

# THE MINER'S RIGHT

The North Queensland Miner's Association Incorporated  
Representing Miners, Prospectors and Associated Industries

Edition: February 2015

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Next Meeting:

Monday  
9 February 2015  
Mareeba Leagues  
Club 12:30pm

## **SECRETARIES REPORT: By Claire Mackney**

A Happy New Year to all, I hope the Christmas break was an enjoyable time for everyone. Here's to a prosperous year ahead.

An update on matters of interest below.

**DNRM:** In December the members were invited to provide feedback for the Draft Boundary Identification Practice Manual, close dates for submissions of feedback was 20 January 2015. We expect to see the implementation of the changes around March, if the upcoming election results don't set things back.

I was advised in January that landowner compensation agreements can now be lodged by email via [mineralhub@dnrm.qld.gov.au](mailto:mineralhub@dnrm.qld.gov.au), original documents are no longer required. Applications can be lodged by My Mines Online, email or over the counter. For new mining lease applications, it is recommended that a pre-lodgement meeting is held to confirm the requirements of your application.

**EHP:** There doesn't appear to be any news of significance on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) front since our last update. It pays to be aware of when your annual fees fall due as EHP will issue a late payment fee on the 5<sup>th</sup> day after your invoice was due for payment. An update to the Regulatory Strategy has been published, the expected outcomes proposed are standardised conditions and higher penalty infringements for breaches to conditions. The updated brochure can be found at <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/about/corporatedocs/pdf/regulatory-strategy-changes.pdf>.

**EMFRL:** In December, Fiona Abbey, Vicky Lake and I (Claire) met with Jack Dempsey at the Community Cabinet Meeting to discuss the members concerns over the excessive levying of miners in relation to the Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy. Once we broke through the standard party response of why the levy was implemented, we felt that our argument was well received and we had had assurance from the Minister of follow up and potential attendance of the February NQMA meeting. Unfortunately due to the election, the matter has been postponed until February and the confirmation of the New Minister. We will continue to fight this levy on behalf of the members until a resolution is achieved.

I look forward to seeing you at our next general meeting at 12:30 on 9 February 2015 at the Mareeba Leagues Club.

## **NATIVE TITLE ROUND UP: By Paul Crossland**

### **Update – NTA Section 29 – Right to Negotiate**

#### **RTN Batch 3- the Djungan Peoples Area.**

The public advertising and notification date for this RTN batch was 14 December 2011. There are 3 mining applicants in this batch who are required to negotiate an ancillary agreement for their mining tenement applications, 1 is a small scale miner and 2 are proprietary companies. The future act representative acting for the Djungan Peoples is the North Queensland Aboriginal Land Council. The NQLC has advised that discussions have been conducted with the Djungan People's Registered Native Title Body Corporate for the negotiation of the ancillary agreements in the Djungan RTN batch. The NQLC has advised that they will progress this RTN batch sometime in the future.

#### **The Mareeba Area Batched RTN**

This batch of RTN notices was advertised in January 2013. The notification date was the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2013. The native title party closing date was the 06 May 2013 and the objection closing date was 06 June 2013. This batch consists of twelve mining lease applications and three EPMs. There is one Small Scale Miner remaining in the Western Yalanji native title claim area with 2 mining lease applications who is required to negotiate an agreement to satisfy the native title obligations for the mining applications.

Mining tenement applicants in any of the RTN batches who wish to have the NQMA represent them in the negotiation process need to be financial members of the NQMA and authorize the NQMA to act on their behalf. The NQMA has a Standard Ancillary Agreement that is available to mining applicants. This purpose of this agreement is to save time and costs of drafting an agreement from scratch and it has been based on the new Small Scale Mining ILUAs.

I invite miners who are having difficulty with starting or progressing agreement negotiations or any information relating to the RTN process please contact the NQMA Native Title Officer.

#### **Update on the Small Scale Mining Indigenous Land Use Agreements (SSM ILUA)**

There are two Small Scale Mining Indigenous Land Use Agreements presently in place. The new Western Yalanji SSM ILUA was registered on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2014. The new Ewamian SSM ILUA was registered on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2014. Mining applicants who wish to utilise the provisions of the new SSM ILUA should contact the Department of Natural Resources and Mines regarding deeding into the ILUA.

**The purpose of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Clearance Inspections**

The purpose of the land clearance inspection is to enable the Mining Grantee Party to comply with the provisions under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld). The Act provides that a person has a duty of care not to damage or disturb an object or site of aboriginal cultural heritage. A person who carries out an activity must take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. A person who carries out an activity is taken to have complied with the cultural heritage duty of care in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage if the person is acting under an approved cultural heritage management plan that applies to the Aboriginal cultural heritage or under a native title agreement with the Aboriginal party. There are severe penalties under the Act for a failure to comply with this duty of care which results in disturbance or damage to Aboriginal cultural heritage. If the duty of care has been complied with and accidental disturbance or damage occurs to Aboriginal cultural heritage then there is no penalty and a buffer zone is placed around the cultural heritage.

