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**May
Edition
2020**

"Rockzette" Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club News

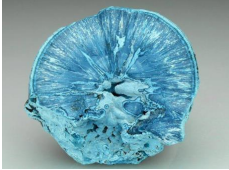
President's Report	General Interest	Club Activities / Fees
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Hi All,
 Not much to say this month, as the Club is in suspended animation for the time being due to the Corona Pandemic. Likewise, Gem & Mineral Club shows in every State have been cancelled for the foreseeable future, as with most other community activities.
 I'm just thankful that this year is not this Club's show year, as our show generates most of the money needed to keep the Club financially afloat for the next 2 years. While we currently have no income, we still have bills to pay, such as water and electricity, but we have enough in the kitty to keep us going.
 I hope all our members are staying safe and not going stir crazy. This is a good time to knock off all those little jobs around the house that you've been putting off!
 Hopefully, Australia and South Australia in particular, will keep observing the restrictions necessary to bring this pandemic to an end sooner rather than later, so we can get the Club up and running again.
 Mel asks that you keep contributions for the Newsletter coming in. The more the merrier.
 Till next month - stay safe, and hopefully sane.
 Cheers, Ian.

Page 3 and 4:
 Augie's May 2020 Birthstone Selections...



Page 4 and 5:
 Augie's May 2020 Mineral Selections...



Page 6:
 Augie - Precious Metals and Their Alloys / Derivatives ...




 Meetings and workshops have been suspended until further notice. Details will be reinstated as and when these are able to be resumed.

Notices / General Interest


Happy Birthday
 Members celebrating May birthdays:
 12th – Inta Chambers. 13th – Mel Jones.
 19th – Margrit Rothe.

Vale Ron Lewis
 Members are advised of the passing of member Ron Lewis on the 19th of April, at the age of 88. Ron was a faceter, opal cutter and silversmith with the Club. Our condolences to Ron's wife Mary, and his extended family.


Pages 2 and 3:
 Augie's May 2020 Jasper Selections...



Pages 7 to 9:
 Ian's May 2020 Collection Selections...



Pages 10 to 13:
 'Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story' ...



Pages 14 to 26:
 General Interest, humour, etc...

Page 26:
 Members' Noticeboard and Links...

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.

Picture Jaspers

The term "Picture Jasper" encompasses a wide range of stones. Jasper in general is found all over the world, but Picture Jaspers are predominantly found in the United States, except for Royal Sahara, which, as the name suggests, comes from the Sahara Desert in Africa.

Most Picture Jaspers in the U.S. are found in Oregon and Idaho. Oregon has produced some stunning Jaspers. While stones are often named for the person who discovered them, most Picture Jasper names indicate their location. Biggs Jasper is from Biggs, Oregon. Bruneau Jasper comes from Bruneau Canyon, Idaho. And so on. Each Jasper is distinctive and (for the most part) easily identifiable, except for Biggs and Deschutes, which come from mines near each other, and look very similar to the untrained eye.

Some Picture Jaspers are a mixture of browns, while others such as Cripple Creek, Owyhee, Rocky Butte, Succor Creek and Wildhorse have areas of blue, which can be cut to show as sky above a landscape, and are the epitome of a "picture" stone.

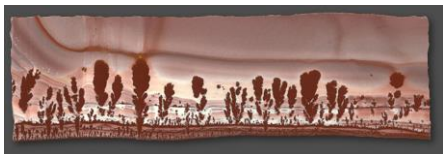
The American Picture Jaspers we'll be looking at in this series are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Apache	Mimbres Valley, New Mexico
Biggs	Biggs Junction, Oregon
Blue Mountain	Malheur County, Oregon
Bruneau	Bruneau River Canyon, Idaho
Cripple Creek	Owyhee Mtns., Oregon
Deschutes	Biggs Canyon, Oregon
Disaster Peak	Trout Creek Mtns., Nevada
Gary Green	McDermott, Nevada
Morrisonite	Malheur County, Oregon
Owyhee	Owyhee River, Oregon
Rocky Butte	Rocky Butte, Oregon
Succor Creek	Owyhee Mtns., Oregon
Wildhorse	Owyhee Mtns., Oregon
Willow Creek	Eagle, Idaho

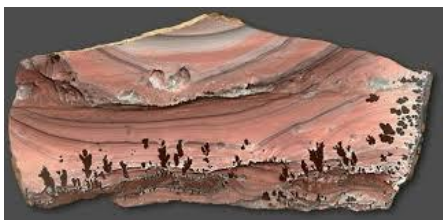
Augie's May 2020 Jasper Selections – Apache Jasper

Apache Jasper (or Apache Rhyolite) also known as Mimbres Jasper.

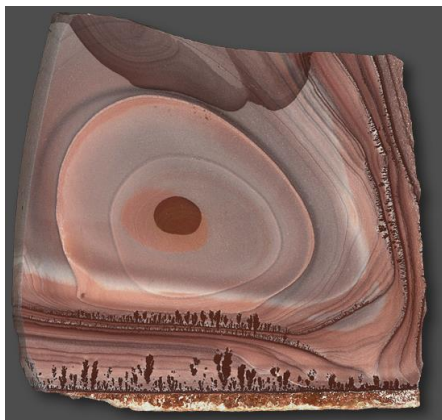
This attractive material comes from a small deposit in the Mimbres Valley, northeast of Deming, New Mexico. It is immediately recognisable for its plum and pink hues, often with dendritic inclusions.



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03.



04.



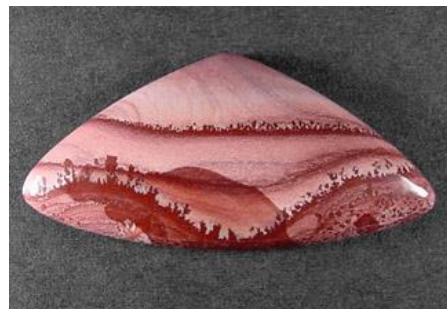
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09.



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11.

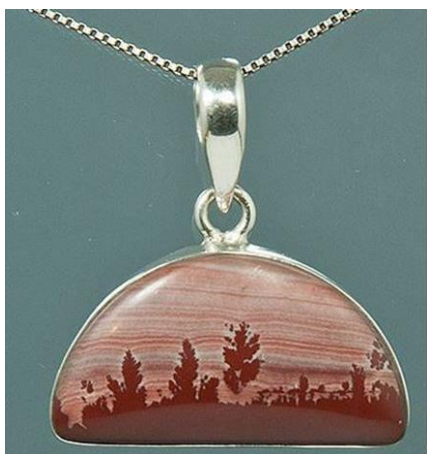
Augie's May 2020 Jasper Selections – Continued...



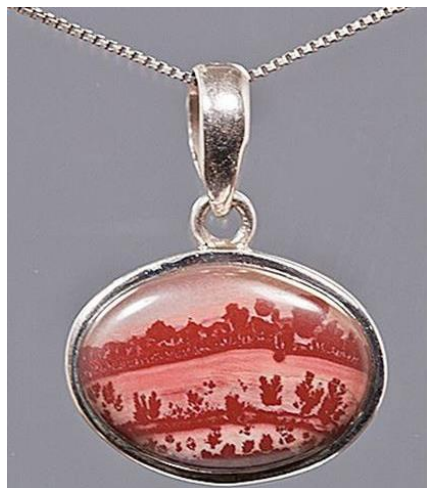
12.



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15.



16.

Augie's May 2020 Birthstone Selections



01.

Emerald – Birthstone for May

Emerald is the green gem variety of the mineral Beryl.

Tech. Stuff

Chemical composition - $(Be_3Al_2(SiO_3)_6)$

Hardness – 7.5 – 8

Crystal System – Hexagonal

Specific Gravity – 2.67 -2.78

Refractive Index – 1.564 – 1.602

Emeralds have been found in over 30 countries worldwide. They were mined in Egypt as far back as 1500 BCE, and in India and Austria since at least the 14 century CE. The Egyptian mines were worked on an industrial scale by the Roman and Byzantine empires, and later by Islamic conquerors.

Today, the primary source of Emeralds is Colombia, with the 3 main areas being Muzo, Chivor and Coscuez.

Colombia is unique in its production of rare “trapiche” emeralds (see article in Aug. 2019 Rockzette).

Zambia is the world's second largest producer. Synthetic Emeralds have been successfully produced since 1930, by both flux and hydrothermal methods. Such names as Chatham, Gilson, Kyocera, Biron, Farben, Linde, Lechleitner and Inamori have all

produced commercially viable synthetic Emeralds. As Emerald is the second most valuable gemstone, there is a good market for synthetic stones.

“**Synthetic**” – a stone whose physical, chemical and optical properties are identical to its earth-mined equivalent, but which is created in a laboratory.

“**Simulant**” – a stone which has a similar appearance to a natural stone and is used to “simulate” that stone. Commonly known as “fakes”. Jadeite has more simulants than any other gem material – over 20 different minerals are known to be passed off as Jadeite.



02.



03.



04.



05.

Continued next page...

Augie's May 2020 Emerald Birthstone Selections – Continued...



06.



07.



08.



Trapiche 01



Trapiche 02

Augie's May 2020 Mineral Selections...



Amethyst on Quartz.



Aquamarine.



