



Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club Inc. (TTGGMC)

Clubrooms: Old Tea Tree Gully School, Dowding Terrace, Tea Tree Gully, SA 5091.

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**Oct.
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"Rockzette"

Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club News

In this edition...	President's Report	Meetings, Courses & Fees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diary Dates • Stop Press • President's Report. • Club Activities. • Meetings, Courses & Fees. • Australian Mineral Matters • Members Out and About. • General Interest. • Members Notice Board. • Useful Internet Links. 	<p>Hi All, The building work has now finished and the building has now been handed back to the Council. There are still a couple of small jobs to do, but generally I think it looks good. The November meeting is the AGM. I would like to see a good turnout of members and maybe some new faces on the Committee. Cheers, Ian.</p>	<p>Meetings Club meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month except January: Committee meetings start at 7.00 pm. General meetings - arrive at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm start.</p> <p>Faceting (times to be advised) <i>Course 10 weeks x 2 hours Cost \$20.00.</i> <i>Use of equipment \$1.00 per hour.</i></p>
<p>Diary Dates</p>	<p>Club Activities</p>	<p>Lapidary (Tuesday mornings) <i>Course 5 weeks x 2 hours Cost \$10.00.</i> <i>Use of equipment \$1.00 per hour.</i></p>
<p>2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th October - 11th October, 2015. Saturday: 10.00am - 5.00pm. Sunday: 10.00am - 4.00pm. Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club Show, Payneham Library Complex, cnr Turner Street and O.G. Road, Felixstowe, SA. • 7th November - 8th November, 2015. 10am - 4pm. Southern Rockhounds, Mineral and Craft Fair 2015, 17 Gerald Court, Christie Downs, SA. • 23rd November (Monday) Mineral Society Auction - 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. Minerals, fossils, books, cut stones – up to 100 lots. All welcome. Royal Society Rooms, behind the State Library / Museum. Parking on Kintore Avenue. • 23rd January - 24th January, 2016 (Australia Day Long Weekend) Saturday: 9.00am - 4.00pm and Sunday: 9.00am - 3.00pm. Riverland Gem and Mineral Club - Show and Sales, Berri Town hall, Berri, SA. 	<p>Competitions Competitions have been suspended indefinitely and are currently replaced with members showcasing an interesting part of their collection.</p> <p>Field Trips No fieldtrips planned during Summer months.</p> <p>Library <i>Librarian - Augie Gray</i> There is a 2 month limit on borrowed items. When borrowing from the lending library, fill out the card at the back of the item, then place the card in the box on the shelf. When returning items, fill in the return date on the card, then place the card at the back of the item.</p> <p>Silver Craft Friday mornings - 9 am to 12 noon. Cost \$20 for new short course attendees. All are welcome.</p> <p>Tuesday Craft Tuesday mornings - 11 am to 2.30 pm Faceting, etc. All are welcome. Contact Doug (08 7120 2221) if you would like to learn faceting.</p>	<p>Silver Craft (Friday mornings) <i>Course 5 weeks x 2 hours Cost \$20.00.</i> <i>Use of equipment \$1.00 per hour.</i></p> <p>While some consumable materials are supplied by the club, trainees must supply any additional requirements.</p> <p>Trainees who use the club equipment (for example, magnifying head pieces, faceting equipment, tools, etc.) must return them to the workshop after usage. Trainees are also encouraged to purchase and use their own equipment.</p> <p>In the interest of providing a safe working environment, it is necessary to ensure individuals using the workshops follow the rules set out in <i>Policy No. 1 - 20/11/2006</i>.</p> <p>It is necessary that <i>Health and Safety</i> regulations <u>are</u> adhered to at all times.</p> <p>Trainees must ensure: that all work stations are left in a clean and tidy state; that all rubbish is removed and placed in the appropriate bin; and where applicable, machines are cleaned and oiled.</p>
<p>Stop Press</p> <p>It is a rare opportunity, in deed, to have a collection of poems written by a past member to include in the Newsletter. Don Lynn has offered such a collection written by his late wife, Nancy. Over many months to come we will follow Don and Nancy's past travels recorded in poetry. See page 8.</p>	<p>Wanted - The faceting group occasionally has members wishing to buy a 2nd hand faceting machine & accessories. Could anyone with one not being used please contact: Doug Walker 0871202221 or Russell Fischer 0417083227</p>	<p>The Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club Inc. will not be held responsible or liable for any person injured while using the club machinery or equipment.</p>
<p>The Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club Inc. is not and cannot be held responsible or liable for any personal injuries, loss or damage to property at any club activities, including, but not limited to, meetings, field trips, all crafts and annual shows. An indemnity is to be signed by all participants before each and every field trip activity they attend.</p>	<p>Club Subscriptions \$25.00 Family. \$20.00 Family/Pensioner. \$15.00 Single. \$12.50 Single/Pensioner. \$10.00 Joining Fee.</p>	

Extract taken from: [Broken Hill, New South Wales - Tracing History.](#)

Broken Hill Mines

Influenced by the mining boom at Silverton, Charles Rasp, a boundary rider on Mount Gipps Station, pegged out and applied for a 40 acre mining lease on the Broken Hill in September 1883, believing the outcrop to be rich in tin. He reported his action to the manager, George McCulloch, and five other station workers and together the syndicate of seven pegged an additional six blocks covering about 3 kilometres of the outcropping orebody or line of lode.

