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Mining company records

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Introduction

The Archives holds the records of four companies whose activities were solely related to mining. They are Lake George Mines Pty Ltd; Newcastle Coal Ltd; Newcastle Coal Mining Co Ltd and Mt Keira and Mt. Kembla Collieries. For holdings of other companies involved in mining, see the List of Holdings and for the Australian Agricultural Company "coal papers", see the ABLative article No. 5 1987.

The records

Lake George Mines Pty Ltd

The operations of Lake George Mines Pty Ltd were centred on a lead-zinc, copper and gold mine situated at Captain's Flat, located south east of Canberra. The area had been mined in the late 19th century but was forced to close when production became unprofitable as processes used at the time recovered relatively low metal values. In the 1920s the British company, National Mining Corporation, examined the area and decided that the mine could be worked profitably again using modern extraction methods. Lake George Mines was incorporated as a limited liability company in September 1930. It became a proprietary company on 5 May 1948. Operations ceased in March 1962 following the exhaustion of further stopes and the increasingly unsafe condition of the mine. The London based holding company, Lake George Mining Corporation Limited, was placed into voluntary liquidation on March 31 1964.

Ten metres of records were transferred to the Archives by Lake George Mines Pty Ltd covering the period 1920-1965. While some gaps exist, the surviving papers give a reasonable coverage of both the administrative and operating functions of the company.

Newcastle Coal Ltd (Blair Athol)

Newcastle Coal Ltd was formed in April 1912 to acquire the assets of Blair Athol Northern Coalmines Limited. The black coalmines of the company were situated at Blair Athol, a town in central Queensland near Clermont. The collection is relatively small and includes a minute book of Board of Directors' Meetings 1912-17 and a share register covering the period 1912 to 1926.

Newcastle Coal Mining Co Ltd

An impressive collection of papers is held for the Newcastle Coal Mining Co Ltd. They total 15 metres and span the period 1876 to 1948. The company was established in 1876 and registered as a limited liability company in 1877.

The records include minutes of Directors' meetings 1877-1920 and rough minute books 1877-1942 (with gaps). Half-yearly reports and balance sheets date from 1877 to 1947; other financial records include journals 1877-1942; ledgers 1877-1944 and 41 volumes of wages books for mine workers dating from 1877 to 1945. A number of press copy letter-books have survived including those of the Company Manager 1887 to 1944 and the Colliery Manager 1876 to 1930. The letter-books include mine reports.

Mt. Keira and Mt. Kembla Collieries

Mt. Keira and Mt. Kembla Collieries were located in the Wollongong region of New South Wales. The records held by the Archives cover the period 1892-1954. It is a small collection totalling 2 metres and mainly consists of wages records, which date from 1901 to 1934 for Mt. Keira and 1892 to 1945 for Mt. Kembla.

The records of Cavan Station (Yass) held by the Archives contain papers that relate to the Mt. Keira mine. The Castle Roche family, the owners of Cavan Station, acquired land at Wollongong in 1856 and leased the coal winning rights. The papers relating to the mine date from the 1880s until 1913 and deal mainly with the payment of royalties but also include reports on the operation of the mine.