



Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club Inc. (TTGGMC)

Clubrooms: Old Tea Tree Gully School, Dowding Terrace, Tea Tree Gully, SA 5091.

Postal Address: Po Box 40, St Agnes, SA 5097.

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Secretary: Claudia Gill. M: 0419 841 473 Email: cjjrgill@adam.com.au

Treasurer: Russell Fischer. Email: rfischer@bigpond.net.au

**Dec.
Edition
2015**

"Rockzette"

Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club News


In this edition...	President's Report	Meetings, Courses & Fees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diary Dates • Stop Press • President's Report. • Club Activities. • Meetings, Courses & Fees. • Australian Mineral Matters • Members Out and About. • General Interest. • Members Notice Board. • Useful Internet Links. 	<p>Hi All, I will not be at both the December meeting and the club X-mas bar-barbecue lunch as I will be in Melbourne. Therefore, I will take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Cheers, Ian.</p>	<p>Meetings Club meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month except January: Committee meetings start at 7.00 pm. General meetings - arrive at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm start.</p> <p>Faceting (times to be advised) <i>Course 10 weeks x 2 hours Cost \$20.00.</i> <i>Use of equipment \$1.00 per hour.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Diary Dates</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Club Activities</p>	<p>Lapidary (Tuesday mornings) <i>Course 5 weeks x 2 hours Cost \$10.00.</i> <i>Use of equipment \$1.00 per hour.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th January, 2016 (Australia Day Long Weekend) Saturday: 9.00am - 4.00pm and Sunday: 9.00am - 3.00pm. Riverland Gem and Mineral Club - Show and Sales, Berri Town hall, Berri, SA. • Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th March 2016. Victorian Gemkhana, hosted by the Geelong Gem & Mineral Club. Centenary Hall, Cox Rd, Norlane, Melway, Vic. Ref. 432 A10 • Friday 29th & Saturday 30th April, & Sunday 1st May, 2016. Murraylands Gem and Mineral Club inc., Rockarama 'Crystal and Craft Fair' including the South Australian Metal Detecting Championships. <p>NOTE: <i>There is no club meeting in January, 2016.</i></p>	<p>Competitions Competitions have been suspended indefinitely and are currently replaced with members showcasing an interesting part of their collection.</p> <p>Field Trips No fieldtrips planned during Summer months.</p> <p>Library Librarian - Augie Gray There is a 2 month limit on borrowed items. When borrowing from the lending library, fill out the card at the back of the item, then place the card in the box on the shelf. When returning items, fill in the return date on the card, then place the card at the back of the item.</p> <p>Silver Craft Friday mornings - 9 am to 12 noon. Cost \$20 for new short course attendees. All are welcome.</p>	<p>Silver Craft (Friday mornings) <i>Course 5 weeks x 2 hours Cost \$20.00.</i> <i>Use of equipment \$1.00 per hour.</i></p> <p>While some consumable materials are supplied by the club, trainees must supply any additional requirements.</p> <p>Trainees who use the club equipment (for example, magnifying head pieces, faceting equipment, tools, etc.) must return them to the workshop after usage. Trainees are also encouraged to purchase and use their own equipment.</p> <p>In the interest of providing a safe working environment, it is necessary to ensure individuals using the workshops follow the rules set out in <i>Policy No. 1 - 20/11/2006</i>.</p> <p>It is necessary that <i>Health and Safety</i> regulations <u>are</u> adhered to at all times.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Article for Next February, 2016.</p>	<p>Tuesday Craft Tuesday mornings - 11 am to 2.30 pm Faceting, etc. All are welcome. Contact Doug (08 7120 2221) if you would like to learn faceting.</p> <p>Wanted - The faceting group occasionally has members wishing to buy a 2nd hand faceting machine & accessories. Could anyone with one not being used please contact: Doug Walker 0871202221 or Russell Fischer 0417083227</p>	<p>Trainees must ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that all work stations are left in a clean and tidy state; that all rubbish is removed and placed in the appropriate bin; and where applicable, machines are cleaned and oiled. <p>The Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club Inc. will not be held responsible or liable for any person injured while using the club machinery or equipment.</p>
 <p>Mineral Matters – Inclusions by Kym Loechel.</p>	<p>Club Subscriptions \$25.00 Family. \$20.00 Family/Pensioner. \$15.00 Single. \$12.50 Single/Pensioner. \$10.00 Joining Fee.</p>	<p>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 activities, including, but not limited to, meetings, field trips, all crafts and annual shows. An indemnity is to be signed by all participants before each and every field trip activity they attend.</p>

Photo gallery of specimens from various mines within Broken Hill...



Anglesite on Cerussite - Blackwood Open Cut Mine - Broken Hill – NSW.



Anglesite on Cerussite - Blackwood Open Cut Mine - Broken Hill – NSW.



Cerussite - Blackwood Open Cut Mine - Broken Hill – NSW.



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Cerussite - Blackwood Open Cut Mine - Broken Hill – NSW.



