



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

**Feb.
Edition
2016**

"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. • Mineral Matters • Picture Gallery • Members Out and About. • General Interest. • Members Notice Board • For Sale Notice. 	<p>Hi All, Happy New Year to all members. I hope you are all fit and well after Christmas and New Year's celebrations. This year is the end of our current club rooms lease; so a new one is due to be negotiated. I will let you know once I get the details from the Council. 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>Diary Dates</p>	<p>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>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>2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th April, 2016. - Canberra Rock Swap, Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC), ACT. • Friday 29th April – Sunday 1st May, 2016 - Murraylands Gem and Mineral Club Inc. - Palmer Rockarama 'Crystal and Craft Fair' and 1st May, 2016, 'South Australian Metal Detecting Championships' – both held at Collier Park (Palmer Oval) Palmer SA 5237. 	<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>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>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 are adhered to at all times.</p> <p>Trainees must ensure: 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>
<p>Stop Press</p>		
<p>Meeting Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 4th February, 2016 – John Hill – Video – 'Hubble Telescope'. • Thursday 3rd March, 2016 – Alan Harris – 'Antique' breech loading rifles 1846 to 1869 – new display and presentation – See details on page 13. 		<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>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 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>		

Inclusions in Minerals ©

by Kym Loechel

The world of inclusions in minerals is a spectacular part of the Mineral Kingdom although it is rarely mentioned by many.

An inclusion is exactly what it says, a mineral included in another mineral, trapped inside as both minerals were forming.

Most are fairly small and can be quite hard to see but, there are plenty of larger inclusions that are obvious and of course by using magnification many rarer and smaller inclusions can be seen and studied.

Possibly the most well know mineral with inclusions is Quartz, partly because it is often transparent so the inclusions can be seen, and because it can contain a wide range of other minerals as inclusions. The optimum and most desirable quartz specimens with inclusions are those where the quartz is in good crystal form.

The most famous of these is **Rutile** which appears as fine gold needles trapped in the quartz. Sometimes call **Sagenite or Grass stone** it is much sought after for use as a lapidary stone. The quartz takes a good polish and the rutile needles become a highlight in the stone. Other less spectacular rutile inclusions are a brown or even reddish colour. Straw coloured inclusions in quartz are found at Mt Crawford.



Sue's Quartz with Rutile inclusions.

Tourmaline in Quartz is another common inclusion. These occur from many areas and the black tourmalines show up well in clear quartz. Even crystals trapped in milky quartz can look quite effective and make good specimens. The tourmalines are often much larger crystals and therefore are more popular as specimens rather than the person seeking lapidary material. Lake Boga in Victoria is a good source of tourmaline in quartz. Specimens are occasional found in the Adelaide Hills.



Quartz with Tourmaline inclusions.



Quartz with Anatase inclusions.

Anatase in quartz is found near Spalding in the Mid North but these crystals are much rarer and the Anatase crystals are quite small. The **Anatase** appear as dark bluish black bi-pyramids suspended in the quartz. They are hard to find in any real quantity and must be considered quite rare.



Quartz with Pyrite inclusions.

Pyrite & Hematite are also often found as inclusions in quartz. The Hematite is normally seen as small bladed flakes trapped throughout the quartz. It is also common to see it as a coating on the outside of the quartz. This is common with many included minerals. Pyrite is also seen as inclusions and the perfect pyrite crystals show up really well inside clear quartz. Most are small but often no magnification is needed to see them. Many Pyrites are found as coatings.



Quartz with Hematite inclusions.

Water Bubbles are much more common as inclusions than you would think. Most are very tiny with bubbles of air trapped in the quartz with water drops which move about like a spirit level bubble. They are commonly called **Enhydro** crystals. A good source of smoky quartz crystals which contain these liquid inclusions are found at Mooralla in Victoria.



Quartz with water/air bubble inclusion.

Rare inclusions in quartz include: Gold crystals, Native copper, Bismuth and the rarest of all Sapphire. If you manage to add any of this list to your collection you are doing extra well indeed. The gold can be VERY spectacular and a perfect Gold crystal in quartz would be very valuable.



Quartz with Gold inclusions.

Native copper occurs more slightly more commonly but once again it is very rare.

