

**Miners' lost,
in the working of Coal in Collinsville...**

Richard Coffey - 15/11/1928
 William McNeil - 14/10/1929
 Frederick Reed - 19/04/1932
 Richard Lowth - 22/08/1936
 Edward Ashley - 07/02/1938
 John Williams - 12/07/1940
 Herbert Smithson - 29/06/1942
 N.C. Cathcart - 27/05/1942
 James Miller - 29/04/1942
 Percy Burrows - 12/10/1943
 Albert Honnery - 21/07/1947
 Albert Williams - 17/01/1952
 W. Schiffer - 18/06/1953
 William Ney - 05/11/1953
 Francis Monaghan - 05/03/1953
 Alexander Parkinson - 13/10/1954
 Henry Peterson - 13/10/1954
 Frederick Walker - 13/10/1954
 Arthur Shrubsole - 13/10/1954
 Herbert Ruff - 13/10/1954
 James Logan - 13/10/1954
 Peter Miller - 13/10/1954
 Charles Illguth - 19/11/1976
 Stephen Toms - 02/10/1985
 David Firth - 18/08/1988
 Scott Stephensen - 19/03/1992



Collinsville Miners' Memorial Day 2014

60th Anniversary Programme



*"It was as if a shot had been fired, then I felt a terrific gust of wind,
 my eyes began to burn, my breath was cut off,
 and the smell was indescribably horrible.*

*I staggered out to fresh air,
 but later went back to try and recover the other men,"*

Bernie Fordham

60th Anniversary Programme

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Mike Brunker

1954 DISASTER SONG

Brian Venten

MINERS HERO SONG

Jaymie Malcolm

GUEST SPEAKERS

Joann Miller - Member for Bundamba

&

Wayne Hartley - Qld Mines Rescue Service

PRAYER

Isabell Sloan

WORKING MAN SONG

Tricia Widt

LAYING OF WREATHS

Collinsville Youth Coalition

Guests

Members of the Public

Kevin Jones - Collinsville Retired Miners

60th Anniversary Release of Balloons



James Logan - 30 years of age
Single man



Henry Peterson - 29 years of age
Married man with 2 children



Arthur Shrubsole - 28 years of age
Married man with 1 child

*When the wintry winds are raving round the chimney tops at night,
and you sit at ease and comfort at the fire so warm and bright,
does it ever cross your vision as you heat your slippers sole,
does it ever seem to strike you **what's the actual cost of coal.***



Frederick Walker - 53 years of age
Married man with 3 children



Herbert Ruff - 47 years of age
Married man with 5 children



Alexander Parkinson
- 34 years of age
Married man with 2 children



Peter Miller - 34 years of age
Married man with 3 children

Sixty years ago ...

Collinsville was rocked by the worst mining disaster in its history ...
and today we remember those who died, those who risked their lives to help mates
and the dangers faced every day by men and women in Australian coal mines.

REPEATED WARNINGS

In the months leading up to the disaster, men working in the Collinsville Coal Mines repeatedly raised concerns about safety conditions and in the weeks preceding, the ever-present "bubbling" of carbon dioxide in accumulated water increased. It was ominous signal for the catastrophic outburst that was to claim the lives of seven men.

THE DAY OF THE DISASTER

On that Wednesday afternoon, the mother of Henry "Pike" Peterson waited on the veranda of her Sonoma Street home for her son to pass on his way to work. She was keen to tell him the good news of a £50 win in the Golden Casket, she didn't manage to catch him and Pike would never claim his prize.

At 5.50pm a gas outburst of almost pure carbon dioxide (almost 98 per cent) occurred in No.1 tunnel at the deepest part of the mine. More than 900 tonnes of coal & stone dislodged & were blown 30 metres up the heading.

Asphyxiation caused the death of all seven men:

Alex Parkinson, Peter Miller, Henry Peterson, Frederick Ernest Walker,
James Reid Logan, Arthur Shrubsole and Herbert Ruff.

There are countless stories of heroism as men risked their lives to help their mates...

"It was as if a shot had been fired, then I felt a terrific gust of wind, my eyes began to burn, my breath was cut off, and the smell was indescribably horrible. I staggered out to fresh air, but later went back to try and recover the other men." Bernie Fordham

A COMMUNITY IN MOURNING

Miners across the state laid down their tools in solidarity and on the day of the funeral, 2000 people took part in the sombre processions to honour those killed.

THE INQUIRY

Despite the previous repeated warnings of safety concerns, the Government Inquiry later found that "the conduct of the owner, the management or any employer was not a contributing factor" but many labelled the inquiry a "whitewash".

Since 1954, four more men have died in the Collinsville Coal Mines taking the total number to 26.

Through the trade union movement, men and women of the coal industry continue to campaign tirelessly for improved safety conditions in Australian mines.

We must never forget the true COST of coal.

Wednesday 13th October 1954



Lest we forget the real COST of coal...