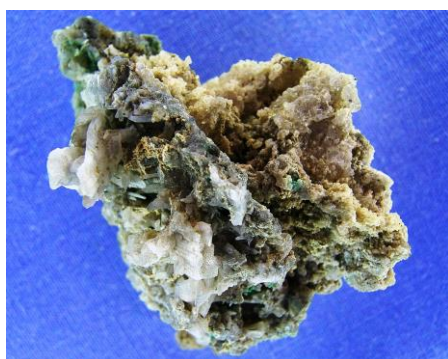
Cerussite - Blackwood Open Cut Mine - Broken Hill – NSW.



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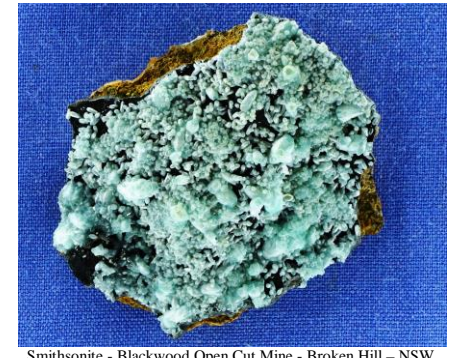
Cerussite - Blackwood Open Cut Mine - Broken Hill – NSW.



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Cerussite - Blackwood Open Cut Mine - Broken Hill – NSW.



Smithsonite - Blackwood Open Cut Mine - Broken Hill – NSW.



Smithsonite - Blackwood Open Cut Mine - Broken Hill – NSW.



Apophyllite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill – NSW.



Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill – NSW.



Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill – NSW.



Barite on Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill – NSW.



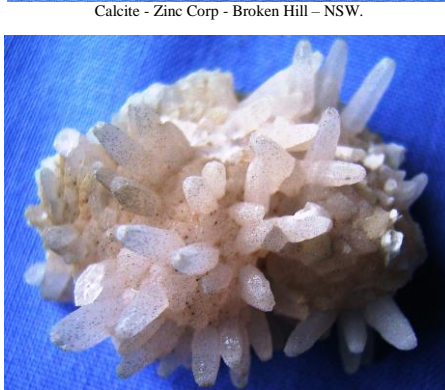
Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill – NSW.



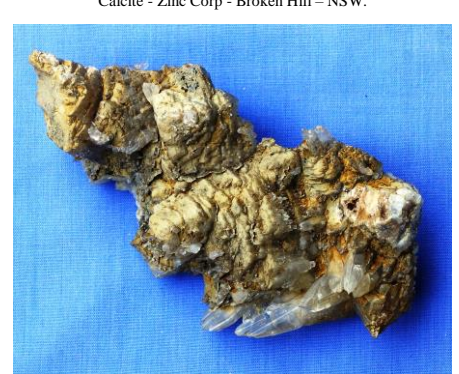
Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill – NSW.



Barite on Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill – NSW.



Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill – NSW.



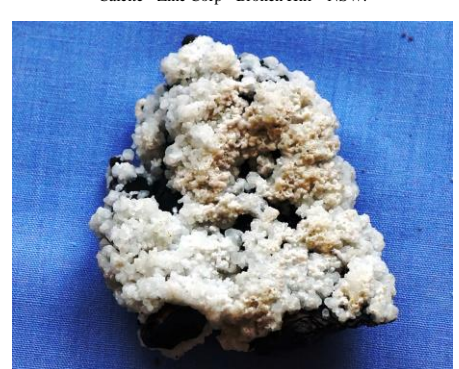
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Barite on Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill – NSW.



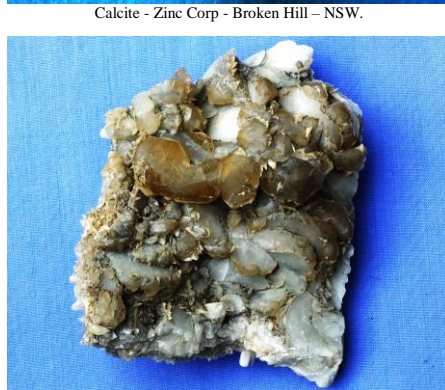
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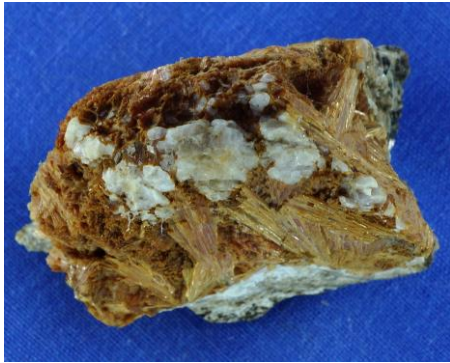
Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



Pyrite on Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



Rhodocrosite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



Inesite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



Pyrite on Rhodocrosite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



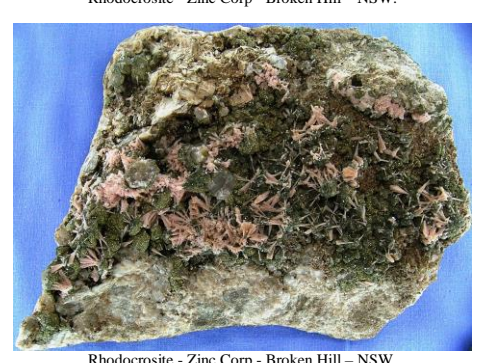
Rhodocrosite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



Inesite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



Quartz on Rhodocrosite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



Rhodocrosite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



Pyrite on Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



Rhodocrosite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



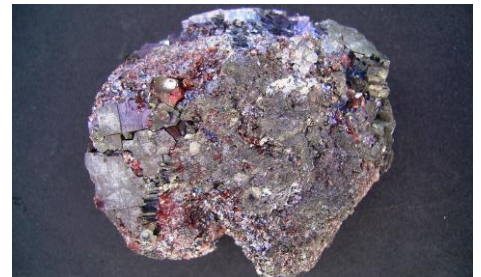
Calcite and Pyrite - South Mine - Broken Hill - NSW.