Sapphire in quartz is extremely rare with one small pocket being found in Madagascar recently. Only 80 kilos of material was collected and most was on sale at the 2006 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show.

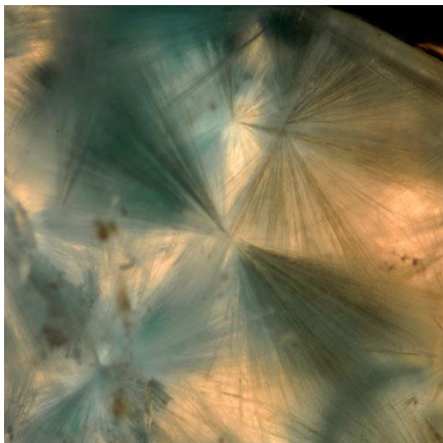


Agate with Manganese Dendrite inclusions.

Many people do not realise that the **Manganese Dendrites** found in **Agate** are actually inclusions. These inclusions are often seen in **Common Opal** as well. Many inclusions in agate are altered minerals and quite hard to identify.

Continued next page...

Other minerals have inclusions although they are somewhat rarer, as they are for the most part harder to see.



Quartz with Gilalite inclusions.

Whereas, a common inclusion is sand in **Gypsum** as in **Sand Roses**. Few realise that this is actually an inclusion. Likewise, many of the **Selenite** crystals from Lake Gilles, Lake Bumbunga, and places similar have sand inclusions in them.



Gypsum with Sand inclusions.



Gypsum with Sand inclusions.



Gypsum with Sand inclusions.



Many quartz specimens from Mooralla, VIC, have water bubble inclusions; most requiring the aid of a loop to be viewed.



Quartz with Chlorite inclusions.



Quartz with Goethite inclusions.



Quartz with Chlorite inclusions.

Inclusions included from Augie...

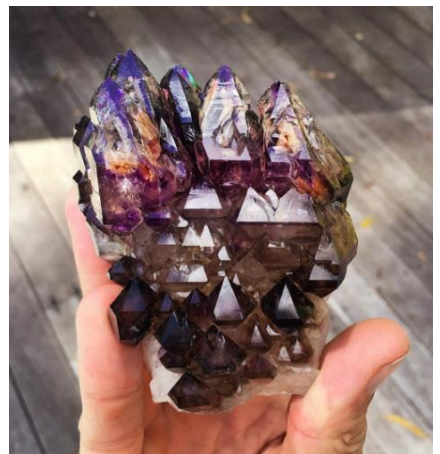
Cop a look at this!

Rainbow lattice sunstone from Australia. 2.74 ct, 10x9.5mm for US\$139.99 (that's about \$A201.35 at the current exchange rate.)



Patrick Gundersen Specimen...

A 13cm tall celestial smoky quartz with amethyst terminations and clay-filled internal Windows. "Lucky Stars" pocket 2014, Harts Ranges, NT.



More inclusions...



Quartz with Hematite inclusions.



Quartz with Chlorite inclusions.

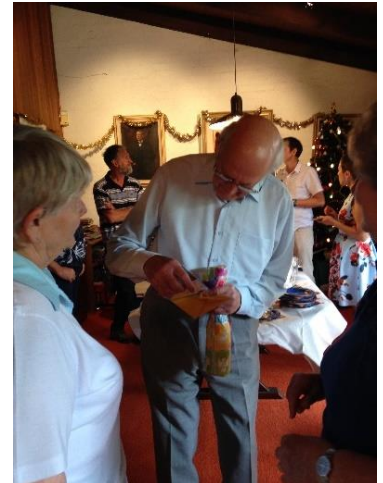
Christmas Lunch



Christmas Lunch



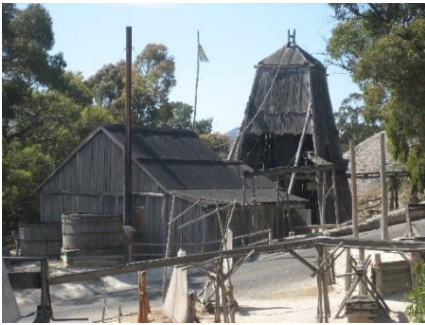
John Hill's 80th Birthday Party 20-12-2015



**Ian Everard's Visit to Sovereign Hill, and
Gold Museum, Ballarat, Victoria.
30-11-2015**



Early miner's tent.



