



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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**Mar.
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. • Faceting Article • Members Out and About. • Riverland Gem and Mineral Show. • General Interest. • Members Notice Board • For Sale Notice. 	<p>Hi All, We have now met with the Council regarding our rent. It appears that the rent is to go up a bit rather than down as we expected. This is because the value of the building (club rooms) has gone up. As soon as I know the outcome, I will let you all know. 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 <u>are</u> 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 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>		

This article was drawn to our attention by Doug Hughes...

It can be accessed on the internet via the following hyperlink:

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/master-diamond-cutter-mike-botha-takes-esperanza/>

Master Diamond Cutter Mike Botha Takes On Esperanza

by Mike Botha RS, Embee Diamonds; Neil Beaty ICGA, American Gem Registry.



Esperanza, the most valuable diamond mined in the US. © [Embee Diamonds](#).

June 26, 2015. That's the date that Esperanza came to the surface at the [Crater of Diamonds State Park](#) in Arkansas. Brooke Oskarson stopped at the park outside of Murfreesboro, Arkansas (the only place in the world where you can go to [mine your own diamonds](#)) on her trip back home from a wedding. 30 minutes and \$8 later, she had in her hand what is playing out to be the most valuable [diamond](#) ever unearthed at the park.

Esperanza was found in a part of the park known as the "pig pen," a 37-acre piece of ground known to be a sloppy, muddy mess after heavy rainfall. There was no rain in the pig pen that day. It was a hot, dry, summer day in southwest Arkansas. She picked that location to dig because there was a giant banyan tree nearby to provide some shade from the blistering sun.

Stunningly white and shaped like an icicle, the diamond is, to say the least, unique. At 18mm long and weighing 8.52 carats, it's the 5th largest diamond found since the park opened in 1972. Brooke had never seen anything like it. No one has ever seen anything like it, before or since. She named it Esperanza, after her beloved niece.



The Esperanza diamond in the rough. © [Arkansas State Parks & Tourism](#).

She and Esperanza quickly found their way to [Neil Beaty](#), one of the top gemologists in the country and an Independent Certified Gemologist Appraiser with the [American Gem Society](#) (AGS). From the beginning, the plan was to sell it, and such a unique diamond required a unique plan.

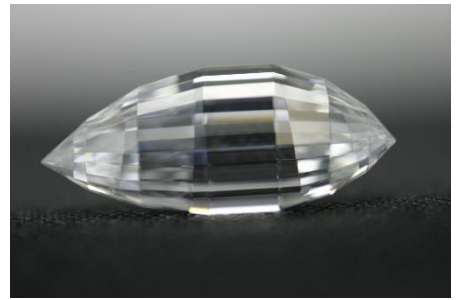
There was a flurry of activity over the next few months. The process started with optical scans and microscopic grading at Beaty's office, [American Gem Registry](#) in Colorado, and included laser 3D scans both in Illinois and at the AGS laboratories. In the first two months, Esperanza had already visited eight states. A [Raman scan](#) at AGS proved what was already suspected. This was a [type IIa diamond](#) with zero nitrogen parts per billion. That's the rarest of the rare. A [D color grade](#) (colorless) was a near certainty with nothing visible through the surface. An [IF clarity grade](#) (internally flawless) was definitely on the table. Hundreds of photos were taken from every possible angle. Esperanza is one of the most photographed rough diamonds ever found.

With the stone itself safely stashed in a vault, the scans made their way to Mike Botha, master cutter at [Embee Diamond Technologies](#), who designed a brand new facet pattern that he calls the "triolette." It's three-fold symmetry of 7x7 facets. 147 facets in total with two [culet](#)s, three [keels](#), and no [table](#). A unique design for a unique diamond that shows off the color and transparency from every direction while preserving as much weight as possible.



Esperanza and Mike Botha. © [Arkansas State Parks & Tourism](#).

People often ask about this shape. It's so ... different. The secret is in the light performance when seen as a 3D item. Diamonds are generally designed to be viewed from one, and only one, direction. Mike took a radically different approach. Given the starting icicle shape, a more traditional cut would have lost vastly more weight and gained nothing in return. Sure, it could have made a fantastic 3.5-carat marquise, but that would be missing an opportunity. It's not just different, it's better. A lesser diamond could never pull it off. A lesser cutter could never pull it off.



The Esperanza diamond, triolette cut. © [Embee Diamonds](#).

