




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.
Web Address: <https://teatreegullygemandmineralclub.com>
President: Ian Everard. H: 8251 1830 M: 0417 859 443 Email: ieverard@bigpond.net.au
Secretary: Claudia Gill. M: 0419 841 473 Email: cjrgill@adam.com.au
Treasurer: Russell Fischer. Email: rfischer@bigpond.net.au

**October
Edition
2017**

"Rockzette"

Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club News

President's Report	Notices	Club Activities / Fees
<p>Hi All,</p> <p>Well, I am back from sunny Agate Creek; not a day below 30 degrees.</p> <p>I would like to thank everybody who filled in for me while I was away.</p> <p>The AGM is coming up in November ... please try to come to this meeting.</p> <p>Cheers, Ian.</p>	<p>Happy Birthday</p> <p>Members celebrating October birthdays</p> <p>5th - June Mabbitt</p> <p>11th - Ruth Say</p> <p>24th - Campbell Morrison</p> <p>30th - Liz Lane</p> <p>30th - Terry Deegan</p> <p>31st - Mike Mabbitt</p> <p>***</p>	<p>Meetings</p> <p>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>Library</p> <p>Librarian - Augie Gray</p> <p>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>Tuesday Faceting/Cabbing</p> <p>Tuesdays - 10 am to 2 pm. All are welcome. Supervised by Doug Walker (7120 2221).</p> <p>Wednesday Silversmithing</p> <p>Wednesdays - 7 pm to 9 pm. All are welcome. Supervised by Augie Gray (8265 4815 / 0433 571 887).</p> <p>Thursday Cabbing</p> <p>Thursdays - 10 am to 2 pm. All are welcome. Supervised by Augie Gray (8265 4815 / 0433 571 887).</p> <p>Friday Silversmithing</p> <p>Fridays - 9 am to 12 noon. All are welcome. Supervised by John Hill (8251 1118).</p> <p>Faceting/Cabbing/Silversmithing Fees:</p> <p>A standard fee of \$3.00 per session applies – to be paid to the session supervisor.</p> <p>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>.</p> <p>It is necessary that <i>Health and Safety</i> regulations are adhered to always.</p> <p>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>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.</p>
<p>Diary Dates / Notices</p>	<p>Welcome David</p> <p>"The Club welcomes its 16th new member for 2017 - David Romano from Stirling. David will be attending the rooms to learn cabbing on Tuesdays or Thursdays as time permits." Augie.</p> <p>***</p>	<p>Faceting/Cabbing/Silversmithing Fees:</p> <p>A standard fee of \$3.00 per session applies – to be paid to the session supervisor.</p> <p>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>.</p> <p>It is necessary that <i>Health and Safety</i> regulations are adhered to always.</p> <p>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>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.</p>
<p>2017</p> <p>Sat 7th – Sun 8th October 2017 Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club Show. Payneham Library Complex corner of OG Road and Turner Street, Felixstowe, SA. Open Sat: 10am – 5pm & Sun: 10am – 4pm.</p> <p>2018</p> <p>Sat 27th – Sun 28th January 2018 Riverland Gem and Mineral Club Show and Sales. Loxton Lutheran School, Luther Road, Loxton, SA. Open Sat: 9am – 4pm & Sun: 9am – 3pm. Email: Riverland Gem & Mineral Club Find on Facebook.</p> <p>***</p>	<p>Are Your Subs Overdue?</p> <p>Membership subscription renewals are due to be paid before September 30th, 2017.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Club AGM due at the meeting to be held on Thursday November 2nd, 2017.</p> <p>***</p>	<p>Faceting/Cabbing/Silversmithing Fees:</p> <p>A standard fee of \$3.00 per session applies – to be paid to the session supervisor.</p> <p>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>.</p> <p>It is necessary that <i>Health and Safety</i> regulations are adhered to always.</p> <p>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>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.</p>
<p>Mineral Sale</p> <p>On the 28th Sept. to the 11th Oct. David Langridge is having a Mineral and Crystal Sale at his home. David has been collecting for many years and is now ready to reduce his collection as much as possible.</p> <p>Word has it that there are over 500 Boxes of goodies to be had at the sale.</p> <p>THERE WILL BE NO EARLY BIRD SALE</p> <p>The sale will be held at: - 10 Krieg Street, Nuriootpa. South Australia. Ph. 08 8562 2706 Mob. 0429 622 706</p> <p>***</p>	<p></p> <p>Busy workshop – Betty, Jeanie and Ken.</p> <p>***</p>	<p>Faceting/Cabbing/Silversmithing Fees:</p> <p>A standard fee of \$3.00 per session applies – to be paid to the session supervisor.</p> <p>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>.</p> <p>It is necessary that <i>Health and Safety</i> regulations are adhered to always.</p> <p>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>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.</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>		

**Augie's October 2017
Mineral Selection – Stone Carvings.**



Agate Bush Baby.



Amazonite macaws.



Amethyst Rooster.



Agate Eagle Head.



Amethyst Heron.



Banded Agate Fawn.



Agate Frog.



Pink Opal Flamingos.



Agate Starfish.



Aquamarine Dolphins.



Carnelian Bear.

Augie's October 2017 Mineral Selection Stone Carvings. Continued...



Ermines.



Grossular Garnet, Opal and Amethyst Ostrich.



Mookaite Rooster.



Puffins.



Quartz Crane Family.



Quartz Goldfish.



Rose Quartz Cockatoos.



Ruby in Zoisite Heron.



Tiger-eye Bald Eagles on Quartz.



Tourmaline Hummingbirds on Quartz.

Augie's October 2017 Agate Selection – Coyamito, Mexico.

Coyamito Agate is a nodular banded agate found about thirty miles north of the Laguna agate deposits in Chihuahua, Mexico. It is found in multiple deposits, most of which are located on the Coyamito Ranch.