The Small Scale Mining ILUAs have a provision where the Native Title Party and the Mining Grantee Party agree that the protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is of primary importance. The ILUA provides a suitable agreement for the Mining Party to comply with the duty of care under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. There is an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Protocol in the SSM ILUA that a Grantee Party must comply with. This is by way of a land clearance inspection carried out by the Native Title Party and the issuing of a written report. The Mining Party may comply by having the land clearance inspection carried out prior to the grant of a Mining Lease, Mining Claim or Mineral Development Licence or after the grant of the mining tenement. A Mining Party must not undertake mining activities on a proposed work area until the Mining Party has complied with the conditions of this Protocol.

Miners who need to have land clearance inspections carried out in order to comply with their obligations regarding Aboriginal Cultural Heritage protection should send a copy of the inspection Notice as per Schedule 4 of the SSM ILUA to the North Queensland Aboriginal Land Council and the Native Title Party. The address for service of the Notice is:

**North Queensland Aboriginal Land Council:**

C/ The Principle Legal Officer  
North Queensland Land Council  
PO Box 679N  
Cairns North, Qld 4870 Phone: (07) 4042 7000

**For the Western Yalanji SSM ILUA:**

Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation  
Street address: Unit 7B & C, Hort Street, Mareeba, QLD 4880  
Postal: PO. Box 2682 Mareeba, QLD 4880  
Phone: (07) 4092 6712  
Email: admin@westernyalanjicorp.com

**For the Ewamian Peoples SSM ILUA:**

Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation at contact address -  
9A Hort Street Mareeba Qld 4870  
Phone (07) 4092 2555  
Fax: (07) 4092 2555  
Email: Sharon@Ewamian.com.au

**Djungan Peoples SSM ILUA**

I have been advised by the North Queensland Land Council future act lawyer that the Djungan people's RNTBC and other native title claimants have considered the new Small Scale Miner ILUA at a community meeting. The RNTBC has instructed the NQLC to proceed with the authorization meeting process with a view towards authorization of the new SSM ILUA. During 2013 and 2014 there were numerous possible dates advised for the authorization meeting. To date the authorization meeting has not occurred.

There are a number of mining applicants who have lodged mining tenement applications dating back more than 4 years. They have been waiting for the registration of the new Djungan SSM ILUA in order to enable the grant of their applications. The other option that the mining applicants have is to request the State to initiate a Right to Negotiate process. The RTN process can be costly and time consuming for both the mining applicant and the Native Title Claimants. However, there are further options for mining applicants in the RTN process. There is assistance available from the National Native Title Tribunal for mediation of the agreement and there is the option of applying for an arbitrated decision from the NNTT that the mining tenement be granted. Past arbitrated decisions in most cases have resulted in the grant of the mining application and no compensation or other considerations having to be paid to the Native Title Claimants. The purpose of the SSM ILUA is to reduce the cost in time and money for both the mining applicant and the Native Title Claimants as well as provide for compensation and other considerations to the Native Title Claimants. The authorization of the new Djungan SSM ILUA is reliant upon the North Queensland Land Council to schedule the authorization meeting.

To avoid any confusion, once the new Djungan SSM ILUA has been authorized by the native title parties, there are other stages required in the process for the new ILUA. There will still be several months required for the registering of the ILUA by the National Native Title Tribunal before the ILUA will be available for miners to deed into to satisfy the native title obligations for their mining tenure applications.

Contacts: Paul.E.Crossland- (07) 4095 3324 Email- pc403@big pond .com

**Native Title Tips:**

Do you know that you can request the name and address of Native Title Claimants and Determinations through the NNTT website. Previously you had to fill in a form and email it off to NNTT and wait for a response. Now this information (required to send notices upon grant of EPMs etc) is online...

<http://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/Pages/default.aspx>

**FOR SALE:**

Gold Mining Leases is North Palmer – 4 leases totalling 500 acres all plant and equipment. Comfortable house, solar power etc. W.I.W.O Phone Mario: 0407675453

**Editors Notes:**

It is with a sad note that once again in the Miners Right we are acknowledging the passing of another well-known local miner, Mr Jack Gaudion. In all of my dealings with Jack I have known him to be a true gentleman and he will be missed very much by his friends and family. Vicky Lake had the great opportunity to sit down and interview Jack last year. Attached is a 3 page interview well worth the read and to take a moment to sit down with a cuppa and remember Jack.

