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| 12th May | Sunday – Workshop open 9.00 am to 3.00 pm. |
| 26th May | Sunday – Workshop open 9.00 am to 3.00 pm. |
| 2nd June | Sunday – Field Trip to Grenfell fossicking for mineral specimens of schorl tourmaline needles in quartz. Camping is available near the Grenfell Railway station (free) and at the caravan park for those who wish to stay overnight. No permits required as far as we know at present. Further details about the trip available from Sue 0408375204. |
| 5th June | Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’. |
| 12th June | Wednesday – Biggest Morning Tea – 10am to 11am – With the success of this venture over the past few years we encourage you to join together for our annual Biggest Morning Tea at the clubhouse. Bring a plate to share, either savoury or sweet. There will be a money box out as well as on the day. Every dollar we raise is going to make a difference for people impacted by cancer via the Cancer Council. |
| 3rd July | Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’. |
| 3rd August | Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’. |
| 4th September | Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’. |
| 28th–29th September | New South Wales Gem and Mineral Show (GEMKHANA 2024 Competition) , Hawkesbury Agricultural Showground, Sydney. |
| 2nd October | Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’. |
| 6th November | Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’. |
| 4th December | Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – 12 noon (after the normal Workshop Session). Remember your ‘Latest Acquisition’. |
| 20th-23rd March 2025 | Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday - Sydney Stamp & Coin Expo 2025 – This exhibition will be held at the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex very close to the Sydney CBD with many public transport options plus good parking. The exhibition will be on Level 1, which can be securely locked. The theme of the exhibition will be the 175th anniversary of the Sydney View stamps, the first stamps issued in Australia. From Geoffrey Lewis, President of the Organising Committee. |

[illegible]

It has been a very busy time over the last few months which club members have participated in. Much of this has been promoting our club in Bathurst. Several of the activities have a special report in this newsletter.

which was held in Willunga in South Australia over Easter from 29th March to 1st April this year. Well done Sue.

Remember, the monthly committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, except in January. It is held in the clubrooms from 12 noon. Members welcome.

Our U3A Senior's Festival was a great success in mid March. A big thank you to Jan for organising the day and to Kay for helping with morning tea. See the report further on.

NEW CLUB KITCHEN





There have been many favourable comments about the Club's new kitchen area that are still coming. I said 'Wow.'



U3A SENIOR'S FESTIVAL

Finally, a two hour session was offered on Thursday 14th March, for 10 to 12 persons and morning tea.

Numbers were limited to 20/25 including tutors and participants with no restrictions based on disability. Bookings were required.

Organisers estimated that a figure of up to \$200 was needed to cover the various costs associated with opening the clubrooms, materials for the demonstrations, the running of machinery, as well as the preparation and printing of the information that was required. No financial support was given by Bathurst City Council to support the various programs. The tutors provided morning tea.

Twelve participants were preregistered with 7 women and 5 men from the Seymour Centre. Two women cancelled prior to the day, two did not attend and two unregistered turned up on the day. One gentleman from Seymore could not attend. In all, 9 participants, two carers and 9 tutors attended. As the Seymour Centre was late, it was decided to adapt the program on the run to accommodate two groups, which seemed to work. Overall, our efforts appeared worthwhile with very favourable comments on our Club's efforts. One gentleman commented that he has lived in Bathurst for over 30 years and did not know we existed.

The session wasn't onerous and who knows whether someone who came may come back, register their grandkids, or tell someone else about the club. Nonetheless, giving two hours of our time to older members of our community might have made a difference.

Many thanks to everyone who helped and shared their knowledge and skills. There appeared to be genuine interest and all enjoyed a lovely morning tea. Special thanks to Kay who worked quietly in the background.



OUR CLUB'S LOST TRADES TRAIL PROMOTIONAL DISPLAY



Members of the Club supported the two day Lost Trades Trail with eleven volunteers taking part on the Saturday and a similar number on the Sunday. The displays and demonstration area were set up on the Friday with all three Showground pavilions full as well as two large areas outside, the latter covered in individual marquees and tents.

The event took place over two days from Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th March, 2024, at the historic Bathurst Showground where lost arts, rare trades and heritage crafts were demonstrated.

The general public certainly shared a passion for hand skills, fine craftsmanship and the pursuit of excellence in their business or hobby, where often the trade's knowledge is passed down through the innumerable generations.

Over the weekend Bathurst celebrated over 200 years of its rich history, paying homage to the tradesmen, various trades and traditions that have facilitated the shaping of the region and were on display at the Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail.

