



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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## 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: 8**      21<sup>st</sup> July 2016

## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

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

### TOPICS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Treasurers Report  
Secretarys Report  
Ambos Report  
DNRM Report  
General Notices  
Presidents/Native Title Co-ordinators Report

## TREASURERS REPORT:

First of all, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new members and welcome again to all our renewing members.

Secondly, that time of year has come around again and membership renewals are now due. We have a new form this year, this is keeping in line with the Office of Fair Trading and keeping us up to date with you all. If you would like to renew using the form attached, please complete, sign and date the form. Any Cheques or money orders need to be made out to the QSMA Inc. Please return the form to:

The Treasurer  
QSMA Inc.  
PO Box 364  
Rubyvale  
Qld 4702

**Please note that it is important for you to remain a member of the Association if you have given the QSMA consent to negotiate on your behalf regarding the RTN Native Title Process, you cannot skip a year. We cannot legally negotiate on your behalf if you are not a financial member.** If you are not sure if you have given consent, please check with the boys at the markets of Sunday or phone me on 0403 653 335.

At the General Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016, I brought to your attention the fact that we are considering adopting the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) "Model Rules" and make changes to them to fit our unique situation. We have decided to adopt the "Model Rules" as our rules and fill in the gaps where specific things need to be entered, like changing the year end date to the 30<sup>th</sup> June of each financial year. This will enable us to have our AGM in July of each year while most of you are here during the season. There are things there that don't apply to us and they will be removed and things we need to add. We will be discussing this at the General Meeting prior to the AGM. If you would like a copy of the Model Rules you can find them on the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) website.

There will be a list of changes at the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016 for your perusal.

### **Remember We Are Here for You**

Many Thanks for your continued support.

Megan Harwood  
Treasurer/Assistant Secretary  
QSMA Inc.



# 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

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**OFFICE ONLY**

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

### **Approved by the Committee**

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

Date Approved/Rejected: ..... Date Entered: .....

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

### **General Meeting:**

We had a very successful General Meeting on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June at the MPC, many issues of concern were raised by members from the floor and discussed, and most were to do with Native Title.

We were very fortunate to have as a guest speaker Mr Anthony Barlow, the QSMA barrister who addressed recent litigation against the QSMA by one of its own members and that it was a wait and see issue until the court procedures were complete.

Mr Barlow also addressed the Native Title procedure your negotiation team has been working on for the past two and a half years and had great praise with the way the QSMA negotiation team has handled this matter. He said as traditionally it is a very expensive area with the need for expensive anthropologists and lawyers. He continued to say the QSMA team is well advanced with their Native Title negotiations without the use of either of these professional services so far and at this late stage of negotiations, which is a real accomplishment. He also spoke of the large degree of trust that is built between the parties during this negotiation phase and that members should be thankful that the QSMA Team has successfully attained this crucial position.

A motion was put forward at the General Meeting to research the QSMA's current rules for consideration by members at the next General Meeting which would be to adopt large parts of the Model Rules with some aspects of the QSMA's current rules, this would upgrade the QSMA rules to reflect what is now required under the Act and to also consider the QSMA financial year to end on 30<sup>th</sup> June instead as currently the 31<sup>st</sup> July the Motion was moved by: A. Knight and seconded: G. Ross.

### **Sapphire/Reward Road:**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> June your committee were given the opportunity to make a formal contribution to the Central Highlands Regional Councils report on the Sapphire to Reward road in preparation of scheduled July infrastructure Standing Committee meeting. This report was duly compiled and sent to Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. Due to new Councillors now needing to come up to speed on this road, another viewing of the road by Councillors and the General Manager of Infrastructure of CHRC will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016 with members of the QSMA Executive in attendance. These CHRC personnel will also attend the CRG meeting (Community Reference Group) of which myself and Megan (Treasurer) are members, on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016 for further discussions scheduled for this meeting. Therefore, the planned CHRC July Infrastructure meeting has been deferred and will now take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

We will keep you all notified of the progress.

Warm regards – Carol

Secretary  
QSMA Inc.

## AMBOS CORNER:

When a 000 call comes in, clearly someone is sick or injured and they're requiring help. As Ambo's, we have a myriad of patient management 'goodies' available to us; resuscitation devices, wound and burn dressings, and of course knowledge to know which clinical route to take. Do we take the patient to the Gemfields clinic, the dental trailer, the hospital or indeed leave them at home if it appropriate? But all this is completely and utterly useless and might as well be thrown in the bin, if we can't find the patient and get to them in a timely manner.

