



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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**July.
Edition
2016**

"Rockzette"

Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club News

| In This Edition... | President's Report | Meetings, Courses & Fees. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diary Dates. (Page 1. and Page 17.) Stop Press. President's Report. Club Activities. Meetings, Courses & Fees. Ian's Fieldtrip Finds - Part 1. (Page 2.) Lapidary Fundamentals. (Page 5.) General Interest. (Page 7.) Members Notice Board. (Page 17.) For Sale Notices. (Page 17.) | <p>Hi All,</p> <p>Our lease is now finalised and I picked up a signed copy for the club last Friday. In the mean time I hope you are all keeping warm. (See page 9 - 10 on how).</p> <p>Cheers, Ian.</p> | <p>Meetings (See Amendments under Stop Press.) 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 style="text-align: center;">Diary Dates</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Club Activities</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> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat 13th - Sun 14th August 2016. Enfield Gem and Mineral Club Show, Enfield Primary School Stadium, Harewood Avenue, Enfield SA 5085. Sat 3rd - Sun 4th Sept 2016. Mildura and District Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show. Sunraysia Masonic Centre Irymple, Calder Highway, Irymple, Victoria. Fri 30th Sept, Sat 1st & Sun 2nd Oct, 2016. Broken Hill Gem and Mineral Show, 'Rock On 2016' Memorial Oval / Showgrounds, Broken Hill, NSW. More 'Diary Dates' on Page 17. | <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>Lapidary (Tuesday mornings) <i>Course 5 weeks x 2 hours Cost \$10.00.</i> <i>Use of equipment \$1.00 per hour.</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Stop Press</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>Silver Craft (Friday mornings) <i>Course 5 weeks x 2 hours Cost \$20.00.</i> <i>Use of equipment \$1.00 per hour.</i></p> <p>While some consumable materials are supplied by the club, trainees must supply any additional requirements.</p> <p>Trainees who use the club equipment (for example, magnifying head pieces, faceting equipment, tools, etc.) must return them to the workshop after usage. Trainees are also encouraged to purchase and use their own equipment.</p> <p>In the interest of providing a safe working environment, it is necessary to ensure individuals using the workshops follow the rules set out in <i>Policy No. 1 - 20/11/2006</i>.</p> <p>It is necessary that <i>Health and Safety</i> regulations <u>are</u> adhered to at all times.</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">Amended Winter Club Meetings Arrangements</p> <p>The trial Winter meetings schedule has been amended; it now covers June, July, August and September. That is, on the first Thursday of these months the Committee meeting will start at 3pm and the general meeting will start at 3.30pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Presentation Thursday, 7th July, 2016.</p> <p>Kym Loechel will be presenting his talk on 'Mineral Specimen Fakes', with examples to view and some ideas on how to detect them.</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>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>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>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> | | <p>Club Subscriptions \$25.00 Family. \$20.00 Family/Pensioner. \$15.00 Single. \$12.50 Single/Pensioner. \$10.00 Joining Fee.</p> |

Ian's Field Trip/Self-Collected Quartz Finds.



Quartz, Montacute Quarry, South Australia.



Quartz, Montacute Quarry, South Australia.



Quartz, Montacute Quarry, South Australia.



Quartz, Montacute Quarry, South Australia.



Quartz, Montacute Quarry, South Australia.



Quartz, Montacute Quarry, South Australia.



Quartz, Montacute Quarry, South Australia.



Quartz, Montacute Quarry, South Australia.



(Indoor 2) Quartz, Montacute Quarry, S.A.



(Indoor 1) Quartz, Montacute Quarry, S.A.



(Outdoor 1) Quartz, Montacute Quarry, South Australia.



(Outdoor 2) Quartz, Montacute Quarry, South Australia.

See NOTE >>>

NOTE: The specimens labelled (Indoor) or (Outdoor) are really all the same specimen. The indoor pictures were taken using small, 240v powered, lights and the outdoor pictures were taken using filtered sunlight.



Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



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Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Amethyst and Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Amethyst and Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Amethyst and Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Amethyst and Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz var Amethyst and Smoky, Mooralla, Victoria.



Quartz (Nail Hole), Blue Mine Creek, Flinders Ranges, S. Australia.



Quartz (Nail Hole), Blue Mine Creek, Flinders Ranges, S. Australia.



Quartz var Smoky, Black Top Quarry, South Australia



Quartz var Smoky, Black Top Quarry, South Australia



Quartz var Smoky, Black Top Quarry, South Australia

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/lapidary-fundamentals-gemstone-tumbling/>

Lapidary Fundamentals: Gemstone Tumbling

By Donald Clark, CSM IMG.



