




**Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club Inc. (TTGGMC)**  
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**December  
Edition  
2017**

## "Rockzette"

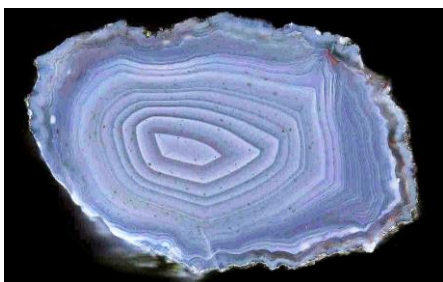
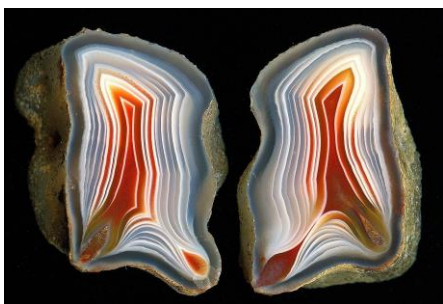
# Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club News

President's Report	Diary Dates / Notices	Club Activities / Fees						
<p>Hi All,            The AGM resulted in the Committee remaining unchanged.            2017 Craft Workshops will finish the week ending Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017.            2018 Workshops will start on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018.            Wishing you all a <b>Merry Christmas</b> and all the best in the coming year.            See you all at our Christmas Lunch and the first meeting for 2018 – February 1<sup>st</sup>.            Cheers, Ian.</p>	<p align="center"><b>2018 Club Shows</b>  <b>Sat 27<sup>th</sup> – Sun 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018</b>  <b>Riverland Gem and Mineral Club Show and Sales.</b> Loxton Lutheran School, Luther Road, Loxton, SA. Open Sat: 9am – 4pm &amp; Sun: 9am – 3pm.            Email: <a href="http://RiverlandGem.com.au">Riverland Gem &amp; Mineral Club</a>            Find on Facebook.</p> <p align="center">***</p> <p align="center"><b>Happy Birthday</b>            Members celebrating December birthdays            8<sup>th</sup> - Granton Edwards and Kevin Hannam            9<sup>th</sup> - Peter Rothe            10<sup>th</sup> - Blue Higgins and Doug Walker            15<sup>th</sup> - Ken Jewell            22<sup>nd</sup> - John Hill            26<sup>th</sup> - Denise Edwards            29<sup>th</sup> - Paul Raison</p> <p align="center">***</p> <p align="center"><b>Members! - Try our December 2017 Word Shape and Numbers Puzzle. Win a bottle of wine or a large block of chocolate – your choice! See page 15.</b></p> <p align="center">***</p>	<p><b>Meetings</b>            Club meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month except January.            Committee meetings start at 7 pm.            General meetings - arrive at 7.30 pm for 8 pm start.</p> <p><b>Library</b>  <b>Librarian - Augie Gray</b>            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><b>Tuesday Faceting/Cabbing</b>            Tuesdays - 10 am to 2 pm.            All are welcome. Supervised by Doug Walker (7120 2221).</p> <p><b>Wednesday Silversmithing</b>            Wednesdays - 7 pm to 9 pm.            All are welcome. Supervised by Augie Gray (8265 4815 / 0433 571 887).</p> <p><b>Thursday Cabbing</b>            Thursdays - 10 am to 2 pm.            All are welcome. Supervised by Augie Gray (8265 4815 / 0433 571 887).</p> <p><b>Friday Silversmithing</b>            Fridays - 9 am to 12 noon.            All are welcome. Supervised by John Hill (8251 1118).</p> <p><b>Faceting/Cabbing/Silversmithing Fees:</b>            A standard fee of \$3.00 per session applies – to be paid to the session supervisor.</p> <p>In the interest of providing a safe working environment, it is necessary to ensure everyone 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 are adhered to always.</p> <p>Everyone using the workshop must ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that all club equipment (e.g. magnifying head pieces, faceting equipment, tools, etc.) used during the session, is cleaned, and returned to the workshop after usage.</li> <li>• that all work stations are left in a clean and tidy state;</li> <li>• that all rubbish is removed and placed in the appropriate bin;</li> <li>• and where applicable, machines are cleaned and oiled or dried.</li> </ul>						
<p align="center">Diary Dates / Notices</p> <p><b>TTGGMC 2017 Christmas Lunch</b>            The club's 2017 Christmas lunch will be held on <b>Sunday, 10 December</b>, so please mark this date in your diary. (12.30 for a 1.00 p.m. start.)            The club will provide BBQ chicken &amp; a glazed ham, members to bring a salad or dessert and BYO drinks, as per previous years.            There will be the usual challenging quiz courtesy of Janet Harris.  <b>A Xmas Hamper will be raffled. Members are asked to bring a small item for said hamper to, or prior to, the next meeting.</b>            An attendance sheet will be circulated at next month's meeting. If you would like to attend the Christmas lunch but will be unable to attend next month's meeting, PLEASE ask a Committee member to add your name to the list &amp; advise whether you'll be bringing a salad or dessert.            *** Tables will be set up as per the number of members who have indicated their attendance. There has been a minor problem in previous years when members who had NOT indicated their attendance just turned up on the day, so please do make your presence known in advance, to ensure there will be a seat for you.            Looking forward to a great turnout!</p> <p align="center">***</p>	<p align="center">***</p> <p align="center"><b>Members! - Try our December 2017 Word Shape and Numbers Puzzle. Win a bottle of wine or a large block of chocolate – your choice! See page 15.</b></p> <p align="center">***</p>  <p align="center">Melbourne Cup Luncheon Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.</p> <p align="center">***</p>	<p><b>NOTE: The Tea Tree Gully Gem &amp; Mineral Club Inc. will not be held responsible or liable for any person injured while using the club machinery or equipment.</b></p> <p><b>Club Subscriptions:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>\$25.00 Family</td> <td>\$20.00 Family Pensioner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$15.00 Single</td> <td>\$12.50 Single Pensioner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$10.00 Joining Fee</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	\$25.00 Family	\$20.00 Family Pensioner	\$15.00 Single	\$12.50 Single Pensioner	\$10.00 Joining Fee	
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<p>The Tea Tree Gully Gem &amp; 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.</p>								

### Augie's December 2017 Agate Selection.

#### Agate of the Month – Czech Republic

The Czech Republic produces some beautiful Agates from more than a dozen localities, the best-known deposits being Doubravice, Morcinov, Zeleznice, Rumburk, Frydstejn and Nova Paka in the north; Horni Halze in the north-west, Halze in the west and Koslov in the central part of the country. Colours range from soft blues and pinks through to brilliant reds, in predominantly banded material.

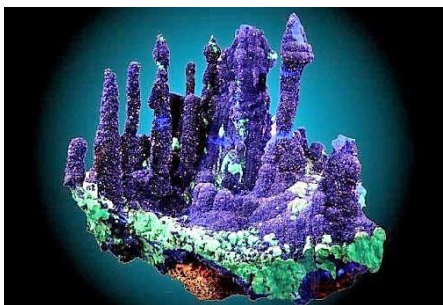


**Augie's December 2017 Agate Selection**  
*Continued...*

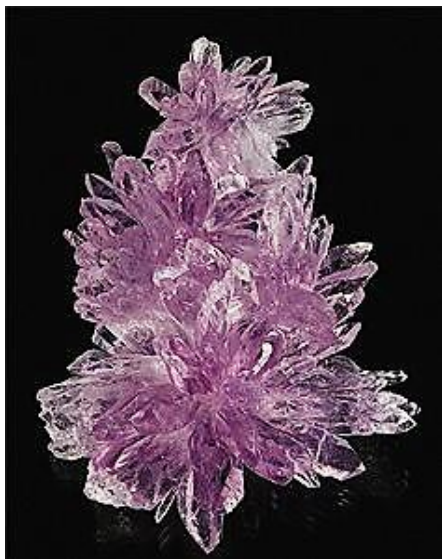


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**Augie's December 2017 Mineral Selection.**



Azurite stalagmites on Malachite.



Amethyst Flower.



Apatite - Panasqueira Mine, Panasqueira, Castelo Branco District, Portugal.



Barite - Ouichane Mine, Nador, Morocco.



Botryoidal Fluorite - Dongqiyan, Inner Mongolia, China.



Botryoidal Malachite - Katanga.



Calcite.

**Augie's December 2017 Mineral Selection**  
*Continued...*



Chrysoberyl - Lac Alaotra, Alaotra-Mangoro Region, Toamasina Province, Madagascar.



Corundum var. Ruby.



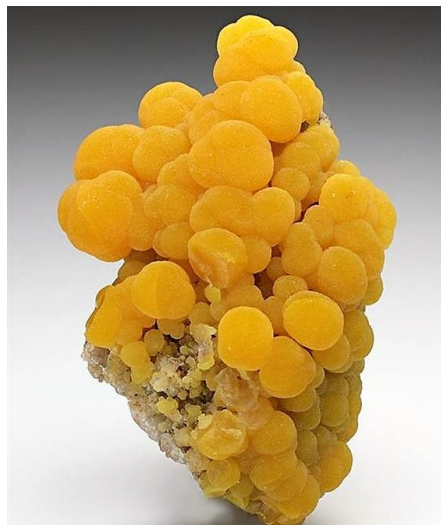
Tourmaline almost completely replaced by Lepidolite - Teixeira mine, Jequitinhonha Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil.



Halite - Rocanville, Saskatchewan, Canada.



Faden Quartz.



Mimetite - Congreso-León Mine, San Pedro, Mexico.



Native Platinum.



Pentagonite.



Wulfenite - Red Cloud Mine, Arizona.



Orpiment & Realgar on Quartz - Mina Palomo, Julcani, Peru.

**Ian Everard's Recent Quartz Purchases**



Quartz with Hedenbergite inclusions, Serifos, GREECE.



Siderite on Quartz, Luina, TASMANIA.



Quartz var. Amethyst, BROKEN HILL.



Quartz var. Amethyst, BROKEN HILL.



Quartz var. Amethyst, BROKEN HILL.

**Second Instalment of Ian Everard's Agate and Quartz Geode finds while on his recent North Queensland Quartz Fossicking Safari to Agate Creek.**

These specimens have only been sawn open to reveal their form and colour, not crafted (ground or polished). However, some geodes have been acid etched to remove calcite. See example below.



Before etching calcite.



After etching calcite.



Continued next page...

Ian Everard's, Agate Creek, Agate and Quartz Geode finds continued...



Continued next page...

**Ian Everard's, Agate Creek, Agate and Quartz Geode finds continued...**



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**Melbourne Cup Luncheon  
Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.  
Held at the clubrooms.**



Ian Everard, Ken Jewell, Doug Walker, Gwen Roberts, and Louise Ellis.



(Back row) Louise Ellis, John Hill, Gwen & David Roberts,  
(front row) Janet Jones, & Ken Jewell.



Lunch finished and everyone now in anticipation mode.



And the winners were mostly absent.

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Contributed by Augie...



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Contributed by Doug Walker...

**What We Don't See In logos...**

**You Will Never Look at These Logos the Same Way, Again.**



Do you see the arrow between the "E" and "x" (in white)? I had never noticed it before.



The 2nd and 3rd "T's" are two people sharing (or fighting over) a tortilla and a bowl of salsa.



The world's most famous bike race. The "R" in "Tour" is a cyclist. The yellow circle is the front wheel of a bicycle, the "O" is the back wheel.



The arrow means Amazon has everything from A to Z.

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Contributed by Blue Higgins...

**Wire Wrapped Jewellery**

Some impressive examples of Blue's wire wrapped and hand-crafted stones.





### Wire Wrapped Jewellery

Blue's impressive examples of wire wrapped and hand-crafted stones – continued...



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### Wire Wrapped Jewellery

*Wire wrapping* is one of the oldest techniques for making handmade jewellery. This technique is done with some jewellery *wire* and findings like *wire* (like head-pins) to make components. *Wire* components are then connected to one another using mechanical techniques with no soldering or heating of the *wire*.

A key element in wire wrapped jewellery is a loop made in a segment of wire. In general, loops in wire are connected to one another to make the mechanical connections between components. A loop can be something as simple as bending the end of a piece of wire until the very end of the wire is bent far enough that it touches the wire itself. This simple form of a loop is called a “P” loop. A “P” loop is a loop in the wire in the shape of the letter “P”. Another form of a loop is an eye loop. An eye loop is a more complex loop with a full circle of wire centred over the stem of wire just like a lollipop.

In their basic form, P loops and eye loops are “open” loops. This means that the loop can be opened mechanically to allow it to connect to another component. The opposite of an open loop is a closed loop. In a closed loop, the end of the wire is wrapped around the stem of the loop so that the loop is permanent and can't be opened. A closed loop is also called a wrapped loop and it is this technique that resulted in this approach to making jewellery being called wire wrapping. A connection between two wrapped loops must be performed BEFORE the second loop is wrapped closed.

Frequently when making a wire wrapped bracelet or necklace, one would use wrapped loops to connect the components into a chain. For bracelets and necklaces, wrapped loops are recommended because open loops could be pulled apart if the chain were to snag.

In the simplest example of handmade wire wrapped jewellery, a bead is threaded onto a jewellery making finding called a head-pin. The bead is held in place by the “head” on the head pin. The portion of the head pin coming out of the opposite side of the bead is essentially wire. This wire is bent into a loop using hand tools and the excess wire is cut off. The resulting bead hanging from a loop is called a “bead dangle”. To complete a simple earring, the loop in the bead dangle is connected to the loop at the end of an ear wire finding leaving a completed earring.

Read more about wire wrapped jewellery making at the following websites:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wire\\_wrapped\\_jewelry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wire_wrapped_jewelry)

<https://www.pinterest.com.au/explore/wire-wrapping/>

<https://www.allfreejewelrymaking.com/Wire-Wire-work/How-to-Wire-Wrap-Jewelry-16-DIY-Jewelry-Wire-Wrapping-Tutorials-eBook>

[Inspire With Wire](#)

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Permission to reproduce this newsletter article obtained from the NORTH BRISBANE LAPIDARY CLUB INC. by Doug Hughes.

### How to Saw More Successfully: Contribution by Ray Wilson

#### Description

Understanding how to saw metal more efficiently and effectively will help save you time and frustration at the bench. Follow the tips and tricks below to make your next sawing job easier and faster.

#### Choosing a Blade Size

Choosing the right saw blade size is both an art and a science. Use our Saw Blade Sizing Chart below and these tips to pick the right blade every time. Saw blades come in standard sizes from 8/0 (pronounced "eight aught") to 8. The size of blade you use is determined by the gauge of metal you are cutting.

A size 8 blade is the thickest blade available and has the fewest teeth per inch. A size 8/0 blade is the thinnest blade and has the most teeth per inch.

- You may want to use a blade that is a few sizes thinner than the recommendation if you are cutting intricate shapes.
- If you use too fine of a blade, it can be difficult to control, making it hard to cut a straight line and time-consuming to complete a cut. If you notice these things happening, switch to a thicker blade.
- A saw blade works best when there are at least two teeth within the thickness of the metal you are cutting.
- Using too large of a blade can leave you with a jagged cut that requires more filing or sanding to clean up.

Blade Size	Blade Thickness	Blade Depth	Teeth Per Inch	B&S Gauge
8/0	.0063"	.0126"	89.0	up to 26
7/0	.0067"	.0130"	84.0	24–26
6/0	.0070"	.0140"	76.0	24
5/0	.0080"	.0157"	71.0	22–24
4/0	.0086"	.0175"	66.0	22
3/0	.0095"	.0190"	61.0	22
2/0	.0103"	.0204"	56.0	20–22
1/0	.0110"	.0220"	53.5	18–22
1	.0120"	.0240"	51.0	18–20
2	.0134"	.0276"	43.0	16–18
3	.0140"	.0290"	40.5	16–18
4	.0150"	.0307"	38.0	16–18
5	.0158"	.0331"	35.5	16
6	.0173"	.0370"	33.0	14
7	.0189"	.0400"	30.5	12
8	.0197"	.0440"	28.0	12



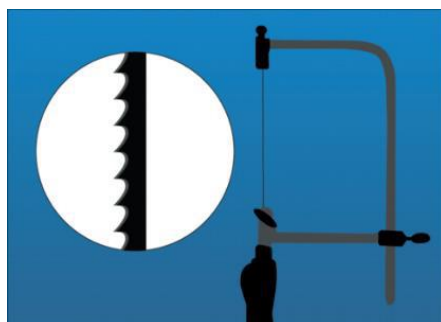
#### Drilling for Piercing

When you are piercing a piece of metal in order to insert a saw blade and saw out a shape, it's important to know which size drill bit corresponds to the size of blade you are using. Use the chart to help you decide which drill bit you need.

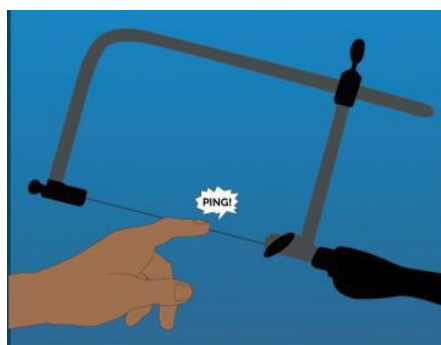
Blade Size	Drill Size for Piercing	Blade Size	Drill Size for Piercing
8/0	80	1	71
7/0	80	2	70
6/0	79	3	68
5/0	78	4	67
4/0	77	5	65
3/0	76	6	58
2/0	75	7	57
1/0	73	8	55

#### Installing a Blade

There are a few things you need to know before installing a saw blade in your saw frame:



- Make sure the teeth are pointing down and out.



- Make sure the blade is taught. It should make a nice "ping" sound when you pluck it. If it isn't taught, it will not cut properly and is more likely to break.

#### Sawing Techniques and Tips

- Make sure the blade is vertical at all times. The frame should be held at a right angle to your body, and you should saw in a straight up-and-down motion. Don't angle or tilt the blade.
- Use long, even strokes, not short, choppy ones.
- Move the piece, not the saw. For example, if you're sawing a circle, turn the material into the saw instead of trying to manoeuvre the saw around the material.
- Keep your grip light. The sawing motion should come from your elbow, not your wrist.
- To prolong the life of your blades, always use a lubricant such as BurLife.
- Always wear eye protection. Saw blades break often and can cause serious injury.

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Contributed by Doug Walker...

#### Sun, Storms, and Lightening: The Best Aussie Weather Photos.



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Contributed by Augie...

## Typewriter Keyboards

*‘We use the keyboards we use simply because they’re the ones we’ve always used. Is this the most efficient layout of letters?’*

*Hephzibah Anderson takes a look’ by Hephzibah Anderson - 13 December 2016.*

They may not be quite as superstitious as athletes, but authors regularly admit to having favourite writing spots and props that keep the words flowing. Agatha Christie plotted in a large Victorian bathtub, munching on apples as she contemplated murder. DH Lawrence preferred to compose outdoors, leaning against a gnarly tree trunk. And James Joyce wrote in bed, dressed in a white coat and using a blue pencil. Others get attached to their hardware – George RR Martin won’t be parted from his word processor, and Cormac McCarthy, Don DeLillo and Tom Wolfe are all still stuck on typewriters.

*Legend has it that Qwerty was dreamt up with the express purpose of slowing typists down.*

Yet what you won’t find even these hardcore Remington devotees enthusing about is the layout of the keyboards on which they pound day after day. That wordsmiths themselves should overlook this defining characteristic of the tool most vital to their trade is telling. While every other aspect of the way we commit printed words to record has changed in the past 100 years, the layout of the keys we type with has remained static, despite having evolved to meet thoroughly bygone challenges. Across devices in the English-speaking world, a single system rules, almost as immutable as the alphabet itself: Qwerty.



The Qwerty keyboard or a variation on it is used wherever the Latin Alphabet is – with some local alterations and extra characters (Credit: Stuart Brady/Wikimedia Commons)

Just how this came to be is a narrative that remains murky and – ironically – far from fixed. It’s a story that offers insights into the sometimes-unexpected pace of technological change, and one that’s

peopled by unsung inventors and obsessive tinkers. It taps a fervent debate that most of us are oblivious to.



The early Christopher Sholes typewriter introduced the Qwerty keyboard, which was patented in 1873 and sold to the Remington company (Credit: Wikipedia).

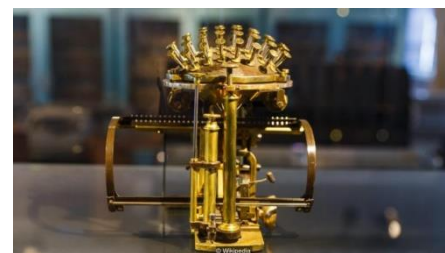
The earliest typewriters were cumbersome, moody machines but there was nevertheless an order to their keys that any English-speaking user could readily glean: they were arranged alphabetically. So why change this logical layout? Legend has it that Qwerty – known for the jabberwocky-style word formed by the first six letters of its top row – was dreamt up with the express purpose of slowing typists down. One character even lectures another about it in a Paulo Coelho novel.

### Dance of the digits

In fact, the Qwerty layout was concocted to prevent keys from jamming – or at least, that’s what most experts have tended to believe. The letters on a typewriter are affixed to metal arms, which are activated by the keys; on early models, if a lever was activated before its neighbour had fully come back down to rest, they would jam, forcing the typist to stop. Enter Christopher Sholes. Born in small-town Pennsylvania in 1819, Sholes was many things, including newspaper editor and Wisconsin state senator. He was also one of a team of inventors credited with building the first commercially viable typewriter. Having already tried to build machines for typesetting and printing numbers, Sholes’ adventures in type began in 1867, when he read an article in Scientific American describing the Pterotype, a prototype typewriter invented by one John Pratt. The article sounded the death knell for that “laborious and unsatisfactory” instrument, the pen, soon to be set down in favour of “playing on the literary piano”.

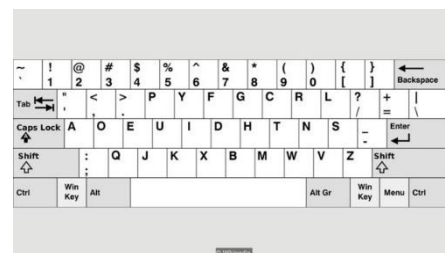
*Until 1873, you’d have found a full stop where the ‘R’ now sits.*

Much taken with this idea, Sholes teamed up with printer Samuel Willard Soulé, and they set about building a machine whose keyboard did indeed have two rows of ebony and ivory keys, very much like a piano. Over the next few years, the project would reel in others, including lawyer Carlos Glidden, watchmaker Matthias Schwabach and businessman James Densmore, who invested his last \$600.



The first typewriter sold commercially, the Hansen Writing Ball, went into production in 1870 in Denmark but its keyboard is nothing like today’s (Credit: Wikipedia).

In 1868, the first Type-Writer was shipped to Porter’s Telegraph College in Chicago. Unfortunately, it wasn’t much use, since it didn’t feature numbers, which were vital for transcribing Morse telegraph. These Sholes added, but what of the jamming keys? He’s generally credited with coining the Qwerty system, too, though it’s possible that it was Densmore who first suggested it. Either way, its genius was to place frequently recurring two-letter combinations – digraphs, in printing speak – at a reasonable distance from each other. It wasn’t until E Remington and Sons acquired the patent in 1873, however, that the keyboard finally settled into the formation we all know: until then, you’d have found a full stop where the ‘R’ now sits.



Some typographers claim the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard results in more efficient typing than the Qwerty layout (Credit: Wikipedia).

As to whether Qwerty slowed typists down, it’s a question that is still being debated. Most of us don’t think twice about our keyboards, but those who care, ‘really care’. One such person was the creator of Qwerty’s biggest rival system, August Dvorak. Born in Minnesota in 1894, this distant relation of the Czech composer was an educational psychologist convinced that Qwerty could be improved upon.

Continued next page...

**Typewriter Keyboards – Continued...**

His interest was fired when he advised a student who was writing her master’s thesis on typos. He believed that with Qwerty, common letter combinations necessitated awkward finger acrobatics – ‘hurdling’ – and noted that frequently used words like ‘was’ and ‘were’ relied entirely on the left hand. And so, in 1936, he and his brother-in-law patented the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard system.

*Research suggesting typists on an alternative keyboard could type 74% faster has been discredited.*

According to Dvorak, a text that required the average typist’s fingers to travel up to 20 miles on a Qwerty keyboard clocked up only one mile using his system, all thanks to ergonomic benefits that also cut down on many common typos. Not such a concern in the age of the delete key, though Dvorak’s 21st Century fans also tout it as a fix for repetitive strain injury. World War Two-era research suggesting that Dvorak typists could rattle off assignments 74 percent faster than their Qwerty-using colleagues has since been discredited, but if you take the time to actually look at it, the Qwerty layout doesn’t make a whole lot of sense.

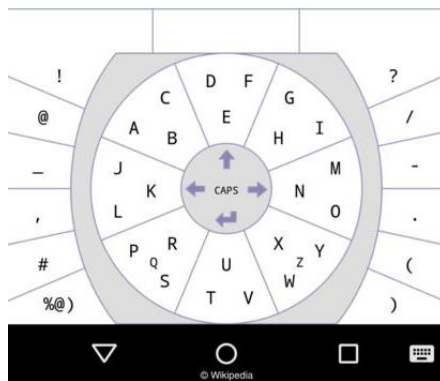
**Key developments**

Another theory behind its evolution is that it arranged all the letters needed to type ‘typewriter’ on the same top row, enabling salesmen to speedily tap out the instrument’s name and wow prospective customers. But as Koichi Yasuoka and Motoko Yasuoka, two researchers at Japan’s Kyoto University, noted back in 2011, there were no professional typists back when Sholes was busy shuffling the alphabet. Instead, they’ve posited another explanation: Qwerty rearranged the alphabet for the convenience of the telegraph operators who were Sholes’ first customers. Though even this isn’t the full story: “There was no consistent policy towards Qwerty”, they write. “The keyboard arrangement was incidentally changed into Qwerty, first to receive telegraphs, then to thrash out a compromise between inventors and producers, and at last to evade old patents.”



The Qwerty keyboard has even survived the thumb-based typing of smartphones, though the Hero layout is an alternative based on the most commonly-used letters (Credit: Wikipedia).

Of course, the laptop on which I’m now typing – yours, too, most likely – has an inbuilt but chronically underutilised function: it allows me to switch the layout of my keyboard and adopt a new system. Sure, I’d need to re-label the keys until I learnt to touch-type again, but without otherwise changing any of my hardware, I could be expressing myself on a Dvorak keyboard in mere moments. Maybe it’s because so few of us ever really learn to type these days that we stick so determinedly with what we know. Touch-typing is something we mostly pick up as we go along, hunting and pecking until our fingers can race, albeit with frequent jabs at the ‘delete’ key. If we’d actually been taught, we’d know that we could equally well learn a new system – a system that might be more suited to the language we speak or the devices on which we type.



The TouchOne layout for smartphones places the entire alphabet in sequential order, but organized like an old-fashioned rotary dial (Credit: Wikipedia).

When Sholes and his fellow inventors were working on their “literary piano”, they could have had no way of knowing that it was the arrangement of the machine’s keys that would be their enduring contribution to human communication. But now that we’re doing so much typing with our thumbs, a plethora of alternative systems are being coined. There’s the Hero Keyboard, which looks like the dial on a rotary phone, fusing the new with the exquisitely retro. TouchOne claims to be the world’s first dedicated smartwatch keyboard, squeezing its letters onto eight keys that require a combination of four gestures. And then there’s PopKey, a keyboard that does away with the alphabet altogether in favour of... animated gifs. One boast common to all these new-fangled systems is speed. But is that really such a virtue? For writers, not so much – remember that famous Capote putdown: “That’s not writing, that’s typing”. As for the rest of us, now that so many of the keyboards we encounter come with the inbuilt ability to publish instantly, perhaps we should be thankful for anything that slows us down, and saves us from the social media equivalent of a fat-finger error.

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## 52 Breathtaking Caves from Around the World - Two More in More Detail

### No. 23 Jiu Xiang Caves China.

[Jiu Xiang Caves China](#)

Jiuxiang Scenic Region is located in Jiuxiang Yi and Hui Autonomous Township of Yiliang County 90 km away from central Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. It is famous for its caves, mountains, rivers, deep valleys, minority customs and cultures.

[Wikipedia](#)

#### Jiuxiang Scenic Area Museum of Karst Caves

- **Popular activities:** explore karst caves, enjoy a boat ride, take a cable car
- **Must-see attractions:** Terrifying Gorge, Green Shady Valley, Bat Cave
- **Suited to:** anyone with good physical health, especially nature lovers and geological enthusiasts
- **Time needed:** 3 to 4 hours

#### Highlights of Jiuxiang



Beautiful karst caves in Jiuxiang

Known as the "museum of karst caves", Jiuxiang boasts more than 100 karst caves and is the largest cave group system in China. The cave formations are very varied, and the rivers, waterfalls, and natural rock bridges are very enchanting.

Jiuxiang comprises five scenic areas, among which only Diehong Bridge is fully developed and now open to the public.

#### Terrifying Gorge

Terrifying Gorge (Jīnghún Xiá 惊魂峡) is believed to be the **most magnificent underground canyon in China** with a length of about 700 meters and a depth of nearly 100 meters. It got its name in honour of the pioneers who tried to open this tourist pathway with extreme care so as not to fall into the abyss.

#### Green Shady Valley

Green Shady Valley (Yīncuì Xiá 荫翠峡) stretches for about 1 kilometre, flanked with verdant trees. You can take a boat ride through the valley and hear the voices echoing off the cliffs. It has another name of 'Love Valley'

Because it was a place for young men and women to sing songs in order to find lovers.

#### Bat Cave

There were thousands of bats living in Bat Cave (Biānfū Dòng 蝙蝠洞), hence the name. It is impressive due to its stalactites. It looks like an upside-down stone forest.

#### Lying Dragon Cave

A dragon-shaped underground river passes through the cave, so it is called Lying Dragon Cave (Wòlóng Dòng 卧龙洞). In the cave, two waterfalls cascade down from the rock at a length of 30 meters and meet in a deep pool at a depth of 10 meters.

They look like two loyal lovers jumping from the cliff hand in hand to die for love, hence they were named the 'Female and Male Flying Waterfalls' (Cǐxióng Fēi Pù 雌雄飞瀑).