As we all know, the Gemfields is an interesting place geographically. Residential house numbers on gazetted roads are fine, but non-consecutive mining claim numbers in the bush present a challenge, couple this with a moonless night and a relieving ambo fresh out from Brisbane and all of a sudden "turn left at the large tree, then turn right at the dead cow, drive about 5k's and look for a white ute.....!!!"

Now, I realise that you as dwelling owners know exactly where you live, and to me, local knowledge is everything and I pretty much know where many of you are. But, what if a visiting ambo is attempting to get to you? He will barely find Goanna Flats Road, let alone the back of Divide or Russian Gully. If you can't be found in a timely manner, your medical or trauma issue is undoubtedly going to worsen and worst case scenario, we end up with a deceased patient, and it has happened.

So what's the solution? Well, first off, realise that you know where you live but we may not. Don't assume that it's me or Myles coming to you because it might not be. Coming to the Ambulance Station to give us directions to where you are before the emergency happens is fine, but be aware that the system does not allow that information to be passed on to ambos outside of the Gemfields, so we need to have simple, common sense elements put into play to guide us to your emergency.

1. Put a car outside your property and turn on the hazard warning lights.
2. If there is a car and driver available, send them to the nearest road to wait for us and physically guide us in.
3. Go to Supercheap and buy an orange beacon, the type that fit on the roof of your car. Mount it on a pole high above your property roof and connect it to a 12volt supply when you need us. It'll bring us in like a light house

Better still, use all 3 and remember to think of these things, after the emergency in hind sight might be too late if your loved one has died because we couldn't find you in time. It's your choice.

Kind regards

Dave Bradbury  
Dave the Ambo

## FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (DNRM)

### **Are your contact details up to date:**

Have you changed or even checked that your contact details are correct with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM)? All holders are reminded that it is a requirement under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to provide updates of contact details as they change. This includes a postal address, home and mobile phone number as well as email addresses.

It is important that a holder's contact details are up to date in the DNRM register to ensure that any correspondence, including renewal notifications, are sent to the most current and correct address. Failure to advise DNRM of any change could result in a mining tenure expiring in the case of not receiving a renewal notification.

As DNRM now continues to work with QSNTS (Western Kangoulou Representatives) and the QSMA to finalise the Right to Negotiate process in the Gemfields, there will be a requirement for DNRM to forward important correspondence including updates, timeframes and required processes to be undertaken by holder's and applicants to progress their individual applications.

A holder can update their contact details via MyMinesOnline or by visiting the Emerald DNRM office and simply completing a form. There is NO cost to this process.

### **A change of the old guard.....**

After a lengthy and distinguished career with the Queensland Government, mostly within the Mines Department, Mining Registrar Kevin Pokarier retires on 29 July 2016. Over these years Kevin has witnessed a lot of change within the industry as well as processes within government, including the transition to the online environment of MyMinesOnline. Kevin has also played an instrumental role in the mentoring and development of the new era of Mining Registrar not only in Emerald but within the Small Scale Mining Hub. I would like to wish Kevin all the best in his retirement as well as in lowering his golf handicap and increasing his fishing catch. There is a current recruitment and selection process underway to fill Kevin's position.

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### **Queensland Annual Minerals and Metals Census: FROM THE DNRM**

You will soon receive the *Queensland annual minerals and metals statistical census in the post*. This collection is used by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) to obtain information relating to production and sales of minerals across Queensland.

The information received forms the basis of periodical publications that provide statistical data on production, distribution, stocks, and consumption of coal, metallic, non-metallic, and construction/extractive commodities. The information collected is used by local, state and federal governments as well industry groups to assist in policy planning and infrastructure development.

The collection of this information is sought under section 404C of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*. All mining lease operations, both operating and not operating, are required to submit a completed annual mineral and metals statistical census form.

To minimise the impact on smaller miners, **producing gemstone** (and ornamental stones) operators are only required to provide a dollar value in relation to production. All other sections need to be completed as stated on the census form.

A set of Explanatory Notes will accompany your annual statistical census form. If you require further assistance, please contact DNRM Mining Statistics, phone 07 3199 7915 or email [CoalandMineralStats@dnrm.qld.gov.au](mailto:CoalandMineralStats@dnrm.qld.gov.au).

### PRESIDENTS REPORT/NATIVE TITLE REPORT:

Greetings to all members, long term and new. There has been a lot of things happening since our last newsletter.

### NATIVE TITLE:

As you may or may not know, on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016, Justice Jagot of the Federal Court, summarily dismissed the claim of the Bidjara People #7. This was officially confirmed to me on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 by the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT). This now means that your negotiating team will only be dealing with the Western Kangoulu People.

