





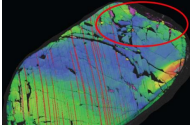





Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club Inc. (TTGGMC)
Clubrooms: Old Tea Tree Gully School, Dowding Terrace, Tea Tree Gully, SA 5091.
Postal Address: Po Box 40, St Agnes, SA 5097.
President: Ian Everard. 0417 859 443 Email: ieverard@bigpond.net.au
Secretary: Claudia Gill. 0419 841 473 Email: cjrgill@adam.com.au
Treasurer: Russell Fischer. Email: rfischer@bigpond.net.au
Membership Officer: Augie Gray: 0433 571 887 Email: teatreegullygmc@gmail.com
Newsletter/Web Site: Mel Jones. 0428 395 179 Email: teatreegullygmc@gmail.com
Web Address: <https://teatreegullygemandmineralclub.com>

**November
Edition
2018**

"Rockzette"

Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club News

President's Report	General Interest	Club Activities / Fees
<p>Hi All, the club AGM is at the next meeting on Thursday, November 1st, 2018. Hope to see you all there. Cheers, Ian.</p>	<p>Pages 2 to 4: Augie's October 2018 Agate and Mineral Selections...</p> 	<p>Meetings Club meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month except January. Committee meetings start at 7 pm. General meetings - arrive at 7.30 pm for 8 pm start.</p>
<p>Diary Dates / Notices</p>	<p>Pages 5 & 6: Ian's 2018 Agate Creek finds – Part 1...</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> TTGGMC 2018 Melbourne Cup Luncheon Bring a plate of food and join fellow members at the TTGGMC clubrooms @ 12MD, Tuesday November 6th, 2018. See you there. *** Happy Birthday Members celebrating November birthdays: 5th – Alan Harris. 23rd – Graham Gill. 7th – Claudia Gill. 27th – Allan Rudd.  TTGGMC 2018 Christmas Lunch will be on Sunday December 9th. More details later. In the meantime, a Christmas Hamper is being organised to be raffled at the Christmas Lunch. All donations gratefully accepted. ***</p>	<p>Page 7: 'Reidite may reveal Australia's biggest crater' ... </p> <p>Page 8: DIY – Adult Colouring-In ... </p>	<p>Tuesday Faceting/Cabbing Tuesdays - 10 am to 2 pm. All are welcome. Supervised by Doug Walker (7120 2221). Wednesday Silversmithing Wednesdays - 7 pm to 9 pm. All are welcome. Supervised by Augie Gray (8265 4815 / 0433 571 887). Thursday Cabbing Thursdays - 10 am to 2 pm. All are welcome. Supervised by Augie Gray (8265 4815 / 0433 571 887). Friday Silversmithing Fridays - 9 am to 12 noon. All are welcome. Supervised by John Hill (8251 1118).</p>
<p>NB. TTGGMC 2019 Biennial Exhibition Saturday July 20th and Sunday July 21st, 2019. *** Sat 3rd - Sun 4th November 2018 Southern Rockhounds Gem Fair 10:0am to 5:00pm (Sat) 10:00am to 4:00pm (Sun) 17 Gerald Court, Christie Downs, SA. http://www.southern-rockhounds.websyte.com.au/site.cfm?southern-rockhounds/4/ *** Are Your Subs Overdue? Membership subscription renewals are due to be paid before September 30th, 2018. *** See the last page for more club show details and member notices, etc. ***</p>	<p>Page 9: Gerry and Ellen's Eastern Victoria Safari... </p> <p>Page 10 & 14: 'Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story' </p> <p>Pages 15 to 19: General Interest... 'The Versatile Willys Jeep', '3200 Years in One Photo', and lots of humour. Page 20: Member's Notice Board, show details and Greg's advert.</p>	<p>Faceting/Cabbing/Silversmithing Fees: A standard fee of \$3.00 per session applies – to be paid to the session supervisor. In the interest of providing a safe working environment, it is necessary to ensure everyone using the workshops follow the rules set out in <i>Policy No. 1 - 20/11/2006</i>. It is necessary that <i>Health and Safety</i> regulations are adhered to always. Everyone using the workshop must ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that all club equipment (e.g. magnifying head pieces, faceting equipment, tools, etc.) used during the session, is cleaned, and returned to the workshop after usage. • 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 or dried. <p><i>NOTE: The Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club Inc. will not be held responsible or liable for any person injured while using the club machinery or equipment.</i></p>
<p>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>		

Club Subscriptions:

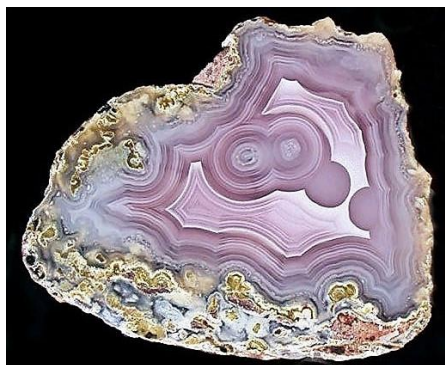
\$25.00 Family	\$20.00 Family Pensioner
\$15.00 Single	\$12.50 Single Pensioner
\$10.00 Joining Fee	

Augie's November 2018 Agate Selections – Laguna 2.

Laguna agate is one of the most highly sought and prized of all banded agates. These agates are mined in Northern Mexico and are known for their deep vivid colours as well as great fortification. Parallax (otherwise known as shadow) can be found in fine Laguna specimens.



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-01



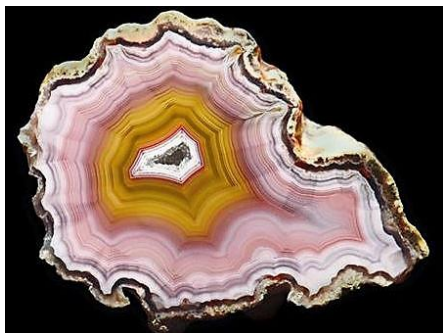
Laguna, North Mexico – 2-02



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-03



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-04



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-05



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-06



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-07



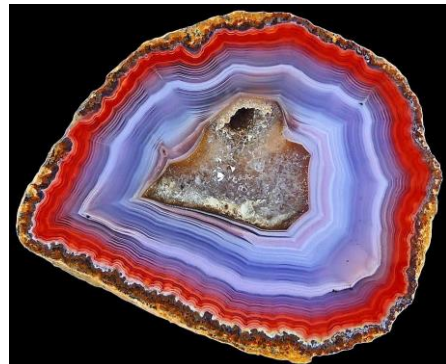
Laguna, North Mexico – 2-08



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-09



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-10



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-11



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-12



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-13



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-14

Augie's November 2018 Agate Selections.
Continued...



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-15



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-16



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-17



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-18



Laguna, North Mexico – 2-19

Augie's November 2018 Mineral Selections.



Amethyst on Chalcedony - Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil.



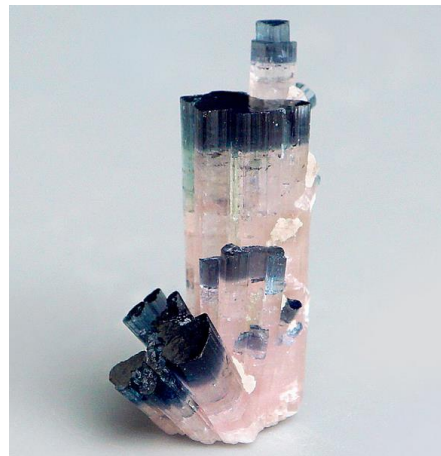
Aquamarine and Albite - Shigar Valley, Skardu District, Baltistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan.



Aragonite with Calcite - Gergovie, Auvergne, France.



Barite - Sidi Lahcen Mine, Nador, Morocco.



Blue Cap Tourmaline - Skardu, Baltistan, Pakistan.



Cactus Quartz - Boekenhoutshoek, Mkbola district, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.



Crocoite and Gibbsite - Adelaide Mine, Dundas, Tasmania.

Augie's November 2018 Mineral Selections.
Continued...



Chrysanthemum Stone - Yonghe, Hunan, China.



Fluorite - Brandberg Area, Erongo Region, Namibia.



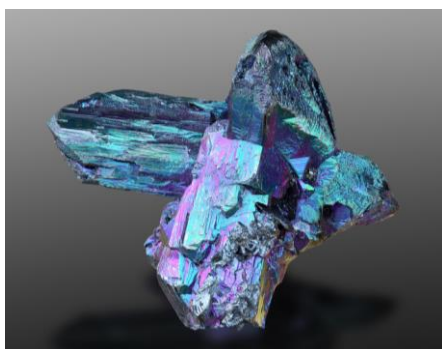
Pyromorphite - Les Farges Mine, Ussel, Limousin, France.



