

McKERN, James Gordon

Born 7 July 1888, at Hurstville, Sydney, NSW, the son of James McKern [1854 – 1941] and his wife Mary (nee Tebbutt) [1856 – 1943], the sister of Ernest Tebbutt, the founder of the law firm E.H. Tebbutt & Sons, still in practice in Sydney. James McKern senior retired in 1919 from the position of Auditor General for NSW, then known as Chief Inspector of Public Accounts.

EDUCATION:

Primary Schools, Summer Hill and Ashfield.

Secondary Schooling: enrolled 1901 at the age of 13 at Newington College, Stanmore, Sydney, where he had a brilliant academic record: Dux of every year: won a Wigram Allen Scholarship, Council Scholarship, Schofield Scholarship; appointed Senior Prefect; won the Old Boys Prize; finished school career as Dux of the school. At the Junior Public Examination conducted by the University of Sydney won both the French Medal and the School's Best Pass Medal in 1905; whilst at the University's Senior Public Examination of 1907 won First Class Honors in Greek and in Latin.

University: In 1908 was an undergraduate in the Department of Mining Engineering, winning the Levy Scholarship's for Chemistry and Physics. Graduated 1912 as B.E., Mining & Metallurgy with First Class Honors. During his studies he worked during the long vacation in various mines in order to gain practical experience; at Harden, NSW [gold]; Cobar, NSW [copper]; Wellington, NSW [copper]; and for 10 months at the Silver Peak Mine, Yerranderie, NSW, [silver-lead]

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

1913	Broken Hill, NSW: Zinc Corporation
1913 – 1914	Sandstone, Western Australia, Black Range West Gold Mine.
1914 – 1916	Youanmi, W.A. Yoanmi Central Gold Mines Ltd as Surveyor and Plant Hand
1918 – 1919	Riverina, Western Australia, Riverina South Gold Mine, Surveyor, Assayer and
	Storekeeper
1919 – 1920	Youanmi Gold Mine Ltd, W.A.
1920 – 1923	Celebration W.A.: Hampton Celebration Gold Mine Ltd. Surveyor, Underground
	Manager and Acting General Manager.
1923 – 1924	Petrologist, NSW Geological Survey, Mines Department of NSW.
1924 – 1953	Vacuum Oil Company Pty Ltd, later Mobil: Lubrication Engineer, then Manager and
	Supervisor, Technical Services; finally Industrial Sales Manager
1953	Retired

MILITARY SERVICE

1916 – 1917	Served with the Australian Imperial Force in the First World War in France with the

tunneling Company with the rank of Lieutenant.

1917 Invalided Home

CONSERVATION WORK (in retirement)

After retirement he devoted himself to the nature conservation movement; President, Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia, Chairman, Nature Conservation Council for NSW, State Vice President, National Parks Association, He was a volunteer worker with the Fauna Protection Panel which later became the National Parks and Wildlife Service. See obituary notice in The National Parks Journal, September /October 1975, pp 5 – 6

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MARRIED

1916 Edith Hamlet [1890 – 1967] daughter of William and Ada Hamlet of Mosman [William was Government Analyst for NSW 1887 – 1915] Children: Howard [b. 1917]; Marguerite Shaw [b.1919]; Sheila Simpson-Lee [b.1924]

MN	ACC	meterage / boxes	Date donated	CIU file	Notes
2403	6404A	4 cm	17 December 2004	BA/PA/04/0134	

SUMMARY OF CLASSES		
ARTICLES	PHOTOGRAPHS	
ASSAYS	PLANS	
CERTIFICATES	PRINTED MATERIAL	
CORRESPONDENCE	PROGRAMMES	
MAPS	REFERENCES	
MINERS RIGHTS	TELEGRAMS	
NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS		