Redhill Mine.



Gold panning area.



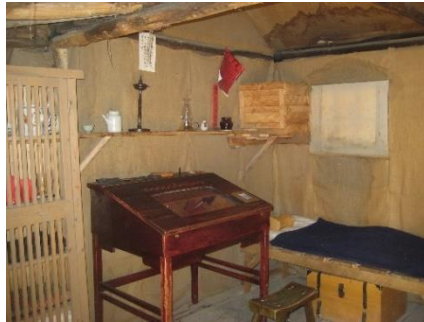
Horse whim.



Cobb and Co. Coach Clydesdales in action.



Chinese miner's tent.



Chinese miner's accommodation.



Gold panning area.



Chilean Mill.



Steam engine.



Poppet Head.



Mine buildings.



Stamping head.



Steam engine in stamping battery.



Main street, Sovereign Hill.



Cobb and Co. Coach.



Cobb and Co. Coach Clydesdales at rest.



Overview of town.



Public Bar.



Pump gearing.



Gold pour (same gold used over 22years).



Public Bar.



Winch room.



Gold panning (salted with \$150.00 gold/week).



Whisky galore!



Man-made nugget (using gold leaf).



Overview of panning area again.



Soldiers on their rounds.



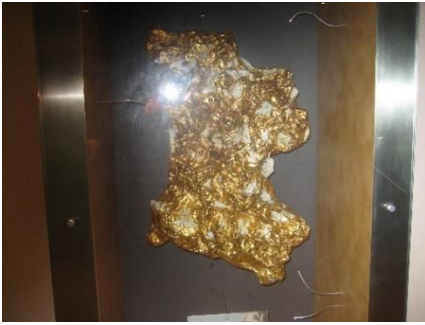
Overview of mine.



Still marching...keeping eyes dead ahead!



Replica of 'Welcome' nugget.



Another replica.



The real thing...real nuggets.



Nugget group.



Nuggets from Ballarat.



2 Tasmanian Nugget. 3 Gold Nugget. 4 Eureka Nugget. 5 Chisel Nugget.



'Goldasaurus' nugget.



Assorted nuggets.

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Qantas Airlines: Repair Division

After every flight, Qantas pilots fill out a form, called a 'Gripe Sheet' which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems; document their repairs on the form, and then pilots review the Gripe Sheets before the next flight.

Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humour. Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by Qantas' pilots (Problems marked with a **P**) and the solutions recorded (Solutions marked with an **S**) by maintenance engineers. By the way, Qantas is the only major airline that has never, ever, had an accident.

P: Left inside main tyre almost needs replacement.
S: Almost replaced left inside main tyre.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.
S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.
S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.
S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.
S: Evidence removed.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent.
S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.
S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.
S: That's what friction locks are for.

P: IFF inoperative in OFF mode.
S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.
S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing.
S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny.
S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Target radar hums.
S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

P: Mouse in cockpit.
S: Cat installed.

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.
S: Took hammer away from midget.

This tip was found on Facebook and contributed by Doug Hughes...

To clean tarnished silver

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon dish detergent
- 1 cup water
- 1 piece of aluminium foil

Directions:

1. Heat water in the microwave for 1 or 2 minutes.
2. Cut a piece of aluminium foil that roughly covers the bottom of a small bowl (like a cereal bowl).
3. Pour hot water into bowl. Place salt, soda, and dish-washing liquid into bowl. Place jewellery on top of foil and let it sit for 5 to 10 minutes. Rinse jewellery in cool water and dry jewellery completely with soft cloth. Discard solution after use and make a new batch next time. (This works well for gold-filled, brass, German (nickel) silver, and sterling silver.)

The following method has been used by Leonie for many years and is really good for larger silver-plated goblets, vases etc...

To clean Silver, line the bottom of a saucepan with aluminium foil (or use an aluminium saucepan) and warm 500ml of water with 2 teaspoons of bicarbonate of Soda. Immerse jewellery thoroughly. Rinse well and dry on a towel.

Doug Hughes.

Gold Facts

Each continent has rich deposits of gold although experts consider that Australia, South Africa, China and Nevada are the most important producers.

Gold is indestructible by air, water, or fire.