Pyrite on Calcite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



Rhodocrosite - Zinc Corp - Broken Hill - NSW.



Galena and Spessartine - Broken Hill - NSW.

Thanks to Ian Everard for providing specimens to be photographed.

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Contributed by Doug Hughes...

Our Australian Facetors Guild Trip

Winter in South Australia is usually a good time to pack the van and head north. MGMC/Southern Rockhounds members Doug and Leonie Hughes were able to pack their van and hit the road at the end of July. The first stop was a few days at the MGMC clubrooms for a weekend workshop with the Riverland Club (See article on Page 10 and 11, MGMC Newsletter 2015 Spring Edition).

After the workshop weekend we headed to the Central Gemfields in Qld where we were able to visit the Anakie Gemfest, the Sapphire weekend market and have a fossick for sapphire at Graves Hill.

Gemfest was enjoyable although a bit disappointing this year as there were more commercial traders with jewellery, hats, and clothes from places like Bali & India and a lot less traders with local Gems and rough for sale.



Outside entertainment at Gemfest



Gemcuts from Ballina NSW

A visit to the Sapphire weekend market was more rewarding than the Gemfest as there were lots of parcels of local sapphire and zircon, plenty of rough material, Jewellery and trash and treasure able to be purchased for a reasonable price. The market is held on the Sapphire sports ground which is also the home of the local Lapidary club.

I visited the lapidary club when their workshops were being held. There were several members cutting cabs, a couple of facetors at work on the clubs faceting machines and a lot of people learning skin polishing. If you're in the area the lapidary club is worth a visit to have a chat with the locals.



We were camping on the gem-field at Graves Hill just before Sapphire where we caught up with Southern Rockhounds, Raelene & Geoff Lewis. Here I spent a couple of hours opening up a small hole that the wash was very close to the surface. The hole showed a lot of promise with colour found, although no big sapphires! I will try the location again on the next trip.

After a short while on the gemfields it was time to head towards the coast before turning south to head to Glenn Innes where we were attending a faceting course and the Australian Facetors Guilds annual seminar. We were able to catch up with friends on our way to Glen Innes.

First stop was Monto where we visited an old gold mine the Golden Shamrock and the Moonford Public hall caught our attention with a knight standing guard.



Golden Shamrock mine



10 head stamper battery



Moonford Public Hall

On our way to the coast we stopped at a market where by chance we met member Rex (Roo) Hall's parents who had a slab and clock stall. A week was spent with friends at Toogum where we were able to relax by the sea and visit nearby Maryborough. A counter meal at the historic Post Office Hotel and tour of the pub and accommodation was very enjoyable. No ghosts were seen but the spirits could be felt and also consumed in the public bar!! No fossicking for me I had to enjoy the sight-seeing.



We headed south again to spend some time at Kilcoy with Leonie's sister and children. We took the opportunity without the van to visit friends in Brisbane. I also visited the North Brisbane Lapidary Club rooms.

The North Brisbane Club is one of the largest in Queensland with almost 300 members. Their Clubrooms are well equipped but not as well set up as the cutting room at Murraylands. Thanks to Rex Shillabeer for the design of our machinery and set up.

Heading towards Glen Innes we stopped for a fantastic morning tea at the Wallangarra Railway Station. This is where the standard gauge and narrow gauge lines met – The museum at the station is also worth spending some time in. The following photos were taken with Mel Jones in mind, our newsletter editor, and enthusiastic train buff.

See train station photos next page...



Morning Tea stop at Wallangarra Railway Station.



Glen Innes Showgrounds.



Lyn Rowe looking for Topaz.



We stayed for a few weeks at the Glen Innes showgrounds. To attend the annual seminar for the Australian Facetors Guild. While at Glen Innes Doug helped with the Level 1 Certificate in Faceting and Leonie was able to learn how to make a knitted Viking bracelet. One of the features of the Seminar is a series of lectures which were presented on subjects relevant to faceting.

After the seminar a week of fossicking in and around Glen Innes was enjoyed. We visited fossicking sites such as Torrington, Sara River, Stannifer and Wellingrove looking for sapphire, zircon, gold, citrine, smoky quartz, colourless quartz, emerald and topaz. There were specimens found of everything that we looked for, some bigger and better than others.

