



**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](mailto:ieverard@bigpond.net.au)**  
**Secretary: Claudia Gill. M: 0419 841 473 Email: [cjrgill@adam.com.au](mailto:cjrgill@adam.com.au)**  
**Treasurer: Russell Fischer. Email: [rfischer@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rfischer@bigpond.net.au)**

**September  
Edition  
2017**

# "Rockzette"

## Tea Tree Gully Gem & Mineral Club News

### President's Report

Hi All,  
 Ian is still lost somewhere in the wilds of Queensland.  
 We welcome John Hill back from his month in the UK.  
 It is with great sadness that the club reports the sudden passing of club stalwart Betty Knott on Friday August 11<sup>th</sup>. Betty was a former club President and had been an active member since joining the club in 1978. The club extends its sincere condolences to Malcolm and their three children – Debbie, Darryl and Kelly, and the extended family.  
 Cheers, Augie.

### Diary Dates / Notices

**2017**

**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.

**2018**

**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](mailto:Riverland Gem & Mineral Club)  
 Find on Facebook.

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**Subs Due Now**  
 Membership subs are due this month. Please pay before Sept. 30th.

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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.

### Notices

#### Happy Birthday

A new regular item for the Newsletter - **Happy Birthday** to 6 members celebrating September birthdays -

**Sue Beaucaris - 2nd**  
**Russell Fischer - 9th**  
**Pat Mabbitt - 14th**  
**Betty Anderson - 24th**  
**Peter Keller - 24th**  
**Rod Bungey - 27th**

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#### Members Out and About



A brief stopover for David, Gwen and Honey - Faceters take note.

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**For Sale**  
 Checkout the sales notices on the last page.

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### Club Activities / Fees.

#### Meetings

Club meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month except January.  
 Committee meetings start at 7 pm.  
 General meetings - arrive at 7.30 pm for 8 pm start.

#### Library

##### Librarian - Augie Gray

There is a 2-month limit on borrowed items.  
 When borrowing from the lending library, fill out the card at the back of the item, then place the card in the box on the shelf.  
 When returning items, fill in the return date on the card, then place the card at the back of the item.

#### Tuesday Faceting/Cabbing

Tuesdays - 10 am to 2 pm.  
 All are welcome. Supervised by Doug Walker (7120 2221).

#### Wednesday Silversmithing

Wednesdays - 7 pm to 9 pm.  
 All are welcome. Supervised by Augie Gray (8265 4815 / 0433 571 887).

#### Thursday Cabbing

Thursdays - 10 am to 2 pm.  
 All are welcome. Supervised by Augie Gray (8265 4815 / 0433 571 887).

#### Friday Silversmithing

Fridays - 9 am to 12 noon.  
 All are welcome. Supervised by John Hill (8251 1118).

#### Faceting/Cabbing/Silversmithing Fees:

A standard fee of \$3.00 per session applies – to be paid to the session supervisor.

In the interest of providing a safe working environment, it is necessary to ensure everyone using the workshops follow the rules set out in *Policy No. 1 - 20/11/2006*.

It is necessary that *Health and Safety* regulations are adhered to always.

Everyone using the workshop must ensure:

- 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.

**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.**

#### Club Subscriptions:

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

### Augie's September 2017 Mineral Selection.



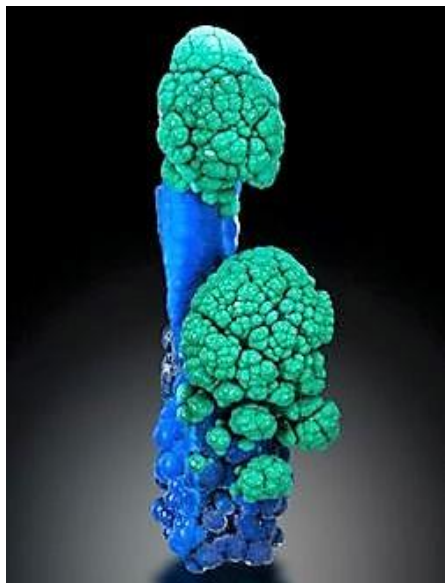
Amethyst sceptre.



Amethyst sceptre.



Malachite stalactite section – Katanga.



Azurite & Malachite - Morenci, Arizona.



Natrolite on Apophyllite - Poona, India.



Fluorite cube on Barite.



Halite.



Rhodochrosite stalactite - Argentina



Gypsum Selenite - Great Salt Plains State Park, Jet, Oklahoma.



Multiple Rutile stars in Quartz



Rutile & Haematite in Quartz.

Augie's September 2017 Mineral Selection  
Continued...



Strengeite.



Tourmaline - Paproke Mine, Afghanistan.



Tourmaline & Quartz - Minas Gerais, Brazil.



Tsavorite Garnet - Merelani Hills.



Wavellite - Maudlin Mountain, Arkansas.

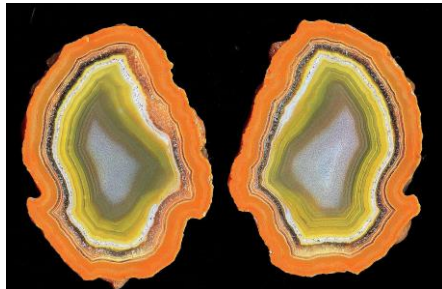
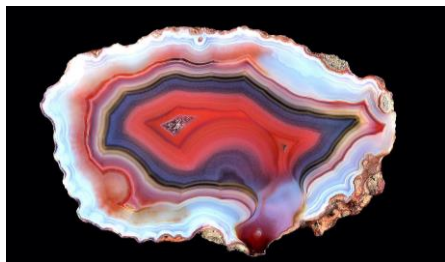
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Augie's September 2017 Agate Selection – Condor, Argentina.

CONDOR is one of the most colourful of the Argentinian Agates. It was discovered and named by Luis de los Santos in 1993. The Condor field is in the mountains near San Rafael, in Mendoza Province. Other Argentinian Agate fields are Canon de Atuel, Cerro Victoria, La Manea, Los Adobes, Los Leones, Los Nogales, Rio Colorado and Sierra Chachahuen.



Augie's September 2017 Agate Selection – Condor, Argentina. *Continued...*



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*Also contributed by Augie...*  
**A small selection of Brazil Agate discs from a member's personal collection of 300+.**



**A great selection of Augie's Lapidary/Silver Work...**



Obverse side of below.