Gemstone tumbling can bring out a beautiful polish in many hard gems. Agates tumbled polished, Minnesota, by Paul VanDerWerf is licensed under CC BY2.0.

The simplest (and least expensive) lapidary art form to learn is gemstone polishing. The only equipment you need is a tumbler and abrasives, often sold in kits, and the rough you want to polish. The only skills you need to start is the ability to read instructions and measure the abrasives. Nevertheless, before you buy your first gem tumbler, there are a few important factors to bear in mind.

Gemstone Tumbling: Preliminary Considerations

Stone Sizes

In order for the tumbling action to work, you must place stones of various sizes in the revolving barrel. They need to range from not more than half the diameter of your barrel to about 1/10th the size of the largest stone. You cannot simply put a few large pieces in the tumbling barrel and expect them to come out nice.

Simply gathering stones in an assortment of sizes isn't too challenging. If all the sizes you need aren't readily available, simply use a hammer to create them. However, if you intend to work with stones the size of melons, you'd better be prepared to gather a lot of filler!



Gemstone tumbling simulates the conditions that weather rocks in a stream or at a beach, only greatly accelerated. 'Tumbling' by pfly is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

Tumbler Size

Knowing what you want to polish and the size range of the stones you need will help you determine what size tumbler to buy. The largest stone you can finish will be about half the diameter of the barrel. Therefore, your least expensive models with a barrel four inches in diameter can only finish two-inch diameter stones. Moving up to a machine twice that size will cost twice as much and require twice the abrasives and filler. For the serious lapidary, this is a reasonable investment. For the part-time hobbyist, it may not be worthwhile.

Consider how often you plan on using your machine. For example, if you just want to polish a couple of dozen agates you found on vacation, you might not need a machine large enough to do them all at once. With a smaller tumbler, you may have to process your stones in two or more batches. However, if the gem tumbling machine is going to sit idle most of the time, purchasing a larger unit would be a waste of money.



'Tumbled Agate and Jasper' tumble-polished gems inside a 15-pound rock tumbler barrel, by 88pathoofroad is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0.

Gemstone Hardness

All the gemstones in your barrel need to have the same hardness. Harder stones will scratch softer ones. If you have even one stone in your tumbler that's harder than the rest, it will scratch everything else in the barrel. (Of course, stones used just for filler can be softer than the gems you want to polish, since it doesn't matter if they're scratched).

Measuring the hardness of your rocks may seem daunting but can be accomplished with simple tools. A pocketknife is about 6 to 6.5 in hardness. A file is closer to 7. You can also assemble a set of stones of known hardness value for your testing.

Materials of the same hardness won't scratch each other. Therefore, you can use one stone to test rough of the same kind. For example, if you want to tumble some agate pieces, use one to scratch the others. The piece shouldn't scratch any of them or show any wear itself. If it does wear away on a stone, that piece is harder and shouldn't be included in your tumbler.

Not all stones will take a polish, just the harder ones. A simple field test will save you from bringing home a lot of useless rock. Try scratching them with a pocketknife. If you cannot scratch the specimen, it will take a polish. You will find other potential prizes are nothing more than compressed mud. Not only will they not take a polish, they'll create quite a mess!

Noise

Location, location, location. That saying isn't just for real estate. You need to consider carefully where you're going to place your equipment. Gemstone tumbling machines are noisy and run 24 hours for days on end. Loretone makes tumblers with rubber barrels to minimize the noise. While this helps, they're still noisy. You need more than one wall between your bed and the tumbler if you want to get any sleep. If you're using a machine with a steel barrel, you'll need more than that! Don't forget about your neighbours, either. Simply putting the tumbler in the garage may help you sleep but won't ingratiate you with them.

If you don't have a secluded room or basement, consider making a container for it. A cardboard box lined with Styrofoam or covered with an old blanket will reduce the sound considerably.

Choosing A Gemstone Tumbling Machine

There are two kinds of tumblers: rotary and vibratory. Rotary tumblers are the most well-known. They can be found at any rock shop, scientific supply house, toy store, and, of course, online. They're the least expensive variety and come in the widest range of sizes.

Vibratory tumblers shake the ingredients, rather than rolling them over each other. They have the single advantage of being faster. What would take weeks in a rotary tumbler can be done in a couple of days in a vibratory. They also have a significant disadvantage. The barrels don't stand up to coarse tumbling and wear out quickly. Hence, these are usually reserved for finishing gems and aren't recommended for general purpose use.