Preliminary work revealed comparatively low – grade lead carbonate ore, and members of the syndicate soon began to lose faith in the hill of mullock as the miners of Silverton referred to it. A marked change came towards the end of 1884 when rich silver ores were discovered in Rasps Shaft a depth of 30 metres and in surface outcrop a short time after. The Broken Hill Proprietary Co. LTD (BHP) was formed in August 1885 from the private company, which owned the original seven mining leases known as Blocks 10 to 16.

Broken Hill developed rapidly after 1886, attracting skilled men and labour from all over the world. The first blast furnaces commenced in 1886 and belched noxious fumes over the developing town until finally transferring to Port Pirie in 1898. Each mine had extensive surface plant and mills for concentrating ore, and each developed large sprawling waste dumps. In early 1888, Broken Hill was connected by a private railway – the Silverton Tramway Company – to the South Australian railway system at Cockburn.

In 1887 and 1888, three subsidiary companies were floated leaving BHP with three central and apparently richer leases. These new mines were block 10, Block 14 and British BHP (Blocks 15 and 16).

The outcrop north and south of the original leases was inconspicuous but leases were pegged and mining gradually extended to these areas. To the north were North (1883), Junction (1884) and junction north (1890) mines, and to the south were Central (1884) and south (1884) Mines.

Between 1885 and 1890, the ore extracted at Broken Hill, mostly by BHP, was very high grade and easy to mine and smelt. However, the mines struggled through the 1890s due to declining metal prices, lower ore grades and treatment difficulties known as the sulphide problem. The first significant strike at Broken Hill in 1892 was initiated by the introduction of contract mining as a cost saving measure at a time when BHP had just paid one million pounds in dividends.

By 1900, ore to the value of 90 million pounds had been extracted but BHP, British, Block 10 and Block 14 Mines at the centre of the orebody, had mined out their richest and most accessible ore. Low metal prices and the sulphide problem continued to trouble the mines during the early 1900s, resulting in many temporary closures.

However, by 1907, the price of lead had increased sharply and the sulphide problem had been largely solved. As a result, Broken Hill once more experienced boom conditions with a record 9,000 employed on the mines in 1907 compared with 5,000 in 1902.

In 1905, Zinc Corporation was formed to retreat other mine's zinc – rich tailing dumps and, in 1911, the company amalgamated with south Blocks Mine and became a major mining company.

The outbreak of World War 1 meant an immediate drop in production, as all contracts with smelters in Germany were cancelled. Unemployment increased and it was not until after the last major strike of 1919 – 20 that mining in Broken Hill recovered fully.

There was a series of takeovers and lease transfers as the known ore reserves became depleted in the 1920s and 1930s.

North Broken Hill, for example, acquired the leases of the British mine in 1923, the Junction Mine in 1929, Junction North 1931, and Block 14 in 1942. In 1936, New Broken Hill Consolidated (NBHC) was formed by Zinc Corporation to explore leases to the south of the Zinc Mine, and commenced mining in 1944. This is now the southernmost of all mines along the line of lode.

Between 1920 and 1940, the older companies mining the central shallow area ceased operations, leaving only North, South, Zinc and NBHC Mines at the ends of the lode. The South Mine closed in 1972 and its leases were acquired by Minerals, Mining and Metallurgy (MMM). MMM removed low – grade remnant ore from the central portion of the orebody by open – cut method between 1976 and 1991. NBHC and Zinc Mines (both owned by Australian Mining and smelting LTD, a subsidiary of CRA) consolidated to form ZC Mines in 1986 which subsequently merged with North Broken Hill Ltd to form Pasminco Ltd in 1988. North Mine closed in 1993 leaving one mine in Broken Hill, Pasminco, which is closing down in the year 2006.

BHP Mine

The seven mining leases pegged by the syndicate of seven in 1883 were amalgamated in 1885 to form BHP and, by 1888, the company retained only blocks 11, 12 and 13 along the crest of the outcropping lode. Initially, a series of shafts were sunk into the rich ore and substantial profits were earned. During its first three years, BHP produced 7 million ounces of silver, about one – third of world production.

The first smelting furnaces were installed by BHP in 1886 (the north smelters) and a second complex (the south smelters) was added in 1888. Eventually 15 furnaces with a total capacity of 4,500 tons of ore per week were built. The BHP Mine dominated Broken Hill during its early years and paid more than 1 million pounds in dividends by the early 1890s. It was known locally as the Proprietary, the Prop or just the Big Mine.

Open cutting of the hill commenced in 1891 and, in 1894, a concentration mill with a capacity of 1,500 tons per week was erected. Another mill, with a capacity of 10,000 tons per week, was erected in 1897 using part of the south smelter slag dump. The stone foundation of the second mill survives today near Delprat Shaft.

The mine was at its peak between 1900 and 1908, when up to 13,000 tons of ore were extracted per week. Employing nearly 3,500 men or more than one – third of the entire mine workforce, the Big Mine clearly ruled the line of lode.

However, the mine's richest ore was exhausted by 1908 and the company began to look elsewhere for profit. The wealth won at Broken Hill by BHP Mine finally closed in 1939, having made 30 million pounds profit from 12.3 million tons of ore worth 54 million pounds. Today BHP is known as the Big Australian. The mine was reworked by Broken Hill South LTD between 1951 and 1961.

Block 10

Block 10 was one of the original BHP leases, which was floated as a separate company in 1888 as the BHP Block 10 Co. LTD. A concentration mill was erected at the mine in the 1890s to treat sulphide ore. Underground subsidence seriously affected the mill and, as a result, a new mill was erected on the adjacent hill in 1903.

An aerial ropeway, the first at Broken Hill, was completed in 1904 and transported broken ore 600 metres from the mine to a large storage bin above the concentration mill, which could treat 3,500 tons of ore per week.

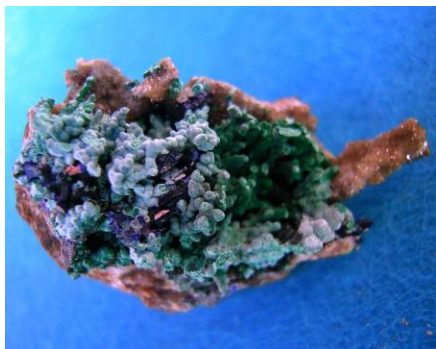
Production totalled 2.5 million tons of ore worth 5 million pounds and dividends of 1.5 millions pounds were paid up to 1923 when the mine and mill closed and were purchased by BHP. The mine was reworked by Broken Hill South LTD between 1946 and 1960, and much of the mine site is now covered by overburden dumps from modern open – cut operations.

Block 14 Mine

Block 14 was also one of the original BHP leases and was floated as a separate company in 1887. The mine, like others on the centre of the lode, was noted for its rich oxidised ore. A smelting works was erected on the site in 1889 but closed in 1894 when smelting works commenced at Port Adelaide

The mine closed in the early 1900s due to low metal prices and the sulphide problem. It resumed production in 1906, selling concentrates to the newly formed Zinc Corporation, but closed in 1928 after producing 1.6 million tons of ore valued at 4.7 million pounds. The mine was reworked by North Broken Hill LTD from 1948 to 1952.

This extract will be continued next month. In the meantime, the next page has a picture gallery of specimens collected from the Pinnacles Mine area, Broken Hill, but originated from Block 14. Specimens were provided by Ian, but are not necessarily collected by him from the Pinnacles Mine.



Azurite and Malachite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Chrysocolla, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Pyromorphite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Azurite on Smithsonite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Linarite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Pyromorphite on Cerussite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Cerussite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Malachite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Smithsonite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Cerussite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



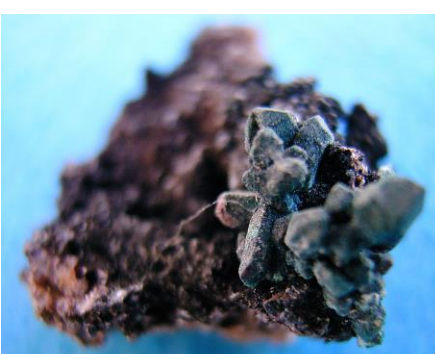
Malachite after Azurite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Smithsonite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Cerussite and Chrysocolla, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Malachite after Cuprite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.



Smithsonite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW.

Report contributed by Kym. Photos contributed by Ian, Janet, and Mel.

**Worlds End Burra Gorge Fieldtrip
18th to 21st Sept 2015**



Natural Gum Tree Art – Burra Gorge Campsite.

With a few keen fossickers turning up on Thursday the weekend was off to an early start. Friday was spent chilling out, a trip into Burra Township where Terry Nearly bought some books and the first of several fantastic camp meals that night.



Relics of the Burra Copper Mine.

Ian (E) had picked a perfect campsite and pretty soon it was brimming full.



Ian's Burra Gorge campsite selection.

The kids had the detectors out and Darcy and Claire found the first two coins of the weekend; with a little assistance from a devious field officer who shall remain nameless!



Darcy homing in on a potential target.

Saturday dawned beautiful and sunny which set the tone for the entire weekend. Perfect weather.



Kym mapping out the day's activities.

On Saturday, at 9.30 on the dot, we all headed to meet with Peter from the Worlds End Conservation Group. While waiting we met a lovely group of people who were walking the Heysen Trail who seemed as fascinated with us as we were with them and Peter arrived at exactly 9.59 am as promised. He led us into the park and with 12 cars and 23 people it was a good sized group.



Peter (far R of Kym) addressing the group.