Included in this year's exhibitors was a professional sand sculptor, sock maker, joined by blacksmiths, bodgers, candle-makers, Aboriginal tool maker, violin makers, spinners, weavers, upholsterers, furniture makers and winemakers.







It is always a festival of gems, minerals, crystals, fossils and jewellery with a myriad of specimens to buy, swap or sell.

There was a great appreciation of the crafted pieces of silver jewellery along with faceted amethyst, sapphire, and zircons along with opal and other precious stones.



One younger Bathurstian who visited his grandmother in South Australia over Easter visited the GEMBOREE and bought several mineral specimens and some seashell fossils from a dazzling array of gemstones, minerals and fossils. He also convinced grandma to take him back another day so he could spend some of his own money. He turns nine in a few weeks so he may join our club.

APRIL HOLIDAY LAPIDARY BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP

Our Club held a workshop for first timers during the school holidays on the 26th and 27th of April. The Club hosted eight very enthusiastic new Junior members over the two days. Some great work was done as the students learned the basic skills of making a standard cabochon and also set some of their works to make pendants and other items. We are sure that they will be made welcome should they turn up at the Club Rooms to continue their skill-building and to learn more. Once again, a huge 'thank you' to all those who gave their time to tutor the students and to Jeanette Murphy for organising the morning teas.



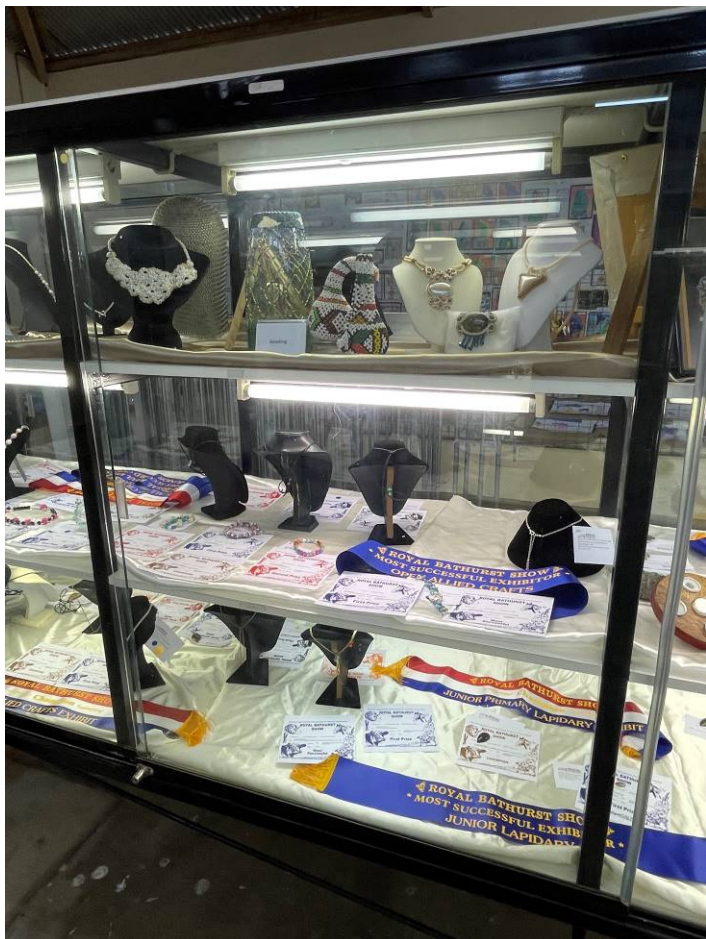
Though there are no firm details to date we hope that the workshop which may be held in the next School Holidays (July) will be aimed at those who have already completed the Beginners' Workshop. The date for this will be published after it has been confirmed in the coming months.



The art of Lapidary began about 70,000 years ago. Archaeologists have found what they classify as lapidary work that occurred during the Stone Age. As early man fashioned crude tools from stone, they soon realised that certain geological materials that existed were harder than others. The subsequent early recorded examples that the scientists considered a form of lapidary art came in the procedure of boring rocks and stones to make a hole.

BATHURST ANNUAL SHOW REPORT 2024

Well, what can we say! It was a well supported event yet again with the Bathurst Lapidary & Collectors Club displaying some superb examples of workmanship. The Royal Bathurst Show was held from the 12th to 14th of April. Volunteers were needed to assist as well as manning the displays during the show. The judging was carried out on the 9th of April. The images below show some of the entries along with the prize cards and ribbons. Congratulations to all who won prizes and to all those who entered items into the 2024 Show.