Reverse side of above.



Contributed by Ellen and Gerry Dillon...

**Happy Wanderers 08/08/2017**

We are leaving the coast of Queensland tomorrow so it's time to let you know what we have been up to since our last report.



We stayed a few days in Cairns which has changed quite a bit since our last visit. On the promenade, instead of only mudflats they have now a very nice promenade with lovely lawns and a great swimming pool, for people to use free of charge.



We visited the city markets, also a trip up to Karunda markets, and a visit to the butterfly park up there. And, we had a great day out on the Barrier Reef to the Green Island, enjoying the beach, the rainforest walks, and the colourful fish in the crystal-clear water.



Moving along, we spent a day and night at Paronella Park. A Spanish migrant spent years building this charming estate which is now a major tourist attraction.



Our next stop was Tully where we had a very informative tour of the sugar cane Mill. We decided to spend a couple of nights at Tully's Head, and we did, but not before our GPS in the car send us on a crazy route along sugar cane fields until we ended up in a farmer's backyard.



The next few days were spent in Townsville where we had a lovely day on the Strand. There was a sculpture exhibition and a very interesting car and bike show. To top it off, they had a music festival in one of the nearby parks, which went on to the late evening.



cBar on the Strand, Townsville, Qld.



Unfortunately, that's where we think Gerry picked up his terrible cold. It got very bad and it is still hanging around a bit. And, of course, he was kind enough to share it with me. So, we both have been a bit of a sad pair the last week or so.

Still it didn't stop us from moving around and visiting Airlie Beach. The evidence of cyclone Debbie is unfortunately very much to be seen. We did go out onto the Whitsunday Islands for the day where we were lucky to see a couple of whales, also quite a few goannas on Whitehaven Beach.



On Sunday, here in Mackay, we had a nice day out on the marina with a lovely birthday lunch for Gerry; just the two of us ☺.

Hopefully we can get rid of the cold soon, because the last few days Gerry has started to miss his armchair! Anyway, this is all for now, must finish the washing, etc.

And tomorrow, as said at the beginning, we will continue our journey home which will still take a couple of weeks.

Cheers to you all,  
Gerry and Ellen.  
The happy wanderers.

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Contributed by Ian Everard...

**Members Out and about  
Ian’s Quartz Fossicking Safari, Queensland.  
Georgetown/Croydon/Mary Kathleen/Cloncurry areas.  
9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017.**



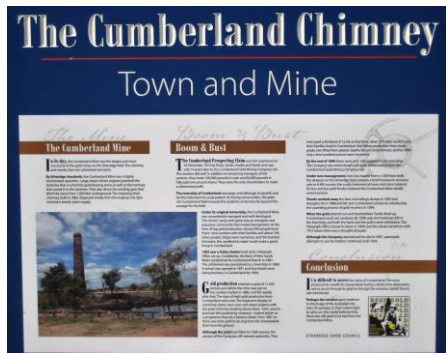
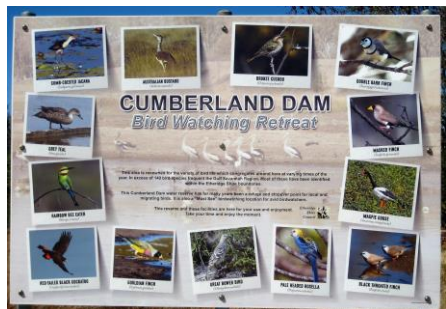
Cumberland Mine, Georgetown, QLD. (Van and car not Ian’s).



Water lilies on mine dam, Cumberland Mine, Georgetown, QLD.



Water lilies on mine dam, Cumberland Mine, Georgetown, QLD.



Remains of a Chinese Temple, Croydon, QLD.



Mine machinery, Croydon, QLD.



'Gullfander', Croydon, QLD.



'Gullfander', Croydon, QLD.



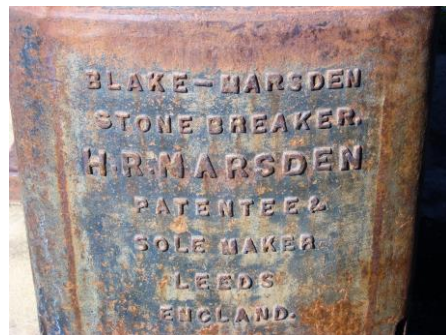
Remains of a steam locomotive used on the Normanton to Croydon service, located at Croydon, QLD.



Remains of another steam locomotive used on the Normanton to Croydon service, located at Croydon, QLD.



Mining relics, Croydon, QLD.



Mining relics, Croydon, QLD.



Stamping battery, Croydon, QLD.



**Ian’s Quartz Fossicking Safari – Continued...**



Steam Engine, Croydon, QLD.



Old cemetery, Croydon, QLD.



Chinese headstone in an old cemetery, Croydon, QLD.



Another Chinese headstone in an old cemetery, Croydon, QLD.



Another Chinese headstone in an old cemetery, Croydon, QLD.



The last of Croydon’s 36 Hotels, Croydon, QLD.



Mary Kathleen Open Cut Mine, Mary Kathleen, QLD.



Mary Kathleen Open Cut Mine, Mary Kathleen, QLD.



Quartz crystals, Rosebud Mine, Cloncurry Shire, QLD.



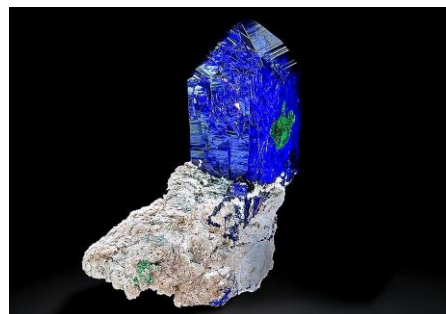
Quartz crystals, Rosebud Mine, Cloncurry Shire, QLD.

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**Mel’s Facebook Sourced Mineral Specimen Selection for September 2017.**



Aquamarine and muscovite on cleavelandite, Haramosh, Pakistan. Source: Amazing Geologist. Credit: Paul K. Bordovsky.



Azurite from Milpillas Mine, Cuitaca, Mun. de Santa Cruz, Sonora, Mexico. Source: Amazing Geologist. Credit: Rudolf Watzl.



