



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.
 President: Ian Everard. H: 8251 1830 M: 0417 859 443 Email: ieverard@bigpond.net.au
 Secretary: Claudia Gill. M: 0419 841 473 Email: cjjrgill@adam.com.au
 Treasurer: Russell Fischer. Email: rfischer@bigpond.net.au

**February
Edition
2017**

"Rockzette"

Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club News

President's Report	Club Activities	Courses & Fees.
<p>Hi All, Happy New Year to everybody. The kitchen is finished, so we can get back to normal meetings and groups. Thanks to everyone who assisted at the kitchen working bee. It is only 20 weeks to the TTGGMC Exhibition, so you will be hearing a lot more about it in the coming weeks. Cheers, Ian.</p>	<p>Meetings Club meetings are held on the 1st 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>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>Tuesday Faceting/Cabbing Tuesdays - 10 am to 2 pm. All are welcome. Contact Doug Walker (08 7120 2221) if you would like to learn faceting.</p> <p>Wednesday Silversmithing Wednesdays - 7 pm to 9 pm. All are welcome. Contact Augie Gray (08 8265 4815 / 0433 571 887) if you would like to learn silversmithing.</p> <p>Thursday Cabbing Thursdays - 10 am to 2 pm. All are welcome. Contact Augie Gray (08 8265 4815 / 0433 571 887) if you would like to learn cabbing.</p> <p>Friday Silversmithing Fridays - 9 am to 12 md. All are welcome. Contact John Hill if you would like to learn silversmithing on a Friday.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p>	<p>Faceting/Cabbing <i>Course 10 weeks x 2 hours Cost \$20.00.</i> <i>Use of equipment \$1.00 per hour.</i></p> <p>Silversmithing <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>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><i>NOTE: 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.</i></p> <p>Club Subscriptions \$25.00 Family. \$20.00 Family/Pensioner. \$15.00 Single. \$12.50 Single/Pensioner. \$10.00 Joining Fee.</p>
<p>Diary Dates/Notices</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">2017</p> <p>Sat 11th – Sun 12th March 2017 GEMKHANA – Victoria – Gem and Mineral Show. Time: 9.30am to 4.30pm. Venue: Quest Shepparton Racing Complex, Goulburn Valley Highway, Kialla, VIC. (7km south of Shepparton, VIC.)</p> <p>Sat 18th – Sun 19th March 2017 Canberra Lapidary Club Rock Swap. Time: 8.30am to 5.00pm. Venue: Exhibition Park in Canberra – Wagtail Way (Camping Ground) – outdoor event Cost: Free Details: Fossickers & dealers. crystals, minerals, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils, jewellery. Food available. Sieve for sapphires http://www.canberralapidary.org.au/</p> <p>Fri 14th – Mon 17th April 2017 GEMBOREE 2017. The 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show, GEMBOREE 2017 will be held in Lithgow, NSW For Newsletters and full details visit http://aflaca.org.au/gemboree/</p> <p>Fri 5th – Sun 7th May 2017 Murraylands Gem and Mineral Club Crystal and Craft Fair 'Rockarama', Palmer Oval, Palmers, SA.</p> <p>Sat 17th – Sun 18th June 2017 Tea Tree Gully Gem and Mineral Club Show.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">***</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In This Edition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's Report. • Diary Dates/Notices. • Club Activities. • Courses & Fees. • Members' Bits and Pieces. • Members Out and About. • Polishing Compounds for Different Stones. • SAR Steam Train Driver's Memories. • General Interest. • Member's Noticeboard.
<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>		

Ian Everard's Purchases at Gus Paskalis's Pre-Christmas Sale, December, 2016.



Quartz, Calcite & Pyrite
Hunan Province, China.

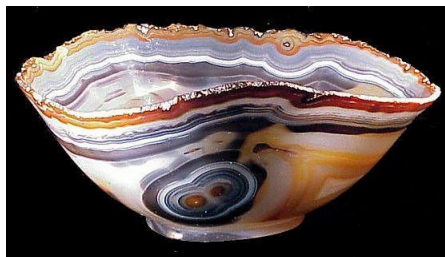


Quartz Geode, Atlas Mountains, Morocco.



Quartz on Hematite
Iron Monarch, Eyre Peninsula, South Australia.

Augie's February Mineral Selection



Agate Bowl.



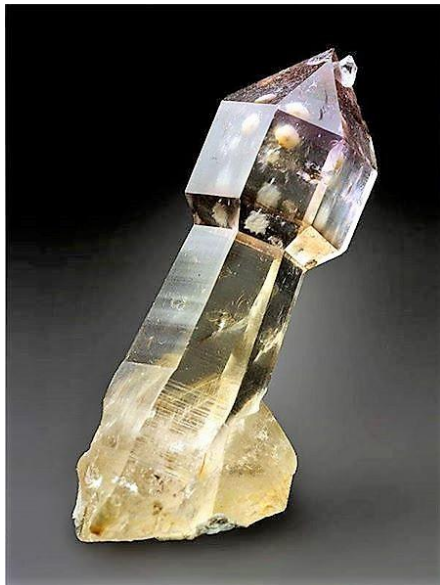
Amethyst & Calcite - Uruguay.



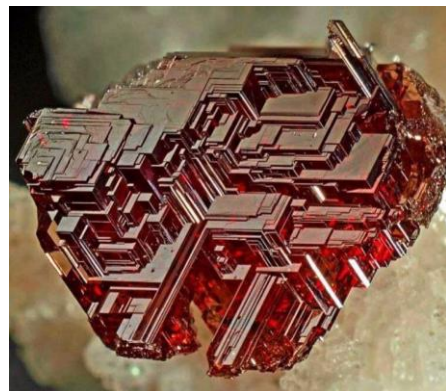
Elbaite Tourmaline crystals (28 cm tall), Pederneira, Minas Gerais, Brazil.



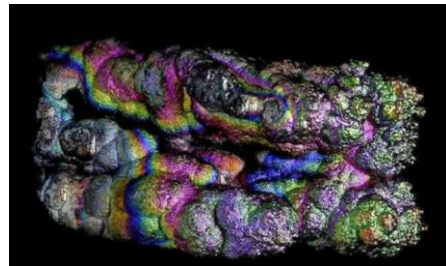
Fluorite - Okorusu Mine, Otjiwarongo District, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia.



Quartz var. Amethyst, with purplish amethystine and smoky quartz crystal phantoms and unidentified crystalline inclusions From Crystal Park, Elkhorn Hot Springs area, Montana, USA.



Garnet, showing variable growth.



Iridescences on Goethite - Andalusia, Spain



Bi-colour Tourmaline, Madagascar.

Augie's Monthly Agate Gallery
(Showcasing agates from around the world.)

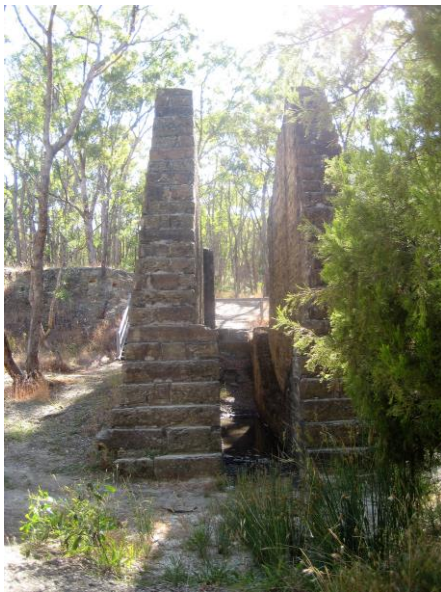


Cerro Victoria 3.

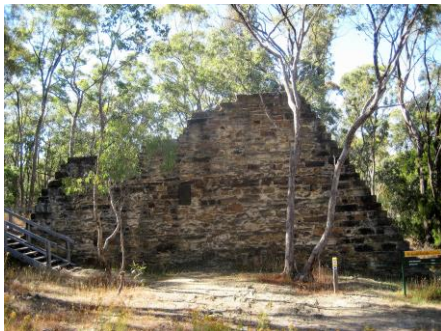


Condor Agate 17.

**Ian’s Victoria Goldfields Holiday
Dec 2016 / Jan 2017.**



End view of the base of the Garfield Water Wheel, Castlemaine District, VIC.



Side view of the base of the Garfield Water Wheel, Castlemaine District, VIC.

Garfield Water Wheel

In 1887, when it was constructed, the Garfield Waterwheel was hailed as the largest waterwheel in the southern hemisphere. Built of timber, the 72-foot diameter wheel could be seen for miles around. For 24 hours, a day, the racket of the 15-head ore-crushing battery powered by the wheel could be heard in Castlemaine - except on Sundays when all work on the goldfields stopped.



Water from the Expedition Pass reservoir passed along a race and, for the final 240 metres, along a sapling supported flume to the top edge of the wheel.

After falling to the bottom of the wheel, the water continued down the hill to power the quartz-crushing battery of the nearby Manchester mine.

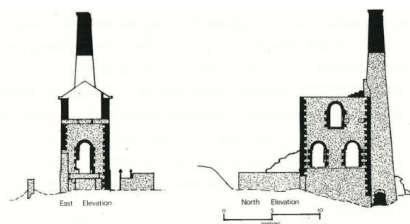
The Garfield waterwheel proved to be a little too big for its own good. In 1904, an inability to cope with high winds, and wear and tear on the gearing forced the dismantling of the wheel and a conversion to steam power. Nevertheless, the Garfield Waterwheel was one of the great icons of technological development brought about by the search for gold.



Engine House, Duke of Cornwall Mine, Fryerstown, VIC.



Duke of Cornwall Mine, 1880s (photograph courtesy Mr Felix Cappy, Castlemaine)

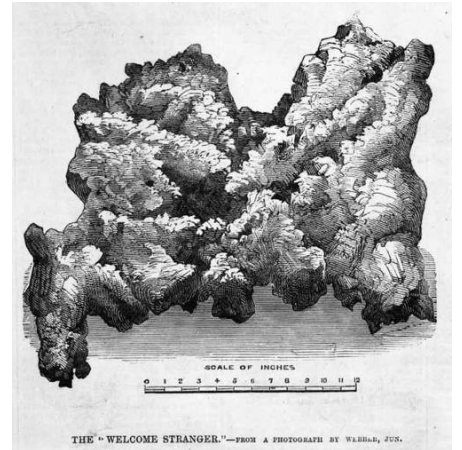


The Engine House

The most obvious structure is the characteristic Cornish engine house. The building is constructed predominantly of roughhewn local stone, although windows and other wall openings are dressed with brick, which was also used for the upper half of the chimney and at the corners of the building. Granite was used for the main ‘loadings’ on the ‘bob wall’. One unusual aspect of the engine house is the location of the chimney in a central position on the end wall, rather than in the more usual corner or free standing positions. The foundations which supported the flywheel, axle and crank are evident and the probable location of the boiler house is marked by a low stone wall on the southern side of the engine house.



Welcome Stranger Nugget: On this spot the largest nugget of gold found in the world was discovered on the 5th February 1869 by John Deason and Richard Oates.