Bixbite (red Beryl).



Cuprian Adamite – GREECE.



Datolite with Prehnite & Calcite.



Emerald – MUZO.



Fluorite on Calcite.



Goethite.

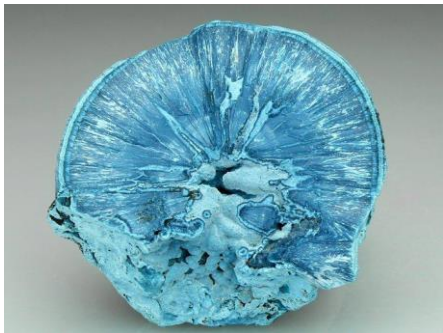
Augie's May 2020 Mineral Selections...



Gold on Calcite.



Haematite included Quartz with Chalcedony – MOROCCO.



Plancheite, Katanga, ZAIRE.



Quartz on Wulfenite.



Tourmaline on Smoky Quartz.



Rosasite on Calcite.



Rutile – MADAGASCAR.



Tourmaline - Himalaya Mine, Mesa Grande, CALIFORNIA.



Proustite.



Wulfenite - Red Cloud Mine, La Paz, ARIZONA.



Calcite blades with Chalcocopyrite, Pyrite, and Quartz sprays at top Boldut Mine, Cavnic, Maramures Co., Romania Collection. Photo Kevin Ward and The Mineral Gallery, Inc.

Contributed by Augie (pictures added by editor) ...
Precious Metals and Their Alloys / Derivatives



From Dreamland Jewellery...Sterling Silver Rings

Silver

Fine Silver is 100% silver. It is not often used on its own other than for embellishing, as it is too soft for everyday wear.

Sterling Silver is an alloy of pure silver and some other metal, usually copper. It is the additional metal which strengthens the silver. The standard for sterling is a minimum of 92.5% silver, so sterling is often stamped "925".

Argentium is one of a new generation of silver alloys. It was developed specifically to combat the tarnish that occurs as silver oxidises when it comes into contact with air, and also to combat fire scale. Argentium, however, contains a greater amount of pure silver depending on the grade (935 which contains 93.5% pure silver, or 960 which contains 96% pure silver), with the remainder being made up of other alloys, such as a small amount of germanium. Argentium is claimed to be 7 times more tarnish resistant than sterling silver.

Silver-Filled is a misnomer, as rather than being filled with silver, it is simply an underlying base metal (either copper or brass) to which a layer of sterling silver has been mechanically bonded. For a product to be considered silver-filled, it must have at least 1/20 of its weight in silver. This is equal to 5% silver. The layer may be either 1/20 or 1/10. In either case it is many hundreds of times thicker than silver plate.

Silver Plated is similar to *Silver-Filled*, but the silver coating, which is electroplated rather than mechanically bonded to the base metal is only microns thick, and will wear off easily under normal, everyday use. You will often see the term "sterling plated" on items for sale on sites like eBay. There is no such thing. Sterling silver is an alloy, and you cannot plate with an alloy.



Gold

Gold purity – karats (or "carats" outside North America). The karat is a very old measure of how much gold there is in an alloy. Pure gold is described as 24 karat, but this is too soft on its own.

- 24k** = pure (99.9% gold) (.999)
- 22k** = 91.7% gold (.916)
- 18k** = 75% gold (.750)
- 14k** = 58.3% gold (.585)
- 10k** = 41.7% gold (.417)
- 9k** = 37.5% gold (.375)

Yellow gold can be alloyed with copper, zinc, nickel and/or cobalt.

Regardless of what metals are added to the gold alloy, its purity is measured in the same way.

Rose Gold / Red Gold is an alloy of yellow gold and copper, or copper and silver. Although the names are often used interchangeably, the difference between red, rose, and pink gold is the copper content: the higher the copper content, the stronger the red coloration.

Pink gold uses the least copper, followed by rose gold, with red gold having the highest copper content. Examples of the common alloys for 18K rose gold, 18K red gold, 18K pink gold, and 12K red gold include:

- 18K red gold: 75% gold, 25% copper
- 18K rose gold: 75% gold, 22.25% copper, 2.75% silver
- 18K pink gold: 75% gold, 20% copper, 5% silver

White Gold does not occur naturally. It is yellow gold alloyed with white coloured metals such as zinc, silver or platinum. As the additional metals are not sufficient to alter the colour to pure white, white gold alloys are rhodium plated, which gives a very hard, silver coloured coating. The only disadvantage is that the rhodium plating usually needs to be replaced every so often.

Vermeil (pronounced "vermay") is sterling silver which has been gold plated, generally with 24 karat (pure) gold.

Gold-Filled (formerly known as Rolled-Gold) is made by the same process as Silver-Filled – a core of base metal, usually jeweller's brass, to which is mechanically bonded a layer of 24k gold. It is designated by a quality mark like 1/20 14K GF or perhaps 1/10 12K RGP. The fraction refers to the percent by weight of the piece that is gold and the 12 or 14K refers to the purity of the gold itself.

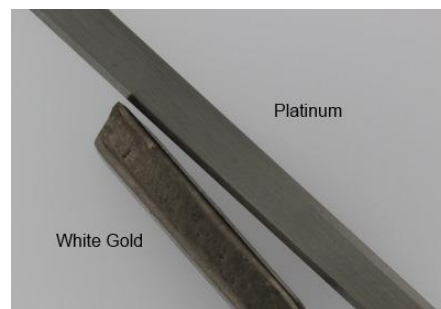
Gold Plated is a core of base metal, with a microns thin layer of 24k gold. Having such a thin layer, gold-plated jewellery is an inexpensive alternative to gold-filled items, but it is not durable under day-to-day conditions.



From British Museum...Electrum torc with ornamented terminals.

Electrum (also known as "Green gold") **Electrum** is a naturally occurring alloy of gold and silver, with trace amounts of copper and other metals. It has been in use since the Old Kingdom of Egypt in the 3rd millennium BC. The ancient Greeks referred to it as 'gold' or

'white gold', as opposed to refined gold. The gold content of naturally occurring Electrum ranges from 70% - 90%. It is also produced artificially. The colour ranges from pale to bright yellow, depending on the proportions of gold and silver.



White gold and Platinum in square wire form.

From...White Gold vs Platinum – What Jewellers Wont Tell You.

Platinum (Pt)

Platinum is a naturally occurring white metal. It is rarer than gold, and much denser and more durable. Platinum can be used in a purer form than gold, usually at about 95%.

Platinum jewellery is consequently more expensive than gold jewellery.

95% platinum is the traditional standard, usually marked '950Pt' or simply PLAT.

Platinum does not fade or tarnish, and is hypoallergenic, making it ideal for those with sensitive skins.

Platinum is harder and almost twice as heavy as Palladium.



From Palladium Bridal Jewellery Manufacturing.

Palladium is a lustrous white material, one of the six platinum-group metals (along with Ruthenium, rhodium, osmium, iridium and platinum itself). Palladium is stronger, but lighter, than Platinum.



From Gemvara...14K Rose Gold Ring with Diamond.



From SHIELS...9ct Yellow Gold 1 Carat Diamond Ring.

Ian's May 2020 Quartz Collection Selections...



1376 Quartz, Wadnaminga Station, South Australia.



2004 Quartz var. Amethyst, Rio Grande du Sol, BRAZIL.



2410, Quartz, Amethyst Castle, Selwyn, QUEENSLAND.



2411 Quartz, Amethyst Castle, Selwyn, QUEENSLAND.



2007 Quartz var. Amethyst, Kuridalla, QUEENSLAND.



2413 Quartz, Toms Mountain, Mary Kathleen, QUEENSLAND.

Ian's May 2020 Quartz Collection Selections - Continued...



2171, Quartz, Amethyst Castle, Selwyn, QUEENSLAND.



2414 Quartz, Toms Mountain, Mary Kathleen, QUEENSLAND.



2684 Quartz, Victoria Tower Mine, Wadnaminga, South Australia.



2685 Quartz, Victoria Tower Mine, Wadnaminga, South Australia.



0156 Tourmaline on Smokey Quartz, Lake Boga Quarry, VIC.



0342 Quartz, Wadnaminga, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.



2305 Quartz, Muttama, NEW SOUTH WALES.



0157 Tourmaline on Smokey Quartz, Lake Boga Quarry, VIC.



2300 Quartz, Muttama, NEW SOUTH WALES.



2653 Quartz Faden, Dara Ismael, South Waziristan, PAKISTAN.



0848 Quartz, River View Quarry, Highbury, S.A.



0548 Quartz Faden, Dara Ismael, South Waziristan, PAKISTAN.

Continued next page...

Ian's May 2020 Quartz Collection Selections...



2296 Quartz, Muttama, NEW SOUTH WALES.



2306 Quartz, Muttama, NEW SOUTH WALES.



2308 Quartz, Muttama, NEW SOUTH WALES.



2309 Quartz, Muttama, NEW SOUTH WALES.



2667 Quartz Faden, Dara Ismael, South Waziristan, PAKISTAN.

Contributed by Augie

Quiz for Older Kids



This may be harder than you may think. The answers will be on the tip of your tongue, but you just can't quite remember the correct answer.

Don't look for the answers until you have tried to figure it out first.

1. After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, "Who was that masked man?" Invariably, someone would answer, I don't know, but he left something behind. What did he leave behind? "_____".
2. When the Beatles first came to the U.S. in early 1964, we all watched them on "The _____ Show".
3. "Get your kicks, _____".
4. "The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed "_____".
5. "In the jungle, the mighty jungle, "_____".
6. After the Twist, The Mashed Potato, and the Watusi, we "danced" under a stick that was lowered as low as we could go in a dance called the "_____".
7. Nestle's makes the very best "_____".
8. Satchmo was America's "Ambassador of Goodwill." Our parents shared this great jazz trumpet player with us. His name was "_____".
9. What takes a licking and keeps on ticking? "_____".
10. Red Skelton's hobo character was named? "_____"; and Red always ended his television show by saying, "Good Night, and _____".
11. Some Americans who protested the Vietnam War did so by burning their "_____".
12. The cute little car with the engine in the back and the trunk in the front was called the VW. What other names did it go by "_____ " or "_____".

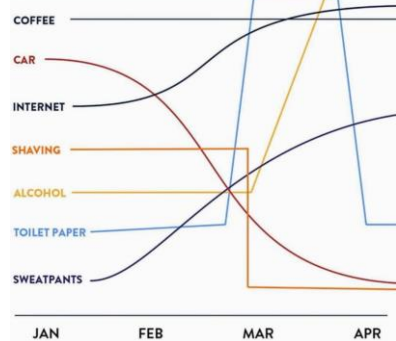


13. In 1971, singer Don MacLean sang a song about, "The day the music died." This was a tribute to "_____".
14. We can remember the first satellite placed into orbit. The Russians did it. It was called "_____".
15. One of the big fads of the late 50's and 60's was a large plastic ring that we twirled around our waist. It was called the "_____ - _____".
16. Remember LS/MFT? "_____ / _____".
17. Hey Kids! What time is it? "It's _____".
18. Who knows what secrets lie in the hearts of men? Only The "_____ " Knows!
19. There was a song that came out in the 60's that was "a graveyard smash". Its name was the "_____ "!
20. Alka Seltzer used a "boy with a tablet on his head" as it's Logo/Representative. What was the boy's name? "_____".



Answers are on the last page.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE IN 2020, SO FAR



Contributed by Mel Jones...

'Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story'
by Garry Reynolds
Part 19 of 24...



The Newcastle City waterfront today where Aborigines once fished from canoes, convicts hewed coal and a railway system developed and disappeared over a period of 160 years. Source: *Familypedia*.



An early morning haul of coal out of the Hunter Valley on the South Maitland Railways. Source: *Mal Austin*.

Steam at the Rothbury Riot – South Maitland Railways.

Today, on the site of the Rothbury Riot of 1929, which saw one miner killed from police revolver fire and 43 wounded, the Hunter Valley Railway Trust (HVRT) stores a collection of coal and freight wagons and passenger coaches, and a variety of ex-New South Wales Government Railways (NSWGR) locomotives. At one time, it included seven of the fourteen heritage-listed South Maitland Railways (SMR) 10 Class tank locomotives, until they were sold to the Dorrigo Steam Railway and Museum.



Rothbury Station near the site of the Riot, almost like a scene out of England. Source: *Jim's Model Railways*.



Laying in new rails and sleepers at SMR's East Greta Junction. Source: *Mal Austin*.

The SMR 10 Class tank locomotives were built for the East Greta Coal Company (later South Maitland Railways) by Beyer, Peacock and Company in Manchester, England, between

1911 and 1927. The Company developed the very useful design of tank locomotive which melded the best features of the NSWGR's P and T class locomotives to evolve the 10-class. They were the most powerful tank locomotives to be used in Australia and the last class of steam locomotives used commercially, finishing in 1987. A year later, Coal & Allied Industries placed four 10-class locomotives with the Richmond Vale Railway, another heritage operation in the Hunter Region.



An SMR 10-class tank locomotive with a wooden hopper coal train. Source: *Flickr*.



Raking ash from SMR 10-class tank locomotive No.17. Source: *Australian Steam*.

The acquisition of the robust tank locomotives came about after the East Greta Coal Company had founded its Hunter rail network on a core of diverse second-hand and borrowed steam locomotives. By 1910, these were struggling to haul the increasing volumes of coal being won from the Greta Seam which ran right through the South Maitland Coalfields.



SMR 10-class locomotives lined up ready for work at East Greta Junction Depot. Source: *Flickr*.



An SMR tank locomotive hauling an aged passenger consist. Source: *Hiveminer*.

The 10-class design arose from a strategic move by the SMR to standardise its motive power. There was already a well-established relationship between Beyer-Peacock and the NSWGR as its biggest global customer. The South Maitland Railways needed to work closely with the NSWGR as they would be interfacing at exchange sidings with the SMR's wooden unbraked coal hopper wagons being picked up Government locomotives to take to the Port of Newcastle and returned to be taken on by SMR locomotives to their respective collieries.



Hard dirty work for SMR 10-class tank locomotives steaming quietly at the Depot. Source: *Weston Langford*.

The fourteen 10-class tank engines were delivered in knocked down form, and put together at the East Greta Junction Workshops. These locomotives complemented the ex-British WW1 military ROD (Railway Operating Division) locomotives on the SMR's roster that had been bought by coal mining magnates, J&A Brown in the 1920s, the engines having once worked on the Western Front.



SMR 10-class tank locomotives working hard double-heading a heavy coal train. Source: *Australian Steam*.



SMR tank locomotives double heading a coal train in reverse. Source: Brett Kavangh.



The 'Little Engine That Could' with a heavy coal load on the SMR. Source: Mal Austin.

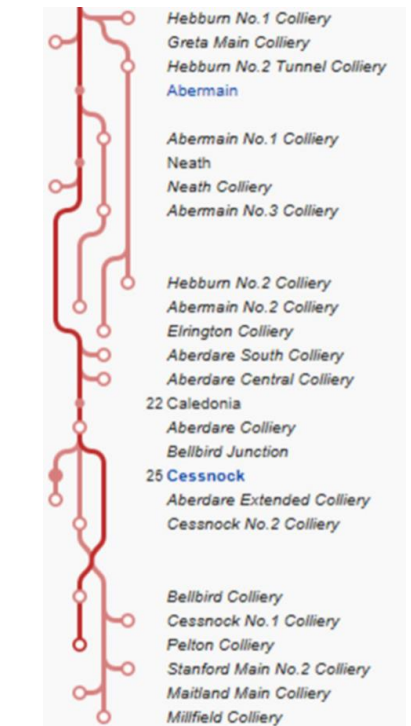


An SMR train crossing the Main Northern Line at Hexham. Source: Weston Langford.

World War 2 puts the pressure on as the Hunter rail networks struggle



SMR 10-class locomotive No. 24 freshly painted and lined after completion of boiler repairs in 1993. Source: Wikipedia.



Schematics of the SMR's complex colliery network which was joined up at Weston. Source: Wikipedia.

After the SMR's locomotives were well and truly embedded in the system, they would have to work extra hard during WW2 with little maintenance. On the industrial front, while Australia was increasingly becoming directly threatened by the push South by the Japanese, you would think at last this would be a catalyst for cooperation between workers and bosses in the Northern Coalfields. Almost unbelievably - no. So entrenched was the industrial war, especially in the Newcastle coal supply chain, that industrial interruptions increased. It seems hard to imagine today, but in a time of national emergency, coal production decreased and time lost to strikes increased throughout WW2!

After the outbreak of war, the mining unions saw an opportunity to make up for past stagnation in wages and conditions that had been lost back in the era of the Rothbury Riot and of the Great Depression. In 1940, early in the War, there was a 10-week strike in the Northern Coalfields to win shorter working hours - it succeeded.

Although it was Miners' Federation policy to fully co-operate until the end of the War, coal output declined steadily from 12.25 million tons in 1942, to 11.5 million in 1943, 11 million in 1944, and just over 10 million tons in 1945.

In 1942, nearly 180,000 working days were lost through strikes; in 1943, over 325,000, and in 1944 over 300 000.

Newcastle, as the prime coal hub of Australia, was the centre of much of this dislocation. The industrial conflict constantly interrupted the NSWGR which was struggling to supply enough rail services to wage war. Strikes interrupted the supply of good coal to run the Railways' rapidly deteriorating stock of locomotives and rolling stock.

Not only were many passenger train services

cancelled owing to coal shortages, with such a limited number of seats on the 'Newcastle Flyer', the Railways had to put a stop to a scam where people were block-booking seats out of Newcastle and then on-selling them at a profit!

However, the impacts of the coal rationing were not limited to the NSWGR and the Newcastle rail network. It had implications further afield, especially for interstate coal destinations such as Melbourne, Hobart, and Adelaide which desperately relied on Newcastle coal.

Despite the shortage of labour during the War due to military enlistments, coal continued to be mined in a very labour-intensive way. The path to gaining increased production and efficiency was a tortuous one no matter the demand and urgency of the War situation. The Miners Union leadership was vigorously opposed to increased mechanisation without compensation, because of the loss of jobs that would come with it not only in wartime but in the peace. In any case, the mine owners were often unable or unwilling to finance introducing more machinery, keeping in mind the contraction that came after WW1 as other competitive mines around the world came back on stream and shipping recovered.

