

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 32

ENDURANCE TIN MINING COMPANY NL COLLECTION

Mines and Mining, North-Eastern Tasmania

INTRODUCTION

THE RECORDS

- 1. Legal Records*
- 2. Minutes of Meetings*
- 3. Annual Reports*
- 4. Weekly/Monthly Mine Reports*
- 5. Correspondence*
- 6. Financial Records*
- 7. Shareholders Records*
- 8. Miscellaneous Records*
- 9. Maps, Plans and Drawings*
- 10. Ephemera*
- 11. B.M.I. Mining Pty Ltd Records*
- 12. Amdex Mining Limited Records*
- 13. Pioneer Tin Mining Company Ltd Records*

OTHER SOURCES

INTRODUCTION

The Endurance Tin Mining Company, No Liability, was formed on 28 October 1920, registered on 8 November 1920 and incorporated on 7 February 1922 for the purpose of carrying on tin mining operations at South Mount Cameron in the county of Dorset in Tasmania. Mining operations commenced in 1922 and by the 1925-1926 financial year there were very satisfactory returns from tin mined at the eastern end of consolidated lease, plus a small amount from gold. However in 1929-1930 no tin mining was attempted by the Company because the price of tin had fallen to its lowest level since 1914. It was recorded in the report for the year ended 30 June 1932 that tributers' operations had been allowed, benefiting the Company's funds.

A serious handicap was the absence of water, necessitating an expensive method of working by returning water from tailings dump for reuse. This situation was remedied in 1933 by the purchase of the Pioneer Tin Company's property, consisting of its hydro-electric generating station, with the Frome Dam, water rights and races, also the mining plant and mine at Bradshaw's Creek, enabling Endurance to use the plant purchased economically to work the South Mount Cameron leases. A small number of the Pioneer Tin Company's records, from 1919 to 1933 are included in the collection.

A profit was made from mining in the 1934-1935 financial year and the balance sheet for the 1936-1937 year was the best ever issued by the Company. The Company continued to be profitable and although 1941 was an extremely dry year, an increased amount of gold was recovered from tin in the shallow ground. During the 1944-1945 year an agreement was made for removing white clay used in the making of paper from the Company's leases on a royalty basis.

During the 1945-1946 year power was made available from the Hydro Electric Commission whenever the Company's own supply fell short. All payable ground at the eastern end of the mine was worked out; this enabled a considerable area to be excised from the Company's consolidated leases with a corresponding savings in rent.

In 1947 the agreement concerning the removal of white clay was terminated and the Company commenced digging the clay and selling it to Associated Pulp and Paper Mills at Burnie.

Renewals of plant and maintenance of mine workings, plus a lower price for tin reduced the profit from mining operations in 1953. The mine paid its first dividend for two and a half years in December 1955. After four years of small or no profits, the 1962-1963 year showed a profit of over 16,000 pounds and the Company paid a dividend. The deposits of white clay were worked out by June 1962 and in 1968 the ore reserve at the eastern end was almost exhausted.

Towards the end of 1968 the Company's name was changed to Endurance Mining Corporation NL and during the 1968-1969 year the Company acquired as a wholly owned subsidiary Attunga Mining Corporation Pty Limited, registered in Sydney. No dividend was recommended.

The report for 1969-1970 year noted that to assist the Company's liquidity position, the directors had negotiated the sale for cash of the Tasmanian tin operations. This was due to the small production potential of the operative section of the leases and the high capital cost of bringing the western end of the Endurance lead into production. Most of the 1970 report concerned Attunga's operations in Western Australia and New South Wales.

In October 1970 B.M.I. (Blue Metals Industries) Mining Pty Ltd acquired the mining leases held by Endurance Mining. At that stage the Endurance Mine had been shut down. B.M.I. records from 1962 to 1979 are held in the collection.

The annual report for the 1973 financial year described the affairs of Endurance Mining Corporation as critical. The expectation that the mine at Metz, NSW, would be a highly profitable operation was not fulfilled. (*Examiner* 4 July 1973, p.12). However a new board of directors negotiated a loan and Endurance won a reprieve. (*Mercury* 18 July 1972, p.21).

The annual reports and statement of accounts for Endurance Mining Corporation N.L. (Incorporated in Tasmania) and Attunga Mining Corporation Pty Limited (Incorporated in New South Wales) for 1977-1980 were published together. The Attunga directors' report stated that the company did not carry on any business during these years. No further annual reports are included in the collection.