Two months later, Mike made a stunning move. He took his 800-pound cutting bench to North Little Rock, Arkansas where he teamed up with [Stanley Jewelers/Gemologist](#) to stage a live cutting event, the first ever on such a magnificent diamond. Under the eyes of ever-present security, a live webcam, and a steady stream of press and interested customers, he spent 137 hours cutting his masterpiece and another 43 hours ameliorating the finish by removing minute surface blemishes. A diamond with this many facets is prone to "spring" surface anomalies as the diamond heats up during the polishing process. It had to be perfect! Mined in Arkansas. Cut in Arkansas. The park service was there. TV crews were there. Politicians were there. Brooke was there. Even Beaty was there.



Mike Botha at work. © [Arkansas State Parks & Tourism](#).

The shop was set up in Stanley's main showroom and it was loaded. [Systems](#) in New York contributed a 3D scanner for the job. Mike brought ten [tang](#)s, traditional polishing tools, to be ready for every possibility. Live webcams turned Stanley's showroom into a combination diamond factory, TV studio, and jewellery store.



Esperanza and Mike Botha were the centers of attention at the live cutting event in North Little Rock, Arkansas. © [Arkansas State Parks & Tourism](#).

The task was gargantuan and went on for a week. 147 facets make this one of the most complicated diamonds ever planned. Everything had to be perfect because, since there is no table, every facet has 146 mirrors. It would take a supercomputer to ray-trace it. Mr. Botha was up to the challenge. He started out by roughing the equidistant triangular profile and laying out the three keels. Then, he worked from the center to the ends. He soon abandoned computer scanning and opted for true and tested trigonometric and geometric principles.



The complexity of the triolette design meant every facet had to be precisely planned and executed. ©Arkansas State Parks & Tourism

Every facet angle and length was calculated and cut by hand. From culet to culet there are seven facets, and from keel to keel there are seven across. 3x7x7. Touching one was touching nine. Even a tiny error and the polish or symmetry grades would be missed. AGS000 (triple ideal)/GIA triple X (triple excellent) grades were the bar. Nothing less was acceptable. It was the most difficult diamond he's ever taken on, particularly because of the extreme hardness due to the absence of nitrogen, which makes a diamond easier to cut.



Esperanza's chemical properties made faceting a special challenge. © Arkansas State Parks & Tourism.

After leaving North Little Rock, he continued to work on the diamond at a distant location. After a total of 180 hours, it went to the labs. AGS Laboratories first. D/IF. Then to the [Gemological Institute of America](#) (GIA). D/IF again. Done. Set it. Sell it.

How to sell such a treasure is another tricky problem? This gem is absolutely unique, and it's hard for people to imagine a mounting. The team brought in AGS members Ian Douglas of Inspired Jewelry, for the design, and Byard Brogan, for the manufacturing.

What was needed was a design that highlights the shape of the diamond and emphasizes the fact that the best direction to view the Esperanza is any and every direction. It draws viewers in. The more people look, the more interested they get. The pieces around the outside have the same cross section as the stone and come from all directions, mimicking the light performance of the stone itself. The stone is tension set by the ends and pushed forward to encourage a full 180° viewing angle.



Esperanza in a pendant setting created by Byard Brogan. © Byard F. Brogan Inc.

It's perfect, but that added a new problem.

When every facet shouts "Pick me," how do you photograph the gem? In many photographs the Esperanza just looks like a marquise. From the beginning, it was obvious this is a piece that needs to be experienced to be understood. That led to the national tour. In conjunction with the AGS, Esperanza is on a tour of jewelers across the country. First, it went to [Summa Jewelers](#) in Missouri, [Black, Starr and Frost](#) in Arizona and California, and [Molina Fine Jewelers](#) in Arizona. Then, it was back to Stanley's in North Little Rock and on to [Whiteflash](#) in Texas and [Underwood's](#) in Florida. More frequent flyer miles for Esperanza. All are at the front of a sealed bid auction.

Esperanza is for sale. Appraisers have estimated she'll bring upwards of \$1 million, making this, by far, the most valuable diamond ever mined in the United States. Interested buyers can contact any of the stores above or [Mr. Botha](#) directly. Operators are standing by, but it won't last long.

Now that's a piece of Americana that doesn't come along every day.

Extract from internet...

Humorous Gemstone Inclusion

Posted by Adrian Smith at 1:01 pm Dec 29th 2010.



I have always considered myself extremely fortunate that I have an opportunity in my work to see things that have perhaps never had a pair of human eyes clapped on them before. In the course of examining gemstone inclusions, I see many truly wondrous things and every now and then, I find something that tickles me. Recently, I was suitably tickled! This orange sapphire came in for valuation and under microscopic examination something truly beautiful and very amusing was revealed. Delving into a gemstone through the microscope always feels to me like being dropped into the ocean in a small submersible craft. You enter another world full of usually unseen but quite incredible things, each telling its own part of the gemstone's story about its identity, where it came from and what tortures it may have had to endure to present itself as you now see it.