Budget for an extra barrel for your machine. Reserve it for polishing only. This is especially important if you're using a rubber barrel. They're very difficult to clean completely. If you have any abrasive, even one or two little pieces, left in the barrel when you try to polish, it will scratch your stones. They'll look awful, and you'll have to go back, clean the barrel more thoroughly, and polish them again.

**Lapidary Fundamentals:
Gemstone Tumbling
Choosing A Gemstone Tumbling Machine
Continued...**

Successful results have more to do with your choice of abrasives than the machine. Most companies that sell gemstone tumbling machines also offer abrasives in a kit. They may even be included with the tumbler. Polishing kits are recommended for beginners. As you gain experience, you can try different polishes and combinations and save money by purchasing in quantity.



'Blue diopside skarn (Neoproterozoic, about 700 Ma; Doviyren Highlands, Buryatia Republic, Transbaikalia, Eastern Siberia, Russia) 1, tumble polished by James St.John, is licensed under CC by 2.0.

Gemstone Tumbling Procedures

The instructions that come with the machine you purchase will be much more specific than this article can be. Following those instructions is recommended. However, here is a general outline of how the process works.

1. Fill the barrel 2/3 to 3/4 full with stones. Make sure that they're all the same hardness and in an even variety of sizes. For example, if your largest stones are three inches in diameter, there should be just as many two-inch stones, one-inch, one-half and one quarter-inch stones. These proportions are by volume, not by count.
2. Next, add water to the top of the stones. Measure the proper amount of abrasive and put it in. Put the top on the barrel and start it in motion.
3. This tumbling motion stage will take about a week. However, you should open the barrel and inspect your stones every day. Some stones release gases that build up inside the barrel. They could blow the top off the barrel and create a real mess. Simply opening the barrel every day should prevent this.
4. Keep track of your progress. The only way to do this is to take a few stones out, rinse them off, and have a look at them. Seeing the daily changes also adds to the fun of the project. Do not rinse your stones in a sink. Take them outside. The waste from your tumbler (also known as "the plumber's best friend") can plug up a drain quickly.

5. When your stones are all nicely rounded and have no angular surfaces left, it's time for the next stage. Take them outside, place them in a colander, and rinse them thoroughly. Wash the barrel out completely using soap, not just water. You need to get all the coarse grit out before moving on to the next step.
6. Place the stones back in the barrel and add water to the top of the stones. Don't fill to the same level as before. Your stones are now smaller and won't fill the barrel as high. For the abrasives to work properly, your water level needs to be to the top of the stones in every step. If you didn't have quite enough stones in the beginning, you'll now be short. You may still be able to finish, but it will take longer, as there isn't as much friction as when the barrel is properly filled.
7. Add the proper abrasive and set the gemstone tumbling machine to work again. This second step is usually done with fine grit silicon carbide. It also takes about a week. As in the first stage, you should inspect your progress daily. The process is complete when all the coarse scratches are removed and the stones are silky smooth.



'Fluorite tumbled bi-coloured piece, by Jarno is licensed under CC by 2.0.

The instructions for gemstone tumbling will vary on what comes next. Some will go directly to the polish stage. Others will have a pre-polish first. Just follow the instructions. Regardless of which step you're on, the procedures remain the same. Clean the stones and barrel outside. Replace them. Add water and abrasives. Set the machine to work. Check the progress daily.

If you are using a pre-polish, your work will be complete when the stones have a smooth and satiny surface when dry and look polished when wet. In the polishing stage, you're finished when they sparkle and shine from every direction. If you're ever not sure if your stones are done, give them an extra day or two. More time won't hurt them, but too little will result in a substandard polish.

The whole process will take approximately a month to complete, although the actual work is only a couple of hours. If you go away for a few days, you can simply turn the tumbler off and restart it when you come back.

As with any lapidary project, that final day will make it all worthwhile. You've spent considerable effort in all the preliminary stages. While watching the progress is fun, the best reward is when you dry your stones and they glisten with vibrant, beautiful colours. They're now a delight to the eye and a welcome gift for friends and family.



Tuesday Workshop Activities



Irene and Wendy discussing a project.



Russell happy to stop for a snapshot.



Augie continues developing her faceting skills.



Doug overseeing Ron engaged in a faceting task.



Rodrick shaping silver wire.

Tuesday Workshop Activities



Ian labelling and boxing McDougall's Well quartz specimens that he has donated to the club to sell at its next show.