“Welcome Stranger Nugget”

The world’s largest gold nugget was found just a couple of inches below the ground at Moliagul near Dunolly, Victoria, Australia on 5th February 1869. Weighing in at 2,315.5 troy ounces (72.02 kg) it surpassed the “Welcome Nugget” by nearly a hundred ounces. In this 1869 illustration published shortly after the discovery, the size of the nugget (61 by 31 cm or 24 by 12 inches) is compared with a 12-inch (30cm) scale bar. The nugget was soon melted down into ingots and shipped to the Bank of England. Before 1990, just about all large nuggets were melted down for their monetary value. Today, there are less than a dozen known gold nuggets over 500 ounces.

The Balaclava Works

The Balaclava hill cyanide works and the Balaclava Open Cut Mine near Whroo were two of the most prominent features of the Rushworth mining booms.

Discovered in 1854 the balaclava hill reef mine with its bountiful deposits of gold ore and quartz would go on to be the most glorified sites involved in the Rushworth district. Discovered by Lewis and Nickenson by accident they became partners and run the mine having to employ more than 100 men in the first year.

Employing those men was worth it however with the mine earned more than £15,000 each for the two men in their first year.

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**Ian’s Victoria Goldfields Holiday
Dec 2016 / Jan 2017. Continued...**

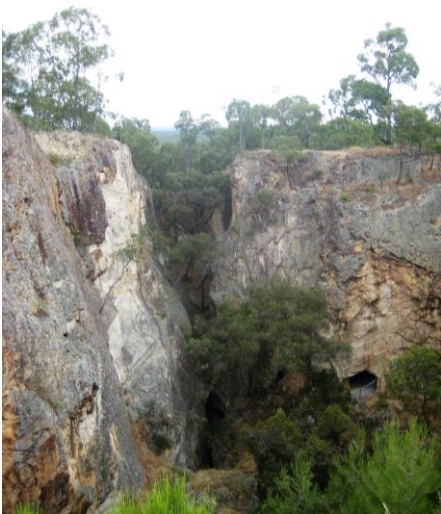
The Balaclava Works



Balaclava Mine, Whroo, Vic.



Balaclava Mine, Whroo, Vic.



Balaclava Mine, Whroo, Vic.

The South Clunes Primary School

The town of Clunes is an historic gold mining town located thirty-two kilometres north of Ballarat in the heart of Victoria’s Central Goldfields region.

In 1851 one of Victoria’s first official gold discoveries occurred at Clunes, and a rush occurred for the alluvial gold along the Creswick Creek. After a few years’ pause a larger scale operation was mounted to extract gold from the quartz reefs which ran north-south under the western side of the future township. Clunes developed around the reefs and fragments of the town’s first commercial centre remains at the west end of Fraser Street.

During the 1860s the Clunes borough (18 October 1860) grew to a census population of about 6000 people. Anglican (1859), Presbyterian (1862) and Primitive Methodist (1868) churches were opened, along with denominational schools and a government school (1863). Clunes had three sections: the original (and largest) generally south of Creswick Street; an east-west block north of the creek, granted to Donald Cameron in 1852, and kept generally undeveloped; and North Clunes, a residential and mining area when mining was at a peak. The North Clunes school was opened in 1875, sited on the east-west block, and later absorbed the South Clunes school (1878-1922).



Primary School, South Clunes, Vic.



Primary School, South Clunes, Vic.

Central Deborah Mine



Battery at the Central Deborah Mine, Bendigo, Vic.

The Central Deborah Gold Mine operated from 1939-1954 and during that time employed 357 male miners who successfully extracted almost one ton of gold (929kg) from the ground, which would be worth about \$46 million in today’s prices.

At its peak, Central Deborah Gold Mine reached a depth of 412 metres. It has 17 separate levels and 15 kilometers of drives

and cross cuts (tunnels). The Central Deborah was very much a hands-on mine and the conditions that the miners worked in would be considered shocking by today’s standards – being lowered underground in a cage with only two sides, often working ankle to knee deep in water, filling up to 32 ore trucks a shift by hand which were then pushed a mile or more along rails in the drives, working by carbide lamp, breathing in the fumes and rock dust and communication by bells.



Central Deborah Mine, Bendigo, Victoria.

They were ironmen. However, at the time working conditions were considered to be among the best on the goldfields at Central Deborah, after all it was one of the only mines that had hot showers.

Victoria Hill Bendigo



Victoria Hill, Bendigo, Vic.



Victoria Hill, Bendigo, Vic.

The story of quartz mining on Victoria Hill lies at the heart of Bendigo’s historical status as the world’s richest and deepest reefing field. Gold was discovered on Victoria Hill in 1854, and by early 1855 claims had been taken up over its entire extent. Shafts were first worked by windlass, whip or whim, and primitive crushing batteries were in operation. *Continued next page...*

**Ian’s Victoria Goldfields Holiday
Dec 2016 / Jan 2017.**

Victoria Hill Continued...

By 1861, Victoria Hill had yielded at least 1,200,000oz in gold. One of the early claims on Victoria Hill was owned by Prussian immigrants, Christopher Ballerstedt and his son Theodore. In 1854, they bought a claim on the hill for £80, to which they subsequently added other claims, and from the quartz veins (called spurs), worked both by shafts and a large open cut, obtained gold worth nearly £200,000.

Christopher Ballerstedt was dubbed 'Father of the Hill' and has been credited as the first to debunk the theory at that time prevalent on the Bendigo field, that the gold content of reefs would diminish at depth. As his shafts plunged below the 200-foot level, the quartz remained rich in gold. His success inspired others, and so led the way to Bendigo's later status as the world's deepest and richest goldfield.



Victoria Hill, Bendigo, Vic.



Victoria Hill, Bendigo, Vic.



Victoria Hill, Bendigo, Vic.