Baryte from Clara Mine, Rankach valley, Oberwolfach, Wolfach, Black Forest, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Source: Amazing Geologist. Credit: © Edgar Müller.



Benitoite on Natrolite with black Neptunites from Dallas Gem Mine, New Idria District, Diablo Range, San Benito Co., California, USA. Source: Amazing Geologist. Credit: The Mineral Gallery, Inc.

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Contributed by Rodrick Bungey...

**Rodrick’s and Iris’s Mid-Northern Safari - July 2017.  
Coober Pedy, S.A.**



Iris – Coober Pedy underground BBQ



Riba’s, ‘underground accommodation the Coober Pedy way’ - entry to our accommodation.



Riba’s Accommodation, Coober Pedy.



Riba’s Underground Accommodation – our room.



Riba’s Underground Accommodation – our room.



Riba’s Underground Accommodation – underground camping.



Riba’s Underground Accommodation – underground camping.



Underground Accommodation – our room - Rodrick.



Underground luxury!



Barbeque Inn Underground, Coober Pedy, SA. - Mediterranean Restaurant.

**Rodrick’s and Iris’s Mid-Northern Safari - July 2017.  
Gemtree, N.T.**



On the way to Gemtree, Central Australian Gemfields.



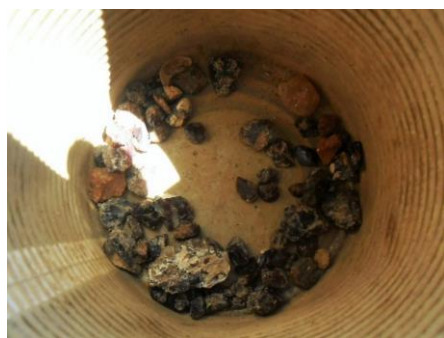
Plenty Highway, N.T. - narrow road on the way to Gemtree.



Gemtree, is located 140kms North-East of Alice Springs, N.T. – Accommodation, store, fuel, supplies, and gemstone resource to those people holidaying/touring/fossicking in the Harts Range area, N.T. - Central Australian Gemfields.



At Gemtree looking for Garnets.



Garnet (Almandine).



At Gemtree, Rodrick looking for the colour of Garnets.



At Gemtree, Rodrick wet sieving garnet laden gravel in search of stones to facet.

**Finke River, N.T.**



Finke River, N.T. - no water.



Finke River, N.T. - dry as?



Finke River, N.T.



Finke River, N.T.

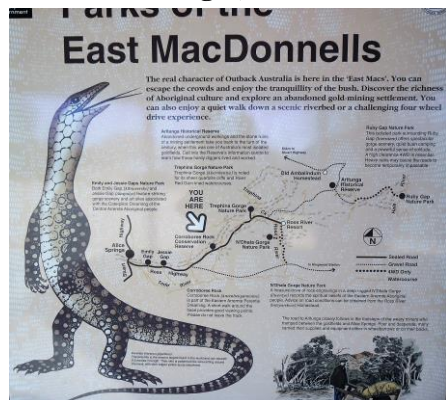


Finke River, N.T.



Wild Horses in the Finke River, N.T.

**Jessie Gap, East MacDonnell Ranges, N.T.**



### Rodrick’s and Iris’s Mid-Northern Safari - July 2017.

Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve,  
East MacDonnell Ranges, N.T.



Corroboree Rock,

**Owen Springs Park**  
(formerly Owen Springs Station, West MacDonnell Ranges [Alice Springs Region] N.T.)

### Owen Springs History

In a country where few people had been before, roads to the high ranges included the highways. They provided relatively safe paths to the low and good could be very hard to find and good and good, close to the border of evidence. This is a story of the people who were the people who were the people.



Owen Springs History



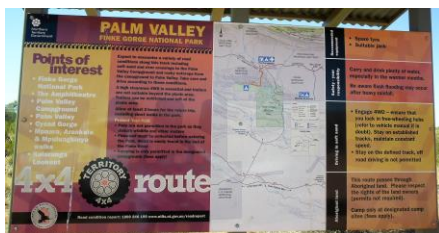
Owen Springs Reserve



Old Owen Springs Station Homestead Ruin.

### Palm Valley

(West MacDonnell Ranges Region, N.T.)



Map of Palm Valley - Finke Gorge National Park, N.T.



Road to Palm Valley.



Palm Valley.



Rodrick on a Palm Valley rock.

**Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve**  
Hugh (75km South of Alice Springs) N.T.



### Ross River Resort



Reception, Restaurant, Gift Shop, etc., Ross River Resort.



Ross River Resort – Road to Ruby Valley.

### Alice Springs Telegraph Station



Trail Station Cafe, Alice Springs Telegraph Station.



Outbuildings, Alice Springs Telegraph Station.



Outbuildings, Alice Springs Telegraph Station.

*Contributed with permission and introduced by Mel Jones...*

The following article, 'The Railway to Bourke – The Long Way Around' was written by Garry Reynolds... who also wrote 'Railway to Heaven' featured in our TTGGMC Newsletter, April 2017 Edition, pages 12 to 14. And, Garry also featured in an earlier TTGGMC Newsletter, July 2015 Edition, pages 5 to 7, as the Concierge on a special train tour '6029 Southern Winter Steam Safari, 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015'; an event that Janet and I participated in.

Like Garry's previous article, I found this article both interesting and informative. While the title is about Bourke in New South Wales, there is a significant inclusion of South Australian railway and river boat history.

Because this is a long article, I have split it over two newsletters. Regards, Mel.

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## The Railway to Bourke The Long Way Around by Garry Reynolds

Part 2 of 2  
Continued from the August Edition...

### The Camel Trains

Travelling across country by boat to woolsheds was a risky business. So, innovation arose again. Bullock teams were English animals not terribly well-suited to operating in this dry landscape, especially during prolonged droughts of which there were many.

Soon the river trade in the Far West of NSW was complimented by camel trains that were very useful in this vast and arid landscape. Camels were first introduced into Australia in the 1840's to assist in exploring the inland. Between 1840 and 1907, up to 20,000 camels were imported from India. Now they have multiplied and become a major menace. But back then they were needed as were skilled and knowledgeable handlers.

Of course, there were no 457 visas in those times, but there were camel drivers who travelled the northern Indian trade routes and were subjects of the British Empire.