Additionally, amidst constant industrial disruption, attempts to build capacity to stockpile coal in Newcastle were resisted vigorously by the mining unions because it diluted their power to use the strike weapon if there were reserves of coal. This problem was exacerbated by the reluctance of the coal owners to spend money on storage at their collieries, seeing no direct return in profit and only increased costs. During WW2, self-interest ruled on both sides on the Northern Coalfields and the railways were caught in the middle - yet again!

Coal shortages were also exacerbated when a convoy system had to be adopted for coastal shipping in response to sinkings by enemy submarines and the laying of enemy sea mines along the Australian coast. The lack of coal storage became an even greater impediment. The convoy system slowed transport by rail from the Hunter collieries with workers basically waiting for groups of ships to arrive. In any case, shipping was scarce because of other military needs.

The only alternative for a time in the interstate coal trade was to rail more coal to Melbourne and Adelaide out of Newcastle on tracks already clogged with military traffic. Of course, this also entailed frustrating changes of gauge slowing progress with loading and unloading at borders. This colonial gauge legacy caused the breaking up of coal with the extra handling and diverted crucial manpower from the war fronts.

Of course, the movement of more coal onto the NSWGR from ships was an extra burden on an organisation ill-prepared for war. It was already barely muddling through with less manpower due to military volunteering. Over 4,000 NSWGR employees were serving in the military; 200 had been loaned to the Commonwealth Government owing to their technical expertise; and another 4,000 were

working on direct defence-related projects. Nearly 1,000 women were recruited to alleviate shortages in less skilled positions.

Struggling for labour and rolling stock in this situation, the Railways had not installed the types of facilities to stockpile large volumes of coal in major centres along the main lines. Coal dumps had to be established along the way on these routes but also to keep the extra steam engines heading South and returning on previously lightly-used back lines to avoid increasing main line rail bottlenecks.

From the second half of 1944, coal traffic was reduced to half its 'normal level' due to coal industry industrial action. This slashed railway revenue which forced severe economies in the provision of passenger services. Seats were in great demand due to stringent petrol rationing for private cars and the slashing of passenger services due to troop train demands and priority for military freight trains.

As an alternative, some car owners resorted to fitting charcoal burners to provide a poor substitute fuel for their vehicle. The NSWGR tried this with its diesel-powered rail motors but after 5 caught fire and were destroyed, it stopped the practice.



Motive vehicle with a charcoal burner fitted during WW2. Source: Monica Lynch.

The Federal Government wrestles with the industrial problems in the Hunter

Amidst the rising industrial conflict on the Northern Coalfields and escalating interruptions to the railways' coal supply, the Federal Labor Government under John Curtin, gritted its teeth and tried to work with the miners, shipping companies, seamen, coal companies and the railways. Really, though, the result was pretty ordinary when you look at the constantly declining coal production figures.

In this context, the NSW Labor Government bent over backwards to keep the railway unions onside in Newcastle by building substantial amenities for employees at Newcastle Station and Marshalling Yard and Broadmeadow Yard - way beyond the standard that would have been expected normally in peacetime let alone a war emergency.

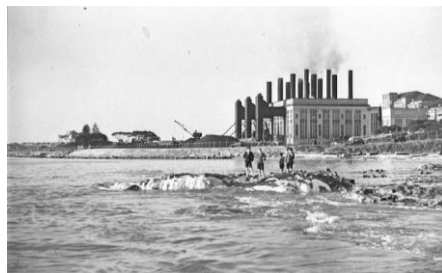
Even within the railways union movement there were disputes between at least 4 different unions representing different types of railway employees. Combative union leaderships were often involved in demarcation disputes with other railway unions in NSW as they chased new members. Unfortunately, the public, freight forwarders, including the collieries, and of course the overall war effort, bore the brunt of the internal disputes heightened by jousting

between Labor and Communist-leaning union leaderships. It only needed one group within the whole system to go on strike, say the signalmen, and much of the vital war supply chain could grind to a halt.

WW2 ends but not the industrial war in the Hunter

The Railways' coal supply chain situation did not improve when the War was won in 1946. This seemed to be the starting point for even more aggressive industrial action with increasingly Communist-led unions taking on a Post-War fightback policy by the employers and the Federal Labor Government now under Ben Chifley. In capturing the volatile atmosphere of the times, artist, Donald Friend, wrote in his diary on 21 May 1946:

"The world still reverberates with news of calamities ... In Australia, the shipping strike which tied up the entire shipping industry in the country is settled, but already there are threats of another one, coal strikes are so general that they are hardly mentioned in the news, and Sydney is on the border of another electric power crisis for lack of fuel for the Bunnerong powerhouse."



Boys fishing off the rocks near Bunnerong 'A' Powerhouse. Source: Wikipedia.

Northern workers could remember starkly the unemployment which peaked at about 30% in the 1930s in the Newcastle District and the 40,000 Australians who died during WW2 and those on the Homefront who underwent strict rationing of essential goods and services. They wanted to make up for the 'lost years'.

Most people at the time thought that Ben Chifley would be the leader to a new life for Australians behind his vision of 'The Light on the Hill'. They were also convinced that he would be able to manage the brewing industrial situation, bearing in mind that he had been a militant railways union leader in NSW during the General Strike in World War 1 and paid a severe penalty with unemployment and demotion.

This was not to prove so. Again, Newcastle and its railway system would be right in the firing line.



An SMR tank locomotive stopping for water amid lines of wooden coal hoppers. Source Mal Austin.

As the economy was struggling to recover from WW2, already the NSWGR faced a massive task with its equipment very run down. It needed some stability to rebuild and recapitalise with new equipment. A major potential revenue source was the Newcastle coal traffic. But this was to prove a massive vulnerability in the late 1940s.

After the War, workers felt it was time to be rewarded. They saw the opportunity to 'cash in' on the Post-War rebuilding of the economy, including the railways. Yet Prime Minister Chifley opposed calls for wage increases to compensate for wartime sacrifices. Unionists responded with strike action, with 4 million days lost during 1945-46 alone. As they made substantial gains, it encouraged the development of plans to achieve more gains through direct action.

Despite the Federal Labor Government's objection, the Arbitration Court granted a 40-hour week in 1948 which led to demands for a five-day week with penalty rates for weekend working. Railway workers led the charge in February 1948.

The Community Party was now well-placed to exploit the fractious industrial environment and gaps between the industrial and parliamentary wings of the Labor Party. The Community Party had expanded its membership and secured key leadership and shop-floor positions in the blue-collar unions which dominated Newcastle – the miners, the railways and the maritime unions. Over half of all Australia's trade unions were now led by Communist Party of Australia members or supporters.

Already, in 1946, the NSWGR had become so concerned at the prospect of ongoing industrial action on the coal fields, it decided to convert 70 of its 120 Class-55 steam locos to oil burning. The first 6 locomotives were to burn distillate, despite it costing 5 times that of coal fuel. The industrial outlook was that desperate!

Later, when cheaper crude oil became available, the 6 locomotives were modified to burn the heavier product. With no signs of improvement in the coalfields, a further 10 were converted in 1947 and when things got really serious in 1949, another 54 went down the conversion path. Still, with some adjustments in both firing and driving technique it was discovered that the oil-powered steam locomotives could pull slightly heavier tonnages than the traditional coal-fuelled versions. However, a problem arose with the boilers not being designed from scratch for oil burning

It was already known by NSWGR engineers that boiler life was less for an oil-fired locomotive as against a coal-fired one. Poor combustion resulted in soot collecting in the boiler tubes. But it was found that two scoops of sand thrown into the combustion chamber soon remedied the situation on the run. Nevertheless, an interesting caution had to be issued as the cleaning process led to sudden emissions of oily black smoke. After many complaints were received from households

Continued next page ...

about soiled washing, instructions were issued that cleanouts had to take place well away from where backyards were adjacent to the tracks. There were compensations though for crew in that oil burners did not require the constant labour of shovelling coal.

The 1949 Coal Strike

Dirty washing from oil burning locomotives would prove to be the least of the community's problems. The ground was fertile in the Hunter for further industrial conflict. By 1949, 'The Light on the Hill', was barely a flicker in many areas, including Newcastle, with shortages and rationing still in place on some items and housing in extremely short supply. In seeking the longed-for improvements to wages and conditions, negotiations between the miners and the coal owners had broken down yet again. The miners had served a log of claims on the coal owners for a 35-shillings a week wage increase, a 35-hour week, and the insertion of long service provisions in their award.

When these claims were rejected by the coal owners, a vote for national strike action was carried overwhelmingly by the members of the mining unions. As the miners went on strike, their families moved into survival mode. They helped hide union funds to get around the Government's attempts to freeze them. Supportive mining neighbourhoods and Miners Lodges established group kitchens and fishing and rabbit hunting parties were organised to supply food. As coal supplies were in short supply, families went out fossicking along railway lines and old collieries for lumps of coal to keep their home fires burning for cooking and heating.



Families desperately looking for stray coal at Mayfield, Newcastle, in 1949. Source: University of Newcastle.