Red Phantom Quartz with Pyrite inclusions - Orange River, Karas Region, Namibia.



Selenite - Lubin Mine, Lubin District, Lower Silesia, Poland.



Stephanite - Husky Mine, Elsa, Galena Hill, Mayo Mining District, Yukon, Canada.



Sulphur - Agrigento, Sicily, Italy.



Vivianite.



Wulfenite - Urumqi, Kurukttag Mountains, Xinjiang.

Mel's November 2018 Facebook Sourced Mineral Selections



Rhodochrosite. Location: N'Chwaning II Mine, Kuruman, Kalahari Manganese Field, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. Source: Geology Wonders. Photo Credit: Margraf Minerals.



Aquamarine, Muscovite, and Albite. Location: Pakistan. Source: Geology Wonders. Photo Credit: Exceptional Minerals.



Ichthyosaur fossils (Ichthyosaurus acutirostris) and ammonites (Harporeras falcifer. Location: Austria, 185 million years. Source: Geology Wonders. Photo Credit: Not indicated.

Contributed by Ian Everard...

Ian's 2018 Agate Creek Finds – Part 2.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Back of the Saddle, Agate Creek, Qld.



Spaghetti Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Back of the Saddle, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Back of the Saddle, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.

Continued next page...



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Back of the Saddle, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.



Agate, Crystal Hill, Agate Creek, Qld.

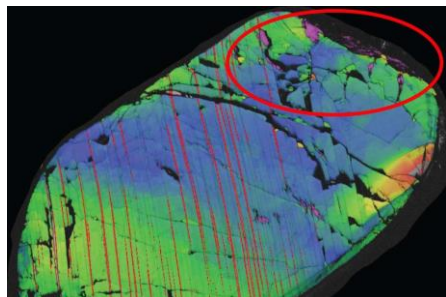
Contributed by Wendy Purdie...

Discovery of reidite, one of the rarest minerals on Earth, may reveal Australia's biggest crater

By Ben Gubana and James Carmody

Extract from **ABC NEWS**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-16/rare-mineral-reidite-found-in-wa-meteorite-crater/10383634>



The world's rarest mineral, reidite, is shown in an "electron diffraction" image highlighted by the colour purple. Supplied: Morgan A Cox

Researchers have discovered one of the rarest minerals on earth buried deep within an ancient meteorite crater in Western Australia.

- Reidite is only created when rocks carrying zircon slam into Earth from space
- The mineral has only been found six times in history
- The discovery could confirm the biggest meteorite impact crater ever found in Australia

The ultra-rare mineral known as reidite was found deep within the long-buried Woodleigh Crater near Shark Bay, approximately 750 kilometres north of Perth.

The reidite is only formed under the extreme pressure created when rocks from outer space slam into the Earth's crust.

It is only the sixth time the mineral has been discovered on Earth. The findings were published last month in the journal *Geology*.

Curtin University research supervisor Aaron Cavosie said reidite started life as a far more common mineral — zircon — and only transformed into reidite during the pressure of impact. "Finding reidite at Woodleigh was quite a surprise as it is much rarer than diamonds or gold, though unfortunately not as valuable," he said.

Finding may reveal Australia's biggest crater

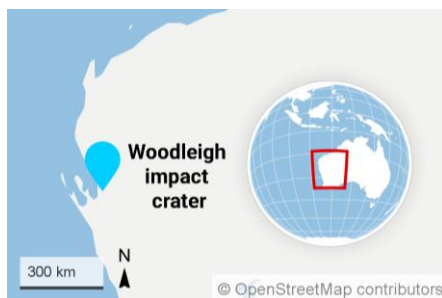
The discovery has indicated Woodleigh Crater may be much larger than previously estimated and could reveal it to be the largest impact crater in the country.

Woodleigh has long been buried beneath younger sedimentary rocks, so its size is not yet known and remains hotly debated.

Previous research estimated the crater to be between 60–120km in diameter.

If Woodleigh is found to have a diameter of more than 100km it would be classified as the largest impact crater in Australia.

"There are not many impact craters on earth that are larger than 100km in diameter,"



Cavosie said.

"The significance is that once they get much larger than 100km in diameter they enter a class of impact event that are large enough to cause mass extinctions and influence biological evolution."

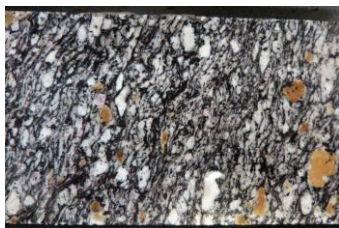
For instance, the large impact crater in Mexico that is contributed to causing the demise of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago is 180km in diameter." "And, that one is not even twice as large as what Woodleigh may be."

Discovery lay dormant for 20 years

The discovery was made after researchers drilled core samples from the centre of the crater, in a region known to geologist as the central uplift.

"Central uplifts are desirable targets for learning about impact conditions," Dr Cavosie said. "They bring profoundly damaged rocks closer to the surface and in some instances are associated with exploration targets."

Dr Cavosie said the discovery was made by chance by one of his Honours students, Morgan Cox. "Morgan worked on a couple of different projects for his thesis", he said. "In this one, we decided to examine the mineral Zircon, and how it responds to the high pressures created during meteorite impacts." "The wild thing is that the drill core had been sitting in the core shed for the Geological Survey of Western Australia for almost 20 years before we examined it and identified that reidite was present."



A drill core sample lay untouched for 20 years before the reidite discovery. Supplied: Aaron J Cavosie.

A priceless discovery

Dr Cavosie said the amount of reidite that has been discovered worldwide is microscopic.

"I'm going to guess that the whole of the reported reidite in the history of geology would sit under your finger nail", he said.

"It's like this – things have values other than in dollars...there's no commercial value of reidite. But, from a scientific point of view it's a priceless mineral, in terms of what it allows us to understand about the bigger picture."

Monash University Associate Professor, Andy Tomkins, said reidite was only to be found on the Earth's surface. "You wouldn't really get it anywhere else", he said. "Even meteorites wouldn't have it, even though they are full of

impact signs, they are not sufficiently big enough between different asteroids. Quite high pressures are required to form reidite...reidite can only form in impact craters of a significant size."

Contributed by Mel Jones...

Meteorite craters in Australia

Extract from **Australian GEOGRAPHIC**

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/science-environment/2010/12/australias-best-meteorite-craters/>

Australia has 30 impact craters out of 176 recognised worldwide.

AUSTRALIA IS AN ancient land. Some of the rocks in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, for instance, are 3.5 billion years old, while other sedimentary rocks from Mt Narryer, WA, have been dated at around 3 billion years and contain much older mineral grains derived from pre-existing rocks that are 4.4 billion years old. Some of these ancient rocks have lain undisturbed for almost a billion years.

The Australian landscape has been gradually transformed by weathering, which still continues at a gentle pace. But a few features scattered over the land seem to defy any explanation by way of Earth's typically slow weathering and geological processes. The sculptured landscapes of hills and valleys are occasionally pitted by regular circular structures, often mere hints. At other times they are clearly recognisable as large, deep craters.

SEE [Pictures of Meteorite Sites in Australia](#)

In Australia seven distinct craters, ranging in size from about 25m to around 1km in diameter, have been recognised. Five of these are associated with meteorites. In addition, there are another 30 very much larger but deeply eroded and enigmatic circular scars that present some evidence of an origin by impact. Among the largest are **Woodleigh** in Western Australia (60-70km across), **Lake Acraman** in South Australia (greater than 35km) and **Tookoonooka** in Queensland (50km in diameter).



A map of the suspected meteorite craters in Australia.

While their sizes have yet to be determined precisely, these three structures are clearly very old, and in the case of Woodleigh and Tookoonooka they have become buried beneath a mantle of younger sediments, such that they are no longer visible at the surface.

Thirteen other structures have been recognised, either as surface features or by geophysics. For these, there is little or no evidence other than their distinct circular shape to suggest they were formed from an impact. These structures include two underwater craters, **Mercury** and **Maningrida**, which occur off the coast of northern Australia.

On land, 11 structures tentatively identified as possible impact sites include:

- Lorne Basin (a doubtful structure in New South Wales)
- Gnargoo, Herbert, Ilkura, Lennis, and Skirmish (all in Western Australia)
- Mingobar (Queensland)
- Barramundi, Calvert Hills, Renehan and Wessel (all in the Northern Territory).

This is an edited extract from the book *Australia's Meteorite Craters* by Alex Bevan and Ken McNamara, published by the Western Australian Museum.

Contributed by Janet and Mel...
Extract from Pinterest...



