miners we all have a legal obligation to act in accordance with this legislation, failure to do so will result in a notice of non-compliance and put your tenure/permit in jeopardy.

Right to Negotiate/Ancillary Agreement

The Q.S.M.A has now drawn up a Draft Ancillary Agreement that has been presented to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) and Native Title Services for approval and in principle it has been accepted.

The Q.S.M.A would like its members to consider these points:

- The Q.S.P.A which is now the Q.S.M.A negotiated the I.L.U.A which expired on the 20/11/2013.
- Your Association has spent many hours on the Ancillary Agreement.
- A Negotiating Team has been formed to negotiate on behalf of members.
- The Q.S.M.A has made contact with the Native Title Claimants by way of a letter of introduction and stating our preparedness to now negotiate in good faith.

The Q.S.M.A has been notifying Tenure Holders, members and non-members in each batch of advertising about what is being done in regards to the RTN Process. The response has been a bit slow. Your committee would like all members, if you wish, to sign the consent form supplied and return to: PO Box 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702. This will show that the Q.S.M.A is a large voice. Please note if you have a Tenure that is in more than one name, all parties must sign the consent form. If you have already signed the consent form or are not subject to Native Title, please disregard the consent form.

All Tenure holders have the Right to Negotiate on their own behalf if they prefer to, however the Ancillary Agreement drafted by the Q.S.M.A is for the use of its Members only. Your Committee hopes that the RTN Process will be resolved as soon as possible. Watch This Space.

Changes to the Native Title Advertising Fee for the Right to Negotiate (RTN) Process.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) has introduced changes in how the advertising fee associated with the RTN process is to be paid. Any new applications or renewals will now require a \$500 upfront fee when you lodge your renewal/applications forms. This change compliments the new system for MY Mines ON Line (MMOL) lodgement and is a State wide application for all miners in the state. Changes include:

- upfront payments will be required to commence the Native Title process
- there is less administrative correspondence, and it should;
- speed up the advertising process for the batches by 6 to 8 weeks which will hopefully improve turnaround time for tenures
- once the advertising account has been finalised a refund will be sent to the tenure holder

Issues have been encountered in the past where failure of one miner to pay has derailed an entire batch of advertising, therefore delaying and affecting up to 19 other tenure applicants in the batch. DNRM have made the commitment to continue with the “batch advertising” process to save miners the higher cost of advertising individually.

Greg Charlton
Native Title Co-Ordinator

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Q.S.M.A CONSENT FORM

I.....andof
Claim No/Nos/.....

Give my consent for the Queensland Sapphire Miners Assoc Inc (Q.S.M.A) to negotiate of my behalf in the Right To Negotiate process. Please note if you are joint tenure holders both parties are required to sign the consent form.

My suggested maximum compensation amount \$.....

Signed:

Signed:

Date:

QSMA Membership No:

