

**Delivering world class solutions  
to the minerals industry**

Julius Kruttschnitt, internationally renowned mining executive, was born on 7 May 1885 in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States of America. The son of Julius Kruttschnitt, a railway engineer, and his wife Wilhelmina, Kruttschnitt graduated from Yale University with a Bachelor of Philosophy in 1906.

After a year of postgraduate work, Kruttschnitt took up an appointment as a mine surveyor with the Arizona Copper Company. Two years later, in 1909, he joined the mining department of the American Smelting & Refining Company (ASARCO) as Superintendent of the Reforma lead mine in Mexico. In 1911 the company moved him to Asientos where he operated its silver mine as an armed camp in the wake of the 1910 revolution.



Julius Kruttschnitt

In 1912 Kruttschnitt was recalled to the USA to manage ASARCO's newly-opened Tucson branch in Arizona, where he was responsible for mine examination, exploration and operation over a wide area. He remained there for eighteen years.

In July 1930 ASARCO acquired substantial equity in Leslie Urquhart's Mount Isa Mines Limited (MIM) in Queensland, Australia. In the same year, Kruttschnitt accepted appointment as General Manager of Mount Isa Mines Ltd. The Mount Isa locals were bemused to see him arrive, in the scorching December heat, dressed in full suit and tie. Despite the harsh conditions, Kruttschnitt continued to maintain his impeccable appearance throughout all his years in Mount Isa.

He was appointed Director of the company in 1931. In these early years Kruttschnitt tackled ongoing industrial unrest, which in 1933 culminated in a conflict that put 1,200 employees out of work. The company was also heavily in debt, which, combined with low silver and lead prices, in 1934 nearly led to ASARCO abandoning its Queensland venture. Kruttschnitt saved the mine by persuading the company to provide additional capital and he hounded the Queensland Government into providing guarantees.

Kruttschnitt's persistence also resulted in the company forming an exploration arm, Anglo-Queensland Mining, to expand beyond Mount Isa. Still plagued by treatment problems, ASARCO negotiated additional freight concessions with the Queensland Government and these led to the mine's first profitable year in 1937. In the same year Kruttschnitt became Chairman of Mount Isa Mines Ltd.

He retired as Chairman in 1953 but stayed on the board until 1967. During his twenty-two years in Mount Isa, Kruttschnitt held other directorates with Big Bell Mines Ltd, Anglo-Westralian Mining Pty Ltd, the Mining Trust Ltd, New Guinea Goldfields Ltd and several other companies. For fourteen years he was President of the Queensland Chamber of Mines and was President of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy from 1939 to 1952.

In 1962 the English Institute of Mining and Metallurgy awarded him its gold medal. He was awarded the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's medal in 1946 in recognition of his outstanding services to the industry in Australia. He was also a member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. From 1953 to 1960, Kruttschnitt was a member of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission's advisory committee on uranium mining.

Kruttschnitt was a board-member of the faculty of engineering at The University of Queensland from 1954 to 1962. The University granted him an honorary doctorate of engineering in 1971, and in the same year Mount Isa Mines Ltd presented the Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre (JKMRC) to The University of Queensland in his honour.

Throughout his well-earned retirement years, Kruttschnitt lived at Indooroopilly, Brisbane, within sight of the Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre.

### Select Bibliography

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