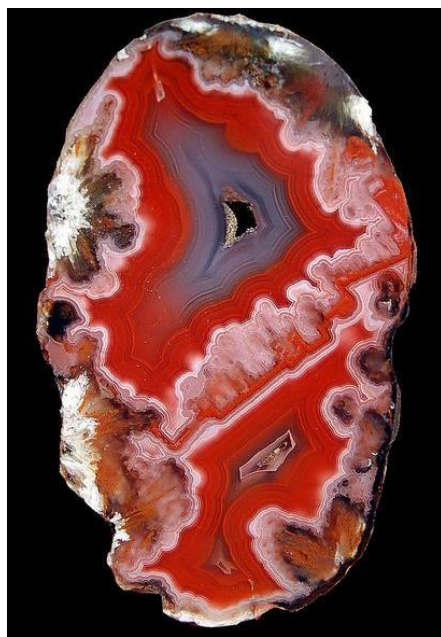
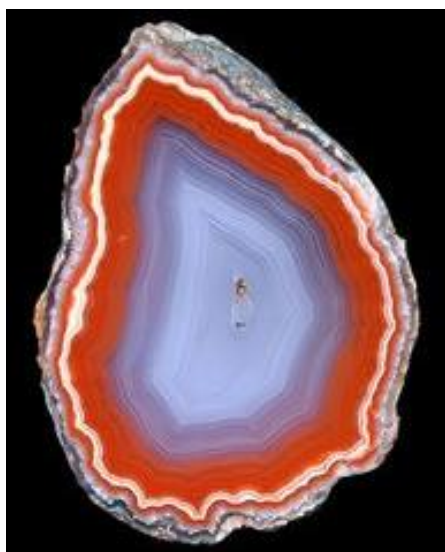
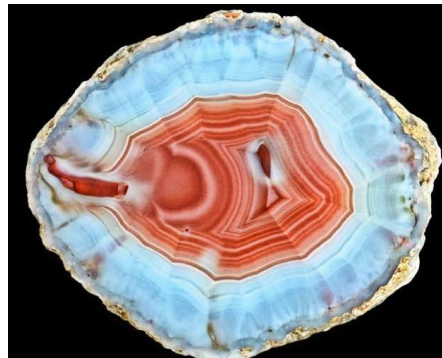
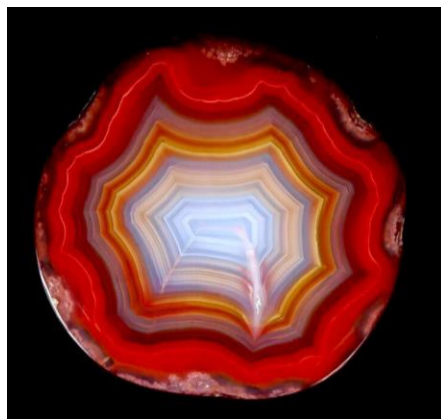
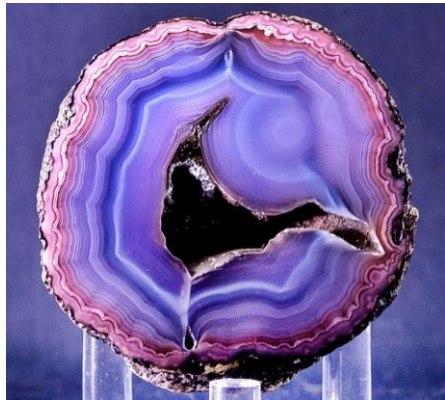
Coyamito agate nodules have the reputation of being small and colourful. Of all the banded agates found in Chihuahua, Coyamito is considered the closest relative to the Laguna agate. Like Laguna agate, Coyamito is characterized by colourful tight banding. Most Coyamito nodules are hollow and the colour strength is in the outside banding. Other features include pseudomorphic agate, which is agate replacement of Aragonite, and tube formations. Agate pseudomorphs are usually rare, but are common in Coyamito agate.

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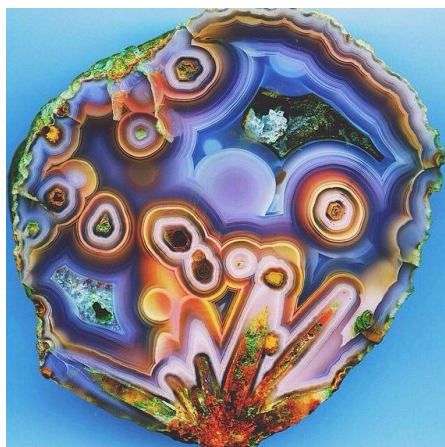
Augie's October 2017 Agate Selection – Coyamito, Mexico.

Continued...

The agates are formed in gas bubbles in an andesite rock called the Rancho El Agate Andesite. This host rock covers a large area of the Gallego Mountains but only a small portion of it has cavities.



Augie's October 2017 Agate Selection – Coyamito, Mexico. *Continued....*



Mel's Facebook Sourced Mineral Specimen Selection for October 2017.



Cuprite, Clara Mine, Rankach valley, Oberwolfach, Wolfach, Black Forest, Baden-Wurtemberg, Germany. Source: Geology Page. Picture width: 4mm. Photo Copyright © Stephan Wolfsried.

Mel's Facebook Sourced Mineral Specimen Selection for October 2017. *Continued...*



Deep red Cuprite, South West Mine, Bisbee, Cochise Co, Arizona, USA. Source: Amazing Geologist. Credit: Jeff Scovil.



Gypsum from the Lubin Copper Mine, Poland. Forum: Amazing Geologist. Credit: Platek Minerals.



Calcite on Fluorite from Minerva Mine, Hardin Co., Illinois, USA. Forum: Geology Page. Photo Copyright © Anton Watzl.



Corundum, Umba Valley, Tanga Region, Tanzania. Size: 3.0 x 2.5 x 5.5 cm. Source: Geology Page. Photo Copyright © MIM Museum.



An incredible electric blue-capped Elbaite Tourmaline cluster from the Chia Mine, Sao Jose do Safira, Doce Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Source: Amazing Geologist. Credit: Not indicated.

