



**Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club Inc. (TTGGMC)**  
**Clubrooms: Old Tea Tree Gully School, Dowding Terrace, Tea Tree Gully, SA 5091.**  
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**April  
Edition  
2020**

## "Rockzette" Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club News

President's Report	General Interest	Club Activities / Fees
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Hi All,

You will now be aware, either by email or phone call, that the Club has been closed for classes, meetings, etcetera, for the foreseeable future. This has been necessary to comply with the new social distancing rules mandated by Government. Every gem & mineral or lapidary club in every State in Australia is now in the same boat.

Gem shows around the country have been cancelled, including the national Gemboree over Easter.

On a personal level, I have had to cancel my annual pilgrimage to Agate Creek this year.

Those of us who rely on the club for social activity will have to find new hobbies if we don't have lapidary equipment at home or get onto all those jobs we've been putting off.

The Club Newsletter will still go out monthly (feel free to contribute...email contributions to [mel.jones@bigpond.com](mailto:mel.jones@bigpond.com)).

In closing, please look after yourselves and your loved ones. PLEASE conform to all social distancing and other requirements.

I look forward to seeing you all again when this crisis is over.

Take care,  
Ian.

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### Diary Dates / Notices

#### Happy Birthday

#### Members celebrating April birthdays:

2 <sup>nd</sup> – Mick Rogers.	24 <sup>th</sup> – Steve Wood.
10 <sup>th</sup> – Pat Zoyke.	27 <sup>th</sup> – Candice Bowey.
17 <sup>th</sup> – Trevor Jessop.	29 <sup>th</sup> – Gerri Cook.
21 <sup>st</sup> – Ian Everard.	

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Members' Noticeboard, humour, and Links...

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Meetings and workshops have been suspended until further notice. Details will be reinstated as and when these are able to be resumed.

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The Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club Inc. is not and cannot be held responsible or liable for any personal injuries, loss or damage to property at any club activity, including, but not limited to, meetings, field trips, all crafts and club shows. An indemnity is to be signed by all participants before each and every field trip activity they attend.

Tea Tree Gully Gem and Mineral Club Incorporated, Old Tea Tree Gully School, Dowding Terrace, Tea Tree Gully, South Australia, 5091.

**Augie's April 2020 Jasper Selections – West Java.**

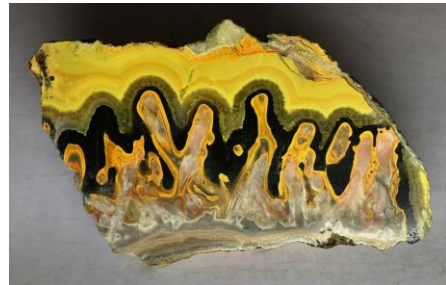
**Bumble Bee Jasper**

The name "Jasper" is actually a misnomer, as this material is NOT a Quartz.

Bumble Bee stone, which is the correct terminology, is composed primarily of magnesian Calcite. It also contains Sulphur, Orpiment, Realgar & Pararealgar, Anhydrite, Arsenic and Haematite, with or without other trace elements.

The material is found only in one location – on the slopes of Mt. Papandayan, an active stratovolcano situated near Bandung in West Java, Indonesia, in an area which is mined for Sulphur by locals.

While the material can be visually stunning, less than 10% is suitable for cutting & polishing, as the majority of it contains numerous pits & pinholes. An added downside is that it rapidly tarnishes sterling silver.



Augie's April 2020 Jasper Selections – West Java.  
Bumble Bee Jasper – Continued...



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Augie's April 2020 Mineral Matters Selections...



Azurite & Malachite - Morenci, ARIZONA.



Azurite on Malachite.



Blue Halite Carlsbad, NEW MEXICO.



Cerussite on Pyromorphite.



Fluorite on Barite - Asturia, SPAIN.



Halite - Nordhausen, GERMANY.



Manganoc Calcite - INNER MONGOLIA.

**Augie's April 2020 Mineral Matters Selections- Continued...**



Petrified Wood - Holbrook, ARIZONA.



Prehnite on Epidote - Djougua, MALI.



Pyritized Ammonite - RUSSIA.



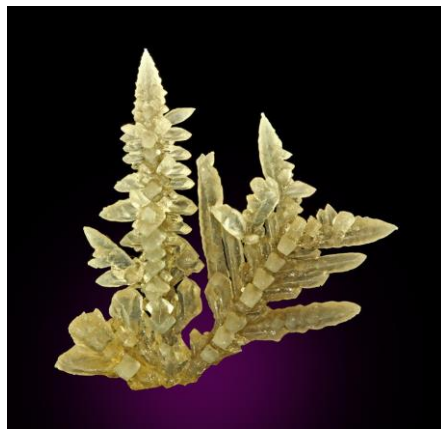
Pyromorphite - Jerada Province, MOROCCO.



Quartz - CHINA.



Quartz on Elbaite Tourmaline.



Sal Ammoniac - Ravat, TAJIKISTAN.



Topaz with Fluorite & Albite - Dassu, Skardu District, Gilgit-Baltistan, PAKISTAN.



Spessartite Garnet with Tourmaline, Quartz & Feldspar.



Vanadinite - MEXICO.



Tremolite with Prehnite - Merelani, Uмба Valley, Arusha Region, TANZANIA.

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Mined in 1991, this is a matrix free specimen of highly transparent, light-blue fluorite crystals, with touches of purple.

**Augie's April 2020 Birthstone Selections  
Diamond – Birthstone for April...**

**Quick Facts**

Diamonds are the world's best-known gemstone.

Diamond is the hardest naturally occurring mineral on Earth.

Before they were discovered in Africa in 1725, all diamonds were mined in India.

65% of the world's diamonds now come from Africa, though they have been found in many other countries.

Western Australia's Argyle mine famously produces gem quality pink diamonds, accounting for over 90% of the world's yearly supply.

**Tech. Stuff**

Chemical Composition: C (pure carbon)

Hardness: 10

Crystal System: Cubic

Crystal Habit: Octahedral

Specific Gravity: 3.52

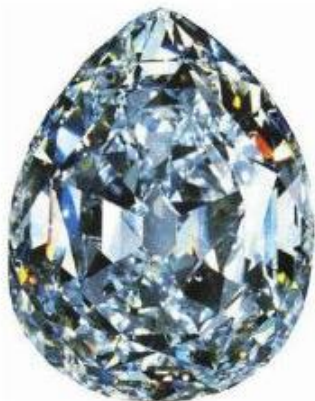
Refractive Index: 2.41

Lustre: Adamantine

**The World's 10 Largest Diamonds  
(cut weight)**



1. **The Golden Jubilee – 545.67 ct.** The world's largest brown diamond. Recovered from de Beers Premier Mine in South Africa in 1985.



2. **The Cullinan I – 530.2 ct.** Cut from the original Cullinan, which weighed 1,306.75. Also, from the Premier Mine.



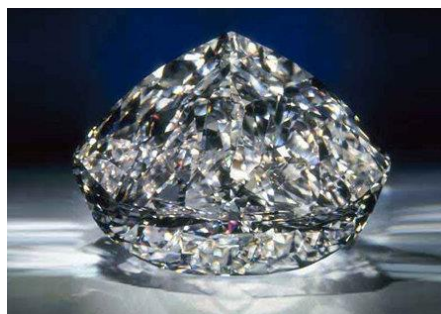
3. **The Incomparable – 407.48 ct.** Found in 1984 by a small child in a pile of debris near the MIBA Diamond Mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



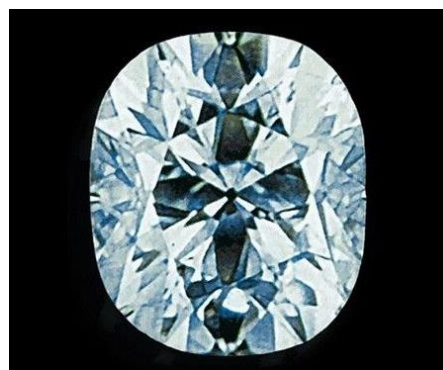
4. **The Cullinan II – 317.4 ct.** The second largest stone cut from the Cullinan. Valued at over \$400 million.



5. **The Spirit of de Grisogono – 312.24 ct.** The world's largest black diamond. From the Central African Republic.



6. **The Centenary – 273.85 ct.** Recovered in 1986 at de Beer's Premier mine in South Africa.



7. **The Jubilee – 245.35 ct.** Recovered in 1895 at the Jagersfontein mine in South Africa.



8. **The de Beers – 234.65 ct.** Discovered in 1988. The largest diamond recovered from De Beers' Kimberley Complex in South Africa.



9. **The Red Cross – 205.07 ct.** Recovered from the de Beers South African mine in 1901.



10. **The Millenium Star – 203.04 ct.** Discovered in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1990.

**Augie's April 2020 Birthstone Selections  
Diamond – Birthstone for April...**  
*Continued...*

**The World's Most Valuable  
Coloured Diamonds**



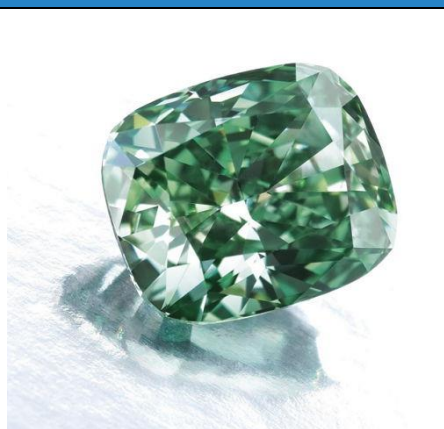
**Blue – The “Hope” Diamond** – 45.5 ct.  
Valued at \$250 million.



**Pink – The “Pink Star”** – 59.6 ct. - \$71 million.



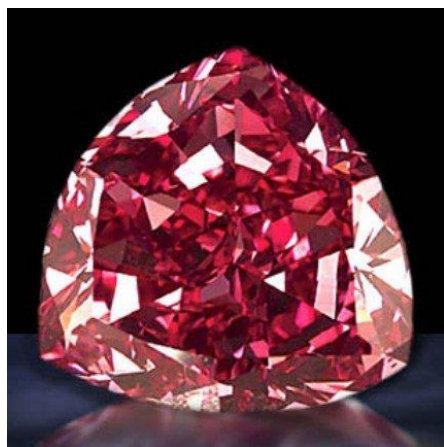
**Orange – The “Orange”** – 14.82 ct. - \$35 million.



**Green – The “Aurora”** – 5.03 ct6. - \$16.8 million.



**Yellow – The “Graff Vivid Yellow”** – 100.09 ct. – 16.3 million.



**Red – The “Moussaieff”** – 5.11 ct. - \$8 million.



**Purple – The “Purple Orchid”** – 3.37 ct. – Unknown value.

**Lucara Found 31 Diamonds Over  
100 Carats Last Year**

Vancouver, British Columbia—Sales climbed 9 percent in 2019 for Lucara Diamond Corp. and it again recovered more than 30 stones weighing more than 100 carats from its Karowe mine in Botswana.

Total revenue for the Vancouver-based mining company for the year ended Dec. 31 totaled \$192.5 million, or \$468 per carat (2018: \$502 per carat), topping guidance of \$180 million.

Net income for the year reached \$12.7 million, up from \$11.7 million in 2018.

Lucara said it was a record year for production through the plant at Karowe.

Total tons mined reached 9.8 million, in line with a forecast of 9.5-10.9 million, and ore processed totaled 2.8 million tons, at the top end of its guidance, while 433,060 total carats of diamonds were recovered, exceeding its forecast of 425,000 carats.

Karowe called 2019 “another strong year” for the recovery of what it refers to as “Specials,” single diamonds in excess of 10.8 carats.

The mining company said it recovered 786 of these stones totaling 24,424 carats from direct milling ore in 2019, down 5 percent from 829 Specials in 2018. It also recovered Specials in tailings, including a 375-carat diamond in the third quarter.

Among these big stones were 31 diamonds in excess of 100 carats—on par with the 33 diamonds it found in this size range last year—including two stones weighing more than 300 carats.

The most notable among them—the 1,758-carat diamond dubbed the Sewelô, which Lucara is cutting in partnership with Louis Vuitton and Antwerp-based diamond manufacturer HB Company.



The latest discovery, a 549 carater (pictured) described as having “exceptional purity,” was discovered at the company’s Karowe mine in Botswana.

In the news release announcing the company’s results, Lucara President and CEO Eira Thomas called the agreement with the iconic fashion house “ground-breaking.”

“In 2019, Lucara also continued to explore ways and means to maximize the value it receives for its diamonds,” she said.

“Our ground-breaking agreement with Louis Vuitton in January 2020 is another example of how we are delivering on this commitment. Through this agreement, we will demonstrate that greater collaboration within the supply chain can unlock value and increase transparency from mine to consumer.”

**Augie's April 2020 Birthstone Selections**

**Lucara Found 31 Diamonds Over 100 Carats Last Year – Continued...**

In addition, Clara, Lucara's blockchain-based digital sales platform, completed its first year of operations, with a total of 15 sales, 27 customers and sales volume of \$8.4 million. The company said the platform is "poised to achieve significant growth" this year, as it adds more customers and producers.

Thomas characterized the company's 2019 results as strong and said the company has a "solid foundation" for its next stage of growth, the underground expansion of Karowe, which is expected to extend the mine's life to 2040.

In 2020, Lucara expects diamond revenue to total \$180-\$210 million as the proportion of carats recovered from higher-grade units increases, and to recover between 370,000 and 410,000 carats of diamonds.

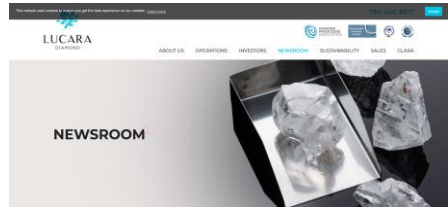
Credit: Michelle Graff - National Jeweler

**Editor's Footnote** - *Lucara is a Canadian company with impressive credentials. It promotes "sustainable, conflict free mining".*

*The ethos underpinning the company's operation starts with -*

- No poverty
- Zero hunger
- Good health and well-being
- Clean water and sanitation
- Quality education
- Gender equality

98% of Lucara's workforce are Botswana nationals.



