



THE MINER'S RIGHT

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

February 2022

NQMA General Meeting 1PM, Monday 14th March 2022 – Venue to be announced

Presidents Report

The start of the year has flown by! Happy Wet season! The February meeting has been moved to March for a couple of reasons so thank you for your patience. The meeting will be held on Monday 14th March. Due to restrictions, we will be hosting this meeting differently. Please email your intentions to attend and we will send through the details closer to the date.

This month NQMA has drafted and submitted a submission in relation to the Queensland Resource Industry Development Plan (QRIDP). The NQMA along with the Opal and Sapphire Associations have strong concerns on ITEM 40 in the plan that specifically relates to removing mining claims from the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*. So you can imagine that is has been a hot topic! The changes proposed in the Plan are supposedly still under consideration with the Department of Resources and will be subject to further consultation... Links to the plan can be found on our facebook page or at [QRIDP | Department of Resources](#)

The Qld Government is also asking for the Public to have your say on the proposed changes to the Queensland Cultural Heritage Laws. Please take the time to have a look and make a submission on this topic if you have concerns with any of the proposed changes. The consultation is open until 31 March 2022. [Department of Seniors, Disability Services, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships | Reshaping Queensland's cultural heritage laws \(dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au\)](#)

With the supposed wet season around the ridges, it is now a great time to think about future rehabilitation and the collection of seeds. Amanda Blazely has given the newsletter a great feature on Australian Natives and rehab.

Happy reading... any topics you would like to see in future newsletters please let us know via info@nqma.com.au

SOCIAL MEDIA

PRESIDENT: Fiona Thomas
VICE-PRESIDENT: James Said
SECRETARY: Amanda Blazely
TREASURER: Terry Edwards
NATIVE TITLE OFFICER: Paul Crossland
EDITOR: Fiona Thomas
EMAIL: info@nqma.com.au
WEBSITE:
www.nqma.com.au

NQMA has a social media profile!! You can become our FRIEND by liking our page on Facebook. You will find mining news, info and re-posts from other relevant mining pages. Search North Queensland Miners Association and 'like' away 😊

We have also updated our website. We hope to have regular blog updates every month or so. The current membership form is also available from this site. So... head on over to have a look every now and then.

www.nqma.com.au



Abandoned Mines – have your say

The Department of Resources is taking public views on the re-commercialisation of abandoned mines.

“We have commenced a pilot program to investigate the release of an abandoned mine site for re-commercialisation.

Restricted Area 442 (RA 442) – which includes the Wolfram Camp and Bamford Hill sites and prospective targets such as Four Mile and Eight Mile – has been identified for this pilot. It includes land covered by previous mining leases and associated exploration permits disclaimed by the former operator of the abandoned Wolfram Camp Mine.

We are seeking industry feedback through a market-sounding exercise to investigate commercial viability for all or some of RA 442.

Learnings from the pilot program will inform recommendations for a framework to lift Restricted Area 442. They will also inform the development of a package for potential release to market by June 30, 2022.”

Feedback can be sent to abandonedmines@resources.qld.gov.au or visit [Re-commercialisation of abandoned mines | Department of Resources](#)

Just when you think you know gold!

We all love the shiny stuff and it is known to cause fevers in people when out looking for it but what is it really Here are some facts about the stuff many of us are seeking between the layers of dirt...