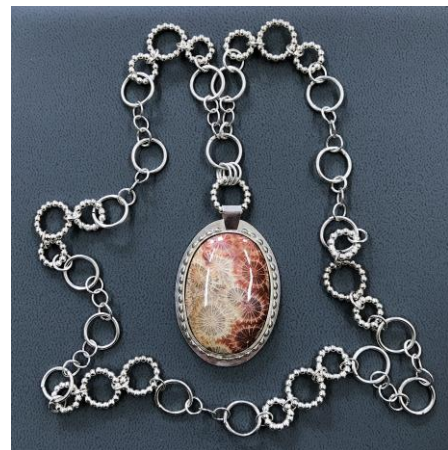


Aggregate of Azurite Crystals from Mas Dieu, Mercoirol, Gard, Languedoc-Roussillon, France. Source: Amazing Geologist. Credit: Jean-Paul Berthe.



Beryl var Aquamarine and Schorl from Erongo Mountain, Erongo Region, Namibia. Source: Geology Page. Credit: Photo Copyright © Andreas Schmid.

A great selection of Jean Hickman's Lapidary/Silver Work



A great selection of Jean Hickman's Lapidary/Silver Work
Continued...



A great selection of Jean Hickman's Lapidary/Silver Work
Continued...



Contributed by Ian Everard...

Members Out and About

Ian, while returning from his North Queensland Quartz Fossicking Safari, took a stopover at Charters Towers and at Bowen, August 2017. Pictures taken by Ian.



View over Charters Towers from Tower Hill.



Another view over Charters Towers from Tower Hill.



WWII bunkers scattered around Tower Hill.



WWII bunkers scattered around Tower Hill.



WWII bunkers camouflaged by being buried in mine dumps on Tower Hill.



WWII Bunkers on Tower Hill, Charters Towers

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-10-27/wwii-bunkers-entice-tourists-to-outback-town/7971186>



Once filled with bombs, then overrun by wallabies and kangaroos, the Queensland town of Charters Towers transforms WWII bunkers into interactive tourist attraction. (ABC North Qld By Sophie Kesteven.)

A total of 29 concrete WWII bunkers are scattered around Tower Hill in the outback town of Charters Towers in North Queensland. None of the bunkers face each other – for good reason, according to Charters Towers local, Alan Hartley. “Because had there been an accident and one exploded, it would not set off a chain reaction with the others”, Mr Hartley explained. “They were used to store bombs, ammunition, explosives, detonators... and they were all covered in mullock from the mullock heap so planes flying over would not know there were 29 little cement sheds down there full of explosives.”

Now, hoping to attract tourists and educate people about the town's history with the war, the local council has helped install an interactive audio and video feature inside two of the bunkers on Towers Hill.



Bombs kept inside a tunnel at the No 3 Replenishing Centre on Tower Hill during WWII (Photo: Charters Tower Archives).



Bowen Harbour, Queensland



Whitsundays in the distance.



Whitsundays in the distance.



Bowen Harbour, Queensland – Whitsundays in the distance.



Whitsundays in the distance.



Bowen Harbour, Queensland – Whitsundays in the distance.

Contributed by Doug Walker

Australian Nephrite Jade

On-line references

http://minerals.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/invest/mineral_commodities/nephrite_jade
<http://mininglink.com.au/site/cowell>
<https://www.cowelljade.com/>
<http://openallday.com.au/AustralianNephrite.html>



Discovery and History

In 1965, Harry Schiller, a local farmer prospecting in the Cowell area of the Eyre Peninsular (South Australia), collected a 3-4-kilogram boulder of dense hard rock near an outcrop of white, dolomitic marble. In early 1966, this specimen was identified as nephrite at Adelaide University. This identification was confirmed subsequently at the South Australian Museum and Australian Mineral Development Laboratories in Adelaide.

During the following years many attempts were made to develop the deposits, but with limited success. The period from 1966 to 1973 saw many disputes and changes in tenure. Involvement of the South Australian State Government commenced in February 1974 when the potential of the area for commercial production was fully evaluated. The 1974 geological appraisal was followed, in 1976, by Government funding of a trial mining program and an evaluation of the colours, texture, and carving potential of the nephrite at O'Halloran Hill College of Advanced Education.

Ninety-one separate jade outcrops were identified in 1974, but subsequent mapping has now increased this to well over a hundred. All outcrops of nephrite are located within an area of about 10 km², referred to as the Cowell Jade Province.

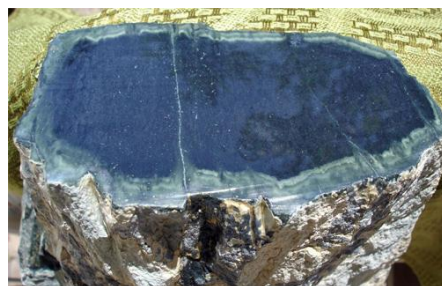
After its formation in 1976, Cowell Jade Pty Ltd became the dominant lease holder and

marketeer of Cowell jade. In January 1987, Cowell Jade Pty Ltd became a public company and changed its name to Gemstone Corporation of Australia Ltd. After more than a decade of mixed fortune, the Gemstone Corporation entered an agreement with the Malaysian-based Royal Selangor Group to design, produce and market carvings, and items of jewellery, and tiles from Cowell (nephrite) jade.

Geology

The (nephrite) jade bodies at Cowell typically have elongate, lensoid shapes in outcrop. Host rocks for Cowell nephrite are dolomitic marble and banded calc-silicate of the Early to Middle Proterozoic Minbrie Gneiss Complex. These high-grade metamorphic rocks were produced during the first and second deformational events of the Kimban Orogeny, about 1840 and 1780 million years (Ma) ago respectively. Subsequent retrogression occurred about 1700 Ma with later cross-warping and alteration about 1590-1600 Ma. Nephrite only formed within the alteration/retrogression assemblages.

Alteration zones, consisting of tremolite, chlorite, epidote, clinozoisite/zoisite and talc, occur particularly along the margins of, or near intrusive chloritised feldspar rock that has intruded dolomitic marble.



Cross-section of Cowell Jade tooth showing a very thin white surface layer followed by about 5mm greenish grey alteration zone and a black Jade centre. Credit: Unknown.



24kg AAA Supreme Grade Black Australian Nephrite Jade Rough from Cowell. Credit Oz Gems

Cowell nephrite formed:

1. Within alteration zones as large lenses up to 40 m long by 3 m wide, conformable with lithological layering.
2. Within cross fractures up to a metre wide parallel to the axial plane of late-stage cross-warping. Nephrite in cross fractures is typically high quality, fine grained,

massive, and dark green to black - but sometimes it does occur in rarer translucent light green colours.

3. By irregular alteration of coarse grained, brecciated diopside producing schistose nephrite that often has diopside inclusions.

The Cowell geological setting of Middle Proterozoic dolomitic marble host rocks contrasts with other major occurrences of nephrite in New Zealand, Canada, and Taiwan; where nephrite lenses occur within or along the faulted margins of serpentinised ultramafic rocks such as peridotites.

Quality and Value

Cowell jade exhibits a variety of colours and textures, but consists predominantly of medium to fine grained material showing, greenish yellow to green hues, grading to black. Three main varieties are marketed:

- Green Nephrite.
- Black Nephrite.
- Premium Black Nephrite.

Dark green to black varieties predominate, however the typical apple and emerald green colours of some overseas deposits are lacking.

Cowell black jade takes a very high polish by simple lapidary techniques. Very fine grained premium black takes a mirror-like polish, superior to that produced on jade elsewhere. Spectacular rarer varieties, particularly those derived from rind patterns and dendritic inclusions, greatly enhance the appearance of Cowell jade.



Freshly Mined Jade. Credit: © 2017 Gemstones Australia Pty Ltd. <https://www.cowelljade.com/>



Great example of Nephrite black jade from our mine. Credit: © 2017 Gemstones Australia Pty Ltd. <https://www.cowelljade.com/>

Continued next page...

Contributed by Doug Walker

Australian Nephrite Jade *Continued...*

Mining and Presentation

Mining of Cowell jade is undertaken periodically - depending on stock on hand and current demand. The country rock on the hanging wall contact of the nephrite lens is drilled, blasted, and removed to expose a wall of jade. Then shot holes are drilled and overburden is removed. The nephrite is broken and levered onto the pit floor by an excavator-mounted hydraulic rock breaker. Rough nephrite is then trucked 25 km to Cowell for sawing and grading according to its colour and quality. Some nephrite is exported in the rough; other jade is processed further by cut and polished for jewellery, or presented as polished ornamental slabs.

Jade of carving quality is first trimmed with a diamond saw, carved using diamond tipped tools, and then polished with a diamond paste to achieve its characteristic final lustre.

@ J. Townsend, *Primaries Industries & Resources, South Australia*



An example of what a true craftsman can do with our product.
Credit: © 2017 Gemstones Australia Pty Ltd.
<https://www.cowelljade.com/>

References:

Barnes, L.C. et al., 1980. Nephrite jade. *In: Some semiprecious and ornamental stones of South Australia. South Australia. Department of Mines and Energy. Handbook*, 4:11-39.

Farrand, M.G., 1985. Genesis of jade and host rocks in DDH14 at outcrop 15, Cowell jade province, South Australia. *South Australia. Department of Mines and Energy. Report Book*, 85/20.

South Australian Department of Mines and Energy, 1991. Jade in South Australia. *South Australia. Department of Mines and Energy. Information Sheet*, 13.

Flint, D.J. and Dubowski, E.A., 1991. Cowell Jade Province: detailed geological mapping and diamond drilling of jade and ornamental marble outcrops 1982-1987. *South Australia. Department of Mines and Energy. Report Book*, 89/51.

When is 'OVER SIZE' an undersized statement?



Hi Mel, I'm sending you a photo of the truck that Scott Bungey (my nephew) drives. He works for Northern Water, and they own cattle stations in the NT and WA. This truck is 75 metres long, runs 100 wheels, and is carrying 480 kilometres of irrigation pipe. Most of Scott's driving is on dirt roads. I know it isn't the type of train you're into, but this is a very serious truck. *Rodrick.*

Hi Rodrick, if okay with you, I will include the picture and your supporting text in the October 2017 newsletter, under a heading, "When is 'Oversize' an undersized statement?". I have never seen anything on the road like this. I'm not sure that I would like to confront 'This Very Serious Truck' on a dirt road; in either direction for that matter. Even on a bitumen road it would be a challenge to pass. Thanks for sharing the picture and explanation. *Regards, Mel.*

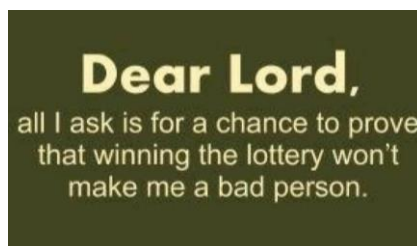
No worries Mel. Yes, I wouldn't like to be near it as well, but evidently it has anti sway technology on the whole set up, twin drive etc, and my nephew also told me that even with a strong side-wind it tracks very well, even on a dirt road. *Rodrick.*

Contributed by Michael Mabbitt...

Wedding Wishes

A father texts his son: "My Dear Son, today is a day you will treasure for all the days of your life. My best love and good wishes. Your Father."

His Son texts back: "Thanks Dad, but the wedding isn't actually until tomorrow!" His Father replies: "I know."



Contributed by Doug Walker...

For Her First Question

God made man before woman to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.

I just took a leaflet out of my mailbox, informing me that I can have sex at 73. I'm so happy, because I live at number 71. So, it's not too far to walk home afterwards. And, it's the same side of the street. I don't even have to cross the road!

Answering machine message, "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

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

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your Glasses.

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

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

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

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

The quote of the month is by Jay Leno: "With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

Aspire to inspire before you expire.

Contributed by Doug Walker...

The Affordable Pool for Retirees



Fart and you've got a jacuzzi!

I have a condition that prevents me from going on a diet...I get hungry.

52 Breathtaking Caves from Around the World - Three in More Detail

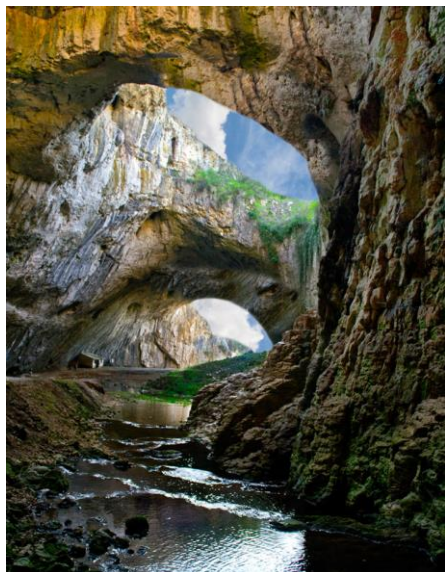
No. 18. Devetashka Cave, Bulgaria.