#### Male Lion Hall

Male Lion Hall (Xióngshī Tīng 雄狮厅), an oval underground hall, got its name due to the lion-like stalactite at the entrance. It covers 15,000 square meters but hasn't got any pillars in the hall. It is reputed as being the largest underground hall in the world.

#### View the caves on YouTube (a must look)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08kya785xs0>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZmDz\\_Lcdec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZmDz_Lcdec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brxUqWUo-vk>

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### No. 24: Chinhoyi Caves, Zimbabwe.

[Chinhoyi Caves - details from WIKIPEDIA – The Free Encyclopedia](#)



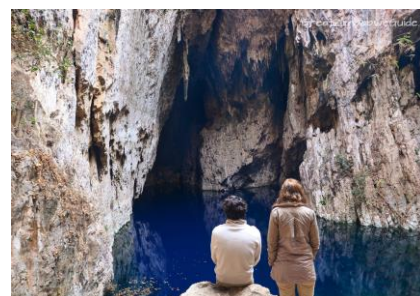
Chinhoyi Caves, Zimbabwe.

The **Chinhoyi Caves** (previously the Sinoia Caves) are a group of limestone and dolomite caves in north central Zimbabwe. Since 1955 they are designated as National Park and managed by the Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority.

The caves are in the Makonde District, Mashonaland West Province, in North Central Zimbabwe.



The cave system is composed of limestone and dolomite. The main cave contains a pool of cobalt blue water, which is popularly called *Sleeping Pool* or *Chirorodziva* ("Pool of the Fallen"). Divers have discovered a submarine passage leading from the *Bat Cave*, a sub-chamber of the *Dark Cave* to another room known as the *Blind Cave*. Diving is possible in the caves all year round, with temperatures never beyond the 22 to 24 C (72 to 75 F) range with zero thermocline. Visibility is high, and 50 metres (160 ft.) and above is not unusual. This site is often visited by diving expedition teams of technical divers that perform ultra-deep diving. It is common for dives more than 100 metres (330 ft.) to be made here by experienced technical divers. A campsite, run by the National Parks Authority, and a motel are located on-site.



The local name for the cave's pool, *Chirorodziva* ("Pool of the Fallen") comes from an incident that occurred in 1830, where members of the *Angonni* tribe attacked the local people and threw their victims into the cave to dispose of them.

The limestone caves were first described by [Frederick Courtney Selous](#) in 1888. These caves are the most extensive cave system in Zimbabwe that the public can access.

#### View the caves on these YouTube links...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFBkBOIxtwE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8vJ35ghfME>

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Contributed by Mel Jones...

Tales from a former SAR Train Driver.

**'Walking on Water'.**

written by Norm Hann 1980s/90s.

The train gang; Lennie (driver), Mudrock (fireman), and Gino (guard) had just finished a nine our shift, having been relieved two stations before, and heading for Port Lincoln. After being away for most of the week it was good to get back home to Lincoln. They really looked forward to their free weekends with friends and family. It was not unusual for them to gather the necessary gear and have the rest of the street join in for a spear fishing trip, and a barbeque or a picnic.

This night, they had decided to go spear fishing and lit a bon fire on the beach at Tulka on the southern end of Proper bay, to keep the girls and children warm, while the boys went spear fishing.

On the hillside, overlooking Proper bay, was the abattoirs which had a long shute way out into the bay whereby all offal and scraps are jettisoned into the sea. Schools of fish come into to feed on these scraps, and of course, after the fish came the sharks.

It was late at night, waste deep in water, four in line, Mudrock in the centre with the light and spear, Kevin and Brian on his left, and Lennie on his right. Kevin and Lennie carried only a spear, and Brian was towing an old washtub which held their catch. The catch being a few blue crabs, flatties, flounder, and a half dozen garfish.

They were having a most enjoyable time of it, when with no warning there was a large splash behind them. Without exception, they turned to look expecting the worst; and it was. A large shape moved steadily towards them in the water. Someone yelled, "Wutsat", just as another shouted, "Shark!"



They took off, heading for the beach with five hundred yards to go. Mudrock led the field. The rest of the boys weren't even halfway when Mudrock was on dry land yelling at the top of his lungs, "Come on you b.....s, the b.....s right behind you!" Not that they needed any more encouragement. Soon they safely collapsed on the beach, gasping for breath while Mudrock just stood there totally relaxed.

When the boys eventually caught their breath and could speak again, they asked Mudrock, "How in the tarnation did you do it? You went twice as far and twice as bloody fast!" Mudrock's face took on a perplexed and thoughtful expression, which he dragged out for dramatic effect. Eventually, his expression changed to a cheeky grin and he answered, "well if you really want to know, I'll tell you. You see, when I was a kid, my old man used to kick me in the backside and send me off to Sunday School, regardless as to whether I wanted to go or not. At Sunday School, this bloke tried to tell us a yarn about a fellow that walked on water. I have always thought this to be a load of bloody frog shit, but I believe it now...coz I just proved, I can run on water!!!



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Contributed by Mel...