- ✚ It is the only metal that is yellow or 'golden'. Other metals may develop a yellowish color, but only after they have oxidized or reacted with other chemicals
- ✚ Nearly all gold on Earth came from meteorites that bombarded the planet over 200 million years after it formed.
- ✚ The element symbol for gold – Au - is from the old Latin name for gold aurum which means 'shining dawn' or 'glow of sunrise'
- ✚ Gold is extremely ductile. A single ounce of gold (about 28 grams) can be stretched into a gold thread 8 kilometers long.
- ✚ Gold can also be hammered into thin sheets with one ounce able to be beaten into a 300-square-foot sheet.
- ✚ Pure elemental gold is 24 karats, while 18 karat gold is 75% pure gold, 14 karat is 58.5% gold, and 10 karat is 41.7% gold.
- ✚ Gold, as well as looking pretty and making us shiny objects, is used in electronics, electrical wiring, dentistry, medicine, radiation shielding and in colouring glass.
- ✚ Seventy-five percent of all gold in circulation has been extracted since 1910 and it is thought that 80% of the world's gold is still in the ground.
- ✚ The largest gold nugget was found in Australia. The 'Welcome Stranger' was found just below the ground surface in 1869 and yielded 2,248 ounces of pure gold!
- ✚ Gold is chemically inert and will not rust or cause skin irritation
- ✚ Gold is so rare that the world pours more steel in an hour than it has poured gold since the beginning of recorded history.
- ✚ During the 14th century, drinking molten gold and crushed emeralds were used as a treatment for the bubonic plague.
- ✚ In 1511, King Ferdinand of Spain coined the immortal phrase: 'Get gold, humanely if possible – but at all hazards, get gold'
- ✚ Gold was first reported near Beaconsfield in Tasmania in 1847. Victoria's first recorded gold discovery was in 1851. However earlier discoveries were hushed up in fear that all convicts, soldiers and public servants would stop work and go gold hunting.
- ✚ Queensland's gold rush started in 1857 with the Northern Territory rush beginning in 1871. Western Australia waited a while and found the shiny stuff in 1885.
- ✚ Gold is certainly worth its weight in.... um.... Gold. It weighs over nineteen times more than water and is almost twice as heavy as lead. A one litre milk carton full of gold would weigh 19.3 kilograms!

The 'R' word. In this case, not rates, rent or royalty but REHABILITATION

Often simply termed as 'rehab', rehabilitation of the miner's worked site is an integral part of good mining practice. Over the years long-term miners have witnessed changes to remediation methods prescribed by the relevant department.

Thankfully the draconian practice of burning felled mature trees that posed as a safety concern for the operator if left standing is no longer perceived as 'good practice'. One miner recalls the time they were ordered to burn Queensland red cedar on a tin mining site many years ago! What a terrible waste. The practice of not burning these once living giants is helpful in the efforts to bring back the site to its original state as best as possible. Placed strategically, they can stabilise the worked creek bank. Positioned in other disturbed areas, their now horizontal position provides a home for the ground dwelling animals as well as providing a 'wall' for soil to be able to accumulate against, in turn allowing seeds to anchor and germinate more readily.

This leads me to the topic of seeds.

The Wet is upon us. Prolific vegetative growth is occurring right now. What follows are the flowers, fruit (seed pods) and seeds. During the drier months the seeding period offers an excellent opportunity to collect many of the native seeds that are in the vicinity of our mining sites. It's handy to have paper bags on hand (remember the brown school lunch bags still available in the supermarkets?). Envelopes are also very useful. The drier months, especially from August onwards is a good time to collect seeds. Simply label your paper bag/envelope with the date of collection and location and store in a safe dry location where the local rodents cannot reach them ready for dispersal in the wetter months. Below is just a very small sample of plants you may have in your location for which the seeds are easy to collect.

Acacias

You may have observed a variety of these pioneer plants self-propagating in. They all have the distinct yellow wattle flower. They tend to be the first plant to establish on a disturbed site, hence the name 'pioneer'. Having the ability to increase soil fertility through nitrogen fixation is reason enough to encourage these shrub-like trees to grow on your disturbed site.

Acacia holosericea (Silky Wattle)



Seed pods are distinctly coiled and contain tiny dark seeds with orange/ yellow ends. As this is low in height the seeds are easy to access. When flowering you can usually find the native bee as well as the larger European bee on the yellow wattle. Doves and pigeons can be observed around the base of the shrub foraging for the tiny seeds. Excellent little seed dispersers!

Grevillea parallella (Silver Oak)



The black cockatoos frequent this tall tree, easily cracking the pod with their strong beaks. Great helpers for dispersal purposes. The large cream grevillea flowers attract a variety of honey eaters including the smaller parrots. Both our native bees and European bees are also attracted to the flowers. When in full flower one can hear the tree humming from the amount of insect life on it.



Atalaya Angustifolia (Whitewood)



A very small tree, almost delicate like in its form. Can go unnoticed however once you have become familiar with this tree you will spot them along the edge of tracks where the ground has been disturbed. The winged seed capsules help identify it from other similar trees.