Melville Caves

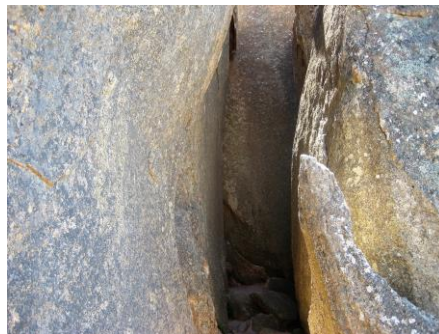


Melville Caves, Rheola Region, Vic.

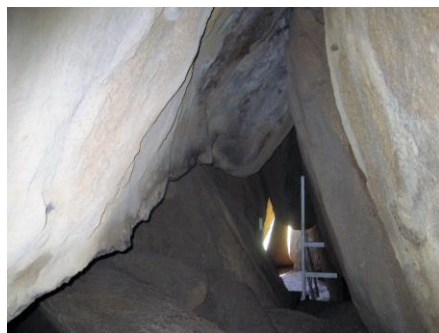


Melville Caves, Rheola Region, Vic. - huge granite boulders once used as a hideout by the bushranger Captain Melville

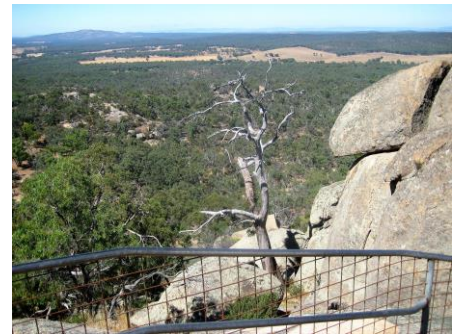
When we think of caves we usually think of limestone caves with beautiful formations. The Melville Caves are not limestone. They are a collection of huge granite boulders sitting on the top of a massive granite tor in the Kooyoorra State Park. It is the spaces between these huge boulders which form the 'caves' or 'cavities'. However, the cavities are, in fact, a series of large fissures which have formed in the weathered granite. They are located 205 km north-west of Melbourne via the Calder Highway and 21 km west of Inglewood, Victoria.



Melville Caves, Rheola Region, Vic.



Melville Caves, Rheola Region, Vic.



Melville Caves, Rheola Region, Vic.



Melville Caves, Rheola Region, Vic.



Melville Caves, Rheola Region, Vic.

**Gold Dredge and Dragline,
Maldon, Victoria.**

Located at Porcupine Flat which was once a flourishing area of the Maldon goldfields, the dredge and dragline represent that phase of gold mining in Maldon when technology enabled relatively large scale reworking of earlier deposits which had first been worked by thousands of individual prospectors in the rush of the 1850s.



Gold Dredge at Maldon, Vic.

Continued next page...

**Ian’s Victoria Goldfields Holiday
Dec 2016 / Jan 2017.**

**Gold Dredge and Dragline, Maldon, Victoria.
Continued...**

Mr George Heywood commenced working the site at Porcupine Flat in 1958 where he developed the dredge operation on Porcupine Creek. He purchased the dredge sometime after 1958, and it may not have been fully operational until after 1973. Operations ceased in 1984, after moderate success. This dredge is a smaller reconstruction of the one that operated in the Jim Crowe Creek south of Newstead, from 1948 to 1954.



Gold Dredge at Maldon, Vic.



Dragline for Dredge at Maldon, Vic.

The dredge originally worked to the north of its current site, the existing dam being constructed when the Porcupine Flat Gold Treatment Works were constructed over the original workings. The dragline standing on the bank of the dam was brought from the Yallourn Coal Mine to assist in creating the initial dam and the ongoing operation. It proved to be of little value and was abandoned in its present position early in the operation.



Dragline for Dredge at Maldon, Vic.



Dragline for Dredge at Maldon, Vic.

**Beehive Company Goldmine,
Maldon, Victoria**

The Maldon quartz reefing field, although relatively small compared to others in the State, was extraordinarily rich in gold. The hardness and heavy mineralisation of the rock containing the gold placed Maldon's mining companies in the vanguard for the introduction of new mining technology. Beehive Reef was opened in 1854 and was mined until 1918. Large-scale mining commenced in 1860, when machinery described as the 'most extensive in the colony' was installed. The 60 horse-power engine powering the machinery was called at the time the 'most powerful employed in mining speculations in Victoria'. The site's towering brick chimney stack, constructed in 1861, has been recognised historically (since 1923) as a monument to Maldon's nineteenth century gold mining.



Beehive Company Mine Chimney, Maldon, Vic.

The Beehive Company Gold Mine is scientifically important for the survival of its brick chimney stack. This stack provided draught for the steam boilers. Chimney stacks, like the Beehive one, were once a common sight on mid- to late 19th-century quartz mines. The Beehive stack today is the only one of its age and size still standing in Victoria.



Contributed by Doug Walker...
Street Art



Contributed by Doug Hughes...

This comes from the Covington Catalogue

Polishing Compounds for Different Stones

Introduction

1. Many stones polish equally well with several buff and polishing compound combinations. A very hard gem can be polished by a much softer polish powder. Only one polishing agent should be used on a buff.
2. Polishing does not remove any material from the surface. If scratches develop, the stone must be re-sanded.
3. It is impossible to obtain a high glossy finish on very soft materials, especially if they tend to be slightly porous, fibrous or granular. As a last resort with this type of material, a finish gloss can be given using spray varnish.