The weather has certainly heated up this summer with not much of the traditional wet season rain around. Here's hoping to some good rain in the next month or so to keep our rivers running for this seasons mining operations.

The NQMA Dinner is continuing and will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February at the Yungaburra Hotel to honour our newest life member Mr Terry Edwards.

Good Luck to all sides of Qld Parliament on 31<sup>st</sup> January (my unbiased message) and here's hoping we get the right people back in the jobs so the NQMA can continue to follow up the important issues affecting Miners and also continue our concept of the Mining Champion.

**Legislation Translation:**

The Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 (CP Act) was passed on 9 September 2014. This legislation is still to be enacted and with the current Qld Election and possible change of Government – who knows when and if this will commence! However an important part of this change will be the objection process – below is a summary of what it will mean to Miners in the future. The summary has been taken from a Clayton Utz Insight paper dated 18 September 2014 – for anyone interested I recommend visiting their website as they have valuable explanation papers on legislation and other related mining matters. [www.claytonutz.com](http://www.claytonutz.com)

Objections to a mining lease application – There will no longer be a concept of a Certificate of Application (COA) or a Certificate of Public Notice for a mining lease application. In addition, the application will no longer need to be publicly notified. Instead, the Chief Executive will issue a mining lease notice for a mining lease application, which must be given to certain persons, including the owners of land underlying the application. Only an 'affected person' can object to the grant of a mining lease application. In this context, an affected person means:

- Owner of land the subject of the proposed mining lease;
- Owner of land necessary for access to the land the subject of the mining lease
- An owner of adjoining land; and
- The relevant local government

Further, each affected person may only object on certain limited ground specific to the land that is impacted.

Transitional provisions will apply whereby if the COA/CPN is issued, or objections have been lodged before the CP Act is enacted, the MLA will continue with this process.

In all other circumstances, the new provisions in the CP Act will apply.

PB: There have been rumblings in the political arena that some parties are not happy with this and will change it if they get in... so watch this space..

**ODDS AND BOBS FOR SALE AND WANTED:**

**FOR SALE: HARD ROCK MINING LEASE-** The Good Hope ML 5102, part of the Angelo Saxon group of mines. \$10,000 ono- must sell~ Bargain Ph: 0419657607 – Max Fisher

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For serious offers only – Contact via phone: 0423330566 via email: [jonalanglenwright@gmail.com](mailto:jonalanglenwright@gmail.com)

## Gold fun facts – taken from the world wide web!

### Science of Gold:

- It has been estimated that, worldwide, the total amount of gold ever mined is 152,000 metric tons, only enough to fill 60 tractor trailer. In comparison, each year 907 million metric tons of iron ore are produced worldwide. This is equivalent to 6,000 times the total gold produces throughout history.
- All the gold that has ever been refined throughout history could be placed in a cube measuring 20 meters on a side.
- More than 90 percent of all gold ever used has been mines since 1848, when gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill, California, sparking the greatest gold rush of all time.
- Gold nuggets are solid lumps of gold. Nuggets are rare, making up less than 2 percent of all native gold every mined.
- Only one out of a billion atoms of rock in Earth's crust are gold
- Oceans are the greatest single reservoir of gold at Earth's surface, containing approximately eight times the total quantity of gold mined to date. However, the current cost of extracting it more than the gold is worth.
- Gold is so malleable that a single ounce of it can be beaten into a think continuous sheet measuring roughly 100 square feet.
- Nearly 40% of all gold ever mined was recovered from South African rocks
- Most gold – 78% of the yearly gold supply – is made in jewellery. Other industries, mostly electronics, medical, and dental, require about 12%. The remaining 10% of the yearly gold supply is used in financial transactions.

### Culture of Gold:

- The oldest worked-gold objects, the products of the ancient Thracian civilizations, were made as early as 4000BC, and were discovered at a burial site in Varna, Bulgaria
- In the Aztec language, the name for gold is *teocuitlatl*, which means "excrement of the gods"
- The "Welcome Stranger" the largest gold nugget ever recoded, was found in Victoria, Australia, in 1869. It weighed 78 kilograms. When it was melted down, it produced 71 kilograms of pure gold
- The largest gold nuggets believed to exist today is the "Hand of Faith" a 60 pound specimen discovered in Victoria in October 1980. It is currently on display at the Golden Nugget casino in Las Vegas.
- Today, India is the world's largest consumer of gold. South Asian jewellery is generally of higher purity then western jewellery – 22 karats, compared to 14 karats.
- The Federal Reserve Bank of New York hold the world's largest accumulation of monetary gold. The vault is 25 meters beneath the street and holds \$147 billion worth of gold bullion. The bedrock of Manhattan is strong enough to support the weight of the vault, its door and the gold inside.