Irene, Wendy, Augie (partially hidden) Doug and Ron.



Gwen on yet another silver project.



'Blue' totally engaged.



Religion...No! Politics...No! Secrets of Woomera...Yes!

Contributed by Augie...

Mahenge Garnets

Mahenge Garnets come in a Rainbow of colors, from bright rich Raspberry, to Peachy Pink, and even some amazing Subtle Salmon Colors, with the variety of colors being virtually endless.

There has to be something very magical about the soil that these wonderful new Mahenge Garnets are found, as the dispersion that these gems show when cut in incredible. Tests have shown these to be a type Pyralspite Garnet, a mix of Pyrope, Almandite, and Spessartite. Some pieces even have small traces of Grossular Garnet also. The refractive index has tested out at 1.76 to 1.77.

These fabulous gems are found in several remote alluvial mining operations, in the Ulanga district, Morogoro Region, in Tanzania. The rush has been on, to find these fine gems, and there certainly seems to be a sort of "Gold Rush" happening there now. From the reports we have heard, the population has nearly doubled since the discovery of the incredible gem.



Augie's quartz selections July 2016



Quartz var Amethyst/Smoky.



Quartz with Rutile inclusions, Brazil.



Quartz var Smoky, Switzerland.



Quartz var Smoky, Entia Valley, Harts Range, N.T.



Patrick Gunderson. & a Smoky he dug at Ewingar, NSW.



Quartz var Amethyst/Smoky, Entia Valley, Harts Range, NT.



Quartz var Amethyst/Smoky.



Quartz var Amethyst/Smoky, Entia Valley, Harts Range, NT.



Quartz var Amethyst/Smoky.

Another beauty from Patrick. Below is his comment -

"Beautiful Amethyst/Smoky Quartz (Smamethyst?) from one of my first adventures into the Harts Ranges in the NT. I still remember the day I found these... I'd been searching for days trying to find these elusive crystals that I'd heard about and was digging a vein of really crappy milky Quartz crystals (like you wouldn't even put them in your garden..well that's a bit harsh but yeah..) and then all of a sudden all these perfect crystals appeared in the dirt...never had I imagined that such perfection could form alongside such worn and weathered crystals. Later I learnt that those milky crystals were the "seed" growth that began forming in the crystal pocket and these gem crystals were the final stages of formation. Can't have beauty without a little raw and rugged growth."



Quartz var Amethyst/Smoky, Entia Valley, Harts Range, NT.



Quartz, Himalayan

Contributed by Denise and Granton Edwards...

Subject: Old fossils on the move (Part 1 of 3).

Hi folks,

We have been on the road now for a week and half and currently in Winton. We set out in the cold weather travelling through Broken Hill and camping out along the way with very brisk mornings and are thankful for the diesel heater. We came across another couple who were also camping along the way and kept running into them at various campsites and they then ended up following along with us for a week and they were good company.

This time, because we are not in a hurry, we have taken time to look around the towns. Our first caravan park was Bourke where we had a plenty of time to have a look around at the old wharf along the Darling River, which is quite low. We went out to the weir, which was the first to be built along the river, where the evidence of the lack of water was alarming as the other side of the weir was quite dry; supposed to be a fishing area. We went out to the old bridge which was shipped out from England and taken up the Darling by paddle steamer and erected on site.



From there we had a stay in Wyandra (a free camp with a free toilet) in a little town behind the school and there were at least 20 others there. A communal campfire was supplied with wood by one of the locals. While preparing for our evening meal, we watched as the clouds built up and darkened, and then it started; lightening, thunder and a great downpour. Thankfully, by morning the water had soaked into the ground. Which meant we could get out easily as we were camped on the old oval that no longer had grass.



Made our way to Tambo where we decided that a van park was the way to go, because the weather report was not very inviting and thought that if we have to sit it out, then we would do it in relative comfort. Of course, the park was full, because everyone else had thought the same as us. We were right; as we woke Friday morning to heavy rain. One good thing with this park was that we could step out onto a bit of grass, but it didn't take long for that to get water logged as during the course of the day Tambo had 3.1/2 inches of rain.



This did not deter us from donning our Drysabones and walking down the main street poking our noses into galleries and shops along the way. We did resist this time in purchasing a Tambo Teddy, mind you they only had plain ones. Our 'Harold' would be offended if we bought another one as he has pride of place at home.

We sat and had a coffee talking to locals and other travellers as the rain bucketed down. We ended up staying 3 nights there as pay for 2 and the 3rd one is free so we could clean up and dry out before heading to Blackall and then onto Barcardine. The Barcoo River was flowing quite freely and the locals were overjoyed.



Augathella Meat Ant Park, Qld.

Blackall is renowned for Jack Howe, the gun shearer, who sheared 321 sheep in 7 hours 40 minutes in 1842 and still holds the record to this day. Also there was the Black Stump that was used to survey the surrounding area and the Queensland Border but unfortunately the original burnt down and was replaced with a magnificent piece of petrified wood. We then went 'beyond the black stump', as the saying goes to a parking bay just below Barcardine for the night. Thankfully the ground had a lot of ironstone in it so we could get the van off the side of the road and amongst the trees with safety. We were only 25K below Barcardine so got there in time for some brekkie before wandering up the main street where they had the first wind mill to pump water from a bore just on the outskirts. We also saw the 'tree of Knowledge' where the workers union was formed after the shearers strike.

Here we said goodbye to our 'taggers on', John and Rosemary, as they turned right and we turned left towards Longreach where we had a walk about and lunch. We hadn't walked the main street before and it was quite interesting with some very old buildings and shops. Didn't need to do the other touristy things as we had already done them so made our way to Winton.

Not a bad park here opposite one of the pubs. Our first priority was to visit the Dinosaur Stampede as we couldn't do it last time up here due to floods and even though it was a 110K drive out there we found it very informative and interesting.



Dinosaur Tracks at Lark Quarry, Qld.

These footprints were found quite by accident by a local farmer who in his spare time went fossicking for opal and decided to try a different spot when he spotted something like a chicken footprint and it grew from there and at present they have uncovered 3,300 prints and can see the trail leading under the pile of rock and rubble. The area was once quite vegetated and a lake for water when the smaller grass eating dinosaurs were interrupted by a meat eating dinosaur and the chase was then on. The prints have been preserved because the mud was like a plasticine and held the imprint.

Continued next page...

Subject: Old fossils on the move (Part 1 of 3).
Continued...

From there we spent the afternoon meandering the main road of town, past where the Matilda Centre was and they are going to rebuild, hopefully starting later this year. They had managed to salvage quite a lot of artefacts and restored them. Loads of opal shops here as boulder opal is in the area. Today was the other part of the dinosaur legend where just past Winton was the discovery of quite a lot of bones. At the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum we learnt how they actually remove the bones from the dig by placing layers of foil, newspaper and plaster over them before lifting them from the ground and trying to identify what the bone may have been. Some of these were massive in size so can imagine how large these animals were. We got to see the area where they remove the dirt, ironstone, and etcetera, in a painstaking process as well as quite close to some of the bones themselves.

The weather has now turned to how it should be with 32deg today – yes finally shorts and t/shirts.

Until next time – see ya, Denise and Granton.

Contributed by Denise and Granton Edwards...

Subject: Old fossils on the move (Part 2 of 3).

Update on our journey...

Leaving Winton and heading to Hughenden we found the road to be quite bumpy and lots of deep dips but before we got to the worst of it we heard a thud from the right side of the car or van. Stopping to have a look could not find anything wrong so continued into Hughenden where we were going to camp in a National Park. But, before heading there we stopped for some lunch when Granton took a thorough look at the van and that was it we were not going anywhere, we had snapped a rear spring on the van and the tyres were rubbing on the wheel well. Phone calls to the RACQ and RAA had a local agent for the RACQ come out (here we were lucky that one was in town) and he ended up blocking up the springs so that it would not rub and helped us limp into the caravan park.



The local engineer also came and had a look and luckily we knew the make of the springs and he managed to get a set sent out from Townsville that night. RAA put us up in the park and 9am the next morning a tray top arrived to take the van to the engineer workshop.



Wow what do you do for a few hours in a little place like Hughenden but we managed to waste a bit of time walking the streets looking at their sculptures and a quaint café – FJ Holden Café – where we had brunch amongst 50's memorabilia.



The van was back in the park by 2.00pm so will stay the night before moving on.

Let's hope nothing else goes wrong

Until next time – see ya, Denise and Granton.

Contributed by Denise and Granton Edwards...

Subject: Old fossils on the move (Part 3 of 3).

Hi All, Just a quick update...



With the springs replaced on the van we were once again off and away as there was not a lot to do in Hughenden after we had

seen the 35ft tall windmill and had a meal at the FJ Holden Café, which was quite unique with memorabilia from the 50's.