Peter explained a little about the park and what his group is doing. They have purchased over 1000 hectares which has been destocked and is being managed by the group as a conservation park.



Don (90yrs) and Gerri on the long, steep hill climb.

Off we went up the hill or should I say a small mountain, but no one was deterred; not even Don at 90yrs!



(L to R) Alan, Terry, June, Ian, Janet, Kym, Kym, and Rubein. Cresting the ridge Ian informed us he thought the Devils Dice were on the next ridge. Yep! You guessed it; up again! I took a short cut across the gully past the St Elmo Copper mine which was very disappointing as far as specimens went. Not even a few spots of green and blue to make it interesting.



Terry and Alan looking for Devils Dice (Limonite after Pyrite).

The main group and I met on the ridge right on top of the Devils Dice patch and soon everyone was finding a few nice specimens.



Claire digging for Devils Dice with June.

Pretty soon the searching around paid off and the big suckers started to turn up. Mel's 10cm plus twinned crystals won the day!



Limonite after Pyrite – Mel's Devils Dice find.

Everyone was successful and we all managed to find good specimens in varying sizes. Top Spot!



Darcy and Janet also digging for Devils Dice.

After 20 plus years it was great to find the spot again and have some good collecting not to mention spectacular scenery.



Downward journey – everyone happy with their finds.



Back down the track to the camp for lunch.

Leaving the devils dice was hard (harder for Terry who was heading south instead of west!) but we had lots to do. Back to camp for a quick lunch then off detecting at some local ruins. Lots to be found again but this time mainly scrap metal; but cool scrap metal. Allsorts turned up and the best finds were once again dog tags, two both from 1936, an old brooch, and other assorted bits.



Kym providing the group with site metal detecting parameters.



Ian (T) and Terry on the treasure hunt.



Claire and Janet learning the basics of metal detecting.



Chloe, Kym, and Tahlea searching for relics and coins.



Kym detects some horse related relics.

Young Darcy had an encounter with a brown snake he would rather forget, but he did exactly the right things and survived intact if not a little shaken! (No photos to record the event – all happened too quickly).



Kym detects and finds a very old dog tag.

Then we moved on to a second site... The second site yielded very little so we moved on to the last spot and had better luck; an 1897 dog tag, and a 1911 penny were among the finds. All cool stuff and once again lots of scrap.



Rubein, Ian, and Danny.

Back to camp for tea and a blazing fire it was a tired but happy group who gathered to compare finds.



Ian (T) having tea near the camp fire with his plate lit up by headlamp.



Terry, Gerri, Alan, Lynette, Wendy Tony, and Ian (E).

After tea Danny 'Cash' brought out his guitar and out came the second best singing I heard on the trip. That is, I think my early morning serenades just pipped him in the talent stakes. Man! He was good! Danny's entertainment really topped off a great day.



Tony, Wendy, Ian, Teresa, Rubein, June, Peter, and Danny (Cash).

A frosty start to Sunday saw us all up early and ready to leave camp by 8.30am.



Jack Frost on the Camper.

But first it was Happy birthday to Tahlea and we shared a Pancake Birthday Cake; yummy and very different. "Happy birthday Tahlea!"



Happy birthday Tahlea - (L to R) Chloe, Kym, Kym, Tahlea, & Darcy.



Don and Darcy enjoy Tahlea's birthday cake.

Sunday's events continued next page...

Into Burra for fuel then we headed off to Terowie to begin the Dares Hill Drive. But first, a quick visit to the local cemetery.



Terowie cemetery.
(L to R) Darcy, Claire, Terry, Kym, Ian (E), and Alan.



Founder of Terowie 1877

It was very interesting and we all now realise just how tough the old timers had it.



Metal men/artwork opposite the Terowie Cemetery.

Our convoy headed off on the drive past Pandappa Conservation park then into the original homestead circa 1857 of Peter Waite, founder of the Urrbrae Agricultural College.



Pandappa Homestead circa 1857.



Kym giving an overview of the Pandappa Homestead.

This was a wonderful spot and the cameras were out in force. It's a pity to see places like this falling into disrepair.



Fascination One – (L to R) Terry, Mike, Kym and Ian (E).



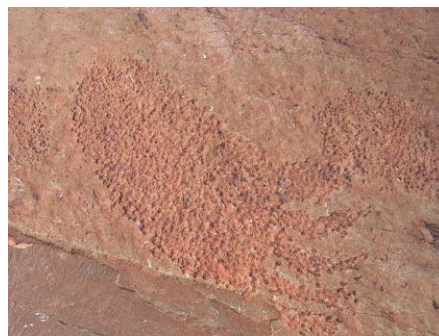
Fascination Two – (L to R) Ian (E), Kym, and Terry.

It was then on to the aboriginal site in the Ketchowla region and was a highlight of the weekend for me. This is a fantastic place and I think everyone agreed with my enthusiasm about this area.

Aboriginal rock carvings/engravings/etchings...



Numbers?



Human foot print?