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- Marano’s Fuel (All Fuel & Oil Needs) 07 40988222
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- Mining & Resource Permit Services (Pegging and Tenure Admin) 0407080673

**OUT AND ABOUT FOSSICKING INFORMATION:**

Mount Gibson – 5km north-west of Innot Hot Springs  
 Agate Creek – 70km south of Forsayth  
 O’Briens Creek – 38km north-west of Mount Surprise  
 Moonstone Hill - 90km south of The Lynd (Kennedy Development Road)  
 Young’s Block – 15km east of Charters Towers  
 For more information including getting a Fossicking Licence and maps of the above areas visit  
<http://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/fossicking/north-qld/>  
 Fossicking Licences start from \$7.25 individual and \$10.45 family for 1 month...

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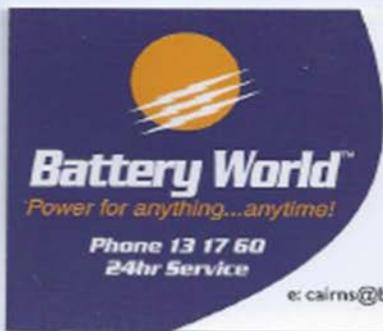
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**A TRIBUTE TO JACK.....****MINING- 20TH CENTURY**

***This is the story of the Miners who were the back bone of the Mining industry and its transition from the old world of no technology to present times. Through immigration, world wars, depressions and abundance in the land of 'milk and honey' they endured.***

Jack Gaudion- in his own words.

Jack was born in Atherton in 1935. At the time his parents were tin mining on Tinnaroo dam and a couple of years later Jack's father went gold mining at Balcooma, west of Townsville on Diggers Creek. Jack says "I can remember Dad carting dirt on an old single axel Dodge, 22 model. He'd shovel the dirt onto the truck, take it back to the plant. He had a 2 in pump and he built a bin where he use to shovel the dirt off into the bin and he had a door on the bin so he could pump water into the bin and let it soak. He'd go out get another load and come back in and wash the first load through and then put the 2nd load in the bin then and pump it full of water and leave it there overnight. The next morning he'd go and get another load of dirt, only about ¾ of a yard, he'd wash the load in the bin and then shovel the next load. He had a little brown bottle that held about 40- 50 ounces and he would take that into Charters Towers. Old Dick Middley was the assay bloke and he would melt down the Gold, then give the gold and an assay report to Dad and he'd take it to the Mint in Charters Towers and get paid. The price of gold then was £2.15 per ounce. We use to go to Charters Towers about every 6 weeks and get groceries. We use to live on tin stuff, and corn beef. The grazier's would give you a bag of corn beef.

When I was on Diggers Creek Dad built me a banjo out of a Kerosene tin case (2x 4 gallon tins in a case) then he made me a little screen that went on top of the case, he built me a little cart on wheels and we would shovel the dirt into the cart then shovel the dirt onto the screen (Tess won the 2012 photo comp with a pic of her and jack and the banjo)

He mined out there for a while but then things got a bit rough and we moved then to Silver Valley were my Mother's family lived (1939). There was 2 of us boys and a girl and while we were in Silver Valley another boy was born. Dad had a banjo there and the same old truck. He built a sluice screen with a slide door on it so when you wanted to wash the dirt you shovel the dirt on and when you wanted to stop you shut the slide door off. At the end of the week he would run the box down and take the gold out cos it would only have about 4 or 5 yards through the cooks. He had a 2 inch pump driven with a 4 horse power Wit kerosene engine. It was very puggy dirt so he bought some flat iron and some bolts and he bolted a bin together.

He had a vegetable patch about 20 feet away then, when he was washing he'd turn around and water the veg with the hose.

Me Mother cleared out and left us then leaving Dad and I, a boy and a girl. She took the little fella with her. I was only five and it must have been hard for Dad cos there was no family endowment, nothing. So you had to produce money for yourself" Jacks father would cook, clean and raise his 3 children while working to earn money, Jack said " we never went to town with un-ironed clothes and always had boots/ new shoes and socks on. Town was Herberton, I never knew it was called Herberton, it was just called "town". It was only till I got 10/ 12 years old I knew what Herberton was. Well anyway when I got 10 years old I was able to work with him. No school. She took Joe into Charters Towers when he was 4 months old. When she was in Charters Towers she took Joe to this woman and said I'm sick I gotta go to the Doctors, could I get someone to look after me baby while I go up there and this woman said "I'll look after him" and she never came back for him. The police somehow got onto Dad and they came out to Silver Valley and told him this woman had put him in the orphanage in Charters Towers, and for Dad to maintain custody of

