

# The Miner's Right

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

**April 2011**

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**Next Meeting:**

**Monday**

**9th May**

**12.30 pm**

**Mareeba Leagues**

**Club**

**President's Comment April 2011**

**DERM Fee's .**

The DERM mail out of invoice to miners continues with no meetings yet arranged to sort out the mess.

The NQMA position still remains the same: DERM to stop sending invoices, DERM to work with industry to fix the problems, allow miners to amalgamate EA's where possible, then DERM to send the correct invoice for the correct amount starting from when the tenement is granted.

The correct invoice will be paid.

**AMEC Queensland Chapter.**

Discussions commenced late last year to investigate the possibility of establishing a new Queensland mining industry representative body. This came about because of the continual increasing pressure by Queensland government on the mining industry. Some of the overwhelming issues now confronting the industry are : massive increases in fees and rents, new land access laws, Wild Rivers legislation, Strategic Cropping Land laws ,native title, DERM and many more , plus the ever increasing long and expensive delays.

The increasing pressure on the mining industry is being implemented by the Queensland government because of political pressure from special interest groups. Government has repeatedly yielded to this pressure because they know the mining industry is currently fragmented and does not constitute a unified block of voters.

Last year several Queensland based junior mining company executives established a steering committee to look at options for establishing this new body. After looking at several options the steering committee approached the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) to gauge their possible interest in establishing a Queensland 'Chapter'.

( Background information : AMEC is the peak representative body for mining and exploration companies in Western Australia. It has a focus on small to medium sized mineral exploration and mining companies, and associated support companies . AMEC has an office in Perth with six full time staff and currently has somewhere between 270 and 320 members. AMEC has ambitions to become a 'national ' mining representative body and certainly have members that operate nationally. AMEC is keen to establish a 'Brisbane office' as part of their National ambition. For more information see [www.amec.org.au](http://www.amec.org.au) )

I am strongly in favour of establishing a industry body with an office and full time staff . I believe this is absolutely essential if we are to deal with the myriad of changes that are now overwhelming the industry. There is no doubt this office should be based in Brisbane as this is where all Queensland mining decisions are made. I am also in favor of some type of involvement with AMEC as they certainly do have a track record of taking on mining challenges in WA . They are keen to get involved in Queensland and it makes good sense to utilize their resources and expertise and minimize duplication and of course costs.

Moves are now underway to establish a Brisbane office under the banner of the Queensland Chapter of AMEC.

The potential for NQMA to join this group will be discussed in detail at the next NQMA meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May . Then on 10<sup>th</sup> May a delegation from NQMA will have an opportunity to meet with Simon Bennison (CEO of AMEC) and others from the steering committee who will come to Cairns to meet NQMA and discuss potential involvement. (We were unable to get them to the NQMA meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> because of their prior commitments).

We will try to involve the Queensland Small Miners Council member associations as well.

Next meeting Monday May 9<sup>th</sup> .

Regards

Ralph

Update on The Native Title Act Section 29 - Right To Negotiate by Paul.E.Crossland (NQMA Native Title Officer and representative for Native Title matters)

The Batch 1 ancillary agreement negotiations for the Western Yalanji Claimed areas has been progressing, with the second negotiation meeting having been held at the Mareeba RSL on the 4th of April. There are 8 miners in this batch. The meeting was conducted with the involvement of the National Native Title Tribunal who is providing mediation and overseeing the conduct of the meeting and future meetings. A protocol for the conduct of negotiation meetings was provided to the parties involved, agreed upon and signed by all parties. The involvement of the NNTT has shown to be very positive in keeping discussions on track and has been beneficial in resolving a number of issues which have arisen. The NQMA has provided a proposed draft for the ancillary agreement based on the previous Small Scale Miner ILUAs. There has been agreement between parties to progress these negotiations expediently with the aim to finalize the ancillary agreement by the end of July this year, 2011. The remaining Batch 1 ancillary agreement negotiation meetings have been scheduled as follows -

© Thursday 12 May 2011 (Mareeba RSL) from 10am – c4pm.                      © Tuesday 8 June 2011 (MareebaRSL) from 10am – c4pm.                      © Wednesday 6 July 2011 (Mareeba RSL) from 10am – c4pm.

The RTN Batch 2, the combined BarBarrum Peoples, the Olkola Peoples and the Wakaman Peoples batch was advertised on the 15th December 2010 and the notification date was the 22nd December 2010. The 3 month closing date was the 22 March and the 4 month closing date was the 22 April. Arrangements for the batched negotiations of ancillary agreements are still pending, with the NQMA Native Title Officer liaising with the Aboriginal Land Councils involved in these Native Title areas.