Material	Buff					Polishing Compound				
	canvas	phenolic	felt	leather	muslin	cerium oxide	chrome oxide	diamond	linde "a"	tin oxide
agate		c	a	b		a-b		c		
amethyst		c	a	b		a-b		c		
beryl		d	a	b-c		a	c	d	b	
calcite				b	a					a-b
chloastrolite			a			a				
feldspar			a			a				
garnet		c	a-b			b	a	c		
glass						a				
goldstone						a			b	
hematite	b				a	a			b	a
howlite			a	b					a	c
jadeite				a-b	c		b		b	
jasper			a	b		a			a	
lapis lazuli				a-b			b		a	
malachite				a-b			b		a	
nephrite-jade				a-b	c		b			c
obsidian			a			a				
opal-australian			a		b	a				b
opal-mexican		a						a		
psilomelane				a-b					a	b
petosky stone	a									a
quartz		c	a	b		a-b		c		
rhodochrosite				a-b					a	b
rhodonite				a-b		b			a	
serpentine				a-b					a	b
sodalite			a			a				
thomsonite			a			a				
tigers eye				a					a	
tourmaline	c			a-b			b	c	a	
turquoise				a-b					a	b
unakite			a			a				
variscite			b-c	a		b			a	c
wonderstone			b-c	a					a	c

Match letters across rows for best combinations

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

This comes from the Covington Catalogue

Polishing Compounds for Different Stones. *Continued...*

BUFFS

- **Canvas:** Canvas is useful when polishing heat-sensitive stones because it develops very little friction.
- **Muslin:** Muslin buffs are recommended for soft stones and gems that are heat sensitive.
- **Leather:** Leather is a versatile buffing material that is both efficient and economical. Leather generates heat, but not as much as felt.
- **Felt:** Felt is useful for polishing glass and stones of even texture. It is not recommended for gemstones that under cut. Friction on felt generates heat.
- **Phenolic:** Phenolic tools or phenolic lap disc (cab laps) are useful when impregnated with diamond grit. 14,000 Micron (pre-polish) or 50,000 Micron (polish) diamond compound can be applied to the surface of the gemstone and worked with a phenolic carving tool. It can also be applied to the surface of a phenolic lap disc and worked with the gemstone mounted at the end of a dop stick. The diamond will charge the phenolic plate making smoothing and polishing easier.

POLISHING COMPOUNDS

- **Cerium Oxide:** cerium oxide will polish at a faster rate than conventional polishing compounds and produce a superior optical lens surface with no staining or caking. Because it will polish faster, a lower concentration can be used. It is recommended for use on leather, felt, polyurethane foams, and thermoplastic polishing pads. It is a favoured polish for quartz type minerals and other gemstone types. It is not recommended for gemstones that will undercut.
- **Linde "A":** A .3-micron aluminium powder that is carefully graded for uniformity of grain size. It is excellent for polishing stones that will undercut. Excellent for hard to polish stones.
- **Chromium Oxide:** Chromium oxide is a hard-polishing agent. It is green in colour and stains badly. It is useful for polishing jade and stones that will undercut.
- **Tin Oxide:** Tin oxide is an excellent general-purpose polish. It is used to provide a final high gloss finish.
- **Diamond:** Diamond grit is the most efficient polishing medium. It is especially useful for polishing difficult-to-polish stones.



Range of Compounds

South Australian Railway (SAR) Steam Train Driver's Memories - late Norm Hann (Train Driver) and shared by the late David Richardson (his fireman).

An Introduction by Mel Jones...

As you may not know, I have had an interest in trains most of my life. I spent all my pre-adult life living on the family farm in the Murray Mallee and the main country rail line from Tailem Bend to Barmera via Karoonda and Renmark ran past the farm. The local siding, Lowaldie, was only a mile away.

The SAR was the major means of sending and receiving stock, goods and produce in those days. So, most days involved some interaction with the railways. As a child, our lending library books came from Adelaide (100 miles away) via the railways, as did our shoes and other items unavailable to purchase in the country. Such goods were ordered using comprehensive catalogues supplied by various department stores in Adelaide. Sizes were selected using the patterns and scales provided. Posted orders to the stores were post packaged and delivered to our local railway siding (Lowaldie) via the railways.

My pre-employment pay (pocket money) was earned bag-sewing and bag-weighing at the local wheat and barley stacks which ran alongside the railway lines at Lowaldie and Karoonda.

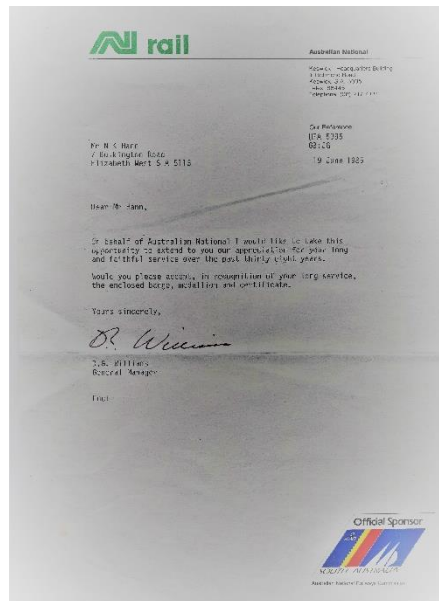
The latter part of my secondary school education was achieved via steam and diesel hauled trains to and from boarding school in Adelaide at the beginning and end of each term.

Thus, I developed an ongoing interest in the activities of railway staff and the trains they worked with. I enjoyed riding on trains and watching the men working their steam locomotives over the challenging terrain.

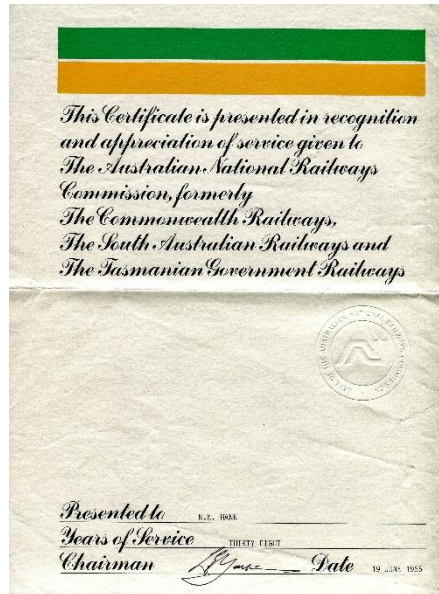
Later in life, Janet and I met up with Dave and Sally Richardson via TTGGMC. It turned out that David was a fireman for the SAR and was based at Tailem Bend and at Waikerie during his career in the railways. In discussion with David, it was established with a strong possibility that he was firing the 520 class steam locomotives used to haul the end-of-term, school holiday trains on the Adelaide to Tailem Bend leg of the South-East School Holiday Specials bound for Mount Gambier, when I was a passenger.