These trees tend to stand solitary. Usually growing higher in the creek system and on the sides of the ridges. After losing its leaves the tree can look dead however the flowers that emerge are quite beautiful and attract many insects and nectar eaters, all positive indicators that diversity is returning to your rehabilitated area. The fibre within the green fruit holds numerous black seeds. Once seeding has finished and rain has fallen the trees produce a new leaf coverage that causes you to think it is a different tree.

Grasses

There are many native grasses one can collect to later distribute seed.

Heteropogon contortus (Spear grass)

Anyone who is familiar with this grass will appreciate the 'contortus' part of its name! This grass provides a suitable cover so other slower growing species can establish. Everybody will be unwittingly collecting the seed of this grass once the drier months arrive. The collection method – shade cloth on bull bar, hopefully not the radiator!) – a very easy seed to collect.

Themeda australis (Kangaroo Grass) also often referred to as *Themeda triandra*

This is a native grass that is at risk of being overgrazed and is becoming less common. It can be confused with *Themeda quadrivalvis*, commonly known as the invasive plant, Grader Grass. Refer to online resources such as <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/weeds-diseases/invasive-plants/other/grader-grass> for more information.

Schizachyrium fragile (Fire Grass)

This grass is an important food for the rare Golden Shouldered Parrot in Cape York. If you look on the ground and note hairy white seeds in piles it is likely this grass is being collected by ants.

Early burning practices (or early frequent illegal burning by detector operators) can result in greatly reduced seed availability. If early burning persists, the long-term survival of the birds that are dependent on this grass is jeopardised.

Background landholders may indicate their preference for shop bought (agricultural) seed mixes. It is worthwhile talking with your background landholder so that the benefits of choosing native seeds over the introduced agricultural mixes can be part of the rehabilitation conversation. Notably, some plants, whilst not yet declared 'prohibited invasive' or 'restricted invasive', may be deemed as a problem plant in the shire your lease is in. Check out your shire's **Biosecurity Plan**. A worthwhile group to join is *Weed Spotters*. Follow the link below to explore this resource.

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/weeds/weed-spotters>

Observations over the years have shown many of the natives will successfully self-propagate on the remediated ground. Up here in the Far North the Wet season is incredibly helpful to the miner's rehabilitation efforts. While we are experiencing the Wet right now, for those that have not collected seeds in the previous dry season, it's a great time to observe what trees are growing successfully in your area, noting the location of potential seed banks to return to later in the drier months.

Is a bucket just a bucket?

A couple of long time NQMA members and very experienced miners, Mark and Alice Ree, have invested in new bucket technology and have some very positive things to say about it...

“We are so happy with this bucket, it saves time all round & Mark has more time around the plant to check things out, have lunch n smokos- it may take 10 minutes longer to load a 12-metre truck than by using the standard bucket, but it has revolutionised our alluvial mining process, - very impressive. It has cut our diesel fuel usage down quite remarkably by having less loads to carry to the plant. Our grades are up resulting in less wear and tear on all round equipment and less fuel for the water pump as we don't need the pressure up so high to nozzle the dirt through the bin. Also, oversize is greatly reduced at the plant with 3 loader trips per day instead of every couple hours. Our loader has a 5-metre bucket. You can do your regeneration as you go. Once you sieve the dirt into the truck, you just return the oversize rocks back into the creek where you got them from.

We use the tromel screenings on the road to stop erosion and bulldust. Once the road is laid out it needs very little maintenance. We also use the screenings on the tailings dam wall to retain the mud and tailings to return water into our main dam for recycling.

Our estimated mining ratio is 3 to 4tn oversize returned to the creek to 1tn in the truck”



For more information have a look at youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNVIOQskRrA>

FOR SALE/WANTED

FOR SALE

ML 20740 - 9 Ha at Fine Gold Creek in the Groganville Area

ML 20468 - 6 ha Old alluvial mining processing site/tailings.

ML 40084 – 67 ha West Normanby River Nth Qld

ML 20621 – 17 ha West Normanby River Nth Qld

Send message to
0439 530 712 or
email pc403@bigpond.com
for more information.

WANTED

Hopper Feeder to feed small alluvial plant. Any type of hopper feeder considered, ie batching plant or bin and conveyor. Will pay good money for the right feeder.