The RTN Batch 3 is for the Djungan Peoples and the Ewamian Peoples areas. The Indigenous Land Access Unit with in DEEDI ( Mines Department) sent out invitations for submissions to the relevant mining tenure applicants in these areas mid March 2011. Submissions received have been forwarded to the Minister's office for approval. Once approved, the Section 29 Notices can be finalized and the mining tenure applicants will be notified of the cost for the advertising and the dates for the advertisements along with the Notification date. The NQMA Native Title Officer has been assisting those members of the NQMA who have requested assistance with their submission and any other matter relating to their involvement in the RTN process and the negotiation of ancillary agreements.

These ancillary agreements are "Commercial In Confidence" agreements which accompany the Section 31 of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 "Deeds" (known as the s31 Deeds) and are required to be signed by the relevant parties once the ancillary agreement has been negotiated and finalized. Once the negotiation of agreements is completed and the Section 31 Deeds have been signed by all the signatories, the mining tenure applications can be recommended for granting by the Mining Registrar, subject to all the conditions of the MRA having been met by the tenure applicants and providing that the applicant has complied with all their relevant obligations under the Mineral Resources Act and the Environmental Protection Act. Applicants are advised to contact their local DEEDI office ( Mines Department ) to ensure they are fully compliant to avoid any unnecessary delays in their tenement progress.

Miners who have tenure applications in the RTN process and are financial members of the NQMA will receive assistance from the NQMA in the negotiation process.

I urge any miners who are not financial members to do so promptly, the benefit of this will reduce your costs in the negotiation process and ensure that your views are adequately considered.

The overall costs to the applicants for their side of things in the negotiation process are to be shared between the mining tenure applicants who are involved in the RTN batch. The NQMA has authorized a group representative (Native Title Officer) who will be liaising between the applicants, the Native Title Claimants and the Qld State Government representatives. The group representative is responsible as the chief negotiator and spokesperson for the mining tenure applicants and to oversee the conduct of negotiation meetings on the part of the tenure applicants.

I would like to remind all members that to obtain the best outcome in the R.T.N. matters we need your input as to agenda you would like to be included in the agreement negotiations.

Contacts: Paul. Crossland 40968464  
Graham Byrne 40914905  
Graham Steene 0438726854  
Paul Turpin 40963015

Update on the Small Scale Miner Area I.L.U.A.s by Paul.E.Crossland.

The negotiations for the renewed Small Scale Miner ILUAs for the Ewamian, Djungan and Western Yalanji Peoples areas have resumed, with assistance from the NNTT. Three meetings have been scheduled to be held prior to each of the remaining RTN meetings, with agreement by the parties involved in these negotiations to progress them expediently with the aim to finalize the renewed SSM ILUAs by the end of July this year, 2011.

All parties involved have indicated willingness and a commitment to achieve these ILUA agreements and recognize that these ILUAs are of importance to both the Native Title Claimants and the miners. The meeting schedules are as follows -

© Wednesday 11 May 2011 (Mareeba RSL) from 10am– c4pm.                      © Tuesday 7 June 2011 (Mareeba RSL) from 10am – c4pm.                      © Tuesday 5 July 2011 (Mareeba RSL) from 10am – c4pm.

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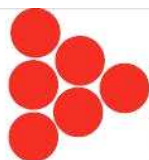
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AMETS also has offices in Northern Territory and in  
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Next Meeting  
Monday 9th May 12.30 pm  
Mareeba Leagues Club  
All Welcome

**NOMA Gold Panning Championships**  
Saturday 13th August 2011  
Mareeba Heritage Centre

## Editor's Comment

The quiet town of Irvinebank, approximately 30 kms from Herberton is the unlikely setting for an extensive collection of old memorabilia.

It is owned by well known locals Brian and Robyn Perkes. When asked how his hobby started, Brian replied that he had "always been interested in old things and has also been a bit of a hoarder".

His family started collecting in the early 70's and the amount of old motors, equipment and other collectibles they had accumulated saw the need to build a large shed to house his collection.

Today there are separate sections inside devoted to mining tools, utensils, bottles, mineral collections and furniture to name just a few. Outside on display are numerous motors, heavy mining and crushing equipment from local mines, a trailer set up with steam winches and pumps run by compressed air, and many vehicles including Ford and Chev trucks.

Brian's favourite item is a 1941 model Ford Blitz which he has restored to running condition.

Brian and Robyn are willing to show people through the collection on weekends.

They are to be congratulated on the effort they have put into restoring and preserving so much of the regions history.

The photos on this page illustrate the time and effort that has gone into this project.

A reminder to keep Saturday August 13th free as this is the date for the annual Gold Panning Championships. Help is always needed leading up to the event and on the day. Contact myself or any of the NQMA committee members if you are able to assist.

Regards  
Lyn Byrne





## NORTH QUEENSLAND MINER'S ASSOCIATION INC.

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ABN 76 525 585 093

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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.....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 (including metal detecting); 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, partnership or company that provides goods or services to the mining industry but is not directly involved in mining'*.