Foot prints plus...



(Front) Gerri and Heather, and (Rear) Lynette, Ian (T) and Peter.



Turtle?



Murray Cod?



Kangaroo Foot prints and Megafauna footprints?



Mega fauna's footprints?



Kym, Ian (E), Teresa, Ruben, and Alan.

On then to the Ketchowla Homestead for more pictures...



↑ Ketchowla Homestead. ↓



↑ Ketchowla Homestead. ↓



Convoy at Ketchowla Homestead.

On again through another ghost town, Mallet then to more ruins, Piltimitiappa Homestead Ruins near Collinsville Station.



Mallet Homestead/Ghost Town.



Photo and comfort stop at the Piltimitiappa Homestead Ruins.



↓ Piltimitiappa Homestead Ruins. ↑



These ruins are all so wonderful to see but need protection, if they are to survive another 100 years plus.

Past lots of emus along the way we finally made Dares Hill summit which has spectacular views.



View from the Dares Hill summit.

Downhill to the Caroona Creek turn off, where we lost a couple of cars who needed to leave early, then down through the Caroona creek park with some good 4 x 4 tracks and more top views.



↓ Caroona Creek 4 x 4 track ↑



Soon it was back to camp and a weary bunch it was. All were very tired but nonetheless had another excellent day.

The wind came up and blew a gale all night and the fire needed to be put out early as the sparks were flying bigtime.

We woke to misty rain, but less wind thankfully and a few of us went on a walk up Burra Gorge. It was a lovely walk with some great spots to admire and the rain cleared right on cue.

A few had left last night and a few more had to make tracks, but a few of us tried detecting once again.

The old hall up the road only yielded another VERY large snake, but the second house we went to was a different story altogether.

Some 27 coins, three dog tags and sundry other items made for a top detecting spot. We'll be back!

Detector finds - show and tell...



(L) End of display table.



(R) End of display table.

Then it was time to pack up and leave and pack up and leave we did.

From an organisers point of view this was one of the BEST trips we have had in years.

Thanks to all who took part. It was a simply a wonderful weekend with good company and lots of successful fossicking. (The only downer was paying \$8.00 each for showers in Burra. I stayed dirty!)

Kym Loechel
MGMC Field Officer.

Internet links...

http://postcards-sa.com.au/features2008/burra_creek_gorge.html

http://www.exploroz.com/TrekNotes/Adel/Dares_Hill_Tourist_Drive.aspx

<http://www.weekendnotes.com/dares-hill-tourist-drive/>

<http://www.southaustralia.com/regions/clare-valley-four-wheel-driving.aspx>

Contributed by Don Lynn...

Locals Take To The Outback!

Written by Nancy Lynn 1982

Recently ten Nildottie residents took an organized tour through Central Australia, into Western Australia to the Ord River area, back to Katherine, Darwin and Kakadu National Park, down the main highway, branched off at Daly Waters out to Borrooloola along the back country to Burketown, Mt Isa, and Birdsville and down the Birdsville Track. Nancy Lynn put her impressions of the trip into verse...

We left Cobdogla in June '82
with Jack Miler in charge of this motley crew.
From far away Seaton there was Splinter and June,
and Jack and his wife Lorna, who played a good tune.

Hilda and Vic and brothers Don and Bert Lynn,
when it came to the camp fires they all started to sing.

Young Chookey Stephen and Ina Kranz,
when it came to swimming she went in her pants.

Ivan from Victoria and Gordon from Berri,
when it came to tea time they all liked their sherry.

From Nildottie our good friends Raymond and Rona,
played cards nightly with Herbert and Erna.

Don and Eileen from Nildottie too,
helped to make up our happy crew.

This leaves Jack Miller and Graham Welby,
and the writer of this poem, Nancy, that's me.

We all got the giggles when the snoring got heavy,
in an underground room way out at Coober Pedy.

We headed north for Alice Springs,
with the girls all wearing new opal rings.

We saw the gorges and then Glen Helen,
'twas Eileen's birthday so we celebrated 'til eleven.

After a stop at Barrow Creek,
the boys in the bus were starting to speak.

They told yarns both old and new,
chattering on like an old cockatoo.

At Jasper Gorge we buried a donkey,
we did our best, but the smell was really honkey.

Clergy Ray, the last rights he said,
but nobody checked to see if it was really dead.

Into Western Australia we went,
at Kununurra our money we spent.

To fly Lake Argyle and the Ord,
our photographers sought out their reward.

To Wyndham in the afternoon,
then back again all too soon.

The anthills grow like tombstones as thick as they can be,
with many strange shapes and sizes a wondrous sight to see.

Of Katherine and her beautiful gorge faces,
I'll sing her praises in faraway places.

Our camping chores, we all see to it,
whether washing or cooking we all do our bit.

On to Darwin and the Beer Can Regatta,
what a real beaut day we all seem to chatter.

Back to camp and then out to tea,
the sights of the town we all want to see.

Off to Kakadu and the Easy Alligator River,
when we see the crocodiles we all do a shiver.