When we left Glen Innes a group from all over the country went to a base camp at Copeton Dam and they went fossicking daily looking for diamonds at Staggy Creek, Inverell looking for sapphire and back to Stannifer for citrine and smoky quartz. It was at Stannifer where we met future MGMC club members Garry and Jean from Murray Bridge looking for jelly bean crystals.

After a week of fossicking, we all headed home to the various states we came from. Doug and Leonie left with Chris and Lyn Rowe and headed south towards Adelaide visiting Warrialdra for agate, petrified wood and topaz, Burren Junction to relax in the artesian spa, Lightning Ridge and Grawin looking for opal before arriving back in Adelaide in October.

I am looking forward to our trips next year initially to Tasmania then later in the year to the Facetors Guild seminar at Mudgee, NSW.

Trip picture gallery continued...



The ladies making Viking bracelets.



Fossicking for Emerald at Torrington.



Faceting Workshop.



Searching for Gold at Sara River.



AFG Education Officer, John Broadfoot, presented Doug Hughes with Facet Instructors Certificate.



Sorting the stones looking for diamonds at Staggy Creek.



Looking for Topaz at Torrington NSW.





Found one - a 2.5 point diamond.



Leonie Hughes, Chris & Lyn Rowe looking for Citrine.



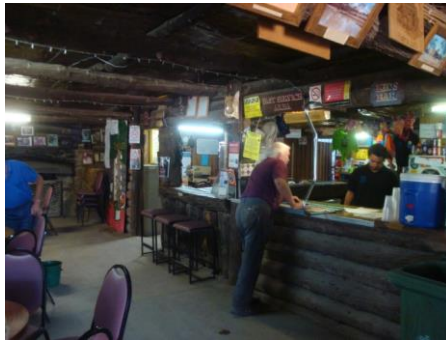
Chris digging for citrine near Stannifer.



Doug faceting at Burren Junction.



Lightning Ridge.



The Pub at Grawin.



Chris chasing Black Opal at the Grawin opal Dump.

Regards, Doug and Leonie Hughes.

Thanks Doug and Leonie for the story and photos. I'm sure this article will revive memories for TTGGMC members who have travelled and engaged in activities in some if not all of the areas that you have covered. And, for others it might stimulate them to travel there and give it a go too.
Regards, Mel.

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Melbourne Cup Lunch Tuesday 3rd November, 2015.



Tuesday craft group finishing up ready to prepare for the Melbourne Cup Lunch. The couple on the right are overseas visitors checking the Cup form.



Members start lunch and sit down to relax and watch the lead up to the race of the year.



First course of dishes and sweets are on the way.



Too much choice...blow the diet, I'll try them all.



Lunch is over and two sweeps have been filled.



And the winner is totally unexpected?

2015 Melbourne Cup Winner 'Prince of Penzance'

Jockey: [Michelle Payne](#) Trainer: [Darren Weir](#)

The Darren Weir trained Prince of Penzance caused a sensational Melbourne Cup boil over, winning at the astonishing odds of 101/1 and giving Michelle Payne and Darren Weir their first ever taste of Melbourne Cup glory!

The consistent galloper went into the race as one of the least-fancied runners in the field, but he defied the odds to deliver one of the biggest upsets we've seen in Australia's most famous horse race!

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Massive diamond found

A SMALL Canadian diamond company has found what it says is the world's second-biggest gem quality diamond ever recovered, right, and the largest in more than a century, at its



diamond-producing areas.

The Type IIa diamond measures 65mm by 56mm by 40mm.

The biggest gem-quality diamond ever found is the Cullinan diamond, a 3106-carat stone

found in the Premier mine in South Africa in 1905. It was cut into several polished gems, the two largest of which are part of Britain's crown jewels.

Lucara Diamond Corp yesterday said the 1,111 carat stone was found at its Karowe mine in north-central Botswana, one of the world's most prolific

Contributed by Don Lynn...

Easter 1984.

Written by Nancy Lynn 1984

To Pondalowie Bay
for Easter we did come
to have a pleasant holiday
And enjoy a little fun.

There was Malcolm and Doreen
Casey and Em
Don Nancy John
and Donny M.

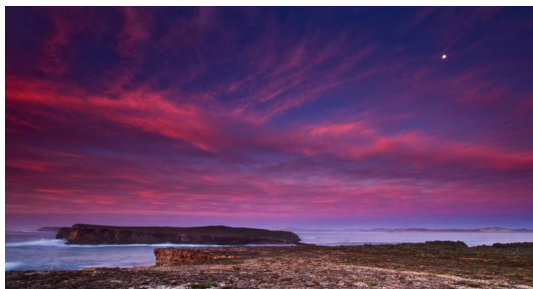
Tom and Teeny
and puppies three
Altogether we make
a happy family.

Right into our camping ground,
The Kangaroos they did bound,
When Casey went to say hello,
They all jumped off without a sound.

We climbed the mighty sand hills,
We puffed our way to the top.
When we slid right down the other side,
We found we couldn't stop.

The Easter Bunny called one day,
To Casey and Emmy he did say,
"Follow my trail and you will see,
A nest of eggs under the old green tree.

The Easter Bunny had some fun,
When those big roo pills he chanced upon.
Addressed to Tom, "this bag of pills,
Is sure to cure you of your ills."



