

Bathurst Lapidary & Collectors Club Inc

NEWSLETTER

Issue 250 – November – December 2024

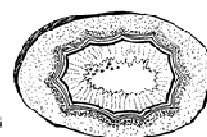
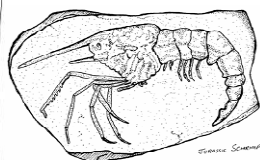
MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH AT
12 NOON - EXCEPT JANUARY AT THE CLUBHOUSE (OLD EGLINTON

FIRE SHED), PARK STREET, EGLINTON.

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NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2024 - UPCOMING PROGRAM

2nd and 3rd November Proposed Weekend Field Trip to Windeyer, 43 kms south of Mudgee NSW. Panning and detecting for gold and social weekend. Long Creek runs through the caravan park which is suitable for gold fossicking. Windeyer is an old gold mining township south of Mudgee on a sealed road. approximately two to two and a half hours travelling depending on conditions, or can be accessed from Bathurst through Sofala, Sally's Flat and Pyramul on partially unsealed roads. Approximately one and a half hours depending on conditions.

Weekend trip – camping/caravan/cabin hire all available at Windeyer Bushlands Tourist Park. Phone 6373 8252. You must make your own arrangements for accommodation – please book in advance. Standard cabins are \$75 per night for 2, \$5 extra for extra person. There are other cabins available. Powered caravan sites are between \$32 - \$35 for 2 occupants, unpowered sites \$20 for 2 occupants. Camp kitchen with BBQ. Pets welcome. Fossicking equipment available for hire – make arrangements when you book.

There are other accommodation options in the vicinity of Windeyer – check on Google. The well-stocked general store and the caravan park are adjacent to the Gold and Fleece Hotel. Meals available at the Gold & Fleece Hotel on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Suitable for sedan or 4WD – carpooling - make your own arrangements. Expressions of interest for the weekend. Please put your name down on the form at the Club or let an executive member know that you will be attending.

We also need a rough idea of how many members are interested in a group dinner on Saturday night at the Gold and Fleece Hotel. Further information 0427259617.

It is simple courtesy to follow these requirements so that any potential participants can be kept informed of any last minute changes, and we can know who to expect will be going along.

Please note to attend a field trip you MUST be a fully financial club member.

Note - membership renewal was due from 30th June, 2024.

6th November

Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember to bring your 'Latest Acquisition'.

4th December

Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember to bring your 'Latest Acquisition'.

18th December

Wednesday – Annual Christmas party - LAPIDARY BREAKUP LUNCH BBQ - from 12 noon after the conclusion of the normal lapidary session. Bring cold meats, salads, desserts, all to share please. Plates, cutlery etc provided. Bring your own drinks. The BBQ will be in operation and sausages and onions etc will be provided. What to bring will be discussed at the next few Wednesday sessions so we can spread the load.

[illegible]

Not a great lot of forthcoming information for this issue. Remember that the Club Rooms will close for the Christmas period and

Congratulations goes to Sue Porter for getting a place in three categories at the New South Wales Gem and Mineral Show GEMKHANA 2024 at Clarendon in Sydney. Well done yet again Sue. It was a most successful event. It is anticipated that next years will be held at the Parkes Showground. See a full report on the show further in this newsletter.

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The event, formerly known as the GEMKHANA has been held for many years on this great site.

This year 37 traders filled the main hall, and outside, about 24 “tailgaters” had stalls lining the road in front of the main hall.

Left - Inside traders are primarily professionals, including lapidary equipment suppliers, fossil and mineral dealers, facet rough dealers, jewellery sellers, and gemstones, slabs for cabbing, rough opal. The outside traders comprise collectors and dealers from all around the state, mostly amateurs.

The event is a very big undertaking for

the council, and a small group of very willing workers from numerous clubs volunteer to prepare the hall each year. A great deal of organising headed up by Barbara Try contributed to a very successful event. On the previous Wednesday, it's all hands on deck to set up the tables, chairs, lighting in the hall; and to set out the sites for the outside traders who start arriving on Thursday. Then it's time to set up the competition for viewing.





Behind the scenes, the planning and organising for the State Competition began months ago. This year there were approximately 200 entries, a little down on previous years. The competition showcases the various forms of

lapidary that club members can learn at their local lapidary club.

Primarily a means of improving your lapidary work, it is also a useful place to get ideas for your next project. Judging sheets that are returned with your entries can help in improving your workmanship at all levels. The display cabinets are filled with entries, this year, showcasing cabbing, gem trees, silverwork, carving, faceting, enamelling and opals. Worth mentioning is that three faceted gemstones entered by Bob McLean of the Port Hacking Club, gained the maximum 100 points. All competitors dream of this result, but few achieve it!

One of these stones was a “Sirius” cut, faceted from coloured CZ. It produced a very bright, sparkly gem. The facet designs in the competition schedule are worth a visit if you are a faceter, and can be found on the Gem & Lapidary Council website.

With rain forecast for the weekend, all eyes were on the skies on Saturday morning. Heavy rainfall on Thursday left the grounds soggy, but the weekend remained dry, encouraging about 1500 visitors for both days. Children were free, so were not counted in the tally. However, lots of kids visit the show to check out the fossils and rocks, and the fluorescent mineral tent draws a lot of interest from children, too.



Profits from the event go back into the running of future shows, and the GEMBOREE (National Show) when it comes to New South Wales, assisting and promoting member clubs, and promotion of the art of lapidary as a whole.

Congratulations to all those who entered the competition, and to all those who helped bring together another very successful show.

Sue Porter.



LAST STUDENT LAPIDARY WORKSHOP FOR 2024

The last holiday workshop for 2024 has been completed for intending lapidary students. Attendees kept tutors busy and everyone had fun while learning new skills. It was explained about the art of lapidary and how to cut and polish stones. The early Egyptians had established cutting and jewellery fashioning methods for a number of types of rocks that included lapis lazuli, turquoise and amethyst.



DRILL CORES



A man named Rodolphe Leschot, a French engineer, is mostly quoted as being the originator of the fundamental core bit in the early 1860s. He really designed it for drilling blast holes to tunnel into mines.

Left - Possibly the most common type of core sampling is the diamond core drill that utilises a 'diamond drill bit'. The drill bit utilises a cluster of tiny, industrial grade diamonds that are positioned in a metallic, soft matrix mix. As the core bit grinds away the matrix reveals more diamonds. The larger the diameter of core bit used the more expensive the project.

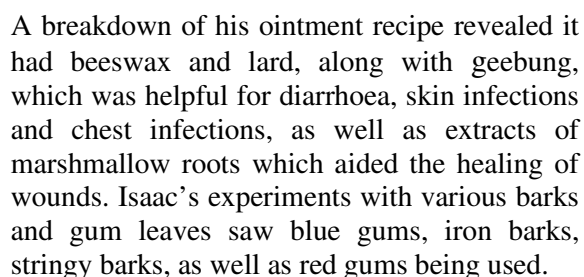
The core drill bit only uses superior to microfine diamonds of industrial grade. Manufacturers can manipulate the hardness, size of the diamonds and quantity enabling them to adjust the ‘mix’ in order to match with the type of rock.

Prior to the company's diamond drilling, pick and shovel mining and surveying with geologists out in the field ere used to locate outcrops of rock. However, there was still little information about any ore concentrations or precious metals that were below the surface.

Many a rock collector may have an old rusty drill bit or circular rock cores in their collection.

One Australian chemist whose ointment became popular was Isaac John Josephson, who, as a very young boy lived near Peel at Bathurst with some of his relations. His family later moved to Sydney, where after his schooling, he was apprenticed to a local chemist. Like all similar ointments at the time it was touted to the public as a cure-all for basically a whole lot of injuries, gashes, piles, abrasions, sore eyes, lacerations, lesions, and more.

In the 1860s he set up his own business at his home so he could work on several ointments, other preparations and concoctions. The culmination was to become the “Premier Ointment in the Southern Hemisphere”, the very popular “Josephson’s Australian Ointment” with its five point star with a ‘J’ in the centre on his pots. The star was often printed in blue. The ointment jar was made of clear glazed ceramic pottery from a British Pottery Works. The potlid had a black transfer print detailing the manufacturer’s promotional information on the lid. Issac boasted it was popular for “all sores, old wounds, burns, sunburns, chaffing, chapped hands, &c, &c.” Isaac Josephson decided to patent his ointment in Sydney which he did in 1866.



The smaller ointment sold at one shilling and for the slightly larger pot it was one shilling and sixpence. Most were sold through the many chemists or drug stores throughout the Colony and even into Victoria.

Cure-alls, sometimes also known as patent medicines, were compounds which were sold as medical treatments but, in actual fact, were often not truly effective. Most medicines were rarely patented as the manufacturer did not want the public or the Colonial regulators to know what was in it. Instead, makers relied on the

product's branding, which, in their advertisements on the label it was emphasised that the customer should not accept any other similar product. Litigation was often employed to bluff others who might try to emulate their own creation.

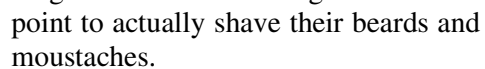
An 1874 advertisement went on – “It was for all kinds of external sores such as old wounds, chafing, sunburns, cracked lips and hands, sore heads, broken chilblains, soft corns, excoriations, &c., it is invaluable. Sore eyes are cured instantaneously. In all cases the immediate relief from pain is really miraculous. Stiffness of joints is got rid of by one application. Bunions are soon removed. Mechanics in metals can get nothing equal to the Australian Ointment for the euro of wounds, sores or braises.”

Often a customer's story was added into the advertisement, such as "ANOTHER WONDERFUL CURE. Grafton, 11th December, 1873. I hereby certify that Josephon's Australian Ointment made a complete cure of my child's face, aged ten months, caused by falling into the frying pan when on the fire, and which contracted the muscles of the face, after being under treatment by two medical men, at a cost of £11 (eleven pounds). The ointment was used with the best effect, and made a complete cure." It was signed with an X as the customer couldn't write – " Mrs. SAML. x PHELPS. Witnessed by H. WHITFORD, Chemist.

It was sold by all chemists and storekeepers throughout the colony, and wholesale by the proprietors. EDWARD ROW and CO., Wholesale Druggists, Sydney.



Shaving goes back to the Stone Age some 100,000 years ago when seashells were used. Invariably they were clam shells or flattish bivalves which were used in a tweezer-like fashion. They didn't cut the whiskers but actually pulled the beard hair out. Then around 50,000 years ago the men would sharpen natural glass like obsidian or grind flint to a



Left – A pair of worked black obsidian blades suitable for shaving. To use these would have been quite an experience I would expect!

During the mid 1850s and through much of the gold rush era miners simply grew beards as it was an unnecessary function, or alternatively shaved every week or so, unlike today when most men shave once a day.

Whilst the job of shaving was once up to the individual, the job slowly was taken up by a barber. This became their job towards the mid to the end of the 19th century. By this time one's friendly barber had become established in Australia, America, the United Kingdom and most other places around the world with their tell-tale red and white striped barber's pole.

Good quality shaving equipment was high priced to purchase and it needed to be well maintained, after all the customer did not want to have his face cut or have his hair pinched. Early folding razors were manufactured from

brittle steel which lost their edge quite quickly so needed to be sharpened often. This meant having a number of sharpening leather strops and sharpening stones on hand. Shaving brushes were also used to apply the soap and bring it to a good lather.

Going to the barber today we just think of a haircut and maybe beard trimmed, but back in their day a barber provided extra services such as scraping their tongues, nose hairs trimmed, ear wax cleaned out along with any ear hair, boils lanced and cleaned out or even have a tooth extracted. Another consideration was to have their shave on either cold or hot water.

Astute businessmen produced various shaving products to sell to barbers as well as domestic customers. By the late 1890s numerous lathering or lubricating agents in the form of shaving cream in pots (right), gels, balms, shaving soaps, lotions and oils were on the market. Some of the lubricating and moisturising merchandises could be beneficial in preventing skin burn and skin irritation. Most creams included resin and beeswax in their ingredients. On completion of one's shave the barber would towel dry their face and beard for the customer.



Left- An 1887 British silver shilling as used in the Australian colonies.

Around 1870 the price of a haircut varied from as little as a penny up to one shilling, or more, though most charged sixpence. Some barbering businesses in Britain set up shaving plans whereby customers paid a set price of three to seven shillings, every three or four months to have regular trims and a hair wash.

In Bathurst one could also purchase false whiskers, beards and moustaches, a selection usually sold by barbers shops from around the 1850s onwards. A set of whiskers with a moustache cost one shilling and threepence each and was attached behind one's ear with a hooked wire on each side. There were 'Superior' versions selling for one shilling and ninepence. A pair of mutton chop shapes along with some adhesive composition which sold for one shilling. Beards, made with imitation hair and hooked wires to attach them, cost two shillings and threepence each and were designed to go around the chin. Some types were made with human hair and were quite expensive, unlike the animal hair. Those purchasing beards could select red, grizzle or white colours. Moustaches also came with an adhesive composition for putting them on for three shillings per dozen. Other moustaches had springs on them for four shillings a dozen or another type had invisible foundation to attach them for six shillings a dozen. The most expensive cost twelve shillings a dozen for 'a very Superior Article.' Sometimes a selection of wigs were also available from stock.

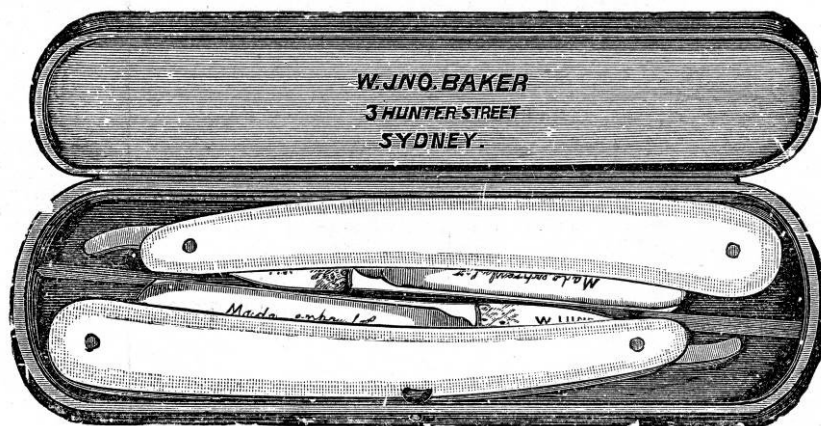
Right - A typical country barber's shop established at a mine near Lyndhurst. The barber is standing beside the wagon with his children settled on the front seat. The barber's wife is standing on the veranda holding their baby. He has the traditional red and white striping on the posts out front.

Around 1895 Mr. King Camp Gillette, an American, invented the double-edged safety razor with its inexpensive and disposable blades which had sharpened edges on two sides. It took him until 1901, with the assistance of a partner and helper William Emery Nickerson. The duo formed the American Safety Razor Company and went on to develop an operating and patentable design. By 1903 they were able to commence viable production. This meant that



It seems ironic these days that the first steel-edged cutthroat razors were produced by the Romans using copper or iron. The first commercial model was manufactured in 1680 in the town of Sheffield by an Englishman named John Spencer. This led to the old trade known as a Barber Surgeon.

Later manufacturers made the folding razors with different handles, at a dearer price of course, so we see examples today with timber, fancy metals, horn, ivory, 'Mother of Pearl', tortoiseshell, bone, animal horns, some even ornamented with other metals such as gold leaf or precious and semiprecious stones.



Left - A twin cased razor set made of leather and velvet and silk lined, manufactured and sold by W. Jno Baker, a cutler, of 3 Hunter Street in Sydney. The blades were hollow ground and sold for seven shillings and sixpence. When manufactured the blade has a concave surface behind the cutting edge.

By the late 19th century most of the straight razor production was being mass-produced. During the Great War the Allies, including

Australia, issued double-edged safety razors, along with blades to its soldiers. The Military needed their men to be clean-shaven so that their gas face masks were completely fitted when gas attacks took place.

One of the earlier barbers in Bathurst was Benjamin Edye who, in the 1860s, set up his hairdressing business in Howick Street. As happened to numbers of barbers their shops were subject to vandalism. This happened to Mr. Edye on the evening of the 2nd August, 1862, when some local vandals ripped down his barber's pole along with smashing one of his large panes of glass in his shop window. Mr. Edye was still operating his shop in 1868.