It's fish for tea thanks to Barramundi Bert,
then we all washed our clothes they were so full of dirt.

The ancient paintings at Nourlangie Rock,
would give some people an awful shock.

At Jabiru a big mining venture,
a nice new town with a modern shopping centre.

Poor Jack has found we are a hungry crew,
of bread and jam he buys too few.

On yellow waters a quiet boat ride,
the very shy crocs all want to hide.

The water lilies close their flowers at night,
but in the morning what a glorious sight.

The 4-wheel drive lost its trailer one day,
no damage was done I am pleased to say.

The buffaloes are a fine looking lot,
if they go to the abattoirs they are sure to be shot.

Up at 6.30 on a very cold morn,
we went for a swim but the water was warm.

We leave Mataranka at break of day,
and see graves of 'We of the Never Never' on the way.

On to Borrooloola, it's a long way,
that's when I started this poem this very sunny day.

We left home with faces so clean and so white,
Now we are all suntanned and a real good sight.

At pleasant, quiet McArthur River,
every one of us did a little shiver,
when Jack spoke of sharks, sword fish and crocs,
all swimming here amongst the rocks.

The cassette is playing a favorite song,
while the red dusty road goes on and on.

Over hills and valleys, dry rivers and wet,
it's a long long journey, but we aren't finished yet.

The palms and the gum trees all growing together,
their beauty is there in all kinds of weather.

The corrugations are getting quite rough,
but we can take it we're all so tough.

Our bearded men are looking a sight,
It's enough to give their poor wives a fright.

At midday we stopped in a very dry creek,
and gathered enough wood to last us a week.

The camp fire is burning, the billy is hot,
Hilde calls, 'Come and get it you miserable lot!'

Poor Gordon copped the dust so bad,
the Dr. said, 'Look here my lad,
just wear a mask like I do; see,
you'll look quite funny just like me.'

Eventually, at Wollongorang we crossed right over the border,
I do wish the Queensland Government kept their roads in better order.

The silver grey of the blue gum is a lovely sight to see,
but the slender pure white ghost gum is my favorite outback tree.

The bull dust is a hazard, I'm sure you will agree,
If we don't get through this next bad stretch we'll all be late for tea.

Erna had the front seat the gates she had to tend,
if she sits there again tomorrow, a hand we'll have to lend.

The vehicles are both playing up, repairs we had to do,
with belts flying off and punctures, Jack was really getting in a stew.

Into Doomadgee we drove, a mission of renown,
where cattle are grazing all about and veg are freshly grown.

The children greeted us with cheers, It was a happy sight,
and the colour of these friendly folk was dark as any night.

We come across a banded snake slithering along the ground,
so out came all the cameras we shot it without a sound.

Don got up to shift the mat, he barely left his seat,
when Jack drove into a pot hole and Don landed in a heap.

We drove into old Burketown, a historic town we're told,
the poor old pub was falling down, but the beer was nice and cold.

Gregory River was a lovely camp spot,
we went for a swim because it was hot.
Poor Graham fell and hit his head,
so we gave him his tea and put him to bed.
The brolgas were doing a love dance, my word how did they prance,
their slender necks entwining, their beauty left me in a trance.
We drove into Mt. Isa, driving in the night,
with all the lights a glowing, it was a pleasant sight.
We toured the whole mine over, with its copper, silver, lead,
the wonders hidden in this earth can really turn my head.
In to Boulia town we drove,
I'll call again if e're I rove,
the M in M in light near here is seen,
is it a U.F.O. or a trucks light beam.
Into the channel country we drive,
with Jack the driver by my side.
The bulldust is seeping into the bus,
but we keep on driving as well we must.
In the back of the bus we all are asleep,
there's not a sound not even a peep.
We're dreaming of our nice warm beds,
but we'll miss our tents were we laid our heads.
The wildlife is abounding in this flat and barren land,
kangaroos, emus, wallabies are playing in the sand,
bush turkeys, brolgas, budgies, just to name a few,
the colours of our feathered friends make such a pretty hue.
Jack stopped the bus for a comfort stop
on the wide open spaces we were in for a shock,
no shelter we found on the left side you cad,
and no better for you on the right side my lad.
We drove at last to Birdsville, it had been a long, long day.
Jack gave us his instructions that we would soon be on our way.
The men made for the hotel, the girls for the souvenir shop,
while Jack stocked up with groceries for the next long barren hop.
Eileen took the trip quite well of this I'm glad to say,
she was always first one into bed, but she was up at the break of day.
The road trains keep a rolling out in the old outback,
taking supplies to the stations along the beaten track.
We headed down the Birdsville Track not a tree there was in sight,
but miles and miles of gibbers to the left and to the right.
The dead trees in the Coopers Creek are a sad and lonely reminder,
that better seasons were seen in the past, we hope they will soon be
much kinder.
The Mirra Mitta Bore is hot, the steam is pouring out,
like water from a kettle pouring through the spout.
It smells quite strong with minerals, but I have heard it said,
that without this artesian water, the stock would all be dead.
We are back in South Australia now,
there ain't no tractors and there ain't no plough,
only cattle and sheep and a dingo that dare,
chase a rabbit at midday away from its lair.
600 Kilometers we travelled today,
on an outback track all the way,
over the grids and in the bull dust,
I do hope the springs they haven't gone bust.
We drove into Marree for a little snack,
they were soon eating metwurst and biscuits in the back.
Jack to clear the smell out turned the fan right here,
and the dust floated up the bus and choked them in the rear.
We are now in the Flinders, our trips nearly done,
we've seen lots of places and had lots of fun.
Cobdogla is nearer, we all yell at Jack,
'Turn the bus 'round boy and go back that track!'
So it's thanks to Jack Miller for a trip well done,
God willing we will join you for another great run.