Call 0419 657 607 or
07 4060 2267

WANTED TO BUY – TIN!

*Do you have drums of tin tucked away in your shed? Are you producing tin concentrates in North Queensland? Are you looking to start producing tin in North Queensland? If so please contact Desmond Looi – Director/Owner of LBP Consolidated (M) PLT (Selangor, Malaysia)
Tel: +6019-2618230 Email: lbp112@gmail.com*

Are you looking to buy plant and equipment? Have a mining lease, or project you would like to sell? If so, email the details to info@nqma.com.au before 20 April 2022 to have your ad included in the next edition of the Miners Right.

Editors Notes:

The Miners Right is published every February, May, July, September and November, usually prior to the NQMA general meetings. The Miners Right is a great way to share information within our mining community. We are always looking for contributions to make the newsletter interesting and informative. If you would like to see something included or you can contribute stories, historical or general mining information please contact the editor. Members can also advertise their business, items for sale or wanted items without charge. Please send requests via email to info@nqma.com.au.

Disclaimer: *While every effort is made to ensure that information provided in the Miners Right is correct, it should not be relied on when making decisions in relation for your business. The NQMA committee recommends that appropriate professional advice should be sought.*

Mining Services (we are here to help!)

The logo for AMETS, consisting of the letters 'A', 'M', 'E', 'T', and 'S' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The 'A' is slightly larger and positioned to the left of the other letters.

Australian Mining
and Exploration
Title Services

Specialists in tenement management
and administration Australia-wide.

Suite 2, 186 Byrnes Street, Mareeba, QLD 4880

M: 0447 715 635 - P: 07 4092 6431

www.amets.com.au

MINING PERMIT SERVICES QLD

OFFICE OPENING IN ATHERTON – TAKING NEW CLIENTS
FROM MONDAY 21 MARCH 2022

Over 25 years' experience in mining tenure management. All aspects of mining permits from application to renewal and surrender (and everything in between)

Contact Fiona Thomas (nee Abbey) fiona@miningpermitz.com.au
Contact is email only at this stage. More information to come.

Herberton Laboratory....

Is remaining open for business for at least the next 6 months.

Specialising in cleaning gold hard rock and alluvial raw concentrates using a full-size Scott shaking table and amalgamation. Final concentrates can be smelted as required.

Other services include jaw and rolls crushing, ball milling, fine grinding, screening, and magnetic separation together with sulphide floatation of small bulk samples.

45 years' experience in tin, tungsten, tantalite, gold and base metals processing and plant design and operation – Call TONY KING at 07 40962185 or email tking@antmail.com.au

Keeping your contact details updated with Department of Resources

Update provided by the Department of Resources

It's one of the worst parts of moving – finding all the organisations that need to contact you and updating your address details with them. But when it comes to your resource permits, making sure that we have your current address, telephone number and (if you have one) your email address is critical.

We use these contact details to send out communication that is important for your resource permit – this might be a rent notice, reminder that a work program needs to be updated or an expiry reminder notice to let you know that it's time to renew.

We've noticed a worrying trend of clients losing a mining lease or mining claim due to expiry because they didn't get their expiry reminder notice. Many of these were because we sent those notices to an old postal address, or to an email address that is not monitored or is no longer used.

Where you have an email address registered with us, we will send all notices via email. *Please* make sure that you have the correct email address registered with us and that that you have the Department set as a safe sender. Otherwise, you may find that our communication will go to your spam or junk mail folders, depending on the sensitivity of your email providers filtering.

You can check the contact details for your mining permits at any time:

- By logging into MyMines Online (MMOL) and making sure that your details are correct;
 - You can find information about registering for MMOL here:
<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/minerals-coal/online-services/myminesonline>
- By requesting a public report online – go to <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/minerals-coal/online-services/searches>
- Or, if you can't access either of these options, give the Mineral Assessment Hub a call on 4447 9230, or email us at MineralHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au

If you need to update your details, you can do this by:

- Logging into MMOL, going to the 'I want to' menu on the right-hand side and selecting the appropriate option from the 'Change Contact Details' menu. There is no fee.
- Completing the appropriate form and submitting to the Mineral Assessment Hub either via email at MineralHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au or by mail to PO Box 1752, Townsville, QLD 4810

Forms can be accessed on the Business Queensland website:

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/minerals-coal/authorities-permits/forms>

The NQMA is a proud member of the Queensland Small Miners Council (QSMC). The QSMC is made up of 5 small mining associations working together to engage with government to ensure our voices are heard. I encourage all members to have a look at the website, <https://www.qsmc.org.au/> to see what we are up to collectively.