Is it a clown?... or maybe it's Homer.

Inclusions are sometimes referred to as "flaws" and considered a negative attribute. I don't always agree. What do you think? Does this inclusion add to the gemstone's interest and beauty or take something away? I would respond with a resounding "add" and where possible I try and include images of inclusions in my reports. Sadly, the pressures of time don't always allow for this indulgence.

To me, this fairly ordinary sapphire has now become something quite special. I am just hoping that my client feels the same way too. I am also hoping she doesn't detest clowns as some people do, or I have just put my foot in it by publishing this piece. Maybe she likes Homer Simpson instead..... here's hoping.

Adrian Smith – Perth, Scotland. December 2010

Photo Credits: Homer Simpson – Fox Broadcasting Company. Clown face – Courtesy of [razzamatazpartyplanners.co.uk](#). All other images – Adrian Smith

Disclaimer: The AIJV blog is authored by a selection of AIJV members and guests specifically to be able present many different viewpoints on a large variety of subjects. The opinions expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of the AIJV.



Janet, Darcy and Claire relaxing at the beach next to the North Shields jetty, a little north of Port Lincoln, South Australia.

On the 27th Dec. 2015, two members, Janet, and Mel, with their twin grandchildren, Claire and Darcy, headed off from Adelaide for a short holiday to Port Lincoln; returning home on the 3rd Jan. 2016.



Claire and Darcy trying to ride the waves.



Even Grandpa and Grandma got into the water.



Tuna boats at the marina.



Claire telling Darcy, "you are standing where my finger is, not where your finger is pointing!"

While on lower Eyre Peninsula, a recommended destination for an exceptional seafood experience – 1802 Oyster Bar and Bistro, Coffin Bay, South Australia. (book ahead).



Oysters with chilli, garlic, and lime – very nice.



Seafood Platter (Mel's Favourite) meant for 2, but more than enough for 4.

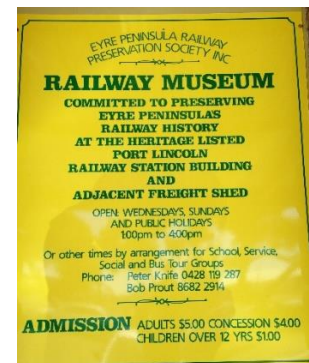


Calamari - Claire's holiday favourite; which she ordered every time we dined out.

Although we have been to Port Lincoln a number of times, we had not visited the Railway Museum based in the Port Lincoln Railway Station. This time we did...



Port Lincoln Railway Station, now the home of [The Eyre Peninsula Railway Preservation Society Inc. Railway Museum](#).

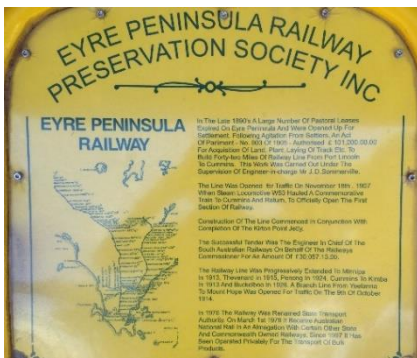


Allen, Darcy and Janet getting guidelines on what to see.



Darcy and Claire (far right) on a long, slushy walk to the water's edge, Long Beach, Coffin Bay, South Australia.

Port Lincoln Railway Museum continued...



A railway system isolated from mainstream Australian railways, nevertheless, extensive and essential for the progress of the region.



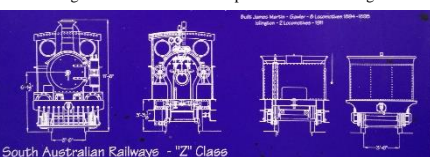
Systems and tools essential at the time; now redundant, but not forgotten by those still around that used them in the past.



The museum has an extensive library of documents and photographs.



Freight train scheduled for departure in the evening.



South Australian Railway - "Z" Class



T 180 4-8-0 narrow gauge steam locomotive.

Its history...

13-02-1903: Entered services as "T 180".
 Built by South Australian Islington, builders No.4. – First T class built [National Railway Museum record (NRM)].

1942: On loan to Commonwealth Railways [NRM].

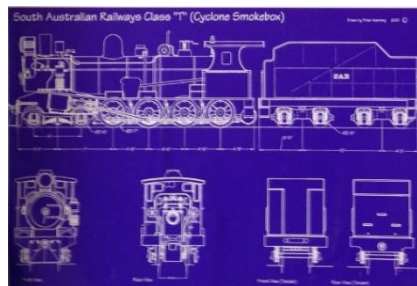
11-1952: To Port Lincoln [NRM].