Nancy Lymn.

Contributed by Don Lymn...

The Flinders Ranges.

Written by Nancy Lymn 1983

We left for the Flinders in October '83
The wonders of nature we wanted to see.
There was Doreen and Malcom, Nancy and Don
When we packed up our luggage it weighed a tonne.
We stopped for our lunch in the valley of Clare,
Viewed the bird in their cages, some were really rare.
The crops in the paddocks so grand in their height
And the Salvation Jane, what a glorious sight.
We spent the night near Kanyaka homestead,
An historical sight of renown.
We wandered the ruins and they whispered a tale
of the settlers and this was their town.
The thunder it roared and the rain it fell down
As we snuggled that night in our beds
Next day we woke to a fine sunny morn
And the shrill cry of cockies went right through our heads.
We drove onto Hawker, then Wilpena Pound
It was all so quiet there wasn't a sound
We saw emus and Kangas and rabbits running free
And the tall gums and pine trees, a sight there to see.
At Brachina Gorge the gums reach up high
Their leafy clad boughs way up to the sky
The rock pools and creek beds, we drove by them all
We'll come back again when we get the call.
At Aroona Valley with its mountain top spring
The bright coloured birds all happily sing.
Then Bunyeroo Gorge with its pine trees so green
And the steep rocky valleys, a sight to be seen.
We walked all the way into Wilpena Pound
Where the treasures of yesteryear we found
At Sacred Canyon a photographers delight
When the rocky waterholes came into sight.



Wilpena Pound, South Australia.

We met some friends called Tina and Tom
Right to our camp they chanced upon
We talked of old times and friends we knew
Now believe it or not they are part of the crew.
We viewed the roos at dusk one day
They had come to graze from the hills far away.
We came in too close and they wouldn't stop
they bounded off with a hop, hop, hop.
Tom stripped off for a bath in the tub
Inside the tent he was having a scrub
while Tina and I were to satisfy
by cooling our toes in the stream nearby.
Into Blinman with its old copper mine
It brings back memories of a long ago time
Then Parachilna and Glass Gorge too
Wher the colour of the hops make a lovely red hue.
Now it's time to return our journeys near done
We've seen lots of places and had lots of fun
We've packed up our vans and are now on our way
perhaps we'll get together for another holiday.

Nancy Lymn.

General Interest.

Contributed by Ian Everard...

Random Thoughts As We Age.

- The biggest lie I tell myself is... "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."
- Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; then come out wrinkle free and three sizes smaller!
- Last year, I joined a support group for procrastinators; we haven't met yet!
- I don't trip over things, I do random gravity checks!
- I don't need anger management; I need people to stop pissing me off!
- Old age is coming at a really bad time!
- Lord grant me strength to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the friends to post my bail when I finally snap!
- I don't have white hair. I have 'wisdom highlights'. I'm just very wise.
- My people skills are just fine; it's my tolerance to idiots that needs work.
- If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.
- The kids text me 'plz' which is shorter than please. I text back 'no' which is shorter than 'yes'.
- I'm going to retire and live off my savings. Not sure what I'll do that second week.
- Even duct tape can't fix stupid...but it can muffle the sound!
- Of course I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice.
- Oops! Did I roll my eyes out loud?
- At my age 'Getting lucky' means walking in to a room and remembering what I came in there for.
- Chocolate comes from cocoa which is a tree...that makes it a plant, which means...chocolate is a salad!



**BEING A MAN MEANS DOING
WHAT I WANT WHEN I WANT
AND NOT HAVING TO ANSWER
TO...**

**SHIT SHE'S COMING!!!
TO BE CONTINUED...**



A horse walks into a bar and the bartender says, "Why the long face?"



I married Miss Right; I just didn't know her first name was "Always."



Q. How do men sort out their laundry?
A. Filthy, and filthy but wearable.

Contributed by Ian Everard...

Why I Like Retirement!

