Media Release – Mining Hall of Fame Annual Inductee Announcements!

Last night at 5:30pm in the Ernst & Young foyer, the successful 2007 Mining Hall of Fame Inductees were announced and celebrated!

Prospectors and Miners, Scientists and Directors, Educators and Investors have all played an integral part in Australia's mining development. Their pioneering spirit, their colourful personalities, their powers of observation and painstaking research have all helped shape the character and spirit of this nation.

The Australian Prospectors & Miners Hall of Fame seeks to recognise the significant contribution made by individuals or groups of people to the Mining industry by inducting them into the Mining Hall of Fame. An advisory board of mining historians, researchers and experts analyses the applications and after careful consideration makes recommendations to the Hall of Fame Board on the individuals to be inducted each year.

The 2007 Inductees are…

Mr. Adam Johns JP (1840 – 1896)
Recognised in the category of Prospectors & Discoverers as a successful prospector, Adam Johns made a very significant discovery at Union Reefs, not far from Pine Creek in the Northern Territory, at a time

when most of the mining companies were running out of money. This was to have a significant effect on mining in the Northern Territory.
Johns erected a battery at Union Reefs where he crushed for himself and the public and had several joint ventures with Ping Que who was to become a Chinese mining magnate. For over twenty years Johns prospected and explored the Territory and part of Western Australia all at his own and his mates' expense. He was a highly respected figure in the Territory and was made a Justice of the Peace in 1878.

Mr. Richard Slee (1879 – 1935)
Recognised in the category of Heroes for his bravery and the gallant rescues he was involved in as the General Manager of BHP at Broken Hill.
Born and educated in Sydney: graduating as an engineer; Richard Slee joined BHP in 1902. In 1911 he was appointed Underground Manager and General Manager in 1921. Richard Slee was one of the most highly regarded managers of the mines at Broken Hill, well known for his bravery and the consideration he gave to his employees. He had much experience in fighting outbreaks of fire in underground workings. This knowledge gained for him a wide reputation as an expert and other companies sought his expertise.
In 1906 a fire erupted in BHP's Block 14 operations causing several lives to be lost. The hazardous rescue was hampered by poisonous gas. Richard Slee along with others was awarded the Royal Humane Society's Certificate of Merit for his part in the rescue.
On April 28TH 1916 Richard Slee with another, rescued two men overcome by gas in a fire even though nearby workmen and miners considered the risk too great. For this rescue the BHP Board gave Richard 100 guineas in appreciation.
On Friday 18th October 1935, Richard Slee with three other men descended an underground seepage well to clear a blocked bore pipe. As BHP General Manager he knew this was a high risk operation but he was not prepared to put the lives of his men on the line without risking his own. In the course of working on the pipe the men were overcome by foul air, they tried to make an exit from the drive but were weakened and collapsed. In the subsequent rescue operation three men including Richard Slee were found dead and the fourth man died later.
As a resident of Broken Hill at the time quoted in the local paper 'Mr. Slee was a very fine man, a good citizen and a good boss. He would never ask a man to do a thing he would not do himself'.

Mr Lionel Cullen
Recognised in the category of Heroes for conspicuous bravery at Bullfinch Mine in Western Australia in 1912.
On 4TH January 1912 Lionel Cullen, H Trott and E Haynes were working at the bottom of a 210 foot deep shaft at Bullfinch mine. They had set several charges and were in the bucket being raised to the surface. They had only gone five or six feet when one of charges exploded throwing Trott and Haynes out of the bucket to the bottom of the shaft. Lionel Cullen signaled to be lowered down to the bottom knowing there were still eight charges to go off. In the darkness and suffocating fumes he got one of the men into the bucket and took him to a higher level, returned to the bottom in the bucket and found the other man partly covered by broken rock. He extricated him and together they were hauled to the surface before the other charges exploded.

Lionel Cullen was awarded the Clarke Gold Medal of the Royal Humane Society of Australasia in 1912. The medal is awarded to the most outstanding case of bravery during the year.

Sir Ian Wark CMG, CBE, DSc, (1899 – 1985)

Recognised in the category of Scientists and Technologists for his contribution to the chemistry of mining/mineral processing and to the public national research effort in mineral chemistry and engineering through the CSIRO and its predecessor.

In the late 1920's funded by the Electrolytic Zinc Company Ian Wark worked on the physical and chemical principles involved in the electro deposition of zinc. As a result of this work the efficiency of the electroplating step was increased considerably.

During the 1930's funded by a group of mining companies, Wark turned his attention to the physics and chemistry of the minerals flotation process. With the assistance of A.B.Cox and K.L.Sutherland he produced a series of papers on these subjects which brought a degree of order into a very confused field and influenced subsequent research considerably. His book 'Principles of Flotation' became a standard book on the subject for both researchers and plant operators.

Appointed Chief of the CSIRO Division of Industrial Chemistry at the start of the Second World War he initiated work on wartime problems arising in the processing and utilization of Australian Minerals. After the war this was extended to include both fundamental and applied research in mineral chemistry and mineral engineering. These activities continue in CSIRO today.

Professor Howard Knox Worner CBE (1913 -2006)

Recognised in the category of Scientists and Technicians for his achievements as a leader in education and scientific research related to mining.

Howard Worner was born in Swan Hill and educated at the Bendigo School of Mines and Melbourne University. During the war years he was seconded as an Honorary Consultant to the Australian Defense Forces and spent much of his time designing and fitting ears, noses and chins on injured servicemen.

In 1947 Howard was appointed Professor of Metallurgy at Melbourne where he became increasingly interested in extractive metallurgy, geology and ore dressing. In 1953 he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and became responsible for the Brown Coal Research Laboratory. His experience in directing coal research led to him chairing the Victoria Brown Coal Council and becoming a member of the National Coal Advisory Committee and a member of the board of management of the Australian Coal Industry Research Laboratories.