him he had to send them 10 shillings a month, so he said "yeh that would be alright" and he did that till the baby was 5 years old. When he was 5 years old the old lady said she couldn't look after him and send him to school and do everything that needs to be done so she put him back in the orphanage and they come and see Dad again and say is there any chance of you looking after him now he is 5 years old and Dad says "yeah, I'll come and get 'im." In 1945 the war had just finished, so Dad grease the old Dodge up and we drove from Silver Valley to Townsville and we spent a couple of days in Townsville and picked up my little brother and came back home. We got to Cardwell and Dad had to stop for a couple of days to pull the sump of the old Dodge and do the 'bigin' bearing in it and tighten them up. He (Joe) was with us for a couple of years then and my grandmother (Dori Edmonds) come down and she could see Joe was bought up in the town and we were running around in the bush- bushies. He didn't fit in with us at all, so she said to Dad "you let him come with me to Almaden and send him to school up there and give him a bit of education" Well then he became Joe Edmonds, not Joe Gaudion.

When I was about 10 years old I was able to help Dad. I would peel the spuds and peel the onions and he would put it on the fire, on the saucepan and we would have a stew. He would tell me to stir it every 20 minutes or so while he was away working.

Anyway I got a bit older, I use to go sampling all the time and I found a bit of a wolfram show. I opened up this thing. I use to drill the holes and Dad use to charge them with the dynamite. Then I learnt how to sharpen the drills, I can still sharpen the drills and I'd sharpen my drills and his drills. Then he had to put a windless on his mine, he was getting down to far and I would go down his shaft and fill the bucket up with dirt, put on the windless and he would wind it up, tip it and send it back down to me and I'd fill it back up again until he got down to about 20 feet. They use to cut out at about 15 to 20 feet, these little reefs we use to work. I finished up with a windless on mine but he come over and helped me with mine. Then we would go looking for another one then and that's what we would work. If we found wolfram then we would work wolfram and if we found tin, then we would work tin.

Then I'd go back and dig the hole out and knap the wolfram of the rock, we use to carry it out about ½ a mile because we couldn't get the truck into where it was. When we got about a ton of ore we would dolly it up then, an banjo it in the banjo and we would clean it all up, then take 3 or 4 bags into Herbeton. I think it was worth about 7 quid a bag. A bag of tin was 100 weight.

When I got to about 13 Tess (Jacks sister) went to boarding school in Herbeton and we paid the fees. The police came out and said she was getting to school age and could we send her to school. They checked it all out first and they came out and said she could board at the boarding school and go to the state school. Tess was about 10 years old. Tess would come home for the school holidays an she was a good prospector. She had write up's in the papers in them days about her tin mining and tin find's. She was home one weekend and she found a tin show so I worked this blooming tin show and I got down to about 10 feet, put a windless on the shaft, but it cut out going down, but it kept going in so I was driven and I got in about 10 or 12 feet, then it cut out altogether. Tin was about 8 quid a bag. At that stage they formed a tin produces association because the overseas market for tin was 15 quid a bag. Eventually they got it on the open market and we got 15 quid a bag. It was good then and we made money out of tin then. At the tail end of the war wolfram went to 19 quid a bag. We were working the wolfram when Tess found this tin show, so I mined this tin mine and I use to drill the holes and he use to come up and fire the shots. That's when I got emphysema because I worked in this drive and no way of getting the dust out of it. I just worked in the drive drilling holes up there to bring the top down and drilling holes in the floor and then you'd fire the shot. But he stitched a couple of bags together and threw it over the windless to circulate the air down through the shaft but it didn't take it out of the tunnel. I'd go down and drill some more holes and take the face of the tin, then the tin reef would be on the wall, it was probably going about 20% for tin. We'd take the ore up and when we got enough stone we'd burn it, we use to burn it to loosen up, even the wolfram. So you'd build a fire 10 foot square with logs and put the stuff on top and burn it and that made it a lot

easier to dolly up with a spring dolly. A spring dolly was a 2 inch rod with an eye on it and tied to a spring pole (a pole cut out of the bush about 20 foot long and it was fixed to something on the ground, then it come up on a fork stick then the rod would hang about 18 in above the grate) that went back down onto a stump. There was a post in the ground, with a V cut into it and a grid on it and with an iron collar around it and you but the stone on the grid and bought it (the dolly) down and crushed the stone until you filled up the drum. Then we had a hand grinder and you'd put it though the hand grinder to get it fine enough to get the tin. I put tons and tons of stuff through this old spring dolly. The grinder was 2 rollers about 14 inches and one had a handle on it