- Question:** How many days in a week?
Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday.
- Question:** When is a retiree's bedtime?
Answer: Two hours after he falls asleep on the couch.
- Question:** How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?
Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.
- Question:** What's the biggest gripe of retirees?
Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.
- Question:** Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?
Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.
- Question:** Among retirees, what is considered formal attire?
Answer: Tied shoes.
- Question:** Why do retirees count pennies?
Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.
- Question:** What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?
Answer: NUTS.
- Question:** Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic, or garage?
Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.
- Question:** What do retirees call a long lunch?
Answer: Normal.
- Question:** What is the best way to describe retirement?
Answer: The never ending Coffee Break.
- Question:** What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?
Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.
- Question:** Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?
Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.
- Question:** What do retirees do all week?
Answer: Monday through Friday - NOTHING... Sunday and Saturday, they rest.



Contributed by Douglas Walker...

Who Knew? (Try at your own risk.)

- Did you know that Colgate Toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns?
- Sore throat? Just mix 1/4 cup of vinegar with 1/4 cup of honey and take 1 tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills the bacteria.
- Cure urinary tract infections with Alka-Seltzer. Just dissolve two tablets in a glass of water and drink it at the onset of the symptoms. Alka-Seltzer begins eliminating urinary tract infections almost instantly—even though the product was never advertised for this use.
- Honey remedy for skin blemishes...cover the blemish with a dab of honey and place a Band-Aid over it. Honey kills the bacteria, keeps the skin sterile, and speeds healing. Works overnight.
- Listerine therapy for toenail fungus: Get rid of unsightly toenail fungus by soaking your toes in Listerine Mouthwash. The powerful antiseptic leaves your toenails looking healthy again.
- Easy eyeglass protection...to prevent the screws in eyeglasses from loosening, apply a small drop of Maybelline Crystal Clear Nail Polish to the threads of the screws before tightening them.
- Smart splinter remover...just pour a drop of Elmer's Glue-All over the splinter, let dry, and peel the dried glue off the skin. The splinter sticks to the dried glue.
- Balm for broken blisters...to disinfect a broken blister, dab on a few drops of Listerine, a powerful antiseptic.
- Vinegar to heal bruises...soak a cotton ball in white vinegar and apply it to the bruise for 1 hour. The vinegar reduces the blueness and speeds up the healing process.
- Quaker Oats for fast pain relief...it's not for breakfast anymore! Mix 2 cups of Quaker Oats and 1 cup of water in a bowl and warm in the microwave for 1 minute, cool slightly, and apply the mixture to your hands for soothing relief from arthritis pain.



My brother took going to jail really badly. He refused food, drinks. He spat and swore at anyone who came near him and started throwing things everywhere.

After that we NEVER played monopoly again.



Members Notice Board

Meeting Reminders/Updates

Subs are due (September).

General meeting 1st October 2015.

Annual General Meeting 5th November 2015.

Wanted

Mineral photo opportunities.

I'm looking for opportunities to photograph mineral specimens (South Australian in particular) for future newsletter "Mineral Matters" articles.

Do you have mineral specimens that you can make available to be photographed?

I'm prepared to take these photos at your nominated location or at the club rooms, whichever suits you.

Specimens do not have to be first prize winners - what matters, is that they are clearly identifiable, and present as a reasonable example from a known location.

Hope you can help me out on behalf of the club.

Mel Jones

08 8395 1792

mel.jones@bigpond.com

Newsletter Content & Contributions

Contributions for the newsletter need to be passed on to me no later than one week before each club meeting.

As the current caretaker for the club newsletter, I will be emailing members a link to the copy on the Monday prior to the meeting.

Please consider contributing some of your photos and stories for all to enjoy. These do not have to be mineral related.

I look forward to your ongoing assistance and also seek your timely, frank feedback so that the newsletter continues to meet the club members' interest.

Mel Jones

08 8395 1792

mel.jones@bigpond.com

Useful Internet Links

2014 Australian (& some NZ!) Gem & Mineral Calendar: <http://www.mineral.org.au/shows/shows.html>

Australian Federation of Lapidary and Allied Crafts Association (AFLACA): <http://aflaca.org.au/>

AFLACA-GMCASA: <http://aflaca.org.au/members/gem-and-mineral-clubs-association-of-south-australia-gmcasa/>

Gem and Mineral Clubs Association of South Australia (GMCASA): <http://www.gmcasa.org.au/>

Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club: http://sacommunity.org/org/197578-Adelaide_Gem_%2526_Mineral_Club#.Uta7ufRDt8E <http://www.adelaidegmc.websyte.com.au/>

Broken Hill Mineral Club, The: <http://brokenhillmineralclub.wikispaces.com/>

Enfield Gem and Mineral Club Inc: www.egmc.infopage.com.au
<http://southaustralia.localitylist.com.au/yellowresult.php/goal/Detail/ckey/26988>

Flinders Gem, Geology and Mineral Club Inc:
http://www.lapidaryworld.com/flinders_geology_gem_and_mineral_club.html

Mineralogical Society of SA Inc: <http://www.sa-minsoc.websyte.com.au/>

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

Southern Rockhounds: Website - <http://www.southernrockhounds.com.au/home>
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SouthernRockhounds>

Yorke Peninsula Gem and Mineral Club Inc: <http://www.coppercoast.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=754&c=16913>