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
		ARTICLES
ACC 6404A/1	May 1922	Page 289 of London Mining Magazine referring to Mr. Gordon McKern of Celebration Mine , Hampton Plains .
		ASSAYS
ACC 6404A/2	n.d.	Assays in pencil taken from Riverina South mine. 4 pages
		CERTIFICATES
ACC 6404A/3	2 July 1921 OSM	Certificate of membership of "Institute of Mining Surveyors"
ACC 6404A/4	28 September 1949 OSM	Authorised Mine Surveyors Certificate
		CORRESPONDENCE
ACC 6404A/5	26 August 1913	Letter from "Black Range West Gold Mining Company" re acceptance opposition with company
ACC 6404A/6	28 December 1919	Letter to his father in law William M Hamlet [NSW Govt. Analyst]
ACC 6404A/7	25 February 1974	Letter to Margie and Bill signed 'Dad'. Photocopy
ACC 6404A/8	1920?	Letter to his Father in Law [NSW Govt. Analyst] . 1 ST page missing
ACC 6404A/9	16 September 1920	Letter from Mines department re Hampton Plains plans
		MAPS
ACC 6404A/10	193-1924 CHARTS	Map of Western Australia with areas coloured by pencil

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REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
		MINERS RIGHTS
ACC 6404A/11	13 March 1919	Miners Right issued to James Gordon McKern
ACC 6404A/12	17 March 1920	Miners Right issued to James Gordon McKern
		NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS
ACC 6404A/13	n.d.	Newspaper cutting re "Jewellers Shop" reef at 'Black Range West' gold mine
		PHOTOGRAPHS
BA1678 (Pictorial Collection)		48 photographic prints, and 27 negatives including images of Youanmi, Celebration, Mt Sir Samuel and Riverina gold mines.
		PLANS
ACC 6404A/14 CHARTS	n.d.	Hampton Celebration [W.A.] Ltd Geological Plans 1,2,3, levels
ACC 6404A/15 CHARTS	November 1918	Plan of layout of mine
ACC 6404A/16 CHARTS	10 June 1919	Yuanmi GML Ltd, P shaft workings showing position of main dykes. Cloth
ACC 6404A/17 CHARTS	28 November 1919	Yuanmi GML Ltd, Geological Cross Sections, No. 7 Level. Cloth
ACC 6404A/18 CHARTS	7 January 1920	Yuanmi Gold Mines Ltd, Isometric Plan of Main Shaft Ore Bodies. Cloth
ACC 6404A/19 CHARTS	24 March 1920	Yuanmi G.M. Ltd, Geological Plan an Section of No. 6 & 7 levels. Cloth
ACC 6404A/20 CHARTS	9 September 1919	Yuanmi Gold Mines Ltd, Isometric Plan of P shaft Ore Bodies. Cloth
ACC 6404A/21 CHARTS	n.d.	Black Range West G.M.Co Ltd, Water Softening Plant filter. Cloth
ACC 6404A/22 CHARTS	9 September 1919	Yuanmi Gold Mines Ltd, Isometric Plan of P shaft Ore Bodes. Blue print
		PRINTED MATERIAL
ACC 6404A/23	31 May 1915	Publication: Wood fuel for Assaying by H.R. Edmands
ACC 6404A/24	n.d.	Index pages from Geological Survey publication
		PROGRAMMES

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REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
ACC 6404A/25	15 September 1915	Programme for Patriotic Concert and Dance at the AWA Hall, Sandstone
		REFERENCES
ACC 6404A/26	8 February 1916	Reference from Bewick Moreing & Co
ACC 6404A/27	12 December 1918	Reference from Riverina South G.M. Coy N.L.
ACC 6404A/28	15 March 1923	Reference from Hampton Celebration [W.A.] Ltd
ACC 6404A/29	16 April 1923	Reference from Western Australian Mines Department
		TELEGRAMS
ACC 6404A/30	17 April 1919	Telegram from Riverina South GM at Mallina offering a position as Surveyor Youanmi Gold Mine

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