Both the RAA and RACQ were wonderful and had us fixed within 24 hours.

Heading now for the coast we had a couple of free camp stops and as we headed towards Townsville the weather turned to drizzle. We bypassed Townsville and stopped in at Balgal Beach for 2 night's free camp which is a very popular spot for freebies but we managed to get in but unfortunately it was wet and couldn't capture the beauty of the place. We could hear the waves from the van and as the weather was quite windy the sea was rough. By the second day we managed to walk along the beach and Granton even tried fishing but only managed to pull in a female mud crab that was thrown back. Opposite the camp spot was a little café, conveniently, where we had a meal of fish and chips and not like SA fish we were served mackerel and a huge piece at that (yum).

Leaving Balgal we were in pineapple country and then just before Ingham was the sugar cane growing area. Ingham is quite a major town with all facilities so we managed to stock up on our supplies before making our way to Lucinda.

We are now in Lucinda and will be for the next 3 weeks as we catch up with friends from Victoria who come here every year for fishing which is what Granton is doing right now. Today has been his first opportunity as the weather has not been all that kind to us with rain etcetera, but have had 2 days of sunshine. We walked to the jetty which is 5.76Kms long and is the longest serviced jetty in the southern hemisphere with 660 concrete and steel pylons and is deemed to have been an engineering masterpiece as it follows the curvature of the earth. Can't actually get onto this particular jetty but the other side there is a pier that is used for fishing and overlooks Hinchinbrook Island which is quite rugged and dominant.

Hoping the weather improves while we are here but we are not cold as we are in shorts and t-shirts.

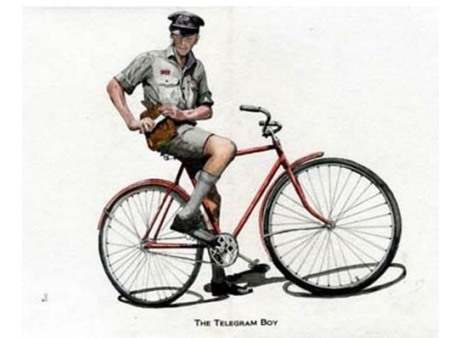
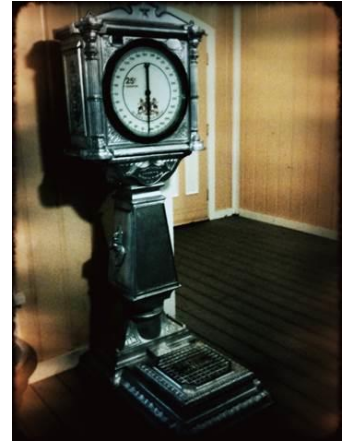
Until next time stay warm
Granton and Denise.

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Our Life in old Pictures



Our Life in old Pictures – continued...



Contributed by Doug Walker...

The Moral of a Story

This is a story about a fly, a fish, a bear, a hunter, a mouse, and a cat.



There is a moral to this story.....



In the dead of summer, a fly was resting among leaves beside a stream. The hot, dry fly said to no one in particular, 'Gosh...if I go down three inches I will feel the mist from the water and I will be refreshed.'



There was a fish in the water thinking, 'Gosh...if that fly goes down three inches, I can eat him.'



There was a bear on the shore thinking, 'Gosh...if that fly goes down three inches that fish will jump for the fly and I will grab the fish!'



It also happened that a hunter was farther up the bank of the lake preparing to eat a cheese sandwich. 'Gosh,' he thought, 'if that fly goes down three inches and that fish leaps for it and that bear exposes himself while making a grab for the fish, I can shoot the bear and have a proper lunch.'

Now, you probably think this is enough activity on one river bank, but I can tell you there's more....



A wee mouse by the hunter's foot was thinking, 'Gosh, if that fly goes down three inches and that fish jumps for that fly and that bear grabs for that fish and that dumb hunter shoots the bear and drops his cheese sandwich in the process, I can have a proper lunch.'



A cat lurking in the bushes took in this scene and thought (as was fashionable to do on the banks of this particular river around lunch time), 'Gosh...if that fly goes down three inches and that fish jumps for that fly and that bear grabs for that fish and that hunter shoots that bear and that mouse makes off with the cheese sandwich, then I can have mouse for lunch.'



The poor fly is finally so hot and so dry that he heads down for the cooling mist of the water.



The fish swallows the fly...the bear grabs the fish.



The hunter shoots the bear...