In 1890 William Johnson was plying his barber and hairdresser trade in George Street. He also sold tobacconist products. One could have their teeth extracted on the premises as well

Right -Mr. Arthur H. Hart's Hairdressing and Tobacconist business commenced in Howick street but later moved into the William Street side of the Grand Hotel. He had his two barber's poles decorated out the front. Some of his prices included a shave fourpence, men's haircut sixpence, haircut and beard trim ninepence, head shave two shillings, and shampooing sixpence. Mr. Hart can be seen on the right leaning on the post along with two of his barbers.



In 1900 Mr. E. Bliss's barber's shop operated in Keppel Street. He had a staff of four who wore a neat vest and trousers along with bow ties.

In November 1910 Mr. H.H. Carrick was plying his barber's trade in George Street, opposite the Market Square. He advertised his business as a first-class Hairdressing Department and Mr. Garrick's aim was to please his customers. Appointments could be made by phoning 215. Like most barbers and hairdressers, customers could buy the newest and best brands of tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

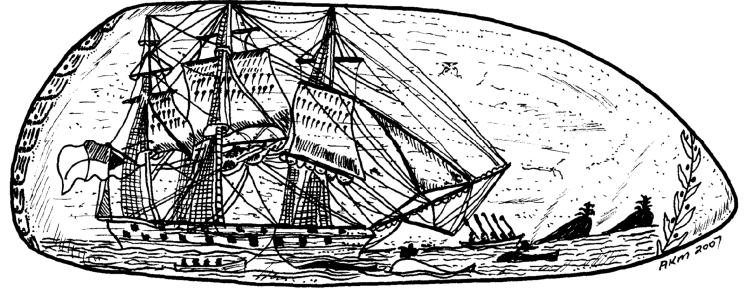
SCRIMSHAW

It seems everyone is fascinated by items of scrimshaw and the ability of those early sailors in their deepwater whaling vessels to record the scenes of their whaling experiences etched onto whales and other teeth. Scrimshaw is also known as scrimshoning or scrimshander, the latter name also for one who does scrimshaw. The word ‘scrimshaw’ was once part of an American Indian tribe’s language.

Scrimshaw dates back to at least the late 17th century but was more commonly practiced during the 18th century. The men often relied on it to fill in time when there were spells with no wind or during thick fog. Those who hunted whales or served on the whaling ships would imagine a picture or some other design then engrave or carve it onto whale bone, whale teeth, baleen of sperm whales, walrus tusks, bone, horn, sometimes antler or in some cases even onto large shark's teeth. These American, British, Scottish and Australian men, who were often away from home for a year or more, used scrimshaw to while away the hours, in fact, they could spend long hours completing just one piece usually with its nautical, patriotic motifs, ships or whaling scenes. Little work was done in the evening and these hardy men used this time well.



Often a sharp knife point was used though others had special tools made by the blacksmith when in port. The design was scratched into the hard surface after which whale fat and finely crushed charcoal were mixed and rubbed into the design to make it stand out. Lampblack was also used in the process.



The whale's teeth were also used to make a number of carved items, one could say that ideas were as varied as one's imagination. The men carved chess pieces, sets of dominos, small trinket boxes, walking sticks or handles for walking sticks to which they would add a rod later, miniature models of ships, needle containers, thimbles, crochet needles and jewellery just to name a few.

Most were made for loved ones or just to keep, however they found that they could earn extra money whilst in port if they sold their works. Few sailors signed their piece or even fewer put their name on it. Sometimes the carvings will include dates, ship's names, people's names, sometimes even where the whale when caught that the tooth came from. Some scrimshaw is quite amateurish whilst other whale men were very skilled and talented and go into great detail, especially with their drawings with ornate lacework, of harpooning the whale, small whale boats chasing their prey along with the large ships in full sail and all their rigging.

Scottish, and other sailors, favoured the sperm whales as it had twenty three pairs of teeth so they were particularly prized for scrimshaw. After extracting the teeth they would be scraped down so they were smooth before polishing. Only then could the design be engraved freehand or copied onto the tooth using a template.