<https://www.lucaradiamond.com/newsroom/news-releases/lucara-announces-2018-annual-results-122766/>

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Contributed by Doug Walker...



A busy night at Stone Henge as workers move all the stones forward one hour...

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act...

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Contributed by Augie...

**Think About It**

**A priest, a minister and a rabbit walk into a blood bank. The rabbit says, "I think I'm a type O".**

**Book Titles**

- "Perfect Cooking" by Chris P. Bacon.
- "Interior Decorating" by Kurt Enrod.
- "Wooden Percussion" by Cy LeFone.
- "I'm Not Just Whistling" by Dick See.
- "Boiled Dry" by Eve Aporate.
- "Look Younger" by Fay Slift.
- "I Dunit" by Gil Tee.
- "The German Bank Robbery" by Hans Zupp.
- "Take This Job & Shove It" by Ike Witt.
- "The Scent of a Man" by Jim Nasium.
- "Yoko's Robe" by Kim Ono.
- "Honest Citizen" by Laura Byder.
- "Do As I Do, Not As I Say" by M.U. Late.
- "The Knighthood" by Neil Downe.
- "Without Warning" by Oliver Sudden.

**Here we have a male human infant practicing the very battle he will pursue for the remainder of his adult life**



After a shortage of masks in China

**What do you call a bulletproof Irishman?**

**Rick O'Shea**

**Donkey Business**



One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well.

The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbours to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well.

At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quietened down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbours continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

*Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.*

**Remember the five simple rules to be happy:**

1. Free your heart from hatred - - Forgive.
2. Free your mind from worries - - Most never happen.
3. Live simply and appreciate what you have.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

**NOW.....**

**Enough of that crap.**

*The donkey later came back and bit the farmer who had tried to bury him. The gash from the bite got infected and the farmer eventually died in agony from septic shock.*

**Moral from today's lesson:**

**When you do something wrong, and try to cover your ass, it always comes back to bite you.**

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### Ian's April 2020 Quartz Collection Selections



0369 Smoky Quartz Scepter, King County Washington U.S.A.



0574 Amethyst, Scepter Hill, Santa Cruz Co Arizona, USA.



0575 Quartz Scepter, Galileia Minas Gerais, BRAZIL.



0576 Quartz Scepter, Galileia Minas Gerais, BRAZIL.



0577 Quartz Scepter, Galileia Minas Gerais, BRAZIL.



0578 Quartz Scepter, CHINA.



0649 Amethyst Scepter, Spruce Ridge, Washington State, U.S.A.



0958 Amethyst Scepter, MADAGASCAR.



0959 Amethyst Scepter, MADAGASCAR.



0961 Amethyst Scepter, MADAGASCAR.



1553 Quartz Sceptre, Spruce Ridge Washington State U.S.A.



1606 Amethyst Scepter, MADAGASCAR.



2088 Quartz Scepter, Minas Gerais, BRAZIL.



2356 Amethyst Sceptre, Kings County Washington State, U.S.A.



2363 Quartz, CHINA.



2527 Amethyst Scepter, MADAGASCAR.



Ian's April 2020 Quartz Collection Selections - Continued...



0556 Quartz Scepter, CHINA.



0565 Quartz Scepter, CHINA.



2546 Amethyst Scepter, MADAGASCAR.



0896 Quartz with Fuchsite Inclusions, Wana Waziristan, PAKISTAN.



2534 Quartz Scepter, MADAGASCAR.



0046 Quartz var. Smoky, Mooralla, VICTORIA.



0563 Quartz Scepter, CHINA.



2535 Quartz Scepter, MADAGASCAR.



0963 Amethyst Scepter, MADAGASCAR.



0564 Quartz Scepter, CHINA.



2538 Amethyst Scepter, MADAGASCAR.



0855 Quartz, Orange River, Karas Region, NAMIBIA.



2359 Quartz, CHINA.



2542 Amethyst Scepter, MADAGASCAR.



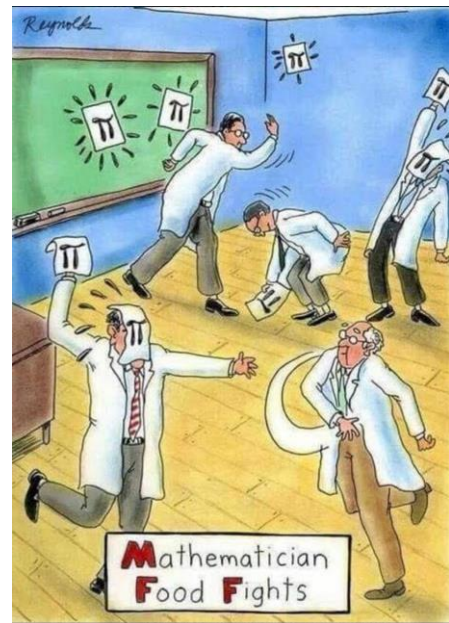
0969 Quartz Scepter, Petersen Mountain, Hallelujah Junction area, Nevada, USA.



0707 Quartz Scepters, Shangbao Pyrite Mine, Hunan Prov., CHINA.

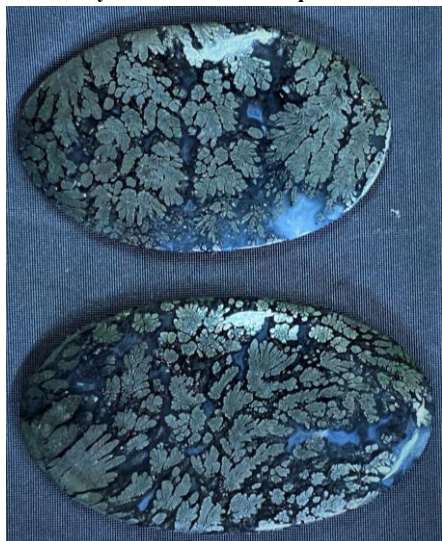


The other side of 0707 Quartz Scepters, Shangbao Pyrite Mine, Hunan Prov., CHINA.



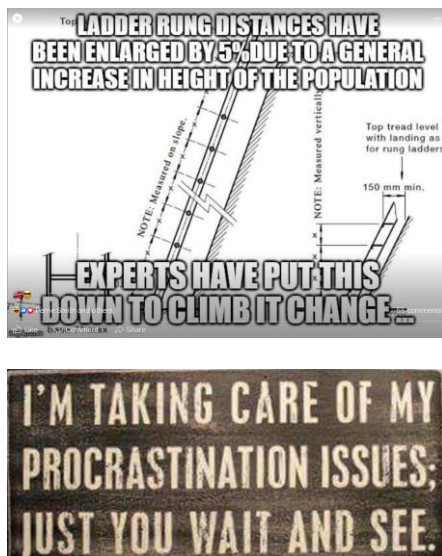
Contributed by Wendy Purdie ...

Wendy's latest internet acquisitions...

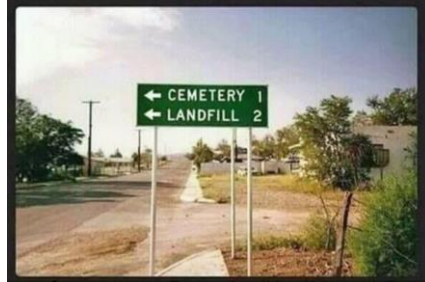


Marcasite in Chalcedony, Nipono, USA.