According to the Tasmanian Director of Mines Report for the year ended 31 December 1978, ownership of the Endurance Mine, South Mount Cameron, changed from Blue Metal Industries to Amdex Mining Ltd on 1 April 1978 and the workforce increased from 16 to 23 men during the year.

The Director of Mines Report for the year ended 30 June 1982, under the heading Amdex Mining Limited, reported that tin production for the year from the Endurance Mine came from No.1 mine, the Riverside and the Clifton mine. By the end of the year only the Clifton mine remained in production. Amdex is not mentioned in the Director's report for the following year. Amdex records from 1977 to 1984 are included in the collection.

A project to reverse years of severe degradation at the abandoned Monarch and Endurance mines won a national award for environmental best practice in 1998. (*North-Eastern Advertiser* 12 November 1998).

The Little Blue Lake at the old Endurance site, off the Herrick-Gladstone Road, has become a tourist attraction.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery during the 1992-1993 financial year.

1. Legal Records

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|-----|--|-----------|
| 1/1 | Endurance Tin Mining Company NL, <i>Rules and Regulations</i> , 1922-1949 (includes <i>Memorandum and Articles of Association</i> , c1962) | 1922-1962 |
| 1/2 | Endurance Tin Mining Company NL, Prospectus, November 1933 | 1933 |
| 1/3 | Legal papers, agreements: re Commercial Bank 1935; Tasmanian Permanent Executors and A J Simpson re Sapphire Creek 1936; C W Barnes re Tribute 1937; Mines Department 1939 and 1958; Australian Workers Union and Briseis Consolidated NL 1943; Company employees re War Savings Certificates c1945; O J Walsh, tributor 1946; Ballarat Trustees re F Williams estate 1949; P A Kolosque, 1958; R W Burr re Pioneer Cottage 1962; J R Groves 1966, etc | 1929-1966 |
| 1/4 | Legal papers, miscellaneous: re Wyniford River water rights various dates; H C Swain lease 1932; transmission line extension specifications 1934; C F Horton transfer 1949; Company leases 1945-1964; mortgage papers, garnishee papers, etc | 1931-1964 |

2. Minutes of Meetings

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|------|---|-----------|
| 2/1 | Endurance Tin Mining Coy, NL, Minute Book no. 1 | 1922-1928 |
| 2/2 | Minute Book no. 2 | 1928-1934 |
| 2/3 | Minute Book no. 3 | 1934-1936 |
| 2/4 | Minute Book no. 4 | 1936-1938 |
| 2/5 | Minute Book no. 5 | 1938-1940 |
| 2/6 | Minute Book no. 6 | 1940-1942 |
| 2/7 | Minute Book no. 7 | 1942-1954 |
| 2/8 | Minute Book no. 8 | 1955-1964 |
| 2/9 | Endurance Tin Mining Company, minutes to 14 October 1968, from 11 December 1968 Endurance Mining Corporation NL (includes Attunga Mining Corporation Pty Ltd minutes, 26 March-25 August 1969) (photocopies, loose) | 1968-1971 |
| 2/10 | Endurance Mining Corporation NL, Minute Book, transfer of shares and options (NSW) | 1971-1974 |

2/11 Endurance Mining Corporation NL, Minute Book, NSW, 1971-1972, Launceston 1973-1980 1971-1980

3. Annual Reports

3/1 Annual Report, 1929-1973, (except 1930-1933), 1977-1980; mine manager's report, 1953, 1962, 1964 1937-1980

4. Weekly/Monthly Mine Reports

4/1 Bradshaw's Creek and South Mount Cameron leases, weekly reports 1934-1936

4/2 Bradshaw's Creek and South Mount Cameron leases, weekly reports 1937-1938

4/3 Bradshaw's Creek and South Mount Cameron leases, weekly reports 1939

4/4 Bradshaw's Creek and South Mount Cameron leases, weekly reports 1940-1941

4/5 Bradshaw's Creek and South Mount Cameron leases, weekly reports 1942

4/6 Bradshaw's Creek and South Mount Cameron leases, weekly reports 1943

4/7 Bradshaw's Creek and South Mount Cameron leases, weekly reports 1944

4/8 South Mount Cameron, weekly reports 1945-1947

4/9 South Mount Cameron, weekly reports 1948-1950

4/10 South Mount Cameron, weekly reports 1950-1952

4/11 South Mount Cameron, weekly reports 1952-1954

4/12 South Mount Cameron, monthly reports 1955-1957

4/13 South Mount Cameron, monthly reports 1958-1962

4/14 South Mount Cameron, monthly reports 1963-1965

4/15 B.M.I. Mining Pty Ltd, Endurance/Monarch, weekly reports 1970-1972

4/16 Endurance Mine South Mount Cameron/Endurance Shallow Ground, weekly reports 1979