Camel teams at Bourke in 1900. Source: Camel photos.

They were generally of Indian, Pakistani and Afghan descent. Most were Muslims and they became British Empire immigrants to fill the gap in the labour market.

India was also the source of the Australian stock horse known as the whaler. It was adopted in NSW and used in the Outback including around Bourke by stockmen. The Whaler went on to gain even greater fame as the preferred mount for the Light Horsemen.

For long-distance outback cartage, most pastoralists favoured camels over horses and bullocks. For a start, they could travel for several days without water and eat poorer quality pastures along the way. As well, having padded feet enabled them to traverse long sandy stretches. It was found that the camels could travel relatively quickly over sand hills, creek beds and stony plains as easily as a road of which there were few. In essence, camel trains travelled much faster and cheaper than bullock teams and could also withstand drought times when feed and water were scarce. From the 1880s, Cobb and Co even hitched up teams of camels to haul their passenger coach services to Bourke. The town eventually became a key camel trading centre.

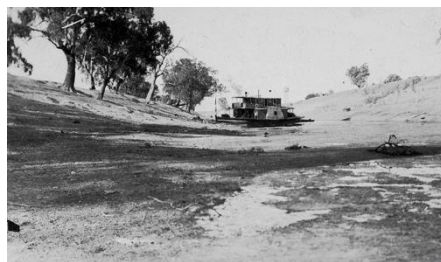
### The Railway to Bourke Imperative

Despite its progress, the river trade did not persist as the most important permanent feature of the transport landscape in the Far West of NSW.

Looking to the 'Inside County', pastoralists and politicians could see a quicker, more reliable and efficient way of handling freight and passengers – a railway – and it seemed every community in NSW wanted one in the boom time of the 1880s.

As well, during several decades of successful steamboat trade on the Darling, a political reality arose that became too great to ignore for the representatives in the NSW Parliament.

Intense inter-colonial competition was siphoning many of the benefits of trade through NSW to ports and integrated railway connections in South Australia and Victoria; designed to do just that.



Stranded paddle steamer near Bourke. Source: Bing Images.

The environmental reality was that river flow on the Darling River was intensely seasonal.

During a normal year, water levels varied from so high that the River broke its banks and it was hard to identify the River's course. At other times of the year, there was so little water in the Darling that it became a dry bed linking a string of waterholes.

Railways in Victoria and South Australia were already complementing the river boat trade. At Echuca, the line to Melbourne was completed in 1864. The 1870s saw substantial growth in the wool industry in NSW with the wool clip growing from 33,500,000 kilograms to more than 72,500,000 kilograms. Wool from pastoral properties along the rivers far into New South Wales could now be taken to Echuca Wharf, transferred from paddle-steamers onto trains, then taken to Melbourne as the lowest cost way for export. The Port of Sydney was missing out all around.

The South Australian Government reacted to the railway being built to Echuca by establishing a new river port at Morgan and building a direct steam railway connection to Adelaide in 1878. This port was designed to capture more river trade, especially that from the Darling River since Morgan was much closer than Echuca to the junction of the Murray and the Darling and promised faster transport of wool.

Within a few years, six trains a day were running between Morgan and Adelaide and the five steam cranes on the wharf were operating 24 hours a day transferring cargo between trains and paddle-steamers.

Meanwhile, NSW was still being consumed in just extending its main trunk lines to the inside country rather than the outback. Finally, in 1885, a pioneer standard gauge railway was completed between Nyngan and Bourke. Now New South Wales could capture the pastoral trade previously carried along the Darling to Melbourne (via Echuca) and Adelaide (via Morgan) and divert it to Sydney. Paddle-steamers lost business.



Bourke Railway Station built on a rise to protect from floods. Source: Flickr

However, the timing in some ways as far as trade was not opportune for the Bourke railway as wool production and the economy around Bourke contracted with major...  
Continued next page...

droughts including the worst in the Colony of NSW since the first fleet arrived. As well, record floods hit Bourke as Australia entered a severe economic depression in the 1890s. Many rural dwellers were facing ruin as massive floodwaters spread inedible and poisonous noxious weeds which started to take over the landscape.



Bourke Railway Station in 1890 flood. Source: Flickr.

Financiers were keen to oversee these properties owing to the massive debts they carried. They reached levels where many families had effectively become managers rather than owners.

Invariably, properties became severely overgrazed as the managers desperately sought to generate cash flows to service just the interest on the growing debts. In some cases, further borrowing was incurred to make the physical improvements justified by the large amounts of capital locked up in the land. Costly improvements to increase carrying capacity included fencing and dams.

Controlling feral animals and noxious weeds was a continual challenge and increased the level of overall indebtedness to the banks and pastoral companies. The railway to Bourke remained a life line in these tight times with the low freight rates charged by the NSWGR.

In the past, while pressures of drought and poor environmental practices lowered productivity, the financial pressures were alleviated by the rising price of wool. But in the decade leading up to Federation in 1901, the wool price fell as part of the general economic depression. Many properties were worth less than the money advanced on them. Some major banks and pastoral companies were bankrupted as farmers could not repay their debts or were just simply driven off their land by the financial, seasonal and environmental pressures.

In the past, while pressures of drought and poor environmental practices lowered productivity, the financial pressures were alleviated by the rising price of wool. But in the decade leading up to Federation in 1901, the wool price fell as part of the general economic depression. Many properties were worth less than the money advanced on them. Some major banks and pastoral companies were bankrupted as farmers could not repay

their debts or were just simply driven off their land by the financial, seasonal and environmental pressures.

It was apparent that much of the agricultural system around Bourke developed in the good times of the nineteenth century with the river boat trade was unsustainable into the twentieth despite the railway. Poverty and distress would continue unless production and environmental management was changed especially in marginal areas like Bourke.

Despite this knowledge, things got worse before they got better. As farm labour was laid off, uncontrolled rabbit plagues hammered the already overgrazed landscapes. The vermin ate the few remaining roots in many paddocks, leading to mass erosion. The impact on the environment was worsened as enormous dust storms carried the soils' red clay particles skyward as far as New Zealand, leaving dunes of sand to bury the fences and silt the dams.

The soil was laid bare for invasion by new noxious weeds such as the prickly pear which had been brought to Australia as an ornamental plant. The fondness of Australians for the British Isles and its plants and animals such as rabbits and foxes, had led many property owners to try to re-create their little piece of the mother country with disastrous results around Bourke.