Contributed by Alan Rudd ...



My wife said when I pass she would go the extra mile to give me the burial I deserve...



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Contributed by Mel Jones...

## ‘Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story’ by Garry Reynolds Part 18 of 24...



The Newcastle City waterfront today where Aborigines once fished from canoes, convicts hewed coal and a railway system developed and disappeared over a period of 160 years. Source: *Familypedia*.



The privately-owned South Maitland Railways with locomotive No10, hauling a string of wooden coal hopper wagons to Newcastle through Mount Dee near Maitland, in the heartland of a violent industrial conflict. Source: *Flickr*.

### Conflict Country

To ignore industrial campaigns in Newcastle and their effects on its railway network over many decades would be to ignore the elephant in the room.

Newcastle has been a very strong union town, quite radical on many occasions in several industries: especially maritime with wharf labourers and seamen; the coal miners and coal owners; and the railwaymen and the Hunter coal chain.

Put these all together in one hotspot – the rail network around the Port of Newcastle - and it was a recipe for prolonged interruptions to industry no matter what the merits of the men’s cases and the issues.

Pressure was increasing on the cost-base and competitiveness of the collieries as few owners had reinvested in modern equipment to increase their efficiency following WW1. This hot house for conflict attracted, or perhaps bred, fiery Newcastle orators, even the election of popular and provocative Communist union officials spread through all three main industries.

This meant that as a key link in the supply chain between mine and seaboard, the New South Wales Government Railways (NSWGR) and private operations, such as South Maitland Railways (SMR), were the meat in the sandwich. It was not as though the NSWGR and SMR didn’t have enough of their own industrial problems!

### Billy Hughes

So, what has Billy Hughes got to do with the disruptions in the railways in Newcastle through the first half of the 20th century?

In a way, he exemplified on a national and a regional scale why so many opportunities for economic growth failed to be realised because of the lack of collaboration between workers, businessmen and politicians for decades in the 20th century. For most of the period, there was

ongoing industrial conflict from the 1890s through WW1, the Great Depression and WW2 right through to the 1960s – far more than today.



Prime Minister Billy Hughes being held aloft in the WW1 Victory Parade in London. Source: *NMA*.

Billy Hughes symbolised the lack of trust between these key parts of the Australian economic, political and social environment which became distilled in constant grim conflict in the Hunter Region.

It was like a long-running Cold War on the Home Front which heated up on many occasions with prolonged strikes, stand downs or lockouts. It was extremely hard for Governments or the private sector to invest confidently let alone run a reasonably efficient railway system amid this industrial trench warfare.

Hughes embodied the confrontational and contradictory nature of the railway operating environment. He was the arch politician who was both adored and despised while having the longest parliamentary career in Australia. Yet Hughes was probably the least-trusted politician spanning generations and regarded as an opportunist and grand stander willing to sell out colleagues to get his way.

In perspective, William (Billy) Morris Hughes was elected Prime Minister from 1915-1923 and his influence on national politics spanned decades. During his 51 years in the Commonwealth Parliament he represented 4 electorates, represented 6 political parties, led 5, outlasted 4, and was expelled from 3!

Yet Hughes is generally acknowledged as one of the most influential Australian politicians of the 20th century. Nevertheless, his strong views and abrasive manner meant he frequently made political enemies, often from within his own parties and unions – across Australia and overseas!

Ironically when he migrated from the UK in

1884, Hughes worked in the outback where the shearers union was strong. Later he was employed as a stone breaker in the NSWGR and then as a seaman, even helping establish the Seamen’s Union and serving as its first national president. But he soon became a union nemesis.

As Prime Minister, Hughes succeeding in undermining the General Strike in 1917 which started in the NSW Railways and Tramways. He also promoted the idea and set up systems of employing nonunion ‘scab’ labour in the mines, the railways and at the wharves during the Strike.

All of these actions were to have radicalising incendiary effects over many decades on the men involved in the Newcastle coal supply chain through the Port of Newcastle.

### Tough worker conditions in key railway-linked industries

After WW1, in the 1920s, industrial tension had been building in the Newcastle coal fields. Many miners who had volunteered to go away to the War returned to find there was no longer a job for them. Not only had their places been taken by other men who didn’t volunteer for the AIF, but the coal industry was struggling. Other industries were switching to electricity rather than direct coalfired boilers for energy. This was a more efficient use of coal in power stations.

In states outside NSW who used to be supplied with Newcastle coal, alternative mines were being developed including in Victoria’s Latrobe Valley using brown coal deposits for power production with compressed coal brickettes.

The railways’ use of Newcastle coal in NSW and other states was not growing owing to increased competition from motor vehicles and more efficient locomotives using developments such as superheating. More powerful engines were replacing double and triple heading by smaller locos.

### The wharf labourers’ effects on railways

While many ex-servicemen felt cheated, so did many Newcastle miners who had a job in the 1920s as wages and conditions were constrained. They were not alone as one of the pieces of legislation Billy Hughes promoted as Commonwealth Attorney General was the Transport Workers’ Act of 1928. It was used against the wharf labourers throughout the late 1920s and the 1930s.

*Continued next page...*

The Legislation was generally known as the 'Dog Collar Act'! It required all waterfront workers to hold federal licences, or "dog collars" as they were derisively known, to work. The Act enabled the Commonwealth Government, to effectively control who worked on the docks and nearly destroyed the Waterside Workers Federation. The Government strongly favoured employment of non-union labour.

This Act also led to ongoing industrial warfare on the docks in Newcastle and elsewhere culminating in 1938 in the wharfies' union refusing to load pig iron for export to Japan from BHP Port Kembla. It said it would be used in making weapons that could be turned against Australia.

The battle with the conservative Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, a former Minister for Railways in Victoria, led to him being labelled 'Pig Iron Bob'. This was an important factor in Menzies' downfall when he resigned the Prime Ministership due to some of his own side not supporting him with our old mate, Billy Hughes, a major instigator in undermining him. Meanwhile, in the year after the "Dog Collar Act" was introduced and the country was plummeting into the depths of the Great Depression, 1929, the miners now faced an even greater challenge.

### The battle between mine owners and NSW Government against the coal miners with the railways in the middle



Sir Thomas Bavin – 24th Premier of NSW. Source: Wikipedia.

While tensions had been building through the 1920s, the miners were in a weak negotiating position on the Hunter Valley coalfields. They had initiated little serious industrial action especially with the rapid economic downturn leading up to the Great Depression. As historians, Robert McKillop and David Sheedy point out in their excellent book "Our Region, Our Railway: The Hunter and the Great Northern Railway 1857-2007", the demand for

coal plummeted in 1928 putting pressure on both the colliery owners and the Miners' Federation over who would bear the burden of being forced to accept lower prices.