<https://sarahrenaeclark.com/best-adult-coloring-tutorials-beginners/>

New to adult colouring books?

Adult colouring books are a great way to relax and reconnect with your creative side. But with so much advice on the internet – from adult colouring tutorials to choosing the right colours – it can be intimidating for a beginner colourist to find and learn the basic colouring skills and pencil techniques for adult colouring pages.

So, in this post, I've gathered 10 adult colouring tutorial videos that are the perfect place for a beginner to get started with adult colouring books (or for anyone to refresh and improve their colouring skills!).

Here's a quick rundown of what these videos cover. You can click on one to skip ahead or keep scrolling to watch them all in a 2-hour Netflix-style binge session – Most of these videos are under 10 minutes and will cover all the basics of adult colouring.

1. [7 Adult Colouring Tips for Every Beginner Colourist](#)
2. [12 Simple Coloured Pencil Techniques](#)
3. [How to Blend with Pencils \(7 Blending Methods\)](#)
4. [7 Coloured Pencil Mistakes That Beginners Make](#)
5. [How to Choose a Colour Palette and Create a Cheat Sheet](#)
6. [How to Blend and Shade with Markers](#)
7. [How to Shade with Markers That Don't Blend \(Using Textures\)](#)
8. [10 Different Techniques for Colouring Backgrounds](#)
9. [How to Colour with Markers and Pencils Together](#)
10. [How to Colour with Gel Pens and Pencils Together](#)

Once you've mastered the basics, you can move onto some of my other colouring tutorials and video collections:

1. [10 Simple Techniques to Turn Your Colouring Page into a Masterpiece](#)

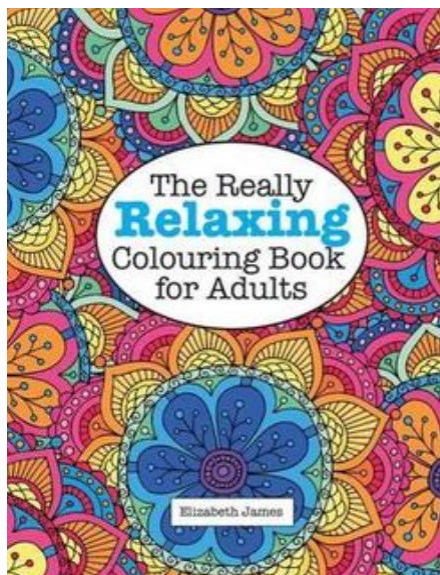
2. [How to Colour Skin Tones with Pencils or Markers \(3-part series\)](#)
3. [Getting Started with Copic Markers: A Beginner's Guide](#)
4. [How to Draw Gemstones with Coloured Pencils](#)
5. [How to Create a Galaxy Background with Coloured Pencils](#)
6. [How to Add White Pen Highlights to Your Colouring Pages](#)
7. [How to Find the Perfect Colour Palette Using the Colour Catalog](#)

Let's jump in!

Note: This post contains affiliate links and I may earn a commission if you click them and make a purchase (at no cost to you).



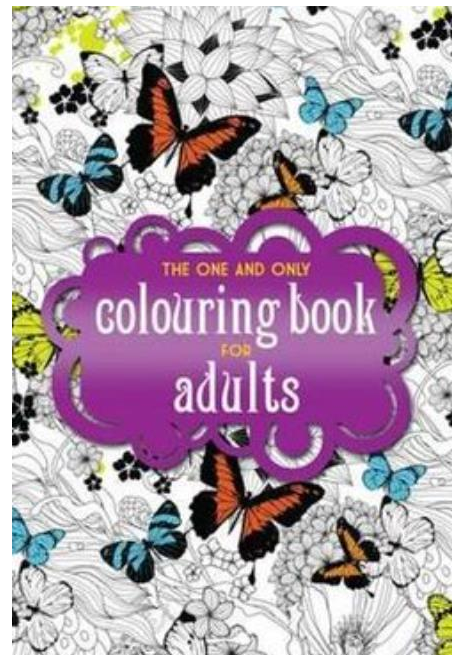
Extract from [Search results for "colouring adults" - Angus and Robertson](#)



Synopsis...

The Really RELAXING Colouring Book for Adults is a beautiful and relaxing creative colouring book for all ages and makes the perfect gift for anyone feeling under the weather! The art of colouring is the perfect distraction from feeling ill, and will help them switch off, unwind, and unleash their inner creativity as they get lost in the flow of colouring in these stunning patterns and designs. Each of these beautiful individual designs are printed on a single page with the reverse left blank - so no bleed through, and perfect whether you use pencils, pens or paints. Collect the whole 'Really Relaxing Colouring Book' series, the lovely 'Completely Calming Colouring Books' and 'Colour Me Calm' series or try our unique '

Cool Colouring Books' Collection too!
[Click/tap here to access more details...](#)



Synopsis...

Immerse yourself in the internationally bestselling colouring book designed specifically for Adults. Do you remember a time in life when you didn't have to ask permission to spend hours in your own creative world? Often the time and space for that inspiration is missing in a grown-up's busy schedule? Here's the solution: a colouring book series designed from the ground up specifically for Adults. A wonderful variety of gorgeous images are waiting to be coloured in; so, turn your mind to zero and relax. Perfect for creating high quality productive personal time, lazy Sunday afternoons, or on holiday. This immersive colouring book will expand your creativity and keep you entertained for hours. Quality paper is thick enough for pencils, crayons and some non-heavy paints. Bestseller - over 200,000 copies sold.
[Click/tap here to access more details...](#)

Some other sources for colouring-in materials...

- Big W stores.
- Browse In & Save stores.
- Cheap as Chips stores.
- Kaisercraft store, Ingle Farm Shopping Centre.
- Local News Agents.
- Ned's, St Agnes Shopping Centre.
- Office Works stores.
- Paper Flourish store, Research Rd Pooraka.
- Riot Art & Craft store, Westfield TTP.

Contributed by Ellen and Gerry Dillon...

The Happy Wanderer's Eastern Victoria Safari

We have been a couple of weeks on the road now so here is an update to our trip...

Travelled with the caravan across to Queenscliff first. Took the ferry over to Moe where we stayed for 5 days. Had a couple of trips to the High Country, also visiting the Old Mining town of Walhalla. Then on across to Mansfield for the week, staying in the Lakeside Resort, giving our caravan a rest. Our day trips here have been to Mt. Buller, the snow ski centre, and around Lake Eildon. Another day here and then on to Kyneton. We have been quite lucky with the weather so far, mostly sunshine.

Cheers Gerry and Ellen.



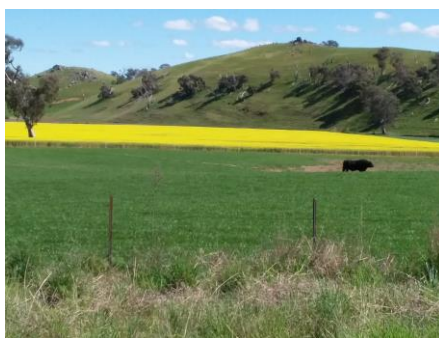
Queenscliff Harbor, Victoria.



Long Tunnel extended Mine, Walhalla, Victoria.



Caution...watch out for the locals.



Nice Canola crop...lonely bull.



Mount Buller ski slopes, Victoria.



Gerry bouncing stones like the 'Dam Busters'.



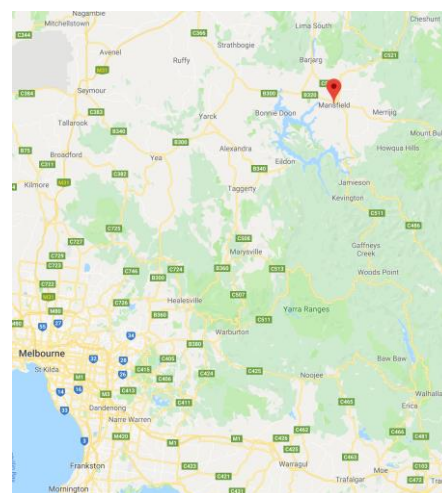
Lake Eildon, Victoria.



Being a mother is so tiresome at times, Mansfield Zoo, Victoria.



Meerkats at the Mansfield Zoo, Victoria.



Contributed by Mel Jones...

‘Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story’ by Garry Reynolds Part 3 of 14+...



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*.

The Europeans Arrive



The French barque, the ‘Adolphe’ about to be wrecked at the treacherous entrance of Newcastle Harbour in 1904 on top of an earlier wreck of ‘The Colonist’. Over 200 vessels and many more lives were lost along the coastline in and around Newcastle. Source: *Newcastle City Council*.