Though certainly not common, pieces of scrimshaw can be seen with Scottish motifs as part of their design. Pieces can have men in Highland regalia, thistles, cornucopias, shields such as St. Andrew's cross shield, ships, British and Scottish flags, whale rowing boats, whales, emblems, animals, stars, scenery, various mastered ships, palm trees, icebergs, ladies dressed in the times, love hearts, stags and scroll work. Some may have the name or initials of a loved one, even a date.



Various Scottish museums house some large collections of scrimshaw pieces which are highly categorised by curators. One extra nice piece of scrimshaw which appears in the Scottish Maritime Museum is an engraved sperm whale tooth showing a young woman and her sailor husband saying farewell, with a sailing ship flying a British flag in the background. It is a finely detailed maritime scene.

Left – A Scotsman in his clan dress returning from the hunt with a hunted deer over his shoulders. The scene is a famous one often seen on many an old card or postcards. Many Scotsmen labelled the various scrimshaw items as curiosities, the more affluent merchants and industrialists forming large collections.



Often out of work Scotsmen would sign on to become part of the whalers and ships crews to work doing hand-whaling on sailing ships. It was hard, freezing and dangerous work with a large proportion of men not coming home due to

Some of the Scottish sailors liked using walrus ivory as their teeth measured about 27 inches, or even longer. This provided a much larger surface for portraying the pictorial engraving. Another advantage was they were thicker so the sailor could cut and slice it. Where the whalers didn't go after the walrus tusks they could be bartered from the northerners from Canada, Alaska and even from Siberia, as whatever could be made from the whale ivory were able to be fashioned from the walrus ivory.

Some items made from walrus ivory includes the slats for yarn-winders, bars and slats for extravagant and decorative birdcages as well as shafts and handles for pie crimpers.

Left - This image is part of a lithograph of Hawkins Hill at Tambaroora that appeared in the Town and Country Journal ca 1876 and shows several of the rich mines on a very steep and rugged hillside.

At the height of the gold boom in the early 1870s Tambaroora, which lies some 3 miles north of Hill End, was virtually joined together if one considers all the various residences which were situated in the region. Streets were never properly formed and after rain it became a quagmire which caused the horses and drays to get bogged, as happened during the winter of 1872. At times even walking across the road was difficult. Various streets were named in Hill End with names including Reef

Street, Germantown Lane, Denison Street, Tambaroora Street, Beyers Avenue and Clarke Street.

Many of the famous mines were located at Hawkins Hill. In a Goldfield Commission Report dated 12th December, 1871, it noted that the operational shafts in the area ranged from 140 to 250 feet deep, though within a decade some of the reefs lying north from Hawkins Hill had been abandoned due to lack of adequate capital.

Gold Escort Returns recorded by the N.S.W. Government for the Hill End - Tambaroora area show some of the returns - 1870 - 18,698 ozs; 1871 - 42,078 ozs; 1872 - 80,592 ozs; 1873 - 62,834 ozs; 1874 - 25,266 ozs; 1875 - 34,306 ozs; 1876 - 17,468 ozs; 1877 - 18,310 ozs; 1878 - 11,583 ozs and finally by 1879 it was only 9,230 ozs and these figures only include the Gold Escort returns as there were private buyers on the field also as well as the banks.

One mine could boast a return of gold that wasn't even crushed. In the Hickson, Creighton and Beard's mine the miners located a flat layer of gold which they were just able to roll up after doing several blastings. After taking the

roll of gold to the surface it was weighed – proving to be just less than a massive 3,000 ounces. Despite such finds it was to be Krohmann's claim, on the southern end of the field that was to be the richest on the field.

Left - Business soon thrived so the banks arrived, however there were not enough banknotes so more promissory notes soon appeared such as this rare £48.15.0 promissory note dated 19th March, 1872, issued at Tambaroora and shows that Joseph Wells promised to pay Mr. J.C. Tindall. It was drawn on the Australian Joint Stock Bank at Hill End.

Bank returns between 1869 and 1875, show that over £1,200,000 worth of gold was won from the

various Hawkins Hill mines though gold returns began to fall off during 1873, after which no more sensational finds emerged. Many people are amazed at some of the early returns from the field. For example Krohmann's claim had 139 tons through the stampers which yielded 13,390 oz. of gold with another load of 16 tons yielding 5,612 oz. of the precious metal.