07-09-1967: Condemned at Port Lincoln [NRM].

29-01-1969: Sold to Jeff & Sons [NRM].

07-03-1969: Transferred to TA Lumsden [NRM].

02-06-1969: Cut up [NRM].



In spite of the termination and scrapping of most SAR steam locomotives a few have been preserved; some in running order and some not.

In 1986, I videoed a narrow gauge T Class steam locomotive, T 186, in action in the lower Flinders Ranges, and later, uploaded the video to YouTube to share with other train enthusiasts.

If you are interested in the sight and sound of a "T" class steam locomotive in action, click on the hyperlink following the video's introduction below.

"On 26/04/1986, we joined a train tour ran by the Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society from Quorn, South Australia to Woolshed Flat and return

This tour was unique for us, as we travelled with fellow tourist in open, wooden wagons.

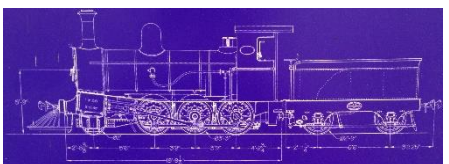
The train was hauled by ex-South Australian Railways (SAR) T Class, narrow gauge, steam locomotive, T186.

This video also features an ex-SAR, NSU diesel and an ex-Western Australian Government Railways W Class steam locomotive, W934."

[Ex-South Australian Railways \(SAR\) T Class, narrow gauge, steam locomotive, T186.](#)



Tools for men working with big nuts and bolts.



Wx Class 2-6-0 Steam Locomotive.



Fireman's Mates.



Brill Model 75 Railcar.



830 Class Diesel Electric Locomotive 850 delivered new to Port Lincoln 24th March 1962.

[South Australian Railway – Port Lincoln Division](#)

The MGMC Fieldtrip to the Riverland was primarily to attend the Riverland Gem and Mineral Club’s biennial Gem and Mineral Show held in the Berri Town Hall on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th of January, 2016.

Some members (Alan, Gerri, Ian, Michael, Coralie, Janet, and Mel) stayed at the Berri Caravan Park, while others (Leonie, Doug, June, Terry, Roo and Maurice) setup camp near the RGMC clubrooms, and Heather and Peter stayed at the Loxton Caravan Park.

Ian, Coralie and Michael had their own trading sites in the hall, and Janet and Mel setup and managed the MGMC club stall, also in the hall. Roo had his stall in the hall foyer.

Friday afternoon, after setting up the stalls in the hall, some of us retired to the Berri Caravan Park; more specifically to Alan and Gerri’s caravan annex to engage in ‘happy hour’ activities. Well after a bit of indulgence, the atmosphere was significantly changed; first the sky darkened, then we were hit with a massive downpour of rain.

On Saturday, trading was busy with a reasonable interest in minerals, rocks and gemstones. The club stall went well, as it did for others with similar material on sale.

However, on Sunday, interest in minerals and rocks was mediocre; trinkets and novelty items were much more popular. Club sales dropped significantly on Sunday as a result.

Overall, this year was MGMC club stall’s best sales outcome at this venue. Other traders we spoke to seemed quite happy with their sales too.

We thank the Riverland Gem and Mineral Club for their hospitality, both at the show and at their clubrooms, the friendly nature of their show, and for drawing in such an interest from the public to look and in many cases to buy.

Other MGMC activities over the weekend included several fieldtrips to a nearby quarry for collecting coloured sands and as it turned out some coloured stone, which some members hope to cut and polish.

Doug and Maurice also had a go at metal detecting near their camp adjacent to the RGMC clubrooms with several finds to add to their detecting collection.

Alan and Gerri also enjoyed watching the boat races on the river. The speed and noise made by these boats was quite amazing. At times they sounded like they were coming up the road at us in the hall rather than zipping along the river. All the boat noise made little difference to the corellas; great noisy flocks of them returned to the trees near the caravan park each evening once the boats had finished for the day.

At Dennis’s invitation, we visited the RGMC club rooms on Monday morning for a tour, morning tea and a chat. Then later we visited Banrock Station for lunch and wine tasting.

The following picture gallery now tells the story in more detail...

Friday 22nd January 2016



Setting up trading tables in the Berri Hall – Coralie, Ian, and Michael.



Doug and Maurice detecting near the RGMC clubrooms.

Saturday 23rd January 2016



Alan, June, Gerri and Mel at the MGMC club stall.



Ian serving a customer on his stall.



Janet serving a customer at the club stall.



Mel, Janet, Maurice, Coralie, Michael, Ian, and Terry – Tea with RGMC in the Berri Town Hall.