(For water) We use to have 44 gallon drums on the back of the old Dodge and take it to where there was a spring or wild river and fill a couple of drums and that would do us for a week. We'd bath out of that and use it for drinking water. When we got the ore crushed we'd put it on the back of the truck and take it to the water to wash with the banjo and a streaming box. We use to have this bloomin old pumping plant and you'd start it up and have a long hose running into the head of the streaming box and you'd regulate the water with the sliding head and you'd stream it to finish it off, after you banjo it first. The residue you'd put back through the rollers again. Eventually Dad made a grinder, he found 2 rollers about 9 in long and 8 in wide an took it to a engineering shop and got ends welded into it, and a shaft put through and with a big pulley wheel on it that ran a 9 in belt. He use to drive that pulley wheel of the back wheel of the old Dodge. Just start the Dodge up in first gear while it was jacked up. It was better than this hand business, it was heaven then. At the same time we built a screening thing and it came out of the grinder onto this screen and the rough stuff went off and the fine stuff went through the screen. Dad was a very clever man, he could sharpen pix and dress axes that got worn down. He'd put them in the forge and dress them, then temper them down again. There wasn't too many people that could do it. He use to dress the face of it (the axe) out nice and tapered again, so when he finished it was sharp, then he had a way of tempering it with oil and when it was cooled he would give it a touchup with the oil stone and it was good again. He made his own forge. We didn't have one of them old puffers, he made a blower with a fan in it and a handle on it. Crowbars, picks, if the picks got a bit blunt you took it down to the forge and dressed them out, sharpen them and tempered them in the bucket of water and then go back to work. Depended on the hardness of the ground that you was workin, some days you'd have to do them every day and some day's they'd last for 3 or 4 days if the ground was not hard. When they got to blunt to dig anymore, you might have 3 or 4 picks, you might have 2 sets of steel, well if you were digging rock, for in hard rock mining, if you where drillin rock well you might have to sharpen every day. But if it wasn't too bad your drills would last for 2 or 3 days, you know. Like I said I've still got me steel and me forge and that up at the camp. Sometimes the fuse would have a break in it and it wouldn't go right through and then you would have to go down and take the dirt out of it, cos sometimes you took the risk on the thing going off while you were doin this but it never did with us. But I did hear of things happin like that. But you clean it out and then charge it again with another half stick of dynamite so it set the first one of. So then you have 2 charges go of at once. But that didn't happen very often. There was a faulty fuse or somethin' that cause it to happen.

I asked Jack if he enjoyed blasting cos usually blokes like to blow stuff up and he said' No, if it was drilling for a reason, it was drilling for a reason, you know? We use to buy 2 packets of dynamite and that would last us a month. Up in the mountains there, there'd be Miners working all over the mountains and you'd hear a shot go off way over in the mountains then you'd hear another shot go off way over in the mountains, then you'd let one off, blowin the hard rock in the mine, you know? Some of them mines went down a 100 feet. "Jack never had a name for his mine" We use to peg a claim, never pegged a lease, pegged a claim. If you had a mine you had to peg it cos someone else would come along and peg it if you didn't have it pegged. So if we had something worth peggin we use to peg it an register it through the Mines Department, an then you'd have to fill in a monthly report to the Mines Department as to what your progress was in the mine. How much tin you recovered an how much ore you dug out. Dad use to fill in his bloomin reports every month. An how far down you've sunk or how far down in the hill you've drove or if