High purity **metallic gold** is odourless and tasteless.

Contributed by Don Lynn...

England and Europe 1985 – Nancy Lynn.

Twenty-four happy South Aussies left Adelaide in April 85,
To explore old England and Europe was what we were about to
strive,
Our folks saw us off at the airport on that bright and sunny day,
"Please send us some cards from over there" is the last that we heard
them say.

We called at Singapore on our way
For three whole days here we did stay
They love the tourists and the dollars we spent
We soon were wondering where our money all went.



At last in London we gazed in awe
At the palaces, cathedrals and Big Ben so tall.
We watched the changing of the guards as we stood in the drizzling
rain
The band marched in and played a tune and then marched off again.

We rode the many transports to get 'round London town
The bright red double decker bus to the trains underground.
We even took a taxi to get from A to B,
But the type of travel we like best is Shank's Pony, don't you see.



When we got to Ostend we found our Cosmos bus
We met some friendly travelers who soon were joining us
They came from many countries; Canadians, Americans too
New Zealand, Australia, England and Italians make our crew.

Across the sea to Belgium
And then to Holland we all go
To see Dutch mills, canals and tulips
All standing straight there in a row.



We see old ruined castles sitting 'round every bend,
As down the mighty Rhine, our way we now wend.

See neat terraced vineyards on the mountains way up high,
And the graceful tall church steeples reaching up to the sky.

Up to Mt. Titlis in the lovely Swiss Alps
In a cable chair all the way
The fir trees and the mountains all covered with snow
A sight we'll remember all of our days.

Now through Austria and the Dolomite Hills
Till we come to Italy's border
Where we show our passports, pay another toll
This is to keep us tourists in order.



Now we go to Venice built on the mighty sea
To get there you go by Gondola, or a boat you see
The ever moving water laps past every front door
And the pretty cooing pigeons live there by the score.

Into Rome and St. Peters Square
We heard the Pope give a blessing there
The magnificent cathedral we had to view
We admired the paintings and tapestries too.



In Tivoli Gardens the fountains surge high
That cool refreshing water way up to the sky
The Colosseum with its ruins so old
In every brick, a tale could be told.

From Florence to Nice along a great motorway
176 tunnels we passed through today
To the coast at Cannes we drove all the way
But we saw no beach, 'cos it rained all the day.



To the perfume factory at Grasse we went
We tried them all before our money we spent
The perfumes we wore would make any lover
Hold his nose and then duck for cover.

England and Europe 1985 Continued...

Saw the old walled city of Avignon
Then the wide Rhone Valley we chanced upon
With vines and trees and vegetables growing there
Then into Lyon, a meal there to share.



Well here we are in Paris, that jewel of a state
Where everyone says "Parlerous" and no-one says, "How are you mate?"
We've seen your mighty Eiffel Tower and all your palaces grand
Now we are heading back to England and leaving this fair land.

We're now travelling on a Globus bus and new friends we now have met,
We visited Canterbury Cathedral and with this our pace is set.
We saw the Royal Pavilion at Brighton I declare,
Then Lord Nelsons HMS Victory going under repair.



We view the Magna Carta, a parchment of yesteryear
Heard the Salisbury Cathedral Organ, it was pleasing to the ear.
Then we stood and gazed at Stone Hedge and we wondered as well as we might,
How and when and why were these rocks placed on this site.

At the Naval Air Base they put on a show
With the Harrier Jump Jet, as it hovered high and low
We walked down into Cockington and oh what sheer delight!
To see those thatched roofed houses to the left and to the right.

Across the Dartmoor moors we wandered on our way
Then into Widecombe-in-the-moor, for coffee we did stay
Now into Plymouth Hoe, its history they did tell
Such names as Mayflower, Francis Drake soon have you in their spell.



To this lovely Cornwall country, I'll return if 'ere I rove
To Penzance and its Pirates bold, to the rugged cliffs of Sennens Cove
Then on to St. Ives, then Tintagel, where King Arthur held court with his knights.
Then the twin towns of Lynton and Lynmouth, from the cog train we saw
all the sights.



We saw the rugged Cheddar Gorge as we wandered on our way
Then the baths once used by the Romans and for a while here we did stay.