Judges were especially impressed with the number of entries into the Electroforming on Natural Stone Class. Congratulations goes to Neil Adams - Most Successful Open & Novice Lapidary Exhibitor; John McCumstie - Champion Open Lapidary Exhibit; Jodie Whittle - Champion Novice Lapidary Exhibit and Anabelle Martensz - Most Successful Junior Lapidary Exhibitor & Champion Junior Lapidary Exhibit.

Other awards included Judy Attard - Champion Allied Craft Exhibit; Jody Kevens - Most Successful Allied Craft Exhibitor & Champion Beadwork Exhibit and Lacey Taylor - Most Successful Junior Allied Craft Exhibitor.

Congratulations also to all the exhibitors who were awarded places or Highly Commended certificates, and indeed to everyone who took the time to enter their work into the Show.

It is hoped that all members might be enthused to begin work on items for entry into the 2025 Royal Bathurst Show and that next year there may be an increase in entries to make an even bigger showing of the skills our members possess. As there was no section for faceted stones this year some lapidarists brought along samples to enhance the display.



COLD CREAM CAME IN CERAMIC POTS

Cold cream was once sold by chemists initially imported from overseas, especially from Britain and America since the 1850s. It was created to apply to the skin to assist in preventing loss of moisture. The ingredients consisted of oil, water, an emulsifier as well as a thickening agent. In the 2nd century BC, a Greek physician made his own mixture of cold cream containing olive or almond oil, beeswax and rose water for his patients to assist with their dry skin. It was even used as a foundation for makeup.

QUEENSLAND TRILOBITE FOSSILS FOUND IN ABUNDANCE



Left - A fine specimen of a trilobite on sandstone from the Beetle Creek Formation in the May Downs Station area in the Georgina Basin, west of Mount Isa in north-west Queensland. These trilobites date back to Cambrian times some 500 million years ago. It was brought home to me in the early 1980s.

After this time the trilobites declined in importance, becoming extinct in Permian times, sometime around 250 million years ago. Like the majority of fossils, the trilobite fossil in most cases consist of their cast-off shells rather than the complete animal.

Several species have been identified in the area such as *Lyriaspis sigillum*, and the rarer *Xystridura templetonensis*.

Most specimens found in an old lakebed seem to range from 2 to 5.5cm. The trilobites are found in enormous quantities some fourteen miles northwest of Mount. Isa, as well as in other less acknowledged localities. In the same trilobite locations can be

found abundant fossil micro-organisms.

The fossil area encompasses some 60 square kilometres in the Greentech minerals tenements and yields an enormous number of specimens, though there is still a vast number of disjointed trilobites.

The trilobites were bottom dwellers and free-swimming scavengers, that dined on smaller organisms or decaying fish, shrimp, dead crayfish and other organic matter. Like all other arthropods they had to shed their hard, outer shell periodically during their growth.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA CIVIL WAR PAPER MONEY

Most people one talks to are aware of the American Civil War though few can give you a date or know little detail as to what went on or what they were fighting for. For the banknote collectors there is a large collection field with both the Confederates and Unionists issuing their own paper money.



Left – A \$50 note issued in Richmond on 17th February, 1864, by the Confederate Government when Richmond was the Confederacy's capital. These notes were invariably known as 'greybacks,' after the Confederate soldiers who were issued their grey uniforms. Most of the reverses of the Confederate banknotes were never printed on and after some use became a dirty grey colour. Their notes also stated that "in two years the

Government would pay the holder of the note \$50.”

The fifty dollar bill features a central image of Jefferson Davis. He had previously served as the United States Secretary of War from 1853 – 57 and was later chosen, in 1861, to serve as the President of the Confederacy, a position he retained as the Civil War came to an end in 1865.

At the commencement of the American Civil War both sides felt they would win, and the war wouldn't last too long. The treasury of the Confederacy claimed that they had some \$47 million, either in bank deposits or secured in hidden places. They also had around \$27 million in silver and specie (coins). They were unaware that the Unionists had some \$189 million secured in Northern banks along with the North's \$45 million in specie, so the northern states were much wealthier. The United States of America was set with more money than their enemy.

About mid way through the war the Confederate notes were not holding their value. A \$1 note by 1863 was worth about 33 cents in the dollar. Some two years after, the poor notes had dropped to 2 cents in the dollar. Many southerners remained using the paper currency for a couple of months, however it seems that the notes became totally worthless as a medium of exchange. Much of the Confederate currency was basically bills of credit without being supported by any type of assets. As the value of notes declined the amount of paper money printed redoubled. As well it was decided to change the dates for the redemption of the notes and the claim time was further extended into the future.

Another major problem that the Confederate States faced was that of counterfeiting. In fact, the Union Army actually printed counterfeited notes and circulated them throughout the Southern States. This undoubtedly triggered massive inflation and sent the prices for food and supplies soaring. After the Civil war ended any notes claimed were torn in half or defaced by using a metal punch that cut a 'half moon' along the bottom edge or two round holes in the centre of the note.

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A detailed black and white woodcut illustration depicting a Native American man on a horse, holding a bow and arrow. He wears a large, elaborate feathered headdress. In the foreground, another man stands holding a bow and arrow, looking towards the horse. A woman is visible in the background, also holding a bow and arrow. The scene is set in a forest with a large tree and a small building in the distance. The illustration is highly detailed, showing the textures of the feathers, the horse's mane, and the surrounding foliage.

Over the centuries a number of countries were involved including countries which we now call England, France, Germany, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Flanders, Belgium, Hungary, Holland, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, as well as the Czech Republic though the French, English and the Holy Roman Empire, centred in Rome, shouldered the burden.

The Crusading forces captured many cities and towns on the Mediterranean coast where they had a huge number of fortified castles constructed in the Holy Lands in order to defend their new territorial conquests. Overall, some eight main Crusade expeditions took place with each differing in scope, strength and level of success. History records their principal aim was to prevent the expansion of the various Muslim states and to reclaim them for Christianity in the Middle East by recapturing the many territories from the 'infidels' that originally had been part of the Christian Empire.

Right - This heraldic silver one thaler was struck in 1603 during the rule of Maximillian of Austria (1588-1618) for use in Prussia and later during the Crusades by the Order of Knights. It shows the Grand Master standing in full armour holding a sword and to his right are the States Arms, with a helmet to his left.



The reverse of the coin featured the emperor on horseback in a circle of shields with the date below. The seat of the Grand Master moved from Acre to Venice and in 1309 to Marienburg, Prussia. The Teutonic Order began to strike their first coins in the late 13th Century to help pay for food and other services. After permission was granted in 1355 the Order struck schillings and half schoters. In 1613 and 1614 a 2 thaler coin of similar design to the 1 thaler was issued. The Order, during the 1600's, also struck silver ¼, ½, 1, 2, 3 and 5 thalers along with gold 1 and 2 ducat, the latter two as trade coinage.

Thalers (or talers) were a generic term for a series of heavy silver coins from central Europe, which exploited the large silver deposits discovered in the region in the late Middle Ages. Though mainly designed as trade coins, the size and weight of such coins varied, however early issues could be from 38mm to about 45mm in diameter. The large size allowed for artistic expression and surprising detail which also made them popular as a commemorative coin. Later issues became smaller and more standardised after discussions were held by a number of countries minting the thalers in the 1750's. The thalers went on to be coined for nearly four centuries.

Thalers became particularly popular in many of the German States which, by the time this thaler was struck in 1603, many beautiful and artistic examples already existed. The numismatic history of the German States is massive when one considers that at one time there were an estimated 1,800 individual states, some of which had a population of less than 300. The number of states was never static as one could pass to another through marriage. Though many states did not issue their own coinage those that did could produce some very creative examples, especially on the silver thalers such as the example here. The Teutonic Order was suppressed in 1809 and Mergentheim was annexed to Wurttemberg.

Apatite is a widely occurring pale green to purplish mineral. It consists primarily of calcium phosphate along with some chlorine, fluorine and other elements. Apatite actually refers to a group of phosphate minerals which includes this variety best described as fluorapatite.

Left - Apatite in orange coloured calcite, from the Yates Mine, Otter Lake, in Quebec in Canada.

phlogopite. Apatite is quite a brittle mineral and can fracture easily. Apatite is usually transparent to translucent, although there are some varieties that can be opaque. It has a vitreous (glassy) lustre.

The early mine deposit was originally worked for phlogopite and fluorite in 1906-1907 by the Calumet Mica Co. and later by Mr. A.G. Martin of Ottawa. There were dozens of phlogopite mines being worked during the early 1900s. Out of work miners converged on Grenville Province in the Mont-Laurier–Bancroft corridor in Western Quebec to recover apatite and phlogopite from dozens of small mines in the area.