Coal stocks were becoming severely depleted nationally and thousands of workers, including those on the railways, were being stood down as electric power shortages spread. The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) condemned the strike as a mass of opposition was growing against the miners. The Federal Labor Government claimed the strike was a conspiracy by the Communists to take over Australia. Len Jeffrey, one of the strikers, said later on the ABC, that soon:

"The Communists' support among miners and Australia generally was such they would fail to run a daily train service from Sydney to Wollongong let alone run the country!"

The Chifley Government became frustrated in not being able to quarantine union funds which helped prolong the Strike. Its next step was to jail the union leaders!



Protestors follow PM Chifley during the Coal Strike. Source: Honest History.

But the Strike continued. In the Labor Caucus, future Labor Party Leader, Arthur Calwell, threatened to force Communists and their sympathisers into concentration camps!



Unionists march in protest at the introduction of the Army in 1949. Source: Newcastle Herald.

Then, in an unprecedented move, the Government really upped the ante – it used military force to take over some of the coal mines. Chifley's Government allocated 2,500 men in the armed forces to work an increasing number of open cut mines to get some essential supplies of coal into a desperate community. This was essential for the NSWGR which was still steam-reliant or depended on electrically-driven trains in Sydney fed from coal-fired power stations. Critically, the Federal Government had convinced the NSW rail workers to 'scab' and carry coal declared 'black' by the miners' unions. At the time, the key Australian Railway Union (ARU) was under the control of moderate Labor Party officials.



Coal Miners' Strike supporters vent their feelings. Source: SPA.

Finally, the 23,000 miners returned to work

after 7 weeks of striking. The following week the imprisoned union leaders were released. A few weeks later, the miners were granted long service leave which eventually flowed onto the rest of the Australian workforce.

The 1949 Australian Coal Crisis was significant as it was the first time Australian military forces were used during peacetime to break a trade union strike. In a production by the National Film and Sound Archive in 2008, the significance of the Coal Strike of 1949 was emphasised beyond the immediate years:

"The coal strike was the Communist Party's big grab for power. It hoped to precipitate a great national crisis which it could benefit from and perhaps even turn into a revolution. Chifley took them on, and won, but at fatal cost. After the coal strike the Communist Party was shattered irretrievably as a potent political force. The ALP was ejected from office. Robert Menzies (1894–1978) and the Liberals seized the ascendancy, won government in December 1949, and didn't let it slip from their grasp for the next 22 years."

The Rail Recovery

Meanwhile, with the Coal Crisis overcome, the NSWGR converted 16 of the oil burning 55-class locomotives back to coal burning. The remainder were stored, as oil burning was still very expensive, costing 4 times that of coal. Nevertheless, the NSW Government took out some 'insurance' against future coal strikes by purchasing twenty 59-class Mikado oil-burning locomotives built by Baldwin in the USA in the early 1950s. They were introduced by the NSWGR on the 'Short North' line between Broadmeadow near Newcastle and Enfield in Sydney.

In the Hunter, it would prove a long way back for the railway network and the coal supply chain, but amazing results would be achieved through collaboration between workers, businesses, government and the Region's community in the succeeding decades as Newcastle became the world's largest coal export port.



SMR Tank locomotives power up a grade through suburbia. Source: Mal Austin.

More To Come In Part 20 Next Month...

Watch SMR Tank Locomotives in action – VHS videoed by Mel Jones in 1986...

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8P5IX1xbJo8>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=th1ygOmsd5s>

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

Unusual History in Photos



An Ottoman supply train still lays where it was ambushed by Lawrence of Arabia on the Hejaz railway during World War I.



Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian wore these armored gloves from 1508 until his death in 1519. (Where Star Wars got some of their designs?)



The Cau Vang bridge, outside the city of Da Nang, Vietnam is held up by two giant stone hands.



This amazing 16th Century ring unfolds into an astronomical sphere.



This 500-year-old boxwood miniature from the 16th century was created in the Netherlands.



This small ornate axe was made in Germany during the late 1500s.



Carbonized bread from Pompeii that still has the baker's stamp on it, 79 AD.



The 1936 Stout Scarab is one of the first minivans.



18th century carved door in Germany with incredible workmanship.



A futuristic looking 1938 Dymaxion, designed by American inventor Buckminster Fuller.

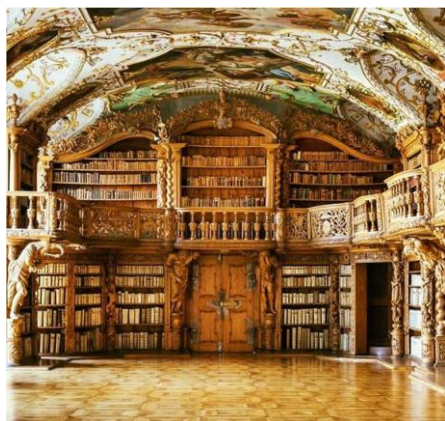


Designed and built in the late 1800's, this steamer trunk converts into a stand-up dresser so the traveller doesn't have to unpack.



Shoes worn by Allied spies during World War II to steer adversaries in the opposite direction.

Unusual History in Photos – Continued...



The library inside of the Waldsassen Abbey in Bavaria holds thousands of volumes bound in white pigskin.



'Cow shoes' used by moonshiners in the Prohibition days to disguise their footprints, 1924.

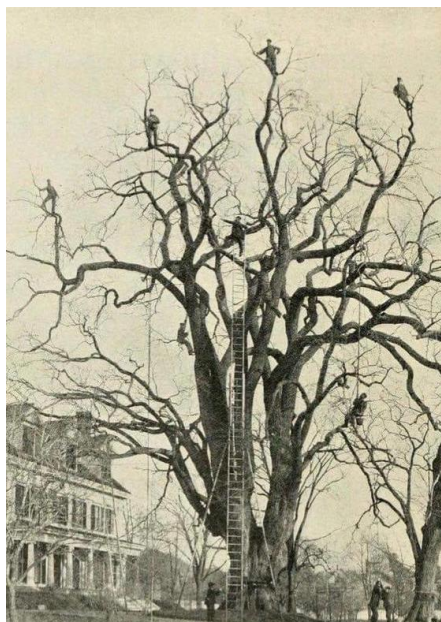


THE ONE AND ONLY WORLD CHAMPION GIRL WRESTLER
MILDRED BURKE

Mildred Burke, a pioneer of women's pro-wrestling who began wrestling men at carnivals in 1935. She would go on later to wrestle over 200 men, losing to only 1.



Marketed as a toy for kids, U-238 Atomic Energy Labs came with three different types of live uranium ore and a Geiger counter.



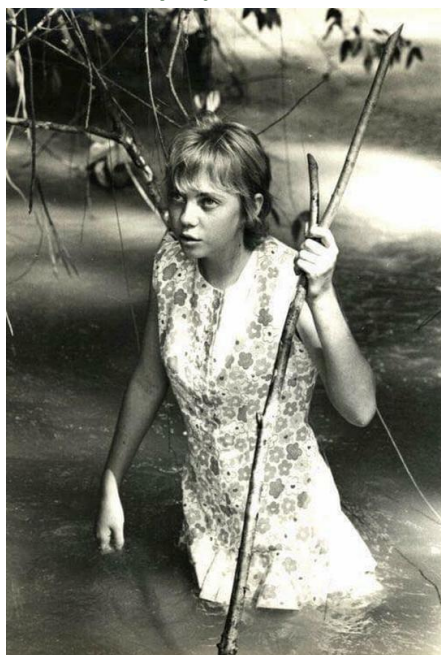
Extreme tree pruning crew from the late 1800s.



The ornate Elephant Tower of the Carlsberg Brewery in Copenhagen, 1901.



A triple-decker bus roaming the streets of Berlin, Germany.



17 year-old Juliane Koepcke was sucked out of an airplane in 1971 after it was struck by a bolt of lightning. She fell 2 miles to the ground, strapped to her seat and survived after she endured 10 days more in the Amazon Jungle.



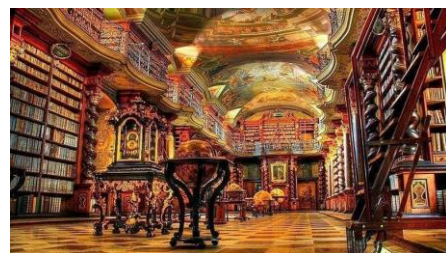
90-year-old Grandma in the Czech Republic passes time by artistically painting houses.



Nicknamed 'Methuselah' this Californian bristlecone pine tree was seeded in the year 2833 BC, which makes this tree 4,850 years old.



One of the most iconic photographs ever taken/ Bob Hope, John Wayne, Ronald Reagan, Dean Martin, and Frank Sinatra (circa 1975).



The ornate Klementinum Library in Prague.

Contributed by Augie...

This Is What ... Looks Like?



This is what *sorry* looks like.



This is what *tired* looks like.



This is what *bad spelling* looks like.



This is what *intimacy* looks like.



This is what *'good grief'* looks like.



"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" Psalm 23

This is what *courage* looks like.



This is what a *blonde's* car looks like.