The mouse grabs the cheese sandwich...the cat jumps for the mouse...the mouse ducks and the cat falls into the water and drowns.



NOW, The Moral of the Story...



whenever a fly goes down three inches, some pussy's gonna be in serious danger.



Smart Attorneys and Dumb Blondes

A man boarded an airplane in New Orleans with a box of frozen crabs and asked a blonde stewardess to take care of them for him. She took the box and promised to put it in the crew's refrigerator. He advised her that he was holding her personally responsible for them staying frozen, mentioned in a very haughty manner that he was a lawyer, and proceeded to rant at her about what would happen if she let them thaw out. Needless to say, she was annoyed by his behaviour. Shortly before landing in New York, she used the intercom to announce to the entire cabin, "Would the gentleman who gave me the crabs in New Orleans, please raise your hand?" Not one hand went up, so she took them home and ate them.

NOW, The Moral of the Story...

Two lessons here: 1. Lawyers aren't as smart as they think they are. 2. Blondes aren't as dumb as most folks think.



Modern World Morals

Two bishops were discussing the decline in morals in the modern world.

"I didn't sleep with my wife before I was married," said one clergyman self-righteously, "Did you?"

"I don't know," said the other. "What was her maiden name?"



Contributed by Doug Walker...



An Amazing 2 Letter English Word.

A reminder that one word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition.

'UP' is a two-letter word in the English language which has more meanings than any other two-letter word. 'UP' is listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand 'UP', meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake 'UP'? Eventually, we get 'UP'.

At a meeting, why does a topic come 'UP'? Why do we speak 'UP', and why are politicians 'UP' for election and why is it 'UP' to the secretary to write 'UP' a report? We call 'UP' our friends, brighten 'UP' a room, polish 'UP' the silver, warm 'UP' the leftovers and clean 'UP' the kitchen. We lock 'UP' the house and fix 'UP' the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir 'UP' trouble, line 'UP' for tickets, work 'UP' an appetite, and think 'UP' excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed 'UP' is special.

And this 'UP' is confusing: a drain must be opened 'UP' because it is blocked 'UP'.

We open 'UP' a store in the morning, but we close it 'UP' at night. We seem to be pretty mixed 'UP' about 'UP'!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of 'UP', look 'UP' the word 'UP' in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes 'UP' almost 1/4 of the page and can add 'UP' to about thirty definitions.

If you are 'UP' to it, you might try building 'UP' a list of the many ways 'UP' is used. It will take 'UP' a lot of your time, but if you don't give 'UP', you may wind 'UP' with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding 'UP'. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing 'UP'. When it rains, the earth soaks it 'UP'. When it does not rain for a while, things dry 'UP'. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it 'UP', for now...my time is 'UP'!

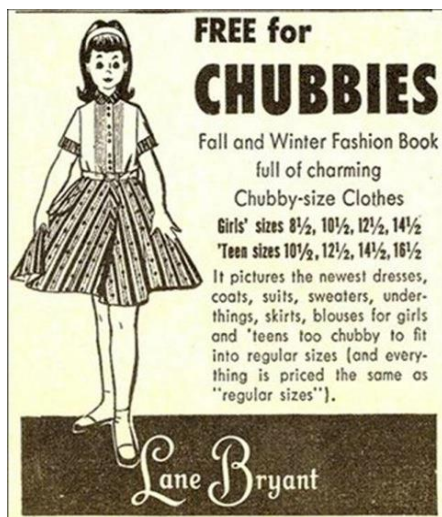
Oh...one more thing: what is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night? 'U' 'P'! Did that one crack you 'UP'?

Don't screw 'UP'. Send this on to everyone you look 'UP' in your address book...or not...it's 'UP' to you. Now I'll shut 'UP'!

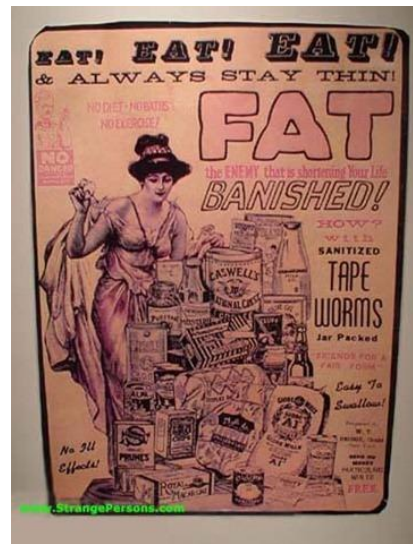


Contributed by Doug Walker...

Adverts You Won't See Again.



Adverts You Won't See Again...continued



The Flinders 1989 – Nancy Lynn

We wandered the Flinders in October '89,
We had hoped to find an abandoned gold mine.
We didn't find gold or silver or lead,
But we found lots of sparkling crystals instead.



There was Rene, Bob, Don, Doreen and me,
All camping out so gay and carefree.
The blue of the janes and the pink hops so bright,
And the soft folding mountains, what a glorious sight.



We found some barytes, the whitest of white,
and the crystals therein were a glorious sight.
There was cuprite, bornite and siderite too,
Pyrolusite and limonite to name just a few.



We decided to give Arkaroola a burn,
To see those rugged hills my heart it did yearn.
The road was all potholes and rough all the way,
We were glad to make camp at the end of the day.



We explored an old mine out Paralana way,
And found magnesites and chalcedony and this made our day.
Then the boys went a swimming in the afternoon sun,
At Stubbs waterhole and had lots of fun.



We drove through the creek beds for miles on this day,
To find the old copper mines out Yudnamutana way.
The ghosts of the pioneers linger there still,
In the ruins of the cottages under the gum trees on the hill.



Next day we wandered out Echo Camp way,
And dug for pink stilbite amongst the rocks and clay.
Then the green actinolite soon took our eye,
"But how shall we carry it all" is what we seem to sigh.



We found some old brown iron stone as hollow as it could be,
We had to break it open to see what we could see.
Inside a great big vugh of crystals there galore,
Enough for every one of us a nice big piece to score.



The colours of these drusy quartz were blue and black and white,
With crystals hanging like stalactites, it was a pretty sight.
And every different colour brought out cries of glee,
To find those hidden treasures, they were a sight to see.

The Flinders 1989 – Nancy Lynn – continued...

We wandered back through the Flinders, the gorges there to see,
With the mountains reaching to the sky and grass 'round every tree.
We passed by many kangaroos and emus on our way,
And drove back through the water in the creek beds on that day.



The gremlins soon tormented us as on our way we went,
A collapsed gas cylinder regulator, a won't work water pump and two
flat tyres to mend.
While Bob had a broken hose in the caravan water tank,
Then forget his new generator sitting up on the river bank.



We now are heading northwards to Andamooka we are bound,
That's where pretty opal lies awaiting to be found.
The ground is very flat and hard and red and very dry,
But wild flowers bloom in profusion while the birds fly merrily by.



We found some fossil leaves, laid down before modern man,
Then off to see Old Bill and his pub at the Old Whites Dam.
We searched in vain for opal as elusive as it can be,
But rocks and stones and gypsum was all that we could see.



Now our holiday is nearly over and we'll soon be heading home,
We'll remember our camping friends wherever we may roam.
Now when folks speak of Andamooka as we wander along the track,
We can really and truly say now, "Been there, done that!"

Nancy Lynn.

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

Adverts You Won't See Again.

YOU'VE WON HIM - NOW YOU MUST KEEP HIM...

Don't let COSMETIC SKIN spoil your good looks!

Before you put on fresh make-up during the day—ALWAYS before you go to bed at night, give your skin this protecting, beautifying cure. Exquisite smooth skin is a priceless treasure. Don't take chances!

ELISSA LANDI
PARAMOUNT STAR

LUX
TOILET SOAP

ANY GIRL CAN HAVE A SMOOTH, REALLY LUXURY SKIN. YOU CAN USE COSMETICS AS MUCH AS YOU WISH IF YOU GUARD YOUR SKIN AS THE GENTLE LUX TOILET SOAP

You mean a woman can open it?

Member's Noticeboard

For Sale

Attention: Cabbers & Collectors

Indonesian Amber for sale –

**Red, gold & the very rare
Sumatran blue**

**(which comprises only 2% of that
mined.)**

**Material has been carbon dated at
20-25 million years old.**

All AAA grade & sold by the piece.

Pieces range from 10 – 100 grams

Red / gold priced at .65 per gram

Blue priced at .80 per gram.

**If interested, contact Augie
on 8265 4815 or 0433 571 887**

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**

More 'Diary Dates'

continued from Page 1.

- **Sat 8th - Sun 9th Oct 2016**
Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club Show.
- **Sat 5th - Sun 6th Nov 2016**
Southern Rockhounds Gem Fair, 'Log Cabin', 17 Gerald Crescent, CHRISTIES DOWNS SA 5164.

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](#)

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

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](#)