Sunday 24th January 2016



Debbie's stall in the foyer.



Janet waiting to serve Michael.



Roo very busy with customers.



Waiting for the raffle to be drawn



Mel repacking unsold club minerals after the show had finished



Happy hour at Ian's camp.

Fieldtrip Report contributed by Doug Hughes...

**Spring Cart Gully Berri Sand Quarry
24/01/2016**

Members of the Murraylands Club visited Berri for the Riverland Gem and Mineral Club's biennial Gem Show.

While in the district we were fortunate enough to be given permission from the Santos family (quarry owners) to visit the sand quarry where coloured sands are mined for use in building and ready mix concrete.

The rainbow coloured sands can be used to make sand pictures, decorative art-work and bottles filled with layered patterns were displayed by the Riverland Club.



Leonie, June and Terry at the gates of the Spring Cart Gully quarry.

Prior to entry, the owners of the quarry advised us that they had recently been digging an unusual rock from the site, and they did not know what it was. The rock was being stockpiled for later use.

This aroused the interest of some of the Murraylands members who were eager to see what the unusual rock was.



"Convoy! Get ready for departure!"

In the true spirit of a Murraylands field trip officer, Terry Mabbitt, soon had us lined up for a convoy down into the depths of the Quarry.

When we were all safely down on the quarry floor we soon scaled the dumps where the "interesting rock" was located. There were boulders of patterned quartzite that appeared to be formed from the coloured sand concreted together and subjected to pressure to form what we suspect is a quartzite. Many boulders and chunks of the colourfully patterned quartzite were collected for Rex Shillibeer to use in the club workshops. After scrambling over the rock piles and filling our cars and utes we turned or attention to collecting the coloured sand.

We traversed the slopes of the quarry looking for patches of different coloured sand to fill our bottles and plastic bags with. There was no shortage of sand to collect!



Terry at the top of the coloured sands quarry.



A large boulder of patterned quartzite.



Alan and Peter collecting rock specimens and coloured sands.



Gerri and Terry on the lookout for coloured sands.



Back home with a piece in the saw.

The field trip was enjoyed by all the members that attended and we are extremely grateful to the quarry owners for allowing us to visit their property. This location would certainly be worth another visit from the Club at a later date. I last visited the site around 2004, and before leaving this time, Bill Santos said to Terry and myself, "do not take that long before we visit again!". Regards, Doug Hughes.

Monday 25th January 2016
A visit to the RGMC Clubrooms



Riverland Gem and Mineral Club (RGMC) rooms.



Dennis and Alan in discussion and we listen.



Ladies looking at and discussing crochet knee rugs.

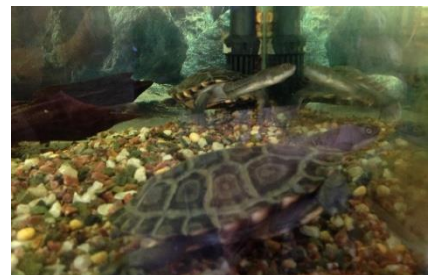


Gentlemen looking at and discussing workshop machinery.

A visit to Banrock Station



What are these ladies up to?



They are turtle watching.

Monday 25th January 2016

A visit to Banrock Station *continued...*



Not the black stump, but a view from the Banrock deck.



Doug capturing the moment.



View out the other side of Doug.



What's for lunch? Coorong mullet for me!



Deck talk.



Getting ready for wine-tasting – 17 samples!

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Problem Solving

A bear was walking across Rainbow Bridge (Old Hwy 40) at California's Donner Summit, when two cars also crossing the bridge scared the bear into jumping over the edge of the bridge.

Somehow the bear caught the ledge (see the unbelievable photo, below) and pulled itself to safety.



Authorities decided that nothing could be done to help that night so they returned the next morning to find the bear sound asleep on the ledge.



After securing a net under the bridge the bear was tranquilized,



fell into the net, and lowered,



then woke up and walked out of the net.



There is a moral to this story, you know.

This bear made a wrong move and found he was hanging by his nails.

Somehow, he was able to pull himself up onto the ledge, where he saw he was in a very bad, impossible situation, so, what did he do?

Yep, he took a nap and sure enough, the situation took care of itself while he was asleep.

The moral of this true story, when confronted with a bad situation, sometimes, the best solution is to take a nap.

So, the next time you see me asleep in front of the TV, or anywhere else, just remember, ***I could be problem-solving!*** So DON'T disturb me!

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older:

1. Death is the number one killer in the world.
2. Life is sexually transmitted.
3. Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
4. Men have two motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
5. Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
6. Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
7. All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
8. In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
9. Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

Our New Zealand Trip – August 1989 – Nancy Lymn.