The Aboriginal people occupied the site of Newcastle for thousands of years with little impact on the natural environment. However, things changed rapidly when Europeans arrived and established a penal settlement, port, coal and railway facilities stimulating permanent European settlement commencing in the early 19th century.

The First Fleet had arrived at Sydney Cove in 1788 and New South Wales struggled to survive let alone grow as a penal colony. Some convicts escaped and headed north, mainly in stolen water craft.

In 1791, William and Mary Bryant, their two infant children and six escaped convicts ran their six-oared cutter into a small creek close to where the Newcastle railway marshalling yard was constructed much later.



Newcastle East End marshalling yard in the early 1900s. Source: *Newcastle Herald*.

The Hunter River was also visited in 1796 by a party of fishers, who brought samples of coal back to Sydney.

The following year, Lieutenant John Shortland was sent north from Port Jackson to search for a few convicts who had escaped.

During the voyage he entered what he later described as "a very fine coal river" which he named after Governor Hunter.

Lieutenant Shortland returned to Sydney Cove with a sketch of the harbour, no captured convicts but reports of the abundant coal in the area.

Over the next two years, several ships sailed to the Hunter and picked up coal from the beaches and exposed seams and enterprising traders loaded it aboard in hand baskets. By 1799, sufficient quantities had been brought back to Sydney to make up a shipment of 50 tonnes for export from Port Jackson to Bengal aboard the barque the ‘Hunter’.

Governor Hunter reported that the coal at Coalcliff in the Illawarra was inaccessible, but the Coal River deposits were very accessible as they outcropped at the mouth of the harbour. By the turn of the century, the mouth of the Hunter River was being visited by more Europeans, including coal-hewers, timber-cutters, and more escaped convicts.

Governor King, who took office in 1800, decided on a more proactive approach to exploit the now obvious natural resources of the Hunter Valley. This could assist the Colony to generate revenue to meet its needs as it was under increasing budgetary restrictions on investment from the English Government. Fighting and losing the American War of Independence had incurred significant debt and now Britain was preparing to fight and fund the Napoleonic Wars which would last 12 years.

Another economic prospect, aside from coal, were the cedar forests which covered a huge tract in the Hunter Catchment. This was an attractive source of urgently-needed building timber for the infant Sydney settlement.



Railway rivers of coal flow down the Hunter Valley railway network and out of the Port of Newcastle. A rake of empty wagons heading back to the collieries snakes past a heavily-loaded rake heading to port. Source: *Australian Financial Review*.

A short-lived first settlement

However, due to unfavourable progress, combined with the Convict Superintendent's misconduct culminating in a mutiny, the group was recalled after 8 months in 1802. The experiment was viewed as a failure but only proved to be a false start for the beginnings of Newcastle, the coal trade and subsequent rail development.

Nevertheless, in this brief period the first direct shipment of coal from Newcastle was made to the Cape of Good Hope at the tip of Africa in the vessel ‘Anna Josephs’. This would commence a global coal export trade still going strong after 216 years, in the year 2018. It would flag the development of Newcastle as a coal export port which is the largest in the world fed by an extensive and intensively-operated railway network.



Great stockpiles of coal dumped at the end of the rail coal supply chain dominate the landscape at the Port of Newcastle. Source: *Newcastle Herald*.

But we're getting a little ahead of ourselves!

A site for the worst of the worst

Back on Sydney's Cumberland Plain in the early 1800's, the authorities had their own challenges. After a major uprising by convicts had been put down at Castle Hill, Governor King decided that tougher measures were needed to control the worst convicts. He seized on the idea of Newcastle as a repository for desperate characters, especially Irish convicts who he detested. They were to be placed out of sight and out of mind for the good free citizens of Sydney in a custom-designed hellhole to be a top-of-the-mind deterrent for convicts considering erring.

Originally, 34 Irish convicts implicated in the Castle Hill uprising of 1804, were sent to this new place of secondary punishment.

Continued next page...

'Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story'
Continued...

It was designated for those convicts who had continued to confront the rule of law after initially receiving a penalty passage from England. This was after 9 leaders of the 300 convict rebels received the ultimate deterrent – hanging.

No one would be allowed to enter or leave the new northern settlement without the express prior permission of the Governor. Even a wayward crew member or captain from a visiting ship could be punished with lashings if found on land near Newcastle after dark.

So, in 1804, a second attempt was made to create a penal settlement on Coal River. This time it was established by Lieutenant Charles Menzies of the Royal Marines. After volunteering for the Commandant's office, he had a big job for a 21-year old having joined up when only 15, his parents having bought him an officer's commission in England.

Optimistically, the settlement was re-named Newcastle after England's famous coal port at Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Governor King had plans that the worst of the worst would be severely penalised here. But also, they would have to earn the Government funds to pay for their penal servitude by digging coal while laying on their sides in narrow addits excavated into seams and then carrying it on board nearby ships barefooted. The coal would be obtained by driving tunnels into nearby cliffs and ships loaded by wheelbarrow from a dump at the foot of present-day Watt Street in the heart of today's bustling city.



Sketch of a convict mining coal circa early 1800s. Source: University of Newcastle.

Just to make sure the message got through and expenses were minimised and revenue maximised, the convict population of early Newcastle was deliberately overworked, inadequately fed, poorly housed, barely clothed and harshly punished to deter others. Aside from a few Government representatives, soldiers and their families, the local population was almost exclusively convict and predominantly male.

In this testing environment, Lieutenant Menzies only spent about a year in Newcastle and had some major challenges as he was a marine commander of a predominantly Army Corps. This soon led to dissension, a challenge to a duel and a court martial for others.

Despite these 'diversions', Menzies re-established convict coal mining. He wrote to Governor King that mining had begun on a 3 ft 6 in thick coal seam, but he was highly critical of his predecessors' earlier attempts in 1801 under what is today's Fort Scratchley.



Fort Scratchley. Source: History Hub.

He was scathing in saying the mines had been dug '...in the most shameful manner, never have they been at the trouble of leaving proper supports, leaving them to fall in any way'. He told Governor King such bad mining would not happen again under his watch – promotion perhaps in mind?

However, young Menzies went right over the top when he wrote:

"Those already here I make work hard and they perform it in the most cheerful manner. As their legs were getting bad from being ironed I released the greatest part of them that I might not be deprived of their labour and as we have always sufficiently upon our guard to counteract any schemes which they may be mad enough to form."

What a happy little hellhole!

Nauseatingly, Menzies went on to tell Governor King he had taken the liberty of naming "this delightful spot" after him.

Although Lieutenant Menzies continued to perform as the ultimate 'crawler' by heading his letters 'King's Town, Newcastle,' the Governor did not fall for this piece of flattery from the ambitious young man and the name of just 'Newcastle' remained.



An early sketch in the time of Governor Lachlan Macquarie with Nobbys still an island unjoined to Signal Hill with the British flag flying proudly. Source: University of Newcastle.

However, Menzies did put forward an interesting idea as far as fortification of Signal Hill, today's Flagstaff Hill and Fort Scratchley. Instead of guns pointing out to sea as expected to defend the Harbour and tiny penal settlement, he suggested that the guns should be facing up-river to prevent

any vessel seized by the convicts from being taken out of the Harbour.



Today, a floodlit Fort Scratchley overlooks Nobbys and the Newcastle Harbour Entrance. The grassed area was part of a precinct with a rail marshalling yard and tram yard and power station until recent decades. Source: Visit Newcastle.

On another front, Menzies ensured the convicts cut cedar logs and rafted them down the Hunter River for a private sawmill erected at Freshwater Cove (where Newcastle Railway Station now stands) and to another mill which stood on the site of today's Market Square. Of course, after working the convicts to exhaustion six days a week, Menzies had the Governor's direction "to enforce a due observance of religion and good order" on the Sunday.



Newcastle Railway Station precinct in 1935 with Queen's Wharf in the foreground which was known in early colonial days as Freshwater Cove where a timber mill prepared cedar for shipping to Sydney. Source: Coal River.

Relationship with the Aborigines

Surprisingly, in the oppressive convict penal atmosphere, the relationships between Aborigines and Europeans at Newcastle were, on the whole, relatively harmonious. This was assisted by Lieutenant Menzies' initial efforts made to get the clans on side, so that they would not assist any escapees.

Despite the 'hellhole' reputation that was being peddled in Sydney, Menzies had a strong humanitarian streak in regard to the Aboriginal people, noting:

"I have given strict directions to the crews of all vessels going up the river to treat them in a friendly manner, as I know they have frequently been ill used by some who are neither guided by principle or humanity."