The mighty seas keep rolling into Pondalowie Bay,
Where the boats they ride at anchor and rest there for the day,
The waves roar in and hit the cliffs and make a wonderful sight,
As we sit here and gaze in awe and wonder at their plight.

We viewed the wreck of the Ethel,
From the cliffs to her grave way below,
For eighty long years she has rotted away,
Now the torturous waves have broken her bow.



We viewed Cape Spencer Light House set high upon the hill,
Warning the weary sailors that the sea is never still.
The treacherous waves they splashed and crashed and made a mighty roar,
As we sat and gazed in wonder at the beauty that we saw.

A naughty wind came out of the sea and said "O! toot make room for me'
It tugged at its ropes and let it down then merrily went on its way.
So by moonlight we had to stand it again,
We couldn't wait 'till the following day.



At the lovely Browns Beach shell treasures we seek,
Of cowries both ribbed ones and plain.
We had so much fun when the seas they rolled in,
And then they rolled right back again.

To Hillocks drive one day we went,
it really was a day well spent,
The rolling waves went on and on,
Then soaked the cliffs they splashed upon.

Don took a barbecue down to the Bay,
To wash the barby dregs away,
Don came back with a tale of woe,
It's washed out to the sea and its lost far below.

We shifted our camp to Corny Point, one day,
Found a nice spot without any delay.
We searched here for cowries and found quite a few.
Then, the men they went fishing, sorry folk, tonight we have stew.

Now our holidays are nearly over,
I'm sure you'll all agree
The best type of holiday we all enjoy,
Is a camp site beside the sea.

Nancy Lynn.

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Contributed by Don Lynn...

Queensland 1984.

Written by Nancy Lynn 1984

We left Cobdogla in September '84
The wonders of Queensland we were out to explore.
Our tour leader Jack drove the Mazda so neat
While Don took his place in the Land Cruiser seat.

The crew was made up of old friends and new
In a few simple words I'll name them for you.
There was John and Lorna, Eileen and Don
Wally and Eileen, Teeny and Tom,

Russel and Rita, Marjorie and June.
They were all so happy, they were singing a tune
George and Lois, Doreen and Bert,
Herb and Erna and I,
Jack and Don, Rona and Ray,
All started off on a bright sunny day.

Continued next page...

Pulling out of camp one day,
Don called to Jack and he did say,
"Stop the bus and let me off quick;
I've left Eileen's' knickers hanging on a stick!"

We crossed the many bridges,
Across the Murray wide.
We gazed in awe at those muddy depths,
As we wandered from side to side.

We woke up one morning in the very early hours,
To hear raindrops falling in quite heavy showers.
The buses got stuck and oh, what a sight,
To see our poor fellows push them out of their plight.

The mud was a flying as the wheels went around,
As deeper they went in that soft, boggy ground.
They pushed and they pulled and then came the shout,
"We are on solid ground, at last, we are out".



At Lightning Ridge, an opal find,
Would really have made our day.
But all we could find was opal patch,
In that dirty whitish clay.

We travelled through the country where lovely gum trees grow,
And native pines in hundreds all standing in a row.
We saw sheep and cattle grazing, and crops there by the score,
In that lovely outback country, one couldn't ask for more.

We crossed the Queensland border,
At Hebel, quite a town.
Then camped at St. George on the mighty Balonne,
A river of renown.

We travelled on to Roma, it was a nice big town,
It's famous for the place where oil and gas are found.
Where sheep and big beef cattle happily graze around,
Where vineyards and wineries with juicy grapes abound.



We arrived at Carnarvon National Park,
As evening was just setting in.
We were greeted by the Currawongs very shrill call,
And the possums with their soft furry skin.

We crossed many streams, thirteen in all,
On those big stepping stones, not one of us did fall.
Saw many tree ferns stretching up high,
Their leafy branches way up to the sky.

We saw the lovely garden of moss and the Devil's Hole so deep,
Then in the mighty Amphitheatre some of us did climb and peep.
We saw the many staghorns and wild ferns growing there
The cool waterfalls and valleys, what beauty we found to share.

Coming into Moura, the cattle yards were full,
Of prime beef country cattle, just standing calm and cool.
Then Banana, named, after a bullock of renown,
And Biloela, where cotton fields near here are found.

We came into Mt. Morgan with it's old, old town,
Famous for its huge mine dug into the ground
It holds such precious minerals as copper, silver, gold
Which they send to other countries, at least that's what we're told.

We stopped at Emu Park, just for a look,
At the windsail erected for our Captain Cook.
Then boarded a boat to sail for the day,
Round Keppel Island and its coral studded bay.

300 odd k's we travelled, on our northward run,
Through Marlborough, Mackay, to Airlie Beach where we soon found the sun.
We saw sugar cane, pineapples, bananas and coconuts by the score,
In this beautiful sunburnt country, my eyes still yearn for more.

We went out to dine on good food and wine,
To celebrate our Teeny's birthday just fine.
Next day to Earlando for lunch and a swim,
Then Shute Harbour to see all the boats coming in.