David, as loco fireman, was generally teamed up with the same loco driver, named Norm Hann. In fact, they both teamed up on trains running through the Murraylands, South East, Adelaide Hills, and Riverland. They were involved with both steam and diesel-electric trains.

Norm Hann had a 38-year career working for SAR (1947 – 1985) which included trains on the Eyre Peninsula Railway system as well as the regions already mentioned.



Letter of Appreciation and Certificate of Recognition received by Norm Hann for his 38-year (1947 – 1985) career working for SAR.



Norm must have enjoyed his work, despite the rigors of weather and the along-the-line isolation, because in retirement he endeavoured to record some of his experiences to share with others before his passing. His railway related, handwritten notes, typed papers, letters, pamphlets, etcetera, were left to David when he passed.

In due course, David passed the rather cluttered, unsorted folder of papers, cuttings, and letters on to me to see if they were of interest. Well yes! They are of interest to me and possibly to others too. I sorted, pieced together, and recovered what stories I could, then scanned them and sent a copy to the Railway Museum at Port Lincoln as most of the stories related to experiences in the Eyre Peninsula Railway Region.

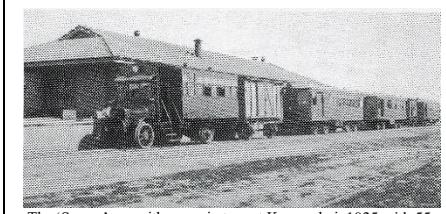
Over the year, I hope to include one of Norm's stories in each newsletter edition.

Unfortunately, I cannot populate the stories with relevant pictures, as I have done with Nancy Lynn's travel poems...such specific, relevant pictures are not readily available.

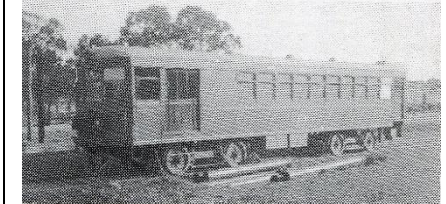
The first and longest story will be about Len's (driver) and Mudrock's (fireman) pairing up for Len's entry into working as a steam train driver based at Port Lincoln. (I wonder if the two characters in the story are in fact Norm Hann as Len and Bill Murdock as Mudrock?).

In the meantime, an old look at Karoonda Railway Station in 1925 (21 years before I was born) ...

In June 1923, a second attempt at a railcar service was made when the 'Saurer' railcar, with accommodation for 35 passengers was allocated to Nuriootpa-Truro line and later to the Karoonda-Peebinga line. The 'Saurer' car looked very much like a 1920s-green-grocer's van. These early attempts to provide alternatives to steam passenger services were unsuccessful.



The 'Saurer' car with a van in tow at Karoonda in 1925 with 55-type railcars in the rear.



A closer view of a 55-class railcar in the Murray Mallee, 1925.

Recollections in May 1983 of Hurtle (Ike) Allister, 84, the last of the original railcar drivers...he said,"In the early days we had to fuel up, change the oil and grease the railcars ourselves. Mechanics were only called in if there was a mechanical breakdown."

Seven of the twelve imported 55-class railcars were stationed at Karoonda to provide transportation in an area where roads and motor vehicles were virtually non-existent.

A railcar service ran daily between Karoonda, Waikerie, Loxton, and Paringa and every second day to Peebinga. Sometimes they towed a small goods van when there was an excess of traveller's luggage or goods.

Each driver was responsible for a particular railcar. Ike had No.13.

"Soil erosion and dust storms became more and more of a problem as farmers cleared the country...sometimes causing derailments! ***

Contributed by Doug Walker...
Sand Art



Contributed by Augie...

The Candy with the Little Hole

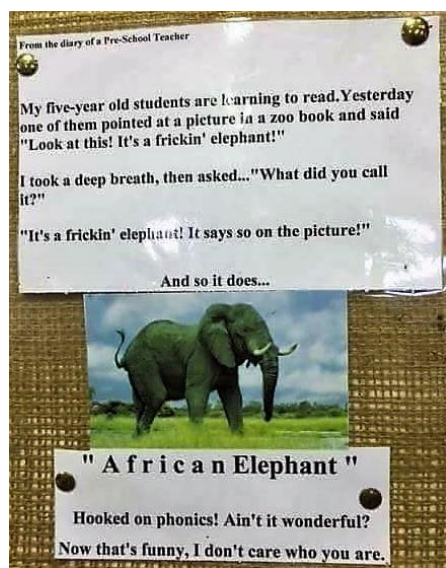


The company that makes the candy was testing possible new flavours. A group of children began to identify the flavours by their colour. Every flavour was easily detected:

- Red.....Cherry
- Yellow...Lemon
- Green.....Lime
- Orange...Orange

Finally, the teacher gave them all **HONEY** lifesavers. None of the children could identify the taste. The tester said, 'I will give you all a clue. It's what your mother may sometimes call your father.'

One little girl looked up in horror, spat her lifesaver out and yelled, 'Oh my God! They're assholes!'



Scotch?