[From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - Click here...](#)
[Watch Video of Devetashka Cave. Click here...](#)

Devetashka Cave is a large karst cave around 7 km east of Letnitsa and 15 km northeast of Lovech, near the village of Devetaki on the east bank of the river Osam, in Bulgaria. The site has been continuously occupied by Paleo humans for tens of thousands of years, served as a shelter for various faunal species during extensive periods and is now home to nearly 30,000 bats.



View towards the main entrance and the first two openings.



19. Cenote Ik Kil, Mexico.

[From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - Cave: Cenote \(cave\) Ik Kil, Yucatan Mexico. Click here...](#)

[Cave: Cenote Ik-Kil, Yucatán México. Click here to view video...](#)

Ik Kil is a cenote outside Pisté in the Tinúm Municipality, Yucatán, Mexico. It is in the northern centre of the Yucatán Peninsula and is part of the **Ik Kil Archeological Park** near Chichen Itza.

The cenote is open to the sky with the water level about 26 metres below ground level. There is a carved stairway down to a swimming platform. The cenote is about 60 metres in diameter and about 40 metres deep.

There are vines which reach from the opening all the way down to the water along with small waterfalls. There are black catfish which swim in the cenote. Cenote Ik Kil is sacred to the Mayans and the Mayans used this cenote for both relaxation and ritual services.



20. Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico, USA.

[From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - Carlsbad Caverns. Click here...](#)

[Carlsbad Caverns - Video. Click here...](#)

Carlsbad Caverns National Park is a United States National Park in the Guadalupe Mountains of south eastern New Mexico. The primary attraction of the park is the show cave, **Carlsbad Cavern**. Carlsbad Caverns National Park is open every day of the year except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Visitors to the cave can hike in on their own via the natural entrance or take an elevator from the visitor centre.

The park entrance is located on US Highway 62/180, approximately 29 km southwest of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Carlsbad Caverns National Park participates in the Junior Ranger Program. The park has two entries on the National Register of Historic Places: The Caverns Historic District and the Rattlesnake Springs Historic District. Approximately two thirds of the park have been set aside as a wilderness area, helping to ensure no future changes will be made to the habitat.

Carlsbad Cavern includes a large cave chamber (The Big Room), a natural limestone chamber almost 1,220 m long, 191 m wide, and 255.78 m high at the highest point. It is the fifth largest chamber in North America and the twenty-eighth largest in the world.



Contributed by Mel Jones...

Tales from a former SAR Train Driver. 'Beating the Winter Cold'.

written by Norm Hann 1980s/90s.

Working with the engine in reverse between Yeelanna and Toolgie was no joke, especially in the early hours of the morning in the middle of winter. They had only travelled one section with the icy wind pouring in over the coal tender into the engine cab, before both Lennie and Mud were almost frozen stiff. The engine working backwards with the funnel facing the leading trucks offered absolutely no protection from the bitterly cold wind that their passage was raising. So, at the next station Lennie stopped the train to seek some protection from the inclement weather.

Mudrock, never at a loss returned after a few moments with a truck tarpaulin, which he dropped over the tender then up over the cab roof, lashing it down with the tie ropes, completely isolating the cab from the elements, leaving only the bottom corner of the tarpaulin loose, allowing both men access to the cab. Squeezing through the narrow flap into the cab, both boys were happy as the warmth of their improvised shelter spread through their ice-cold bodies.

They were as snug as two bugs in a rug, as Mud so aptly described it. Only one thing was wrong. Len couldn't see where they were going. Mudrock looked at him and laughed saying, 'You could only see two bloody yards before, so what's the difference,' which was true enough as there was only a tiny marker light on the tender anyway. 'Open your window and stick your head out', was Mudrock's unsympathetic reply. 'Anyway, if you put the headlight on full beam and look through the cab windows you'll be able to see where you've been.'

They arrived snug and warm at Toolgie a few hours later for their relief. Mudrock, Len and Snow made their way towards the barracks, which were only discernible as a darker patch in the scrub which surrounded them. The running lights of the locomotive distorted by a haze of steam behind them accentuated the darkness. The grass crackled under foot, and reflected silver shimmers from Snow's kero lamp as they walked. Again, they felt the bitter cold and as they approached, the three men quickened their pace over the frost covered ground. Walking through the open gateway onto the barracks verandah, Mudrock and Lennie stood back to allow Snow to precede them with the lamp. Leading the way to the kitchen door, Snow slipped the strap of his tucker box off his shoulder, lowered the box to the floor and, cradling his handlamp in the crook of his arm, inserted a large key into the doorlock.

With a loud scrape, the door was thrust open. The three men entered the room depositing their tucker boxes on the floor. Snow then lit the two kero lamps and the room's interior became visible.

It was a very austere room, some fifteen feet in length and almost as wide. A large black cast iron wood stove dominated one wall, a large zinc lined box filled with cut wood and stumps located beside it. In front of the wood box on the floor was an old paint tin partly filled with kero swabs. Lennie, taking one of these swabs and placing it under the kindling of the pre-set stove, struck a match, and the small flame ran up the swab into the kindling wood and soon a fire danced merrily in the stove, dispelling the damp cold from the room, its warmth embracing the train crew as they pulled wooden chairs forward to sit as close as possible to the warm glow.

The room was lined with quarter inch galvanized iron, which had at one time been painted a light grey, but years of dust, grime and smoke from the lamps and stove did nothing to improve its appearance. The floor was simply railway sleepers laid edge to edge, very rough, but cleanly swept. On nails tacked into the wall, adjacent to the stove, hung a bevy of frypans several saucepans and a wire grill.