Menzies proved to be a firm but humane disciplinarian with the convicts as well. While he had them working from sunrise to sunset, he did allow them a spell of two hours in the middle of the heat of the day. However, pragmatically, to reduce the possibility of the convicts absconding, he ordered that food rations were only to be issued twice a week, even though he had brought six months' supplies from Sydney.

'Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story'
Continued...

This stopped the convicts from hoarding food - but it didn't stop escape attempts.

In early years, the unskilled convicts were directed by a professional miner named, John Platt, and together they hewed nine tonnes of coal a day. In 1806, 420 tons of coal was produced as the authorities attempted to build a coal-based economy in Newcastle.

'Incorrigibles' – the worst of the worst convicts – were sent to Stockton Beach to burn oyster shells from ancient middens in lime kilns. In the primitive process, the lime corroded the hands and eyes of the convicts, many of whom, wearied and enfeebled by hunger and whippings, collapsed in the lime and died.

The lime was destined to be shipped to Sydney to become mortar between the bricks of early colonial buildings.

The Aborigines didn't appear to mind the activity as they regarded the middens only as their feasting rubbish tips and proceeded on trading fish and shellfish for blankets and clothing from the authorities.

Where tensions arose, was with the use of Aboriginal trackers by the gaolers to apprehend escaped convicts who the trackers stripped naked and marched back into incarceration and numerous lashings while the trackers received rewards such as tobacco.

The convicts grew to detest the Aborigines, and resentment increased when in August 1819, Prison Commandant Morisset had the convict Henry Langton lashed 75 times for "cutting an Aboriginal man with a knife."



GAOL 1818

A virtual re-creation of the convict gaol adjacent to the coal mine and soldiers' barracks at Newcastle. In 1870, Newcastle Gaol was abandoned. Eventually the crumbling ruins were demolished and a depot for Newcastle's steam trams was built on the site. Source: *University of Newcastle*.

Despite the natural beauty of the surroundings and the mild climate, Newcastle remained a nasty place. The military rule was harsh, often barbarous, and there was no more notorious place of punishment in the whole of Australia than Limeburner's Bay, on the inner side of Stockton Peninsula opposite Nobbys.

Still, there was always someone who could put a long-winded spin on even the worst situation in the penal settlement.

An erudite correspondent wrote to the Sydney Gazette in 1829:

"By removing all the incorrigibles to places where there was nothing worth stealing and consequently nothing to tempt those incorrigibles to rob or to be at the trouble of inducing others to rob for them, and by never permitting an acknowledged bad character to escape without some species of punishment being awarded to damp his larcenous ardour, against whom reasonable grounds of guilt attached, the Police Magistrate has thus managed to keep the greater portion of the felonious population of Newcastle in a passive state of honesty at least, while by smothering rather than feeding the private quarrels, by the lending an eager...all the impassioned circumlocutions to which they give rise, these primarily contentious nothings, from which so much private as well as public mischief proceeds, being deprived of the aiding breath of magisterial meddling to keep their glowing embers in a state of protracted combustion, either yield to the influence of returning reason, or quietly die through a natural exhaustion, or the soothing affluence of friendly interference."
And that was just one sentence from their letter!



An early painting indicating the progress being made on building the breakwater – Macquarie Pier – out towards Nobby's Island. Source: *University of Newcastle*.

An early problem facing captains of sailing ships entering Newcastle was the loss of wind in the ships' sails as they passed the towering Nobbys Island at the port entrance.

To make shipping safer on the southern (Nobbys side) of the Harbour, convicts strained and cursed as they slaved away gradually extending out a pier or breakwater to create a causeway between the mainland and Nobbys Head.

These were hardened men; mostly twice-convicted and not to be trusted, often working in leg irons in long chain gangs to constrain escape. The slightest attempt was treated brutally, and some were sent to the treadmill in Sydney to stagger on driving machinery for others to work with in gaol. The more fortunate had their backs cut to shreds with 100 lashes.

Newcastle reinforced its reputation as a godforsaken hellhole for convicts. There were calls too to forget about despatching

captured absconders to Sydney and set up a treadmill in the decaying Newcastle Gaol near the sea where prestige homes and holiday hotels sit today.



the treacherous entrance of Newcastle Harbour with Nobby's Island blocking the wind, dangerous rocky outcrops and shifting sand shoals narrowing the channel. Source: *ABC*.

The Gaol was so tough that even the first gaolers were convicts! As protection for the remaining population, the Gaol was separated from the rest of the town by large sand dunes formed by the vegetation being removed to prevent escaping convicts concealing themselves.

The Newcastle Female Factory

Most of the female convicts had been sent to New South Wales for three years. Some had been 'passengers' on infamous ships which became known as 'floating-brothels'. Until they were assigned work, the convict women were taken to the Female Factories, where they performed menial tasks like making clothes or toiling over wash-tubs.

In March 1828, the colonial newspaper, "The Monitor", reported that a Newcastle Female Factory was to be established because: *"The Female Factory at Parramatta is crowded, and among its inmates, are a number of women, encumbered with children, and therefore not available for the purposes of assignment, while valuable room is permanently occupied by them, to the inconvenience of the establishment generally. It is now determined that a portion of the Newcastle gaol shall be prepared for the reception of one hundred and fifty women, to be employed as usefully as may be practicable."*

Those selected to be shipped from Parramatta to Newcastle had committed further misdemeanours while in custody serving out their punishment. Among these were recorded:

"10 days for drunkenness...14 days in the cells for absconding. To be returned to her husband...14 days for indecent conduct...3 months for insolence...3 months for being pregnant and absconding...3 years for mutinous and outrageous conduct..."

Other punishments for women included an iron collar being fastened around their neck or having their head shaved as a mark of disgrace.

Continued next page...

'Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story'
Continued...

As women were a scarcity in the Colony, if they married they could be assigned to free settlers. Often, desperate men would go looking for a wife at the Female Factories. Other assigned convict women performed domestic service in private households.

Tickets of leave were normally granted for male and female convicts after four years for those with a seven-year sentence, six years for a fourteen-year sentence and eight-years for life.

Nobbys Stockade for the worst of the worst of the worst

In one case at the Newcastle penal colony, Thomas McKenny was ordered to undergo an additional twelve months' labour in irons. McKenny, an incorrigible offender, was already serving 3 years in heavy irons at the Newcastle Stockade near the Convict Lumber Yard (at the bottom of Watt St). After this additional sentence, he was imprisoned in an even worse stockade on Nobby's Island for greater security.

Historian, Jen Willett's remarks:

"The Stockade on Nobby's was established for those prisoners working on the breakwater. To be sent there was a harsh punishment indeed as amongst all the other deprivations there was no water at Nobby's. It would have been carted from the well back near the Watt Street Stockade. Relatives were not allowed to send tobacco or food. Correspondence requesting such articles was seized by the military and destroyed."

Early Nobbys constructions

The causeway built up with natural sand deposits as well as creating Nobbys Beach. Nobbys Island now became Nobbys Headland.



View of the rail line built in later years from the East End marshalling yard at Newcastle out to Nobbys Head. Source: Newcastle Herald.

In this process, of forming an artificial entrance to the Harbour, the top of Nobbys was gradually removed to reduce its height from 43 metres to 27.5 metres by 1855 to increase the sailing ships' availability of wind at the Entrance. The resulting rock was used in the construction of the breakwater between Nobbys and the mainland.



In the early 20th century, steam trams ran out along the causeway to Nobbys with workers often battling the sand drifts threatening to engulf the line. Source: Newcastle Herald.

The Pier- Breakwater and Causeway

While the project was started in 1813, and with a foundation stone laid in 1818 by Governor Macquarie on one of his three visits to Newcastle (the construction was modestly named 'Macquarie Pier'), the expensive breakwater and causeway were built in fits and starts depending on economic circumstance, available labour and the public pressure arising from outrage at the number of shipwrecks approaching the Newcastle Harbour Entrance.



In recent years, drifting dunes have exposed sections of past rail line to Nobbys built long after the exertions of the convict penal era. Source: Pinterest.

Convict labour was relied on in the construction because of cost and almost a sense of expendability. It was a hazardous job entailing working under all kinds of sea and weather conditions, night and day. Many convict men's lives were lost in the process.

By 1842, there were approximately 350 male convicts in Newcastle and their life was still a misery. The women in the penal settlement's Female Factory fared little better.

The Macquarie Pier project was completed in 1846. However, the construction was partially destroyed several times by storms and ships, so more breakwaters were built at later dates to complement constant dredging of navigation channels.



A virtual re-creation of Newcastle in the 1830s. The thin red line shows areas reclaimed from the sea in subsequent eras, large areas used to establish railway yards. The reclaimed land was created by a combination of quarrying, dredging and ballast rocks dumped from sailing ships before they filled with cargo. Source: Coal River.