We gazed in awe at Windsor Castle but only for a while
Then wandered the gardens at Hampton Court where the kings of old
once lived in style.

Now we are flying homewards - nine hours to reach Bombay
Then another five hours to reach Hong Kong before the end of this long day.

We joined a tour in Kowloon, the country we wanted to see
We followed a road to Hong Kong and went through a tunnel under the sea.

We went out to dine on a floating ship
To mark the conclusion of our happy trip
We saw many sky scrapers as we came home that night
All brightly lit up, they made a pretty sight.

Now our holiday is nearly over and we'll soon be on our way
We've seen so many wonderful things over the last 42 days.
At last we are home in Adelaide and I kissed that golden sand,
'Cos we are the luckiest people who live in this fair land.

Nancy Lynn.

Contributed by Don Lynn...

Tasmania 1986 – Nancy Lynn.



In 1986 we travelled, across the wild blue sea
We wanted to see Tasmania, home of the Huon pine tree.
But first we had to get there, so we travelled with Jack in his bus
Across Victoria to Melbourne, where we found our boat without
much fuss.

Many pills were popped that night,
I won't say by who, as well I might.
As we passed through the heads we rocked and rolled
But 'twas a very calm crossing, so we were told.

Spent two nights in Ulverstone down by the mighty sea,
Then a trip to Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake a sight to see
Up early next morning and soon we were on our way,
We had the rugged nor-west coast to explore that sunny day.

Tasmania 1986 – Nancy Lymn.- Continued...



Through hilly country and along the coast to the west,
Certainly put Jack and his bus to the test.
Lovely ferns in the gullies and the tree tops standing so tall,
Reaching up to the heavens made us feel very small.

Through Roseberry and Zeehan mining towns of old,
Where they once found copper, tin, lead and gold.
Then the Denuded Hills of Queenstown soon came in to view,
The yellows and reds of the barren hills made such a pretty hue.



Across Macquarie Harbour we travelled on to see,
The famous Gordon River where grows the Huon pine tree.
We loved the many views, we saw 'round every bend
Then through Hell's Gate to the roaring sea and back to port, our
cruise to end.

To St. Claire National Park, we went for the view,
But the wind it was cold and the fog hung low too.
So we travelled on to Mt. Field National Park,
Ready for tomorrow's early start.

We wandered our way to the Russel Falls,
Through a bower of tree ferns and mosses.
We gazed in awe at that lovely sight,
As the crystal water cascades and tosses.

At the casino at Wrest Point our dollars we spent,
We soon were wondering where our money all went.
We played at the wheel, poker and black jack,
Some lost their money, but some got it back.



We visited Port Arthur, that historical town of old,
Where the convicts lived in confinement cells, at least that's what I'm
told.
Now all that is left is ruins of the jail and church so grand,
Built by those men of yesteryear who were convicts of old England.

We have seen some very strange animals as we wandered on our
way,
From the wild Tasmanian Devils, to the Possums as they play.
The very friendly Wallaby will eat the bread from your hand,
But the shy and wary Hedge Hog, well he buries his nose in the sand.



We climbed to the top of the rugged Coles Peak,
The Wineglass Bay to admire.
The views we saw stretched far and wide,
To return here again is my one desire.

Passed fishing villages along the way,
With seas pounding in to the wide sandy bay.
Then the St. Columba Water Falls,
Where a bird in the tree top to his mate he calls.

One day some slippery slimy creatures,
They were such horrible little leeches.
They sucked some blood from Elsie and Ede
And before they let go, they had quite a feed.



At the Cataract Gorge, we walked for miles,
To see the views of the country and ocean.
Then the Old Dutch Mill, at the Penny Royal
With its fans in the wind in perpetual motion.

We searched for hours for Jack's lost bus keys,
He emptied his pockets and showed us his knees.
At last they were found and was Jack's face red,
Those elusive keys were found under his bed.

A visit to Entally House, what memories could be told
Of maidens dressed in crinolines and gallant men so bold.
Of handsome cars and horses and the little church so grand,
These are some of the memories that are part of this fair land

Well Tasmania, we have loved you,
From your waterfalls to your mountains so grand.
Your tree ferns, your forests and rivers,
To your oceans and beaches with fine golden sand.

Travelling across the Tasman we were nearly to Melbourne town,
When "man overboard" we heard the shout "man the lifeboat and let
it down".