In 1955 Howard accepted the position of Director of Research at BHP and established the Central Research Laboratories at Newcastle where he carried out experiments in continuous steelmaking. In 1963 Howard joined CRA where he carried out experiments into the continuous production of copper and steel that collectively became known as the WORCA process. In 1975 Howard was appointed as Honorary Professor and Director of the Microwave Research Centre.

Professor Howard Worner was a renowned figure whose ideas and experimental work made a lasting impression in the fields of applied science, engineering, metallurgy, materials and geology. He published over 190 research papers on subjects as varied as Iron & Steel, Special Foundry Techniques, Smelting and Refining, Titanium Extraction, Creep of Lead and its alloys, Metallurgical and Engineering Education.

Oliver Holmes Woodward C.M.G. MC 2bars (1885 – 1966)

Recognised in the category of Directors & Management for his achievements as a Manager and Director of companies during the post –war reconstruction and his distinguished service with the First Australian Tunneling Company of the Mining Battalion.

Oliver Holmes Woodward started his career with practical experience in mining and the concentrating mill. Working his way through the various jobs on a mine site he continued his education at the School of Mines in Charters Towers Qld.

In 1915, Woodward joined the First Australian Tunneling Company rising to the rank of Captain. He was awarded his first Military Cross for demolishing a house on 10/11th June 1916 which was 120 yards from the trenches and used by snipers. His first bar was awarded for his courage and resourcefulness when patrolling a forward road which was being repaired under heavy shell and machine gun fire. His second bar was awarded for leading his Section on the night of 3rd of November 1918 to build a bridge to carry tanks across the Canal de la Sombre de Oise. The bridge was built under intense artillery and machine gun fire. In 1917 The Messines Ridge in the Ypres Salient was mined by 19 mines containing about 600 tons of high explosives. The mines were fired at 3am on 7th June 1917 and the charge firing switch was pressed by O.H.W.

Woodward went on to have a distinguished career as the General Superintendent at Broken Hill Associated Smelters and the General Manager at Broken Hill North where he achieved advances in social welfare for staff and employees. In 1940 he was President of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and in 1948 was elected to the Board of Australian Mines and Metals Association. In 1956 he was appointed a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George in recognition of his service to Mining and Metallurgy in Australia.

Mr. Donald Frederick Fairweather (1921 – 2006)

Recognised in the category of Directors and Management for his extensive and outstanding contributions to and leadership of professional bodies related to mining

Donald Fairweather was born in Adelaide and after completing a Bachelor of Mining and Metallurgy at the University of Sydney commenced his career at Broken Hill South Limited. In 1970 he started work with Conzine Riotinto responsible as the General Manager for the General Mining Division. His responsibilities included the Rum Jungle uranium division and the Mary Kathleen uranium operation.

Donald Fairweather was a consummate professional reaching the top of his profession with a deep interest in and commitment to the wider context of occupational health, the environment and Aboriginal affairs. In this regard he was ahead of his time. He constantly sought out and was quick to implement new and improved technology and encouraged younger staff members to study and take on further responsibilities. His commitment to professional development and the professional societies was truly memorable – he was a member of IEAust for over 50 years and the AusIMM for more than 66 years holding a variety of positions in the organisations.

Known for his integrity, his objectives being the advancement of his profession, his company and his industry rather personal gain.

Sir John Seymour Proud (1907 – 1997)

Recognised in the category of Directors and Management for his work in a variety of institutions and in the incorporation of a number of major mining operations within one very successful corporate entity. Sir John Proud was born in Sydney and educated at the University of Sydney. He joined the Board of Peko Gold Mines NL in 1952 and assumed the Chairmanship in March 1960. He was already Chairman of the Wallsend Holding and Investment Company Ltd. On 20th January 1961 he presided over the merger of the two companies and became the Chief-Executive of what grew to be Peko-Wallsend Ltd.
Sir John Proud recognised Australia's immense mineral potential. His outstanding contribution to its development resulted from his belief in innovation, application of advanced technologies and unwavering support for his scientists and engineers. Under his stewardship Peko-Wallsend Limited grew from an impoverished company with one small mine in Tennant Creek to one of Australia's leading mining houses. He encouraged and financed original research in geology and geophysics, marine biology, copper, bismuth and titanium metallurgy, coal extraction technology, drill rig and slurry pump design and computer software. He was also one of the first mining executives to place emphasis on environmental management.

Andrew Fisher (1862 – 1928)
Recognised in the category of Labour for representing labour in the industrial realm and the highest level of Australian politics.
Andrew Fisher was born in Ayrshire, Scotland and started work at the age of ten in a Scottish Coal mine. He arrived in Australia in 1885 and began work in a coal mine on the Burrum coal field moving to the Gympie Goldfields in 1887. In 1890 he became the secretary and then President of a branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association. In 1893 he became a member in the Queensland Legislative Assembly and in 1899 a member of the first labour government in the world, the 6-day Dawson Government. His portfolio was railways and public works. He was first elected to Federal Parliament in 1901 and became Prime Minister in Nov 1908.
Andrew Fisher was three times Prime Minister of Australia. He led the nation at the time of the Gallipoli landing; he had also been a minister in the first Queensland Labour government and the first federal labour government. By occupation he was a coal miner, then a gold miner and finally a mine engine-driver. He symbolised the powerful political influence exercised by the mining fields and miners on Australia's growth as a democratic nation. Significantly his government began the transcontinental railway so vital to Western Australia and the Eastern Goldfields.

It is a great honour for these individuals to be recognized by their peers in the mining industry. Specific details on the induction process and a list of those already inducted can be found on www.mininghall.com

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