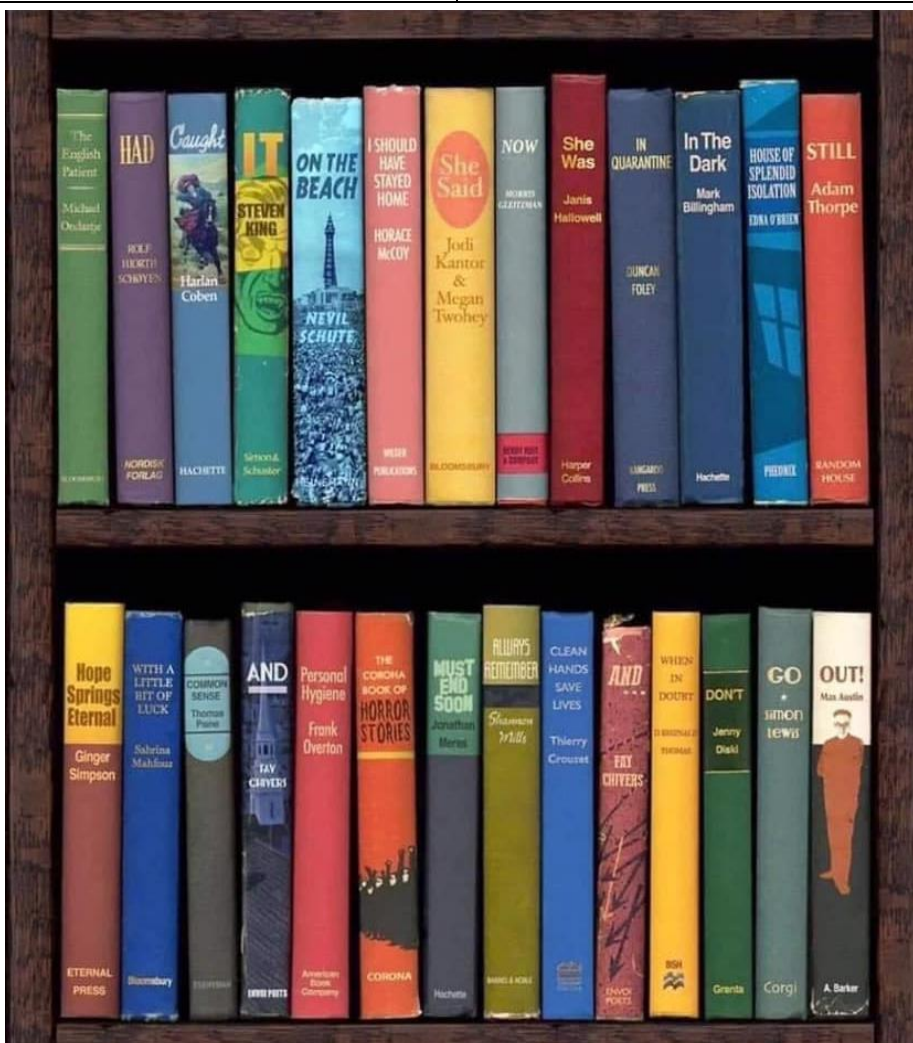


This is what your *tax dollars* look like.



This is what a *bad mood* looks like.

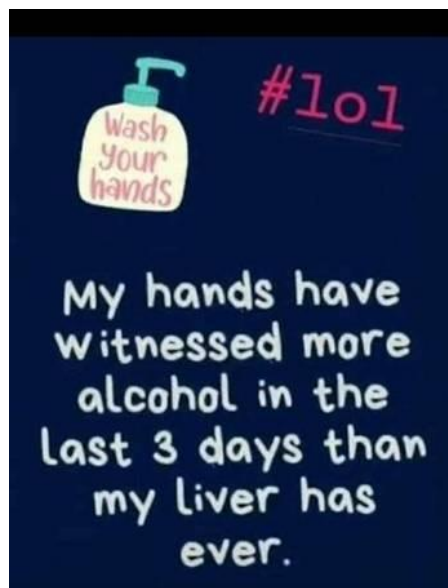
*Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so...
'Love the people who treat you right - Pray for the ones who don't.'*



Some great work arranging these titles !!!

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

A Few Funnies



Putting a drink in each room of my house today and calling it a pub crawl.

Guys, don't get fooled! I was told a mask and gloves is enough to go to the store, but when I got there people were also wearing pants and shirts

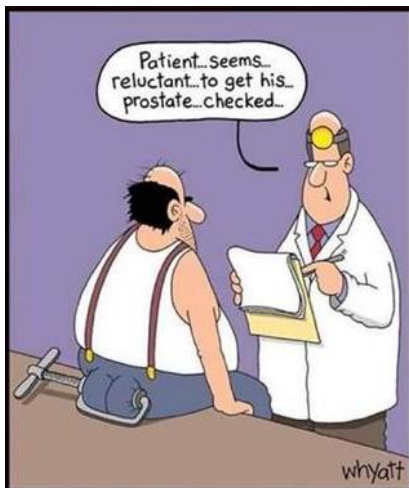
9:03 pm ✓✓

In Germany they are preparing for the crisis by stocking up with sausage and cheese. That's the **Wurst Käse** scenario.

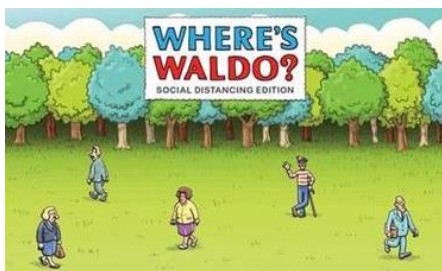
CORONA VIRUS

1. 6FT DISTANCE
2. NO HUGGING
3. NO KISSING
4. NO SOCIAL INTERACTION

*LIKE BEING MARRIED... BUT WITH A COUGH!



Mexico is now asking trump to hurry up with the wall..



Contributed by Doug Walker...

Some Humour I Found Today

CRITICAL ADVISORY

8pm is now the official time to remove your day pajamas and to put your night pajamas on

The only good thing about the next 3 weeks is that, the whole country should finally realize that we can survive in a world without celebrities and professional sports.

The farmers aren't shutting down.

WONDERING

WHAT I SHOULD WEAR TO THE COUCH TONIGHT?



YOU THOUGHT DOGS WERE HARD TO TRAIN?

LOOK AT ALL THE HUMANS THAT CAN'T SIT AND STAY

This virus must be wrecking India. I haven't got one phone call in 3 days about my extended car warranty



Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.

MY BODY HAS ABSORBED SO MUCH SOAP AND DISINFECTANT LATELY, THAT WHEN I PEE IT CLEANS THE TOILET.

Kill Germs The Cajun Way



Not only does it kill germs, it also prevents you from sticking your fingers in your eyes, nose, and mouth (and other places) a second time

THAT MOMENT WHEN YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE ELDERLY AND REALIZE THAT YOU ARE THE ELDERLY. 😊

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GOING OUT TO ALL THE MARRIED MEN WHO'VE SPENT MONTHS TELLING THE WIFE

I'LL DO THAT WHEN I GOT TIME

WHEN YOUR HAIR SALON IS CLOSED



BUT YOUR DOG GROOMER HAS A CANCELATION



IF DONALD TRUMP HAD CAPTAINED THE TITANIC

- There is no iceberg.
- We won't hit an iceberg.
- I knew it was an iceberg before anyone else knew.
- No one knows icebergs better than I do.
- The penguins brought the iceberg here.
- No one could have predicted the iceberg.
- We cannot allow an iceberg to stop our ship.
- The crew is spreading fake news about icebergs.
- Some of you have to drown.
- I am the best captain, ask anyone.



"You have sprouts. It's something couch potatoes get after sitting for too long."

Contributed by Augie...



Rescue Dogs.

Book Titles

- “Keep Out” by Barb Dwyer.
- “Uninteresting Road Signs” by Bill Bored.
- “How to Buy Groceries” by Chopin Liszt.
- “Six Foot Under” by Doug Graves.
- “French Overpopulation” by Francis Crowded.
- “Strong Winds” by Gail Fawce.
- “Toupee Embarrassment” by Harrison Backwards.
- “I Didn’t Do It” by Ivan Alibi.
- “Split Personalities” by Jacqueline Hyde.
- “Joys of Cowardice” by Lily Livard.
- “Sailing Round the World” by Madge Ellen.
- “Ship Mysteries” by Marie Celeste.
- “Political Correctness” by Noah Fence.
- “Life Before the Automobile” by Orson Buggy.
- “Italian Smallgoods” by Pepe Roney.

Germany is now advising people to stock up on cheese and sausages. This is called the Wurst Käse scenario

Survival Tip #138 :
If you have a glass of wine in each hand, you won't touch your face. You're welcome! 😊

Just spent \$300 on a limousine and discovered that the fee doesn't include a driver. I can't believe I spent all that money and have nothing to chauffeur it.

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Inner Peace

In these difficult times with Covid-19 we should all be listening to our family Doctor. Heard a Dr. on TV saying in this time of Coronavirus staying at home we should focus on inner peace. To achieve this, we should always finish things we start and we all could use more calm in our lives. I looked through my house to find things I'd started and hadn't finished, so I finished off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a bottle of wum, the remainder of Valiumun scriptuns, a box a chocletz. Yu haf no idr how feckin fablus I feel rite now. Sned this to all who need inner piss. An telum u luvum. And two hash yer wands, safe day avrybobby!