Out of the blue the police did appear,
The rescue is complete and we all give a cheer.

We have traveled along the Great Ocean Road
And our journey will soon be done.
So it's thanks to the Millers, Joy and Jack,
For a really great trip, please take a pat on the back.

Nancy Lymn.

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

Lexophillia

- How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.
- Venison for dinner again? Oh dear!
- A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.
- I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crêpes.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.
- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- All the toilets in New York's police stations have been stolen. The police have nothing to go on.
- I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Velcro - what a rip off!
- Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last.



Yay! Cadburys!

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

New Year's Resolution!

- * To kick start my New Year, my mate took an IQ test and the results were negative.
- * The trouble with jogging is that the ice falls out of your glass.
- * When I thought about the evils of drinking in the New Year. I gave up thinking.
- * Definition of a hangover: Wrath of Grapes.
- * I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.
- * A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.
- * What do you tell someone you didn't see at New Year's Eve? I haven't seen you for a year!

* Peter, at a New Year's party, turns to his friend, Ken, and asks for a cigarette.

'I thought you made a New Year's resolution to quit smoking,' Ken responds. 'I'm in the process of quitting,' replies Peter with a grin. 'Right now, I am in the middle of phase one.'

'Phase one?' wonders Ken.

'Yeah,' laughs Peter, 'I've quit buying.'

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Did U Ever Question Yourself?

If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?

Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?

If olive oil comes from olives, where does baby oil come from?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

If horrific means to make horrible, does terrific mean to make terrible?

Why is it called building when it is already built?

If a book about failures doesn't sell, is it a success?

If you are not supposed to drink and drive, then why do bars have parking lots?

If you take an Oriental person and spin him around several times, does he become disorientated?

If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

Does this more or less sum up 2015?

Welcome to 2016 - here is the summary of our civilization at the end of 2015!

- Our Phones – Wireless
- Cooking – Fireless
- Cars – Keyless
- Food – Fatless
- Tyres – Tubeless
- Youth – Jobless
- Leaders – Shameless
- Relationships – Meaningless
- Attitudes – Careless
- Babies – Fatherless
- Feelings – Heartless
- Children – Mannerless

We are SPEECHLESS,

Government is CLUELESS,

And our Politicians are WORTHLESS!

I'm scared – Shitless!

(Editor: So, is expecting the Government in 2016 to be better, rather **pointless**?)

Contributed by Mike Mabbitt...

Lots of really good advice!

Do you know that little thing inside your head that keeps you from saying things you shouldn't? Yeah, I don't have one of those.

Every day, thousands of innocent plants are killed by vegetarians. Help end the violence, eat bacon.

The fact there is a highway to hell and only a stairway to heaven, says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers.

My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance to idiots that needs work.

I'm only responsible for what I say, not for what you understand.

So when is this "Old enough to know better" supposed to kick in?

Have you ever listened to someone for a while and wondered, "Who ties your shoelaces for you?"

I prefer not to think before speaking. Rather, I like being just as surprised as everyone else by what comes out of my mouth.

Be careful when you follow the masses...sometimes the "m" is silent!

I hate it when the voices in my head go silent...I never know what they are planning!

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

This and That!

“Stuff you always wanted to know; so now you will get the rest of the story!”

...

Early aircraft's throttles had a ball on the end of it, in order to go full throttle, the pilot had to push the throttle all the way forward into the wall of the instrument panel. Hence "balls to the wall" for going very fast. And now you know the rest of the story.

...

During WWII, U.S. airplanes were armed with belts of bullets which they would shoot during dogfights and on strafing runs. These belts were folded into the wing compartments that fed their machine guns. These belts measure 27 feet and contained hundreds of rounds of bullets. Often times, the pilots would return from their missions having expended all of their bullets on various targets. They would say, “I gave them the whole nine yards,” meaning they used up all of their ammunition.

...

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)

...

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October). Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig'. Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

...

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

...

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced' wore a tightly tied lace.

...

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some Ale and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

...

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the phrase 'minding your 'P's and Q's'.

...

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem; how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Continued next column....

Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.'

Contributed by John Hill...