you were working alluvial on top, how much yards you've put through. Dad use to cart the dumping, which still had wolfram and tin in them, down to the water, and had his pumpin engine and sloosh box, and he use to set the 'Banjo' up on the sloosh box on a bit of slope and I use to shovel of the truck into the Banjo. We'd work for a week and then run the box down and take the heavies out and keep it in drums and that until we were ready to clean up and then clean it up and then take it to town. But, I worked with him until I was 18 and then I got called up in National Service. That was a bit of a shock, straight out of the bush. But I had a couple of mates that was called up with me and we went to National Service in Brisbane. I was in the National Service for 2 years. I had to keep going every 3 months to camp and do me training, an I was in the CMF(Citizens Military Forces)We never made much money out of tin mining, but anyway when I left National Service I probably had 20 quid in my pocket when I come home and I gave that to Dad. I said I'm going to put my best effort into mining and see if I can make some money. But it was to harder work. Have breakfast and work till lunchtime then go out to work till it gets dark and get 12- 14 pound of tin a day and it wasn't enough (in Silver Valley)I said to Dad "this is no good. I'll never make any money here. I gotta go get a job somewhere, fencing or yarding", do something, you know. Me Uncle, he was in the war and he said "come with me and we'll go do some fencing an yard building' and so I did. But he was no a very good manager and we didn't make any money either. Went from bad to worse. So then me Sister got me a job with a plumber at Walkamin, digging sewage trenches with a pick and shovel. I was getting 15 quid a week but that was hard work. I worked on that till the job ran out. So I didn't have a job again. Me Sister was in Mareeba one day and me Uncle was cutting sleepers in Mareeba. So, she talk to him and he said "I'll give 'im a job here cutting sleeper", that was hard work to. That was me Uncle on Mums side- Gib Evens. This was in 1956. It was in March 1956, we got that big cyclone and flooded the whole of the gulf. I had met a girl. She was living with her Grandmother and working at the ply mill in Mareeba. Anyway a contract come up in Normanton for the Normanton- Croydon railway line. They couldn't get anyone to cut sleepers up there, so they asked Bill if he would go up and cut sleepers. They wanted 1,000 sleepers cut up there. So Bill said "you comin with me?" and I said "yeh, I'll come with ya" and he said "I'll give ya 20quid a day". We went up to Normanton and he took two Hargin saws, no chain saws. We cut 1,000 sleepers and put it on the rail and we were back home in 13 days. With 2 saw and 2 fella's cutting the sleepers and I was loadin the truck. Some days we'd do two loads into the rail siding. I would load the sleepers by hand, we were all as strong as on ox in them days. We got back home and we cut sleepers again and he said to me one day "you want to cut sleepers on your own". I said "yeh, but I haven got enough money to buy a Hargin saw and a truck". He said "I'll give you one". It was just out in them days. It was a circular saw, 36 inch blade on it an a 10 horse power motor bike engine set up on a frame with 2 belts on the frame driving the saw blade. You had 2 (handles?) and a throttle and it was on 2 little wheels. (How did you chop the trees down?) This thing was on a ring and you would turn the handles on the side an it bought your saw blade onto the side and you'd go up to the tree and put a gash in the side. It was dangerous. Then you'd go around the other side then, cos the tree would always have a lean on it and you'd cut into that side and the tree would fall down. Sometimes there would be 2 sleepers in a block, sometimes there would be 3 sleepers in a block. They had to be 9 inches wide by 5 inches thick. So I set out to cut 30 sleepers a day, I was getting 13/6 a sleeper. In the evening when you knocked of you'd load them onto the truck and take em to the siding and unload them on your stack.

Then I got engaged to be married and on the 29 December '56 I got married to Cathy Mercer(?) (from Ingham) I was very handi-cap cos I couldn't read or write but she could. She had a bit of schooling an she was me book keeper. Then every 3 weeks you got a sleeper pass. The railway inspector use to come along an you had to turn all your sleepers so as he could have a look, make sure they were all good and then you got your cheque. I stayed in Mareeba till my first Daughter (Barbara) was born. Then she (Cathy) wanted to go home, she was home-sick so we went to Ingham cutting sleepers. I cut sleepers for the railway in Ingham but then the Sugar mills wanted sleepers too so and I cut sugar mill sleepers and then when the work ran out I cut cord wood then for the sugar mills and then go back cutting sleepers again. Sometimes I

had an offsider, sometimes I didn't. It was too hard to find someone to keep up, compete with you. Someone who could cut 3 cord of wood a day and load it onto the truck and take it into the siding and unload it, it was hard work. But I always made money. I cut fence post, when you couldn't cut sleepers I cut fence posts. Then I done a bit of fencing and a bit of yard building.

About 1964 they let assignments out for cane growers. So I had a bit of money then and I bought a bit of land and I applied for a cane assignment and I got a cane assignment. So I went growing cane then. I borrowed money then to go cane'in, I wasn't making any money outa cane an I use to work me cane of a night time and go cutting sleepers of a day time. I grew cane for 7 years but we also had cattle to. She liked cattle an 'orses. So I sold the cane farm and went and bought a cattle property. We reared cattle but then I bought a cattle truck to cart cattle. I went and bought a International semi with a 35 foot cattle trailer, I made good money out of the semi. Then I bought a second one but then you got to put drivers on. Anyway, it was alright, I had friends that were driving for me. But it got too strenuous for me cos I was drivin and you couldn't get trucks. All the cattle needed to be shifted by trucks and they would ring you up and say could you have 3 trucks here in the morning. I'd say I'll try and I'd ring up the trucks and they'd say "yeh, I'll see if I can make it", but they didn't make it. So you go up and load and they say "well, you'd better come back for another load". And so I did, I'd come back for another load and sometimes I'd go back for 3 loads. Travelling from Ingham to Townsville mainly or from Tully to Townsville or Greenvale to Townsville. I was away for a week one time, cartin' from that back country. Then it got too much for me cos I was drivin to longer hours. I thought I'm out here, I'll kill meself an smash me truck up and what about me kids. So I sold me gear and got out of it, went tin mining. I been tin mining ever since. (that was in 1979) (Jack was 44 years old) I went to Mt Surprise, there was some tin ground out there so I went out and peg some ground, I built a bit of a plant and I went out there tin mining then and I done good. I had a tandem tip truck, a 4 inch pump, an a bin an a jig. Two jigs you know, a primary jig and a secondary jig. I was getting one, two, three bags a day. It was about \$11,000 a ton. A bloke give me a hand to set up the plant. He was a welder, he was good with welding and engineering. He went up there with me an give me a hand to set it up and put the dirt through. The first ton of tin I got out I said "well that's yours". He bought a brand new Landcruiser with it. I was up there about 12/18 months. Then I left there and went up to the Palmer- gold mining with my Uncle- Tommy Edmonds. I went to Spear Creek downstream from the road about 5/6 km. We tip the dirt into the bin, with a wash-down person on the bin an Tommy's wife, Bub, use to do the wash-down. Tommy use to look after the jigs and in the creek we had a D4 dozer an we use to doze up the dirt so we could dig it up with the loader, load the truck and cart it. We were putting through somethin like 30 x 10 yard trucks a day. I forget how much stuff we use to send away but it was something like bloomin 25 ounces, every time we sent gold away. Gold was about \$450/ \$500 a ounce in 1982. We done well there. Then we run out of water and we went down to Cannibal Creek, working tin again. We done pretty good outa tin. We'd send away ½ ton or 1 ton of tin (alluvial) shed from that big tin show that was there at Cannibal Creek. There was a bit a shilite in it to.

