

July 18th 2018 Technical Meeting The Convict Coal Mine at Saltwater River

FAST FACTS

Speakers:

Greg Maiden, Consulting Mining Engineer,
Brisbane

Topic:

Convict Coal Mining in Tasmania – a Mining
Engineer's Perspective.

When:

Wednesday 18 July, 2018
5:30pm for 6pm start

Where:

Transcontinental Hotel, 482 George Street
Brisbane. (Opposite Roma Street Station)

Cost:

Members \$5
MAP Members \$0
Student Members..... \$0
Non-Members \$10

Meeting Format:

The meeting will take the normal format of a
welcome drink and nibbles prior to the meeting, the
40 minute technical presentation starting at 6pm
with 20 minutes for questions afterwards.

Register by Monday 16 July 2018

[Register here](#)

This Technical Meeting is brought to you by
The AusIMM Southern Queensland Branch and is worth
1 PD hour

The AusIMM Southern Queensland Branch Committee invites you to attend a Technical Meeting on the historic Convict Coal Mine at Saltwater River

In 1833 the convict coalmine at Saltwater River, now part of the Port Arthur Historic Site on the Tasman Peninsula in Tasmania, was developed as a local source of coal for the colony of Van Diemen's Land. Conceived as a place of secondary punishment for the "most refractory" of the convicts at the penal settlement of Port Arthur it quickly gained a reputation; it is typically portrayed today as having been a place of torment and moral ill repute and it ultimately proved a commercial failure for the government. It was abandoned by the government in 1847.

Only the remains of the surface workings are evident today, but the technical story of the mine lies in an interpretation of the old underground workings, an in-situ but invisible archaeological record of the development of the mine.

As part of his Honours course in Archaeology at the University of New England, Greg has developed a synthesis of the mining operation and sequence of development by combining the remaining historic plans of the mine with the surface archaeology and ambiguous data from the historic documentary record. The result reveals something of the miners who were sent to this place, and suggests that considerable skill was exercised by the convict overseers in the working of the mine despite a combination of difficult geology and the changing demands and resources of the convict administration.

Speaker:

Greg Maiden is a consulting mining engineer based in Brisbane, Queensland and specialising in open cut coal mining. Greg has spent 45 years working in technical roles in metalliferous and coal operations around Australia and in Indonesia. During this time he developed a keen interest in historic mines and their physical legacy, resulting in his completing a Bachelor of Arts (honours) from the University of New England, majoring in Archaeology. Greg's honours thesis explored the story of the convict coalmine at Saltwater River. The thesis challenges a view held by some historians that the failure of the convict coal mine represented a commercial "opportunity missed" by the government, due simply to incompetence and maladministration.