From 1804, the main navigation aid for ships approaching Newcastle was a coal-fired beacon on Flagstaff Hill before a light house was built in 1857 on Nobbys.



Shipwrecks were far more common before the breakwater was completed between Nobbys Island and the mainland. This sketch is from the 1820s. Source: University of Newcastle.

Interestingly, during the visit of Macquarie to the settlement, the Commandant, Captain James Wallis wrote reflecting the progress from the past extreme austerity: "His Excellency last visited Newcastle in 1812 when in its infant state, and comparatively of little importance, being chiefly appropriated for the reception of convicts whose delinquencies here had rendered them liable to extraordinary punishments."



The Newcastle Harbour entrance today with multiple reinforced breakwaters and the original Nobbys causeway on the other foreshore. Source: Yelp.

Continued next page...

'Newcastle and Rail – The Never-ending Story'
Continued...

Until 1823, a Government order proclaimed: all coal and timber in the Newcastle area was Government property; the comings and goings of private vessels would be closely regulated; and banned alcohol.

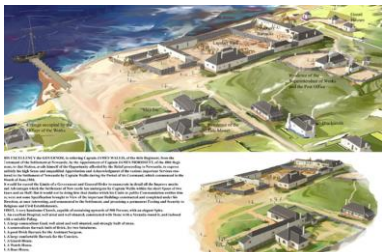
The Convict Lumber Yard buried under a railway yard.

The Convict Lumber Yard, which had been established in the early days of the penal settlement, had a convict barracks and workshop erected on the site after a decade. This was only discovered well over 150 years later with the removal of the East End Railway Yard.



Newcastle East End Railway Yard in 1920, now removed. Source: Pinterest.

Meanwhile, when Newcastle became a free settlement in 1822, some convicts were retained at the Lumber Yard Barracks and Stockade to work in the coal mines. By 1829, the total amount of coal they had excavated by hand and shipped since European discovery reached 50,000 tonnes!



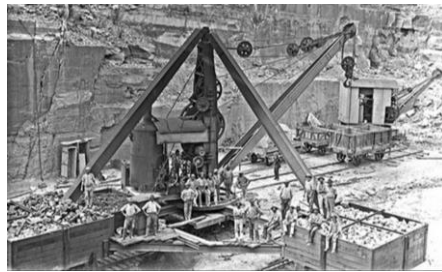
A virtual re-creation of early Newcastle. Source: Coal River.

When the Government withdrew from coal mining and passed over a monopoly to the Australian Agricultural Company Pty Ltd, the Barracks was used to house convicts employed in the building of Nobbys Breakwater.



The Convict Lumber Yard site showing today's re-created symbolic memorial of the main building near Newcastle Railway Station and the former East End Railway Yard. From the 1860s, buildings including the Customs House, a Paymaster's building, a Sailor's Home and a residence for the Newcastle Stationmaster were built over the remnants of the Convict Stockade at the Lumberyard. Source: History Service NSW blog.

As military rule was ending in Newcastle, the authorities realised that the tight controls of a forbidding penal outpost were incompatible with the type of free enterprise development that was required to eventually replace transportation from England. It was becoming increasingly unpopular on both sides of the world.



The original breakwater – Macquarie Pier – was constructed from stone won from lowering the height of Nobbys. In later years, when a railway line was built on the causeway out to Nobbys, the stone for building up both entrance breakwaters came by train from this quarry at Waratah. Source: University of Newcastle.

In Governor Macquarie's opinion, the prison colony was too close to Sydney and in any case the proper exploitation of the land was not practicable with prison labour. The number of prisoners was reduced to 100 (most of these were employed on the building of the breakwater), and the remaining 900 were sent to another place of secondary punishment - Port Macquarie.



The causeway to Nobbys reinforced in later years by large rocks carried in by rail from the quarry at Waratah. Source: Newcastle Herald.

Freed for the first time from the constraints of penal law, a steady flow of free settlers poured into the hinterland through the port of Newcastle.

Unfortunately, it was after this cessation of the penal role, that violence and dispossession ensued against the Aboriginal people. This was exacerbated by the spread of diseases to which the local Indigenous population had little resistance, especially venereal disease from the sailors on increasing numbers of ships visiting the harbour.



Old buried railway tracks linking Nobby's to the Great Northern Railway uncovered by workmen in recent years. Source: Newcastle Herald.

More next month...

Contributed by Doug Walker...



Went out last week to a Halloween Party dressed as a chicken.



Met a cute girl dressed as an egg.

*A lifelong question was answered.
It was the chicken!*

'No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery!'

Brain Teasers and Lateral Thinking Puzzles

Compiled by David Koutsoukis

1. What starts with an E, ends with an E and usually contains only one letter?
ENVELOPE.
2. Which word, if pronounced right, is wrong, but if pronounced wrong is right?
Wrong!
3. What belongs to you, but other people use it more than you? Your name!
4. What kind of cheese is made backwards?
EDAM cheese (made backwards is edam)
5. Can you find a five-letter word, which, when typed in upper---case, reads the same upside down? SWIMS.

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Willys Jeep Overview

Click/tap on...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willys_MB

to access comprehensive Jeep MB details listed by Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.



Willys MB / Ford GPW

Type:	¼ ton 4 x 4 utility truck.
Place of origin	United States.
Service History	
In service	1941 until varying per country.
Wars:	World War II Korean War Various post 1945 conflicts.
Production History	
Designer:	Karl Probst, Delmar G. Roos.
Manufacturer:	Willys-Overland (MB) Ford (GPW).
Number built:	MB: 359,489. GPW: 277,896.
Specifications (MB and GPW same)	
Weight:	2,453 lb (1,113 kg) incl. liquids and fuel. 2,337 lb (1,060 kg) dry weight.
Length:	132 1/4 in (3.36 m).
Width:	62 in (1.57 m).
Height:	overall, top up: 69 3/4 in (1.77 m) reducible to 52 in (1.32 m).
Engine:	134 cu in (2.2 l) Inline 4 Willys L134 "Go Devil" 60 hp (45 kW; 61 PS).
Power/weight:	49 hp/ST (54.0 hp/t).
Payload capacity:	800 lb (360 kg).
Transmission:	3 spd. x 2 range trf. Case.
Suspension:	Live axles on leaf springs front and rear.
Ground clearance:	8 3/4 in (22 cm).
Fuel capacity:	15 US gal (12.5 imp gal; 56.8 L).
Operational range:	300 mi (482.8 km).
Speed:	65 mph (105 km/h).

The Willys MB and the Ford GPW, both formally called the U.S. Army **Truck, 1/4 ton, 4x4, Command Reconnaissance**, commonly known as **Jeep** or **jeep**, and sometimes referred to

as **G503** are light, off-road capable, military utility vehicles that were manufactured during World War II (from 1941 to 1945) to help mobilize the Allied forces.

The jeep became the primary light wheeled transport vehicle of the United States Military and its Allies in World War II, as well as the postwar period — becoming the world's first mass-produced four-wheel drive car, manufactured in six-figure numbers. The ca. 640,000 units built, constituted a quarter of the total U.S. non-combat motor vehicle production in the war, and almost two thirds of the ca. 988,000 light vehicle class, together with the Dodge WC series, out-numbering those by almost two to one.

"In many respects, the jeep became the iconic vehicle of World War II, with an almost mythological reputation." — (Hyde, 2013), having proven itself exceptionally capable, tough, durable and versatile. Not only did it become the workhorse of the American military, as it literally replaced the use of horses and other draft animals (still abundant in World War I) in every role, from cavalry units to supply trains, but improvised field-modifications also made the jeep capable of just about any other function GI's could think of.



The jeep was considered such a valuable piece of equipment that General Eisenhower wrote that most senior officers regarded it as one of the six most vital U.S. vehicles to win the war. Moreover, General George Marshall called the squared-off little car "America's greatest contribution to modern warfare." In 1991, the MB Jeep was designated an "International Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark" by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

After WW II, the original jeep continued to serve, in the Korean War and other conflicts, until it was updated in the form of the M38 Willys MC and M38A1 Willys MD (in 1949 and 1952 respectively) and received a complete redesign by Ford in the form of the 1960-introduced M151 jeep. Its influence however, was much greater than that — manufacturers around the world began building jeeps and similar designs, either under license or not — at first primarily for military purposes, but later also for the civilian market. Willys trademarked the "Jeep" name, turned the MB into the civilian Jeep CJ models, and Jeep became its own brand. The 1945 Willys Jeep was the world's first mass-produced civilian four-wheel drive car.