Then, in 1950 Mr. J.M. Yates detected the occurrence of a radioactive mineral called, uranothorite, so Mr. Yates decided to form the Yates Uranium Mines Inc., in order to develop the property. The current mine is located some 74 kilometres north of Ottawa. The development consisted of a 300 feet adit, an underground tunnel in a mine that follows a seam or vein of ore. There were also two open cuts as well as carrying out diamond drilling. The Yates Uranium Mine has since been closed and before 1963 was bulldozed as it was felt that the site was a safety concern.



The principal use of apatite is mainly as a source of phosphate so it can be used in the production of fertilizer. Other uses are in ceramics, pharmaceuticals, textiles and silks, sugar refining, insecticides as well as in the manufacturing of explosives.

One interesting use of apatite came to light when the Chinese Terracotta Army of 3rd-century BC from the Qing Dynasty was discovered. It was found that ground up apatite had been utilised as a pigment for the enamel for pottery 'metalware' for the soldiers.

Charles I was born on the 19th November, 1600, and was executed on the 30th January, 1649, after being tried, convicted and beheaded for high treason. He was the King of England, Scotland, and Ireland from the 27th March, 1625, until his execution in 1649.

Born at Dunfermline Palace in Fife in Scotland, into the House of Stuart Charles, he was the second son of King James VI of Scotland, however when his father inherited the English throne during 1603, he decided to travel to London and it was here he spent most of his life. As a child he was a sickly boy of small stature. He loved his horses and hunting.



His turbulent reign is both fascinating and of Charles I is interesting both numismatically and historically.

Right - Charles in 1625 married a Catholic Henrietta Maria, sister of the French King, Louis XIII. This union offended many English Protestants.

Left - King Charles I's motto on the reverse 'What God has joined together, let no man put asunder' and refers to the reunion of Scotland with England.

During his reign Charles I issued farthings, pennies, twopences, threepences, fourpences or groats (4d), sixpences, one shilling, half crown, crown or five shillings, ten shillings or half pound, unite or one pound and triple unite.

From the early 1600s reasonable amounts of silver ore was being mined in Wales so it was decided that a mint was to be established in the castle of Aberystwyth in 1637. Coin dies were despatched from London's Tower mint. The mint was initially set up to mint half crowns, shillings, sixpences, twopences and pennies.

By 1642, after years of mounting disagreements both Parliament and the Royalists commenced to raise arms. King Charles I moved to Nottingham in August, which denoted the commencement of the start of England's Civil War. Before long he moved



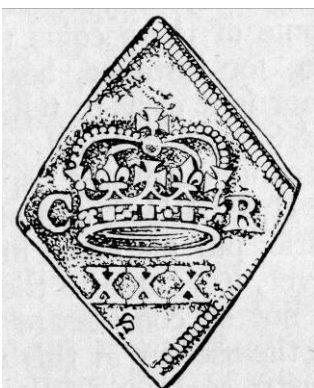
to Oxford. By the 19th September, 1642, he rode into Wellington and on the following day he issued the Wellington Declaration, his intention of upholding 'the Protestant Religion, the Laws of England, and the Liberty of Parliament'.

Left - King Charles I mounted on his horse. During the Civil War coins were minted in numerous provincial mints whose coin dies featured an abbreviated form of the Wellington Declaration.

Right - The reverse of his silver coin with his motto: - 'What God has joined together, let no man put asunder', referring to the reunion of Scotland with England.



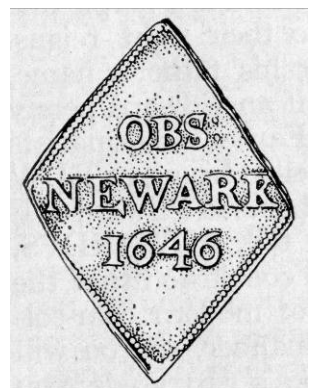
One of the most interesting coins from the Civil War was the emergency money produced which numismatists call siege pieces. They are oddly shaped and were made during the sieges of Newark, Carlisle, Scarborough and Pontefract. The silver came from Royalist supporters such as noblemen and gentlemen who donated their household silverware, wine cups and silver candle holders.