In desperation to combat the rabbits' devastation, the large squatters resorted to using highly toxic poisons that had long-lasting residual effects in the landscape. Arsenic, strychnine, and acetic acid were employed to lace water holes, bran, chaff, stacks of sandalwood and even jam. Phosphorised grain was also laid about the countryside, indiscriminately killing everything that ate it - native or introduced. By the early 1900s, even the caretakers of the precious waters at the Government tanks (dams) along stock routes were forced to adulterate them with poison.

Just as it was thought that the impacts on the landscape could not get any worse, a new problem arose. If the toxic carcasses were left on what remained of the soil and in the waterways, they would poison the environment for decades. The pastoralists and selectors felt they could only burn the carcasses to manage this long-term threat. However, the impact of decades of over-clearing had left little timber around Bourke, requiring it to be carted long distances even by rail to incinerate the poisoned heaps of vermin and native birds and animals.

Some graziers around Bourke simply surrendered their outback leases and walked off their once great stations.

Denuded by rabbit plagues and overgrazed under the pressure of debt, their lands had turned to dustbowls and sand drifts.

In the record drought years between 1894 to 1902 over 30 million sheep disappeared from the NSW flock and Bourke was one of the worst affected areas. Livestock of those rural dwellers that remained survived on saltbush and mulga. In the worst of the bad seasons they turned to pig face which under the title 'wild spinach' entered the menus of many families and bushmen who battled the isolation, the heat and the flies which bred up on the rotting carcasses.

The town of Bourke too was caught in a vortex of economic and social depression seeing widespread misery.

In this desert-like landscape, by 1900 hundreds of camels were being used to transport the depleted wool clip to the rail head at Bourke and imports of expensive feed for stock horses.

The era ended when the camels were replaced by motor trucks in the 1930s and the last commercial river-boat left Bourke in 1931. The railway offered a more reliable, faster service to pastoralists and to the general community.

### **The Rise and Fall of the Bourke Railway**

Bourke Railway Station was initially a grand structure which eventually had several substantial buildings with underground rainwater tanks as well as two carriage docks, a goods shed, engine shed, coal stage, an 18-metre turntable and a 442 metre platform. It was located a kilometre from the Darling and a pipeline from the River fed into a water tank for locomotives.

The New South Wales Government Railways used to load livestock from around the Far West at Bourke Railway Station's extensive trucking yards. There was also a small branch into the Tancred Meatworks which at its peak was one of the busiest abattoirs in Australia. As well, many sheep stations and farms had their own platforms and there was 33kms of sidings along the line.

During the Boer War, stations like Bourke were the farewell venue for the community to come together to see their young men off to fight in South Africa. Once these naïve boys had passed the riding and shooting test at Bourke, the editor of the 'Banner' wrote:

"...amidst a deafening cheer the train steams lowly out of the station carrying on the first step to the tented field and the fierce delight of war eight as gallant lads as ever shouldered musket or shed life their life for Britain's Queen, Britain's..."

*Continued next page...*

Honour and Britain's right, the triumph of justice as well as the imperishable glory of Britain's flag."

I don't think he was a Republican!

There are yarns told by old Bourke residents which have a strong element of truth in them from the steam era during World War 2. Students traveling back to boarding school in Sydney and rural towns in the 'Inside Country' in contrast to 'The Outback', tell of whole trains waiting for soldiers to finish their beer at pubs along the line.

Apparently, it was all a very civilised practice as the locomotive driver would blow a warning whistle, then another when it was time to go, but as a lot of the boys were heading off to war and risked never returning, the crew was inclined to let them finish their beer. Interesting timetabling!



Bourke Station refuelling point for the usual 48 class visitors in the last years. Source: Bing Images.

The Railways provided an especially valuable service in times of frequent drought, shipping stock out or bringing feed in usually at concessionary rates.

There were also the challenges of massive floods spreading across the flat countryside. It was a major flood in 1989 that led to the long-term cessation of rail services between Nyngan and Bourke requiring what proved to be a prohibitive \$12m in funding for repairs of the lightly-used facility.

The NSW Government was keen to permanently close the line but local councils successfully resisted by promoting the prospect of mining development.

### Bourke Today

Today, the Bourke area still runs large numbers of sheep and some cattle as well as having a little fruit growing and some cotton farming.

The population of the town is around 2,000 people. A large influx of displaced Aboriginal people came into Bourke in the 1940s, so today there are 21 recognised Indigenous language groups.

Over the many decades we have covered, the breakthroughs that led to Bourke's growth and the building of the railway to the town had much to do with innovation around transportation.

Today its challenges are predominantly social and involve innovation around collaboration.

Unfortunately, Bourke has the highest assault rate in NSW along with break-ins and car thefts. On 2 February 2013, an investigation by reporters from the 'Sydney Morning Herald' noted that when compared with United Nation's data, the crime rate of the town made it more dangerous per capita than any country in the world.

Last year, the ABC's Four Corners focused on Bourke's bold experiment to save its young people from a life of crime.

The program said that the new endeavours were based on a ground-breaking American approach called 'Justice Reinvestment'. It tries to prevent crime through shifting resources out of the prison system and into community programs to address the problems at the source.

The approach has been so successful in places like Texas, that the US State has actually been closing prisons down.

The big question for Bourke is will it work here in outback Australia?

Backed by wealthy philanthropists, not government, the community is putting the theory to the test with practical ideas, like offering free driving lessons. It's diverting people from jail time as driving without a license is a chronic problem in the outback. It's about keeping kids out of institutions. And it's also trying to change attitudes, prompting the men of Bourke to take a long hard look at themselves in how they behave and need to take on responsible roles in their families and community.

If the Bourke people can rise to the occasion, as they had to do when confronted with massive transport challenges in the past to overcome their isolation and connect to the rest of the world, they may have a chance in pulling it off.

Meanwhile, the defunct Bourke Railway Station serves as a monument to past endeavours but the need to adapt and move on with changing times.



Trains have not run here for many years at Bourke Station despite its relatively modern appearance. Source: Bing Images.

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Contributed by Doug Walker...

## Anagrams

This has to be one of the cleverest E-mails I've received in a while. Someone out there must be "deadly" at *Scrabble*.