Contributed by Doug Walker...

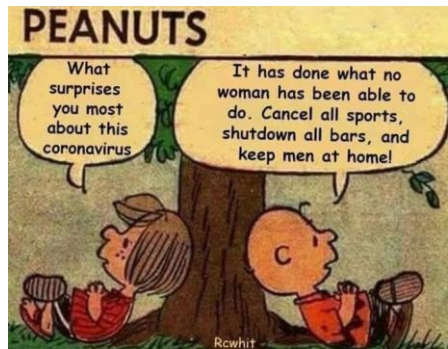
Revenge Is Sweet for Socomo!

(Think about this!)

1. Some wouldn't shake his hand - now nobody can shake hands!
2. Some didn't like him having an overseas holiday - now no one can have an overseas holiday!
3. Some don't want him going to a Sharks game - now no one can go to any footy games!
4. Some called him an asshole - now nobody can wipe theirs!
5. There is a lesson in this! – Think before you piss Socomo off!



If anyone is gonna make a face mask out of an old bra, make sure you use the left cup. You don't want to go out looking like a right tit!



Contributed by Doug Walker...

A COVID-19 Poem

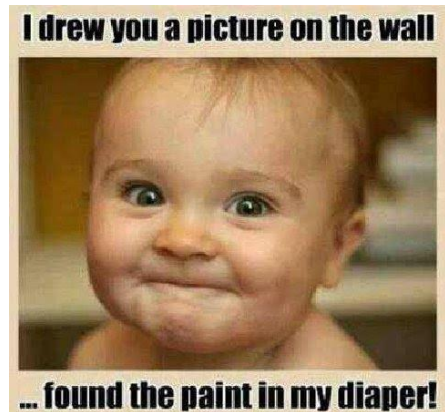
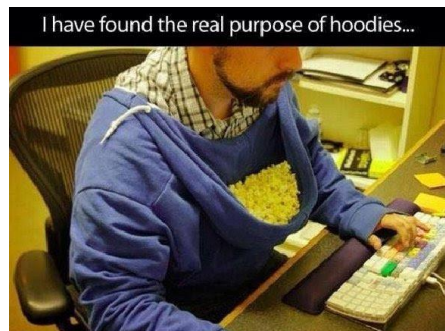
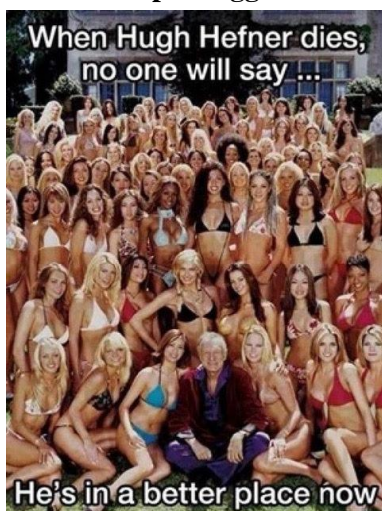
I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.
You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.
They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.
We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s –
If you only knew the truth!
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.
Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?
We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like red rag to a bull!
So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!
It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no bloody flour!
Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.
At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!
So, let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this bloody virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.
We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!

**Day 14 of the quarantine:
My wife took up gardening but
won't tell me what she's going to plant**



Contributed by Alan Rudd...

Coupla Giggles



Contributed by Alan Rudd...

Some Quickies

I dialled a number and got the following recording: "I am not available right now but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, then you are one of the changes."

~

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

~

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

~

The irony of life is that by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

~

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

~

What's the difference between stress, tension and panic? Stress is when your wife is pregnant, tension is when girlfriend is pregnant, and panic is when both are pregnant.

Contributed by Doug Walker...



10 of 81 Crazy Things You Probably Didn't Know About Australia.

- 20. In 1832, 300 female convicts mooned the governor of Tasmania. It was said that in a "rare moment of collusion with the convict women, the ladies in the Governor's party could not control their laughter."
- 21. Australia is home to the longest fence in the world It is 5,614 km long, and was originally built to keep dingoes away from fertile land. Strangely, it's known as "The rabbit proof fence"
- 22. Australia was one of the founding members of the United Nations. (Time to quit now).
- 23. Melbourne is considered the sporting capital of the world, as it has more top level sport available for its citizens than anywhere else.
- 24. Before the arrival of humans, Australia was home to megafauna: three metre tall kangaroos, seven metre long goannas, horse-sized ducks, and a marsupial lion the size of a leopard.
- 25. Kangaroos and emus cannot walk backward, one of the reasons why they're on the Australian coat of arms.
- 26. Speaking of which, Australia is one of the only countries where we eat the animals on our coat of arms.
- 27. If you visited one new beach in Australia every day, it would take over 27 years to see them all.
- 28. Melbourne has the world's largest Greek population outside of Athens.
- 29. The Great Barrier Reef is the planet's largest living structure.

Contributed by Doug Walker...

For those of you who cant work out social distancing.... this is two meters apart!!



Contributed by Tony Holloway...

#COVID-19 Pandemic Humour



Paul McGorriery
@paulmgorriery

Maths class 2020:

"If Jimmy was a hairdresser and wanted to marry a personal trainer in an open air food court, how many people can attend the ceremony?"

What do you call a group of 20 people?
Two weddings and a funeral.

YOUR HOROSCOPE THIS WEEK

- ♈ ARIES** You'll be spending time in your home
- ♉ TAURUS** You'll be spending time in your home
- ♊ GEMINI** You'll be spending time in your home
- ♋ CANCER** You'll be spending time in your home
- ♌ LEO** You'll be spending time in your home
- ♍ VIRGO** You'll be spending time in your home
- ♎ LIBRA** You'll be spending time in your home
- ♏ SCORPIO** You'll be spending time in your home
- ♐ SAGITTARIUS** You'll be spending time in your home
- ♑ CAPRICORN** You'll be spending time in your home
- ♒ AQUARIUS** You'll be spending time in your home
- ♓ PISCES** You'll be spending time in your home



STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED WHERE TO GO FOR EASTER
THE LIVING ROOM OR THE BEDROOM

Our cleaning lady just called and told us she will be working from home and will send us instructions on what to do.



2019: "Start concentrating at school otherwise you'll be stacking shelves for a living!"
2020: Stacking shelves - most secure job in the country.



Continued next page...

Contributed by Tony Holloway...

#COVID-19 Pandemic Humour



"Let me be clear. Anyone caught with over 100 rolls of toilet paper will be charged with possession with an intent to distribute."



After Quarantine.



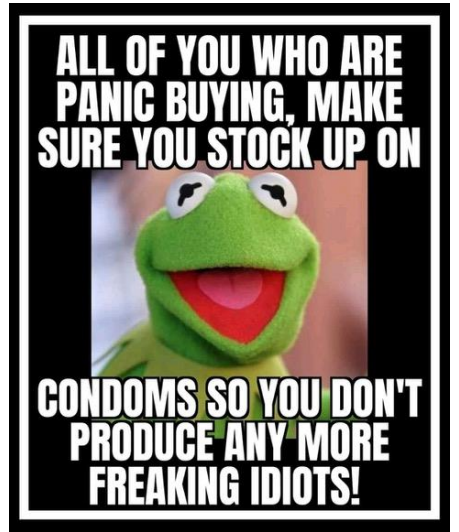
How come the liquor stores don't have empty shelves? Are people not realizing they will be quarantined with their spouses and kids?



Far away, on a hillside, a very specialised breed of dog heard the cry of distress.



The same people who said: "Nobody needs to stockpile ammo" are buying 600 rolls of toilet paper at a time



I washed my hands so much due to #COVID-19, that my exam notes from 1995 resurfaced.

Continued next page...

Contributed by Tony Holloway...

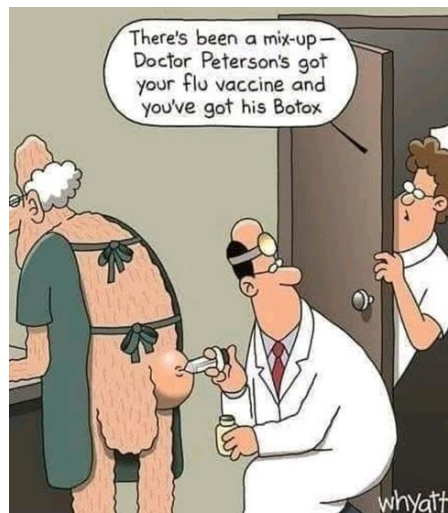
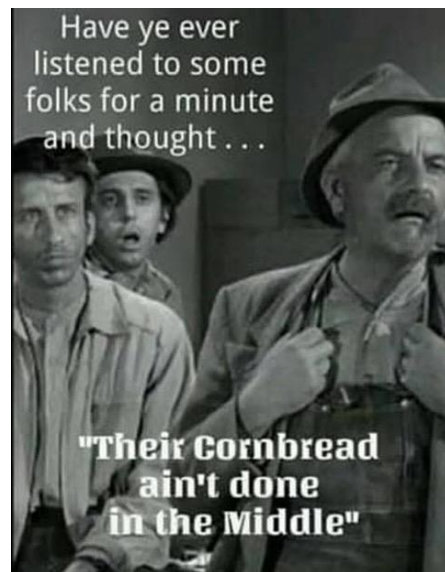
#COVID-19 Pandemic Humour



No toilet paper? Build a backyard bidet!