Along the other wall was a bench with sink and drainboard, a recent addition to the amenities of this room. Above the bench, likewise suspended by nails, hung the old washup dishes, their wire cage of soap beside them. It was on one end of this bench that the men placed their boxes for easy access, with the meat and food safe in its tray of water occupying the further end.

One of the kero lamps Snow had placed beside the teapot and alarm clock on the wide wooden mantel piece which spaced the top of the stove, the other lamp burned brightly in the middle of the large wooden table which occupied the centre of the room. The single window in the room was without covering of any kind, its four panes of glass fogged as frost melted, and droplets of water ran down the glass. The fire in the stove spat and crackled, burning brightly warming the room. With the kettle coming to the boil, the tired train crew were reluctant to leave the warmth of the fire.

Finally, Mudrock moved to his box, obtained mug, spoon and sugar. Placing a generous handful of tea leaves in the pot, he brewed a pot of tea. The aroma encouraged Lennie and Snow to fetch their pannikins from their respective boxes. Lennie also fetched a pack of biscuits which he opened and shared with his mates. Mudrock was moved to speak! 'Gees it sure is bloody freezing, the beds 'll be like bloody ice. Have to do something about it.' Picking up Snow's handlamp, he left the room, returning a few minutes later with a couple of old bricks and a couple of towels. He wrapped the bricks in the towels, opened the oven door and placed the bricks on the oven tray. Jokingly he remarked, 'You blokes can climb into cold beds, but, I'm going to make my own bedwarmer.'

Drinking the tea gave the boys heart enough to do something about breakfast and, as the single window began to brighten with the dawn light

they moved around, obtaining the necessary equipment from their tucker boxes and soon the room was filled with the smell of freshly cooked bacon and eggs. Each bloke sat down at the table. Using their teatowels as table mats, plate full of bacon, eggs, and baked beans, freshly made toast heaped with butter and the inevitable cuppa, the crew enjoyed a meal fit for a king, not in the least disturbed by a couple of nosey mice, lured from their home behind the wood box by the smell of the food.

While Lennie and Snow indulged in yet another cuppa and cigarette, Mudrock collected his bed warmer from the oven and left the room. When dishes had been cleaned and replaced in the box and utensils hung on their respective nails, it was time for rest. Lennie went to his bedroom. A small room lined with fluted iron just large enough for a bed and chair. The single small window was covered with a black blind. A small mat on the floor accentuated the sparse furnishings of the room. He struck a match, removed the chimney glass from the kero lamp which stood on a small shelf bracketed to the wall adjacent to the window and, lit the lamp.

With fresh sheets and pillow slip from the linen bag they had fetched on the train with them, Len made up his bed. The blankets he took from pegs on the wall, were stiff and cold as ice. He knew it would be quite a while before he would be warm enough to sleep and decided then and there that he'd be leaving his socks on.

Next moment there came one hell of a roar. Sounded like Mudrock had gone mad. Lennie raced from his room almost colliding with Snow, who likewise was alarmed. Together they burst into Mudrock's room, where he was almost howling with rage. His bedwarmer carefully placed midway in the bed between the sheets, had melted the frost in the blankets and the centre of his bed in an eighteen-inch circle was sopping wet.



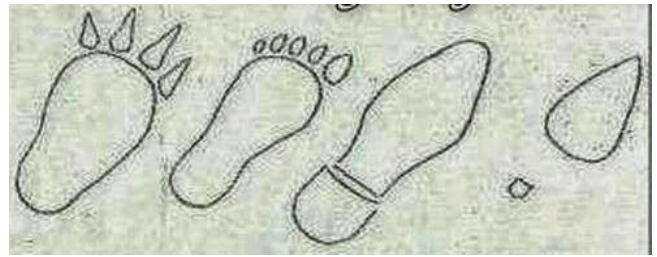
Puntabie Barracks, seen here in 1945, illustrates the corrugated iron construction of many early SAR barracks buildings. Rhonda Dorward.

Picture Source/Credit: - [Eyre Peninsula Railway Preservation Society Inc. PO Box 2736, Port Lincoln SA 5606 NEWSLETTER January 2015](#)

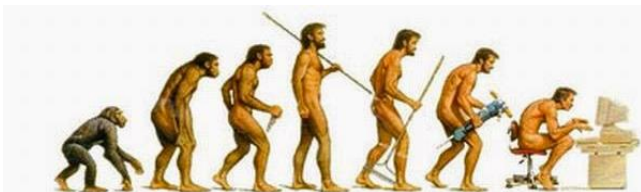
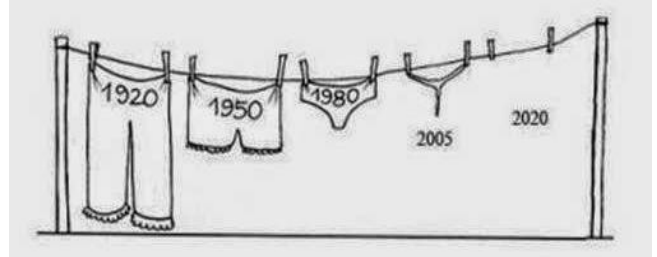
I have learned so much from my mistakes...I'm thinking of making a few more!!!

Contributed by Doug Walker...