Bert and Tom went fishing, one dark and starry night,
To see those lines get tangled it was a funny sight.
Now Tom, he caught a fiddler shark and Bert, a nice cod fish
The fiddler shark got thrown back, while the cod ended up in a dish.



We spent a full day cruising the lovely Whitsunday Bay,
Saw Daydream and South Molle Islands and Hook Island on the way,
The young folk went boom sailing in that bubbling bright blue sea,
Then we gathered shells and coral from a bay with an old palm tree,

We headed out of Bowen, after an overnight stop,
Called at Home Hill to see the very famous old rock shop.
Next on to Ayr to feast our eyes on the butterfly display,
Then camped the night in Townsville after an interesting day.

A trip to Magnetic Island was how we spent this day,
We toured the island over on a bus there, all the way.
Had our lunch at the Arcadia and a swim in the mighty sea,
Then a boat trip back to Australia on a sea as calm as can be.

Continued next page...

Called in at Cardwell and Mission Beach as we went on our merry way,
Saw bananas growing in there rows, and rain forests on this day,
Arrived at Cairns near the Barrier Reef as night began to fall,
Then made our camp in the White Rocks Park where we heard the gay kookaburras call.



We wondered in awe at the pioneers who built the Kuranda train line,
The bridges, the viaducts and tunnels, built many years back in time.
The train puffed its way up the mountains and down to the valleys below,
Then into the station where staghorns and ferns were growing in pots in a row.

We set off today for Port Douglas, passing sandy beaches along the way,
Saw Ben Crofts' mighty museum and for a while there we did stay.
Coming home we saw the sugar cane being burnt off with a roar,
The leaping red flames and the billowing smoke, a whoosh and there was no more.

The coral studded Barrier Reef was our next port of call,
First Green Island, then Hastings Reef was where we saw it all.
Through the glass bottomed boat we could clearly see,
Corals, clams, colourful fish and all the wonders under the sea.

A beautiful dinner was had by all as we anchored in the bay,
We ate ham and chicken, salads and prawns as we lazed away the day
Then into the submarine, the blue depths to explore,
To gaze and reflect in wonder at the beauty that we saw.

An anniversary was celebrated of Herb and Erna's wedding day,
Then while we all were merry, our Ray had his say.
He congratulated our drivers on a job well done,
Then before the night was over, cards were played just for fun.

We headed for the Table Lands on our homeward run
Saw the curtain fig tree, hidden from the sun.
The rain forest gave away to fertile plains where contented cattle graze,
And vegetables are grown by the score - tomatoes, potatoes and yellow maize.



The water was gently flowing over the Millstream Falls
As the blue winged kookoo to his mate he calls.

We found a lovely camp site by a flowing stream,
and soon our clothes and bodies all were sparkling clean.

We called to see Bill Brotherton, a gentleman of renown,
We saw his rocks and minerals and he told of where they are found.
We then moved further inland and this is what we saw,
Ant hills growing like sentinels among the gum trees tall.

We came at last to Croydon, a town so very old,
Where 11,000 people lived there, at least that's what I'm told.
They came to search for treasure in this rugged outback land,
And found that precious sparkling gold, under the red hot sand.

We travelled that outback country from the east right to the west,
It gave our 2 good drivers a really rugged test.
The temperature got hotter as we wandered on our way,
We were glad to make our camp at the end of that long hard day.



We came at last to Normanton, with its train so old,
It used to go to Croydon to collect that precious gold.
We didn't stay for very long, as like many towns we've seen,
It was just another ghost town, with nothing left but a dream.

At last we reached Kurumba, home of the prawn fishing fleet,
We drove right down to the fishing wharf off of the one main street.
We made our lovely camp spot down by the wide blue sea,
But the tide went out for miles and miles, and didn't come back till after tea.



We saw the stately brolga, and the big red kangaroo,
The tiny little wallabies and the red tailed cockatoo.
The hermit crabs a crawling with their shell house on their back,
These were the wonders of nature we saw along the beaten track.

At the Burke and Wills Roadhouse we stopped there in the cool,
We tried there beer, cool drinks and ices till our tummies were all full.
The day was very hot outside but in that nice cool den,
We met the many station hands from this land where men are men.

We travelled through cattle country from Cloncurry to Winton and on,
Over those grassy plains for miles and miles, very few homes were chanced upon.
But folk would not be lonely in this never-never-land,
they can ring each other daily on the flying doctor band.

Continued next page...

Through Longreach, Barcardine and Blackall we go,
Right down to Charleville for a camp site you know.
At the Yogi Bear park civilisation is near,
When we hear roosters a crowing in the farmyards near here.



We then went out to Yowah, to find opals is a must,
We walked and searched for hours in that dirty reddish dust.
"I've found my precious opal" at last the word is said,
"Just look at all these colours, green, orange, blue, and red."

At Yowah, hot water flows, past every ones front door,
For the water here comes from an artesian bore.
It's a precious commodity in this arid land,
But it grows flowers and vegies when it soaks the red sand.

We gathered that night round the camp fire with new friends Marnie and John

We sang and laughed and told many yarns as the night wore on and on.
Next morning up early and folded our tents and soon we were on our way,
Then back through Eulo to Hungerford with 24 ramps to the border they say.



