



PO BOX 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702

THE MINERS VOICE

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Secretary: Carol Graham secretary.qsma@outlook.com 07 4985 4290

Treasurer: Megan Harwood megstrevharwood@hotmail.com 0403 653 335

Native Title Co-ordinator: Greg Charlton moleman153@gmail.com 0419 748 432

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: 4 31st March 2015

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

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

TOPICS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Secretary's Report
- Treasurers Report
- Notice of a Public meeting
- The Block update
- The MR's (Mining Registra's) Corner
- General Information
- Native Title Co-ordinators Report

SECRETARYS REPORT

Heartfelt thanks:

Firstly I would like to thank the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Emerald and Myminesonline help Team in Brisbane not only for their tuition but for their unwavering support and help in guiding me through the online Permit Administrations of Myminesonline. Their help and (patience) with me has been invaluable. I thank you all.

Secondly, I would like to thank Megan Harwood very much for accepting the Role of Treasurer/Assistant Secretary, she does one fantastic job!

I have been kept busy helping members with paperwork and their Renewals Applications and Transfers using the new Myminesonline system.

Claim Renewals:

If you have a Claim renewal sent to you by DNR & M it is easier if you attend to this as soon as possible so that any errors can be corrected well before expiry date. If you have any queries on this please ring me on 07 4985 4290 or see me at Armfest. I am happy to help you sort this paperwork out if needed.

Meetings:

Your executive had a recent informal meeting with John Tolhurst from the DNR & M where he introduced our new Mining Registrar Mr Brad Eddy, we all extend a warm welcome to him and feel positive his appointment will help us grow and prosper as a mining community. At this meeting the DNR & M have kindly offered further updated training of the Executive on MMOL, this will be scheduled later in the coming months when time and schedules allow. We came away from this meeting with a positive interchange of ideas that John is going to look into for us and may well be able to help us with.

Your Executive has also had a meeting with Central Highlands Regional Council CEO Scott Mason and Mayor Peter Maguire with regard to "The Block" and future funding required for an office building and office equipment etc. At this meeting your Executive received a positive attitude with regard to our vision and future service to our members and the wider community our proposal entails. We are now investigating various types of Grants and Funding available for our project.

To apply for these Grants, the QSMA Inc needs a Business Plan, which I am currently preparing for inclusion in any application we present for funding.

You're Executive and Committeeman Danny McLaughlin attended a site inspection on "The Block" with Peter Grigg - Tourism Development Officer with the Central Highlands Development Corporation (CHDC), this group supports Economic, Business Tourism Development & Community Support in our area. He is delighted in the position of "The Block" for our Office and he has assured us we have his support in our endeavours and will help in any way he can, especially in our applications for Grants & Funding. We very much appreciate this support from him.

Gemfields 2022 Community Reference Group:

Two members of your executive have been chosen by the Central Highlands Regional Council to be part of this group, myself and Philip Ashworth. There are also some members of the QSMA included in this group.

The aim of this group is to support the Gemfields and Rural communities in a leadership role to achieve a vision and plan for the Gemfields for short, medium and long term to 2022. This also includes critical issues for the community and to provide a central point for government, industry and other organisations to gather feedback from a range of community sectors for what is needed and our collective future goals and how to achieve this.

We have only attended the introduction meeting to date with another scheduled later in April and a combined meeting with other areas due in May, we will keep you all updated on the issues in coming months as we will be needing your engagement and feedback. The 2022 Group will also have a regular newsletter on updates, actions and activities for distribution through our sector groups, business and organisations etc.

The Council is designing and developing an independent website CH2022 for all the community to access.

Carol Graham

PUBLIC MEETING

The QSMA is holding a public meeting on the 15th April 2015 at the Multi Purpose Centre in Sapphire to update and discuss a number of topics including The Right To Negotiate (RTN) Process. We invite everyone in the community to attend.

THE BLOCK UPDATE

Not much to report as yet, however we are still trying to arrange an office/advisory building. We still have more earth fill to complete and this is in the pipeline.

The power and water connections have now been finalised and certificates of compliance issued. Trevor and Garnet did a good job of weed spraying and mowing a few weeks back and the council cut a drain for us also.

We have also had lengthy discussions about future signage, but would like more ideas. Any feedback/input our members can give us is always welcome.

Many thanks
Danny

TREASURERS REPORT

I have accepted the role of Treasurer/Assistant Secretary and look forward to helping Carol as much as possible in the future. Carol you are too kind, always happy to help you in any way I can.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

For the first time in ten years we find ourselves having to raise the membership fee by \$10.00 to \$35.00 per family per year, this is due to the rising costs of postage and administration costs and the fact that we are going through the RTN Process where we will be facing legal expenses.

The Markets have started up again and we have our regular stall set up there for members wishing to renew and new members wishing to join. Renewals and New Memberships will come under the 2015/2016 period and new members will receive a complimentary couple of months. If you have any questions we will be happy to answer them for you. I would just like to remind you that the 2014/2015 membership expires on the 30th June 2015 and the new financial year 2015/2016 starts 1st July 2015.

If you wish to renew your membership with the form below when the time comes, please send it to the PO Box on the form and please make any cheques or money orders payable to the Q.S.M.A.

Those of you with a membership No will not receive a new card as the card and No that you have is yours for the time that you are a financial member of the association. New members will receive a card, welcome note and a copy of the latest newsletter. We have a strong membership at the moment and would like to see this continue to grow as it gives us a very strong voice for the future. I would like to thank each and every member and their families for your continued support , without you we couldn't do what we do.