We left Adelaide for Melbourne in August 89,
To visit New Zealand we were all inclined.
Our plane left round midnight to fly over the sea.
For three lovely weeks, with so much to see.



We wandered 'round Christchurch with its' Cathedral and
Clock Towers,
And found plenty to do to while away the hours
Then a bus trip to Lyttelton Harbour to see,
the Mountains and the Tunnel and then home to tea.



We drove past the Church at Lake Tekapo,
and then onward to see Mount Cook.
The mountains so high all covered with snow,
were really worth a good long look.



At Olverston House in old Dunedin Town,
the wonders of yester year made my heart pound
Then we wandered the town in the cool twilight,
before seeking out beds at the Leviathan that night.



From Te Anau we wandered all day,
through Homer Tunnel down Milford Sound way,
From the boat trip we gazed at Mitre Peak so high,
Then traversed the mountains in a plane in the sky.



At Coronet Peak we played in the snow,
then a Gondola ride to Bob's Peak we did go.
Soon the Shot Over River and Jet boat ride,
where they circled and spread the cold water wide.



Into Skippers Canyon in a four wheel drive jeep,
We gazed at the mountains so high and so steep.
The winding steep road led us all the way down,
to the Shot Over River where gold was once found.



Past Lake Wanaka and Haast Pass on our way,
with the waterfalls and tree ferns, Oh how I'd love to stay!
A stroll through the forest, what a glorious sight,
then we found some glow worms, in the still of the night.

New Zealand 1989 continued...



The joy of flying in a helicopter so high,
up to the Glacier way up in the sky.
We land in the snow so cold and so white,
What breathtaking beauty - what sheer delight!



At Shanty Town, we panned for gold,
where the miners made fortunes so we are told.
A Puffin' Billy ride along the track,
brought memories of a long way back.



The Pancake Rocks - what a great sight!
with the rocks and the sea to the left and the right.
Then the natural arch called Hawks Neck Craig,
If it fell on the bus, what a mess would be made.



We toured right 'round, Blenheim then Picton on our way,
to board the Aratkia for the North Island on that day.
Next day we toured 'round Wellington, then up to the summit
high,
to gaze in awe at the houses, built on the mountains, reaching
up to the sky.



At Rotorua the grey boiling mud,
keeps popping and flopping in a dull sounding thud.
The steam from the Geysers floats to the sky,
and the smell of the sulfur nearly makes you cry.



We visited the Maori's in their meeting house one night,
we all touched noses, and were welcomed there just right.
We ate of their food and then what a delight,
when we heard our hosts say, "Please join our concert
tonight".



We drove on past Hamilton and Auckland on our way,
as we headed for the Bay of Islands, it was a long long day.
But then we saw the waterfall, Oh! what sheer delight,
at the Panorama Lodge where we would stay that night.



Nancy’s New Zealand 1989 continued...

A boat trip in the Bay of Islands is what we did today,
 Then we called at Russell, just for a very short stay.
 Next we visit the Treaty House with its history of long ago,
 And the big long Maori War Canoe, made for 80 rowers or so.



We go to Cape Reinga to see the Light House High,
 where the Tasman and Pacific waters made a rip out to the sky.
 Then we travel for 40 miles or so along the lonely shore,
 Where we spun and frolicked in the grey sea mist and dodged the waves galore.

The sad part of this holiday, it's coming to an end,
 But I'm sure we are better for it as we all have made a friend.
 By a friend I mean New Zealand, and there's just one thing to say
 You've given us many memories which will last for many a day.

Nancy Lynn.

Continuing with the New Zealand theme, I have included this article about White Island extracted from the internet ([click here](#)) and supported with photos which we took when we visited the island on 9th February, 2005.

New Zealand's most active volcano, White Island, was in a state of frequent eruption from 1976 to 2000.

Sitting 48 km offshore, White Island (*Whakāri*) is New Zealand’s most active cone volcano which has been built up by continuous volcanic activity over the past 150,000 years. About 70 percent of the volcano is under the sea, making this massive volcanic structure the largest in New Zealand.

A sulphur mining venture began on the island in 1885; this was stopped abruptly in 1914 when part of the crater wall collapsed and a landslide destroyed the sulphur mine and miners' village; twelve lives were lost. The remains of buildings from another mining episode in the 1920's era are now a tourist attraction.

Although privately owned, White Island became a private scenic reserve in 1953, and daily tours allow more than 10,000 people to

visit White Island every year. GeoNet monitors volcanic activity and visits the island around 10 times a year.

