



THE MINER'S RIGHT

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

May 2022

NQMA General Meeting 1PM, Monday 9th May 2022 – Mareeba Leagues Club

Presidents Report

It seems a quick turnaround from the last meeting to this one! I guess that's because it was... Our May meeting will be held back at the Mareeba Leagues Club on Monday 9th May from 1:00pm. Lunch is available before the meeting in the Bistro. NQMA has entered the world of online streaming! For those that can't make a meeting in person and would like to attend online please drop us an email and we will link you up!

It is traditionally the time of year that Miners head back up to the good country and start their mining projects for the year. This edition we have focused a bit more on general safety in the bush and a few funnies to go with it. 😊

The Mitchell River Watershed Management Group (MRWWMG) publish a regular newsletter called the Catch-up. The article on rehab natural species written by Amanda (February Edition) was published by the MRWWMG with Amanda's permission. The Catch-up is included at the end of this Miners Right and any interested members can head on over to their website to support the group. [Welcome. | Mitchell River Watershed Management Group \(mitchell-river.com.au\)](http://www.mitchell-river.com.au)

After the May meeting the next meeting is being held on Monday 11 July 2022, we will be having a guest speaker on Biosecurity. As the meeting is around the numerous show holidays in North Queensland NQMA hopes you can put this date in your diary and come along to a meeting.

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY! To all those hard working mining mums out there.. you know the saying..... behind every great miner is an extremely patient mining mum!



SOCIAL MEDIA

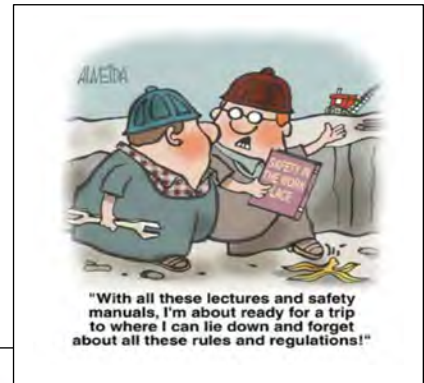
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NQMA has a social media profile!! You can become our FRIEND by liking our page on Facebook. You will find mining news, info and re-posts from other relevant mining pages. Search North Queensland Miners Association and 'like' away 😊

Teams online meetings have been introduced to NQMA. If you can't make it to a meeting in person we now have the capacity to stream live into your office. If you would like to attend a meeting via TEAMS please send an email to info@nqma.com.au and we will send you a link!



A FUNNY BONE



Around the campfire with Greg Guernier

True story with a warning!

Just want to share a true story that happened to me.

A few years ago now I was at our mining camp in the Palmer River area and had to be evacuated out due to becoming very sick. I was up there by myself and did not have the capacity to drive but was able to get a message to my wife and son to come and collect me. My symptoms were, severe weakness and I was not able to think normally.

We later found out what made me feel so crook.

What happened was I was drinking the water from the rainwater tank and there was a Cooktown Ironwood tree dropping its leaves onto the roof ending up poisoning the water in the tank. Since then the offending tree ended up being affected by a slim line borer threw it and it fell over.

This Cooktown Ironwood tree has a bark that looks like a normal Iron Bark Tree but its leaves are more rounded and brighter looking.

I was told by another miner that the first person to die and be buried in the Maytown cemetery had passed away after drinking water affected by this tree.

Also a friend who has a cattle station out west told me about the time a double decker cattle truck parked in the shade of these Cooktown Ironwood trees where some cattle on the top deck could reach the leaves of these trees. Some cattle died and they worked it out later to what happened.

Also one day sitting around the campfire one evening with the wife we both started getting a headache due to unknowingly I had put a piece of Cooktown ironwood on the fire. So, it just goes to show even the smoke from this tree is poisonous. Cheers, may your gold pans show good colour

The Cooktown Ironbark aka **Erythrophleum chlorostachys**:



The adventures of a few!

Never was gold so plentiful nor (at first) so easy to get. Nuggets lay among the roots of grass tussocks, In the cold and rain and mud, it financed a roaring settlement of up to 10 000 men, women and children. Booze and violence were a part of everyday life amongst the tents and shacks.

These words could be describing the gold rush scene in the 1850's in Ballarat. Instead, author Peter Ryan in his book *Black Bonanza A landslide of Gold* (1991) was describing Mount Kare, in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. And his words were describing a time not in the 1850's but the 1990's.