At the time, the businesses of the colliery corporations in the Hunter Valley were being undercut by cheap imported coal. In the days of sailing ships when coal from Newcastle was used as backloading ballast to overseas ports, Newcastle's higher cost base was able to be sustained. However, the opening of the Panama Canal had enabled coal mines on North and South America's East Coast to compete in Newcastle's traditional markets on the West Coast of both continents. As well, more ships were converting from coal to oil for fuel. But now mine owners blamed the cost of production on miner's wages as sending them out of business. Already, nearly 2,000 men were laid off. Tough Newcastle Coal Baron, John Brown, was particularly keen to cut costs by decreasing wages as he saw the overseas trade he had assiduously developed over decades shrinking.

Negotiations focused around the theme of a 'common sacrifice' when the NSW Premier, Thomas Bavin, put forward a plan to reduce these costs. The Commonwealth Government also proposed measures to assist the industry to become competitive. Part of these proposals needed the miners to accept a reduction in wages. Despite their intense competition with each other for market share in a declining market, the colliery owners combined to form the 'Northern Collieries Association' to control production and take a stand against the miners.

In the ensuing industrial conflict, money was scarce in the Hunter, and some mines had already closed down. Many of the miners and their families had been living on welfare and the dole. It was well into what would prove a 15-month industrial struggle between the miners and the owners. Men had been laid off, and all the major collieries on the South Maitland Coalfield, with the exception of Pelaw Main and Richmond Main, were working short time. Production on the Northern Coalfields was cut to 25%. There was enormous disruption to the railway coal supply chain feeding domestic and overseas markets.



South Maitland Railways, part of the coal supply chain since early in the 20th century. Source: Frank Cross.

By Thursday 14 February 1929, the crisis reached the stage where the mine employers gave their 9,750 employees 14 days' notice that they should accept the following new conditions:

*A wage reduction of 12½% on the contract rates; one shilling (\$0.10) a day on the "day*

*wage" rate; all Miners Lodges (union local branches) must give the colliery managers the right to hire and fire without regard to seniority (designed to offload militant leaders); all Lodges must agree to discontinue pit-top meetings and pit stoppages.*

Unsurprisingly, the miners refused to accept these terms, and on Saturday 2 March 1929, all miners were "locked out" – essentially a strike by the owners. It was a provocative move which the colliery owners and the NSW and Commonwealth Governments knew wouldn't be accepted quietly. It was obviously a massive blow to the Hunter Region's economy and its railways.

The miners were then working under the Hibble Award, which fixed their wages. Since the mine workers were technically not on strike, they were entitled to, and were paid, the unemployment benefit – The Dole. In order to obtain Dole payments they had to seek and accept employment, when and wherever it was offered.

Here, the State Government saw an opening and came up with a cunning plan to break the back of the locked-out workers, by withdrawing their Dole payments, and starving them back to work.

The NSW Government reasoned that if the workers were offered employment, which they were expected to refuse on principle, then the Government would have the legal leverage to cut off all welfare payments.

This very conservative NSW Government was truly driven now by philosophical objections to unions and even though it said it stood for free enterprise values, it planned to take over several of the mines from their private owners, and then offer work at them for the miners as its coup-de-gras in smashing the coal miners' union.

### The Rothbury Riot



Another trainload of coal leaving Rothbury Colliery before the Riot. Source: Bing Images.

Rothbury Colliery, about 10kms from Cessnock, was the first mine selected. However, revealing how policy-driven the Government was, it had failed to consult with the Colliery Manager, Richard Thomas, about the plan. Embarrassingly, he protested very publicly that he couldn't accept 'scab workers' and that he wanted his own men back. The State Government pushed on regardless with the cooperation of powerful Rothbury Colliery Owner, John Brown. The scene was set for a massive confrontation which would reach a level of violence perhaps never envisaged since the Eureka Stockade. *Continued next page...*

The miners ran a campaign of vigorous protests as the collieries took on non-union 'scab' labour with police protection. Meanwhile, the amount of coal available for the NSWGR from the Hunter had plummeted, choking the provision of goods and passenger services across the State and over the borders into Victoria and South Australia.

Frustrated by the miners' ongoing campaign bolstered by assistance from other union families in Newcastle and elsewhere, in September 1929, the NSW State Parliament introduced an 'Unlawful Assembly Act' designed to suppress the miners, so the 'scabs' could not be intimidated out of attending work.

The Government also authorised police to break up any gatherings even if they were non-violent. Fearing, rightly, that there would be trouble with the miners who had been locked-out, the NSW Government brought in additional policemen from outside the Hunter area, flagging it was ready for a momentous confrontation to put an end to the Rothbury Miners Lodges' resilience and basically destroy the mining union's hold in the Hunter Valley.



Reginald Weaver, NSW Minister for Mines. Source: Australian Dictionary of Biography.

In a courageous, but in the end, foolhardy move, Reginald Weaver, the Minister for Mines, and a strong supporter of the extreme right-wing New Guard Movement, decided he would put the Government's offer directly to the workers, at Cessnock, on November 20, 1929. Weaver announced in the local press that he would address a public meeting at the Cessnock Hotel that evening but instead he got on a soapbox on a street corner. Amid a large crowd and much jeering, he shouted:

*"If you think you can fight the government, when governments are determined, you do not know your position. We will leave unionists the option to sign on, until Saturday night (November 23). Whether they sign on or not, the Rothbury mine is going to produce coal." "We are going to open that mine, and subsequently we will consider opening the Cessnock Mine, and are negotiating to open several others. We cannot allow a shortage of coal stocks to go on."*

The battle lines were drawn.

During the ensuing month, peace proposals for a settlement were turned down by the men. With unemployment levels across the State extremely high, the Government did not anticipate any difficulty in securing sufficient desperate non-union men to work the Rothbury Colliery.

The Government announced that it intended opening Rothbury Colliery on Wednesday, December 18, giving all the Rothbury union men until Sunday night (December 15) to sign on, or have their Dole payments stopped.



At an aggregate meeting of all the miners' lodges, held at Branxton, Di Davies, General Secretary of the Miners' Union, shouted:

*"Rothbury is going to be the storm centre. It is going to be the front line of the trenches, and the barricade, to defend the rest of the mines on the coalfield. The men from Kurri Kurri, Weston, Cessnock and other centres, will have to rally round the Rothbury miners, and see that no one else is brought along to take their jobs."*

At the same aggregate meeting, Bondy Hoare, the Northern Miners' Leader, pointed out:

*"If Premier Bavin puts scabs into Rothbury, I can see human derelicts (the police) being done to death by an infuriated body of workers, who are going to fight in the interests of the working class. Don't let anybody weaken you."*



'Scabs' and police at Rothbury in 1929. Source: At the Coalface.

A large crowd of miners left Cessnock on the warm Sunday night of the deadline. They were bound for the Colliery, the 'scabs' and the police. Brass bands played as at least 5,000 miners from across the Hunter Valley converged on a makeshift camp with fires flickering at Rothbury at 4.30am on 16<sup>th</sup>

December 1929. The Government had called in 70 New South Wales police officers from districts outside Newcastle to protect the Colliery and allow the entry of non-union labour.

Exhilarated by the mass rollup, the miners decided to storm the colliery which was protected by the police. With the first charge carrying clubs and firearms with them, unionists penetrated the compound and the police fell back and warned the attacking miners to get back. However, the warning went unheeded, so the police were given the order to baton charge the attackers.



Class struggle: Scene of the Rothbury riot of 1929 in which miner Norman Brown died. The miners during the battle with police at Rothbury. Source: Bing Images.