Evolution

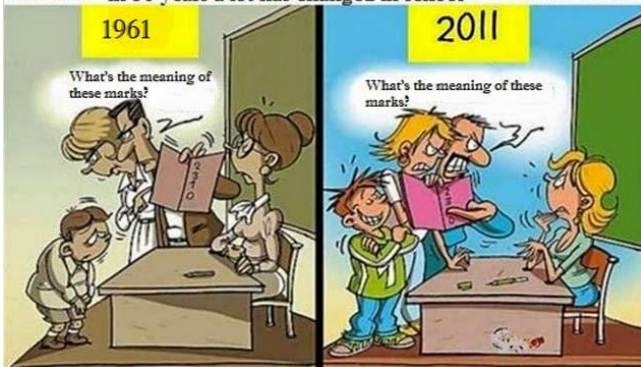


The evolution of authority

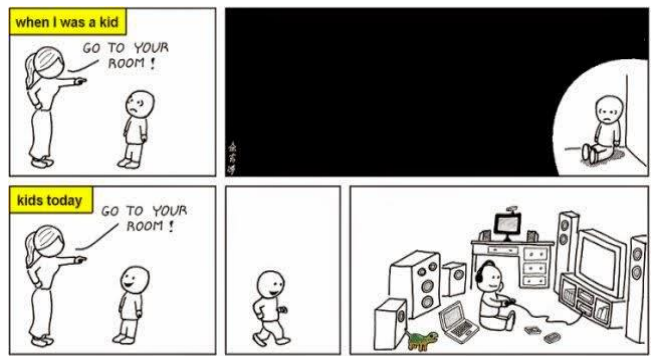
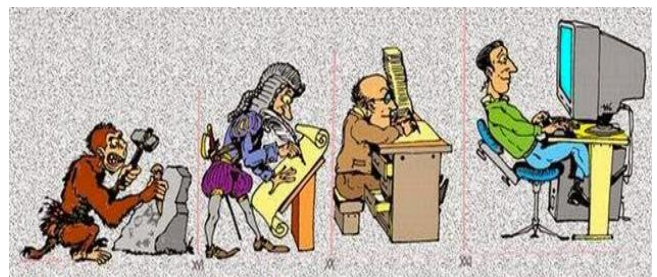


The Coca-Cola Bottle

in 50 years a lot has changed in school



	IN THE OLD DAYS	NOW
LISTENING TO MUSIC	Illustration of a person listening to music on a record player.	Illustration of a person wearing headphones listening to music on a computer.
WATCHING FILMS	Illustration of a person watching a film on a television set.	Illustration of a person watching a film on a computer monitor.
CHATTING WITH FRIENDS	Illustration of a person talking on a mobile phone.	Illustration of a person using a computer for instant messaging.
READING THE NEWS	Illustration of a person reading a newspaper.	Illustration of a person reading news on a computer screen.
PLAYING MUSIC	Illustration of a person playing a guitar.	Illustration of a person playing music on a computer keyboard.





SA MESA JOURNAL September 2017.

Ctrl + Click the hyperlink just above to access the September 2017 edition of the South Australian MESA Journal.

Contributed by Augie...

Conundrums

For those who love the philosophy of ambiguity, as well as the idiosyncrasies of English...

Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things.

One tequila, two tequilas, three tequilas, floor.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?

The main reason that Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live.

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "where's the self-help section?" She said, that if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

If a deaf person signs swear words, does his mother wash his hands with soap?

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?

Is there another word for synonym?

Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all?"

What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

Would a fly without wings be called a walk?

Why do they lock petrol station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?

If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?

Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?

If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?

Why do they put braille on the drive-through bank machines?

How do they get deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

One nice thing about egotists; they don't talk about other people.

Does the little mermaid wear an algaebra?

Conundrums continued...

Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?

How is it possible to have a civil war?

If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown too?

If you ate both pasta and antipasto, would you still be hungry?

If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

Whose cruel idea was it for the word "lisp" to have "s" in it?

Why are haemorrhoids called "haemorrhoids" instead of "asteroids"?

Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot them?

Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?

If you spin an oriental person in a circle three times, do they become disoriented?

Can an atheist get insurance against acts of god?

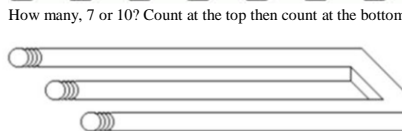
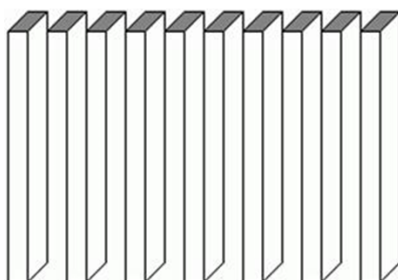
Contributed by Augie...

Three Men Book into a Motel.

The man behind the desk says the room is \$30, so each man pays \$10 and they go to their room. A while later the man behind the desk realizes the room is only \$25, so he sends the bellboy to the 3 guys' room with \$5. On the way, the bellboy can't figure out how to split \$5 evenly between 3 men, so he gives each man \$1 and keeps the other \$2 for himself. This means that the 3 men each paid \$9 for the room, which is a total of \$27, add the \$2 that the bellboy kept = \$29.

Where is the other dollar?

Contributed by Doug Walker...



Contributed by Michael Mabbitt...

Bottle of Wine

(Women will LOVE this one!)

A woman and a man are involved in a car accident on a snowy, cold Monday morning; it's a bad one. Both of their cars are demolished, but amazingly neither of them is hurt. God works in mysterious ways.

After they crawl out of their cars, the man is yelling about women drivers. The woman says, 'So, you're a man. That's interesting. I'm a woman. Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but we're unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should be friends and live in peace for the rest of our days.' Flattered, the man replies, 'Oh yes, I agree completely, this must be a sign from God! But you're still at fault...women shouldn't be allowed to drive.'

The woman continues, 'And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is demolished, but this bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune. She hands the bottle to the man. The man nods his head in agreement, opens it and drinks half the bottle and then hands it back to the woman. The woman takes the bottle, puts the cap back on and hands it back to the man.'

The man asks, 'Aren't you having any?' The woman replies, 'No. I think I'll just wait for the police...'

MORAL OF THE STORY: Women are clever, don't mess with them.



Contributed by Doug Walker...

Bicycle

He went to the liquor store Thursday afternoon on his bicycle, bought two bottles of wine and put them in the bicycle basket. As he was about to leave, he thought to himself that if he fell off the bicycle, the bottles would break. So, he drank all the wine before he cycled home. It turned out to be a very good decision, because he fell off his bicycle four times on the way home.

Contributed by Augie...

Definition of a Contemporary Term

A definition worth remembering – There's an annual contest at Bond University, Queensland, calling for the most appropriate definition of a contemporary term. This year's chosen term was "*political correctness*".

The winning student wrote: "Political correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and promoted by mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a piece of shit by the clean end."

How do you tell if you are a true Aussie? You know you are Australian if...