At Hungerford we opened a gate and crossed right over the border,
I do wish these country councils kept there roads in better order.
We've driven so many miles today over bull dust, corrugations, and sand,

Now it gives way to pot holes and mud, from the rain that they've had in this outback land.

Now 3 silly blokes chased 5 silly goats into the bush one day,
One silly goat broke away from his mates and the 3 silly blokes said hooray.

They huffed and they puffed and they caught that poor goat and then we went on our way,
Guess what's for tea tonight my dear friends, aren't you glad you're not invited to stay.

We called in at White Cliffs as we homeward go,
We wanted to see the opals that they had on show.
To Joe's bottle shop was where we were sent,
But we didn't buy those opals 'cos our money was all spent.

At last we've hit the bitumen, Broken Hill we're on our way,
But time will not allow for us to have a stay.
We now have found a camp site out in the country wide,
And soon our two man tents will be standing side by side.

On our last night's camp we had a fancy dress tea,
With much frivolity for you and for me.
From Cleopatra and the gypsy to the potato sack so tall,
The bathing beauties and witches, yes we laughed at them all.

Now guess who had a fall one day and ended in the sea?
Guess who fell into a ramp and hurt below the knee?
Guess who had a tummy ache and went to the toot all day?
And who were the goats who chased the goats out in the scrub one day?

Well, Queensland we have loved you from your islands and sparkling bays,
To the lonely stretches of the outback on those very hot scorching days.
Now our homes are getting closer and here's a simple fact,
We can really truly say now "been there, done that"!

Nancy Lymn.

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The Virgin Rainbow - [The Virgin Rainbow](#)

(On display at an opal exhibition at the South Australian Museum).
Extract taken from <http://southaustralia.traveller.com.au/article...>



A tribute to the miners

In addition to the amazing sights, visitors will be able to take in the smells of an authentic Coober Pedy opal mine and an immersive display that explores the science of opals. "We gathered earth from Coober Pedy and put it in a mine that we recreated from a mould of an actual working mine as part of the exhibition," said Oldman. "So you even get the smell of what it was like to be a miner – we have created an immersive experience. "It's a tribute to the ingenuity and dedication of the miners who gave their labour and even their lives so that we can admire these amazing gems."

Oldman said the exhibition has quite literally been 100 million years in the making. "That is how long it took opals to form, from when dinosaurs walked the Earth and central Australia was an inland sea."

The museum has also gathered some of the most unique and fascinating opals from around the world to complement its own collection and showcase the beauty and diversity of Australia's national gemstone. "From jewellery to fossils, to specimens embedded in rock, visitors will be treated to a spectacle of unmatched colour and beauty," said Oldman. "A range of activities will be on offer throughout the exhibition to allow visitors to delve into the geology and history of opals and discover the science behind their signature play of colours. "It will have a rich South Australian flavour, which is unsurprising given that 90 per cent of the world's opals come from this state," he said.

Finest gems gathered from around the globe

Oldman said the international collection is a testament to the strength of the museum's global networks. "It will feature a collection of a quality never before seen in one place – this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." "It is quite simply the finest collection of opals ever assembled in one place and it's unlikely that this collection of opals will ever be seen again. "It tells the whole story of opals, from how they formed, the tenacity of the miners all the way through to the creation of opal jewellery."

The first opal was discovered in 1914, when a boy named Willie Hutchison went on a gold mining expedition with his father.

"The story goes that Willie set out in search for water one day, rather than staying at camp as he'd been instructed to do by his father."

"He came back to camp with water, but also with precious opal gemstones." Over time this led to the creation of opal mining communities in places like Coober Pedy, Andamooka, and Mintabie, which have remained opal mining hubs to this day. "It is ironic that in the most harsh of terrains the most beautiful of naturally occurring gems are now found."

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Contributed by Doug Walker...

Murphy the Painter

A painter by the name of Murphy, while not a brilliant scholar, was a gifted portrait artist. Over a number of years, his fame grew and soon people from all over Ireland were coming to the town of Doolin in County Clare, to get him to paint their likenesses. One day, a beautiful young English woman arrived at his house in a stretch limo and asked if he would paint her in the nude.

This being the first time anyone had made such a request he was a bit perturbed, particularly when the woman told him that money was no object. In fact, she was willing to pay up to £10,000. Not wanting to get into any marital strife, he asked her to wait while he went into the house to confer with Mary, his wife.

In a few minutes he returned. "T'would be me pleasure to paint yer portrait, missus," he said. He continued, "The wife says it's okay for me to paint you in the nude but she thinks that I should leave me socks on, so I have a place to wipe me brushes."

God Bless the Irish!

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Contributed by June Mabbitt...

Easy Chicken Recipe

Here is a chicken recipe that also includes the use of popcorn as a stuffing -- imagine that. When I found this recipe, I thought it was perfect for people like me, who are not sure how to tell when poultry is thoroughly cooked, but not dried out. Give this a try.

- 1 chicken
- 1 cup melted butter
- 1 cup stuffing
- 1 cup uncooked popcorn
- Salt/pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Brush chicken well with melted butter salt and pepper.

