

# **H&S Implications of Mine Closures**

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*'Improving health and safety in challenging times'*



## ***Unauthorised Access to Closed Mines***



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**2000 – 23 yr old trail bike rider dies after falling 9 metres over a quarry face**

**2001 – Loader driver ran over and killed a 13 y old trespasser he was chasing ( NSW )**

**2005 – Large quantity of explosives and detonators stolen from surface coal mine**

**2008 – 24 yr old man dies when he jumped from a highwall at a coal mine near Brisbane into water 37 metres below.**

**2013 – 16 yr old boy drowns in closed quarry**

**2014 - Activist who shut down Idemitsu's Boggabri ( NSW ) mine fined \$300. They scaled a 40 metre high coal loader..... Shut the mine for 6 hours.**



# The problem is not only an Australian one ...

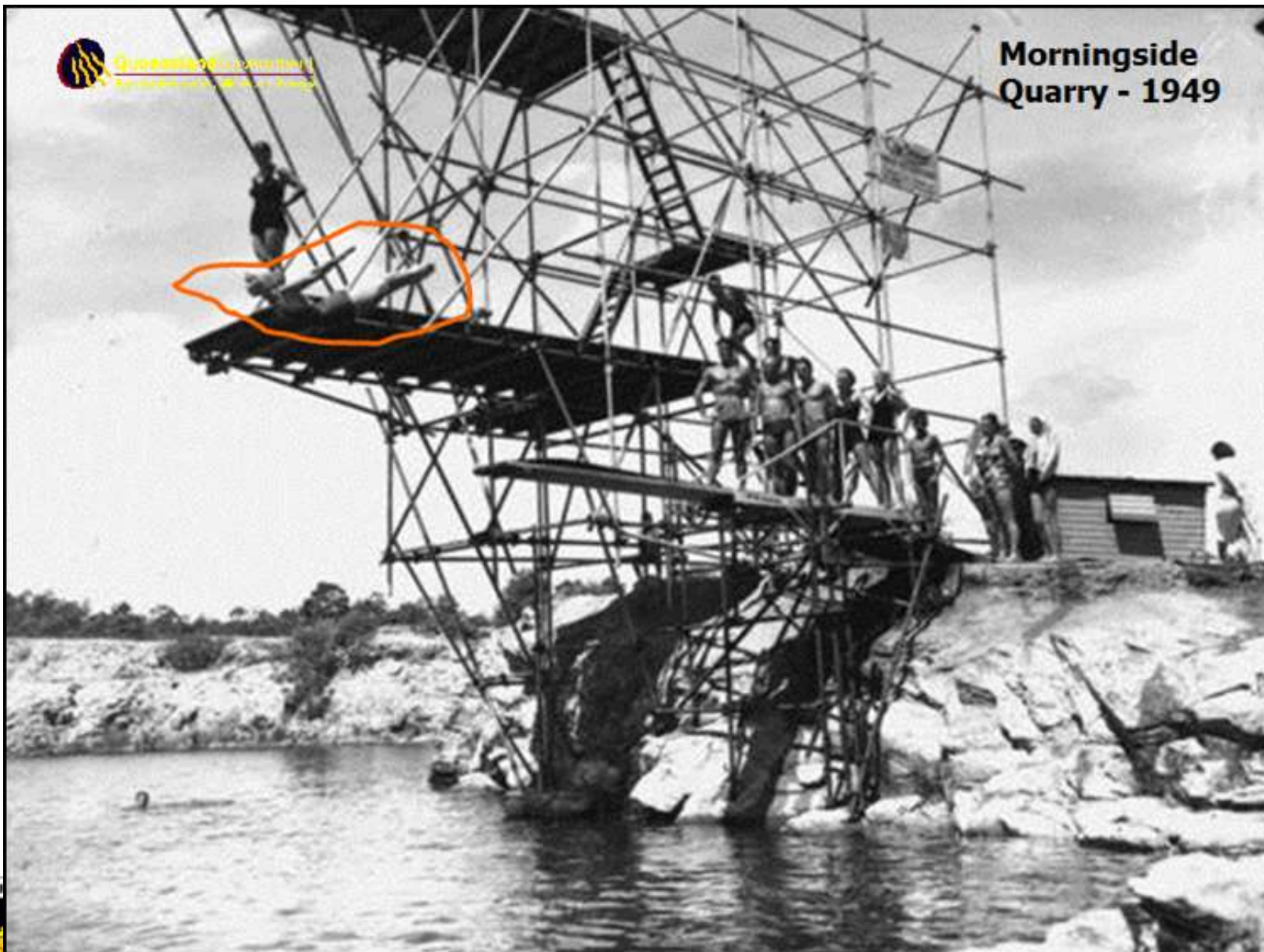
## QPA Teenage Safety Project:

- Many teenagers go to quarries because they want risk. Only a more mature general attitude to risk will change that.
- Success with teenagers comes not from talking a them but from engaging with them and their imaginations.
- Irresponsible adults are a major problem.
- Localised publicity in safety hotspots is the most effective weapon.





Morningside  
Quarry - 1949



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# OBLIGATIONS:

- Duty of care ( Common law )
- To take reasonable and necessary action to ensure that persons are not exposed to an unacceptable risk
- To ensure the operators' own safety and the safety of others is not affected by the way the operator conducts operations



# Hazards are obvious !! Risks vary ?



## RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- Wire netting/light weld mesh fitted to barrier fences in critical locations.
- Community awareness level raised by public meeting and public notices.
- Barriers and warning signs to be inspected more frequently for damage and unauthorised access (particularly during school holidays).





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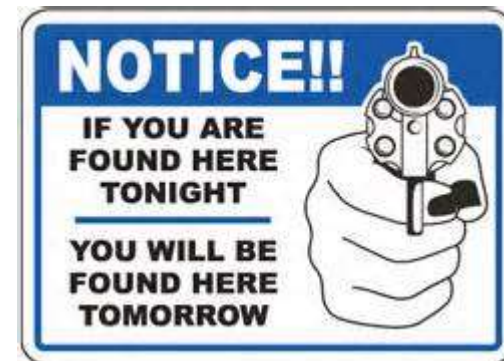
## Recommendations:

- **Understand the nature and extent of the problem at your site**
  - Water
  - Plant and other temptations
  - Location
- **Engage with your local community**
  - Schools
  - Community events
  - Sporting groups
- **Consult with local police**
  - Response times
  - Laying of charges
  - Media



## Recommendations:

- **Review security measures**
  - Out-of-hours security
  - Cameras
  - Holiday periods
  
- **Review policies around reporting and charging of trespassers**
  - Prosecution
  - Incident reporting internal, HPI
  
- **Erect barriers and signs**
  - Appropriate barriers
  - Direct signs



# Questions ??

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