Well I finished there and I went back to Silver Valley. We took the plant and everything back to Silver Valley for tin mining and we did good there until we ran out a tin. Then I went from there up onto California Creek and worked it out there. Then I went down towards Charters Towers to Sandy Creek. There was this big creek and this fella had all these leases on there and I went working tribute (tin) I had a team then there with me, me nephew (Tessie's son) and me son-in-law. I had 2 trucks then, they carted dirt and stock piled before the rain come, we build a big dam. Then we put it through when the rain come. And that's when the ass fell out o' tin. I had about 5 drums of tin and I said I wouldna sell it and I took em home to the station. Tin went down to about \$60 a unit from \$160 a unit. In the mean time I bought Princess Hill Station (between the Herbert River and the Burdekin out Waroona and Gunnar way) and I had me son-in-laws working the station. I had bought this saw mill and I shifted all me plant to this saw mill then. Johnie Withers, he peg some ground up on the river in from Mr Surprise. It was rich with tin and rich with gold. So he said to me "you come up with just your trucks and you cart the dirt". So I said "yeh, ok".

Use to separate the gold from the tin with mercury. We use to send it away as fine gold, we didn't put it in a bar. We use to send it through Jack Struber in Mareeba. He was an agent, he use to weigh it and send it to Perth mint. I went up there with him (Johnie Withers) and we worked the ground out that was up there and I took the trucks home then. An 3 weeks later he rings me up and says " I got a gold mine on Palmer River, on Campbell's Creek up from the Palmer River Road House, you'd better bring your trucks" (1986) We done some sampling and it looked pretty good so we pegged it. I bought me trucks up there and he shifted his plant up there. We worked there for 2 years until we ran out of gold ground. Then we went

from there to the Little Palmer. But I was having trouble then with the men out at the saw mill, so I said "I gotta get out of here" so I took me trucks and went home. But Johnie carried on up there and he's been working on his own ever since the year before last. We done a season together on the Normanby I did a season with Keith Fisher and then he went with Mick Curtain and I did a season on the Palmer by myself. Then Keith and I went and pegged the Nine Mile. Then I carried on on the Palmer and they (MLA) didn't get granted then so I went from there over to the Normanby. I bought a lease over there. It was poor ground and we ran out of water and the leases got granted back at the Palmer. So then I moved back to the Palmer River, that's where Tess and them are now. Jay and I worked along the terrace there for a couple of years. Then I went back to the Normanby.

Cathy Gaudion passed away in 2005/6 with alzimers

I asked Jack about the excavators, he said- the motor was seized, the one at Maytown. I pull the motor out and took it home and I took the motor out of the one that I had at home took it to Maytown, cos there was nothing wrong with it apart from the motor. Anyway, I nearly died of dehydration down there. So I said to me mate that was with me "well, I can't do this. I gotta go home." So I put the old motor back in and took the good one back home and put it back into (the excavator) out on the Palmer and just used it. But I had bought another one down there at the Palmer and I left it there with the first one I bought so as I could use it to lift the stuff out and change it over down there, you know.

I intended to go back and do exactly what I started off to do but I never ever went back down there to do it. I still want to go back and take that motor out. It's a little bit hard, it's gone beyond me now I think.

(What was the highlight of your life Jack?) The highlight? tin mining- I only employed one or two people until I sold the saw mill, then I was on me own apart from when I was with John Withers. I had the kids with me then.

Jack passed away on the 13 January, 2015. His last wish was to be buried in Herberton, and he was.