On the first day of school, the children brought gifts for their teacher. The supermarket manager's daughter brought the teacher a basket of assorted fruit. The florist's son brought the teacher a bouquet of flowers. The candy-store owner's daughter gave the teacher a pretty box of candy. Then the liquor-store owner's son brought up a big, heavy box. The teacher lifted it up and noticed that it was leaking a little bit. She touched a drop of the liquid with her finger and tasted it. "Is it wine?" she guessed. "No," the boy replied. She tasted another drop and asked, "Champagne?" "No," said the little boy, "It's a puppy."

English is hard...

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He knew where the new lead mine was so he took the lead and led the others to it.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13. The two men were too close to the door to close it.

"Cortana, Tell Me A Story".

"Feuding families. Forbidden love. Poison. For never was a story of more woe than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

The end".

"Cortana, Tell Me Another Short Story."

"How about a palindrome story?
A man, a plan, a canal: Panama!
or
Was it a car or a cat I saw?
The end".

(A palindrome is a word, phrase, number, or other sequence of characters which reads the same backward or forward.)

"Cortana, Tell Me A Long Story".

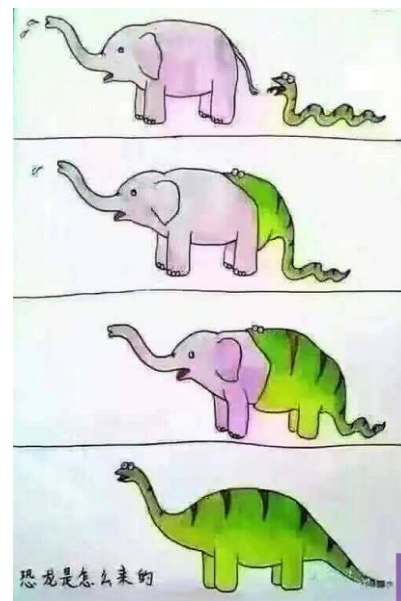
"How about a short sci-fi story instead?
Robot invasion! Oh! I found the off switch.
The end".

Dogs Are Welcome

Dogs are welcome in this hotel. We never had a dog that smoked in bed and set fire to the blankets. We never had a dog that stole our towels and played the T.V. too loud, or had a noisy fight with his traveling companion. We never had a dog that got drunk and broke up the furniture...so, if your dog can vouch for you, you're welcome too.

The Management.

How Dinosaurs Were Made



Contributed by Augie...

Neologism

Alternate meanings for common words

1. Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.
2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.
6. Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
7. Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.
8. Gargoye (n.), gross olive-flavored mouthwash.
9. Flatulance (n.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
10. Baldcrdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.
11. Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
12. Pokemon (n), a Rastafarian proctologist.
13. Circumvent (n.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men..
14. Frisbeetarianism (n.), (back by popular demand): The belief that when you die, your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

Contributed by Douglas Walker...
The years go by and by...



Cinderella is divorced...



Snow White has not been so lucky...



Little-Red-Riding-Hood hasn't seen the Wolf since...



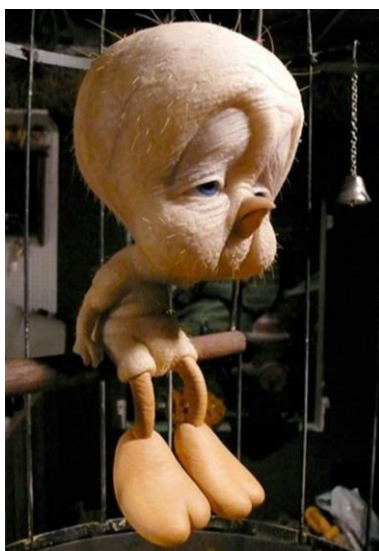
Sleeping Beauty is still asleep...



The Little Mermaid has met a sad fate...



Barbie celebrated her 50th Birthday this year...



Little Tweety is 60 years old...



So is Superman...



Wonder Woman is menopausal...



Batman and Robin are living-it-up at the Nursing Home...



Spider-Man is attached to different threads...

*And, as we realise that life is too short and goes by too fast, we might as well smile and enjoy each day!
Wishing you all a joyful 2017 that includes good health, good times, and good friends.
Happy new year!*

Grumpy Neighbour!

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning, can you believe that 2:30am? Luckily for him I was still up playing my Bagpipes.

The Grim Reaper

The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.

Shorter

What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it? Short.

How many politician does it take?

How many politicians does it take to change a lightbulb? Two. One to change it, and another to change it back again.

Cow Bells

Why do cows wear bells? Because their horns don't work.

Chicken Coup

Why does a chicken coup have two doors? Because if it had four doors it would be a chicken sedan.

Contributed by Don Lynn...

Queensland 1995.

We boarded a bus in July 95
A run up to Cairns is what we did strive
Picked up passengers along the way
Till we numbered thirty eight on this happy holiday.



Now Bernie is our driver and he takes the front seat
With his uniform and his beard he looks so trim and neat,
While Dot is our hostess who has a mighty job
Trying to control this unruly mob.



Saw sheep and crops, oranges and vines as we wander on our way
See factories and wineries, but alas we cannot stay.
Had dinner at Wentworth where the Darling and the Murray combine
Where the tall gums and bird life create a scene just fine.



Into Broken Hill a mining town of old
They found silver, lead, and zinc, at least that is what we're told.
Had tea at a club with the pokies next door
Some left much richer, but others quite poor.



Travelled to Willcannia then Tilpa for our lunch
A real beaut Sunday roast for this hungry bunch
At Louth we crossed the River Darling wide
Then found the Major Mitchell Motel at Bourke, after that long ride.



Travelled many many miles as we wandered on this day
Saw many mobs of emus and boab trees all along the way.
Through Cunnamulla, Charleville, and Barcardine I declare
'till at last we made Longreach and the Jolly Jumbuck waiting there.