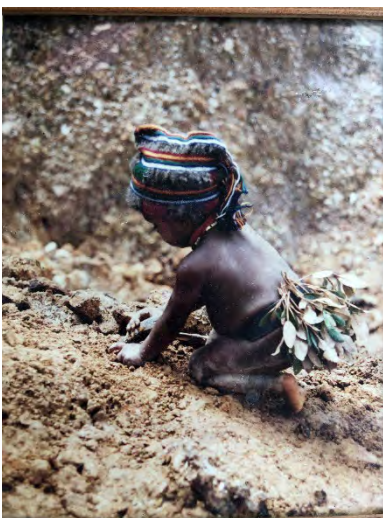
A handful of well- known north Queensland miners experienced this modern- day gold rush that was taking place at Mount Kare, located about 600km's northwest of Port Moresby in PNG's Enga Province. At that time the Highlanders had only known of the existence of people with white skins for no more than two decades. An adventure and challenge for these north Queensland men who grabbed the opportunity to go there.

Equipment was flown in by chopper as no roads existed. Mining meant removing the peat and clay layer with giant water cannons to reveal the ancient paleo channels. The remaining raw concentrate was put through trommels.

Chopper operators, mostly New Zealanders, tree hopped, between the clouds, up the side of mountains to get the men home at the end of each working day. If the cloud 'came in' and the lift home never arrived it meant a 5 km walk up the mountain, back to the camp, in a low oxygen environment carrying a bucket of concentrate between a pole. A drought meant it had not rained in one week. There was little shortage of water at 9000 feet!

Alas the North Qld miners time there was limited as it was a volatile place. Numerous attacks on the camp resulted in choppers, plant and equipment being burnt to the ground. The company at the time decided to pull out.

A small child (toddler age) digging for gold at Mt Kare – they started very young!



Plant and excavator at Mt Kare

A part of History...

The following story was extracted from the book **The Last Frontier - Glenville Pike**, published 1983.

Two Government- sponsored expeditions in 1879 and 1880-81 by Dr Robert Logan Jack, contributed much to the knowledge of Cape York Peninsula (p6).

(After the 1879 expedition). Dr Robert Logan Jack was only back in Cooktown six weeks and he was starting out on second expedition to explore Cape York Peninsula beyond his 'furthest north'. He with his own party, was to accompany a prospecting group led by James Crosbie (p73). They set out from Cooktown on 26 November 1879 (p74).

Day followed day of growing humidity as the storm clouds of December rolled in from the west, heralding the approach of the monsoon. It was not a good time of year to be out in the Peninsula wilds. The marsh flies were a torment to man and horse (p74).

It was now 11 January 1880 and the wet season rains continues. It was dry enough part of each date to travel, but usually camp was made in the rain. Saddlery and boots were never dry, and clothes were always damp. Mould appeared on everything. (p76)

On 12 January, Jack and Crosbie climbed a hill and saw the sea. Their camp that night was on a creek Dr Jack names Hays Creek 'after Walter Hays of Townsville'. A small goldfield was later discovered near here. From the hill, they gazed down the valley of a new river flowing north through fertile plains, forest, and jungle into Lloyd Bay. Dr Jack names it the Lockhart after an old Scottish friend, Hugh Lockhart of Edinburgh.

Huge flocks of beautiful black and white Torres Strait pigeons flew inland from the coastal islands every morning, returning at night. Along most of the easter coast of the Peninsula, there were once in such numbers they darkened the sky. Although fairly numerous on some of the islands, they have become rare along the coast since the white man came.

On 21 and 21 January, the expedition cut its way through a bamboo jungle and crossed a low gap in the MCcIllwraith Range, back on to western waters - Hull Creek, another Archer tributary. Edward Hull was then the director of the geological survey of Ireland. Turning North, Dr Jack led his party on to the headwaters of the Batavia (Wenlock) River.

Climbing bare hills further north, Jack and Crosbie sighted the valley of the Pascoe River and Lloyd Bay. Remains of a camp - that of Robert Sefton's party of April 1878 - were found on a big watercourse Jack named Sefton Creek. It runs into the Batavia. On the headwaters of the Pascoe River, Dr Jack had his hand stung by a stinging tree, and three of Crosbie's horses collapsed with symptoms of poisoning. A range of rugged mountains between Weymouth Bay and the southern end of Lloyd Bay, Dr Jack named the Janet Range after his wife. He found the Pascoe River in high flood but found a crossing place and followed it up on the eastern side. The explorers camped from 2 January to 7 February, as the wet season rains became very heavy. Their next camp on the Pascoe was almost on the site where Bill Bowden was to discover wolfram and tin years later. The flooded Pascoe did not daunt the explorers when they wanted

to cross to the western - they made a boat out of a hollow tree. Dr Jack and Hume, however were ‘of one mind in caring little for boating’ and tried to swim the river instead. They nearly drowned. They then decided the boat was the lesser risk after all. The horses got across safely. Next day, the party got away from the river on to a high sandstone tableland Dr Jack names the Sir William Thompson Range. Going northward, mountains near Temple Bay were named the Carron Range, after one of the survivors of the Kennedy expedition.