As the baton charge was being made with hand-to-hand clashes, the attackers at the rear of those already within the police compound, poured in a fusillade of stones and missiles at the line of blue uniforms. Eventually the police gained the upper hand and the attackers retreated to a distance where they continued hurling stones.

Jack Baddeley, respected mine official, and State member of Parliament for Cessnock, advanced in front of the attackers, doing all in his power to prevent the police from using their revolvers by appealing to the enraged miners. Exposed out in front of the crowd, with hands raised in appeal, Baddeley was suddenly struck down from behind by a police baton.



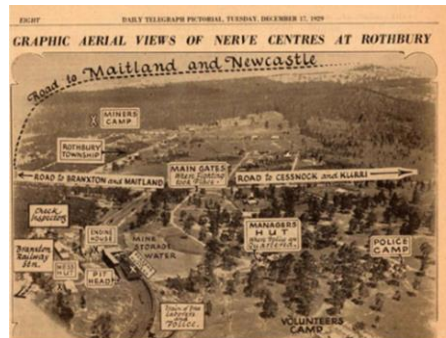
Jack Baddeley, Member for Cessnock in the NSW Parliament and later Deputy Premier. Source: Wikipedia.

Three shots were fired at the police who replied when an order to draw their revolvers

*Continued next page...*

unleashed a volley of shots over the heads of the rioters and into the ground was issued. However, three miners were injured with what appeared to be stray ricocheting bullets.

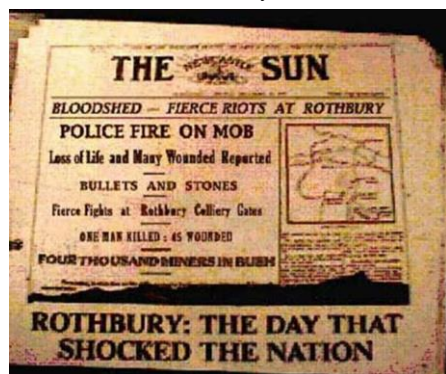
This only incensed the crowd further. The mob of thousands withdrew to be addressed by union officials and another local parliamentarian, George Booth Member for Kurri Kurri. Ungainly perched on the roof of a chook house, both the union officials and Booth, implored the men to avoid doing anything foolhardy.



The Daily Telegraph's picture of the scene at Rothbury. Source: Flickr News.

But there was no deflecting the mob mentality. A second and more serious clash took place about 9 a.m. As the rush commenced, the police opened fire again. The first to fall was Walter Wood, 23, of Kurri Kurri, who was shot through the throat. Then David Brown, of Cessnock, who was apparently walking away, fell seriously wounded with a bullet in his spine.

The charging men reached the fence, hurling sticks and stones, but didn't penetrate the Colliery grounds. It was then that Norman Brown, a 26-year old Greta miner, was shot in the stomach from a ricocheting bullet. The bullet passed right through Norman's body. The youngest miner, 15-year-old Joseph Cummings, risked his life dodging bullets as he ran for the doctor, in a futile attempt to save Brown who was rushed to Maitland Hospital but died later that fateful day.

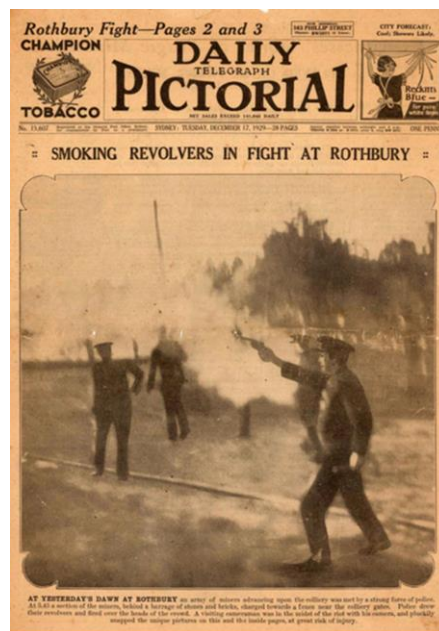


The startling news from Rothbury in the 'Newcastle Sun'. Source: HVRT.

The Sydney Daily Telegraph Pictorial described the event as: "...the most dramatic industrial clash that has ever shocked Australia."

Quite a number of the police needed medical attention and 45 miners were wounded. Several days later in the NSW Parliament, George Booth said:

*"For forty weeks my comrades on these coalfields have been on the verge of starvation. Yet, during that long and weary struggle, there had not been an act of violence: there had not been a single case brought before the police court until the Minister for Mines, Mr Weaver, was sent by the present government on that mad excursion."*



Thousands of people arrived from across the State to attend Norman Brown's funeral in his home town of Greta. Nearly 9,000 marched through the main street of the small mining community and 2,000 looked on.



George Booth, Labor Member for Kurri Kurri in the NSW Parliament. Source: NSW Parliament.



The massive line of mourners at Norman Brown's funeral. Source: ABC.

Later, the Coroner delivered a verdict of accidental death. But the memory of Norman Brown's demise in such violent industrial circumstance remained vivid in the Hunter and inspired not only the miners but other unionists to fight harder for wages and conditions in future decades in the Newcastle District. A memorial was opened a year to the day at the Rothbury site when it was declared that not a wheel of the mining industry turned on that day across Australia.

In the intervening period after the Riot there had been a public outcry that the owners had illegally locked out the men. This forced the new Federal Labor Government under Prime Minister, James Scullin, to launch a prosecution case against John Brown, owner of Richmond Main and Pelaw Main collieries, for instigating the lockout. The Government later withdrew its case, on the grounds that it was not in the public's interest to proceed any further.

To add fuel to the dispute, the majority of SMR's passenger carriages (40) were destroyed on 1 March 1930 when the carriage shed at East Greta Junction was burned down in suspicious circumstances.

Four days later, John Brown, the aggressive mining magnate and union protagonist reputed to be the richest man in Australia, died. However, it did become known that despite all his public bravado, Brown secretly supported striking employees' families with welfare where the breadwinner had proved their loyalty to him in the past. Following Rothbury, the NSW Government insanely proposed to put more 'scab workers' into the Richmond Main Colliery. There was such a public backlash that it was quickly dropped and the whole sorry affair contributed to the fall of the Bavin-Weaver State Government in 1930.

While NSWGR coal traffic through Newcastle had almost halved between 1928 and 1929 and halved again in 1930, the Government and the Coal Owners had won in the short term. For in June 1930, after 15 months of living in poverty and starvation in the longest lockout in Australian history, the miners capitulated and returned to work conceding the 12½% reduction in wages, but not the right to hire and fire. As the lockout had failed to break the resolve or organisation of the Miners Union, it would bide its time to strike back during WW2 and the Post-War period under radicalised Communist leaders.



SMR locomotive 20 running through Kurri Kurri to the South Maitland Railways exchange sidings with the NSW Government Railways. Source: Flickr.

Continued next page...

## Back on the wharves, industrial action impacts on Newcastle's railways again



Rothbury coal being loaded at No.7 hydraulic crane on the Newcastle Dyke. Source: *Coal and Community*.