Remember, We Are Here For You.

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Member No:.....

2015/2016

Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc.

QSMA, PO Box 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702

Membership & Renewal Application Form \$35.00 Per Family Per Year

Name:..... Date:.....

Address:.....

.....

Postcode:.....

Phone No:..... Claim No:.....

Email:.....

New Application

Renewal

Change of Details

Receipt No:.....

Committee Member:.....Applicant:.....

MR's (Mining Registra's) CORNER

Well it's almost April 2015 already and there has been a lot of change and progress within the small scale mining industry and platform.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Greg Charlton on becoming the new QSMA president and I look forward to working with him, the QSMA executive and the QSMA members in the coming year.

I would also like to thank Garnet Ross for his commitment to the role as the QSMA president during his term and wish him all the best.

Secondly, I would like to introduce Bradley (Brad) Eddy who commenced as the new Principal Mining Registrar in the Emerald DNRM office back in January 2015. Brad brings to the Emerald DNRM office experience in both the private mining industry sector and public sector. Brad's direct contact number in Emerald is 4987 9375.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work that the QSMA executive, in particular Greg Charlton, has undertaken in the recent months to formulate and create an ancillary agreement for the use by QSMA members. Greg has worked tirelessly to see this project through to fruition in the interest of QSMA members and has sought clarification and assistance from this office throughout this long process. Well done Greg.

In November 2014 further applications within MMOL was released including new applications. Whilst the use of MMOL is slowly increasing further training in these new processes will be provided to the QSMA executive over the coming months to enable them to provide assistance, guidance and a service to members wishing to use the online environment. An example of a success story using MMOL is that a transfer application was lodged, assessed and approved with 5 business days.

On Thursday 19 March 2015 both Brad Eddy and I met with the QSMA executive at length in Sapphire to discuss members concerns and issues around the Gemfield's in general. The meeting was extremely positive resulting in both parties understanding each other's genuine issues and as an action item committed to continue and meet every two months.

It is a timely reminder to all to ensure that you are aware of your legislative requirements in accordance with the conditions provided for each of your mining tenements (IE Mining Claim, Mining Lease and Prospecting Permit). Of late there have been a number of issues resulting in holder's not complying with these conditions. Upon investigation it was established that in most instances it was merely a misunderstanding of, or not being aware of, conditions subject to individual mining tenements. In any case if you are unsure of your obligations please contact the QSMA for advice or the Emerald DNRM office.

If I don't get a chance to write to you all again before Gemfest 2015 I look forward to seeing you all there.

Happy mining.

John Tolhurst

Manager Field and Land Access

Mining and Petroleum Operations Central Region.

GENERAL INFORMATION

As you may have heard Garnet Ross has resigned the position of President due to personal reasons, we thank him for all his hard work and wish him all the best for the future.

Greg Charlton has been elected our new acting President until the AGM later this year.

Greg is also the Native Title Co-ordinator and is managing to serve both rolls extremely well. We extend a very warm welcome to Greg in his new position.

Greg will be able to give us a Presidents Report in the next issue of The Miners Voice.

Provision of Security (Security Deposits)

Regarding Security Deposits on mining claims: You may or may not be aware, The Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Current as of 1st Oct 2014), Chapter 3-Mining Claims, section 83, **provision of security**.

The provision of security deposited by the holder of that mining claim has reasonable security for compliance and rectification of the said mining claim.

We bring to your attention section 83:-

(10) The Minister may accept a bond or a guarantee or indemnity by, or other financial arrangement with, a financial institution, insurance company or other credit provided approved by the Minister or other form of security acceptable to the Minister as the whole or part of the security to be deposited under this section.

Please contact your financial institution for further information regarding guarantee or indemnity.

Memorial

The QSMA would like to extend our heartfelt sympathy's to the family and friends of a long term Gemfields resident Bill Hagan who was laid to rest in Emerald on the 19th March 2015. Bill was the first commercial gem buyer here on the Gemfields and will be sadly missed by all who knew him and the many tourists who visited his gem shop in Rubyvale. We have lost a true gentleman and a highly respected man.

R.I.P

The executive and the committee would like to take this time to wish everyone and their families a very happy and safe Easter.

NATIVE TITLE CO-ORDINATORS REPORT

The Right To Negotiate/Ancillary Agreement

Greetings to all our members. Since our last newsletter the negotiation process has moved forward as Tenure Holders in advertising batches 1, 2 and 3 are now aware.

On the 6th of February 2015 I had a meeting in Rockhampton with the Western Kangoulu People and their Legal Representatives. The meeting was informal but at the same time informative. A number of topics were discussed, the different types of mining, the Ancillary Agreement, the way forward and the best outcome.

On the 24th March 2015 the QSMA Draft Ancillary Agreement was forwarded onto the Bidjara People #7 and their representatives.

On the 25th March 2015 I had a telephone conference with the NNTT (National Native Title Tribunal) in regards to the mediation process, our understanding of this process and our obligations. The Teleconference I am pleased to say went well.

As from May 27th and May 28th 2015, face to face negotiations with the Western Kangoulu People and the Bidjara People #7 will start and the QSMA is confident that these meetings will be progressive.

If you would still like us to act on your behalf during the RTN Process please complete the form below and return it to PO Box 364, Rubyvale, Qld 4702.

I would like to inform all members that as we are now entering the Right To Negotiate phase, your Negotiating Team is now bound by a Confidentiality Clause, however that being said, we will keep you all informed as best as we can. Watch this space.

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.....