When I'm bored, I go around putting these stickers on paper towel dispensers.



Contributed by Tony Holloway...



Nice try, China

'ASSEMBERY IN USA'



My kids say they want a cat for Christmas.

Normally I do a turkey but hey, if it'll make 'em happy...



The idea had to come from somewhere.

Just seen a burgler kickin his own door in. I asked him what are u doin? He said "workin from home" 😊

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

Never in my whole life would I imagine my hands would consume more alcohol than my mouth!!



www.silversurfers.com



Government: Work from home...Lifeguards.



This is Wilson. He is now working from home.



When bartenders find new jobs after all the bars close down.

THE FACE YOU MAKE WHEN REALIZING

COVID-19 DIES AT 80 DEGREES AND GLOBAL WARMING CAN SAVE US

Day 5: got so bored I checked out all of your profiles. Two of you have the same boyfriend

Oldtimers

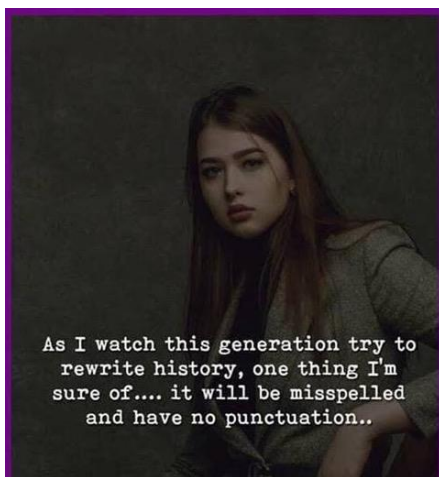
Swing that club, dear!



This is Sarah. She is 45 years old; she has two children, she has never exercised a day in her life, she eats anything she wants and occasionally stays up till 3am drinking and partying. What's her secret? Nothing, she is the girl in the background (top right).

Contributed by Tony Holloway...

Some More



So after dinner tonight I'm dropping her off at her parents' house.



There was a time when we would protest for things that mattered.

Parenting tip:

When you lose your children in the house, turn off the Wi-fi. They'll come out immediately. Your neighbors may even drop by as well.

For those who don't want Alexa listening in on your conversations, they're making a male version....it doesn't listen to anything.



Contributed by Augie...

Blonde Teenager Wanting to Earn Some Extra Money



A blonde teenager, wanting to earn some extra money for the summer, decided to hire herself out as a "handywoman".

She started canvassing a nearby well-to-do area. She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any odd jobs for her to do.

"Well, I guess I could use somebody to paint my porch," he said, "How much will you charge me?"

Delighted, the girl quickly responded, "How about \$50?"

The man agreed and told her that the paint brushes and everything she would need was in the garage.

The man's wife, hearing the conversation said to her husband, "Does she realize that our porch goes ALL the way around the house?"

He responded, "That's a bit cynical, isn't it?"

The wife replied, "You're right. I guess I'm starting to believe all those dumb blonde jokes we've been getting by email lately."

Later that day, the blonde teenager came to the door to collect her money.

"You're finished already?" the startled husband asked.

"Yes, she replied, and I even had paint left over, so I gave it two coats."

Impressed, the man reached into his pocket for the \$50.00 and handed it to her along with a \$10.00 tip.

"And by the way ...," the teenager added, "it's not a Porch, it's a Lexus."

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Some More Coronavirus Smiles

Dear the people who are buying 30 bottles of hand soap leaving the supermarket shelves bare, you do realize to stop the spread of a virus you need other people to wash their hands too?

Prediction: There will be a minor baby boom in 9 months, and then one day in 2033, we shall witness the rise of THE QUARANTEENS.

Our six-year-old handed us a note. His teacher had called my wife and I in for an emergency meeting. We asked our son if he had any idea why and he said, "She didn't like a drawing I did." We went in the next day. His teacher pulled the drawing below out and said, "I asked him to draw his family and he drew this. Would you mind explaining?"

"Not at all," my wife said. "Family vacation. Snorkelling off the Bahamas."



No school for 3 weeks? The liquor store is about to look like the walmart toilet paper isle!



Ordered Chinese last night little chinese driver comes to door and I walked out to meet him. He started shouting isolate isolate. I said mate you're not that late I only ordered it 15 mins ago. 😂

Today's drink special: the Quarantini



It's just a regular martini but you drink it alone, in your house

It seems a little ridiculous to me that people are so afraid that their children are going to miss a whole month of learning.

How about using this month to teach them how to cook, check the oil in the car, do laundry, treat others with respect, sew on a button, deep clean, balance a checkbook, etc. Not all learning is done in a classroom!



MY TEACHER POINTED ME WITH HIS RULER AND SAID: "AT THE END OF THIS RULER THERE'S AN IDIOT!"



I GOT DETENTION AFTER ASKING WHICH END.


Answers for the 'Quiz for Older Kids'

1. The Lone Ranger left behind a silver bullet.
2. The Ed Sullivan Show.
3. On Route 66.
4. To protect the innocent.
5. The Lion Sleeps Tonight.
6. The limbo.
7. Chocolate.
8. Louis Armstrong.
9. The Timex Watch.
10. Freddy, The Freeloader and 'Good Night and God Bless.'
11. Draft cards (Bras were also burned. Not flags, as some have guessed).
12. Beetle or Bug.
13. Buddy Holly.
14. Sputnik.
15. Hula-hoop.
16. Lucky Strike/Means Fine Tobacco.
17. Howdy Doody Time.
18. Shadow.
19. Monster Mash.
20. Speedy.

Send this Quiz to your "older" friends, (Better known as Seniors.) It'll drive 'em crazy! And keep them busy and let them forget their aches and pains for a few minutes.

We need to uninstall 2020 and then try reinstalling it. The current version has a nasty virus.

The Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc. 2020 Gem and Mineral Show. October Long weekend.



The Broken Hill Mineral Club Inc.
PO Box 747, Broken Hill, NSW, 2880

The Broken Hill Mineral Club invites you or any members of your club or general public to visit our wonderful city of Broken Hill and participate in the 2020 show by selling or buying minerals, gems, jewellery, lapidary equipment as well as arts and crafts. Please indicate below what you intend to trade in and your requirements if any.

I will be trading in:

There will be tea/coffee and food available to purchase on site

Accommodation: There are three caravan parks and numerous Hotels, Motels as well as private accommodation throughout the city.

Dining: There are numerous Hotels, Motels and restaurants throughout the city to dine in as well as multiple take away shops.

Fuel: There are a number of service stations scattered around the city to purchase fuel.

Things to see/do: Visit the information centre on the corner of Blende and Bromide streets to inquire about what to see and do in and around the City.

Emergency numbers:

Police: 000

Fire: 000

Ambulance: 000

NB. We have not yet been advised that the Broken Hill show listed above has been cancelled...they may be hoping that current pandemic restrictions may be lifted by then???

Mineral boxes and flats for sale

Mineral box sizes

Sold in bundles of (10) or 100

3.5 x 3.3cm.....	(\$1.50)	\$12.00
4 x 4cm.....	(\$1.50)	\$13.00
5 x 5.2cm.....	(\$2.00)	\$15.00
6.2 x 7.5cm.....	(\$2.50)	\$18.00
7 x 7cm.....	(\$2.50)	\$19.00
7 x 9.5cm.....	(\$2.50)	\$20.00
8.5 x 9.5cm.....	(\$3.00)	\$22.00
9.5 x 9.5cm.....	(\$3.50)	\$23.00
13 x 9.5cm.....	(\$4.00)	\$25.00
13 x 12.5cm.....	(\$4.50)	\$30.00

Flats sizes

395 x 265 x 50mm....	\$2.50
400 x 270 x 75mm....	\$3.50 NEW SIZE
398 x 290 x 98mm....	\$4.00

Greg Vort-Ronald

0413796279 or luv2paint@iprimus.com.au

all boxes and flats are folded together, no staples required
(Prices subject to change)

The Spanish king has been quarantined on his private jet.

This means that the reign in Spain will stay mainly on the plane.

Useful Internet Links

- 2020 Australian Gem & Mineral Calendar: [Click here...](#)
- Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club: [Click here...](#)
- AFLACA-GMCASA: [Click here...](#)
- Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association (AFLACA): [Click here...](#)
- Australian Lapidary Club Directory: [Click here...](#)
- Australian Lapidary Forum: [Click here...](#)
- Enfield Gem and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)
- Flinders Gem, Geology, and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)
- Gem and Mineral Clubs Association of South Australia: [Click here...](#)
- Gemcuts: [Click here...](#)
- Lapidary World: [Click here...](#)
- Metal Detectors - Garrett Australia: [Click here...](#)
- Metal Detectors - Miners Den Adelaide: [Click here...](#)
- Mineralogical Society of SA Inc: [Click here...](#)
- Murraylands Gem and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)
- NQ Explorers: [Click here...](#)
- Prospecting Australia: [Click here...](#)
- Southern Rockhounds: [Click here...](#)
- Tea Tree Gully Gem and Mineral Club: [Click here...](#)
- The Australian Mineral Collector: [Click here...](#)