Left - The obverse showing a crown, the initials 'CR' the mark of denomination underneath. This crudely cut, distinctive, lozenge-shaped Newark emergency silver half crown was minted during England's Civil War to pay the besieged garrison in 1646 though they did surrender to the Parliamentarians.

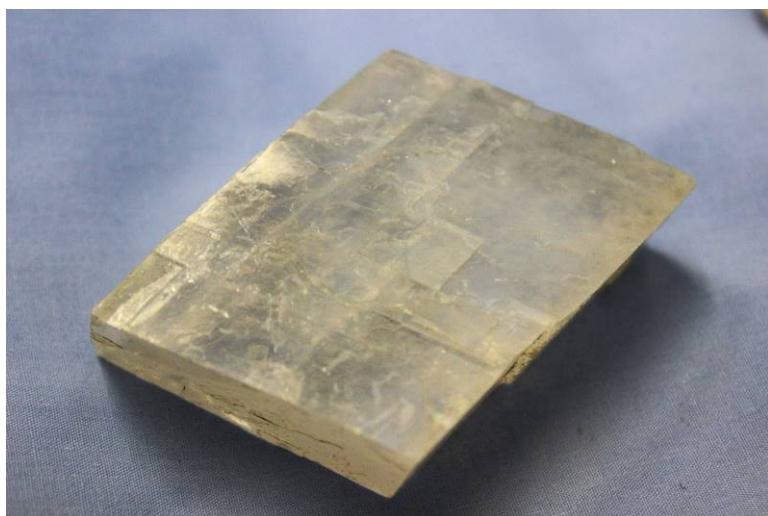
Right - The reverse of the Newark half crown with the words 'OBS NEWARK' and the date 1646.

Some of the reasons that led to Charles I demise was that he dissolved Parliament on three occasions after he was faced with opposition, thus ruling alone in these times. He ignored



After his farce trial the Judges gave their verdict stating that ‘This Court doth adjudge that he the said Charles Stuart, as a Tyrant, Traitor, Murderer and Public Enemy to the good people of this Nation, and shall be put to death, by the severing of his head from his body’.

One variety of calcite is called “Iceland Spar”, which is colourless and clear with extraordinarily clear optical properties. Iceland spar, in particular, was important during World War Two because it was used for the sighting equipment for airplane bombardiers and air gunners, as well as anti-aircraft weaponry. Most recently, researchers and scientists have discovered calcite is able to be utilised in making objects appear to be invisible. Mineralogists state that calcite is a very common mineral and the most collectible of all mineral specimens.



Suitable calcite to be used in the war effort was not to have any impurities, as it had to basically be colourless as well as transparent in both visible and ultraviolet light. Wartime military manufacturers preferred the larger calcite crystals for use in the optical sighting equipment,

Not long after the declaration of World War Two a small mine on the way to Mudgee was reopened as it contained reasonable high grade optical calcite crystals. Unfortunately, mining didn't go on for too long as the miners began to leave to join the military

and be sent overseas. Then around the same time a small group of scientists found that they could make a 'synthetic calcite,' thus it was then not practicable to continue mining the natural calcite. As the mine was no longer financial it was closed down.

Even today calcite can still be used to make some optical instruments.

+ The native Americans would often carve and carry spirit stones as small reminders that they had to stay connected and keep thriving each day. They were a gentle reminder of their wants, needs and dreams.

+ Manganese is a trace mineral that is found in our bodies in minute amounts. Our body requires it to function properly and is found primarily in our bones, the pancreas, our liver and in our kidneys. This mineral assists our body to form connective tissue, stronger bones, promotes blood clotting and helps with sex hormones. Manganese is in our diet in a wide variety of foods including whole grains and nuts, seafoods such as oysters, mussels, clams and oysters, soybeans and various other types of legumes, leafy vegetables, rice, along with a variety of many spices which includes black pepper. Teas and coffee are also on the list.

+ The most popular form of rhodonite is a magnificent deep rose-red colour. It is a manganese silicate and crystals form in the triclinic system. Rhodonite occurs in both a massive, fine-grained form as well as crystals. The massive material has become a widely used ornamental stone which has, over the years, been extensively used in carving as well as making beads and turning into spheres. One place with a manganese mine was located just out of Uralla in northern New South Wales.

+ Red Jasper was always being sought after by the American Indians. It was a common stone utilised for various ceremonial commitments and could be ground up to make a paste for war paint. It was also expended as an offering during their rain-making rituals. Quartz crystals on the other hand were used as divining stones to find underground water sources.