**Presbyterian:** when you rearrange the letters: **best in prayer.**

**Astronomer:** when you rearrange the letters: **moon starrer.**

**Desperation:** when you rearrange the letters: **a rope ends it.**

**The eyes:** when you rearrange the letters: **they see.**

**George bush:** when you rearrange the letters: **he bugs gore.**

**The Morse code:** when you rearrange the letters: **here come dots.**

**Dormitory:** when you rearrange the letters: **dirty room.**

**Slot machines:** when you rearrange the letters: **cash lost in me.**

**Animosity:** when you rearrange the letters: **is no amity.**

**Election results:** when you rearrange the letters: **lies - let's recount.**

**Snooze alarms:** when you rearrange the letters: **alas! No more z 's.**

**A decimal point:** when you rearrange the letters: **I'm a dot in place.**

**The earthquakes:** when you rearrange the letters: **that queer shake.**

**Eleven plus two:** when you rearrange the letters: **twelve plus one.**

**And for the grand finale...**

**Mother-in-law:** when you rearrange the letters: **woman Hitler.**

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**FEATURES**



**Musgrave Province exhumation history**

A new study reveals a complex Phanerozoic low-temperature thermal history for the eastern Musgrave Province and highlights its value for understanding fault and exhumation history.

[Read more](#)

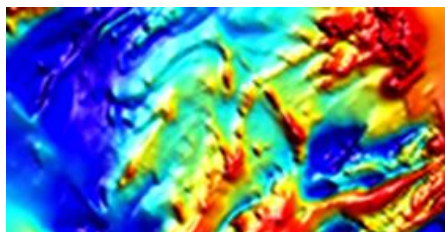


**Fluid events affecting Olympic Cu–Au Province**

A thermochronology study of drillhole SH 7 indicates alteration occurred at the same time as the major mineralisation event in the Olympic Cu–Au Province – potentially an encouraging sign for future mineral exploration in this vicinity.

[Read more](#)

**NEWS**



**Gawler Craton Airborne Survey update**

The first data from the world’s largest high-resolution airborne geophysical and terrain imaging program is imminent and will be fundamental in reinterpreting the geological structure of the Gawler Craton.

[Read more](#)



**PACE Gas update**

Fifteen applications were received for Round 2 of the South Australian Government’s \$24 million PACE Gas fund and are now being evaluated.

[Read more](#)



**Alex Blood to head Minerals**

Alex Blood has commenced as Executive Director of the Mineral Resources Division.

[Read more](#)



**Tapping geoscience energy in the Curnamona**

Cross-border collaboration in the Curnamona Province has been strengthened following the recent UNCOVER Curnamona conference in Broken Hill.

[Read more](#)



**New Wearlife Performance CRCp leads way in solving abrasion wear**

South Australia welcomes a powerful new collaboration tackling the multi-billion dollar issue of abrasion wear that goes hand-in-hand with drilling exploration and mining.

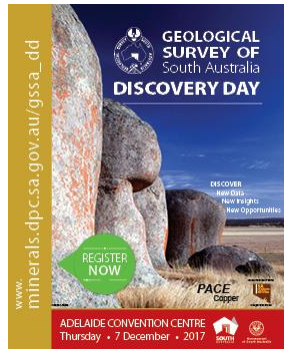
[Read more](#)



**Industry news**

A binding agreement has been signed to sell the Arrrium companies, including the Whyalla Steelworks, to London-based GFG Alliance, which is led by Sanjeev Gupta.

[Read more](#)



[Read more](#)

Billboards contributed by Augie Gray...





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

### No. 14. Blue Lake Cave, Brazil.

[Blue Lake Cave, Brazil: Click here...](#)

The Gruta do Lago Azul (Blue Lake Cave) has a main hall with a floor that slopes to a subterranean lake over 50 metres (160ft) long. The entrance is circular, about 40 metres (130ft) in diameter, illuminating the lake with sunshine. Between the months of September and February the waters take on an intense blue colour, for which the lake is named. Fossil bones have been found of large mammals that inhabited the region for more than 12,000 years in the [Pleistocene](#).



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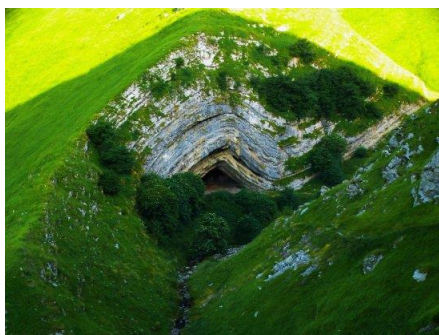
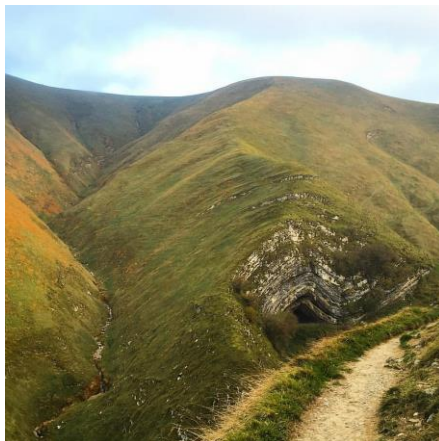
### 15. Cueva De Arpea, Spain.

[Cueva De Arpea, Spain: Click here...](#)

The following YouTube videos provide an interesting external view of the cave area and district. Click/tap on the following links...

[Grotte d'Harpea - Cueva de Arpea 15-07-2013: Click here...](#)

[HARPEA une balade familiale: Click here...](#)



\*\*\*

### 16. Crystal Cave, Iceland.

[Ice Caves/Tunnels in Iceland: Click here...](#)

A visit to a crystal cave is a once in a lifetime experience. The blue light seeping through the dense ice is unique and it gives the cave an adventurous atmosphere. This is definitely a must see for all and especially photographic enthusiasts!



\*\*\*

Contributed by Mel Jones...

**Tales from a former SAR Train Driver.  
'Peachna Dance'.**

written by Norm Hann 1980s/90s.

Motor vehicles with steering and road wheels removed and replaced with fixed flanged wheels for rail transit (Motor Inspection Cars, M.I.C. for short), were driven by qualified firemen when used for inspection work, pay cars, or used for taking relief crews out to trains.



M.I.C. 127 was photographed in more conventional circumstances on an inspection trip. Photo courtesy Peterborough History Group.