Queensland Sapphire Miners Association Inc



North Queensland Gold Miners Association Inc



Queensland Opal Miners Association Inc



Queensland Boulder Opal Association Inc



Yowah Opal Mining Community Services Inc

Are you having concerns with a landholder? Has someone been trespassing on your mining lease? Have you seen something industry related that needs reporting?

The Department has a dedicated phone number for seeking information and reporting matters relating to field and land access, mining and fossicking. Collect as many details as you can, such as vehicle descriptions, number plates, offender description so you can provide it when you call.

Please contact Department of Resources on 137 107 or resources.info@resources.qld.gov.au to discuss your concerns or register a complaint.



YOUR NEW SUPPLY SOURCE FOR DRIVETRAIN PRODUCTS

Transmax is a long established business supplying products to heavy industries. We rate ourselves at being very capable and cost effective to supply parts for most transmissions, axles, differentials etc.

We Specialise in Clark, Dana Spicer, Allison, Caterpillar, Volvo, ZF Transmissions and Diffs. We also supply axle components for Kessler, AxleTech, Carraro, Rockwell etc

Have a problem with an onboard computer?
Chances are we can probably fix this, rather than you have the expense of a new unit.

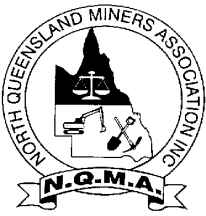
Transmission Rebuild? We can even do that
Concerned about the Freight distance? We can look after this for you.

Contact us anytime
1800 627 801
info@transmax.co.nz
www.transmax.co.nz

AUTOMOTIVE BUS EARTH MOVING MARINE FORKLIFT TRUCK

Contact us for Transmission Parts, Transmission Rebuilds, Computer Repair, Valve Body Recondition, Mechatronic repair

J2/140 Plunket Avenue, Manukau, Auckland 2104, New Zealand



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We.....

the undersigned, being an eligible person, partnership, or company, hereby apply for Membership of the North Queensland Miners' Association Inc. (See eligibility clause below)

BUSINESS NAME.....

POSTAL ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

CONTACT PERSON.....

Phone No during day:Fax No:

E-mail address if available.....

NUMBER and LOCATION of MINING TENEMENT/S held or ASSOCIATION WITH MINING INDUSTRY.....

I/We hereby agree to comply with the Rules and Regulations as prescribed in the Constitution of the North Queensland Miner's Association Inc.

Full Membership. Enclosed herewith is Annual Membership Fee of \$100.00.
Eligibility for Membership: *'Any person, partnership or company who: is actively involved in mining or prospecting; holds or has an application for any mining tenure allowable under the Queensland Mineral Resources Act 1989 or any Act that replaces it; has a tenement before the Land and Resources Tribunal; or has a direct professional interest in the mining industry.'*

Corporate Membership. Enclosed herewith is Annual Membership Fee of \$250.00.
Eligibility for Membership: *'Any company which: is actively involved in mining or prospecting; holds or has an application for any mining tenure allowable under the Queensland Mineral Resources Act 1989 or any Act that replaces it; has a tenement before the Land and Resources Tribunal; or has a direct professional interest in the mining industry.'*

Associate Membership. Enclosed herewith is Annual Membership Fee of \$40.00.
Eligibility for Associate Membership: *'Any person or partnership who has interests in fossicking for gold, gems and metals; or any company or individual providing goods or services to the mining industry but not directly involved in mining.'*

SIGNED DATE/...../.....

Please send Application Form to: NQMA Treasurer: PO Box 1548, Mareeba Qld 4880 or email: treasurer@nqma.com.au

Payment can be by direct bank deposit, or by cheque to North Qld Miners Assoc:
Bendigo Bank - BSB 633-000 - Acc 128 702 172 *Please record your name on the transfer*

Tick the box if you would like meeting minutes emailed to you and the Miners Right newsletter