Fill cavity with stuffing mixed with popcorn.

Place in baking pan with the neck end toward the back of the oven.

Listen for the popping sounds. When the chicken's arse blows the oven door open and the chicken flies across the room and lands on the table, it's done and ready to eat.

And you thought I couldn't cook!

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Contributed by Barbara Jones...

Grandma's Apron

I don't think our kids know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

Continued next column...

Grandma's Apron – continued...

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears...

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables.

After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men-folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

Remember:

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool.

Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

I never caught anything from an apron...But Love. (Author Unknown)

Note: This poem Grandma's Apron is often listed as "Author Unknown" but the original version was written by Tina Trivett.

Take a look at the original poem - see: <http://withagratefulheart.blogspot.com/2007/07/grandmas-apron.html>



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Did You Know

- The croissant was invented in Austria.
- In eastern Africa you can buy beer brewed from bananas.
- African Grey Parrots have vocabularies of over 200 words.
- A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21 inch tongue.
- Australia was originally called New Holland.
- 'Lonely Planet' for travelers is based in Melbourne, Australia.
- The sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English alphabet.
- All the blinking in one day equates to having your eyes closed for 30 minutes.

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Contributed by Janet...

Weather Lore

Extract taken from page 77, 'Early Settlers Household Lore' compiled by Mrs. N. Tescott. First published in 1977.



Bright yellow sky at sunset presages wind, pale yellow, wet. Flowers open with greater freedom in anticipation of fine weather. Spiders remain quiet or spin with restricted effect, when it's likely to rain. Birds fly low for rain. Cocks crow, when rainy weather is likely to clear. Animals shelter instead of spreading over their usual range, or when pigs carry straw to their sties, bad weather may be expected. Dew and fog are indications of fine weather

Leech Barometer

Put into a 2 oz. phial 3 parts filled with pure water, a healthy leech. Cover the mouth of the phial with a piece of linen rag. Change water in winter once a month; in summer once a fortnight.

1. Leech lies motionless in the bottom if serene weather.
2. Rain either before or after noon, leech creeps to top of its lodgings and there remains until weather settles.
3. If wind is expected it gallops through its limpid habitation with amazing swiftness and seldom rests until the wind begins to blow hard.
4. If a remarkable storm of thunder and rain is due, for some days before the leech lodge almost continually without water and discovers uncommon uneasiness, in violet throes and convulsive motions.
5. In frost, as in summer weather, it lies constantly at the bottom, and in snow as in rainy weather, it pitches its dwelling near the mouth of the phial.

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Members Notice Board

Meeting Reminders/Updates

Wanted

Mineral photo opportunities.

I'm looking for opportunities to photograph mineral specimens (South Australian in particular) for future newsletter "Mineral Matters" articles.

Do you have mineral specimens that you can make available to be photographed?

I'm prepared to take these photos at your nominated location or at the club rooms, whichever suits you.

Specimens do not have to be first prize winners - what matters, is that they are clearly identifiable, and present as a reasonable example from a known location.

Hope you can help me out on behalf of the club.

Mel Jones

08 8395 1792

mel.jones@bigpond.com

Newsletter Content & Contributions

Contributions for the newsletter need to be passed on to me no later than one week before each club meeting.

As the current caretaker for the club newsletter, I will be emailing members a link to the copy on the Monday prior to the meeting.

Please consider contributing some of your photos and stories for all to enjoy. These do not have to be mineral related.

I look forward to your ongoing assistance and also seek your timely, frank feedback so that the newsletter continues to meet the club members' interest.

Mel Jones

08 8395 1792

mel.jones@bigpond.com

Useful Internet Links

2014 Australian (& some NZ!) Gem & Mineral Calendar: <http://www.mineral.org.au/shows/shows.html>

Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association (AFLACA): <http://aflaca.org.au/>

AFLACA-GMCASA: <http://aflaca.org.au/members/gem-and-mineral-clubs-association-of-south-australia-gmcasa/>

Gem and Mineral Clubs Association of South Australia (GMCASA): <http://www.gmcasa.org.au/>

Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club: http://sacommunity.org/org/197578-Adelaide_Gem_%2526_Mineral_Club#.Uta7ufRDt8E <http://www.adelaidegmc.websyte.com.au/>

Broken Hill Mineral Club, The: <http://brokenhillmineralclub.wikispaces.com/>

Enfield Gem and Mineral Club Inc: www.egmc.infopage.com.au
<http://southaustralia.localitylist.com.au/yellowresult.php/goal/Detail/ckey/26988>

Flinders Gem, Geology and Mineral Club Inc:
http://www.lapidaryworld.com/flinders_geology_gem_and_mineral_club.html

Mineralogical Society of SA Inc: <http://www.sa-minsoc.websyte.com.au/>

Murraylands Gem and Mineral Club Inc: <http://www.murraylandsgmc.org.au/>

Southern Rockhounds: Website - <http://www.southernrockhounds.com.au/home>
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SouthernRockhounds>

Yorke Peninsula Gem and Mineral Club Inc: <http://www.coppercoast.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=754&c=16913>