We wandered this morning through the Stockman's Hall of Fame,
Soon our time was up and we were on our way again.
Through Alpha, Anakie, and Blackmore, where we saw a long coal train,
'till we got eighty kms from Rockhampton and the bus played up again.



At last the bus got going and everything is fine,
when we reached Rockhampton the time was half past nine.
Out to Glenmore Station for cabbage and bully beef meat
Then to top it off, damper and golden syrup, it really was a treat.



We are all in summer clothes as we wander on today
Through Maryborough and Sarina then dinner at Mackay.
Saw lots of cane growing as through Proserpine we roam
Home Hill, Ayr, then Townsville where tonight we make our home.

Continued next page...



To the top of Castle Hill we go for a little ride
Then into the Big Aquarium to see fish and corals growing here inside.
Next Ingham, Cardwell, and Tully we viewed along the way
And Josephine Falls, then Cairns at the end of another great day.



We drove to Pt Douglas then took a boat ride
Out to the low islands on the blue ocean wide.
From the glass bottomed boat we see coral growing there
Then a stroll around the island, what a great day we declare.



Out to the Daintree River on a boat there we did glide
Through the tall rainforest, see crocodiles on the banks so wide.
Then back to Wild World Crocodile Farm and guess what we did see
Koalas, colourful birds, and the crocs being fed their tea.



Caught the train to Kuranda, through the rainforest and tunnels up there
See the palms, ferns, and elk horns all growing in the fresh mountain air.
See the Butterfly House, with butterflies all flying to and fro
Then we walked the open air markets, all buying as we go.



Today we start our journey for the long, long run back home
Saw miles and miles of sugar cane as on our way we roam.
Crossed many mighty rivers and many towns we see
'til we got to Mackay on the coastline, just in time for tea.



We are moving on by 8am and through Sarina on our way
Saw a big long coal train with 102 trucks on this day.
Then into Rockhampton Gardens for our dinner time break
Then our Maryborough Motel which was really first rate.



At the Big Pineapple, we come to see, pineapples growing there
Tall bananas, cashew nuts, and the avocado pear.
At last we reach the Gold Coast with its high-rise buildings there
Where the gentle waves keep rolling, on the sand in the cool night air.



We cross such hilly mountains as we make our inland run
See the valleys far below and the trees reaching up to the sun.
Passed through Lismore, Casino, and Tenterfield as we wander on our way
Until we get to Tamworth at the end of another long day.

Continued next page...



Lovely green fields we passed today with sheep and lambs grazing
And mistletoe hanging from the gum trees, it really is amazing.
We see the drovers and their dogs waiting patiently with care
While the cattle graze contentedly in the long green paddock there.



As we crossed the Murrumbidgee River the waters running high
And the old dead gums look mournful as they reach their arms to the sky
Then as we cross the Hay Plains, so wide and so very flat
We see rice fields, lucerne, and clovers as thick as any mat.



Now our journey is nearly over, we’re heading fast for home
We’ve seen such lovely country wherever we did roam.
So it’s thanks to Bernie and our dear friend Dot
For many happy memories, let’s just say, ‘Thanks a lot!’

Nancy Lymn.

This is the last of Nancy’s poems.

To reiterate Nancy’s own words in her last line above, and relating to all her poems that we have had the privilege to read...

“For many happy memories, let’s just say, ‘Thanks a lot!’”

A woman caught her husband on the weight scale, sucking in his stomach.

“That won’t help you, Joe, you know?”

“Oh, it helps a lot,” says the man, “it’s the only way I can see the numbers!”

Contributed by Augie...

Well I must be getting older

Well I must be getting older
And I don't know who to blame
All the words now have new meanings
Though they still sound just the same.

And I was so good at English
Now I get the words all wrong
cause when I put them in a sentence
it’s just like they don't belong.

Like, when a bloke was really happy
it was ok to say “He's gay”
a “Rap” was how you hit a door
And Hi! just meant g'day.

“Grass” was grown upon your lawn
We used a "Pot" to cook a stew
A “Score” was what your team made
And a "Dope" meant silly you.

A “Dyke” that was just a little dam
A “Poof” a puff of smoke
and “Bread” was flour and water
Now if you've got none well you're broke.

And “Cactus” was a prickly plant
But now it means you’re dead
a “Joint” was an old run down shack
A place to rest your weary head.

“Acid” was something we used
in chemistry at school
and Winter was the only time
that we could say we’re “Cool”.

A “Trip” meant falling over
when we tangled up our feet
And lollies were the only thing
that we could say were “Sweet”.

A “Camp” was just a little tent
set up out in the scrub.
We only “Stuffed” our chickens
and food was our only “Grub”.

If someone had a bit of luck
we’d say that's really slick
now when something’s great mate
well they say it’s “fully sick”.

And we put “ice” into our eskies
just to cool our beer and rum
and the only "Smack" I ever got
was on me bloody bum.

People stopped you in the street
to talk about the weather
now when you ask a question
the kids simply say “Whatever”.

Well I’ve tried to understand it
It's progress I've been told
But I really have to face it mate
Gees – I must be getting old.

Members' Noticeboard

Garage Sale

**Rocks, Minerals, Gemstones,
Mineral Books and booklets.
Quartz Crystals, rare crystals,
cutting material, etc.
Saturday 18th March 2017 and
Sunday 19th March 2017,
From 9am to 4pm each day.
Contact: Vince 8258 9917
Address:
23 Dorset Street,
BRAHMA LODGE, 5109 SA.**

For Sale

**GEMMASTA GS.10
10 Inch Power Feed Saw
Complete with - Board, Motor and
Hood
Excellent Condition
Price New - \$3,100
For Sale - \$1,400
Contact Tony Bailey at
0400293057**

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