The World According To Student Bloopers
Richard Lederer (St Paul's School)

One of the fringe benefits of being an English or History teacher is receiving the occasional jewel of a student blooper in an essay. I have pasted together the following 'history' of the world from certifiably genuine student bloopers collected by teachers throughout the United States, from eighth grade through to college level. Read carefully, and you will learn a lot.

The inhabitants of ancient Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and travelled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere, so certain areas of the dessert are cultivated by irritation. The Egyptians built the Pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube. The Pyramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of the children, Cain, once asked, “Am I my brother’s son?” God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Montezuma. Jacob, son of Isaac, stole his brother’s birthmark. Jacob was a patriarch who bought up his twelve sons to be patriarchs, but they did not take to it. One of Jacob’s sons, Joseph gave refuse to the Israelites.

Pharaoh forced the Hebrew slaves to make bread without straw. Moses lead them to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Philatelists, a race of people who lived in Biblical times. Solomon, one of David’s sons, had 500 wives and 500 porcupines.

Without the Greeks we wouldn't have a history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns – Corinthian, Doric and Ironic. They also had myths. A myth is a female moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Stynx until he became intolerable. Achilles appears in *The Illiad*, by Homer.

To be continued in future newsletters....

Member's Noticeboard

Additional Details...

Meeting Presentation - Thursday 3rd March, 2016 – Alan Harris – ‘Antique’ breech loading rifles 1846 to 1869.

“Early last year, with the help of Ann and John, Alan arranged a display of ‘Antique’ muzzle loading rifles which had been converted to breech loaders, during the years 1866-67. Examples from the U.S.A., Gt. Britain, Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland and Austro-Hungary were discussed.

For the March 2016 meeting, a selection of purpose made ‘Antique’ breech loading rifles will be introduced, comprising models dating from 1846 - 1869. These particular patterns of rifle were soon to be superseded by later models in the 1870/80’s.”

‘Members Out and About’

Riverland Gem and Mineral Club Show and associated activities, Berri, 22nd January to 26th January, 2016.

TTGGMC members, including Alan, Gerri, Ian, Janet, June, Terry and Mel, attended the

show, and a picture gallery depicting some of their activities will be included in the March Newsletter.

While there, the Berri district was overwhelmed with a massive downpour of rain...see the flood of water coming off Alan and Gerri’s caravan-annex roof below...



Annex waterfall.



Ian, Alan, Janet, Gerri, and Terry.

FOR SALE

Minerals, Rocks, Fossils, Cutting Material, Microscope, Gemmological Instruments, and Lapidary Equipment.

A Fieldtrip with a Difference

On February 20th at 10am **Mannum Minerals** will have dozens of boxes of various minerals out for sale.

Boxes range in price from \$2.00 up...

Most are very mixed material including micromounts, cutting material, specimens, and fossils.

Box Lots only!!!!

Something for everyone.

Also on offer are gemmological instruments, an Olympus microscope used for micro-mounting and various lapidary equipment.

This material is surplus to our needs and must go...

Call Kym Loechel on 0427054336 for further details.

Useful Internet Links

2016 Australian Gem & Mineral Calendar: [Gem & Mineral Calendar](#)

Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club: [AGMC](#)

AFLACA-GMCASA: [AFLACA-GMCASA](#)

Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association (AFLACA): [AFLACA](#)

Australian Lapidary Forum: [Australian Lapidary Forum](#)

Broken Hill Mineral Club: [BHMC](#)

Enfield Gem and Mineral Club Inc: [EGMC](#)

Flinders Gem, Geology and Mineral Club Inc: [FGGMC](#)

Gem and Mineral Clubs Association of South Australia: [GMCASA](#)

Metal Detectors - Garrett Australia: [Garrett Australia](#)

Metal Detectors - Miners Den Adelaide: [Miners Den Adelaide](#)

Metal Detectors - Adelaide Agent for Garrett Australia: [Shell Lap Lapidary Supplies Pty Ltd](#)

Mineralogical Society of SA Inc: [MinSoc](#)

NQ Explorers: [NQ Explorers](#)

Prospecting Australia: [Prospecting Australia](#)

Shell-lap Lapidary Supplies: [Shelley's Lapidary Supplies Pty Ltd](#)

Southern Rockhounds: [Southern Rockhounds](#)

The Australian Mineral Collector: [The Australian Mineral Collector](#)