1. You know the meaning of the word 'girt'.
2. You believe that stubbies can be either drunk or worn.
3. You think it's normal to have a leader called Kevin.
4. You waddle when you walk due to the 53 expired petrol discount vouchers stuffed in your wallet or purse.
5. You've made a bong out of your garden hose rather than use it for something illegal such as watering the garden.
6. You believe it is appropriate to put a rubber in your son's pencil case when he first attends school.
7. When you hear that an American 'roots for his team' you wonder how often and with whom.
8. You understand that the phrase 'a group of women wearing black thongs' refers to footwear and may be less alluring than it sounds.
9. You pronounce Melbourne as 'Mel-bn'.
10. You pronounce Penrith as 'Pen-riff'.
11. You believe the 'l' in the word 'Australia' is optional.
12. You can translate: 'Dazza and Shazza played Acca Dacca on the way to Maccas.'
13. You believe it makes perfect sense for a nation to decorate its highways with large fibreglass bananas, prawns, and sheep.
14. You call your best friend 'a total bastard' but someone you really, truly despise is just 'a bit of a bastard'.
15. You think 'Woolloomooloo' is a perfectly reasonable name for a place.
16. You're secretly proud of our killer wildlife.
17. You believe it makes sense for a country to have a \$1 coin that's twice as big as its \$2 coin.
18. You understand that 'Wagga Wagga' can be abbreviated to 'Wagga' but 'Woy Woy' can't be called 'Woy'.
19. You believe that cooked-down axle grease makes a good breakfast spread.

20. You believe all famous Kiwis are Australian, until they stuff up, at which point they again become Kiwis.
21. Hamburger. Beetroot. Of course.
22. You know that certain words must, by law, be shouted out during any rendition of the Angels' song 'Am I Ever Gonna See Your Face Again'.
23. You believe, as an article of faith, that the confectionary known as the 'Wagon Wheel' has become smaller with every passing year.
24. You still don't get why the 'Labor' in 'Australian Labor Party' is not spelt with a 'u'.
25. You wear Ugg boots outside the house.
26. You believe, as an article of faith, that every important discovery in the world was made by an Australian but then sold off to the Yanks for a pittance.
27. You believe that the more you shorten someone's name the more you like them.
28. Whatever your linguistic skills, you find yourself able to order takeaway fluently in every Asian language.
29. You understand that 'excuse me' can sound rude, while 'scuse me' is always polite.
30. You know what it's like to swallow a fly, on occasion via your nose.
31. You understand that 'you' has a plural and that it's 'youse'.
32. You know it's not summer until the steering wheel is too hot to handle.
33. Your biggest family argument over the summer concerned the rules for beach cricket.
34. You shake your head in horror when companies try to market what they call 'Anzac cookies'.
35. You still think of Kylie as 'that girl off 'Neighbours'.
36. When returning home from overseas, you expect to be brutally strip-searched by Customs - just in case you're trying to sneak in fruit.
37. You believe the phrase 'smart casual' refers to a pair of black tracky-daks, suitably laundered.
38. You understand that all train timetables are works of fiction.
39. When working on a bar, you understand male customers will feel the need to offer an excuse whenever they order low-alcohol beer.
40. You get choked up with emotion by the first verse of the national anthem and then have trouble remembering the second.
41. You find yourself ignorant of nearly all the facts deemed essential in the government's new test for migrants.
42. You know, whatever the tourist books say, that no one says 'cobber'.

Contributed by Michael Mabbitt...

Irish Irish Irish

The Irish have the lowest stress rate because they do not understand the seriousness of most medical terminology.

This chart will help us understand...

- Artery** – The study of paintings.
- Bacteria** – Back door to cafeteria.
- Barium** – What doctors do when patients die.
- Benign** – What you be after you be eight.
- Caesarean Section** – A neighbourhood in Rome.
- Cat Scan** – Searching for Kitty.
- Cauterise** – Made eye contact with her.
- Colic** – A sheep dog.
- Coma** – A punctuation mark.
- Dilate** – To live long.
- Enema** – Not a friend.
- Fester** – Quicker than someone else.
- Fibula** – A small lie.
- Impotent** – Distinguished, well known.
- Labor Pain** – Getting hurt at work.
- Medical Staff** – A Doctor's cane.
- Morbid** – A higher offer.
- Nitrates** – Rates of pay for working at night, normally more money than days.
- Node** – I knew it.
- Outpatient** – A person who has fainted.
- Pelvis** – Second cousin to Elvis.
- Post-Operative** – A letter carrier.
- Recovery Room** – Place to do upholstery.
- Rectum** – Nearly killed him.
- Secretion** – Hiding something.
- Seizure** – Roman Emperor.
- Tablet** – A small table.
- Terminal Illness** – Getting sick at the airport.
- Tumor** – One, plus one more.
- Urine** – Opposite of you're out.



!!! Wanted !!!

Rags for the Lap Room

Old sheets, pillowcases, towels, T-shirts, other old clothing which can be cut up & used for cleaning the machines in the lap room.

Any absorbent material is good - cotton, terry towelling etc. No nylon or synthetic material that is non-absorbent.

Thanking you in advance.

The Cutters.



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The Toy Train

A mother was working in the kitchen and her son was playing in his room with a train. When his train was pulling to a stop, she heard him saying: "All of you sons of bitches who want to get off, get the hell off now, coz this is the last stop! And all you sons of bitches who are returning and want to get on, get your asses on the train now, coz we're going down the tracks!"

The mother went into the living room and told her son, "We don't use that kind of language in this house. Now go to your room and stay there for TWO HOURS. When you come out, you may go back and play with your train, but only if you use nice language."

Two hours later, the boy came out of the bedroom and resumed playing with his train. Soon the train stopped and the mother heard her son say "All passengers who are disembarking the train, please remember to take all of your belongings with you. We thank you for riding with us today and hope your trip was a pleasant one. We hope you will ride with us again soon."

She hears the little boy continue, "For those of you just boarding, we ask you to stow all of your hand luggage under your seat. Remember, there is no smoking on the train. We hope you will have a pleasant and relaxing journey with us today."

Then, the child added, "And for those of you who are pissed off about the TWO-HOUR delay, see the bitch in the kitchen."

Useful Internet Links

- 2016 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: Website no longer accessible.
- 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...](#)