Mudrock and Chas had the job of tarpaulins and ropes count on the West Coast, and arrived at Lock, a small town on the summit of a large hill, to stable the car for the night on the end of the triangle; a line used for reversing engines. They eventually arrived at the pub for a few refreshing beers. A few went to a few more, 'til after a while, Mudrock was chirping like a cricket. As always at these times Mudrock was capable of his best thinking, and catching sight of a poster advertising a local dance back twenty miles at a place called Peachna, he asked Chas, "How would you like to go dancing?" Chas reckoned it was a bloody good idea, but how in hell could they get there. Mudrock looked at him, like he had either crawled out from under a rock or come down in the last shower, except that it hadn't rained there in God knows how long and the place was as dry and dusty as all hell. He says, "What's the matter with you, yer drongo, we've got a bloody taxi ain't we?"

After a few more beers, Chas, his fear of departmental authority washed away, loaded up his arms with a few bottles and said to Mudrock, "What's keepin' you? Let's go". Cleaned, changed and charged, they opened the switch points and, so that none could hear, pushed the M.I.C. onto the mainline and down the hill in the direction of Peachna, till, gaining enough momentum, they hopped aboard. When they were down the hill, out of sound range of Lock, they started the motor and made time expectantly towards the local hop.

Unfortunately, on a curve about halfway along the journey the M.I.C. derailed and headed through the sand for the scrub, one hell of a mess. Misdemeanours or catastrophes affect individual blokes differently.

This had the effect of sobering Chas, but all

it did to Mudrock was to set his mind working faster. Always a good man in a tight spot. Chas voiced his fear of getting the sack. "Shut yer cake hole, and give us a lift with this, yer winja", says Mudrock grabbing hold of an old wooden sleeper. "What you doing?", asks Chas and Mudrock stands up to his full height, looks him square in the eye and very politely explains to him that he's gonna build a road under the bl--dy M.I.C. 'til he gets it back on the bl--dy, rails of course! What else?

Three-quarters of an hour later, the M.I.C. is back on the rails, when Chas asked, "What are we doing now?" Mud replied quite seriously, "we're going to the bloody dance, ain't we?" Down at Peachna, with the M.I.C. parked in the passing siding, the boys cleaned up at the rainwater tank at the back of the dance hall which, incidentally, was the only building in the locality; Peachna being a siding only.

A few dances and many grogs later, the two boys said goodnight to the blokes and sheilas they'd met and kept company with for most of the night and early morning hours. Mudrock telling a lovely looking blonde that he'd take her home, only he thought sixty miles was a bit far for him to hike back as his taxi only ran on the rails, and wasn't one damn bit of good on them country roads.

After goodbyes, Chas and Mudrock were left on their own, and set about to wind down the turntable gear under the M.I.C. to turn it back in the direction of Lock, when to their mutual dismay they discovered that the turntable was missing. Chas again did a panic. "What'll we do Mud?" he says. "Open the road", was his answer and Mudrock backed the M.I.C. out onto the main line and stopped. He stepped out and picked up a huge limestone rock. With the car's motor not yet running he placed the stone over the accelerator and said to Chas, "You've got the back seat, wake me up when we get to Lock", and with these words he started the motor and slipped in the clutch. With reverse gear engaged, the car moved backwards. Mudrock lay down on the seat and closed his eyes.

The rest of the incident was told by the Station Master at Lock. "It was just breaking daylight and I was walking across the yard with a tin of wheat to feed my chickens, when I heard this Whir— Whir— Whir—, clickety clack, and I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the M.I.C. coming up the hill backwards and not a bugger in it. It stopped me dead. Then I took off on an interception course, my tin of fowl feed going to the wind. Eventually, I could jump onto the running board and there was bloody Mudrock and Chas, dead to the world snoring their bloody heads off..."

\*\*\*

Contributed by Doug Walker...

**Serious Thoughts from the Shower**

If you attempt to rob a bank you won't have any trouble with rent/food bills for the next 10 years, whether-or-not you are successful.

Do twins ever realise that one of them is unplanned?

What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?

If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?

Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C? - Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?

Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.

Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.

The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".

100 years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.

Your future self is watching you right now through memories.

The doctors that told Stephen Hawking he had two years to live in 1953 are probably dead.

If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.

Many animals probably need glasses, but nobody knows it.

If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.

If 2/2/22 falls on a Tuesday, we'll just call it "2's Day." **(It does fall on a Tuesday).**

\*\*\*

Billboards contributed by Augie...



Contributed by Augie Gray...

**It's always better to get a second opinion.**

Ever since I was a child, I've always had a fear of someone under my bed at night. So, I went to a shrink and told him: "I've got problems. Every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it. I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy."

"Just put yourself in my hands for one year," said the shrink, "Come talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of those fears."

"How much do you charge?" I asked. "One hundred fifty dollars per visit," replied the doctor.

"I'll think about it," I said.

Six months later the doctor met me on the street, and asked, "Why didn't you come to see me about those fears you were having?" I responded, "Well, \$150 a visit, three times a week for a year, is \$23,400.00. A bartender cured me for \$10.00. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought a new pickup truck."

With a bit of an attitude he said, "Is that so, and how, may I ask, did a bartender cure you?"

I enlightened him with, "He told me to cut the legs off the bed. Ain't nobody under there now."

\*\*\*

Contributed by Michael Mabbitt...

**Dead Penguins - I never knew this!**

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica? Where do they go? Wonder no more! It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird which lives an extremely ordered and complex life. The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as maintain a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life.

If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried. Male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:



"Freeze a jolly good fellow."  
"Freeze a jolly good fellow."

Continued next column...

*You really didn't believe that I knew anything about penguins, did you? It's so easy to fool old people.*

*I am sorry, an urge came over me that made me do it! Oh! quit whining ... I'm old and I fell for it too!*

\*\*\*

Contributed by Doug Walker...

**Did you know?**

**A Shot of Whiskey**

In the old west a .45 cartridge for six-gun cost 12 cents, so did a glass of whiskey. If a cowhand was low on cash he would often give the bartender a cartridge in exchange for a drink. This became known as a "shot" of whiskey.

**The Whole Nine Yards**

American fighter planes in WW2 had machine guns that were fed by a belt of cartridges. The average plane held belts that were 27 feet (9 yards) long. If the pilot used up all his ammo he was said to have given it the whole nine yards.