4/17 Production etc weekly reports 1979

5. Correspondence

5/1	Correspondence re employees; leases 1939, 1945-1946; HEC 1941-1945; distribution account 1941; power station operators 1952-1963; tribute agreements 1937, etc	1936-1963
5/2	Correspondence	1939-1940
5/3	Correspondence	1940
5/4	Correspondence	1940-1941
5/5	Correspondence, in alphabetical order	1941
5/6	Correspondence	1941
5/7	Correspondence	1941-1942
5/8	Correspondence re income taxation	1941-1950
5/9	Correspondence	1942
5/10	Correspondence re war loading, metal bonus	1942-1943
5/11	Correspondence re electric power	1943-1953
5/12	Correspondence, 1950-1953, 1955, 1957-1958, 1961-1971	1950-1971
5/13	Correspondence (includes mine manager applications, 1958)	1957-1958
5/14	Correspondence (includes mine clerk applications, 1959)	1959-1960
5/15	Correspondence	1961-1963
5/16	Correspondence	1962
5/17	Correspondence	1962-1963
5/18	Correspondence	1963
5/19	Correspondence	1963-1964
5/20	Correspondence	1964
5/21	Correspondence (includes assistant mining engineer applications)	1965
5/22	Correspondence from O T Lempriere, NSW	1958-1960

5/23	Correspondence from O T Lempriere, NSW	1961-1963
5/24	Correspondence from O T Lempriere, NSW	1963-1964
5/25	Correspondence from O T Lempriere, NSW	1965-1966

6. Financial Records

6/1	Journal	1920-1962
6/2	Journal	1922-1939
6/3	Journal	1938-1953
6/4	Tin Book	1924-1964

7. Shareholders Records

7/1	Share register	1914-1930
7/2	Share transfer journal (includes 4pp 1896-1897 at front of volume relating to an earlier company)	1940-1964
7/3	Register of Directors	1960-1965
7/4	Share Registers A, B, C and D and list of shareholders	1962-1965
7/5	Correspondence re shareholders (in alphabetical order)	1965-1966
7/6	Register of Directors (includes details of shares issued 1968-1973 at front of volume)	1968-1977
7/7	Examples of scrip certificates	1923-1964

8. Miscellaneous Records

8/1	Endurance Tin Mine, miscellaneous papers (includes inventory of Pioneer Tin Mining Company plant, buildings and stores, nd; schedule for insurance, 1946)	1926-1969
8/2	Level book, no.1, Campbell-Smith survey	1939
8/3	Level book, no.2, Campbell-Smith survey	1941
8/4	Level book, no.3	1940-1944
8/5	Department of Mines Laboratory, Launceston, ore dressing investigation	1949

8/6	Employees' record book and reports	1951-1966
8/7	Inspection book	1953-1968
8/8	Consideration of alternate working layouts, typescript	1957
8/9	<i>Endurance Tin Mine, South Mount Cameron, Tasmania</i> , Commonwealth of Australia Department of National Development Bureau of Natural Resources, Records 1957, no.5, by O Keunecke	1957
8/10	Prospecting, South Mount Cameron, typed report by general manager	1958
8/11	Boring logs	1958
8/12	Proposals for a modern design treatment plant, by H Keith Turner, typescript	1964
8/13	'Review of ore reserves...', by H Keith Turner	c1965
8/14	'Review of operations at the Clifton Lead..., first proposals for drilling..., alternative proposal...' by H Keith Turner	1966
8/15	Samples record book	1966
8/16	'Monarch-Endurance report' by F P C Ralph	1969
8/17	<i>Examiner, Mercury, Australian Financial Review</i> cuttings	1968-1970
8/18	'Footprints of birds at South Mount Cameron, Tasmania', photocopy of article in <i>The Emu</i> , vol.74, part 4, October 1974	1974

9. Maps, Plans and Drawings

9/1	Various maps, plans and drawings of the mine and surrounding areas	1923-1966
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10. Ephemera