The miners in the collieries continued on in trying physical and social working conditions to fight another day. Meanwhile, their colleagues in the dockside industry, the Wharf Labourers, were no better off. They were expected to carry extremely heavy loads on their backs, often for 24 hours straight. Their social conditions were just as bad as some of the miners in impoverished slum areas in places like the railway and coal loading hub at Carrington in Newcastle.

Up until WW2, wharfies were hired under the infamous 'bull' system which meant that the labourers were chosen for work by a foreman from a daily 'pick-up line' and could be rejected for any reason or personal whim. Given these conditions, the dockworkers' struggle was primarily for better working conditions and to form assigned gangs with regular rosters to share the work around equitably.

However, all this militancy with numerous battles to win better conditions, caused disruption to the rail system compounded by the wharf labourers and seamen's unions fighting long-running wider political battles for what they said was 'working class Australia'. Even more telling, the focus was driven by a socialist agenda, expanded into issues on an international scale which had no direct relevance to the NSW Railways but extensive impacts on it, especially in Newcastle's port area.

On top of this, like in the miner's unions and the railways union, there were constant internal battles

between the Australian Communist Party trying to seize more power and increase membership and the Australian Labor Party trying to maintain its union dominance and political base. The NSWGR was a battle ground as were the Newcastle mining communities.

### Mining bitterness ferments

Meanwhile, In the coalmining industry, each new generation carried with them legacies of bitterness and conflict not only from Newcastle but from the many immigrant miners fleeing from the tumultuous coalfield battles in the UK. There was a real 'underclass' developing in Newcastle and the NSWGR noticed the economic

impoverishment in the amount of first-class ticket sales. It reached the stage at Newcastle Station in 1938 where the ratio of First Class to Second Class ticket purchases on the Newcastle suburban network had declined to the point where it was 1:100. First class cars were removed forever.

However, there were improvements to the long-distance services North to Brisbane and South to Sydney. The premier train 'The Brisbane Limited' was launched with the opening of the standard gauge line between Kyogle in NSW and South Brisbane as early as 1930.

By 1934, powerful new C36-class steam locomotives were introduced on the 'Newcastle Express' and Inter-city trains to Sydney. However, NSWGR funds could not stretch to new carriages. But fourcar consist made up of rebuilt smooth riding American Pullman-Type carriages working to an accelerated timetable resonated with those members of the public that had money. By the end of the decade in 1939 an even smoother ride was produced from rebuilt 6-wheel bogie cars on the crack trains with buffet service.

Meanwhile, the coal traffic on the Main Northern Line did not recover to the levels of WW1 and the 1920s, although it was being hauled over longer distances to the Port of Newcastle from the South Maitland Coalfield. Nevertheless, the bold schemes promoted in the media to enhance Newcastle rail connections were either abandoned or postponed – a 1933 scheme for electrification waited over 50 years to be realised.

Somewhat prophetically, as early as 1930, the Newcastle City Council requested the Railway Commissioner to move the Newcastle Railway Station to a site opposite its newly opened Civic Centre. In 1939, a bold plan was announced to demolish the beautiful historic Customs House to allow Newcastle Station to be extended and the addition of two main lines and expansion of the marshalling yard. Neither came to fruition.

Still, the daily reality in the thirties in the Newcastle 'industrial battleground', saw the Hunter's mining companies struggling to compete with other coal mines around Australia and globally after the strong Newcastle export trade from way back at the beginning of the 19th century. The mine owners resisted improvements and were never ones to initiate enhancing mining safety or improving wages or conditions. Their attitude was that it was up to the workers organised in



Coal trains passing adjacent to the old Rothbury SMR Branch now storing heritage rolling stock. Source: *Hiveminer*.

unions to win them and get them embedded in Industrial Court decisions or Government legislation. Hardly a basis for collaboration. This lack of cooperation in the coal supply chain and the poor conditions for the mine workers were evident from a series of inquiries in the 1930s and 1940s. They revealed that many deaths and injuries could have been avoided if owners had fulfilled their obligations to supply safety equipment. It would not be drawing a long bow to say that in these decades, profits and production at any cost came before employee welfare and safety.

Through the thirties, the whole Hunter Region suffered with the ongoing industrial bitterness and daily grim economic survival for much of the population. In the Depression, workers on the NSWGR were forced to take a week off periodically or a couple of days per fortnight to share the shrinking hours around. Junior railway employees were sacked automatically when they reached age 21 so the Railways did not have to pay them adult wages.

Shanty settlements sprang up on public lands including along railway lines and at the sprawling junctions. Old railway carriages were adopted overnight as campsites. A whole village made up canvas, corn bags and flattened kerosene tins grew up in the middle of Newcastle. It was called Nobbys Camp, located between the Newcastle Railway Marshalling Yard and the breakwater to Nobbys Head.

Historians, MCKillop and Sheedy, describe how an English visitor in the midst of the Depression in 1932 described Newcastle:

*"A dingy town of bitter and out-of-work men. Its modern docks stretch for miles – deserted. The huge cranes – still...The hard, bitter faces of the street corner loungers stand out clear against the drab background. The harbour is dead, these men live and scoulder – Newcastle is dead. Lazarus without a Christ."*

### More next month...

\*\*\*

Contributed by Doug Walker...

### Innocence

(The clear linear logic of a child that cannot be beaten!)

**Boy aged 4:** 'Dad, I've decided to get married.'

**Dad:** 'Wonderful; do you have a girl in mind?'

**Boy:** 'Yes; grandma! She said she loves me. I love her too, and she's the best cook and storyteller in the whole world!'

**Dad:** 'That's nice, but we have a small problem there!'

**Boy:** 'What problem?'

**Dad:** 'She happens to be my mother. How can you marry my mother?'

**Boy:** 'Why not? You married mine!'

\*\*\*

overheard a teenage boy buying a Valentine's card that said 'we are the same kind of weird'. shop assistant said 'is this for your girlfriend?' and he said 'no, it's for my grandma'  
:)

\*\*\*

Contributed by Chris Browne...

### My Recent Lapidary



Agate, Agate Creek, QLD. 01



Agate, Agate Creek, QLD. 02



Agate, Agate Creek, QLD. 03



Agate, Agate Creek, QLD. 04



Agate, Agate Creek, QLD. 04



Arrow Head Cabachon 01



Arrow Head Cabachon 02



Arrow Head Cabachon 03



Arrow Head Cabachon 04



Petrified Fern, Wandoan, QLD.



Petrified Fern, Wandoan, QLD.



Fossilised Shells, Unknown location.



Opalised Wood, Springshure, QLD.



Petrified Wood, QLD.



Opalised Wood, Springshure, QLD.



My Recent Lapidary – Continued...



Opalised Wood, Springshure, QLD.



Opalised Wood, Springshure, QLD.



Petrified Wood, QLD.



Petrified Wood, QLD.



Opalised Wood, Springshure, QLD.



Petrified Wood, QLD.



Petrified Wood, QLD backlit.



Petrified Wood, QLD.



Petrified Wood, QLD backlit.



Petrified Wood, QLD.



Petrified Wood, QLD backlit.



Petrified Wood, Chinchilla, QLD.



Petrified Wood, Chinchilla, QLD.



Petrified Wood, Chinchilla, QLD.



Chrysoprase, Marlborough, QLD.