**Brain Teasers**

(TRY FIRST, then see the answers on the last page)

1. What starts with an E, ends with an E and usually contains only one letter?
2. Which word, if pronounced right, is wrong, but if pronounced wrong is right?
3. What belongs to you, but other people use it more than you?
4. What kind of cheese is made backwards?
5. Can you find a five-letter word, which, when typed in upper---case, reads the same upside down?
6. What happens only in the middle of each month, in all the seasons, except summer and happens only in the night, never in the day?
7. If there are forty cups on the table and one cup breaks, how many tea cups are left?
8. "This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it? looks so plain you would think nothing was wrong with it! In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is unusual though. Study it, and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out! Try to do so without any coaching!"
9. In which sport do winners move backwards and losers move forwards?
10. What common word has 4 vowels, one after the other?

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Contributed by Augie...

**Maxine's One Day of Employment**



So, after landing my new job as a Bunnings greeter, a good find for many retirees, I lasted less than a day.....

About two hours into my first day on the job a very loud, unattractive, mean-acting woman walked into the store with her two kids, yelling obscenities at them all the way through the entrance.

As I had been instructed, I said pleasantly, 'Good morning and welcome to Bunnings. Nice children you have there. Are they twins?' The ugly woman stopped yelling long enough to say, 'Hell no, they ain't twins. The oldest one's 9, and the other one's 7. Why, the hell, would you think they're twins? Are you blind, or just stupid?'

So, I replied, 'I'm neither blind nor stupid, Ma'am, I just couldn't believe someone shagged you twice. Have a good day and thank you for shopping at Bunnings.'

My supervisor said I probably wasn't cut out for this line of work.

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Contributed by Augie...

**One Simple Spelling Mistake**

A warning, dear friends. One simple spelling mistake, made in a hurry, can make your life hell. I wrote a romantic message to my wife while I was away on a business trip and I missed an "e". This one little mistake has caused me to seek police protection to enter my own house.

I wrote "Hi darling, I'm enjoying the best time of my life and I wish you were her."

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Contributed by Doug Walker...

**Group Photos**





Group Photos – Continued...



Contributed by Augie...

### Things You See

I cannot believe what just happened. I was at the servo going in to pay for my fuel when I noticed two police officers standing nearby and watching a man and shaking their heads. I looked back and saw the man was smoking while he was filling his fuel tank. When I realised what he was doing I thought, "What a moron, and why do it right in front of a couple of police officers as well."

So, I went in and paid for my fuel, and as I was walking out I heard someone screaming. I looked over and saw the man's arm was on fire! He was waving his arm around and running around in circles; like he was going crazy. I walked over near him to get back into my car and saw the police officers push the man to the ground and were putting the fire out with water from the windscreen bucket! Then they put handcuffs on him and threw him in the police car.

I figured the man was not that "clued-up", but I thought the policemen arresting him were a bit extreme. So, as I passed the policemen, I asked them, "Why are you arresting this man?"

The officer looked me dead in my eye and said, "While it's none of your business...the man was WAVING A FIREARM!"

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Contributed by Augie...

Hi Mel,

Came across this in a Gemology group on Facebook. It's a home-made faceting machine made by a cutter in Indonesia. He says it does quite a credible job.

These guys do not have a lot of money & they do say necessity is the mother of invention ...Cheers, Augie.



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Contributed by Doug Walker...

### War Of Words



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Contributed by Doug Walker...

### So, You Think You Know Everything

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds.

Dogs only have about 10.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

If the population of China walked past you, in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

If you are an average American, in your whole life, you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at red lights.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.

Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand and "lollipop" with your right.

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

The words 'racecar', 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious".

There's no Betty Rubble in the Flintstones Chewables Vitamins.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Your stomach must produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks; otherwise it will digest itself.

***There, now you know everything worth knowing.***

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**!!! Wanted !!!**

**Rags for the Lap Room**

Old sheets, pillowcases, towels, T-shirts, other old clothing which can be cut up & used for cleaning the machines in the lap room.

Any absorbent material is good - cotton, terry towelling etc. No nylon or synthetic material that is non-absorbent.

Thanking you in advance.

*The Cutters.*

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**Brain Teaser Answers**

1. ENVELOPE.
2. Wrong!
3. Your name!
4. EDAM cheese (made backwards is edam)
5. SWIMS.
6. The letter N.
7. We started with 4 tea cups (forty cups) and one broke.
8. There is no letter E anywhere in it!
9. Tug---of---war.
10. Queue!

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Solution to EASY

8	1	6
3	5	7
4	9	2

Solution to MEDIUM

16	15	20
21	17	13
14	19	18

Solution to HARD

2	16	6
12	8	4
10	0	14

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Useful Internet Links

- 2016 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...](#)
- Broken Hill Mineral Club: Website no longer accessible.
- 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...](#)
- Lapidary World: [Click here...](#)
- Metal Detectors - Garrett Australia: [Click here...](#)
- Metal Detectors - Miners Den Adelaide: [Click here...](#)
- Metal Detectors - Adelaide Agent for Garrett Australia: [Click here...](#)
- Mineralogical Society of SA Inc: [Click here...](#)
- Murraylands Gem and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)
- NQ Explorers: [Click here...](#)
- Prospecting Australia: [Click here...](#)
- Shell-lap Lapidary Supplies: [Click here...](#)
- Southern Rockhounds: [Click here...](#)
- Tea Tree Gully Gem and Mineral Club: [Click here...](#)
- The Australian Mineral Collector: [Click here...](#)