Most Recent Eruption

The most recent eruptive episode started in August 2012 with an **explosive eruption on 5 August**, then a period of ash emissions. This was followed by heating in the Crater Lake and variable phreatic activity in early 2013 which removed the lake. By June the lake was re-established. A **further explosive eruption** followed on 20 August and again on **11 October 2013**. Unrest continues.

Previous Eruption

When: White Island was in eruption from December 1975 to September 2000, the longest historic eruption episode.

Effects: This eruption episode developed many collapse and explosion craters. For long periods active vents in these craters emitted volcanic ash. The last major eruption of this episode was in late July 2000 and covered the crater floor area in scoria, also displacing a crater lake and forming a new explosion crater 150 m across.

<https://youtu.be/cojf9FRnBjA>



White Island.



Why are Janet & Allen wearing masks?



Our beach landing on White Island and departure (from the main boat and return) was made via an inflatable dingy (rough and wet). Note the polluted water colour.



Sulphuric Acid Crater Lake.



Janet and Mel do the tourist pose in front of a Sulphur Fumarole.



Large Sulphur crystals.



Decayed remnants of the Sulphur mine setup in the 1920s.

We had a very thorough shower once we arrived back on the mainland. Regards, Mel.

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Irish Humour

Definition of an Irish husband: He hasn't kissed his wife for twenty years, but he will kill any man who does.

Murphy told Quinn that his wife was driving him to drink. Quinn thinks he's very lucky because his own wife makes him walk.

The late Bishop Sheen stated that the reason the Irish fight so often among themselves is that they're always assured of having a worthy opponent.

An American lawyer asked, "Paddy, why is it that whenever you ask an Irishman a question, he answers with another question?" "Who told you that?" asked Paddy.

Question - Why are Irish jokes so simple?
Answer - So the English can understand them

Reilly went to trial for armed robbery. The jury foreman came out and announced, "Not guilty."

"That's grand!" shouted Reilly. "Does that mean I can keep the money

Irish lass customer: "Could I be trying on that dress in the window?"

Shopkeeper: "I'd prefer that you use the dressing room

Mrs. Feeney shouted from the kitchen, "Is that you I hear spittin' in the vase on the mantle piece?"

"No," said himself, "but I'm gettin' closer all the time."

Question - What do you call an Irishman who knows how to control a wife?

Answer - A bachelor.

Finnegin: My wife has a terrible habit of staying up 'til two o'clock in the morning. I can't break her of it.

Keenan: What on earth is she doin' at that time?

Finnegin: Waitin' for me to come home .

Slaney phoned the maternity ward at the hospital. "Quick!" he said. "Send an ambulance, my wife is goin' to have a baby!"

"Tell me, is this her first baby?" the intern asked.

"No, this is her husband, Kevin, speakin'."

"O'Ryan," asked the druggist, "did that mudpack I gave you improve your wife's appearance?"

"It did surely," replied O'Ryan, "but it keeps fallin' off!"

Did you hear about the Irish newlyweds who sat up all night on their honeymoon waiting for their sexual relations to arrive?

My mother wanted me to be a priest. Can you imagine giving up your sex life and then once a week people come in to tell you the details and highlights of theirs?

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Something for all you romantics

80-Year-Old Couple Texting

An elderly couple had just learned how to send text messages on their mobile phones. The wife was a romantic type and the husband was more of a no-nonsense guy. One afternoon the wife went out to meet a friend for coffee. She decided to send her husband a romantic text message and she wrote:

"If you are sleeping, send me your dreams.

If you are laughing, send me your smile.

If you are eating, send me a bite.

If you are drinking, send me a sip.

If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you."

The husband texted back to her: **"I'm on the toilet. Please advise."**

Contributed by Doug Walker...

The Will

Jim Rutledge is on his deathbed and knows the end is near.

His nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons are with him.

He asks for two witnesses to be present and a camcorder to be in place to record his last wishes, and when all is ready he begins to speak:

"My son Charles, I want you to take the Mayfair houses."

"My daughter Sybil, you take the apartments over in the east end."

"My son Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the City Centre."

"Violet, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the banks of the river."

The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they did not realize his extensive holdings, and as Jim slips away, the nurse says, "Mrs. Rutledge, your husband must have been such a hard-working man to have accumulated all this property".

Violet replies, "Property? The a...hole has a paper route!"

Fly Sex?

Sheila walked into the kitchen to find Bruce stalking around with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" She asked.

"Hunting Flies" He responded.

"Oh. Killing any?" She asked.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 Females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell them apart?"

He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

The Global Recession

The recession has hit everybody really hard.

My neighbour got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.

Wives are having sex with their husbands because they can't afford batteries.

CEO's are now playing miniature golf.

Exxon-Mobil laid off 25 Congressmen.

A stripper was killed when her audience showered her with rolls of pennies while she danced.