Inland from Temple Bay were Titree and Sandalwood scrubs; sandalwood was to become one of the Peninsula’s exports later on... (p76 & 77)

.....

Back in 1880’s there was no such thing as an emergency beacon. Getting stuck on a flooded river was where you camped (for months at a time if necessary!).

This is timely reminder of the importance of family and friends knowing your trip itinerary or having check in days/times if travelling or working in remotes areas.

There are many types of Beacons that can be used both for land and sea adventures. Check out the below for the different types available. I also encourage you to get further information from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority as some older versions of EPIRBs have been discontinued and no longer detected by satellite. [Beacon types and models - Beacons \(amsa.gov.au\)](https://amsa.gov.au/Beacon-types-and-models-Beacons)

	PLB	EPIRB	ELT
Full name	Personal Locator Beacon	Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon	Emergency Locator Transmitter
Usage	Land , maritime, air	Maritime , land, air	Air
Description	PLBs are smaller and easier to transport than other beacons, and are designed to be worn or carried by individuals rather than vehicles. In some cases, PLBs do not meet carriage requirements for maritime vessels travelling more than 2 nautical miles from the coast. PLBs may be carried in place of an ELT. Refer to CASA for further details.	In most states, EPIRBs are required for boats that travel more than 2 nautical miles from the coast. EPIRBs may also be used on land or carried in place of an ELT. Go to our page on float-free EPIRBs for more information.	ELTs are designed to be fitted to aircraft. In some cases, EPIRBs or PLBs may be carried in place of an ELT. Refer to CASA for further details.
Hours of operation*	24 hours	48 hours	24 hours

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
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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.*

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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 places, 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.



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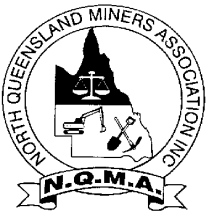
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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



Swampees give new start to a treasured wetland

Abattoir Swamp doesn't have a name that conjures up a sense of delight and wonder, but there's a lot to love beneath the grisly label.

The 8ha ephemeral wetland was part of a whole string of lagoons formed by the numerous creeks and drainages that characterise the Rifle Creek catchment, between the Mt Lewis ranges to the north-west and the termination of the Kuranda ranges to the south-east.

A soggy history

Once home to Indigenous people such as the Koko Muluridji, Western Yalanji, and Djabugay, the area was traversed by prospectors in the 1870's, then opened up as a vital land route to the goldfields of the Hodgkinson, and finally began to be extensively cleared for diary, cattle and timber between 1910-1930.

After the Second World War, Philip "Sonny" McDowall built a home near the wetland and established a slaughterhouse in 1952 (the area was originally called "Slaughterhouse Swamp", so things have actually gotten better!)

Regional Water Security Forum

Join us for an open forum on water security issues.
Presentations plus your ideas
Ag + Enviro + Culture
Save the date!

Dimbulah 26 May 2022

Miners Assn helps seed the future

The Mitchell River catchment has seen waves of mining activity over the past 150 years and is still home to one of the highest densities of abandoned mines in the country. Much of this disturbance was undertaken in the 60's-80's when there was a much lower emphasis on proper regard for the environment.

There are still some “cowboy” operators, both large and small, who prefer to shortcut their legal obligations and these rogue outfits tarnish the reputation of an otherwise proud industry.

The NQMA (North Queensland Small Miners Association) works to lift standards across the industry, and facilitates miners to achieve best practice in our extraordinary northern environment. The NQMA also defends the interests of miners against poorly-targeted regulations and bureaucratic waste.

The most recent edition of the Miner's Right newsletter features a helpful guide on using Australian natives for rehabilitation. The article was written by Amanda Blazely and is excerpted with permission following:

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.

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.

For the rest of the article and to find out more about the NQMA, please visit:
<http://www.nqma.com.au/>

The North Queensland Miners Association (NQMA) is a volunteer, not for profit organisation. Anyone involved in the mining industry in North Queensland should be a member of and involved in NQMA.

info@nqma.com.au

Cape York Grazing Forum: 17-18 May 2022



Register online now: <https://capeyorknrm.com.au/events>