The negotiations with the Western Kangoulu People have always continued to move forward at a steady pace. The team and myself believe that an Agreement in Principle is not far away from being formalised. When this has been achieved the Association will be in contact with those members in batches 1, 2 and 3 whom have placed their trust in the QSMA Negotiating Team to reach an amicable agreement with the Western Kangoulu People.

### WHY SATURDAYS MEETINGS:

At the Sunday markets a number of members had said that they were unable to attend any meetings because of commitments they had during the week. This was raised at a Committee Meeting and it was agreed that a day change was necessary so as to allow all members to attend to have their say and vote if required to on any matter of importance. It is hoped that all members will agree to the reason for this change.

### SALE OF ROUGH STONE:

A member recently showed me an article that was in a Faceting Magazine and it was less than flattering to the Gemfields and the sale of rough material from here. The incident involved a piece of rough (not quality), let's say around 100 cts at a cost of \$12.00 per carat. It can be thought that this is a lot of money to spend on rough. The person who bought the item in question is a novice cutter and there is the possibility that this person may not have had the experience to thoroughly inspect the item for its suitability. However, having said that, there are probably people on the Gemfields selling rough that may have not gained the experience to grade their material. It is well and good to be able to teach someone how to facet a piece of rough, but it is another to teach these people how to select their rough. Maybe this Faceting Group might give consideration to instructing its members on how to select a piece of rough. Unfortunately, with anything a person buys, it is always **buyer beware**.

As a miner I know that if I was to have a piece of quality rough that size for sale, I would be expecting a price that is exponentially higher than \$12.00 a carat.

Until our next newsletter, good health and lucky finds.

Greg Charlton  
President

## GENERAL NOTICES:

### Memorial:

We extend our sincere condolences to our Secretary Carol Graham who sadly lost her sister on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Carol and we want you to know that we are all here for you and the family. Anything we can do to help, you only need to ask.

### MY MINES ON LINE: PLEASE NOTE:

**DUE TO CAROLS EXTREMELY HEAVY WORK LOAD, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU PHONE AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT IF YOU REQUIRE HELP WITH LODGING A RENEWAL, A TRANSFER OR THE APPLICATION OF A NEW MINING CLAIM. FAILING TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN YOU BEING TURNED AWAY.**

### SUNDAY MARKETS:

As usual the boys will be manning the QSMA table at the Sunday Markets in Sapphire at the footy fields. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding anything to do with mining etc., and if they can't answer a question, they will either point you in the right direction or get the answer and get back to you as soon as they can.

### RAFFLE WINNER:

The winner of the Brazier raffle was ticket No 38, Raymond Weekes, Congratulations Ray and Joe, so happy to see it go to someone who really embraces the outdoors.

### LOW POWER LINES ON THE GEMFIELDS:

As many of you may have noticed there are a considerable amount of low power lines on the Gemfields. These can be of high risk to the public (Public Safety Issue) as one our members found out a couple of years ago. It seems the only way to get these lines raised to the correct height is for people to report them to Ergon. What you have to do is get the number of the offending power pole and phone 13 10 46, this will then be recorded in their computer as a problem, eventually it will get look at and assessed, no-one wants to take responsibility and say that the power pole and lines are at the correct height unless they have inspected them as their jobs will be on the line. Also report power poles that are on a lean like the ones at star gems.

### DOGS ON CLAIMS:

We are getting more and more people complaining about dogs on the loose.

It is a **statuary condition** of your mining claim to have all animals restrained to prevent them from going outside the boundary of your claim. Therefore, is it **an offence** to let your pets roam outside your claim.

**GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM):**

The Queensland Sapphire Miners Association's AGM will be held after a General Meeting on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at 1pm at the Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC) in Sapphire. Everyone is welcome to attend the General Meeting but only Financial Members of the QSMA Inc. will be able to attend and vote at the AGM. You will be able to renew your membership on the day if necessary as Megan the Treasurer/Assistant Secretary will be there early for you to do so. If you would like to nominate a member of the association for any position on the committee, please complete the form below and send it to:

The Secretary  
QSMA Inc.  
PO Box 364  
Rubyvale  
Qld 4702

Please ensure that you also have a return address on the reverse of the envelope. If the envelope is not addressed as above which is according to the rules of the association, **IT WILL RESULT IN THE NOMINATION BEING VOID.**

Nominations need to be to the Secretary 1 week before the AGM and a list of nominees will be placed on notice boards around the Gemfields a few days before the AGM.

.....**CUT HERE**.....

**Q.S.M.A Inc.  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM**

I..... Nominate.....

for the position of .....

Nominee Signature..... Date.....

Membership No.....

Nominator Signature..... Date.....

Membership No.....

All Nominees/Nominators must be current financial members of the Q.S.M.A Inc.