10/1	Stationery, unused; scrip certificates, unused; various forms and notices	c1930-c1960
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11. B.M.I. Mining Pty Ltd Records

11/1	Correspondence, etc	1962-1977
11/2	Correspondence	1969-1973

11/3	Inter-office memos (includes some exploration reports and weekly reports)	1969-1975
11/4	Inter-office memos (includes 'Preliminary report on future of surface operations at South Mount Cameron 11/3/75')	1973-1975
11/5	'Report on reconnaissance survey of beaches in N.E. Tasmania on E.L. 19/70 for B.M.I. Mining Pty Limited', by H Moses, St Helens	1970
11/6	Documents re purchase from R C Lawrey and Amber Hill drilling reports	1970-1971
11/7	Correspondence etc re leases	1970-1973
11/8	South Mount Cameron drilling reports	1971
11/9	Monthly cost statements	1971
11/10	Review of operations by B.M.I. Mining P/L near South Mount Cameron in Tasmania, by A E Thomas and Associates Pty Ltd, SA; Report for B.M.I. Mining Pty Ltd on their tin deposits in Tasmania, by Watson Dredging Pty Ltd, NSW	1974
11/11	'An appraisal of mining the Gladstone tin deposits by cutter suction dredging' by D J Hughes and A Mearing	1974
11/12	'B.M.I. tin mining operations in Tasmania' by Watson Dredging	1974
11/13	Port of Launceston Authority, 'Blue Metals Industries Limited, Middle Arm mining reclamation and marina proposals, stage 1 feasibility study', May 1975; environmental impact study of dredging and reclamation, August 1975	1975
11/14	Endurance personnel on 20 th April 1979, typed list	1979
11/15	'Examination of Tasmanian operations' by R J Steel	nd
11/16	'B.M.I. Mining Pty Ltd, South Mount Cameron', typed notes on West Endurance by K R Davey, Mine Manager	nd
11/17	Aerial map, Ringarooma River	nd

12. Amdex Mining Limited Records

12/1	'Comments on an electrical induced polarization....survey, Pioneer, North Eastern Tasmania on behalf of Amdex Mining Limited'	1977
12/2	Inventory buildings, plant and equipment, January 1979, 1982, 1984; operating manual for Amdel Mineral Analyser, 1979	1979-1984

12/3	'Exploration licence 2/77, South Mount Cameron', technical report by L McDonald; Winnaleah EL 6/78 report	1979
12/4	Memorandum re Delta Mine	1980
12/5	Memorandum re report on exploration in Watts'-Harmon's area	1980
12/6	'Arba Mine area, Branxholm, Tasmania', technical report by R A A Munro (includes four maps)	1980
12/7	Technical report by K Morrison	1980
12/8	E.L 28/76 six monthly report, 21 June 1980 to 20 December 1980, by R A A Munro	1980
12/9	Final report exploration Locharber first option period, by R A A Munro	1980
12/10	Report on E.L. 28/76 from 21 December 1980 to 22 June 1981	1981
12/11	'Grade variability and ore reserve estimation Pioneer and Clifton deposits' by K Morrison	1981
12/12	Correspondence, 1976-1978, 1980-1982	1976-1982
12/13	Drill logs for Scotia 1978, 1980; ABC Creek 1980; Eastern Leads 1982; general sample description, 1983	1978-1983
12/14	Maps: Pioneer mine 1979; EL 6/78 1979, with correspondence 1980; Rattray's Paddock 1979; Eastern Leads; Arba mine area 1980; Scoloch Lead 6, 11 March 1982; North-eastern Tasmania location map	1979-1982
12/15	Power station, weekly returns (includes summary of operations 1983)	1982-1983

13. Pioneer Tin Mining Company Ltd Records

13/1.1	Financial records in ledger	1919-1934
13/1.2	Financial records in ledger	1919-1934
13/2	Argonaut Mine, prospecting	1922-1923
13/3	Bore results	1925-1928
13/4	Shallow series of bores	nd
13/5	General plan of mine	1926

13/6 Letterbook

1933-1934

13/7 Ledger

1888-1896

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, CHS 114, Miscellaneous Mining Collection

QVMAG, CHS 36, Aberfoyle Tin NL

Tasmanian Director of Mines reports, various years

G & S Miller, *Of Rascals and Rusty Relics*, Hobart, 1979