**Buying the Farm**

During WW1 soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm so if you died you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

**Iron Clad Contract**

This came about from the ironclad ships of the Civil War. It meant something so strong it could not be broken.

**Passing the Buck / The Buck Stops Here**

Most men in the early west carried a jack knife made by the Buck knife company. When playing poker, it was common to place one of these Buck knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer the deck of cards and the Knife were given to the new dealer. If this person didn't want to deal he would "pass the buck" to the next player. If that player accepted then "the buck stopped there".

**Riff Raff**

The Mississippi River was the main way of traveling from north to south. Riverboats carried passengers and freight but they were expensive so most people used rafts. Everything had the right of way over rafts which were considered cheap. The steering oar on the rafts was called a "riff" and this transposed into riff-raff, meaning low class.

**Cobweb**

The Old English word for "spider" was "cob".

**Ship State Rooms**

Traveling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins on the boats were not numbered. Instead they were named after states. To this day cabins on ships are called staterooms.

**Sleep Tight**

Early beds were made with a wooden frame. Ropes were tied across the frame in a criss-cross pattern. A Straw mattress was then put on top of the ropes. Over time the ropes stretched, causing the bed to sag. The owner would then tighten the ropes to get a better night's sleep.

**Showboat**

These were floating theatres built on a barge that was pushed by a steamboat. These played small towns along the Mississippi River. Unlike the boat shown in the movie "Showboat" These did not have an engine. They were gaudy and attention grabbing which is why we say someone who is being the life of the party is showboating".

**Over A Barrel**

In the days before CPR a drowning victim would be placed Face down over a barrel and the barrel would be rolled back and forth in a effort to empty the lungs of water. It was rarely effective. If you are over a barrel you are in deep trouble.

**Barge In**

Heavy freight was moved along the Mississippi in large barges pushed by steamboats. These were hard to control and would sometimes swing into piers or other boats. People would say they "barged in".

**Hogwash**

Steamboats carried both people and animals. Since pigs smelled so bad they would be washed before being put on board. The mud and other filth that was washed off was considered useless "hog wash".

**Curfew**

The word "curfew" comes from the French phrase "couvre-feu", which means "cover the fire". It was used to describe the time of blowing out all lamps and candles. It was later adopted into Middle English as "curfeu", which later became the modern "curfew". In the early American colonies homes had no real fireplaces so a fire was built in the centre of the room. In order to make sure a fire did not get out of control during the night it was required that, by an agreed upon time, all fires would be covered with a clay pot called-a "curfew".

**Barrels of Oil**

When the first oil wells were drilled they had made no Provision for storing the liquid so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil rather than gallons.

**Hot Off the Press**

As the paper goes through the rotary printing press friction causes it to heat up. Therefore, if you grab the paper right off the press It is hot. The expression means to get immediate Information.

\*\*\*

### Mineral Sale

On the 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. to the 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

Word has it that there are over 500 Boxes of goodies to be had at the sale.

**THERE WILL BE NO EARLY BIRD SALE**

The sale will be held at: - 10 Krieg Street, Nuriootpa. South Australia.

Ph. 08 8562 2706 Mob. 0429 622 706

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### !!! 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.*

\*\*\*



### Closing Down Sale

After 7 years of exhibiting the most colourful jewellery collection assembled in one shop, we are closing our doors, coinciding with the expiry of our lease.

### Silk Route

(formerly Aurum Jewellery)

254 Rundle Street, ADELAIDE.

**SHOP CLOSE DATE 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**ALL JEWELLERY DISCOUNTED A MINIMUM OF 50%,**

Display stands, busts, the safe, desks, chairs, lights, electronic locking systems, floor cabinets, floor coverings, office cupboards, even the air conditioner and the laminated walls and ceiling panels themselves. lockable glass display boxes ideal for collectibles.

**PHONE TONY ON 0409 123 642 FOR ANY ENQUIRIES OR REQUESTS**

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Contributed by Michael Mabbitt...

### Carnation Milk

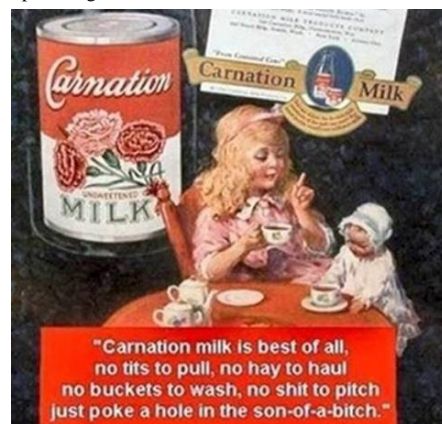
65 Years Ago.

A little old lady from Wisconsin had worked in and around her family dairy farms since she was old enough to walk, with hours of hard work and little compensation.

When canned Carnation Milk became available in grocery stores in the 1940s, she read an advertisement offering \$5,000 for the best slogan.

The producers wanted a rhyme beginning With 'Carnation Milk is best of all.....'

She thought to herself, I know everything there is to know about milk and dairy farms. I can do this! She sent in her entry, and several weeks later, a black car pulled up in front of her house. A large man got out, knocked on her door and said, "Ma'am, the president of Carnation milk absolutely LOVED your entry. So much, in fact, that we are here to award you \$1,000 even though we will not be able to use it for our advertisements!" He did, however, have one printed up to hang on his office wall. Here it is...



### 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 Forum: [Click here...](#)

Broken Hill Mineral Club: [Click here...](#)

Enfield Gem and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)

Flinders Gem, Geology, and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)

Gem and Mineral Clubs Association of South Australia: [Click here...](#)

Lapidary World: [Click here...](#)

Metal Detectors - Garrett Australia: [Click here...](#)

Metal Detectors - Miners Den Adelaide: [Click here...](#)

Metal Detectors - Adelaide Agent for Garrett Australia: [Click here...](#)

Mineralogical Society of SA Inc: [Click here...](#)

Murraylands Gem and Mineral Club Inc: [Click here...](#)

NQ Explorers: [Click here...](#)

Prospecting Australia: [Click here...](#)

Shell-lap Lapidary Supplies: [Click here...](#)

Southern Rockhounds: [Click here...](#)

Tea Tree Gully Gem and Mineral Club: [Click here...](#)

The Australian Mineral Collector: [Click here...](#)