The success of the jeep inspired both an entire category of recreational 4WDs and SUVs, making 'four-wheel drive' a household term, and numerous incarnations of military light utility vehicles. In 2010, the American Enterprise Institute called the

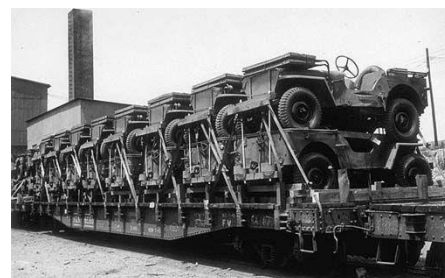
jeep "one of the most influential designs in automotive history", and its "sardine tin on wheels" silhouette perhaps even more instantly recognizable than the VW Beetle.

The Versatile Willys Jeep

"Made by Ford and Willys, makers name was on the left rear panel behind the jerry can. I was driving a Ford one in Malaya 1956/58. Great little vehicle." Doug Walker.

Interesting stuff...

At the end of WWII, there hundreds of acres of closely parked jeeps in Britain. Since they would depress the auto industry if sold, they were all bulldozed into the sea. Trucks too! Thousands and thousands of them!

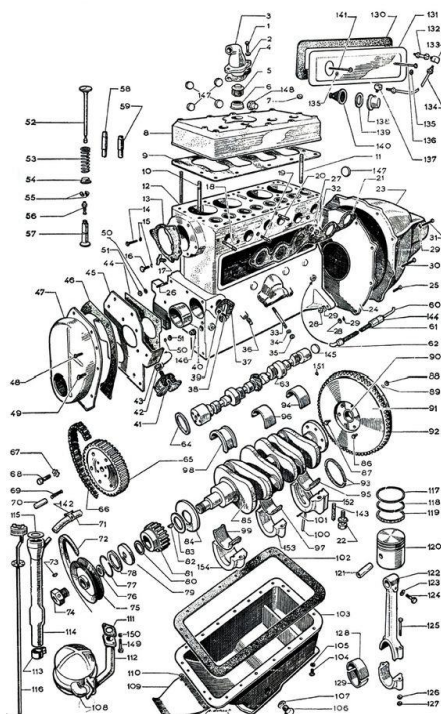


Continued next page...

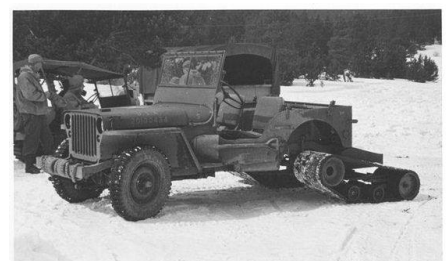
The Versatile Willys Jeep Continued...



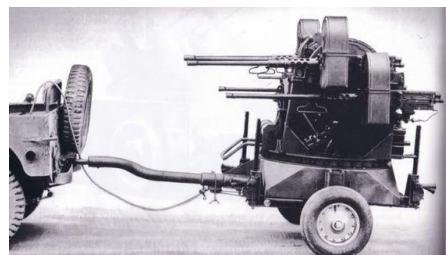
The Transmission



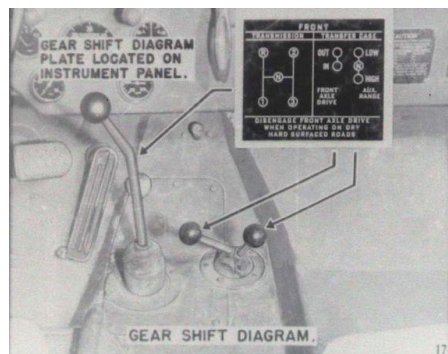
Early Willys MB with mud flotation adaptors.



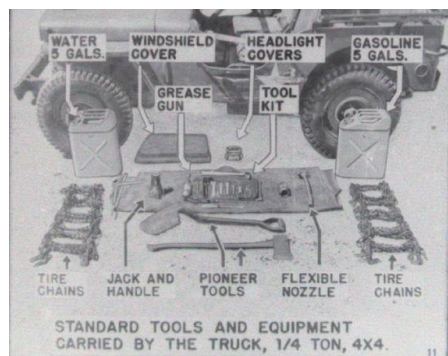
Old-time off-road tracks on a Jeep.



Great piece of equipment to tow behind your Willys MB.



GEAR SHIFT DIAGRAM.



STANDARD TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT CARRIED BY THE TRUCK, 1/4 TON, 4X4.



Continued next page...

The Versatile Willys Jeep Continued...



Jeep warehouse, location unknown.



The original army jeep packaged for delivery. Just Enough Essential Parts.

Did you order a jeep?



Now that's a kit I would like to have.

Ex-army G503
\$50
 original & authentic

The original world war II workhorse is now available straight out of the case!! **LIMITED** quantities have been released by the Gov't from ex cold war stockpiles. Order yours **today** for fast delivery. Write Dept BS. Box 18 Splott.

Still in the original shipping case with spare parts & accessories, this limited offer is ideal for farmers, hunters, trappers and outdoorsmen. Easy assembly. No refunds.



I think the Roy Rogers show bought this version as Nelly Bell.



Bullet holes in the windshield of this Jeep are a testament to the faithful service of the Medics of the 84th Division as they evacuate wounded soldiers in their makeshift Jeep ambulance.



Even then they needed armed guards to protect their Jeeps.



Continued next page...

The Versatile Willys Jeep Continued...



Experimental rocket firing jeep, US Navy Naval Air Facility, Inyokern, CA, 26 January 1945.



Jeep Towing on an aircraft carrier – WWII.



That's a lot of Jeeps.



A Special Air Service jeep patrol is greeted by its commander, Colonel David Stirling, on its return from the desert. 18 January 1943.



Long Range Desert Group which carried out raids & recons deep behind enemy lines in North Africa between 1940 - 1943.

Contributed by Doug Walker...

3,200 Years in One Photo

Amazingly awesome to think of the life of this tree!

No forest fires, nor earthquakes nor loggers took it down. Just a quiet life in a California forest for all these years.

3200 Years in One Photo.

That stretches back 1200 years before Christ who roamed the streets of Jerusalem, sailed the Sea of Galilee and forded the Jordan River...back to the time of the Pharaohs and pyramids in Egypt...and baby Moses rescued from the Nile. Amazing thought.



Not every tree has a nickname, but 'The President' has earned it.

This giant sequoia stands at 247 feet tall and is estimated to be over 3,200 years old. Imagine, this tree was already 1200 years old when Jesus walked the earth.



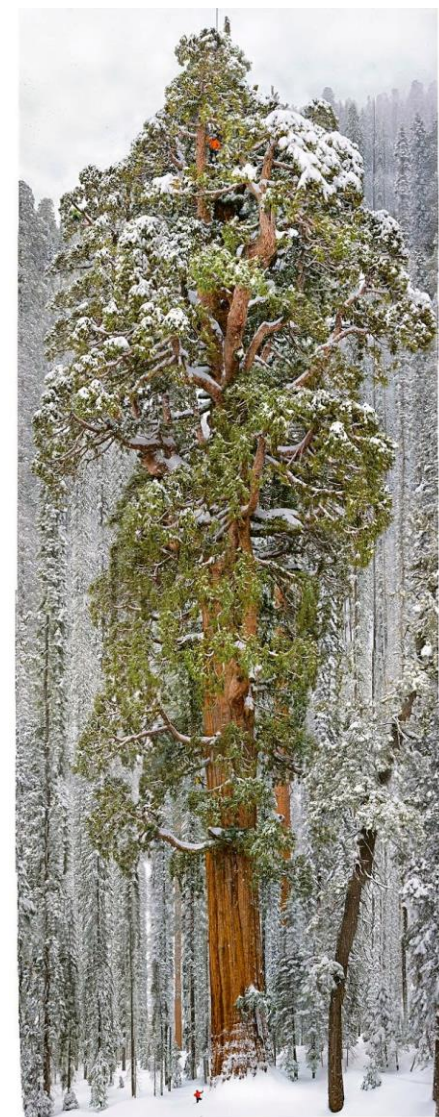
The trunk of The President measures at 27 feet across, with 2 BILLION needles from base to top.



Because of its unbelievable size, this tree has never been photographed in its entirety, until now. National Geographic photographers have worked along with scientists to try and create the first photo that shows the President in all its glory.



They had to Climb the tree with pulleys and levers and took thousands of photos. Of those, they selected 126 and stitched them together, to get this incredible portrait of the President. And here it is:



The man (wearing a red jacket) standing near the trunk of the tree is a good indicator of the tree's size.



[Ctrl + lick/tap on this hyperlink to open the October 2018 MESA Journal.](#)

Contributed by Augie...