I saw a Mormon with only one wife.

If the bank returns your check marked "Insufficient Funds," you call them and ask if they meant you or them.

McDonald's is selling the 1/4 ounce.

Angelina Jolie adopted a child from America.

Parents in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and learned their children's names.

My cousin had an exorcism but couldn't afford to pay for it, and they re-possessed her!

A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.

A picture is now only worth 200 words.

When Bill and Hillary travel together, they now have to share a room.

The Treasure Island casino in Las Vegas is now managed by Somali pirates.

And, finally...

I was so depressed last night thinking about the economy, wars, jobs, my savings, Social Security, retirement funds, etc., I called the Suicide Hotline. I got a call centre in Pakistan, and when I told them I was suicidal, they got all excited, and asked if I could drive a truck.

The Perfect Joke

I am a nobody, nobody is perfect, therefore I am perfect.

Nursing Home Quote

"Be nice to your children – they will be choosing your nursing home".

Pessimist Thought

The pessimist may be right in the long run, but the optimist has a better time during the trip.

The Final Solution

When everything else fails – try the directions.

Contributed by John Hill...

The full extract this time.

[The World According to Student Bloopers](#)

Richard Lederer

Concord, New Hampshire

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 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 traveled 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 Pramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinesses, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their 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 birth mark. Jacob was a patriarch who brought 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 led 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 history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns—Corinthian, Doric, and Ionic. 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 Iliad, by Homer. Homer also wrote The Oddity, in which Penelope was the last hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.

The Renaissance was an age in which more individuals felt the value of their human

being. Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenberg for selling papal indulgences. He died a horrible death, being excommunicated by a bull. It was the painter Donatello's interest in the female nude that made him the father of the Renaissance. It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented the Bible. SirWalter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes. Another important invention was the circulation of blood. Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper.

Then came the Middle Ages. King Alfred conquered the Danes, King Arthur lived in the Age of Shivery, King Harold mustarded his troupes before the Battle of Hastings, Joan of Arc was cannonized by Bernard Shaw, and victims of the Black Death grew boobs on their necks. Finally, Magna Carta provided that no free man should be hanged twice for the same offense.

During the RenaissanceAmerica began. Christo-pher Columbus was a great navigator who discovered America while cursing about the Atlantic. His ships were called the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Fe. Later, the Pilgrims crossed the Ocean, and this was known as Pilgrims Progress.

George Washington married Martha Curtis and in due time became the Father of Our Country. Then the Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the Constitution the people enjoyed the right to keep bare arms.

Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. When Lincoln was President, he wore only a tall silk hat. He said, "In onion there is strength." Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address while traveling from Washington to Gettysburg on the back of an envelope. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. The believed assassin was John Wilkes Booth, a supposingly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.

The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West. Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a thorn for 63 years. Her reclining years and finally the end of her life were exemplary of a great personality. Her death was the final event which ended her reign

The nineteenth century was a time of many great inventions and thoughts. The invention of the steam boat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick raper, which did the work of a hundred men.

Samuel Morse invented a code of telepathy. Louis Pasteur invented a cure for rabbis. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the Organ of Species. Madman Curie discovered radium. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx brothers.

The First World War, caused by the assignation of the Arch-Duck by a surf, ushered in a new error in the anals of human history.

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Lemon Picker Wanted

Talk about over qualified! The woman applying for a job in a lemon orchard in Country Queensland, seemed to be far too qualified for the job; given her arts and education degrees from Sydney University and her job as a social worker and school teacher. The foreman frowned and said, "I have to ask you this: *"Have you had any actual experience in picking lemons?"* The woman replied, "Well, as a matter of fact, I have! I've been divorced three times, owned two Fords, supported Collingwood, and I voted for Julia Gillard!"

Quiz for My Very Bright Friends

This is a quiz for people who know everything! I found out in a hurry that I didn't. These are not trick questions. They are straight questions with straight answers...

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends?
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them?
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh?
9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S'?

See Answers to Quiz on page 13...

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.”

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

Garage Sale

Rocks, Minerals, and Gemstones.

**Quartz Crystals, Rose Quartz,
Atacamite, Minyulite.**

Mineral Books, Booklets, etc, etc.

**Saturday 12th March, Sunday 13th
March, and Monday 14th March 2016.**

Times: 9am until 6pm each day.

At

23 Dorset Street

BRAHMA LODGE SA 5109

Answers to Quiz on page 12

1. Boxing.
2. Niagara Falls - The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.
3. Asparagus and rhubarb.
4. Strawberry.
5. It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.
6. Dwarf, dwell and dwindle.
7. Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
8. Lettuce.
9. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

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](#)