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

Please send Application form to: NQMA, PO Box 133, Malanda, Q4885

## HOW TO PROPERLY GROUND BALANCE TO FIND THE MOST GOLD

By Chris Ralph

One of the most important things that a prospector looking for gold with a detector can remember is to keep his detector properly balanced to the ground mineralization. Why is this so important? Well, prospecting with your detector out of ground balance is one of the prime ways you can walk over and simply miss nuggets.

All metal detectors, both Very Low Frequency (VLF) and Pulse Induction (PI) types, find metal targets by putting out a magnetic field and sensing changes to that field caused by the presence of electrically conductive objects below the coil. While that sounds pretty simple, the reality of the situation is far more complex.

One problem occurs because the fourth most common element in the crust of the earth is iron, and because of its atomic configuration, iron and iron minerals have a strong tendency to be magnetic. This means that the iron minerals in the soil - not just the metallic targets we are looking for - also react to the magnetic field coming out of your detector's coil.

In fact, the magnetic reaction of the soil is often ten to one hundred times greater than that of a small, faint target and can be even up to a thousand times greater in extremely mineralised soils.

If that were the end of the story, using a metal detector to find gold would be like looking for a needle in a haystack, and those big targets like tin cans near the surface would be the only things we could find. Luckily there is an answer for the iron problem in the soils because the mineralisation in the soils is fairly constant at a given location.

The mineralisation does vary a little, but it is constant enough that your detector can be adjusted to basically cancel it out and ignore it. That way your machine can detect that faint "needle in the haystack" through the magnetic noise that the coil "sees" as it moves over the surface of the ground. Although the techniques vary somewhat, in some detectors the magnetic soil reaction is literally subtracted from the total reaction the detector sees.

Many new detector operators and even some experienced ones don't pay enough attention to keeping their detectors in proper balance. The result is false targets and constant chirping and chatter.

One of the things I tell beginning prospectors is that they need to listen for faint targets no matter what detector they use. Yes, some nuggets will be large and near to the surface, but many will be smaller or down far enough in the soil that they will give only a moderate to weak response. If you ignore weak targets, you will lose a lot of gold - no question about that.

If your detector is out of balance you will get a constant chatter of hot rocks and ground noises, many of which can sound much like a real nugget, and you simply won't be able to distinguish this chatter from the sound your detector makes when you get over a real nugget.

You don't want to train yourself to just ignore any weak sounds and dig only screamers, which are nearly always shallow trash. This is a common reason why a lot of prospectors can find plenty of trash, but can't find any gold.

The iron minerals most responsible for the majority of the magnetic response of the soil include magnetite, maghemite (an iron oxide polymorph) and to a lesser extent hematite. Magnetite is common in many kinds of rocks and forms the magnetic portion of black sand. Maghemite is an iron oxide that forms from weathering or alteration of other iron oxide minerals. Magnetite has a strong magnetic response, but because its magnetic response decays quickly it is less of a problem for PI detectors. The response decay of maghemite is slower and so it can be a problem to both VLF and PI detectors. The magnetic response of hematite is weak.

Although gold-bearing salt flats and strongly alkali soils bearing gold are rare in the US (I can think of only a couple in Nevada) they are common in places like Western Australia. In this case the conductivity of the salt and moisture in the soil causes a magnetic response that the detector picks up. It is good that salty soils are uncommon in gold country, as salty soils and magnetic iron minerals behave differently and balance out on different ends of the scale. Because of this, they can be difficult to eliminate when both are present.

Hot rocks are individual stones so wildly different from the soil where you are working that they cause the detector to respond. They may be either over or under mineralised compared to the soil around them. It is common to find hot rocks in alluvial placer areas as streams can bring together many kinds of rocks from a number of different areas, so some rocks may be much more (or less) mineralised than the majority of the material. Many hot rocks are magnetic and commonly contain a high percentage of iron minerals. They are often dark coloured, but not always. These can be dealt with in a variety of ways, like using double D coils and changing settings on the detector.

In some extreme situations, one can ground balance to the hot rocks themselves, but this should be a choice of last resort as it definitely leads to a loss in sensitivity.

To be continued.

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A BLONDE lady walks into a shop and says to the manager "can I buy this TV?"

The manager says "no sorry I don't serve blondes". So the blonde goes to the barber and dyes her hair black and then goes back to the shop and says "can I buy that TV?" and the manager says "no sorry I don't serve blondes."

So the blonde goes back to the barber and dyes her hair brown and then goes back to the shop and says "can I please buy this TV?"

The manager says "no I don't serve blondes" and the blonde says "how do you know I'm a blonde?" and the manager says "it's not a TV it's a microwave".

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