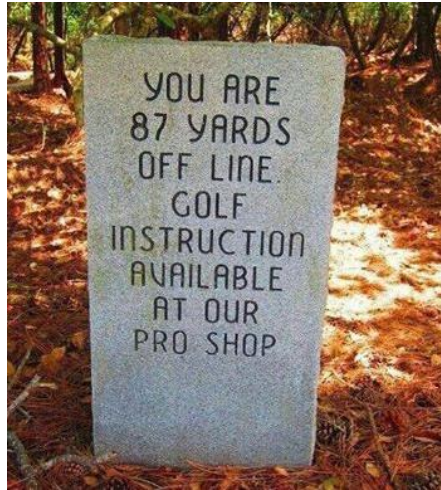
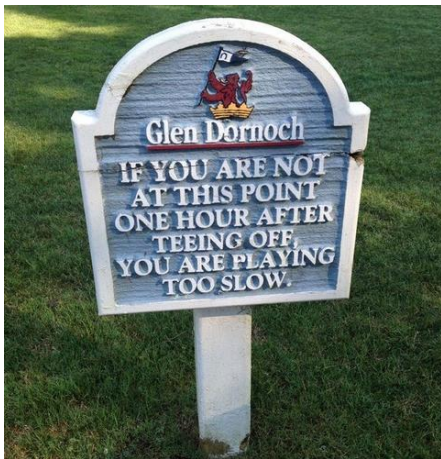
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Contributed by Augie...

**'Playing Golf or Golfing?'**



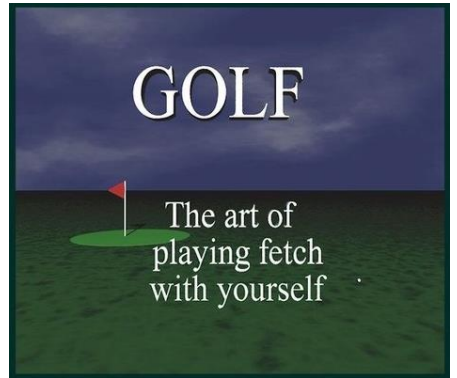
**THEY CALL IT GOLF BECAUSE ALL THE OTHER FOUR LETTER WORDS WERE TAKEN.**



**I shoot golf in the 70's. When it gets any colder than that, I quit.**

The schoolteacher was taking her first golf lesson.  
"Is the word spelled p-u-t or p-u-t-t?" She asked the instructor.  
"P-u-t-t is correct," he replied.  
"Put means to place a thing where you want it. Putt means merely a vain attempt to do the same thing."  
[www.thelittlestgolfer.com](http://www.thelittlestgolfer.com)

**"If I'm on the course and lightning starts, I get inside fast. If God wants to play through, let him."**  
**- Bob Hope**  
GolfTrainingAndPracticeGear.com



**"Last night you did the dishes. Today you're folding laundry. I don't care what you do, you are NOT buying another rock saw!"**

\*\*\*

WHAT DO TOY TRAINS AND BOOBS HAVE IN COMMON?



\*\*\*

Contributed by Alan Rudd...

**Coupla Giggles**



WHO'S THE FOOL NOW?



You may have seen a better picture of a dog avoiding a bath today, but I doubt it.



THIS IS WHY I HAVE TRUST ISSUES



\*\*\*

Contributed by Doug Walker...

To all those people buying up all the toilet paper because of the virus take note. This week the butchers have brains on special ..

\*\*\*

Contributed by Mel Jones...

**Fake News!**



\*\*\*

To those who are complaining about the quarantine period and curfews, just remember that your grandparents were called to war; you are being called to sit on the couch and watch Netflix. You can do this.

\*\*\*

**I USED TO SPIN THAT  
TOILET PAPER ROLL  
LIKE I WAS ON THE  
WHEEL OF FORTUNE....  
NOW I TURN IT LIKE I'M  
CRACKING A SAFE!!!**

**THEY SAID A MASK  
AND GLOVES WERE  
ENOUGH TO GO TO  
THE GROCERY STORE  
  
THEY LIED,  
EVERYBODY ELSE  
HAD CLOTHES ON**

\*\*\*


Contributed by Doug Walker...

**Actually staying home  
is not so bad, but it  
seems very strange to  
me one bag of rice has  
8956 grains and  
another has 8743**

\*\*\*

**The Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc. 2020 Gem and Mineral Show. October Long weekend.**

To be held at the Memorial Oval in Broken Hill from Thu 1<sup>st</sup> October to Mon 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020.



The Broken Hill Mineral Club. Inc.  
PO Box 747 Broken Hill, NSW, 2880

The Broken Hill Mineral Club invites you or any members of your club or general public to visit our wonderful city of Broken Hill and participate in the 2020 show by selling or buying minerals, gems, jewellery, lapidary equipment as well as arts and crafts. Please indicate below what you intend to trade in and your requirements if any.

I will be trading in: .....

There will be tea/coffee and food available to purchase on site

**Accommodation:** There are three caravan parks and numerous Hotels, Motels as well as private accommodation throughout the city.

**Dining:** There are numerous Hotels, Motels and restaurants throughout the city to dine in as well as multiple take away shops.

**Fuel:** There are a number of service stations scattered around the city to purchase fuel.

**Things to see/do:** Visit the information centre on the corner of Blende and Bromide streets to inquire about what to see and do in and around the City.

**Emergency numbers:**

Police: 000  
Fire: 000  
Ambulance: 000

\*\*\*

**Mineral boxes and flats for sale**

Mineral box sizes

Sold in bundles of 10 (or 100)

3.5 x 3.3cm.....	(\$1.50)	\$12.00
4 x 4cm.....	(\$1.50)	\$13.00
5 x 5.2cm.....	(\$2.00)	\$15.00
6.2 x 7.5cm.....	(\$2.50)	\$18.00
7 x 7cm.....	(\$2.50)	\$19.00
7 x 9.5cm.....	(\$2.50)	\$20.00
8.5 x 9.5cm.....	(\$3.00)	\$22.00
9.5 x 9.5cm.....	(\$3.50)	\$23.00
13 x 9.5cm.....	(\$4.00)	\$25.00
13 x 12.5cm.....	(\$4.50)	\$30-00

Flats sizes

395 x 265 x 50mm....	\$2.50
400 x 270 x 75mm....	\$3.50 <b>NEW SIZE</b>
398 x 290 x 98mm....	\$4.00

**Greg Vort-Ronald**  
0413796279 or [luv2paint@iprimus.com.au](mailto:luv2paint@iprimus.com.au)  
all boxes and flats are folded together, no staples required  
(Prices subject to change)

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Useful Internet Links

- 2020 Australian Gem & Mineral Calendar: [Click here...](#)
- Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club: [Click here...](#)
- AFLACA-GMCASA: [Click here...](#)
- Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association (AFLACA): [Click here...](#)
- Australian Lapidary Club Directory: [Click here...](#)
- Australian Lapidary Forum: [Click here...](#)
- Enfield Gem and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)
- Flinders Gem, Geology, and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)
- Gem and Mineral Clubs Association of South Australia: [Click here...](#)
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- Metal Detectors - Miners Den Adelaide: [Click here...](#)
- Mineralogical Society of SA Inc: [Click here...](#)
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