FAMILY TREE OF VINCENT VAN GOGH

- His dizzy aunt ----- Verti Gogh
- The brother who ate prunes ----- Gotta Gogh
- The brother who worked at a convenience store ----- Stop N Gogh
- The grandfather from Yugoslavia ----- U Gogh
- His magician uncle ----- Where-diddy Gogh
- His Mexican cousin ----- A Mee Gogh
- The Mexican cousin's American half-brother ----- Gring Gogh
- The nephew who drove a stage coach ----- Wells-far Gogh
- The constipated uncle ----- Can't Gogh
- The ballroom dancing aunt ----- Tang Gogh
- The bird lover uncle ----- Flamin Gogh
- An aunt who taught positive thinking ----- Way-to-Gogh
- The little bouncy nephew ----- Poe Gogh
- A sister who loved disco ----- Go Gogh

The brother with low back pain ----- Lum Bay Gogh
 And his niece who travels the country in an RV --- Winnie Bay Gogh

I saw you smiling . . . there ya Gogh



Contributed by Mike Mabbitt...

So, What Did You Do Today?

Wife: "So, what did you do today?"

Husband: "I changed a light bulb."

Wife: "That all! I did the laundry, vacuumed the house, cooked three meals and more! And, you changed a light bulb!"

Husband: "Yea, but I filmed it. To watch... [click/tap here](#).

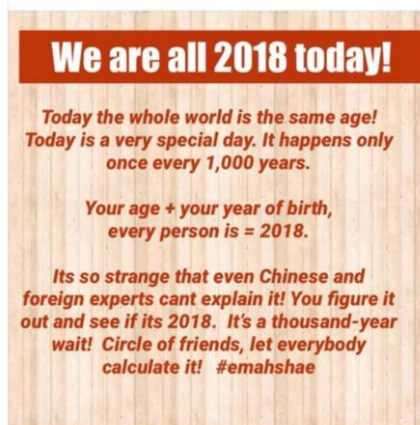


Contributed by Doug Walker...

Intellectual Readings



Contributed by Doug Walker...



Smart one!

A man in Tesco's tries to buy half a cauliflower. The very young produce assistant tells him that they sell only whole cauliflowers. The man persists and asks to see the manager. The boy says he'll ask his manager about it.

Walking into the back room, the boy said to his manager 'Some prat out there wants to buy half a cauliflower.'

As he finished his sentence, he turned to find the man standing right behind him, so he added, 'And this gentleman has kindly offered to buy the other half.'

The manager approved the deal, and the man went on his way.

Later the manager said to the boy, 'I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people who think on their feet here. Where are you from, son?'

'Liverpool, Sir!', the boy replied.

'Well, why did you leave Liverpool?', the manager asked.

The boy said, 'Sir, there's nothing but whores and footballers up there.'

'Really?' said the manager. 'My wife is from Liverpool.'

'You're kidding?' replied the boy. 'Who'd she play for?'

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

The Importance of Happy Hour



Four old retired guys are walking down a street in Yuma, Arizona. They turn a corner and see a sign that says, "Old Timers Bar - ALL drinks 10 cents." They look at each other and then go in, thinking, this is too good to be true. The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, "Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, gentlemen?"

There's a fully stocked bar, so each of the men orders a martini. In no time the bartender serves up four iced martinis - shaken, not stirred - and says, "That'll be 10 cents each, please." The four guys stare at the bartender for a moment, then at each other. They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis, and order another round. Again, four excellent martinis are produced, with the bartender again saying, "That's 40 cents, please."

They pay the 40 cents, but their curiosity gets the better of them. They've each had two martinis and haven't even spent a dollar yet. Finally, one of them says, "How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a dime apiece?" "I'm a retired tailor from Phoenix," the bartender says, "and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the Lottery jackpot for \$125 million and decided to open this place. Every drink costs a dime. Wine, liquor, beer - it's all the same." "Wow! That's some story!" one of the men says.

As the four of them sip at their martinis, they can't help noticing seven other people at the end of the bar who don't have any drinks in front of them and haven't ordered anything the whole time they've been there. Nodding at the seven at the end of the bar, one of the men asks the bartender, "What's with them?" The bartender says, "They're retired pensioners from Australia. They're waiting for Happy Hour when drinks are half-price."



Members' Noticeboard

Sat 30th - Sun 31st March 2019

Canberra Rock Swap – ACT

8:30am to 5pm (Sat) 8:30am to 4:00pm (Sun)
Wagtail Way, EPIC - Exhibition Park in Canberra, ACT.

Features: Fossickers & dealers. Crystals, minerals, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils, lapidary supplies, jewellery. Sieve for sapphires. Food available - No entry cost

For further information in the first instance on any of these events please contact the Club's Show Convenor, **Norm Menadue** on (02) 6258 6631

Fri 3rd - Sun 5th, May 2019

**Murraylands Gem and Mineral Club
Rockarama "Crystal and Craft Fair"**

Collier Park, Palmer, SA.

Features: Exhibits of gems, minerals, fossils, jewellery, lapidary machinery and more...most being for sale. Meals, snacks, and drinks available. Public Entry to all the weekend events is FREE.

The Rockarama also includes the 2019 South Australian Metal Detecting Championships which will be held at Collier Park, Palmer, South Australia, on Sunday May 5th, 2019 (Session 1 - Morning competition 10.30am - 11.30am, Session 2 - Afternoon competition 1.00pm - 2.00pm, and the competition prize presentation is at 2.45pm.).

MGMC Website...

<https://www.murraylandsgemandmineralclub.com/>

MGMC President (Kym): 0427 054 336

Contributed by Doug Hughes...

**BATHURST STAMP, COIN,
COLLECTABLES & LAPIDARY CLUB
INC. Newsletters** - worth a look and

read...website link below has back issues, but unfortunately, not the current issue.

<http://club.philas.org.au/bathurst/newsletter.php>

Mineral Boxes and Flats Price List		
<small>(Prices may be subject to increase, due to the price of cardboard)</small>		
AA	3.5 x 3.3cm.....	per 100 \$12.00
	Per 10	\$1.50
A	4cm x 4cm.....	per100 \$13.00
	Per 10	\$1.50
B	5cm x 5.2cm.....	per 100 \$15.00
	Per 10	\$2.00
C	6.2cm x 7.5cm.....	per 100 \$18.00
	Per 10	\$2.50
D	7cm x 7cm.....	per 100 \$19.00
	Per 10	\$2.50
E	7cm x 9.5cm.....	per 100 \$20.00
	Per 10	\$2.50
F	8.5cm x 9.5cm.....	per 100 \$22.00
	Per 10	\$3.00
G	9.5cm x 9.5cm.....	per 100 \$23.00
	Per 10	\$3.50
H	13cm x 9.5cm.....	per 100 \$25.00
	Per 10	\$4.00
I	13cm x 12.5cm.....	per 100 \$30.00
	Per 10	\$4.50
Flat	395 x 265 x 50mm.....	(lid & base) \$2.50
Flat	398 x 290 x 98mm.....	(lid & base) \$4.00
<small>(All boxes and flats fold together, no staples required)</small>		
Greg Vort-Ronald 0413796279		
Email luv2paint@iprimus.com.au		

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Scottish Love

An elderly Scotsman lay dying in his bed. While suffering the agonies of impending death, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favourite pan-fried drop scones wafting up the stairs.

He gathered his remaining strength and lifted himself from the bed.

Leaning on the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom with even greater effort. Gripping the railing with both hands, he crawled downstairs. With laboured breath, he leaned against the door-frame, gazing into the kitchen.

Was it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven, for there, spread out upon the kitchen table were literally hundreds of his favourite scones.

Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of love from his devoted Scottish wife of sixty years, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man?

Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself towards the table, landing on his knees in rumpled posture.

His aged and withered hand trembled towards a scone at the edge of the table, when he was suddenly smacked by his wife with a wooden spoon

"Fook off" she said "they're for your funeral".

Useful Internet Links

- 2018 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...](#)
- Broken Hill Mineral Club: [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...](#)
- Lapidary World: [Click here...](#)
- Metal Detectors - Garrett Australia: [Click here...](#)
- Metal Detectors - Miners Den Adelaide: [Click here...](#)
- Metal Detectors - Adelaide Agent for Garrett Australia: [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...](#)
- Shell-lap Lapidary Supplies: [Click here...](#)
- Southern Rockhounds: [Click here...](#)
- Tea Tree Gully Gem and Mineral Club: [Click here...](#)
- The Australian Mineral Collector: [Click here...](#)

Tea Tree Gully Gem and Mineral Club Incorporated, Old Tea Tree Gully School, Dowding Terrace, Tea Tree Gully, South Australia, 5091.